

Summary

Michael meets Charlie at a diner, Mack's. They catch up and talk about Michael's relationship with his girlfriend, Amy. Michael explains how he has been putting more time into the relationship by doing things she wants to do once a week. Charlie gives some advice to keep the relationship going. Michael mentions that he feels like he's not living up to his potential in his career and Charlie brings up the subject of goal-setting. Michael realizes he hasn't set any goals for his career and Charlie suggests that may be why he feels like he's not achieving more.

Sue, Charlie and Michael are having a conversation about time management. Michael feels overwhelmed with work and life, and Charlie tells him about the importance of setting goals and making the most of each day, as time is valuable. Charlie shares wisdom from Mr. Davis, who says people must choose between the "pain of discipline" or the "pain of regret," and that people need to be the masters of time and design their own life plan, instead of letting time control them. Michael thanks Charlie for his advice and promises to visit him again soon.

Michael went to visit Charlie at Twelve Pillars and found Charlie cleaning the pool. Michael had good news to share, he and his wife were doing better and he had written down 100 goals in life. Charlie told Michael about the next Pillar of Success - surround yourself with the best people, not just things. Charlie asked about Michael's three closest friends, John, Clark and Tom. John works in retail but hates his job, Clark is a plumber, and Tom is a delivery driver. Charlie advised Michael to consider how his friends are affecting him, his values and his future, and to constantly ask himself if this is okay.

Charlie, who is putting chemicals into a pool, is discussing the importance of lifelong learning with Michael. Charlie cites Mr. Davis' "Pillar of Success" that a successful person is always a life-long learner and emphasizes that formal education is not the end all. He explains that self-education is crucial for success and that it involves reading books, observing successful people, and reflecting on one's own experiences. Michael expresses his doubt about the "book thing" and Charlie explains that not reading books is a big part of the problem. He argues that books have been, are, and will continue to be one of the greatest sources of knowledge and that they are worth the cost.

Reflection

The conversation between Michael, Charlie, and Sue highlights the importance of goal-setting, time management, and lifelong learning in creating a fulfilling life.

Applying these concepts to one's own life could involve the following steps:

- 1 Goal-setting: Michael realizes that he has not set any goals for his career and is feeling unfulfilled. Charlie suggests that he start by writing down 100 goals, both short-term and long-term, in various areas of his life. This can help bring clarity and direction to one's life and give a sense of purpose.
- 2 Time Management: Sue and Charlie discuss how important it is to make the most of each day, as time is valuable. Charlie suggests that people must choose between the "pain of discipline" or the "pain of regret." By being the masters of time and designing one's own life plan, one can avoid feeling overwhelmed and stressed.
- 3 Surrounding Yourself with the Best People: Charlie advises Michael to consider how his friends are affecting him and his future. He suggests that people must surround themselves with positive, supportive individuals who share similar values and aspirations. This can help to foster growth, inspiration, and accountability.
- 4 Lifelong Learning: Charlie emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning and cites Mr. Davis' "Pillar of Success." Self-education involves reading books, observing successful people, and reflecting on one's own experiences. By continuously seeking knowledge and growth, one can develop new skills, expand their horizons, and achieve greater success in life.

In conclusion, by following these principles, one can create a life that is meaningful, fulfilling, and focused on personal growth and success.