**Choose your way**

Ten new messages for the last 5 minutes, somebody's report of the expanses of our company for the last week and a lot of to do notifications that are still waiting for to be done. It was a rainy Friday's evening, I was on my way to an old good friend who lives near London with his family in a lovely and boring in my opinion region. I've got an invitation to visit him I don't remember two or three months ago and recently I've received another one. So I thought that this weekend could be less busy and I can allocate my time to him. Of course I would like to meet David and his family but I couldn't do it early as I am a partner of a very respected consulting company and can't allow myself to waste time so often. David has been my friend since university, we were going to set up our own business together, to work hard and to create something new. When we found both inspiration and investors it started to seem there was no way back, but David made the wrong choice, he prefered to get married and stop working at our business because he needed to spend time with his family, such a weak decision. So as a result I was left on my own but for me it was great experience and after several years I sold my company to the bigger one and got an offer to become a partner in the top three consulting companies in the world. But what about David, who is he now? He is nobody, he lives somewhere where there is nothing more then a park with a lake. He works at a small office his nine hours and pays the mortgage for his house where I need to come tonight. I can't imagine how somebody chooses life like that when there are a lot of opportunities around us, and the way to archive them is so clear: don't waste your time, work hard, follow the strict rules, time management, a little bit luck and fools on your way and you will be successful! But of course not everyone is strong enough to go through it, and this is the case of my friend but I can still remember how funny we spent our student years in the university campus, how cool parties were and how solid our friendship was.

I arrived to David's house, easily found a parking space and knocked the door. David with his wife greeted me very gladly, I felt that they were sincerely happy about our meeting. Their child also went downstairs, I have never seen him before. He was a healthy active kid with red hair, the cool one I thought.

"You've finally arrived, man! How happy I am to welcome you here in my house," David said.

We had a little chat in the hallway, I said something about his nice house, although it was really ordinary one and other necessary polite things. Then we proceeded to the guest room where we had a delicious dinner and talked about our careers, life, memories and so on. Everything about David's life was exactly as I expected: everyday routine, weekend with the family, one month vacation abroad. Then David showed me his photo albums with his travels, I was wondering how he had found so much time to let himself these travels. We spent approximately two hours talking at the guest room.

Surprisingly I found that the whole evening I was talking about my leadership and success while David tried to find a new direction of our conversation. It seemed like he had much more other topics to discuss with me and it made me feel uncomfortable. When it again was my turn to continue the conversation I had started to tell him about my future plans, about developing the company but David interrupted me:

"So when will there be enough success, power, money for you to stop this pursuit and start living?" he said.

I tried to argue that I also have trips with my colleagues to other cities and we have fun, yes often these are business trips but nevertheless. I just can't allow myself to have a family now, but in several years why not. We were discussing my life 30 minutes after that I stopped it, I saw that David looked at life from absolutely different point of view and I couldn't afford it.

I suddenly noticed that once upon a time we were the same at one point of our lives but then our roads have diverged. I was always sure that my way is the best one, that there are only two ways either to fight and to earn either to lose and to suffer. But now I looked at him and saw there is another good way.

In the end of the evening we said good bye to each other and I swore to find someday time to meet again.

This meeting showed me that a man can be happy without a great career, I will definitely think more about David and his lifestyle but later, first I need to check the report and answer all the messages I have…