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To: Ms. Maha

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Debate

Outliers The Story of Success

Malcolm Gladwell

I will never forget the day, when my mother told me that not all people are destined to live a very unique life, to be written in history, and not forgotten. She told me that most people are destined to live a normal life. My face turned hot, and I shouted out telling her that "Each one deserves to live a unique life, in which he or she would have a major role in contributing to that world". She left me alone to think for some time. I heard the sound of my heart bumping rapidly. My thoughts kept revolving around my dreams that might be over, without my awareness, and before I start creating my own success. I didn't shout because I was angry, but it was dread that forced me to shout out these words.

I always asked myself why are some people more successful than others. What I didn't recognize that I conformed to the idea that successful people are hard workers, self-built, and are much smarter than us, but as I grew up my beliefs alternated. I felt gratitude and satisfaction in my actions, when I found out that successful people are not the people with the best qualities, but they are the people with the best opportunities.

I have seen many people, who work really hard, they are very talented, but they never became outliers. The reason that I didn't put in mind is the accumulative advantages. For example, students, who are born in April, July and June always exceed the students, who are born in December because there a one-year difference in age. I fall into that trap because I was born in December. I wasn't the student with least grades, but I wasn't in the competition. I suffered to get a head of my class. I only got a head of my class when I repeated fourth grade. At

the beginning it looked terrible, but after a long period of time, I understood that it was a chance for me to get everything back into order.

Accumulative advantage is called accumulative because it is not an advantage in certain life period, however it is an advantage in all your life periods. You get higher grades in school if you are born in April, June or July. Then you would enter a better college, and get a better job. The same idea is applied in sports and music careers. It might seem an idea difficult to believe at first. It might look like subliminal messages, but it is true. If you would remember your childhood. You would find that students, who are older in age usually get higher grades. You might have been in better career, or had a better life, if you were one year older.

If you thought properly of such an idea you find it true, but not completely true. There are many other factors that affect our lives. Bill Gates is the person we all wished to be in his own place, but we also think that we aren't worthy enough because he is a hard worker, and we do not work hard enough. Let's go through Bill Gates biography. Bill Gates was born in October 28, 1955. Bill Gate's school was Lake Side School. This school was one of the few schools that had time sharing computer, which enabled Bill Gates to work on computer for hours without getting bored. One of the parents who paid for the computer in Lake Side school had a job for Bill. He checked the code of C-Cubed, which gave him the opportunity to practice for a very long time. He also lived near the university of Washington, which offered free computer access. TWR needed programmers to solve a certain conflict in their codes. Therefore, he had more time to practice.

What you might have noticed is the repetition of the word practiced. It is true because what made Bill Gates unique is his preparation for the revolution in computer technology because he was offered the chances, which would enable him to practice for 10,000 hours. Therefore, he was ready; to enter the competition. Bill Gates was born at the right time, in which the time sharing technology was invented. He was also born in the right place. It was Lake Side, which gave him the opportunity to get access for computer in Washington university. It might seem harsh to believe that Bill Gates might have not existed in the computer world without these chances. You would also think why didn't he ever say that his success was due to

destiny. He wouldn't say so because people believe that he is a hero, which is part of his fame. He would also never say so because it is true, that is Bill Gates because he is a hard worker. Many students lived in Lake Side valley entered the same school, and lived near Washington University, but very few students had the passion, talent and the patience to sit down, and work on computer for hours, without even getting a career at the beginning. Therefore, I believe that it is most probably that I wouldn't have been Bill Gates if had the same opportunities he had. If there is a formula for success, it would be $P+T+H=A$ preparation+ talent+ hard work =achievement.

Why is preparation so important? Research showed that you need about ten years of experience in a certain field; to create great success. They have also found out that along with preparation you need support. So if Bill Gates didn't get an opportunity in TWA he wouldn't have worked out through the 10,000 hours.

One day I was sitting alone reading a book about genius people, and I was really depressed because I believed that I am not smart enough to be successful. My mother noticed my depression. She told me "Son you do not need to be a genius to be successful". I didn't believe her again, but she was right. I just need to be smart enough. What is more important is to have the ability to take what you want from the world. I mean that you just need 130 IQ that is it, but you need a great ability to express yourself. Most of us had opportunities, but due to our inability to communicate with others, we can't get what we want. In grade 9 there was an opportunity for a scholarship in vacation in Germany. I rolled in, and I was one of highest 11 grades, who would get into an interview to travel. I believed that I was going to be beaten. I was the 11th grade, which means that I was lowest grade in the top 11, but I had a friend, who was the second, but he didn't travel. Do you know who traveled? It was me because my friend didn't speak up in the interview, but I did. I showed my admiration to Germany and German language. I thank god each day that he gave that ability, that he made my eyes glow when I spoke about Germany. I had that ability because of legacy.

My family isn't so rich. I didn't use money to travel, but my family always gave me the chance to speak up, and prove my point. Even if it is against the belief of adults. I had a teacher

called Ms. Maha who always told me to speak up, but also to give a chance to others, which I did in the interview; to show cooperation with the team group. Malcolm Glad Well said “Successful people do not do it alone”, which is true. I didn’t do it alone.

I was also offered opportunities. I studied French at first. I lived in Alexandria, but my family had; to change its residence to Cairo because my father got a new job opportunity. I was sent to Masr 2000 school, but the school management in that year was terrible. Therefore, I changed school, and decided to study German because I hated French. My mother had the ability to take what she wants from the world. Therefore, she convinced the school, that I must study German, and if I fail I would not study German again. I got private lessons in German. My teacher was from Masr 2000. After 5 years I had the ability to take the test in German and succeed. I wouldn’t have done it without the destiny that God wrote; to give that opportunity.

My legacy wasn’t my family only, but it the era I was born in. I was born in a time where Germany searched for the best German students and Gave them opportunities. Many of the students, who enrolled in the test had better conversation skills than mine, but they didn’t study German for long enough. Even though, they studied German for 6 and 7 years, but I used to study German every week at home, but they studied German only before exams. I did that because I was ambitious enough to work hard, and because I had that connection between hard work and effort. I am not an outlier yet, but I have the admiration to complexity and the connection between effort and work.

I have always wondered why do some students work very hard while others can’t. The answer was right in front of me. Students who work hard like to feel the joy that comes with success, after suffering for hours studying every day. They enjoy studying the complex subjects because it creates challenges for them. Therefore, Malcolm Glad Well said “If you work hard enough and assert yourself and your mind and imagination, you can simply shape the whole world”.

When I looked even deeper for the reason of the success of me and my colleagues, who are going to travel to Germany. I found out that we are living in a community with low PDI, which is the power distance index. We lived in a community, where leaders where criticized in

using mass media, where the community created two revolutions in about four years. This community made us able to speak up, and give our truthful opinions. According to a research done by Hofstede. That idea because he concluded at the end of his research that as he said "Each one has his individual personality. But overlaid on top of that are tendencies and assumptions and reflexes handed down to us by the history of community we grew in".

After you read that essay or the book you might think that life is unfair, but outliers are not even the people who are born in the right time, era and family. They are not the people who got many opportunities. They are the people who used these opportunities. Life gave each and everyone many opportunities, but you weren't brave enough to seek them. "If the opportunity was there to go on, and you were able to take it, the sky is your own limit", Malcolm Glad Well. " Some people change the world, and others watch the world changed around them", Ms. Maha Eldeeb. Even if opportunities helped the outliers. They still chose to work hard and change our world. You might have the perfect IQ, skills, Family, era and legacy, but you and only you can make the change.