

## Book review: Good Luck By Chan Wing Fai

For a man in forties like me with one dream after another went sour, I am rushing to find a ticket for the last train to success. Before reading "Good Luck", I wish I could find a magic spell to good luck. Yet the book provides me another perspective: distinguishing 'luck' from "good luck". The authors give me the secret for success, or in other words "good luck". In simple the secret is to create the conditions for success in life and business.

With more than twenty years' experience as a commercial banking manager having the privilege of meeting hundreds of successful businessmen, I am convinced that luck is not the important foundation for success in life but positive attitude in approaching life challenges, ability to create the necessary conditions for success in changing world, right actions and willingness to persist despite temporary setbacks in your long journey to success are.

Success means different things for different people. I define success as the attainment of the valuable impossible. By definition success should be very valuable, or else you will not try your best to pursue success. Certainly the term valuable is very personal. For one person, getting a big sum of money is success. For another man, job security is success. Why is success the achievement of the impossible? Real success is certainly something very difficult if not impossible to get at the outset. If you already get it or it is to be attainable easily, success does not mean real success for you. As success is the attainment of the impossible, you are destined to meet many temporary setbacks before achieving success.

I put forward a simple formula for success :

Success = Appropriate external conditions + Right Actions + Persistency

Certainly right actions and persistency are the important elements of success. Yet the third element, appropriate external conditions, must join force in order to bring success. If in the very beginning you do not believe that you can find the appropriate external conditions for success, you will certainly be smart enough not even trying in the beginning and certainly no right actions and persistency to follow. In the book "Good Luck", the two authors introduce to us a new concept facilitating us to seek appropriate external conditions in life and business.

External conditions are the element where luck counts. Luck may give you the appropriate external conditions for success. However it is very difficult for you to rely on luck. Luck likes a burglar. Luck comes and goes. No one can control it. You cannot be lucky for long. If you believe in luck, you are doomed to be pessimistic. As success is the attainment of

the valuable impossible, you will face many temporary setbacks in your journey to success. If you believe in luck, a series of temporary setbacks will soon convince you that luck is not on your side. Sooner or later, you will give in and stop even trying.

Yet the authors introduce to us the new concept of "good luck". "Good luck" is not luck which you cannot control but it refers to the continuous creation of necessary conditions by a person to bring success in life and business. Two knights, Nott and Sid, learned that four-leaf Magic Clover gave its owner unlimited luck and they went into the forest to find four-leaf Magic Clover. Nott was a believer in luck while Sid was a believer of good luck. After Nott met one person after another giving him the same answer that it was impossible to find four-leaf Magic Clover in the forest. Nott was totally convinced that luck was not on his side and gave up trying to find four-leaf Magic Clover. On the contrary, Sid adopted another approach when he met the same people and received the same negative answer that it was impossible to find four-leaf Magic Clover in the forest. Sid declined to rely on luck and insisted on creating "good luck". Sid continued to find out what were the necessary conditions for four-leaf Magic Clover to grow in the forest. He even tried later to create the necessary conditions for four-leaf Magic Clover to grow. Sid's strong belief in good luck finally enabled him to find four-leaf Magic Clover in the forest.

The same "good luck" concept had been adequately applied in real life. On the afternoon of Friday, 13<sup>rd</sup> October, 1972 an airplane carrying a team of young rugby players from Uruguay crashed into the snow covered Andes Mountains. Several of the passengers died immediately. For eight days, the survivors had been able to maintain strong belief that luck was on their side and waited to be rescued. When they found from the radio that the rescue search had been abandoned, they were desperate and admitted luck had abandoned them. Temperature was extremely low. Soon their food and drink were gone. If they maintained the original 'luck' concept, they were doomed to die soon. A leader arose and he adopted the good luck concept. He successfully convinced the survivors the need to create the conditions for success (i.e. going back home). They faced two problems. First no food would mean weak body and soon they would die of starvation. Second weak body could not enable them to climb across high mountains to seek rescue. The leader introduced the new condition of eating the dead body to survive. Initially such idea brought huge confusion and disagreement amongst the survivors. Finally most people accepted this condition. Actually only those survivors who ate dead bodies could survive. Later the same leader created another condition: they had to climb across the snow covered Andes Mountain into the green valley of Chile to seek rescue. Finally the expedition succeeded and the rugby team members were rescued. The heroic story was re-introduced to the world in the Hollywood movie "Alive".

Luck does not last long. You cannot control it. On the other hand, good luck can be created by everyone. That's why we can rely on good luck. To create good luck means to abandon the usual conditions but introduce new conditions for success in life and business. Creating new conditions for success is definitely not easy. It is really hard work. Yet it brings your handsome reward – success. Contrary to luck, good luck equips people to avoid believing in chance and doing nothing to create their own success. The followers of good luck have the courage to continue their pursuit of success despite temporary setbacks in the journey. The concept of good luck is a super booster in our journey of life convincing us that we can definitely create new conditions for success. Good luck is our royal companion in the journey of life. Good luck equips us to take continuous right actions in persistent manner despite unfavourable environment and temporary setbacks. You must have faith! You can create your own good luck! Yet good luck will not come in a very short time. So be patient and do have faith.

As told by Geroge Bernard Shaw : “People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, make them.” Good luck deals with appropriate external conditions in the formula of success. But only appropriate external conditions are not enough. Right actions and persistency must be provided to reach success. Do it now. It's never too late.

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