

TIME SPUR SUCCESS

CLARA SMITH

To realise the value of ONE YEAR,

ask a student who failed his final exam.

To realise the value of ONE MONTH.

ask the parents of a premature baby.

To realise the value of ONE WEEK,

ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realise the value of ONE DAY,

ask the daily wage labourer who has a large family to feed.

To realise the value of ONE MINUTE,

ask a person who has missed a bus, a train, or a plane.

To realise the value of ONE SECOND,

ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realise the value of ONE MILLI-SECOND.

ask the person who has won a silver medal at the Olympics.

If there's one phrase in today's society that I can't stand, it's that clichéd response, "I don't have enough time!" How can anyone say this when everyone has the same twenty-four hour day? Think about Cathy Freeman, St Mary Mackillop or the 'Father of Science', Sir Isaac Newton. Were they given extra hours to achieve their greatness? No! They made use of the time given to them! As Newton might have quipped, 'You don't understand the gravity of this situation!'

What makes the problem thornier is that the majority of culprits are the ones who sit around wasting time. It's important to realise that time is, in essence, a precious resource. Similar to food and water, there's a sufficient supply but it doesn't last forever. Time is like the little droplets of water that make up the mighty ocean of eternity. Embrace time for miracles, moments and memories and the world is in your hands.

The precious and finite nature of the time given to each of us is a 'timeless' theme (excuse the pun!) and has been well-explored by writers down the ages. The unrealised potential of the time gifted to us is beautifully explained by an unknown author in this passage:

In the modern era, time is still a precious resource that keeps tick, tick, ticking away. My sagacious father once shared with me an insightful story about the essence of time ... 'If you woke up one morning to discover \$86,400 in your bank account that would vanish by the end of the day, what would you do with it?' Spend it of course, so that no money is wasted. We take this approach because, as humans, we rely on money to survive. But, don't we also rely on time? What if life's currency were time as introduced to us in the movie *In Time*? So, tomorrow when you wake up to 86,400 seconds, make use of every one of them. Exploit them before they dissipate like fleecy clouds across a summer sky. The words of Andrew Marvell, in the 1650s poem, *To His Coy Mistress*, reiterate this idea about the transience of time:

“*But at my back I always hear Time's winged chariot hurrying near; And yonder all before us lie Deserts of vast eternity.*”



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Although I'm trying to open society's eyes to the fact that we are not spending our time effectively, I'm not saying we must labour infinitely. Otherwise, we work and work and there'll be no time to live the life we work for. We must choose a path that we enjoy. Time dictates the paths we choose and, sometimes, we're thrown into the deep end and find ourselves at a cross-road stumbling blindly down one path. In 1916, American poet Robert Frost wrote *The Road Not Taken*:

“*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads
diverged in a wood, and I- I took the one
less travelled by, And that has made all the
difference.*”

The point Frost is suggesting is that when making a decision, go with your 'gut feeling', go with your instinct. Time will always be relevant to contemporary youth as it is a constant element of life. Time is a theme well-explored through poetry. Ironically, while time is transient, many poetic voices will last forever. Ever since the early ages, time has been

crucial to success. Life is a pathway that can be conquered by any individual who is game enough to put the time and effort into their chosen field. Life isn't a movie; the script is yet unwritten. We're the writers; this is our story. The clock is running. Run the day out! Don't let the day run you!

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