

RDJ'S NOTES

COURSE 5 | SESSION 2

Start Here

Earl Nightingale

You can't make your success contingent on someone else's reaction. Competing to impress your parents, your spouse, your co-workers, or anybody else will ultimately not be fulfilling. You can't conform to their every hope and expectation, and you will experience great frustration when your accomplishments prove insufficient to gain their approval.

If you start with a respect for what you can do that depends on no one else, you will have a much easier time tolerating those for whom nothing is enough.

We all remember our first performance evaluation. Report cards. We carried them home and presented them to our parents, yearning for their approval.

Millionaire in the Making

From a very early age, we were taught the significance of outcomes. Whether it was getting a dollar for every A, being given a smile or kind word, or avoiding being grounded, we discovered the report card mattered and we needed to be good at what we did.

We still carry this formative lesson of contingent approval with us. We still seek to win approval, some of us from parents or spouses, others from colleagues and supervisors.

But just as having to get good grades to please your parents did not install a love of reading, having to succeed to attain the approval of someone else will not make you enjoy the process.

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