



THE VIRTUES OF ENLIGHTENED LIVING: ROBIN SHARMA'S "THE MONK WHO SOLD HIS FERRARI"

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the virtues of human life from Robin Sharma's *The Monk Who Sold his Ferrari*. In this symbolic fictional story, Robin Sharma exhibit seven astonishing virtues which play a key role in human life. The virtues make you develop into yourself and think about your life from a different perspective.

Keywords: master your mind, follow your purpose, practice kaizen, live with

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INTRODUCTION

Robin Sharma is a one of the global Canadian author most sought of professional speaker on leadership, elite performance, managing change, personal discovery and he fills the book with a combination of life strategies for the American-European people who are in the competitive and commercial successive field. Most of the Indian people lead a simple and peaceful life with daily customs. The book teaches some important life lessons, which make you to think of your true life, your dreams, your spirituality, your destiny and your regular habits. In the story the author introduced a main character called *Julian Mantle* a professional lawyer, who traveled to Indian Himalayas in the search of real meaning of life. In the first and second chapters of the fable the *Julian Mantle* suffered severe heart attack in the court. As a successive lawyer who had everything like glory, money, houses, a jet and the red Ferrari. One day he collapsed in the court because of overweight during the strain of his take-no-prisoners out-of-balance lifestyle with its smoking and drinking and over indulgence. After medication, he has decided to stop doing legal action work and he travelled to India to find his purpose in life. He achieves essential lessons of life while he has travelled in India. He then shares his knowledge to his fellow lawyer with the condition that the lawyer himself must forward this knowledge to other people. In the fable Robin Sharma progressed with thirteen chapters, the seven virtues like master your mind, follow your purpose, practice kaizen, live with discipline, respect your time, selflessly serve others and embrace the present are discussed in some separate chapters along with symbols. All seven virtues are very inspiring, motivational, self-examined, disciplined and leadership oriented. The author draws that Julian mantle's wisdom in nutshell earlier than reaching the sages of the Himalayas.

First to sixth chapter:

In these chapters author narrated about normal busy life style of Julian Mantle, the severe heart attack made Julian to pursue the real life; in the search of peaceful life he visited sages of Himalayas'. The author elucidated how Julian recognized the spiritual importance can renew the wisdom of life. The sages had an own holistic system to extend the potential of the mind, body, and soul. This promotes health and happiness and fulfillment to life. The author beautifully explicated the vegetarian food habits will enhance the life fashion and the main message is contained in seven virtues for self leadership and spiritual enlightenment. Julian deserve the virtue form sage.

**Vol.3.Issue.3. 2015****Analysis of seven virtues from seventh to thirteen chapters with symbols:**

Julian's Wisdom in a Nutshell: The *first* virtue in the fable is **Master Your Mind**. The author compares the wisdom with *The Magnificent Garden* (Symbol). Where the mind will flourish beyond your expectations. The quality of your life is determined by the quality of your thoughts and there are no mistakes only lessons. In this chapter author coated that, the secret of happiness is simple: find out what you truly love to do and then direct all of your energy towards doing it. Once you do this, abundance flows into your life and all your desires are filled with ease and grace.

Julian's Wisdom in a Nutshell: The *second* virtue in the fable is **Follow Your Purpose**. The author compares the wisdom of life with *The Towering Lighthouse* (Symbol). The light house can clear your way to reach your destiny by this we can understand the purpose of life is a life of purpose. The discovering of real life will bring you lasting fulfillment. In the setting of personal, professional and spiritual goals the purpose will act courageously. The author insists the power of self – examination and five step methods for attaining goals. In this chapter author coated that, never forget the importance of living with unbridled exhilaration. Never neglect to see the exquisite beauty in all living things. Today, and this very moment, is a gift. Stay focused on your purpose. The universe will take care of everything else.

Julian's Wisdom in a Nutshell: The *third* virtue in the fable is **Practice Kaizen**. The author compares the wisdom of life with *The Sumo Wrestler* (symbol). This chapter is about regularly humanizing your mind, body and soul to face continuous struggle in life. A sumo always struggles to win the competition, the success on the outside begins from inside. The author advised from the character, that fear can hold you back, so it is time to step out comfort zone and explore the unknown to true liberty to get success. In this chapter author coated that, the universe favors the brave. When you resolve to lift your life to its highest level, the strength of your soul will guide you to a magical place with magnificent treasures.

Julian's Wisdom in a Nutshell: The *fourth* virtue in the fable is **Live with Discipline**. The symbolic description of this virtue with *The pink wire cable* (symbol). The cable indicates the discipline, with performing small act regularly in life. The humans must learn the discipline from nature and the willpower is the essential virtue of fully actualized life. The book coats in this chapter, wage war against the weaker thoughts that have crept into the place of your mind. They will see that they are unwanted and leave like unwelcome visitors. The author demands the reader through the character to master our mind, to master our life, to control every thought and allow only positive thinking.

Julian's Wisdom in a Nutshell: The *fifth* virtue in the fable is **Respect Your Time**. The symbolic description of this virtue with *The Gold Stopwatch* (symbol). The time is the most precious commodity in the universe and it is renewable. The author point out that, live every day as if it is the last day in the life and simplify the life. The main character in the story recognized about ultimate purpose of the life is to serve. The book coats that, time slips through our hands like grains of sand, never to return again. Those who use time wisely from an early age are rewarded with rich, productive and satisfying lives.

Julian's Wisdom in a Nutshell: The *sixth* virtue in the fable is **selflessly Serve Others**. The symbolic description of this virtue with *The fragrant Roses* (symbol). There is an old saying that, service to human is service to God. The quality of selfless serve to others is divine one, the quality of your life ultimately comes down to the quality of your contribution. If you can elevate the lives of others, your life reaches its highest dimensions. The book coats that, the noblest thing you can do is to give to others. Starts focusing on your higher purpose.

Julian's Wisdom in a Nutshell: The *seventh* virtue in the fable is **Embrace the Present**. The symbolic description of this virtue with *The Path of Diamonds* (symbol). 'This world is full of unhappy millionaires', because they won't spend five minutes to make their lives happy. The intension of the author is, recognize the present, live in the now, and never sacrifice happiness for achievement. Begin to live each day as if it was your last. Quote of the book, we are all here for some special reason. Stop being a prisoner of your past. Become the architect of your future.



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Conclusion of the book: In almost all chapters author tried to come out with the virtues which are more essential to lead a happy and moral life. His suggestions create positive habits. Positive habits will creative results. And results will inspire you towards greater personal change. Begin to live each day as if it was your last. Starting today, learn more, laugh more and do what you truly love to do. Do not be denied your destiny. For what lies behind you and what lies in front of you matters little when compared to what lies within you.

REFERENCES

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