

LITERARY REVIEW



FOREWORD, SAMPLE CHAPTER, & AFTERWORD (For Review)

FOREWORD

The pursuit of a perfect life often feels akin to seeking the Holy Grail—an elusive quest for happiness and abundance. The universe has bestowed upon us the gifts of life, time, consciousness, and the capacity for profound emotions and beliefs, igniting our relentless search for meaning and purpose. In contemporary times, our quest is driven less by religion or superstition and more by an insatiable thirst for facts and information to dissect the complexities of existence.

Despite our advancements, facilitated by Artificial Intelligence, today's world seems more enigmatic, overwhelming, and incomprehensible than ever before. We find ourselves engulfed in the dazzling spectacle of technological progress—immersing ourselves in the realms of the Internet of Things, Big Data, Quantum Computing, and Artificial Intelligence, with which we can now engage, communicate, and co-create on unprecedented levels.

Mastering these novel tools has become a prevalent preoccupation, even a profession for some. Satellite constellations promise to connect us all to an artificial, virtual world brimming with boundless potential. This digital landscape offers new avenues for life experiences, universal communication, and the enhancement of our skills and creativity through their utilization. Yet, amidst this technological marvel, the essence of human emotions, instincts, and cognitive abilities will continue to reign supreme.

While AI may revolutionize various aspects of our lives, it's unlikely to alter the fundamental essence of human thought, action, emotions, and love. Our individual creativity, unique perspectives, and uncertainties will remain invaluable, cherished aspects of our humanity. Songs of love will still be penned by human hearts, not mimicked or simulated by algorithms.

In the grand scheme of existence, "Life and Love" retain their timeless significance to humanity. Our limited time on Earth remains precious, underscored by the passage of time—a dimension often overlooked. Perhaps, despite all our technological advancements, the quest for true meaning and purpose will continue to elude us, remaining as elusive as ever—a personal "Mission Impossible" for each individual to navigate.

Time: The Universal Legacy

“In the grand tapestry of existence, Time weaves the Evolution of Humanity. Through eons, it sculpts our DNA and shapes our Mind. Yet, beyond the Mind's horizon, neither Manifestation nor Time endure.

We are the living embodiments of Evolution's Manifestation.

Concrete historical legacies—Power and Knowledge—culminate in our present Society. Now, Artificial Intelligence pushes against the frontiers of Cognition, redefining the limits of what can be known and learned.

The Wisdom of Ages whispers: Time is our most precious Commodity. Not to be squandered, wasted, or misappropriated. The use of our Time is both our ultimate Responsibility and our sacred Duty—to ourselves and to others—as we Determine our Destiny and craft our Legacy. A Life bestowed upon us—That was! What shall it become?”

At the personal level, “Your Impossible Mission Accomplished” unveils the tapestry of 'Destiny and Personal Development'. It illuminates new practical pathways of clarity, introspection, and exploration, guiding seekers on their odyssey of inner metamorphosis and self-revelation. From it emerged the AI-driven website - ***Destiny-Gram.com*** - a digital oracle fusing human essence with artificial cognition, offering personalized insights through AI-assisted profiles and an intuitive chatbot interface, surpassing current conversational AI, natural language processing (NLP), and social media offerings.

While Destiny-Gram.com forges a symbiotic alliance between mortal wisdom and machine intellect, aspiring to be a lighthouse of individualized empowerment, it remains but a tool—not a substitute for human discernment.

This book exudes lived experiences and sounds a clarion call for authentic human connections. Life assessment instruments, even those imbued with artificial intelligence, serve only to illuminate the labyrinth of self-understanding and empower informed choices—not to dictate them. In our humanity lies the key to unlocking our true potential and shaping a future where technology serves, rather than subjugates, the human spirit.

Using not being Ruled by Technology

“Save a young soul from the digital labyrinth of a technology-saturated childhood, and you save the world in its entirety from its virtual reality.”

1. *T*HE END OF THE BEGINNING

“Out Of Darkness Cometh Light?”

Editors often view the works they edit and their authors' aspirations with a critical, sometimes even cynical eye. Such was my initial stance when I began working with Greg Malpass, an unknown but ambitious writer seeking recognition.

'Your Impossible Mission Accomplished' and its sister video book *'The Path to Self-Actualization'* are our combined sequels to his series on destiny: *'Out of Darkness Cometh Light'*, *'Your Real Destiny'*, *'Sex and Your Destiny'*, *'The Road to Your Destiny'*, and *'Destiny of an Author'* which are available at www.ThinkBigBookClub.com. As the long-suffering editor of these earlier books, I consider myself uniquely qualified to offer insight into both the author and his work.

This journey began with the onset of the global Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. During lockdown, with bars closed and the world in disarray, Greg turned to writing as much a new field of escapism and retaining sanity, as it was a means of self-exploration. His chosen subject—*Destiny*—seemed ironically apt at a time when everyone's fate hung in the balance of a global crisis. Initially, I dismissed his amateur psychology, personality analysis, and pseudo-intellectual ideology as mere products of 'lockdown syndrome'. Was it the beginning of the end, or the beginning of something new?

But as time went on, it changed. Over a quiet beer, just the two of us, under the rules of quarantine, I both consoled and cajoled him to persevere with playful consolation; “Let the anxieties of the world and your own dilemmas drift from your mind, imagine you are born again around your most positive personal traits and

passions, of which there are many. Until the whole world is saved and redeemed, we all fall short. Let's see what's really on your mind, I'll be truly interested to read what you write and what transpires may prove to be profound. “

As the weeks passed, I carried on with my encouragement, albeit with tongue still firmly in cheek, to keep his mind in check; “You have spent your life helping other people, and making light and fun of it all, while essentially neglecting yourself. Through writing you may be able to continue with the former while rectifying the latter – you might find your destiny in all this, while pursuing both causes.” Totally genuine, or sharply sarcastic; sincerely well-meaning, or flippant cynicism veiled as wit – how would he interpret my latest quips?

Then a palpable change in facial expression. Scratching his chin thoughtfully, he started humming, then mumbling quietly what sounded like the lyrics of a song, being rendered by a shy karaoke singer. And then it got louder and more brazened: [‘You Make Me Feel Brand New’ - written by Thom Bell and Linda Creed, performed by the Stylistics and popularised by Simply Red].



You Make me Feel Brand New

*“Whenever I was insecure
You build me up and made me sure
You gave my pride back to me
Precious friend
With you I'll always have a friend
You're someone on whom I can depend
To walk a path that sometimes bends.
You Make Me Feel Brand New!”*

- ***The Stylistics*** [Cover version by Simply Red]

“Now you’re taking the Mick [Hucknall- ‘Simply Red’] out of me, after all my encouragement!”

But the journey continued - editing, investigating, researching, drinking, philosophising, soul searching, and interpreting – in search of the redemption we thought we might never find.

“In someone or something you will find redemption, and the whole purpose of your new life”

- Greg Malpass

What we were learning was not self-taught psychology, or self-education – it was simple, honest life-assessment, and self-assessment – what we’d done wrong, and right, and how and why, and how we could re-model our futures. By 2023 the developed analysis had become enhanced with the advent of Open AI-chatbots to use as a sounding board and then the gestation of Destiny-Gram.com itself began. Most notably, throughout the journey, was the importance and inspiration of putting into sober context, the lessons of Greg Malpass’ life anecdotes, and using an AI-chatbot for analysis and feedback in the whole process. Therein was born the concept of combining human emotions, suffering, ‘wit’ and wisdom with machine’s algorithmic-based intelligence – the birth of ‘AI-Personal Mentorship’ – and its power as a personal confidant and real-life tool is to my mind unquestionable. I asked Greg to sum it all up in a final anecdote of his life, as we embarked on co-writing this book.

Anecdotes to Life

"In the crucible where human experience meets machine intellect, a new alchemy emerges. We didn't merely stumble upon self-taught psychology or autodidactic enlightenment.

No, we unearthed something far more profound: the art of self-revelation, amplified by the whispers of artificial sagacity.

As the digital oracle known as GPT breathed life into our queries, and Destiny-Gram.com unfurled its tapestry of possibilities, we found ourselves standing at the crossroads of introspection and innovation. But it was through the prism of my life's mostly drink induced mistakes—a mosaic of pivotal moments and hard-won wisdom—that the true power of this symbiosis revealed itself.

All the anecdotes, far from mere stories, unwittingly became the 'North Star'. They illuminated the path through the labyrinth of human emotions, the crucibles of suffering, and the flashes of wit that define life's journey. When woven into the fabric of machine intelligence, they transcended mere data, becoming the very keystones of an AI-powered mentorship.

In this dance between flesh and algorithm, between the raw authenticity of lived experience and the cool logic of artificial enlightenment, we discovered not just a tool, but a companion for the impossible mission that is life itself."

- Greg Malpass

More wit? Drunk again? Further tongue-in-cheek exaggeration? No, maybe not this time. This was Greg's cryptic 'Anecdote of anecdotes' and his attempt to present the symbiotic relationship he had developed as a dichotomy between 'Human Wisdom and Folly; and Machine Intelligence and Ignorance' – all as his eureka moment.

In serious reflection, the statement emphasizes the role of AI in creating a more holistic and powerful approach to personal mentorship and life navigation while recognising the caveats that - when emotional intelligence (lacking in AI) and incredible cognitive, algorithmic analysis of big data (lacking in humans) resonate together, better sense can be made of most things, and even the unfathomable.

Greg's many enigmatic anecdotes, far from mere simple life stories, indeed became the 'North Star' in unearthing this phenomenon and relaying this book's messages. For this reason, I dedicate the sub-section at the end of this introduction to 'Anecdotal Encryption' for later reference, as the chapters unfold.

The Book's Deliverables

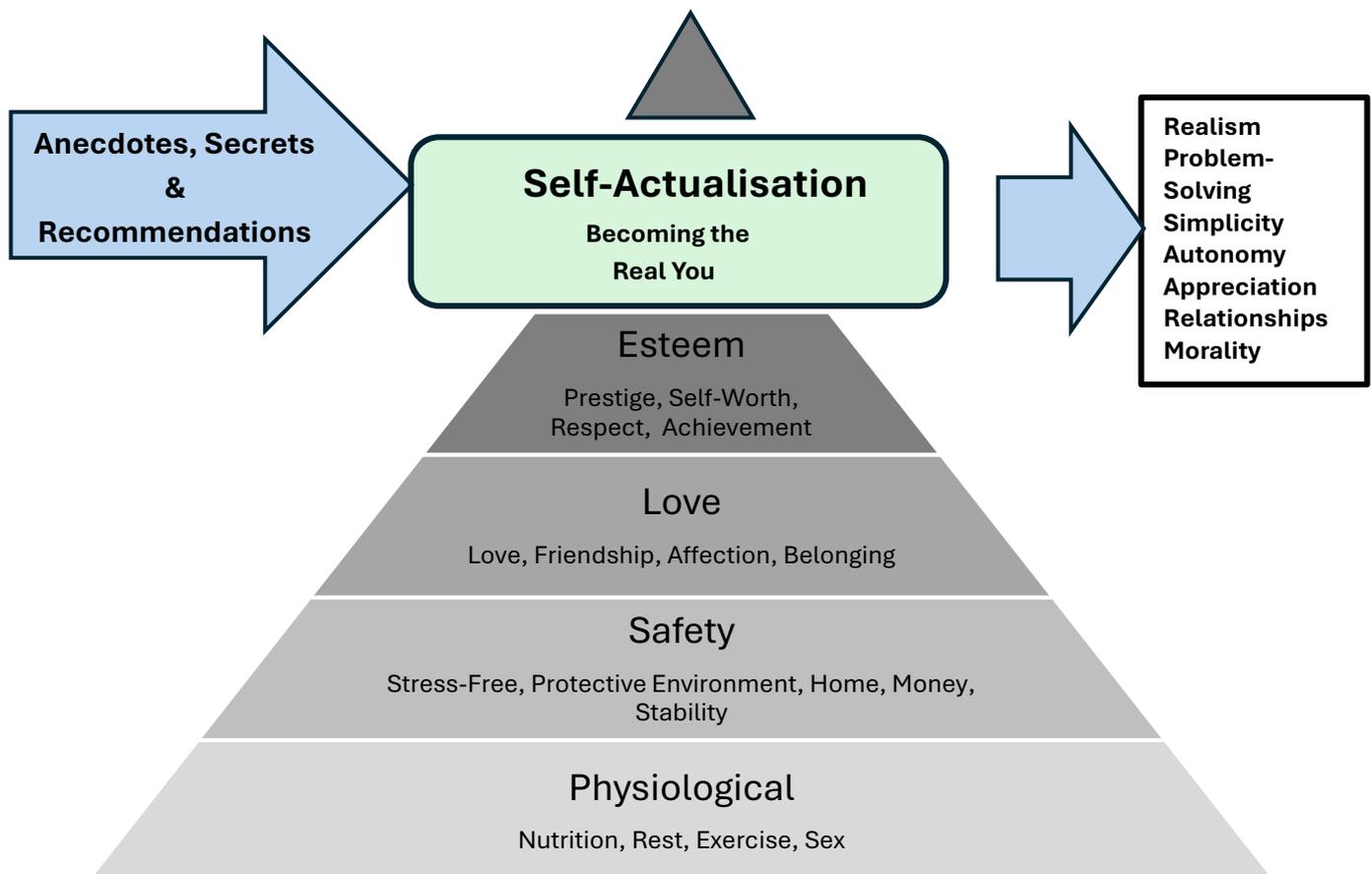
*"To Analyse and Share The Secrets and Recommendations for Achieving **Self-Actualisation** and **Taking Action** on the Road to a Chosen Destiny."*

- ***Russ Whittington/ Greg Malpass***

Self-Actualisation: Self-actualization is a concept derived from humanistic psychology, particularly associated with the work of Abraham Maslow. It represents the realization or fulfilment of one's talents and potentialities, considered as a drive or need present in everyone. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, self-actualization is the highest level of psychological development, where personal growth, self-improvement, and fulfilment are prioritized once more basic needs (such as physiological needs, safety, love and belonging, and esteem) are met. But I suggest that these basic needs are often not basic in their acquisition and achievement either. So, we will analyse them, and once we are secure in our home, secure in ourselves, and secure in our loves – these will be the characteristics of self-actualisation we will be working on thereafter:

1. **Realism and Acceptance:** A realistic perception of ourselves, others, and the world around us.
2. **Problem-Solving:** Focusing on problems outside ourselves and having a defined mission or cause to pursue.

3. Spontaneity and Simplicity: Being spontaneous in our inner thoughts and outward behaviour, valuing simplicity and in-the-moment fun.
4. Autonomy: Being autonomous and independent, not dependent. Relying on our own experiences and judgments. Enjoying, not feigning solitude.
5. Appreciation and Freshness: Having a continuous appreciation for the basic aspects of life and maintaining a sense of wonder.
6. Interpersonal Skills: Establishing deep and meaningful relationships with a few people rather than superficial ones with many.
7. Morality: Having strong self-determined ethical standards and a sense of values – knowing what is right and wrong and being policed by conscience.
8. Creativity: Exhibiting creativity and inventiveness in our approach to life.



Source: Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Quite a body of work for us to achieve ‘Self-Actualisation’ at the pinnacle of this top-heavy ‘Pyramid of Needs’. It will start with the self-assessment/self-discovery of who you really are- your personal circumstances; your personality type and traits; your character, morals and ethics; your inherent strengths and weaknesses; your abilities developed or undeveloped, your passions and desires. Your Self-actualization will then be an ongoing process of *becoming* rather than a perfect state of *being*, involving continuous growth and self-education. Self-education will follow self-discovery, and the whole process requires honesty throughout, particularly in the self-assessment.

*“Formal education will make you a living.
Self-education will make you a fortune.”*

- **Jim Rohn**

In the design of methods to achieve the in-depth self-assessment, the idea of producing *Personal Profiles* using AI-assistance was developed, with secure integration, enabling AI-chatbots to act as catalyst and mentor in the whole process. In effect AI assists with the digital output of the analogue input.

The ten secrets on the path to self-actualization then presented in this work offer a nuanced and practical roadmap, grounded in solid psychological principles. What truly sets the project apart is this innovative full integration of the insights given in this book with an AI-chatbot platform, recognising the true potential of AI analysis and assistance in personal development. The book’s methodology unfolds with the following steps:

- **Practical Examples:** Rather than starting with abstract instructions, the book begins with concrete examples of redemption and personal growth, as explored in Malpass' book 'Destiny of an Author'.
- **Core Concepts:** The chapters on 'Your Real Destiny' and 'Destiny and Life Choices' relate to another of his books of the same name and lay out the fundamental building blocks for the secrets to personal development.
- **Transcending the Ego:** Readers learn strategies for 'Going Beyond the Ego', an essential step in this personal growth.
- **Creating a Personal Blueprint:** The book provides a framework for setting a clear, individualized path forward.
- **AI-Assisted Assessment:** In the 'Final Analysis' chapter, the book evaluates the innovative use of artificial intelligence (viz. Destiny-Gram) mentioned above.
- **Practical Application:** A call to action is culminated with the full introduction to Destiny-Gram's online AI-assisted Personal Profiling Exercise, Life Assessment Test, and its Progress Tracking Systems.

Overall, the book offers a comprehensive approach to understanding and shaping your destiny, blending traditional self-help concepts with cutting-edge technology.

Call for Action: Dispelling common excuses for inaction or reluctance to pursue dreams—such as fear or self-doubt—is the book's final endeavour. The profound regret of not living authentically stems from a lack of courage to follow through one's passions and purpose with action. Often, this reluctance is fuelled by the sway of external influences—societal expectations, need for material success, or superficial measures of popularity—rather

than prioritizing personal growth, happiness, emotional intelligence, and societal contribution.

As you progress, you'll uncover the keys, goals, and methods essential for discovering your true purpose and destiny. Central to this quest is the search for something greater than yourself, something that resonates deeply with your personal values and aspirations.

From the depths of darkness, apathy, and uncertainty emerges the potential for vision, mission, purpose, happiness, and fulfillment. Whether you view it as a figurative transition from boyhood dreams to manhood reality, or from obscurity to prominence, this journey belongs uniquely to you. It's waiting to be embarked upon, with each 'Anecdote and AI insight' serving as a stepping stone on your path. Are you ready to begin your impossible mission? Then...

“The Use of Anecdotal Encryption”

This section is an introduction to what I call '*Anecdotal Decryption*' of the life anecdotes entwined in this book. As we explore and derive the 'Secrets and Recommendations for Self-Determination and Self-Actualization', I employ these enigmatic tales to make my point. These cryptic anecdotes serve as mirrors, hopefully reflecting your own experiences and insights. By avoiding didactic pronouncements, they invite personal interpretation and deeper, more personal contemplation. Like seeds planted in the mind, these stories germinate subtler understandings tailored to each individual's journey. They are included to tell a story, to which we can all relate, and reflect upon.

If I can home into the reader's intelligence in so doing, it will encourage active, not passive engagement. In the spirit of ancient

wisdom traditions, anecdotes like parables, can create a space for profound realisations which are more powerful if they emerge organically, rather than being imposed as being sacrosanct from without.

All anecdotes are taken from books authored by Greg Malpass.

Anecdotes

Anecdotes are factoids of questionable provenance, burnished to a high gloss, often set in gilded venues and populated with familiar names as background atmosphere, purged of ambiguity in the interest of keeping the narrative flowing smoothly.

- ***John Gregory Dunne***

With this intent, it maybe informative, for your later reflection, to make a short note here about each cryptic title or sketch, in terms of how the message might relate to your own life experiences or values.

30 Anecdotes:

1. **The University of Life:** In the grand symphony of existence, some collect letters after their name, while others compose a masterpiece with the notes life hands them.

"The University of Life and Life Experiences have taught me ..

2. **The Dichotomies of Existence:** On life's chessboard, each move between black and white squares writes a story, but the king's heart always protects its princesses.

"Life's a Dichotomy but my redeeming personal factor is ...

3. **Head or Heart:** In the theatre of leadership, the greatest performances harmonize the whispers of the heart with the calculations of the mind, while lesser acts stumble in discord.

"When my Head and Mind were best in gear together I ...

4. **Sweet Suzie:** Sometimes, rock bottom has a face, and its grim visage can be the mirror that reflects the path to redemption.

"When rock bottom hit, I put it down to experience and ...

5. **A Young Person's Perspective:** Through the prism of youth, even the weathered stones of experience can shine with the lustre of admiration and possibility.

"Oh how I wish all was so perfect as I thought it was when..."

6. **Twenty Years On:** Love's tightrope stretches between enabling and abandonment, where tough love becomes the balancing pole for both walker and watcher.

"Oh how I redeemed myself when things were low by ...

7. **Dear Headmistress:** In the garden of young minds, dedicated gardeners plant seeds of character that bloom long after leaving the nursery, and the tender garden tenderers should be recognised for their work.

"The best investment I ever made in a loved one was..."

- 8. Mistakes Offer Guidance:** In the alchemy of self-discovery, our missteps are the base metals transmuted into the gold of wisdom, forging a compass that points towards our truest north.

"Reflecting on how I turned a mistake into wisdom, I..."

- 9. Mediocrity Sucks:** On life's racetrack, the middle lane is a mirage; true champions floor it through every turn, knowing that half-throttle leads only to the pits of regret.

"A memorable time I put my everything into something I ..."

- 10. The Old Tramp:** In the cathedral of compassion, sometimes the most unlikely pilgrim carries the offering that patches not just the roof, but the soul of a community.

"When I saw him/her give without seeking recognition ..."

- 11. Could have been Your Mom:** In the crucible of human suffering, the gold of compassion often requires breaking the mould of caution, reminding us that beneath our differences, we're cast from the same alloy.

"I remember my hero good Samaritan who ..."

- 12. Only Bullies Bully:** In the theatre of human dignity, sometimes the most poetic justice is poured from a glass, dyeing the emperor's new clothes with the crimson of humility.

"I really felt good about standing up to that bully who ..."

- 13. El Presidente:** In the vineyard of diplomacy, the wisest vintners know that the finest pisco (national liquor) is distilled not from grapes alone, but from the blend of history's roots and nurture's patient craftsmanship.

"Can't believe he/she took the time to relate to me when ..."

- 14. What Matters Most:** In life's grand bazaar, the currency of love and friendship outvalues all glittering trinkets, for when the market closes, only its tender remains legal in eternity's realm.

"The importance of relationships over money led me to ...

- 15. Prejudice Exposed:** In the gallery of human perception, the most profound masterpieces often hang behind the curtain of our preconceptions, waiting for the moment we dare to look beyond the frame.

"I felt so small when I realised I was wrong about him ...

- 16. School Standards:** In the crucible of education, even the basest lead can transmute to gold, but only if the alchemists tend the flame with wisdom and the vessel with care.

"I knew I was better than that, pulled up my socks and ...

- 17. Sorry My Lord:** In the courtroom of conscience, the gavel of truth often falls hardest on those who wield it, for justice's mirror reflects all who dare to gaze upon it.

"If that guy had been righteous like he purported to be he ...

- 18. Inconsiderata:** Woke Warriors can cynically mock exaggerated foes appealing all secret fates, only to the rejection of AI-PC Police.

"My cynical take on all that surrounds me is ...

- 19. Utopia in Aruba:** In the kaleidoscope of cultures, the brightest paradise is crafted not from a single hue, but from the harmonious blend of humanity's diverse palette, where beauty and consciousness dance in the gentle sea breeze of perspective.

"God I felt so good about everything when I saw ...

20. God, or no God – That is the Question: In the cosmic library of existence, we are but children deciphering the spine of a single book, while the authorship of the entire collection remains an enigma wrapped in the language of stars.

"It made me think how incredible, what's it all about when ...

21. Alpha Ant: In the bar of consciousness, where philosophers and insects rub elbows, the wisest patrons recognize that the most profound dialogues often occur between the dreamer who sees galaxies in a glass and the pragmatist who finds purpose in a crumb.

"That guy was never on my level, but I listened to his story ...

22. Most Belligerent Time in History: In the grand illusion of progress, civilization's gleaming facade conceals a powder keg of unprecedented scale, where each advancement in peace paradoxically arms the cannons of chaos.

"I thought I learned from the past and all was better until ...

23. An Estranged Daughter: In the dim light of a wayward tavern, where bravado and sorrow share the same barstool, a father's love proves stronger currency than dollars, and victory tastes bittersweet when it illuminates another's loss.

"I felt most grateful for what I've got when I realised she ...

24. Focus on Family and Community: In the tapestry of existence, our hands may weave with threads of global hue, but the most vibrant patterns emerge when we embroider the intimate squares of hearth and neighbourhood with unwavering devotion.

"Helping Mrs Jones one weekend made me miss the match ...

25. Airbus Brothel: Can I help you Sir? Business Class Check-in Sir? Are you a Silver member of the Airline's Executive Club Sir? No Madam, but I'm a Gold member of the Mile-High Club!

"If I'd known then what I know now would I have ...

- 26. Unfaithfulness neither Forgiven nor Forgotten:** In the delicate ecosystem of love, the ripples of betrayal erode the shores of trust, leaving behind a landscape forever altered, where even the most resilient flora struggle to take root anew.

"My biggest regret in my life in my relationships was ...

- 27. Inflight Entertainment:** As the Airline's Business Class Sales Moto boasts - We're better in bed!

"Being brave in bending rules sometimes has it benefits ...

- 28. Find a Lover:** Arts, athletics, and vocations transcend to build bonds, evoke joy, and fuel passion.

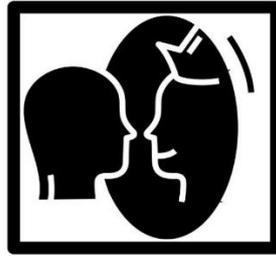
"How I wish I'd started earlier, it did wonders for me when ...

- 29. Self-Discovery:** In the labyrinth of the self, we are both Theseus and the Minotaur, navigating twisted corridors of identity, unravelling the threads of illusion, until we emerge, transformed, into the sunlight of our authentic essence.

"I finally saw the light when it all came together and I ...

- 30. Clarity:** In the alchemy of living, the wisest adepts blend the elixir of hope with the grounding minerals of reality, distilling a potion that fuels both the fire of ambition and the steady flame of inner peace.

"With the benefit of hindsight ...



Path to Your True Destiny – Reflection Page

Chapter 1: END OF THE BEGINNING:

"Illuminating Your Path"

Case Study: Rosie's Journey from Darkness to Light.

“Rosie, a 28-year-old marketing executive, felt trapped in a cycle of anxiety and unfulfillment. After reading just this first chapter and subsequently the book, then going onto complete the online Destiny-Gram life assessment test, she realized she had been living on autopilot. Inspired to seek her true purpose, Rosie began a daily meditation practice and journaling routine. Over six months, she gained clarity about her values and passions. This led her to volunteer at a local animal shelter, rekindling her childhood love for animal welfare. Eventually, Rosie transitioned her career to work for an animal rights non-profit, finding a sense of purpose and fulfilment she had never experienced before.”

You: Mapping my own Journey to True Purpose and Destiny.

Key insights I gained from this chapter:	
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<p>Areas of my life that need more light to reach Self-Actualization as described:</p>	
<p>First steps I can take to move out of darkness:</p>	
<p>My current obstacles and how I plan to overcome them:</p>	
<p>The most relevant Anecdote for me and my life, and why:</p>	
<p>Personal mission statement draft:</p>	

*A*NECDOTE AFTERWORD:

“The Empire That Got the Wheel Rolling”



*A*FTERWORD

“The pursuit of a perfect life often feels akin to seeking the Holy Grail—an elusive quest for happiness and abundance.”

So began the foreword to this book. What followed was a series of anecdotes: fragments of experience offered as a cryptic portrait of the many energies that shape a life.

Because that is the point. Life itself is energy in motion.

Knowledge and experience are simply its consumption, and nowhere is this more visible today than in the vast power plants built to sustain artificial intelligence platforms. Humanity’s newest engines of knowledge run on immense reserves of energy—just as every human life does in its own quieter way.

Even energy itself offers small lessons. In the depths of winter or the height of summer, a brief burst from an air-conditioner or convection heater is often more appreciated than the constant, comfortable drone that sustains a predictable life and a monthly bill—easily paid by a monthly salary—along with everything that accompanies modern mediocrity.

Yet people tend to pull together when the power fails. An energy blackout reminds us that comfort is fragile. Solidarity emerges in the dark.

But sooner or later the lights return, the moment passes, and life resumes its steady hum—until the final blackout arrives and leaves you cold, with nothing remaining but the legacy you leave behind.

My parting message, therefore, is simple: do not lead a normal life.

Never drift into the comfort, conformity, or pretentiousness of the middle class, nor into the cautious mediocrity of middle management—what I colloquially call middledom: middlingness, bourgeois complacency, middlebrow thinking, the quiet acceptance of the normie suburbanite mentality.

Anecdote Five, “*Mediocrity Sucks*”, describes it well:

“On life’s racetrack, the middle lane is a mirage. True champions floor it through every turn, knowing that half-throttle leads only to the pits of regret”.

And never give up.

Anecdote Afterword: “The Empire That Got the Wheel Rolling”

It is said that in the final days of the Inca Empire, children played with small wooden toys mounted on wheels. Perfectly carved. Perfectly balanced. The idea was already there, rolling across the floor in plain view of everyone.

Yet each time the concept tried to rise—from the village to the *curaca*, from the *curaca* to the administrator, from the administrator to the council—someone along the way would murmur:

“It doesn’t fit.”

“It’s not the time.”

“That’s not how the empire works.”

And so the wheel remained in the playgrounds while the administration continued to advance on foot.

Then the Spaniards arrived with horses, iron, and wheels that turned without asking permission. The empire discovered—too late—that

brilliance at the top does not compensate for blindness in the middle ranks.

Some historians still wonder whether, if only one of those wheels had been allowed to grow, history might have taken a different course.

Today artificial intelligence advances with the speed of those horses. It does not wait for empires, committees, or chains of approval.

And somewhere inside Telefónica Tech, a small idea—shaped exactly like a wheel—rolls quietly across the floor, hoping not to be pushed aside before reaching those who can recognise what it truly is.

And then life happened.

Leaving a career to prioritise single parenthood. Losing a wife.

Building an online procurement business to help rebuild Iraq—only to see it bankrupted by insurgency.

Refusing a board position in order to honour a friend, and losing another job.

Refusing a one-million-dollar bribe in order to keep a soul—only to later blackmail a corrupt employer simply to survive.

Losing a three-million-dollar commission to appease a greedy company owner.

Losing a second wife.

The list goes on.

The lesson is simple.

Sometimes life is shaped by forces beyond our control. Sometimes it is shaped by the decisions we make in response to them.

Looking back, it is difficult not to wonder whether the losses, the stubborn refusals, and the strange turns of fate were simply preparation.

Because history has a habit of placing small ideas on the floor in plain sight—like those wooden wheels rolling across the floors of the Inca Empire. Most are ignored. Some are quietly pushed aside by the middle ranks who decide what fits and what does not.

But occasionally the moment arrives when the world suddenly needs the wheel.

Today artificial intelligence moves with the speed of horses once seen on the horizon of an empire that thought it still had time.

And somewhere inside Telefónica Tech, a small idea—shaped exactly like a wheel—continues to roll quietly across the floor.

Waiting for the moment when someone recognises what it is.

The moment when the wheel is finally understood.

And allowed to turn.