

Irresistible, Like Water



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If you are prepared to conform to any contour that you encounter and to persevere within the scope of your actual capacities and environment, you will find that you are irresistible in your approach to your clear purpose; however vague that purpose might originally be. The magnitude of your capacities does not matter in this. You can be like water under the influence of gravity and the rocks in a streambed, flowing to the sea. You get to pick the sea so long as it is downhill. This is a reasonable condition and it doesn't get any better than that.

I do not understand this entirely from *Lao Tzu*, although he has been extremely helpful. I do not understand this in a mystical way either. Fluidity is a concrete principle that goes far beyond the hydrodynamics of water to encompass all of the physical sciences and human psychology.

Water finds its own canal, so be like water. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Don't give up, but be prepared to change your objectives regularly and entirely. I mean this quite seriously and it is not a trick or any sort of surrender. Persistence pays off, but don't cling to any rigid formula or there will be no lucrative IPO or successful therapeutic outcome in the end. Be a leaf on the shoulders of a mighty stream, but make sure you know, generally, where the stream is flowing.

"When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be." This ancient wisdom is embedded at the mystical heart of most religion and some philosophy. It is also the method of science and evolution. It defines personal development and it constitutes the heart of all effective counseling. What you let go of being is no more arbitrary than what you become. They are both partially voluntary and you should select each intentionally, to the extent that you can, after appropriate reflection. Then flow like water and be enthusiastically diverted by each of your experiences as though they were blessed rocks on the streambed of your life; saving you from stagnation, boredom, and rot. Ironically, such surrender is at the heart of mastery. Seriously. Call me.

Relief, Recovery, Resolution

For adult men and women and for adolescent males

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