

THINK SUCCESS

A Collection of Writings on Success and Achievement through Positive Thinking

VOLUME I

Jayaram V



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Volume I

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VOLUME I

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INTRODUCTION

The ultimate goal of all goals is not to have any goals. The real joy of living comes to us when we learn to go with the flow and accept life as it comes. This is the highest goal for the mankind, envisioned ages ago, by our saints and seers and prophets and incarnations.

But not all are capable of flowing with the flow of life or accepting things as they are. Till a vast majority of people reach that ideal and make it the sole aim of their lives, by transforming their consciousness so that it can hold the brilliance of such an exalted vision, without being overwhelmed by it, people need to remain within the realm of possibilities and focus on the mundane aspects of their lives, as a preparatory stage in their mental and spiritual evolution.

Our inner calling for enlightenment manifests itself in many ways. It presents itself in us primarily as our deepest aspiration and highest vision to transcend our limitations and realize our full potential both physically and mentally. It is also reflected in man's perennial restlessness and yearning to extend his being into the objective world and become deeply involved with the things he loves or despises. It appears as his desire for things and the clinging that arises in him as a consequence. It shows itself in his obsessive and compulsive urge to control what cannot be humanly controlled, such as life and death and the will of others.

The so called materialistic life is but a disguised or even a perverted expression of our spiritual longing to extend ourselves and secure our lives. Having become imprisoned inside our bodies, we express our longing for freedom by trying to go beyond our physical boundaries, into forms and things and become an integral part of the creation and the world of God. For an individuality that is enveloped by a fog of ignorance, going after things seems to be a natural solution to the problem of being controlled and manipulated by the forces of Nature.

Unfortunately, materialism does not deliver what it promises. The accumulation of things leads not to freedom, but only bondage and suffering. Every major religion alludes to this fact, warning us against the dangers of materialism, and prescribing a moral code of conduct as the divine law, by following which people can balance their materialistic ambitions with spiritual aspirations and safeguard themselves from the excesses of desire ridden life.

With the faculties and the intelligence, with which nature has endowed us, it is not difficult to give an expression to our deepest thoughts and realize our persistent dreams. If people do not succeed in their endeavors, it is because they have decided not to. Knowingly or unknowingly, somewhere in their minds, or in their subconscious thoughts, they create limiting beliefs about their abilities and opportunities, and deny themselves the desired success.

Because of self-defeating attitude and negativity, a great majority of people hardly give themselves a chance to succeed in their lives, suffering from negative thoughts and emotions, focusing mostly on what they do not have or what they cannot do, rather than making the best use of their God given talents and potentialities. They may believe that they do not deserve success or do not have the ability, deluded by the notion that success is achieved because of extraneous factors like fate or family background, rather than one's own ability, and that to be

successful one has to break rules and indulge in questionable acts of immorality and evil. It is true that success demands its own price. But, fortunately, to be successful, one does not have to sell one's soul.

Success and sustained effort go hand in hand. There are no shortcuts to success, while there are many to failure. In life you either make things possible with your resolve or allow them to happen with your passivity and negativity. People often blame others, even God, for their failures, despite the evidence to the contrary. Sometimes there may be a real justification for people to blame others, but think about it carefully. At any point of time, in any given circumstances, how many different options you may have to deal with a situation? Obviously many and you could have chosen anyone of them.

The truth is your life is shaped mostly by your thoughts and actions. We are endowed with free will, which, to a great extent, determines the course of our lives. Sometimes events may happen without our consent or against our will, but it should not be an excuse to avoid responsibility. We precipitate most of the circumstances in our lives, according to our thoughts and actions. Other people may play but peripheral roles to the extent we give them control over our lives and actions. Whatever you achieve in your life or whatever you do, even God's intervention, happens because of your desires and decisions.

Independent of the circumstances in which we are born or find ourselves, we have an innate ability to survive. We are wired to be potentially intelligent and competitive. In the entire universe we have fathomed so far, we are the only rational beings, who know how to survive in the most extenuating circumstances and in an ever changing, not so amiable, and a very unpredictable world. We do have many weaknesses. But we also possess much strength. History records the contributions of only a few well known people, but the world would not have been what it is today without the contribution of every individual who lived upon earth. Each being sets in motion a number of events and forces, which generations later, branch into innumerable streams. Whether intended by Nature or not, each being on earth has a certain place and role in the universal scheme of things. Without it, the manifest universe is incomplete. In the course of our lives we touch upon many lives and also are touched by them.

Our actions and interactions grease the wheels of life upon earth, creating positive and negative consequences, while we suffer because of them. The absence of even a single person on earth will have far reaching consequences for the generations that follow. A person who was born a few thousand years ago might be an ancestor to millions of people who are alive today, while the plants and the animals he destroyed or fostered might have left their own impact on the canvas of the earth!

One of the most promising features of success is that it is this worldly. We can see it and feel it. In our lives, we meet successful people or know about them from others. There are ample opportunities for each of us to be successful. We can experience it, understand it and manifest it in our own individual ways. Although success means different things to different people, we know inherently what it means and how it can be achieved. We know when a person becomes

successful and how society or people in general react to it. We know that success is a direct result of man's organized effort.

Successful people impact the world in many ways. Sometimes their influence lasts for several generations. They are largely responsible for the progress and prosperity of the world. Since the earliest times society owes them a great deal. Successful people thrive in free societies that provide people with ample opportunities to use their talents and excel in them.

In many countries people are misled by ideologies, which discount individual success and promote the idea of subjugating self-interest to social interest. They promise to establish egalitarian societies through collective means or government intervention. But in doing, so they often destroy human dignity and deny opportunity to many individuals, who disagree with the ideology or need a different motivational approach to pursue their dreams. They ignore the fundamental fact that the success of a nation depends upon how many successful people it creates by providing them with equal opportunities. If only a few achieve success or if privileges are reserved for a few, it leads to inequalities and social and economic injustice.

None of the factors, such as birth, family status, disabilities or color and creed, deter one's progress, unless one lacks faith or avoids responsibility. Extraneous factors may impact people either positively or negatively, depending upon what happens to them and how they think and react. We know that same situations produce different types of individuals, some successful and some not so successful. We have seen that happening many times. Many world leaders and successful entrepreneurs emerged from challenging backgrounds, showing their mettle, despite the problems and setbacks, and proved their exceptional abilities in the end. The same factors would have discouraged and impeded others, who were not willing to take risks and rise above the mediocrity. If some people can succeed in a given set of circumstances, there is every possibility that others too can.

The articles presented in this book are about achieving success, peace and happiness, within the limitations to which we are subject. They do not promise miracles, but provide inspiration to cultivate a mindset, which can help you reach your goals, provided you are willing to make the necessary effort and commit yourself to the required discipline.

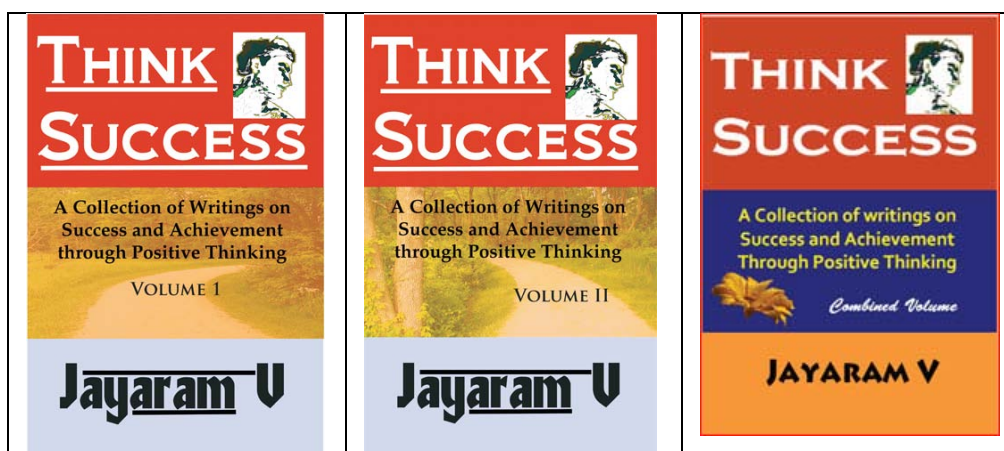
You can go through this book in whatever way want. You may read the entire volume at a time or read those articles which interest you at first. You may also return to them from time to time and assimilate the information so that they will become an integral part of your consciousness.

Everything happens for a reason. If you are reading these lines, it means that you are interested in improving your life and testing your limits. You know that self-improvement is not a pipe dream but a certain possibility. My writings are meant for those who have an inclination to improve themselves, who believe in their ability to improve and who are interested in testing their limits and potentials. If it is your goal, you may find them useful and worth reading.

My writings are based upon the following seven fundamental beliefs and convictions. This is my personal manifesto, upon which my worldview and personal philosophy rest and from which

spring most of my views and opinions about the world, our existence and the connection between the two.

1. Every human being is an aspect of the universe and is deeply connected with it physically, mentally and spiritually. The universe expresses itself through each and every one of us, although individually we may not think so.
2. Every human being has an inalienable right to work for one's own progress with a sense of responsibility towards oneself and others. This is every man and woman's right to live and experience the uniqueness of his or her own life and creation.
3. It is the duty and responsibility of everyone to give the best possible expression to one's deepest aspirations and most gifted talents.
4. All of us have the potential to transform ourselves and progress in the direction of our chosen goals and ideals, using the means and the standards in which we firmly believe.
5. Everything that we accomplish or suffer from is as a result of the choices we exercise. Both our happiness and suffering come from the choices we make and the paths we tread.
6. Every human being needs a philosophy and a worldview based upon one's own experiences and observations to make sense of the world and cushion oneself against the shocks and sufferings of life.
7. Every human being needs to be authentic and true to oneself, if the aim is to express the uniqueness, which Nature or God infuses in each of its creation. Its first manifestation is the individuality, through which we ultimately journey into ourselves to recognize who we actually are.



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