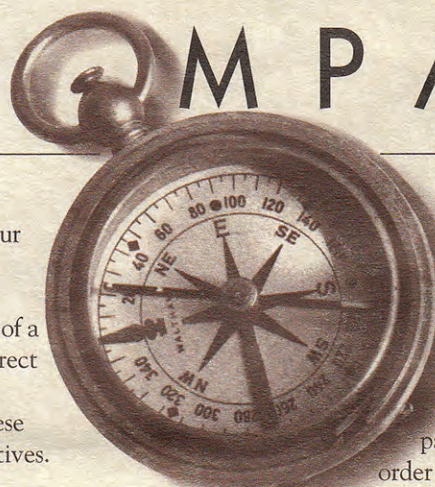


LIFE'S COMPASS



IN LIFE, one often stands on the isthmus and sees clearly the Atlantic and Pacific of existence. There is destiny's choice of going one way or the other. The decision is unforgiving. You must select.

There is not a right way to do a wrong thing. Something is either right or it is wrong.

You must stand up for what is right, even if you are standing alone. It can be a scouring test of character. You do what is right— with unshakable resolve that is unwavering, unobstructed, and uninterrupted.

Integrity can be easily lost and cancelled. You must honor your life, cherish it, make it shine. It is a loss of the soul to a higher order.

Character and integrity are life's key words. One thinks of Martin Luther's *Ich Kann Nicht Ander*— I can do no other.

FIND YOUR OWN RHYTHM

All you have at the end of the day are your name and your reputation. And reputations are longer in the making than in the losing. A small error, a problem, can blemish the record of the most successful.

Do the right thing regardless of what others think. Integrity develops from within and is rooted in strong mental and moral fiber. Duty might be shirked, some things one takes for granted—but morality is indivisible.

Impeccable. Nothing less. There is no need to talk about integrity. It shows. It means living the talk.

One must have a very firm focus on what they consider to be the proper direction, the proper path to take. This means having crystal-clear and courageous dedication about life's values. Constant, unalterable, and pure.

Integrity. Ethics. Honor. You find your rhythm, and turn those notes into music. The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to these qualities and objectives.

IMPECCABLE AND RIGID STANDARDS

Integrity is the master-weaver, a common thread, both of the inner cloth of character and the outer garment of circumstance. You stand immovable for all things that deal with your character. This may at times require supreme sacrifice and self-denial. It toughens the spirit and strips the fat.

"Honor and character is all I ask—and I ask God for no more," said William Blake. Integrity is the trumpet that signals the call to all.

You can create the kind of life you really want, but it must dominate all your waking hours and burn like fire in your bones. Abiding and unshakable.

Success in life is determined by the character of your journey. It is your testament to impeccable and rigid standards, an unwillingness to settle for anything less than enduring and unshakable principles. No empty platitudes. Your life and integrity are inseparable. It is your blood and flesh.

INTEGRITY IS EVERYTHING

In today's world, there is a great war taking place in the comfort zone. It means holding fast to what you know is right. You are one with Gandhi who said: "My life is its own message."

You are in charge of your life. Your greatness lies not in being able to remake the world but in being able to remake

yourself. Integrity is not a sometimes thing. It is everything. You are visible and constantly on trial.

Integrity and character provide an incandescent path. You are in charge. In

order to gain respect and regard, you must preach by example. You are not punished for your sins, but by them.

Only you are responsible for your life. Doing the very best you can, doing what is right at this very moment, propels you in the best possible position for the next moment.

WHAT THE ANGELS KNOW

Reputation is what others think of you. Your true character is what God and the angels know of you. All of your actions and expressions will be as simple as the truth.

Morality and character consist solely in the courage in making the right choices. It is the epicenter of our existence.

What counts is not just what we are against, but what we are for. *Who* leads us is less important than *what* leads us. Convictions, courage, faith— these are the sign posts that pilot us to a life of integrity.

Life is a surging, swelling sea of challenging choices. The uncharted deep. You must find your own compass for successful navigation. The poet Martin Tupper wrote that it is, "A call that ignites the spirit."

True North is the compass of every path you take, the guiding star of your life and fate. Soaring standards, steadfast character, uncompromising integrity— these provide the True North to life's compass. J.P.



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