

It's My Lap to Run, but I Am Not the Best

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Abstract

There comes a time in life when it's our turn to run the lap.

We are handed the baton in life's 4 x 100 meter relay. Perhaps there are others who would do a better job, but they didn't show up for the race.

There's no time to think, there's no time to doubt when you're handed the baton: you have to do what's been given you to do. You have to run like the wind.

Yes, there are always others who could do a better job. There are always others who think they could do a better job. But they are not the ones who were handed the baton. It's not up to them to run the lap. It's up to you.

If you look at the accomplishers in this world, you will see that not many were summa cum laudes. Not many were selected the best in the class. Not many were voted most likely to succeed. No, the accomplishers came out of nowhere. As a matter of fact, when they succeeded, it was a shock. No-one expected it.

We hear endless talk about a journal's popularity rating, but it's not a popular journal that will carry the next revolutionary paper. No, it's going to be a journal that came out of nowhere, that published a paper by an author nobody's ever heard of. That's how things happen, although we tend to forget that. We get wrapped up in hype and lose sight of what's really important.

Did God create the perfect universe? We know he didn't. Perhaps if he had thought a little longer, things would be better. But if he thought a little longer, perhaps he'd still be thinking.

How much thought is required to reach perfection? It's a fact that the more we think about something, the more about it we find to think about. Thus thinking could be an eternal process. That's why we have to snip off our thinking at some point and act. Otherwise we'd just think all the time and never do anything. Some people do that: they think all the time, hoping to reach the perfect thought. Of course that's why they never take action of any sort.

If God created, he had to have done so on the basis of sufficient knowledge. Everything about everything could not have been known by him. It is impossible to know everything about everything since that implies one knows everything that isn't known. To know everything about everything means God would still be thinking. The fact that creation began means he settled for incomplete but sufficient information: it was enough to get the process started. Once begun, it progressed, but did it progress as God hoped? It's doubtful. Even the best laid plans go awry.

Indications are that creation is continuing. One need not look far to find evidence of that: things are changing all the time; new combinations are created. Perhaps God is making adjustments. If this theory is right, perfection is a work in progress.

We are disappointed that we are not in a perfect world. Couldn't God have waited to place us in a later world? That thought, however, neglects to consider that we are part of the evolution in the direction of perfection. Without us, perfection cannot be achieved. The only way to reach the weekend is by going through Monday.