

Move Out Of Your Own Way

By: Dr. Cherry A. Collier

An Excerpt:

Following the Yellow Brick Road to Success

I want to share a story with you. The main character is Dorothy. This is not an original story of mine... many of you have probably heard the story, or seen the movie *The Wiz* or *The Wizard of Oz*. Every time I see one of these movies, I see how we're all connected to Dorothy's story. What I'm going to share with you now is my version of Dorothy's trip down the yellow brick road to see the Wizard of Oz.

Dorothy's Journey

The story starts in Kansas. Dorothy realizes that things are no longer happening the way Dorothy wants them to happen. Her aunt and the other people around her are causing her stress. Someone is complaining about Toto and Dorothy is just in a slump.

Consider some parallels that you might have in your life. The bottom line is Dorothy is having a difficult day. Dorothy's having one of those days when you might want to say "Calgon! Take me away!" She begins to say things like, "I wish things were different," or "I wish I weren't here" (Have you ever said something like that before?). As the day continues, a storm starts to brew. As the storm starts to brew, things start to move. When you feel your life is in a bad place and things continue a downward spiral from bad to worse, this is the storm.

When the storm hits, Dorothy finds herself in unfamiliar territory. Dorothy puts herself in a hypnotic state, if you will, to deal with her unfamiliar surroundings. Now, in this new place, she's starting to manifest different things in her life; for instance, she starts to meet new people. It looks as though these people are looking at Dorothy with admiration instead of complaint (the grass looks greener).

Once she realizes she is no longer in Kansas (which while stressful, was familiar and comfortable), she starts to ask people to help her get home. She meets a witch who points her to Oz. Dorothy then envisions meeting the Wizard of Oz, who will immediately solve all of her problems. She fervently believes this individual is the key. Dorothy believes that this wizard, Oz, has the power to make her complete and to help her get home again. Unbeknownst to her, he is a mere mortal just like her.

Seeking the Wizard

How many times in life have you believed that someone else had the power to complete you? That there is a so called Wizard of Oz out there to complete you? We're talking about a mortal "Wizard of Oz," let's be clear about this. I'm not speaking about God and the awesome power of God, because I certainly know that God is out there and was with

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Dorothy. However, knowing that God was with her, Dorothy was still looking for a man or a mortal person to help her, to make her complete. Have you ever put complete trust and faith in someone else to make you whole? How many times have we looked outside of us for those valuable gems, those powerful things that are actually already inside of us? They're inside of you now!

Light-hearted in Hard Times

As Dorothy continues to ease on down the yellow brick road, she starts to sing a song that is even more telling of the situation at hand and helps to explain why this story is so important for us. From *The Wiz*: "Don't you carry nothing that might be a load/come on now/ease on down/ease on down the road." So, even in the song that she's singing, she's saying don't bring your baggage on this trip because we don't need the excessive weight to bring us down. All we need to do is to get to the wizard, because once we get to the wizard, everything is going to be okay! Another testament to our strength as humans is that in the midst of all of the turmoil that existed in her life, she had the fortitude to still sing. She had the ability to put the things out of her mind that were causing her frustration and to skip on down the road.

I know you see parallels to your incredible strength and tenacity because at times, you too are able to sing when you are hurting. Isn't it amazing, that as you look at everything in your life today you can still smile and sing? You can still have a good day, or as the old hymn says, "I've had some good days, I've had some bad days but overall I can't complain." Isn't it wonderful, just like Dorothy, we can ease on down that road and not let our baggage keep us back.

Helping others find the power within

On her journey to the wizard, Dorothy met a few people, the first of whom was called the Scarecrow. She actually met the Scarecrow in a cornfield. He tells Dorothy he is lost and he needs assistance because he doesn't have a brain. Dorothy helps him use the power within to heal himself – to use the brain he didn't realize he had. Dorothy was able to help the Scarecrow use the resources he had available to him to accomplish tasks. And you have resources available to you, don't you? After she assisted him, she invited him to join her as she journeyed to the wizard of Oz.

She then met the Tin Man who was stuck with no options and no hope of freedom. Dorothy used the magic inside of the Tin Man to help him realize he had a heart, which he thought he didn't have.

So far, the Scarecrow and the Tin Man, already had the resources they needed to be successful. You have those same resources that you need to be successful as well. Moving out of your own way is not about creating yourself. You came to this earth perfect and you came to this earth when you were called. Moving out of your own way allows you to appreciate what you already have inside of you so that you can be even more successful than you already are.

Easing Farther Down the Road

Dorothy meets another character named the Lion who lacked courage. The truth of the matter is, the Lion didn't lack courage. He simply lacked the knowledge that he had courage. You see, you have different strengths within yourself right now that you are not aware of. Because you are not aware of them, you may feel as if you don't have them. You do have them though. You just need to cultivate them.

So Dorothy was able to help the Lion realize that he had courage. Together, all of them went down the yellow brick road of life.

This book, *Move Out of Your Own Way*, is like the path that Dorothy took on that yellow brick road. We're going to go easily and effortlessly down the yellow brick road – life – and as we go down the road, we will meet and examine different characters or different people. Some of them might represent different parts of you. What we will realize is that each part of you already has what it needs to be successful. The only wizard you need to visit is the one in you.

So Close, Yet Still So Far

Eventually, they arrived to the wizard's castle. Once they got there, they realized that they had to go through obstacles and even more challenges to get a meeting with the wizard. Each time an obstacle was placed in front of them, Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Lion succeeded. They so believed in the power of this wizard, they refused to be defeated in their quest to meet him.

So they finally got to meet the Wizard and they found that the Wizard was really not a *wizard* at all. The Wizard was just a man. *Just a man*. That man didn't have any more power than what they had inside of themselves all along. The Wizard told Dorothy if she really wanted to go home, all she needed to do was click her heels.

Now get this, if you want to get home, if you want to discover a more abundant, more prosperous, healthier, and more productive life for yourself, all you have to do is click your heels. In other words, tap into your own resources. That's all you have to do. We are perfect as we are. We may not be flawless, but we are perfect. You were not born from lack; you came here perfect, on time, and right when you were supposed to be here. You are your greatest resource. All you need to do today, now, is realize that. Empower that greatness inside of you.

Click your heels, tap into your abundance, cultivate your fruits and be successful!

A Lesson from a Sculptor

After Michelangelo completed the statue of David, he was asked how he could have made something so magnificent. Michelangelo replied, "The statue of David was already there, all I did was chip away."

Ladies and gentlemen, I submit to you that your greatness, your power, your magnificence is already available to you today, right now. All you have to do is chip away and uncover it.

Yellow Brick Road

What character in the Wiz story is most like you and why?

What would you like at the end of your “Yellow Brick Road?”

What resources do you have inside of you that you are not using right now?

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Today I Delete
Author Unknown

Today I will delete from my diary two days:
yesterday and tomorrow

Yesterday was to learn
and tomorrow will be the consequence
of what I can do today.

Today I will face life
with the conviction that this day
will not ever return.

Today is the last opportunity
I have to live intensely,
as no one can assure me
that I will see tomorrow's sunrise.

Today I will be brave enough
not to let any opportunity pass me by,
my only alternative is to succeed.

Today I will invest
my most valuable resource:
my time,
in the most transcendental work:
my life;

I will spend each minute
passionately to make
of today a different
and unique day in my life.

Today I will defy every obstacle
that appears on my way trusting
I will succeed.

Today I will resist
pessimism and will conquer
the world with a smile,
with the positive attitude

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of always expecting the best.

Today I will make of every ordinary task
a sublime expression.

Today I will have my feet on the ground
understanding reality
and the stars' gaze
to invent my future.

Today I will take the time to be happy
and will leave my footprints and my presence
in the hearts of others.

Today, I invite you to begin a new season
where we can dream
that everything we undertake is possible,
and we fulfill it with joy and dignity.

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