

First, i was dying to finish my high school and start college
And then i was dying to finish college and start working
Then i was dying to marry and have children
And then i was dying for my children
to grow old enough
so i could go back to work
But then i was dying to retire
And now i am dying...
And suddenly i realized
i forgot to live

Please don't let this happen to you
Appreciate your current situation
and enjoy each day

....old friend

To make money we lose our health,
and then to restore our health we lose our money...
We live as if we are never going to die,
and we die as if we never lived....



By Richard Rugdee

I frequently visit the barber shop close to the vicinity of my Apartment. The service is fantastic and you really get your money's worth. These barbers have great patience, tolerance and put great passion and artistry in their work to bring out a satisfying and beautiful finish and their charges are reasonable compared to others. Compared to some barbers that I have frequent in various countries who show more professionalism combined with commercialism and who want to use every minute to bring about as much capital gain as possible. But not so with these barbers near my home vicinity who are a little bit more laid back, contented and take life on a more comfortable easy paced.

When I went for my last hair cut my favorite barber told me that he was giving up the shop due to cash flow problem. He had difficulty make ends meet as the business did not bring about the kind of profit needed, was slow and he preferred working for others rather than manage his own business. He had always kept his shop simple, no doubt clean but for the last two years since I have known of him, he never made any improvement, changes or added attraction to show prosperity or enhancement to his business. It was sad to see a good friend go but then life goes on and I am quite used to seeing these transitions from one business to another.

Few months went by and one day to my surprised as I took a stroll to the shops I noticed another new owner took over the barber shop. The new barber who took over the place of the old barber shop had a totally new concept and outlook for his shop. He started the shop in a simple manner just to get the business going and through the months he started to beautify and add luxury to the surroundings. He is very friendly but also a vain and fanciful person who loved to adorn himself with jewelry on the neck, wrist and huge

rings on his finger. One glance at him one might mistake him for a gladiator rather than a barber. He designed his own shop and used inexpensive and practical furniture to make his shop classic and simple. He did get a lot of compliments and admiration from the customers that patronize his shop for his tenacity of purpose and the artistic layout of his shop. Every time he would reinvest some money into the shop adding that little fine touches to beautify the outlook of the shop.

I went into the barber shop and I decided to have a hair cut. I had to wait my turn as the barber was busy giving the young boy a hair cut. Just watching him at work made me very happy to see how dedicated and good he was at his work, the way he was working into that hair of this young person. It started from the rough edge into the smooth finish and the kid looked really handsome with his new haircut. I instantly admired and liked Aron (the Barber) who was not in a hurry and he is like an artist with passion in bringing out the best results and fine finish. I introduced myself and asked him how long was he in this profession. He said that he started in the year 1978 and had always wanted to own his barber shop and after the many years of working and saving and accumulating the working capital to do so he finally managed to fulfill his dream and hopefully to make the best out of his business and success.

I asked Aron if he was going to franchise in his shop business and have more outlets so as to bring in more income. Aron said that he had no intention of setting out more shops as he preferred to have just one good shop and a few good staff that can bring about good results financially. He said he had a friend who had four shops and twenty-five barbers working for him and the only one that brought in the profits was the one his friend managed, while the other three shops were managed by workers who could not manage the finances and had more liabilities than profit, so much so that his friend had to close the three shops to avoid financial disaster.

Aron also told me that he is very careful and selective about his staff as he used to work at his old place and there were a few barbers who got themselves involved in drug activities and were brought in for questioning and the shop had to be closed. He said that he had to go for blood test and wasted six hours for the entire trauma only to find out that he was clean. He said problems always arise when he put too much trust in his work mates even though he tries to treat them as civil as possible.

I felt great admiration for Aron after listening to his transition and experiences of life. He is very passionate when he discussed business and I felt he really arrived to his destiny in achieving his aims and ambition. I know for sure that Aron will do very well for himself as he has the patience and tolerance with years of experiences of going through the hard knock school in gaining knowledge. And I for one will be frequenting his saloon as I find him one of the best barbers that I have dealt with and we have become close friend. I wish him well for going forward, onward and an upward with his career.

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