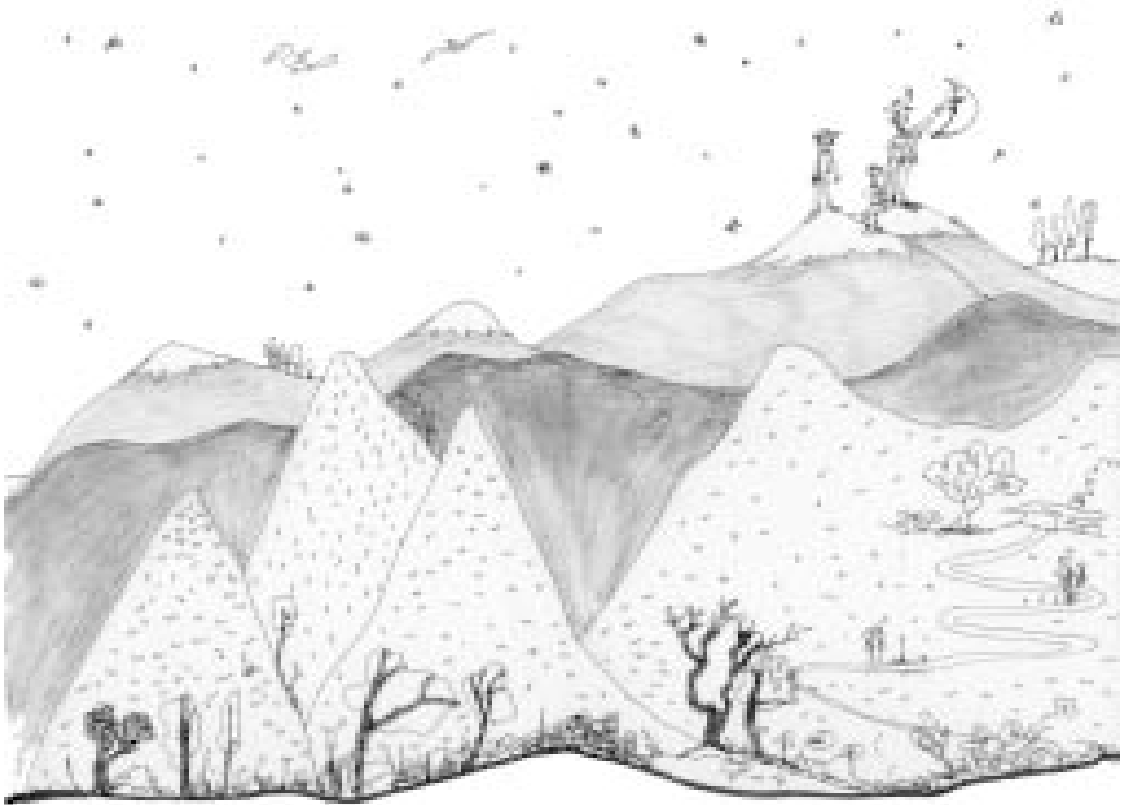




## Follow your Dreams



As children we all have dreams, dreams of wonderful worlds, of fairies and angels, of beauty and harmony where everything is possible, whether to fly in the sky or be a Superman. Each one has his own world, beautifully created, full of hope and certitude. It is this inner certitude, inner knowledge which guides us on the way of life, helping us shape our path, leading to our impossible dreams. But how many of us are left free to follow our dreams or are helped to listen to that inner voice which guides us on our way? I am sure not many yet fight against all difficulties in order to realise our dreams, our fullest potential. Here is a heart-warming story of a boy who believed in his dreams and firmly stood by them.

I have a friend named Monty Roberts who owns a horse ranch in San Ysidro. He has let me use his house to put on fund-raising events to raise money for youth at risk programs.

The last time I was there he introduced me by saying, “I want to tell you why I let Jack use my house. It all goes back to a story about a young man who was the son of an itinerant horse trainer who would go from stable to stable, race track to race track, farm to farm and ranch to ranch, training horses. As a result, the boy’s high school career was continually interrupted. When he was a senior, he was asked to write a paper

about what he wanted to be and do when he grew up.

“That night he wrote a seven-page paper describing his goal of someday owning a horse ranch. He wrote about his dream in great detail and he even drew a diagram of a 200-acre ranch, showing the location of all the buildings, the stables and the track. Then he drew a detailed floor plan for a 4,000-square-foot house that would sit on the 200-acre dream ranch.

“He put a great deal of his heart into the project and the next day he handed it in to his teacher. Two days later he received his paper



back. On the front page was a large red F with a note that read, ‘See me after class.’

“The boy with the dream went to see the teacher after class and asked, ‘Why did I receive an F?’

“The teacher said, ‘This is an unrealistic dream for a young boy like you. You have no money. You come from an itinerant family. You have no resources. Owning a horse ranch requires a lot of money. You have to buy the land. You have to pay for the original breeding stock and later you’ll have to pay large stud fees. There’s no way you could ever do it.’ Then the teacher added, ‘If you will rewrite this paper with a more realistic goal, I will reconsider your grade.’

“The boy went home and thought about it long and hard. He asked his father what he should do. His father said, ‘Look, son, you have to make up your own mind on this. However, I think it is a very important decision for you.’

“Finally, after sitting with it for a week, the boy turned in the same paper, making no changes at all. He stated, ‘You can keep the F and I’ll keep my dream.’”

Monty then turned to the assembled group and said, “I tell you this story because you are sitting in my 4,000-square-foot house in the middle of my 200-acre horse ranch. I still have that school paper framed over the fireplace.” He added, “The best part of the story is that two summers ago that same school teacher brought 30 kids to camp out on my ranch for a week.” When the teacher was leaving, he said, ‘Look, Monty, I can tell you this now. When I was your teacher, I was something of a dream stealer. During those years I stole a lot of kids’ dreams. Fortunately you had enough gumption not to give up on yours.’”

Don’t let anyone steal your dreams. Follow your heart, no matter what.<sup>1</sup>

### *The Dream Sheet: an exercise*

Take a few moments to relax yourself. Put on light music and be ready to soar higher in your dreams. Do not think whether you can achieve it or not. Do not think whether it is feasible or not - just dream what you want to be... what you want to achieve. Only remember - ‘If you think you can then you will, but if you think you can’t then you never will.’ So don’t worry and go ahead!

1. My Dream (What do you want to be?)
2. What kind of person do you see yourself as 5 to 10 years from now?
3. What qualities do you have (at that time)?
4. Where do you see yourself working? What is that place like?
5. What kind of people are you surrounded by (in that future)?
6. Who are your friends (in that future)?
7. What are you involved with in that future?
8. How close or far are you today from your destiny/dream?
9. What stops you from making your dream real?
10. What will help you to make your dream come true?

You can make an action plan at the end of this exercise.

☞ **Yogita**

### *It takes more than Brains*

Congratulations were showered on Kaplan. His number 49 had won the top prize in the lottery.

“Say Kaplan,” asked Goldstein, “how did you happen to pick number 49?”

“I saw it in a dream. Six sevens appeared and danced before my eyes. Six times seven is 49, and that’s all there was to it.”

“But, six times seven is 42 not 49.”

“Huh?... All right, so you be the mathematician!”

<sup>1</sup> Jack Canfield in *Chicken Soup for the Soul* by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen (1993), pp.207-08, Health Communications, Florida, USA