

Lucky

A quote from Bob Hope caught my eye the other day. **"I've always been in the right place at the right time. Of course, I steered myself there,"** it said.

And it got me to thinking -- so many times, we read that "right place at the right time" idea as if it's some sort of accident -- but although accidents do happen, and sometimes we accidentally luck out and stumble upon something amazing, usually, it's a matter of selecting the right place, the right time, and being prepared for luck to happen.

Luck, it is said, is the residue of planning -- and we find the more we plan for good to happen to us, the more luck we seem to have.

I'm reminded of a character in the late Lloyd Alexander's excellent book, *Taran Wanderer*. The character builds a pen for sheep, even though he doesn't have a flock. When the lead character, Taran, brings a flock to give away, the sheep already have a home. We go on to learn that this "lucky" man has learned to prepare for the things he wants, to make the best use of the items he has, and to look for luck, no matter where it comes -- but he prepared for it.

That's the way we need to be -- we need to keep our eyes open for whatever luck comes our way, prepare for the luck we desire, and then actively work to make that luck come our way.

It's strange, isn't it -- people will look at someone who has achieved success -- and will chalk it up to luck, never realizing the hours, training, sacrifices, decisions, and focused growth -- after all, even the lottery winner had to buy a ticket.

Luck, then, is largely the result of planning -- good planning tends to give us good luck, bad planning brings on bad luck.

It should be paramount to us, then, to plan to have good luck.

Sure, the "lucky events" that were unplanned and unseen will come our way -- but whether those events become bad luck or good luck in the end depends on how we plan, how we execute, and what we do with the results of that lucky event.

Like Bob Hope said, we should steer ourselves to the right place, at the right time.

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