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Elegance



Enjoy Elegant Success !

Table of Contents

The Relevance Of Elegance

Navigating Complexity

Successful Design

Exit the Matrix

Perfect Patterns

Create Suction

Powerful Intention

Bait & Switch

The Cabby's Secret

Stuff The Hole!

Undercover Attack!

Turn Your Radar On!

Navigating Nirvana

Dead Center

Win-Win Is For Losers!

Game Over

Time Travel

Mirror Image

Find Your Kefi!

Little Rascal

Epilogue

About the Author

***Very few business leaders
know how to use the
power of elegance
to achieve better
results.***

***May you be among
the few who do.***

***True elegance is the manifestation
of an independent mind.***

Isabella Rossellini

The Relevance Of Elegance

Coco Chanel stated that simplicity is the key to any kind of true elegance.

But I dare to differ.

Very often simplicity is not elegant at all.

If we over-simplify our world, it becomes mono-dimensional, monochrome, lifeless and boring.

If we simplify our world-view to an extent where the good cowboys wear white hats, and the bad cowboys black hats, we miss the multi-colour richness of experience the real world has to offer.

Instead of trying to manage the complexities we face through black-and-white reductionism, we need to learn to navigate our complex reality in ways that are more effective, successful and sustainable.

Many leading success gurus today teach us to take massive action and deal with complexity by cutting through the proverbial Gordian knot. The collateral damage caused by this quick and dirty approach is often massive, too.

In contrast, **elegance enables us to precisely articulate, mediate and navigate chaotic, complex circumstances successfully**, effectively creating better results with less investment.

In order to achieve truly satisfying, elegant results, we need to embrace our complex reality by merging with it, gaining a deep, complete and essential understanding of it. In doing so, we may find that our complex context consists of multiple layers of wonderfully integrated, beautifully intricate, fractal patterns.

Once we have achieved a state of total immersion in a complex topic, elegant solutions will often suddenly present themselves in the most unexpected moments, like a flash of lightning, when inspiration strikes. The resulting solutions may seem simple at first sight - but do not be deceived! This type of simplicity is rich, complex, deeply satisfying and significant.

Elegance addresses the real root causes of any situation with a broad-ranging effect. In the fields of information technology, mathematics and engineering, elegant solutions provide a surprisingly simple method, which is normally not obvious at first sight, to produce a highly effective result, often solving multiple problems at once - even problems, which may not be inter-related!

Although these solutions may seem simple, their quality has nothing to do with reductionism, austerity, and blinkered ways of thinking.

Maybe Coco Chanel's little black dress can teach us a lesson about true elegance?

This little black piece of magic is designed to reveal and hide just enough of the lady wearing it, in order to highlight

her beauty, whilst at the same time concealing possible challenges in the most complimentary way.

Ideally, the little black dress should not be noticed at all by the beholder.

If it does its job well, it should simply act as a platform on which the lady can shine!

*Elegance combines
simplicity with
complexity to create
beauty*

***I can show anybody how to get
what they want out of life.
The problem is, I can't find anybody
who can tell me what they want.***

Mark Twain

Navigating Complexity

True elegance is a state of being in which the quality and clarity of our thoughts, choices, decisions, words, and actions result in seemingly effortless success.

Elegance involves being more conscious of who we are, why we are here and what value we are here to create.

It invites us to focus on **getting the maximum impact for every action** we choose to take, just as in Bruce Lee's one-inch punch. As my ***Sensei*** used to say, the swift, precise action taken by a master of martial arts may seem effortless and minimalistic at first sight, but we sense that such elegant, effective movements are the result of thousands of hours of tough training.

A true master of martial arts will never draw attention to the difficulties he or she had to overcome on the path to mastery. Through years of hard, dedicated, and often painful training, they have developed themselves to a level where each and every action flows easily and elegantly.

Many students of martial arts want to go freestyle immediately and skip the long period of learning the basics. They want to jump right in there and fight it out, as the saying goes:

Ready, Fire, Aim!

However, although this shotgun approach may produce success eventually, the results are often far from elegant, and the collateral damage caused in the process is usually substantial and painful.

In contrast, **elegance is precise, creating optimal, damage-free results.** My *Sensei* used to say that the best fight is the one you don't get involved in, simply by convincing the other party that the outcome would not be in their best interest.

As in martial arts, true elegance in everyday life is often born out of the tension inherent in the conflicting forces we grapple with when making decisions, weighing up the opportunity costs, the risks and rewards of every choice we make, especially in today's highly complex world.

Choice is at the very core of the concept of elegance.

The Latin origin of the word **elegance** actually means to choose, to select, to make optimal decisions.

The problem with choice is that if you choose something, you typically at the same time have to decide against a whole host of alternative options.

Our decisions always trigger opportunity costs, which we need to take into account. In most cases, you can't have the cake and eat it at the same time.

True elegance is essentially linked to the cognitive dissonance, conflict or tension inherent in the act of deciding.

If we learn to **manage such tension creatively** when it occurs, directing its energy forcefully towards a positive outcome, the results tend to be surprisingly simple and elegant.

**Perfect elegance is sharp, precise and to the point,
leading to crystal-clear decisions.**

It quietly eliminates confusion.

As you begin to realize the significance of true elegance in your business and your everyday life, you may find that it creates a fine, dynamic balance between seemingly paradoxical forces, such as simplicity and complexity, order and chaos, freedom and compulsion, harmony and conflict.

Elegant wisdom is refreshingly unorthodox, as it frequently hinges on the **power of the paradox**.

It will often seem quirky, upside-down, and counter-intuitive to us at first, challenging our socially conditioned views and habitual thought patterns.

Yet when you encounter true elegance, the perception of its beauty requires no translation or interpretation.

This experience is like an awakening, an instant revelation.

It makes intuitive sense, often creating a buzz, a positive sensation of surprise, joy and awe.