

LUCK

One of the great mysteries of our world involves our comprehension of luck. We have good luck and bad luck and so far there has been no understanding of what the causation of those phenomena is. Why do innocent people and children perish in natural disasters or some anonymous person wins a lottery? Why do some walk away unscathed from horrendous traffic accidents whereas others are maimed or killed. Why in combat do some become casualties and others seemingly walk into a hail of fire and don't get hurt. What is behind those last minute lucky breaks in sport that seem to come out of nowhere and magically shift momentum from one team to another. All of these and the many more examples of good and bad luck have until now been a complete mystery.

To start with we have to begin to put into perspective our current understanding of how the natural world works and our place in it. In the beginning of human evolution people were an integral part of the natural world and were at the mercy of whatever wind blew in their direction. The more people began to cooperate with each other and cannibalize each other less the more lucky breaks we got. Some clever "lucky" person figured out how to make fire and all of a sudden our food was easier to digest and our life spans increased with the ability to warm ourselves and manipulate our immediate climate. That special individual or individuals, as that skill may have occurred in different areas at different times, was most likely one of the more sensitive and empathetic members of their community. How else would they be "guided" into observing fire and tying it into the heat of friction (rubbing two sticks together) or the happenstance of observing a spark fly from a piece of flint and seeing that was fire too. These individuals must have had an innate empathy with the world around them, more so than others.

So the first rule of creating your own luck and avoiding bad luck is in direct proportion to your capacity for empathy.

Definition of EMPATHY

1: the imaginative projection of a subjective state into an object so that the object appears to be infused with it

2: the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another of either the past or present without having the feelings, thoughts, and experience fully communicated in an objectively explicit manner; *also* : the capacity for this

Empathy is the most important characteristic a human being can have in regard to being lucky and having any quality of life worth having. Being sensitive to others and the natural world is critical in guiding our judgment and actions. Sadly, truly empathic people are still rare, as most people are selfish by nature and put others interests well behind their own quest for immediate satisfaction. Saying you have to take care of yourself first to be any good to others is a slight misnomer. Being good to yourself is an example for others and our mutual interconnections make real separation of the self (while being good to) impossible. However selfishness in which we drain others of their possessions and/or energy and don't share does one no good and engenders bad luck.

The second rule of creating your own luck and avoiding bad luck is in your ability to observe the world around you and comprehend your experiences building a base of

knowledge. Along with obtaining information, becoming lucky is also in direct proportion to your desire and efforts put into obtaining knowledge.

Definition of KNOWLEDGE

1a (1) : the fact or condition of knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association *(2)* : acquaintance with or understanding of a science, art, or technique *b (1)* : the fact or condition of being aware of something *(2)* : the range of one's information or understanding <answered to the best of my *knowledge*> *c* : the circumstance or condition of apprehending truth or fact through reasoning : cognition *d* : the fact or condition of having information or of being learned <a person of unusual *knowledge*>

2a : the sum of what is known : the body of truth, information, and principles acquired by humankind *b archaic* : a branch of learning

In today's world countries that encourage learning are becoming successful (China and India for example), whereas countries that ridicule learning and are xenophobic (USA) are not doing as well as they could be. The desire to learn is an innate ability genetically impressed into all humans. But the system Americans live under does not encourage learning, but emphasizes faith over knowledge, ignorance as a virtue (42% of Americans can't find India on a map and tens of millions don't believe or can comprehend evolution) and material goods along with temporary satiation (exterior wealth) are being taught through the media as more important than good health and knowledge (inner wealth).

Well then, how does knowledge and the desire to learn increase your good luck and decrease your bad luck. For example, if you are aware of where you are, based on knowing a little about your surroundings, the chances of you being in the wrong place at the wrong time are diminished. If you understand how nature works you can position yourself either consciously or even subconsciously into the right place at the right time and reap the benefits. If you wander around clueless to what is going on you are more likely to be hit by the "truck" you couldn't see. If you are intimately aware of your surroundings the chance of a lucky encounter is greatly increased as your awareness put you in that position in the first place. People do not meet by accident they meet by positioning themselves in the right place at the right time. That is based on doing the right thing, which brings us to:

The third rule of creating your own luck and avoiding bad luck is all about how you behave. Good behavior is a product of ones empathy and knowledge. Bad behavior is a product of lack of empathy and ignorance.

Definition of BEHAVIOR

1a : the manner of conducting oneself *b* : anything that an organism does involving action and response to stimulation *c* : the response of an individual, group, or species to its environment

2: the way in which someone behaves; *also* : an instance of such behavior

3: the way in which something functions or operates

This is now where everything becomes extremely complicated. Ignorance as a general rule is the general rule. We are an extremely primitive species and the information out there is for the most part far beyond our comprehension and the vast majority of life forms are steeped in ignorance. Children know very little and can be swept away in a natural disaster without any seemingly rhyme or reason. Same goes for most people. The instincts (empathy with the natural world) of the animals during the recent tsunami saved

them, whereas the general ignorance and lack of empathy with nature of most people got them killed. On some small islands the fishermen who understood nature took their boats out to sea and survived, as did the islanders, even the ignorant young, who went to high ground after an old man begged and pleaded with them. They survived!

There is no such thing as an accident. Everything that happens is part of the very complicated rhythms of nature. But this complication or seemingly chaotic happenstance is only our lack of understanding the very simple laws that rule our universe. Nature thrives on the new and creative, it loathes repetition. Humans who adhere to repetitive ritual and cultures continually are victimized by seemingly random acts of nature and the deliberate malfeasance of each other. For example, when organized religion disappears and people no longer behave according to those archaic laws, then just about every war and conflict will disappear immediately. When humans realize and behave according to natural laws, such as the further you are away from breeding with your siblings, the more genetically sound and healthy their offspring will be. This is a fact! But people still fear mating outside of their race or culture and the horrors of racial discrimination and culture wars, causing all sorts of misfortune, continue. The Soviet Union dominated half of Europe and subjugated the other half for years. Why, because it is populated by both Caucasian and Asian peoples. Whereas Europe is mostly White. However, the reason America got lucky and defeated the Soviet Union is because Russia didn't have any Black people. It is America's melting pot that gives this country its dominant position. This rule held true for the very mixed Roman Empire, the British, and Turks. All of them were the multi-cultural societies of their day. So the more diverse the community, the luckier it is.

Another rhythm of nature concerns the balance between the individual and their community. Survival is helped by being in a flock, pack, pride, herd, school, etc. Working together to shelter each other or hunt gives the individual an advantage over being all on ones own. The only beasts that survive well on their own are usually very powerful male elephants, lions, or tigers, sharks, etc. Everyone else does better, including humans and other primates in groups. So behavior geared to assisting ones community is a better way to avoid the bad luck of being eaten and gives one the good luck of finding a suitable mate. Most animals, including humans form group or pair bonds for mating and in many cases, such as birds, the pairs stay together for life. So tolerating and even better yet accepting your partner/s makes good things happen and protects against misfortune. People who only "care for themselves" and are greedy do not control their luck in the way more conscientious and generous people do. One has to balance taking care of themselves with helping and sharing with those around us. This is very complicated and an extremely delicate balancing act to achieve in a way that brings you good luck and avoids the bad. There are so many factors at play including ones knowledge. A "human angel" who is ignorant can have horrible things happen to them, because many do not have adequate information. All the kind humanitarian workers being murdered in Africa today is an example. Whereas a more selfish person, who is highly informed, can make huge sums of money and live the "good life." It is a consistent struggle to do the right thing or think the right thoughts all the time, but the better you are at it the luckier you become.

Humans have many mixed emotions guiding their behavior. Some of them are conscious but most motivating factors are subconsciously driven. We feel urges to do all sorts of things or avoid all sorts of things. It is our ignorance which makes it difficult to

see which way to go, so we all make mistakes. What does separate us from the other animals is that we are better able to control our emotions and better able to act in a more kind and generous way when pressed. Even with all our wars and violence we still are way nicer than chimpanzees (who go ape shit and will eat off your face if angered and are cannibals too), dolphins (who rape and murder each other like the worst of our street gangs), wolves and lions (who also kill each other and will murder unwanted children), along with other apex predators. So we do have a leg up and that is why we got luckier than our animal cousins and developed agriculture, sophisticated tools, etc. But we are still ignorant and many of us have forgotten the way nature works. But the main dilemma we face is not ignorance because of lack of learning, which leaves us as witless pawns of nature, but WILLFUL IGNORANCE. That is the 800 pound gorilla in our room we have the most difficulty in getting rid of. Everyone knows that cigarettes will kill you but people still smoke. Most of us know that eating crap will kill you, but people still over indulge in comfort food. We know that violence against each other is wrong, but wars are still going on all over the world. We also, for the most part, are aware that laws prohibiting consenting adult behavior are immoral, but our jails are filled with the innocent and non-violent and many countries around the world execute people for doing no more than harming only themselves or other consenting adults. It is not only continuing bad behavior patterns that harm our life but when they are a product of willful ignorance the bad luck is worse and good luck just doesn't happen. You know the saying "everything that could go wrong did go wrong." Well that is usually the product of willful ignorance. Whereas the opposite, the "lucky day", is the result of applying good behavior along with empathy and knowledge to ones actions.

Another important understanding concerns intimate personal relationships and how behavior and luck effects their success or demise. Everyday and night our brain cranks out thoughts, dreams, and directs action. What we think about, especially our closest companions, directly effects how fortunate our relationships are. If one always thinks of ways to manipulate or change our partners/children/friends and merely tolerates them, we are out of sync with their rhythms as well as the rhythm of nature, which sets them. So our being in the right place at the right time, saying and doing the right things to them and increasing our mutual quality of lives is diminished. Plus those lucky encounters or experiences we may have had are no longer possible or become rare. However if we are to accept our peeps for who they are and merely make suggestions without conditions our bonds grow closer and we all get lucky. Love and luck are intricately tied together. The more you love unconditionally the luckier you get. No need to spout out a bunch of anecdotal experiences, common sense dictates this. Nature loves and is in its essence love.

When one keeps expecting more from our friends than they are capable of the pressure developed within us brings in negative thoughts and feelings of unfulfillment thereby opening us up to bad luck, and misfortune. The complications in this is that not everyone is thinking the same thing about the same thing and many of us fight ourselves with multiple and contrary thoughts and feelings and are not sure which direction is the right one. This lack of clarity comes from a lack of self awareness and thereby allowing the negative results of going in the wrong directions, which make us feel good temporarily only to pay for it with much anguish later. Drug abuse is a prime example. Should one destroy themselves this way, suicide by slow poison, or live healthy and associate closer

with people who have our best interests at heart. Too many times our ignorance steers us into destructive relationships by our believing in the false perceptions and outright lies, which surround us all the time. However, WILLFUL IGNORANCE, which is when we really know better and still go into directions that repeatedly bring unwanted stress and creates even more stress when the forces of nature pulling us out of misfortune are thwarted by our actions. A prime example of this would be when a parent finds out the child is doing hard narcotics and tries to steer their loved one away and into a healthy routine. The child, willfully ignorant of what the drugs and association with the people who they party with is doing to their lives gets stressed out when their parents intervene and engender a lot of unpleasantness. The parents are guilty of ignorance in their confrontation and not accepting the phase their child is going through, but the child knows very well they are doing something destructive, only for a short term illusion of pleasure and is guilty of willful ignorance. Results are that the parents don't get much good luck out of this and the child runs into strings of bad luck.

Another factor in the creation of luck is our relationship with our work. Most of us have to work for a living and many do not have the best options available to them. It is very difficult to rise above ones station without a lot of hard work, But people are still delusional in their believing that they will win the lottery marry a prince/princess charming and live happily ever after without having to work. The reality is harsh. To become fortunate one must not only work but serve others as well. Not all of us have the choice in everything we have to do, but we do have the choice in which of several options offered to us best fulfill our aspirations. This is where it gets tricky. Do we take job #1 which offers immediate short term gain or go with job #2, which although seemingly more difficult, offers a more promising future. Either or at various times is the right thing to do but discerning which is made easier by which one we test allows us to have "lucky" experiences and which one doesn't. This can be done by actually working at both options or merely thinking about them before deciding. Sometimes working at what seems to be the right job brings bad luck and a different job, which may seem distasteful, brings good luck. What this means is that the easier, more socially acceptable, route is bringing bad luck because in the long term it will lead to extreme unhappiness and nature is trying to tell you that. Whereas the more difficult choice is bringing you good luck because it will pay off far more in the end and give you a much happier life. One of the reasons many people suffer at work is because they keep choosing what is more socially correct, gives short term results, is "safer", or they are just ignorant of having another option. The few that get out of this cycle of stress are those who are aware of other options and are willing to take risks. They may suffer in the short term, but over time they start getting lucky breaks and their quality of life is improved.

Our work is also intrinsically connected to money, how much and how often we get it. Money is merely a medium of exchanged based on faith. It is also an expression of blood and sweat. However most people in all of our world's societies put the goal of making lots of money at the top of their lists. People will do most anything to get rich/die trying. It isn't the money that brings you happiness and power it is power (having knowledge) and your behavior (internal and external) that bring you happiness, Money (that is the good things and satisfaction with) will follow power not the other way around. Why do some seem to be so lucky with their work, gambles, birthrights, marriages, and the many other ways they get money? Why are some so desperate and struggle to merely make

ends meet? The same laws of nature apply here as before. Are we aware of ourselves and others? Are we excited to learn and retain knowledge? Do we behave in an appropriate manner with our people and the world around us? The complications of multiple factors are at play here. If we perfect all of the above we will be lucky and have all the money we need. But we can even just do most, the best we can, and still get lucky. However, if we continue with willful ignorant behavior, not care about others, treat our world cruelly, we will get lots of bad luck and what may appear to be lucky breaks will end in failure, once the delusion they created in us comes to light. There are no short cuts that pay off in the end only a dedicated struggle of doing the right thing that will result in a stream of unending good fortune, no matter what negative experiences we may encounter.

In summation, luck is just the result of our being in synchronicity with nature and the laws that guide us. Magical/chance happenstance are not so mysterious but are the expression of nature within us when we do the best we can with those we have. There is no such thing as luck, good or bad. There is only our collective reality and our individual experiences of it. The more we know the more freedom of choice we have. The more we emphasize with each other and nature the better choices we are given. The more we choose to behave by doing the right thing at the right time, the better our fortunes become. Our capacity for empathy is great, but we can only at best imagine walking in another's shoes, so we must accept them for who they are and not just tolerate them. There is far more knowledge available to us than we can comprehend, but we must try to learn everything possible and understand it and its implications. The hardest thing to do is to modify our behavior to be synchronous with nature. Most people have been raised to manipulate or dominate nature and that nature is mindless and dangerous. Most have been taught imaginary faith based systems to guide their actions and deny the world around them as anything but a temporary place to suffer in, with the great rewards or punishments coming after death. Opening up to the reality of our universe is difficult at best, having to overcome centuries of indoctrination. But that indoctrination was nature's way of teaching very primitive life forms to behave. However, the time of fantasy is over and the good life here on earth is not only a possibility but a guarantee as more and more people become aware and are slowly changing their behavior to create beauty, live healthy lifestyles, and clean up the results of centuries of damage to our earth and climate. People are starting to choose freedom over repression, love over hate, and more and more will we experience less bad luck and eventually all of us will win the lottery of life.

Dennis Paul Batt
12/25/11
