

♥ Snippets of Encouragement #192

Hello darlings

It is day 192 of Snippets of Encouragement; I'd like to encourage you with this – less praying and more acting.

Epicurus said, "It is folly for a man to pray to the gods for that which he has the power to obtain himself."

How often don't we waste our time face down in prayer hoping to be delivered and...

I'd like to share a favourite story with you, which I may have previously shared.

There was a man who fell on hard times. It began when he lost his job but he was mildly hopeful that things would soon turn around. In his fertile imagination, he entertained casual dreams of winning the lottery.

As time dragged on, the economic crisis, sluggishness in the job market and rising debts weighed him down. He spoke to his wife about winning the lottery but carefully turned over each penny before foolishly spending it on a pipe dream.

Stress was mounting, as was hopelessness, and he spent more time in his underwear on the sofa, drinking beer and watching daytime television. He was verbally abusive to his family and began blaming everyone for his troubles. "Oh God, why can't I win the lottery," he said.

Eventually, his wife left him and took their children with her. "Oh God," he moaned, "don't you care about me? I have lost my job, cannot find employment, my wife, and children have left me. Don't you hear my prayers?"

With rising debts and no income, his car was repossessed and eventually the bank foreclosed on the mortgage and the man was desolate as he returned to his parents' home.

"GOD!" he screamed at the heavens, "where are you? Are you so heartless that you would let me lose everything? I have lost my job, my wife and children have left me. The car and beautiful home I owned are no longer mine. How dare you, God! I have been begging you for months to help me win the lottery and you do nothing! You show me no mercy! You have no compassion! God, I know you do not exist! You must be dead!"

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for that which he
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Epicurus

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In the deathly silence that followed his tirade, a clear voice spoke from the heavens. God replied saying, *"If you want to win the lottery, buy a ticket!"*

You may be thinking that this story is ridiculous, of course God doesn't help us win the lottery, but let's be honest for a moment. We often assign our power to the higher power or others in the hopes that they manufacture a miracle for us without taking responsibility and action for ourselves.

The miracles awaiting us are found in choice and action. At every given moment of our lives choice is available to us, even the choices we may not want to make or think are impossible to choose. There is always a choice and a subsequent action to take.

Am I advocating that you don't pray? No, I'm not; prayer is a beautiful balm for the soul. However, perhaps instead of being instructive in your prayer requests perhaps pray that the best solution for everyone is attained. What you are capable of doing for yourself do! Act as wisely as possible and allow things to unfold. Many times, we wait for the unfolding without the action but this is a sure-fire recipe for failure, get off your butt, and take action in your life. That's why you're here on earth, to experience and express yourself in human form, so get cracking.

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