

## ♥ Snippets of Encouragement #199

Hello darlings

It is day 199 of Snippets of Encouragement, and I'm sure like me, you've hit a few roadblocks in your life.

You may have been sailing along, on your way to making your dream a reality and suddenly, as if out of nowhere, bam! You run into a problem or realise you've ended in failure.

The great thing about failure is there's always an alternative course of action.

We judge ourselves or our actions as failures because they don't match the course we envisioned for ourselves, but in a universe of limited possibilities, we have to know there are countless possibilities we could try without even being aware of them.

If you have a navigation system in your car, you know that if you're following the route it's mapped for you, it is continuously taking traffic conditions into account and recalculating the route.

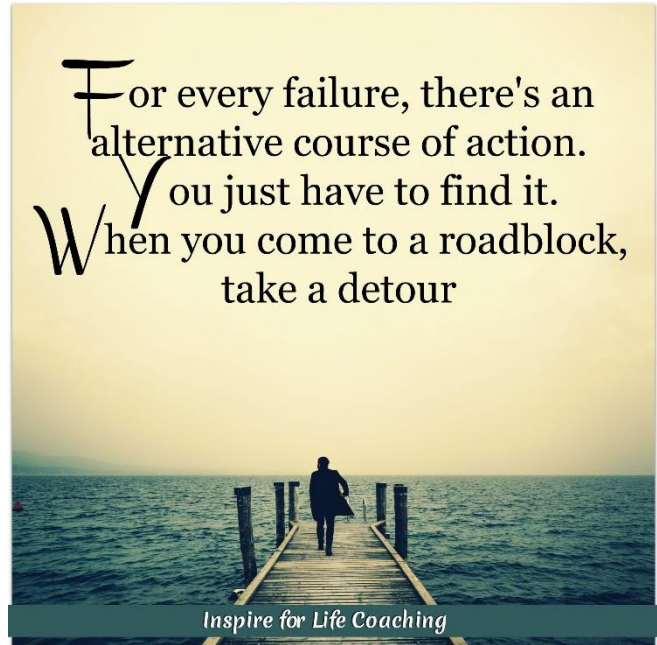
My navigation, whom I call Uschi, very kindly informs me that "the route is being recalculated taking traffic conditions into account." Sometimes I'd be thrilled if she did reroute me, but often I am on a specific Autobahn that I can't exit from, and so I drive directly into the traffic.

At other times everything is flowing along quite well, and then the silly thing wants to recalculate leaving me shouting at her... which in itself is utterly ridiculous.

This is what I find so delightful about life. We have programmed the route we will take, that is to live from birth to death, but no road's carved in stone. Life, as we all know, is fluid. It's continually changing, as are we and yes sometimes we run headfirst into a dead end.

Sometimes the signs are apparent. The detour markers are loudly screaming – PROBLEM UP AHEAD! DETOUR! And yet we ignore them and proceed head first into the mess. At other times we are somewhat unconscious in our lives, paying no attention and wonder how the hell we got into the mess that we find ourselves in.

Then, of course, there is resistance. That inability to wake up or follow the signs. We are fully aware that a detour lays up ahead and yet we may be afraid, too stubborn to change, unwilling to try something new.



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Well if that isn't a disaster just waiting to happen, then I don't know what is.

Life often has a way of taking our best-laid plans and changing them altogether. I've found that with so many possibilities available to me in my life, the best way to live is not to become attached to the outcome I desire.

In all things, I wish to live a happy, joyful life and this is my number one priority. If I'm pursuing a goal, but that pursuit is neither happy nor joyful then what's the point of the goal? This is when taking the detour is often the best course of action for me.

I love going for a drive without having a fixed plan. I also love to drive without following the navigation system, merely to discover and enjoy new areas. There have also been times when I have a set destination but will take the detour to experience something new. These have been some of the best journey's I've been on. Now I know that for some people this idea is utter hell. Just the thought of going off plan causes them to break out in a cold sweat, but I have to ask, isn't a planned detour better than an unplanned one?

In our lives, we will experience many literal and figurative failures and roadblocks. Don't be afraid to seek out the detour and carve a new route for yourself. Be brave in the face of adversity and above all else trust yourself.

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