

Laws of Life Essay

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Essay Title: Patience

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I couldn't say I saw any value in patience until I took up painting. I quickly learned that one single brushstroke isn't what makes or brakes the art piece. Every once in a while, I needed to step away from it to look at the big picture and really see what was going on. I firmly believe life is just the same. Getting caught up in details before figuring out the whole perspective is off, is the same as studying tirelessly to get into a good school only to realize you don't really want to go there anyway.

Patience is a virtue that not many people truly understand the importance of. Impatience can lead to more harm than good when we try to rush the natural course of life. Philosopher Michel de Montaigne stated: "The general order of things that takes care of fleas and moles also takes care of men, if they will have the same patience that fleas and moles have, to leave it to itself.". The art of doing nothing can drive people up the walls, yet the ones that master it seem to be the most grounded and at peace. Impatience also causes problems because of how dependable it is on external events. If someone is bored or lacks patience, they are more susceptible to fits of rage and unpredictable reactions. This can become dangerous when we let external factors determine our emotions, essentially giving them power over us. Believe it or not, honking your horn does not make traffic go any faster. Instead of getting mad and letting such an uncontrollable event keep you from having a pleasant drive, choose to be patient and trust someone else will honk for you.

If I could give any advice for past and future me, it would be 1. Wear sunscreen and 2. Be patient when figuring out who you are. If you're fifty and still don't know who you are, that is ok. The most interesting people never do. This suggestion is also intended for my future self because no matter how much I wish to see the sweetness in patience, I occasionally can't get over the bitterness that comes with it.

To sum up, I believe patience is an indispensable core value because it allows us to focus on what's important without worrying about the uncontrollable parts of life. If art has taught me anything, it's that the canvas usually looks bad before it gets better. It is the best gift we can reward ourselves with, painting life one brush stroke at a time and taking as many moments as needed to step back and look at the whole picture. Oh how wonderful life can be if we simply let it!