

Thinking

Walter D. Wintle

If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you'd like to win, but you think you can't,
It is almost a certain – you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you've lost;
For out in this world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will
It's all in the state of mind.
If you think you're outclassed, you are;
You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win the prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man;
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the one who thinks he can!

Carmen Lei Ka Man

Walter D. Wintle was a poet who lived in the late 19th and early 20th century. Yet, we know little to nothing about his life.

This is a powerful and reflective poem and it echoes deep within my mind. In our lives, “luck” often plays a part in success, yet, it is not the main reason why people succeed. Our actions are determined by our thoughts, which in turn affect our planning. Our actions have an impact on our thinking; our thinking changes our attitude; our attitude changes who we are.

We have various definitions for “success”. It can be defined as having a balanced life, having a happy family, having a professional life, or having lots of wealth. No matter how you define it, it is what motivates us to strive for our goals and makes commitments materialize.

There are people who were born with silver spoons in their mouths but ended up being losers in life. On the other hand, there are also people who came from nothing at all but ended up writing their own success stories. Nothing is predestined. We can never underestimate the power of thoughts. It is our thoughts that determine the outcomes of our lives. There is no overnight success. Rather, it is based on the effort we make bit by bit. The last stanza implies that success does not come to the man who is stronger or faster, but to the one who has faith and believes in himself.

Don't always think that we are defeated or we are ruined. If we think we can, we can! We think, we believe, we strive, and we succeed.