

Can the Work Horse Beat the All-Star? by Audrey Gabbard

Have you ever heard of the quote, "Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard," said by Kevin Durant. He is an NBA player for the Oklahoma City Thunder. Imagine that, an NBA player having to work hard to be good. Many people assume, but never acknowledge, that there is a stereotype in the world, like it is somehow separated. Specifically by the lucky and the unlucky. The lucky are known to be the gifted and the unlucky are the ones who are cast aside having to work just to be half as good. Honestly, I think it should be vice versa because the talented only have their talent, the unlucky have willpower and strength to get back up when they fall. What I'm proving is everybody has special God given talents they either use or waste. If you don't put in the heart and effort into doing what it is you love, you're not going anywhere in school, sports, or life.

My perspective is that someone who really wants something and works for it is much more capable of success than someone who is handed everything they need on a silver platter until the day comes that they come crashing down. Consider this, a young, talented athlete that is incredible at soccer. He or she has a natural essence when they move with the ball, but they don't try that hard because they know they're good. Then they start to think they can get by with just pure talent. Then another young person comes and they aren't quite as talented at soccer, but they want to be just as good, if not better. That person works really hard and practices a lot getting comfortable with the ball. Who do you think is the better player, the all-star slacker or the work horse? I say the work horse is better because they are the ones who care, strive for their best, and have the ability to learn from their mistakes.

Nowadays, children are doing activities left and right, but parents see it as though the more things their child participates in, the more of a chance they have of finding their talents. During the time children are growing up, they can feel either insecure or motivated when they see other kids who are really gifted at something. It doesn't mean that they aren't gifted at anything, it just means that they weren't born with greatness in the palm of their hand. This is one of the wonders of life, though, because when parents hold their child for the first time, they have absolutely no idea what they are capable of, they just know that the journey is going to be great. When young adults enter into the final years of high school or beginning of college, is when true colors show. To a child growing up, everything is easy to them, school, sports, friends, but when they grow up and are entering into the game of life, will the talented get by like they have the rest of their life, or will it be the work horses bringing home the trophy for the first time? Malcolm Gladwell made a study in 2008 proving that having the highest IQ doesn't necessarily mean that you have an advantage. He wondered if a 150 IQ is truly better than someone with a 120 IQ. In fact, those few extra points didn't do much for the 150 person success wise in their career. He figured out that once someone has an IQ about 120ish or higher, there isn't much of an advantage to have from there.

Although, it is incredibly rare to find someone that is talented and has a work ethic like a slave, they have a natural glow. According to sports, in that scenario type against someone who isn't talented, the all star work horse is hands down going to steal the show. Unfortunately yet fortunately, there are very few of those people to find on a daily basis. If they were everywhere, they would probably be ruling the world by now. Some may be, but we don't know it. Same goes for all sorts of scenarios, you can be a natural at something without even trying, but without the work ethic, there's nowhere to go. I have seen it right before my eyes. I know people who are incredible artists. Their art is beautiful, but they don't try. They don't put in the time, it's sad but true.

Basically, anyone can be born with talent and they can understand something easily or do something effortlessly. Now do you think they will be a match for somebody who takes time to learn and gradually keeps getting better. If you are one of those where you are really good at a lot of things athletically, educationally, or artistically, then you have an early advantage. Everybody has special gifts from God, but without the heart and soul put into the work, it's just another task. Though if you are one who didn't necessarily have your shining moment as a child, its going to be even greater because you overcame all the bad that came with the good when it does happen. And when you do, the feeling is impeccable.

