

## :: Dana's Weekly Insight :: 03.13.06 – Risky Business



I am intrigued with the way of the Samurai warrior.

I remain intrigued with the way of the Samurai warrior because of a tradition that is characteristic of their way of life.

The Samurai warrior is recognized for his practice of being willing to:

**"die before going into battle".**

Imagine.

Before any battle, the Samurai Warrior will resolve for himself the possibility of his own death. He is therefore able to engage in the battle with the freedom to risk everything because he is not afraid. He is able to fight with complete abandon -- no compromise, no hesitation, no flinching, no holding back.

No doubt that the objective of the Samurai is, ultimately, to win. But he is clear that in order to do that he must be willing to lose; even his life. So he is. He is willing to lose, even his life, for the possibility of something more than mere survival.

He is willing to give up his life so that he can, in fact, LIVE!

My 11 year old daughter, Gussie, shared with me recently, something that she was really struggling with.

Several of her classmates at school were repeatedly making fun of and teasing another one of their classmates. This was not O.K. with Gussie and so she told her friends that making fun of someone was not a very nice thing to do. In the nicest way that she knew how, she asked them to consider how they would feel if they were the ones being made fun of. Nobody answered. They all just kind of went silent. And then, Gussie just kind of panicked. Later, she came to me in tears, fearing that she had alienated her friends and that if she stuck to her guns she would risk losing those friends.

"What if I end up with no friends?" is what she said to me.

"What if you do -- end up with no friends?" was my response.

And you?

Perhaps what YOU are standing for is worth taking the risk. And if YOU could lose a friend over taking a stand, consider that YOU never really did ever have them as a friend -- in the first place.

A friend of mine shared with me recently something that he was frustrated about.

He was expecting to finalize the details of a contract with an organization for a long term work assignment. The people that he was hoping to work with were seemingly, according to him, "taking their sweet time". This was not O.K. with him because he wanted to get started on this project that they had been talking about for what seemed to him like forever. He was committed to this work and quite frankly, he was tired of waiting.

"I don't want to call them again because I don't want to look desperate." is what he said to me.

"What if you did -- look desperate?" was my response.

And you?

Isn't the possibility of what YOU have been working on, the possibility of YOUR brilliant idea becoming a reality worth looking a little desperate for? And if YOU could lose the contract over wanting it badly enough to risk looking desperate, consider that YOU never really did ever have it - - to begin with?

Give up what you are pretending that you already have in exchange for the possibility of "having it all! Stop holding on to the illusion of having something that was never yours to begin with and go fight with sheer abandon for what it is you really want. Don't compromise. Don't hesitate. Don't flinch and don't hold back.

Be willing to "die" so that you can, in fact, LIVE!

Remember the "If you love something, let it go" platitude? How many times have you heard it said? How many times you have said it yourself and when was the last time that you stopped to ask yourself --

**"What am I holding on to today because I am afraid of what might happen if I risk letting go"?**

When Gussie was willing to give up her fear of having no friends, what she discovered was a side of herself that she could be proud of. She discovered that her real friends would be her friends even if she stood for something that was not popular. She realized that she could be stand alone for something that she believed in, and be O.K. She learned how to honor herself, when selling out would be so much easier.

When my frustrated friend was willing to give up the fear of having no contract, what he discovered was the power of his own conviction; his passion for doing great work. He realized that he could make a request that would produce a result. He learned how to follow his gut!

Without being willing to take a RISK, without being willing to lose, consider that you are not even really in the game -- to begin with.

Be willing to lose, and then play like you can't,

for --

**the possibility of having it all!**

Today, you could lose "it"

but,

today you could win!

Don't compromise. Don't hesitate. Don't flinch and don't hold back.

Take a stand for something worth standing for and be desperate for something worthwhile.

Let "it" go for what could be. Be intent on winning and be not afraid -- to lose.

Today, move beyond those incremental predictable results and take the quantum leap of faith.

And you, like the Samurai, being willing to "give it up", will have the opportunity to play a GAME that is far far beyond simply, staying alive.

Dana

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