

Stillborn Dreams

by
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Throughout my 35-year journey, I've happened upon many people from diversified walks of life, the majority of which assert the same things: "I'm going to become this and do that; I'm going to own a business; I'm going to...blah, blah, blah." In this ego-driven world, these types of statements are par for the course. They're tongue candy. They sound good. They polarize. Be honest: how many times have you uttered similar declarations without taking the imperative steps to borne

ing work experience as a squatter? While staying informed on the goings-on of our rapidly changing world through media sources, and maintaining good health through recreation, is of equal importance, our collective time toward being made ready for use is disproportionately bottommost. Somebody, anybody, correct me if I'm in error, but aren't our dreams the alternative to not finding ourselves where we are now?

I used to be a poster boy for the unevolving mentality of which I speak. For quite sometime—the actual time frame is too embarrassing to divulge—my dreams of becoming a published author and magazine owner were stillborn. I did more yapping about my dreams, making a large contribution to noise

paper. Further, I had no clue that the craft of writing required discipline. And to think, this was the cornerstone of my wannabe profession.

Here is how I changed the direction of my life: one day I shut off the television, deciding that the title *squatter* was too small. When I made the conscious choice to discontinue the aborting of my goals, of my dreams, I mastered the craft and authored *Push Comes To Shove* (Voices Books & Publishing, August 22, 2008). I became a certified creative-writing instructor and a manuscript editor. I published *Man-Up Magazine*. My dreams now have children because preparation met opportunity. I am living my dreams and so can you.

Are you going to con-

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them into existence?

Success occurs when preparation makes love with opportunity. Preparation, simply put, is the action of making ready for use. Is it possible to make one's self ready for the responsibilities required to be a businessperson, an artist, or a motivational speaker if the lion's share of your days is spent in neutral, in the gym, in front of the television while gain-

pollution, than actually making myself ready to be an author and businessman. You should have seen me. Out loud I had arrived, a national best seller. In my mind I had already scheduled an interview with authoress Brenda Hampton for an exclusive in my magazine. In reality, however, I hadn't even thought of a name for a magazine and hadn't placed two words toward a novel on

tinue to claim ownership of titles that are too small, and continue to yap about what you hope to become, or are you *going* to take action by getting prepared? Anything short of making yourself ready for use is suicide. Give birth to your dreams. They can't draw breath merely by your dreaming out loud.