

Out-of-the-box-interview ...

Larry le Roi: Hi Z, great to meet up with you again since our last interview several years ago!

Zillionaire: Yes, me too. I remember your fly was open in the last interview as it was too hot for you.

Larry le Roi: It sure was whacky for me. Now that you're a Zillionaire, can you explain to my audience how you got there?

Zillionaire: Well, currently I have more than 1,500 billionaires who are contributing to my fortune. They are the ones providing all the things I need on Earth. You know, they are the ones running my subsidiaries at Z&Co. Inc. as I do very little but have a good time. They create fabulous chains of hotels, restaurants, movie houses, you name it!

Larry le Roi: OK, for many of you who do not know, Z&Co. Inc. is the world's largest conglomerate. Its main activity is generating good feelings for himself and for ordinary folks like you and I.

Zillionaire: Yes, companies make profits but at Z&Co. Inc. profits are good feelings, appreciation or awareness of what we have right now and what we can do. If you're feeling bad, or worried or frustrated about something you're obviously not feeling good. Hence, you're losing, or in the red on the balance sheet.

Larry le Roi: So, you're saying that if you're not generating good feelings you're running a poor company?

Zillionaire: Correct, since your profits are not dollars or euros you can go broke with a depression or all the negative feelings that rob you of your health and wealth.

Larry le Roi: How did you first come up with all this?

Zillionaire: In fact, it was a client who woke me up to the fact that he was always mistaking the finger for the moon and bleeding to death in his preoccupation with losing money. We'd finished lunch at the Ritz and hopped on his chauffeur-driven Rolls. And on the way to a meeting, I was feeling like a kid and happily enjoying the ride, but he looked as if he was going to a funeral.

Larry le Roi: He was looking worried?

Zillionaire: Yes, the stock had taken a sudden plunge and I noticed he hardly ate while we were being served a great lunch at the Ritz.

Larry le Roi: Isn't it normal that he should be worried?

Zillionaire: Look, I always carry this photo with me. That's why I'm still a Zillionaire ...



Less than a year from now a dead man will be buried with his billions! Caught in his illusions of eternal health and wealth he will suddenly discover he has no more health nor wealth. That doesn't mean you or I shouldn't run after money. Just don't trip over it and be buried under zillions of pieces of papers that you borrowed from Earth. If that dead man were you, Larry, what could you have done to get outta there before getting in there?

Larry le Roi: Now, wait a minute, I'm not a millionaire yet!

Zillionaire: You don't have to be one to answer that question.

Larry le Roi: So, you have more than a thousand billionaires, not mentioning the multimillionaires who also work to bring you the pleasures of life. How do you reward them?

Zillionaire: Well, firstly I'm very grateful that they are creating so many beautiful things for us to enjoy life here and each time I visit a restaurant I tip them. When I pay, I don't consider I pay bills since the restaurant is a subsidiary of Z&Co. Inc. where I can go and feel good, so I consider I simply tip them. If the meal costs \$200 I tip the waiter \$200 or a little more. That's how I contribute to my subsidiaries. If I got a super pair of shoes and the person who took care of this subsidiary of mine wants \$500, I consider it's a tip to the person. Wearing those shoes make me feel good so why shouldn't I be generous with my tip?

Larry le Roi: That's a funky way to look at things. You are generous with your tips because you don't perceive it as payments each time you feel good.

Zillionaire: Correct.

Larry le Roi: What about the electricity bill?

Zillionaire: Well, the electricity company is also a subsidiary of Z&Co. Inc. so I tip the engineers monthly for helping provide warmth in the winter so that I can feel good in bed.

Larry le Roi: You must be the world's biggest tipper.

Zillionaire: I can do it because I'm a Zillionaire and have billionaires working for me.

Larry le Roi: What would happen if there was a financial crash? You know, the big financial bubble is about to burst and affect us all.

Zillionaire: Just appreciate that we can rebound starting from zero. As long as you and I have a brain. Oh, BTW that brain sitting between your ears is worth a trillion dollars. If your brain conked out you wouldn't be able to walk into a shop and buy another one even if you had trillions in the bank. So even if you lost everything in a stock crash you still possess a trillion dollar's worth of assets with your medulla oblongata immediately operational!

Larry le Roi: Can anyone be a Zillionaire?

Zillionaire: Yes, you simply need to wake up and see things differently. Get out of the box! And master illusion.

Larry le Roi: How do you master illusion?

Zillionaire: Look at me. What you see is an illusion. You may not recognize me anymore if I was totally disfigured in a car accident. Right? Now, look at your financial situation now, Larry. You may or may not have a lot of money now. But this is also an illusion because your current situation can be altered by reality at any moment. Hence, you're living a passive illusion of your current situation.

Larry le Roi: Wow, so how do you navigate the unknown or perceive reality?

Zillionaire: You create your own active illusion and then test it to see how you feel. It's active illusion when you walk the talk, otherwise, you revert to your old self or a passive illusion of who you think you are.

Larry le Roi: Don't I need to have strong a motivation to do that, to change?

Zillionaire: What if gave you \$10,000 a day to be what you'd like to be and secretly film you on the act? Could you do it?

Larry le Roi: You bet! Who couldn't, or wouldn't?

Zillionaire: Some people who are uptight about money. Or feel money is dirty or the root of all evil.

Larry le Roi: I can understand that.

Zillionaire: So, if you or anyone could do it for \$10,000 a day that's only \$300,000 a month. But you're worth much more than that! Forget about the ten grand. Would you do it for you? Are you motivated enough to be in an active illusion just for yourself and watch the transformation of your own desires unfold rapidly? There was a small bespectacled penniless young man we know who turned his active illusion of a playboy into reality. And developed a devastating smile to melt the hearts of all the women he met ... with his "fake it till you make it" he has turned himself into a natural playboy.

Larry le Roi: Edison, Einstein are all masters of illusion if I understand this correctly.

Zillionaire: Yeah, it all started with a simple idea and a desire to make things happen.

Larry le Roi: Why isn't this taught in schools?

Zillionaire: Go ask the schools. And if they don't have this in their courses then share it with them.

Larry le Roi: How do you live life as a Zillionaire? Do you rub shoulders with billionaires?

Zillionaire: I must admit it can be lonely at times. A few billionaires like Jack Ma of Alibaba should be able to share my thoughts or even fly with me. But most billionaires would prefer to fly with billionaires. If you see another Zillionaire please convey my invitation to him or her to come and fly with me.

Larry le Roi: One other question: will there be a balance between the haves and the have-nots, the rich and the poor? Or are we doomed to have this deepening rift?

Zillionaire: Things are compelled to evolve. This disparity of wealth will destroy a civilization such as ours if we don't evolve. The good news is that we are progressing and things will change. But we may have to experience upheavals before this.

Larry le Roi: What dangers do you see in our society?

Zillionaire: If citizens or children are not taught to be responsible at an early age we will also be faced with future disasters. The decay of moral values and integrity will threaten our survival but again there are always solutions.

Larry le Roi: Can you elaborate on any of them?

Zillionaire: One important issue is that men are not taught how to handle the ultimate realities of life or navigate the unknown. And they are often found adrift or totally lost. People are also at the mercy of inner random psychological attacks that leave them devastated and defeated. But again we have solutions to offset this if the world is ready. But maybe the world is just not ready yet. And needs psychological earthquakes, tsunamis, and fires to wake them up.

Larry le Roi: We're still asleep?

Zillionaire: Technologies and smartphones can drive people deeper into slumber. That's why many billionaires are also prohibiting their own children access to the internet. Silicon Valley parents are raising their kids tech-free — and it should be a red flag! Ask Bill Gates himself.

Larry le Roi: I'm concerned too!

Zillionaire: You can be concerned but do not worry. When there are problems or issues solutions are always peeking from the corner, ready to lend us a hand.

Larry le Roi: I bloody well hope so.

Zillionaire: Just don't forget to feel good with or without the solutions.

Larry le Roi: How can I feel good without solutions?

Zillionaire: Activate your medulla oblongata and look again, and again — till you find one!

Larry le Roi: Tell me, if the stock market crashes tomorrow, would you still be a Zillionaire?

Zillionaire: Yes!

Larry le Roi: What do you know now that you didn't know when you started out?

Zillionaire: That I'm eternally important as a person whether I have money or not. Whether people like or dislike me. Whether I succeed or fail. Success doesn't mean much anymore. It's just an experience. I know now that every individual on Earth, even my enemies are as important as I am. They are human beings like me and our intrinsic values remain intact forever.

Larry le Roi: If you could do anything else with your life right now, what would it be?

Zillionaire: I can't think of anything else but help others become Zillionaires and pursue their childhood dreams.

Larry le Roi: What is your mindset like? What do you think about on a daily basis?

Zillionaire: I have a "fake it till you make it" mindset. On a daily basis, I'm having fun faking it and making it. Next active illusion: help trigger one billion happy faces on Earth.

Larry le Roi: If you had to leave 3 guiding principles as a legacy for the next generation what would

they be?

Zillionaire: 1. Be here and now, 2. Appreciate what you have and what you can do with what you have. 3. Activate your psychological firewall every morning you wake up to protect yourself.

Larry le Roi: What questions do you ask yourself?

Zillionaire: Daily? What are the 3 priorities for the day?

Larry le Roi: If your bank account went to zero what would be your first reaction?

Zillionaire: My reaction would be: Great, what are the 3 things I do next? All situations are temporary, good or bad. So, it's back to zero and recreating new situations and opportunities.

Larry le Roi: How do you view money? What does it represent to you?

Zillionaire: Power to help create a better world. Just a vehicle to get from point A to B.

Larry le Roi: What do you consider to be your greatest strength/weakness?

Zillionaire: My ignorance is my greatest strength. Permits me to be eternally open to ideas. Weaknesses? I let others point that out to me. But I think sometimes it's my desire to move too fast.

Larry le Roi: What is the biggest obstacle that you had to get through and what did you learn from it?

Zillionaire: Allowing change to happen at its own rhythm. We're either ready or we are not. We can't force a change to happen overnight.

Larry le Roi: If you have to give your younger self-advice, what you would tell them?

Zillionaire: Be patient but persistent.

Larry le Roi: What is the most impactful lesson that you learned in the first few years of business?

Zillionaire: You have to dance with reality. Reality can be crazy and step on your toes.

Larry le Roi: What is your morning routine like?

Zillionaire: Being on vacation!

Larry le Roi: What is your biggest regret and why?

Zillionaire: I don't choose to regret. Period.

Larry le Roi: If you had to do it all over again, what would you do differently, if anything?

Zillionaire: I'd love to have a mentor. I ran away from home at 13 to create my own world. It's been f*cking tough. But no regrets. It helped me be a Zillionaire.

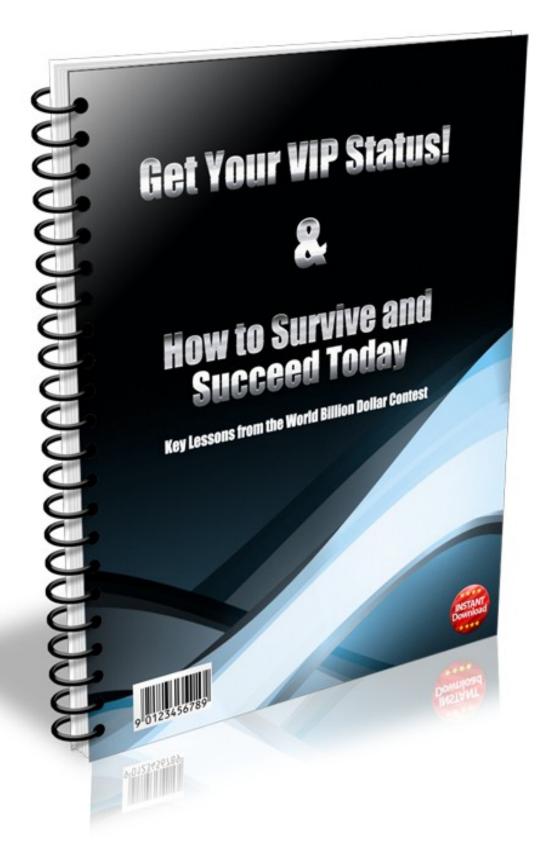
Larry le Roi: Anything else you wanna share?

Zillionaire: 4 Zen Ways to Protect Yourself.

Larry le Roi: OK, thanks for the link! Till the next time.

Zillionaire: Thank you for allowing me to feel good just talking to you, Larry :).







Feel Innerly CONFIDENT Today, Tomorrow... and FOREVER

1. Install a psychological firewall in your brain

2. Turn your head a certain angle to stop all stress and surprise your loved ones, friends and colleagues with your new <u>inner</u> confidence and self-esteem.

To be innerly confident you do not need to:

- be rich or powerful
- hold a high position
- be successful
- gain recognition
- be loved or liked
- even be useful ...

To be innerly confident you do need however, to know how your mind functions. There are 3 different states of mind you can find yourself in. The conscious, the subconscious, and the supraconscious.

99% of the time you will find yourself in your subconscious mind. This is where the danger lies when you find yourself attacked by gangs of negative hit-&-run thoughts such as *You're not good enough / What are people going to think? / You should / You shouldn't*... which can destabilize and cause you to lose confidence.

Hence, you need to install *weeweenoo* a powerful, psychological firewall by getting your VIP Status:



Get Your VIP Status

Y ou were born a VIP! You are capable of doing great things and being supportive of others. If you are skeptical, ask yourself how many times you have helped lost strangers find their way. How many times have you walked into stores, restaurants and cinemas, thus helping others stay in business?

> Have you ever fed a dog, a cat, or a goldfish in your life? Were you not important to them during a moment of their lives? How many times have you comforted someone in distress? Are you not important to your kids, colleagues, friends, or neighbors? Your country? Yet many of us do not feel important. Why? Simply because our society has been using a grotesquely outdated instrument for measuring self-worth! Its instrument is a silly numbers game!

> **Imagine you are a wealthy person** who has finally been accepted into a millionaires' club, only to discover a few weeks later that, in fact, you have joined a club of losers! There are a hundred millionaires in that club. You came in with a lousy million and are now feeling that you are not

good enough because the guy next to you is worth two million. And when you share the dinner table with the richest member, who has a hundred million, you wish you had an extra few million and feel like an absolute nobody compared to that hundred-million man!

You are lost in your misery and not even aware that the richest man with whom you are sharing the table feels the same as you. He had to sneak in to the club situated on the 1st floor! He would have preferred to be seen riding the elevator to the top floor, where the billionaires' club is located!

So, **do not compare yourself** by playing that selfdefeating numbers game, or you will forever feel a loser, an eternal wanna-be Somebody. In fact, you are and always will be a VIP, based on your intrinsic self-worth.

To remind yourself of your VIP status, draw a small inverted V-shaped triangle on the area between your thumb and forefinger or on the palm of your hand. At the top two extremities of the inverted triangle, insert an "O" for "Oui" ("Yes" in French). At the bottom extremity, insert an "N" for "Non" ("No" in French). So you now have a "Oui-Oui-Non," (weeweenoo) or "Yes-Yes-No".

Each morning for an entire week, look at that triangle to remind you that yes, **you are a very important person**, and yes, **others, too, are very important**. Every person with whom you cross paths on the pavement is a VIP who can help you should you have an accident. He/she may also have contributed to your life in ways unknown to you. The man passing by you this morning could have been a musician playing in the band whose music you adore. Another could have been a fireman in your city. Yet another could have helped make that beautiful luggage you are so proud to own. Or, the person you saw in that red car could be your next client. Perhaps the young man you saw climbing on the bike is the chef who will prepare lunch for you one day.

"No, you do not want to be liked!"

The "Non" or "No" stands for a decision you make: "No, you do not want to be liked!". You need a "Oui-Oui-Non" to get your VIP status.

Not wanting to be liked does not prevent you from liking people, accepting compliments from others, or accepting people liking you. Since others are VIPs, you treat them with respect and care. You treat them with the same attention as you would like to be treated.

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 (3)

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A "No, you do not want to be liked!" decision liberates you from what others would think of you. It gives you freedom of expression. It instills confidence and respect from others as you no longer submit to situations where you seek approbation.

"No, you do not want to be liked!" frees you from a myriad of preoccupations. You are less fearful of failure or of making a fool of yourself, as you have decided you do not want to be liked. This enables you to be more creative and to maximize your potential.

This decision triggers a dynamic evolution towards mastery in yourself. For once in your life, you are no longer submissive or chained to desires for approval or acceptance by others. However, this does not mean that you should act like a rebel and flaunt all conventions or that you should be politically incorrect. It simply means you have now regained your real status as a VIP.

However, realizing that you are a VIP is not enough. You need to back it up with actions. Only sustainable actions, with that triangle to remind you each morning, will lead to a happier, fulfilling life.

This status allows you a 360° access to all people – those above you, those below you, and horizontally those across social and cultural spectrums. Your newfound commonality and confidence based on true evaluation of your potential as a human being provide a solid foundation for communicating with others.

Remember, too, that each time you feel good, hundreds or thousands of **other VIPs have contributed to your wellbeing**. Think of the beautiful sights or the wonderful tools at your disposal: that magical instrument called the mobile phone; that fast jet transporting you through the air; that piece of soothing symphony penetrating your ears; those objects displayed in the windows on Champs Elysées or Fifth Avenue; or a quiet, well-kept country lane for your legs to stroll on. Other VIPs like yourself have made all of this possible for you to enjoy.

The "Oui-Oui-Non" triangle is your psychological firewall against the attacks of adverse, negative thoughts. It is also a firepower to propel you to greater heights of selfaccomplishment.



The Power of WeeWeeNoo

T he first Yes "U are a VIP" means you have nothing to prove to others. You don't even have to be useful to be important! To simply exist is enough for you to be important. Let me illustrate with this anecdote:

> A man was walking down a country lane and accidentally kicked a sharp piece of stone with his foot. Boy, that hurt! He started yelling and cursing that piece of stone. In his fury he kicked it again, still cursing out loud that if that useless piece of stone hadn't existed he would not have suffered the pain.

Did the stone react? No, though it was violently projected a few feet away it remained silent and continued to exist.

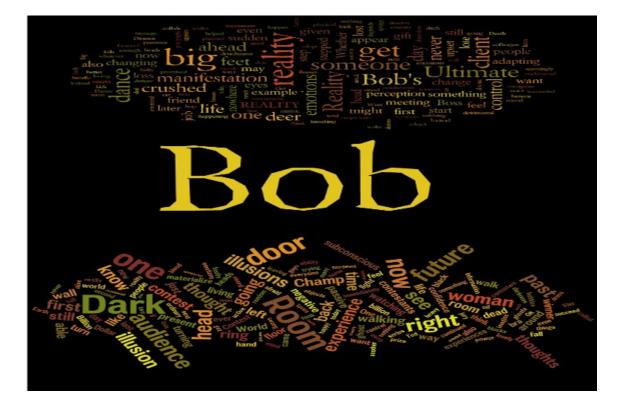
An hour later, on his way back, that same man stooped to pick up that very same piece of stone he'd kicked so violently, and now clutched it firmly in his hand. Boy, wasn't he feeling secure and protected now, just having a piece of stone in his hand! Why? Because his life depended on it! A snarling mad dog with massive fangs was ready to pounce on him, and his only protection was that stone he now raised in his hand.

He didn't have to use it, the mad dog backed away, and the man threw the stone away. If it had not been for that stone, the man would have been ripped apart! Did the stone react to being chucked on the ground this time? No, it simply went on existing.

So, you are important, no matter if you are considered useless or useful. Or if nobody considers you at all. You simply need to know that you exist to feel important.

It is good to relate this to your kids. It takes all the pressure off their backs with the first Yes (Wee). Knowing that we have absolutely **NOTHING** to prove in this existence, that others like ourselves, are VIPs (*second* Wee), that we do not want, or need to be liked (Noo), will help us to float and be as light as a butterfly and to enjoy the gardens of Eden on Earth!

Next, learn to turn your head and dance with Bob in *How To* Survive and Succeed Today...



HOW TO SURVIVE AND SUCCEED TODAY

Key Lessons from the World Billion Dollar Contest

Imagine a tele-reality event that surpasses the audience participation of the World Cup! With only one winner walking away with one billion US dollars in cash! And the winner could have been YOU!

To qualify for the World Billion Dollar Contest, the participants were first preselected. The chief criteria were that the contestants should not be afraid of the dark, hidden obstacles and danger, including death. Only 100 entered the final with a live, world-wide audience of billions.

The winner was going to be propelled to instant fame and financial wealth. All he or she had to do was this: walk into a 1,000 square meter Dark Room dressed in a new white suit or dress. The contestant had to continue walking for one hour with 10-second pauses allowed every minute and come out looking as impeccable as s/he went in.

The finalists could quit the contest or the Dark Room by shouting "Stop" into a

tiny microphone attached to their ankles. Upon leaving the Dark Room, they would be immediately escorted to the casualty ward for a check-up before joining the other contestants and sharing their experiences with them.

The walk was seen by four billion people through infrared cameras strategically placed inside the room, which transmitted to two giant screens projected in an auditorium where thousands were able to share in the experience at close proximity. A 13-member jury judged the contenders on the distance covered during the walk, and the winner needed a two-third majority vote to win the prize.

Contestants were chosen at random to enter the Dark Room. They were unaware of the types of obstacles in the room, but were warned that some of the objects could be extremely dangerous.

The first contestant who strode into the room fell with a heavy thud 60 seconds after opening the door with a palpitating heart. Soon after the door was shut behind him, he noticed he could not even see his hands. It was pitch-black, eerily silent and empty, or so he thought, until he stepped on what seemed like a raw egg on the floor. The audience gasped when they witnessed this huge chunk of a man plummet to the floor.

The reminder that he had to keep on walking kept ringing in his ears. The man got up after the fall and bravely advanced forward, only to be stopped by the protruding edge of a small table. Boy, that really hurt when it collided with his kneecap! He did not walk this time, he limped, with the sympathy of the halfsadistic audience.

Two minutes later, he stepped on a patch of oil and again hurled toward the concrete floor as he grappled for support and found a razor sharp sword lying beside him. He thought: "I could have cut myself!" He did. His hand landed on the blade and he could now feel black blood oozing from it. It was not red but black, as all he could see was black around him. He thought it was insane to continue, and shouted "Stop!" towards the mic strapped around his ankle.

The door swung open and he was escorted to the casualty ward to be examined before joining the group. He was the first loser in a rapid string of other losers who fell over chairs. Some slipped on banana skins, rammed their heads against thick wooden cupboards. Tripped over holes to fall on knives and broken bottles, much to the anguish of those watching it on their TV screens at home.

Did they really want to watch this show, or was it the enormity of the prize and the hype that compelled them to suffer alongside the challengers? After each round, those who gave up after skating on the treacherous floor emerged like war casualties. Their perfectly tailored suits and dresses were stained with blood and patches of black oil, their hair in disarray. The look of defeated men and women was displayed for all to witness on a grand scale. Was it greed or insanity that drove these people to take up this "mission impossible" with all the pain and risk of death? One was carried out on a stretcher. He fell and was knocked unconscious when his head was crushed by a heavy metallic pole that tumbled down with him. The spectators jolted in unison as if they experienced the cold, heavy steel smack their own skulls.

Nevertheless, the contestants were able to share their ordeal and talk about their helplessness once outside. But this did not provide any useful tactics or hindsight to the remaining two dozen still to undergo the Dark Room treatment.

One by one, they were eliminated with such alacrity that the whole world was ready to cry out, "SCAM!" No one could ever succeed walking in the Dark Room, they concluded. No one!!! But suddenly, the last contender's name was called. She jumped in with a smile and displayed an unusual degree of confidence and grace. She even waved at the panel of jurists and the audience before the door swung open and the darkness swallowed her.

Once in the Dark Room, she took off her dress and carefully hung it on the door knob. She then undid her Wonderbra, took off her ring, and tied it to the bra while the audience watched with intrigue. What could this woman be doing?

The woman then placed her right hand firmly on the wall next to the door and started walking slowly while her left hand swung the bra in a forward movement as if to shoo away flies. "Flies in the room? No, you dummy," reflected one member of the jury. The woman was using her bra-ring to identify possible UFOs in her way! "Hey, that is her nunchaku against the big, bad boards barring her route," thought another. With each swing, she gained more distance and momentum with her feet, while her right hand remained firmly planted on the wall.

The wall was her chief guide round the room, and the bra her radar! Thus, she was able to predict her immediate future whenever the ring encountered an object. She would also know for sure that when she again touched her unblemished dress on the door, she would be impeccably clothed again, and would emerge to collect the billion-dollar prize.

She was now topless. "Who cares! It is pitch-black in here. Nobody will see a thing," the woman thought. She was not aware that an inquisitive infra-red camera was zooming in on her lovely pair of $\underline{**}!$ The most famous $\underline{**}$ in the world were now making everyone forget there ever was a contest. One could see smiles lighting up, spanning the globe from cheek to cheek.

As the woman continued to advance, cheers broke out. Jaws dropped in utter amazement at the uncanny strategy that she deployed. Guys hoped that it was just an ordinary ring, not a *wedding* ring, that was tied to that bra. Keep hoping, guys!

When she was finally proclaimed the winner of the World Billion Dollar

Contest, she had this to declare during an hour-long interview: "You may not realize it yet, but you are all in the Dark Room. Every minute of the day! Every time you worry, are impatient, angry or discouraged, you are hitting one of those objects in your Dark Room, which is your subconscious mind!

"You and I are constantly in our thoughts! Aren't we? That is equivalent to walking non-stop! How many hours do we 'walk' in our subconscious minds? Do we ever stop thinking? No, we don't. We have been slipping on delusions and banging into hard blocks of data, bleeding emotionally and psychologically. We have no solid guidelines to help us proceed through the darkness in our minds!

"You need a solid guideline, as I had the wall, to pull through life and to focus on the immediate future, not wander aimlessly. Contrary to how it might seem, living day-by-day does not prevent you from seeing the long-term future and planning for it. It is simply managing paradox. You do not want long-term planning to strangle your ability to adapt to reality – to what is happening right now or in the very near future. For instance, when my ring hit an obstacle, I would immediately react by changing my course."

When she was questioned about her motive as to why she entered the contest, she replied that she loves challenges. She loves experiences. And quoting Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, she said: **"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience."** Then she added, "And I am here on Earth for the experience!"

Boy, what can you say, but ask what she was going to do with that billion dollars on Earth? "Give it away!" she shot back. "All of it?" "Yes!" But why? Well, ever since she read "*How To Feel Like a Billionaire – Without A Dime In Your Pocket*!" she has been feeling like a billionaire! "A happy billionaire," she intoned.

Next came a cheeky remark from a member of the jury: "Did you know that we were able to enjoy the harmonic movements of those lovely <u>**</u> while you were swinging your nunchaku?"

She was pleased that he found them lovely. "You know, they are not mine! This entire body is on loan to me. I can lose it at any time, just as I can lose all other material things like my house, my car and this ring!" (Keep hoping guys, she could lose that ring.)

The audience was now sitting on the edge of their seats with eyes and ears popping in all directions and not wanting to miss a word she said. They spent hours in anguish watching 99 mortals from 99 countries struggle to win that billion and now they had in front of them someone who could be from another planet. Whatever her name was, and it was unpronounceable, we simply called her The Champ. The name of her country was equally unpronounceable. Asked where her country was located, she replied that it was somewhere on Earth. So The Champ is an earthling, made of flesh and blood. But others still thought: What is this ET trying to tell us? They were thrown back by her nonchalance and they were getting really hungry to know more. Though many felt empathy with the contestants who suffered all the way until they emerged from darkness, they themselves wanted to know immediately how to get out of their own Dark Rooms.

"Hey, I am no Superwoman," the Champ reassured everyone. "It's dead simple. Can you guys turn your head from left to right and back again? OK, do it now." To see thousands of synchronized head turns on gigantic movie screens throughout the world was a rare sight. Even those watching the World Billion Dollar Contest in faraway auditoriums followed the wave of turning heads.

"What is she trying to get us to do?" Many wondered, but few disobeyed when she again instructed the audience to turn their heads to the right. "OK, when your head is turned to the right, you are out of your Dark Room and into the light. You can see things around you. So focus on a few objects intently as if you are seeing them for the first time." Many who were political leftists groaned. They were not happy! They could only see light on the left and had to be reassured that they can choose either way to represent the light.

"OK," she continued. "The right turn..." (we hear that groan again) "would mean you are turning to the present here and now. You can turn your head to the left as long as you are focused on past or on future positive data or experiences. But the second you get hit with negative emotions or feelings, you should turn your head back to the right, and be here and now! And leave the Dark Room that is filled with subconscious illusions.

"Yes, your thoughts are illusions! If you think you can or cannot do something, you are bathing in your illusions, because you have not yet proven them through your actions to be facts or reality." The audience was reeling back. So, they had just discovered that all of their lives were nothing but series of illusions. Now, that is tough medicine. Some countered the observation with cynicism. Does she know what the hell she is talking about? Nobody loves admitting that they can be wrong.

The woman continued. "In the subconscious mind are spontaneous thoughts of the past and the future. If you regret having done something yesterday, then you are dwelling in the past. The past is gone and is now a passive 'illusion' having no correlation with the present. It is just a thought or series of random thoughts that can trigger regrets, discouragement or sheer unhappiness.

"Now, if you worry about tomorrow, you are projecting into the future. The future is also an illusion, as no one knows for sure what's going to happen or if he or she will be alive to see another day. All thoughts of the past and the future are just passive illusions with which you collide while in the Dark Room or your subconscious mind.

"However, not all illusions are negative. If you had a series of happy events last week, your passive illusions could influence your outlook today, making you more cheerful. But what if you had lost your job last week? How would you deal with a negative past situation which can influence you to feel as if you are at a funeral today?"

To illustrate a passive illusion, she took the example of Ted, a salesperson who had to knock on one hundred doors, one door per day. There were three major potential clients needing the product that he had to offer. The first was at the 51st door, the second at the 73rd door and the third at the 82nd door. The combined orders from these three potential clients would have largely broken his sales record for the year. But Ted was swimming in his passive illusions. When he reached the 51st prospect, he had only 50% confidence in himself after he had experienced "No, we are not interested," for the past 50 doors.

If he had turned his head to the right after leaving each door, he would have been living in the present and discovering that after each experience, he still had time. He still had energy. And with these two precious resources – time and energy – he could create new opportunities and start afresh as he did when he knocked on the very first door with 100% confidence. Imagine Ted appearing on the 51st door with 100% of his confidence and enthusiasm intact after 50 refusals! This is what makes for success. The woman reminded those who were still skeptic by invoking Winston Churchill: "Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm."

"No matter what happened in your life, you must put your counter back to zero and set new objectives in action. Of course, this would mean turning your head again to the left, but you would then have greater control as your thoughts towards the future are focused and not random. And if you have a strong guideline, such as the wall in the Dark Room, you would eventually reach your goal. This left/right head turning exercise is also one way to control your negative emotions.

Each day, millions get crushed by Bob, the Boss of bosses, which is the ultimate reality they are facing. Instead of adapting to change they hit their heads against the wall with their bleeding desires.

Bob stands for **B**oss of **b**osses or Ultimate Reality. Ultimate Reality is not what you want it to be, or what it should be, but what is – whatever is happening this very moment before your eyes.

Whether the stocks are up or down, the wind going your direction on the pavement or against you, is a REALITY – or Bob manifesting itself. To get ahead in life you will need to dance with Bob. Or get stepped all over by Bob's hefty feet."

"By shifting and focusing on the moment, you would be mastering illusion. All thoughts of the past and of the future are illusions. However, if you are in the process of changing your behavior," she pointed out, "or trying something new, you are into your active illusion. Whatever illusion you create and put into action will be your reality, as you will be mentally and physically living the



experience. Furthermore," she reminded us, "we are the sole producer, director and actor of our own life."

The audience wanted to know what else the woman had learned. Which illusion was she currently living in? Was she not afraid that she could fall victim like the 99 other contestants who preceded her? Moreover, would she still have won if she had been amongst the first to enter that room?

She admitted that she probably would have lost if she had happened to be amongst those whose names were called first. She would not have been aware of the degree of danger, of the oil, the eggs and the knives scattered on the floor. There were serpents and huge spiders hanging from the wall. Though they were rendered harmless, those who came into contact with them were completely freaked out. It was a collective experience, so it was no big deal for the final contestant to have won the contest. She relied on the experiences of others to teach her what not to do. She had succeeded through deduction, strategic reasoning and firm conviction that it could be done. She felt that if it had been impossible for anybody to succeed in the contest, then this event would never have been organized on such a scale with billions watching.

Questions from a teenage girl in Nicaragua came next: "Do you have any hobbies? How do you survive and succeed today in this world?" The woman answered that she does have some hobbies like everyone else, but nothing worth recounting. As to the second question, here is the startling response from The Champ: "How do I survive? I don't! I'm dead... and alive! If you can call it a hobby, then this is one of my hobbies. It is super-ghosting! I materialize and dematerialize at will. When I materialize, I am alive. When I dematerialize, I am dead, a ghost, and nothing is important!

"You know, when you are dead and become a ghost, you cannot lick that delicious ice-cream cone on a hot summer day, but as super-ghost you can, because you have the power to materialize. That is the only difference between super and ordinary ghosts.

"Imagine that you are now dead and have become a ghost. You are sitting on a side-walk café in this *active* illusion you created. No one can see or talk to you. You are invisible to people around you. You have no access to your friends, members of your families or even the waiter standing in front of you. You're DEAD! How important is your career, job, business, projects, pets, or the ton of worries you carried on your back, now that you are a ghost?

"When dead, you are free of the worldly burdens and feel as light as a feather." The audience was bewildered. Some people were shaking their heads. The majority did not want to be ghosts! "True, we do not want to be ordinary ghosts, but as a super-ghost, you have the power to materialize and to be born again," she cried into the mic. "That is exactly how you would feel by turning your head to the right: born again into the present to experience life anew!

"Humanity has recently been driven left into the Dark Room. We are no longer

living in the present and discovering the beauty of things around us, but constantly running into blocks of information. Some of this information could frustrate or kill us."

The Champ warned, "Unless you are able to identify what is blocking your way, you will never be able to advance and reach your objectives." The CEO of a multi-national company who was currently experiencing total precariousness agreed with The Champ's observation. He thought "There is so much uncertainty in the hidden future. And you have only one choice: imagine the worst or the best. This is tantamount to creating your own *active* illusion in the Dark Room. Without this ability, you slip and you are out," he concluded.

"So what are some of these blocks of information or barriers," queried the interviewer. The Champ answered, "One nasty sword that can slice you in half if you fall on it, is 'What are they going to think?' How many times have you been cut by this sword lately? If I had been afraid of going topless and wondered 'What are they going to think,' then I would never have won this contest."

She was right. And we would be the poorer without this interview and the sheer pleasure of watching her snake through that dark torture chamber with wonderful skill and agility.

The show's broadcast time was running out. But nobody was leaving! It was past midnight. Questions were still being fired from all corners of the globe. Is she married? What does she think of abortion? Is she gay? "Can I invite you to dinner?" This last question came from a multi-billionaire. Where will she be vacationing next summer? Will there be a currency war? Do you believe in God, reincarnation, the power of money, ignorance...

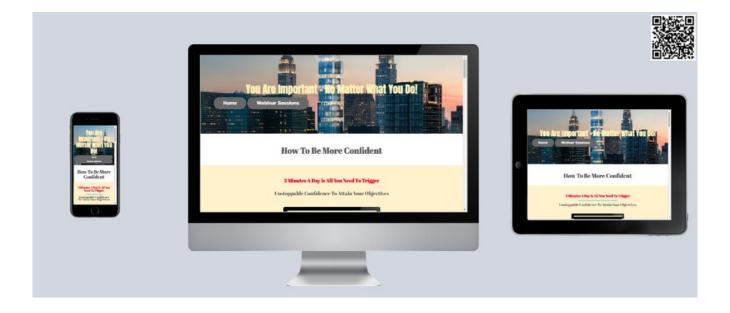
Author: "I need to stop this article here, otherwise it is going to be too long for some ezines to publish. So, I hope you enjoyed this fictitious contest. I must apologize about The Champ: it is going to be hard for anyone to locate her, as she was created in my Dark Room and disappeared into obscurity once I decided to end this paragraph.

"Good luck with your real adventures!"



The sky is the limit

Increase Spectacularly Your Chances to Attain Your Objectives





Dan Low, a self-improvement and behavioral expert at SelfGrowth.com, is also a veteran corporate trainer. He spent 30+ years helping individuals control negative emotions and life situations through Eastern / Western behavioral modification techniques. His book "*The Art of Self-Combat*" was published in France in 2002 by Pearson Education.

Full French/English bio: http://www.maximizeyourpotential.info/bio.html

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> 3 Rue Albert Walter, 93430 Villetaneuse – FRANCE Tel.: +33 1 48 26 29 64 / Cell: +33 6 08 07 52 09 <u>https://www.maximizeyourpotential.info</u> <u>https://www.weeweenoo.com</u>