

The Journey

**a story of the events
that changed my life forever**



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Adrift

I am adrift.

I am in this little boat, about the size of a life boat of a big cruise ship. It has no rudder; no sails. I am all alone, and around me the ocean stretches as far as the eye can see. Every once in a while there is a big wave.

That is scary. I see the water towering over me, and there is nothing I can do...

I am thirsty, but for all the water of the ocean - there is no water I can drink. I look around in all directions, yet there isn't even the slightest hint at any land that might be somewhat near. And no ships either, not even at the horizon.

I am hungry, but even though I can see the fish swimming by - and they are plentiful - I have no means of catching them. Not a bird in the sky...

I am all alone and I am adrift.



That is when I wake up. My heart is pounding in my chest and my breathing is irregular. I roll over on my back. And looking at the ceiling I recapture the dream. Most of it is gone already, but one statement is locked in my mind to the extent that I can't seem to shake it: "I'm adrift, and there is nothing I can do about it".

Luckily this was just a dream. Or maybe a nightmare.

It is almost time to get up. And pretty soon I settle in the familiar routine of taking my shower, making my big cup of coffee, and checking my email. Opening my inbox I find some eight emails, something I have come to expect with a lot of my friends living at six to nine hours time difference. Two are newsletters. I glance over the contents of the first. Longer than usual, but nothing that really grabs me today.

I open the other one. It tells about this must-see video and lists the url. Curious now, I click to the mentioned site. I don't like videos. I feel like they are invading my space. But I can always 'not click on the video' right?

Wrong.

A blue 'Avatarish, but not quite' face appears, that transforms into a surprisingly normal person after the first ten seconds or so. And he offers his book for free. I have no clue who he is, but he's got my attention now.

So I sign up, and ten minutes later I am reading the first chapter of the downloaded e-book: 'Get Paid For Who You Are'. I read another paragraph here and there, and then proceed to send the link on to a number of friends.

Little did I know that signing up and downloading the book would be the start of a life changing journey..

Swept up in the current

It is dawn, and it is foggy. Very foggy.

The fog makes the now familiar sounds of the water against the small boat sound different. Almost like I am moving. I look out over the water, but the fog closes in, and I can't see very far...

I feel a slight breeze on my face. I turn to face it. My little boat is definitely moving! The sun is climbing higher, and the fog is slowly lifting.

And my boat is now racing along the current.

I have no idea where these currents will bring me. It could even bring me even further out onto the ocean - even further away from land. Yet, after having been adrift for so long, it seems any movement can only be good...



Suddenly I am wide awake. Where did that thought come from? I remember the sensation of movement from the dream, but what was it about?

An hour later, I have my coffee at hand, my powerbook on my lap, and I am watching yet another video.

I have watched a lot of videos lately. In each video the red haired host prods and guides me into action. It is time to get on with it. But to get on with what? And how do I do that? And what do I hope to accomplish?

Come to think about it ~ what are my hopes and dreams at this point in my life? How long will I continue to use my financial situation as an excuse to stay stuck?

It is time to take inventory of where I am in my life, how I got here ~ and furthermore, how I will move on from here.

As I am reading the blogs that have been posted, I am by no means the only person who has come to that conclusion.

I am discovering that I like to read the reactions of others. And to react to what they are writing. Pretty soon I find myself not just checking this blog in the morning, but I go back to it several times each day; enjoying the energy that is building.

The positive reinforcement of one another; feedback from people I don't even know..

It is beginning to take up a lot of my time.

Time, that our enthusiastic mentor tells us in yet another video, that may be better spend taking action...

I hear birds

The breeze is as good as gone. And although with every wave the surface of the ocean seems to change, the scenery has little variation.

I am laying down on the bottom of this boat, watching the sky and wondering how I got here. I have grown accustomed to the constant movement of the waves. There is nothing I can do to make them stop moving - all I can do is make sure I won't fall out of this boat.

The boat itself is being pushed around by the waves. It can't even react - all it can do is to roll with the punches.

Shreeeeeeee...

What is that? There it is again - shreeeeeeee... I sit up and look around. Slightly to my right there are seagulls soaring on the air. Shreeeeeeee...

When there are birds, land cannot be too far away. I am getting excited at the prospect, and I get up to see... Yet wherever I turn to, there is just water.

The only sign of hope are the birds.

Shreeeeeeee... shreeeeeeee...



I roll over and turn off the alarm clock. It certainly is effective, but its shrieking sound may cause me to buy another one with a less irritating ring to it.

Today is the day!

Today I will not only read the whole book, I will take notes and see what I can do right now to get started.

I have finally made my decision. I will begin to do things differently. What I have been doing isn't working for me - or I wouldn't have found myself stuck in the situation I am in, while people are calling on me to do their work for them - without me getting paid for it.

How did I never see how wrong this is?

I want to get paid for who I am!

Finally, land

Suddenly I realize that the rhythm is different.

The boat is decidedly moving to a different rhythm. I take a deep breath. Could this really be true? Could I finally have reached land?

The scent in the air is different too.

I listen to the sounds. The sounds are more varied...

Do I dare hope? Slowly I turn around, and... yes! Out there, I can see the shore! It doesn't even seem to be all that far away.

And slowly but surely, the little boat seems to float closer to it. I see people walking on the shoreline. Frantically I start waving my arms. They only notice me as the boat is close enough to shout to them and be heard...

Moments later I step onto the safe, non-moving, solid ground.



I yawn and stretch. A look at the clock tells me that it is later than I had wanted to get up. Not a whole lot that can be done about that anymore... The only thing left is to make the most of the rest of the day.

And I have big plans for today!

I will register the domain names I want for the business I will set up. And I will take inventory.

It is new territory for me. Not altogether a stranger to websites etc. registering the domain names is an adventure all its own.

As is taking inventory.

What are my strengths and my weaknesses. What is working for me, and where can I improve? What do I need to succeed? What do I need to invest in?

Taking an honest look at myself is not necessarily as easy as it is enlightening.

I decide to sign up. Again.

In this latest video, our host and mentor promises to take us step by step through the process of what we would need to do to get paid for who we are.

And I can use all the help I can get!

The journey begins

People are gathering. It doesn't seem entirely clear what is going to happen - or where to go. But there is a great sense of anticipation...

Then, as if guided by an inner compass, everybody starts moving in the same direction. Some are running, while others are still apprehensive, as the path seems to lead us away from the ocean, and into the hills.

And pretty soon we have left the village behind as well...

And as the path gets a little steeper, helping hands reach out to those who have trouble keeping up.

It is not like this path was never taken... It is more like there have never been this many footsteps on this path all at once. And all separate footsteps together, are beginning to sound like a drumbeat.

I want to follow the beat of that drum...



I open my eyes, and my heart is beating in my throat!
I swallow, and take a couple of deep breaths. It is then
that I realize the drum in the dream, and my
heartbeat are one and the same!

It is very clear now, I need to follow my heart's
desires.

And from somewhere deep inside me there is a
knowing that our host is right! His program is the
helping hand I have been so desperately searching for.

Yet, between getting up and making myself a cup of
coffee - doubt sets in. Dozens of 'what if's' are
running around in my head.

What if I can't make a conference class? 3 AM is
awfully early.

What if I won't be able to keep up? Will I loose track?

What if I won't reach my goal? What if...

I take a sip of coffee and resolutely push all the doubts
from my mind.

So what?

At least I am not stuck anymore! I am on the move, and chances are pretty good I am moving in the right direction!

Time to create some structure in the jumble of my activities and start answering the questions 'Who?', 'How?', and 'What?'.

The climb

The group is smaller. Some seem to have given up, while others have decided to take a different direction. I look around me and see how everybody seems to be connected. The connections are personal and unique.

*Then I see that ahead of me the path seems to stop at the bottom of a cliff. The rock face is beautiful. Slowly my eyes go up from the bottom to the top.
It is a long way.*

*Then I see an eagle soaring high above the cliff, and its eery call is heard by all of us...
Everybody moves closer to the cliff, and in pairs or small groups we start finding our way up.
From foothold to foothold, ever higher.*

*Never look back.
The higher we climb, the greater the sense of excitement...
Never look back.
I can see the top of the cliff now...
Always look ahead, never look back...*



The first rays of sunlight are touching my face ~ too bright to open my eyes immediately. Then I feel whiskers tickling my face as my cat quietly tries to get me to the kitchen to feed it.

It must be later than I thought...

The steps of the program are easy to follow. They make sense. And I wonder, why have I never looked at what I desire my life to look like; what I need out of life, in this manner?

I have friends, but this is the first time I have a Buddy! And how great is it to work together while walking our individual, yet similar paths...

The words of the dream come back to me; always look ahead, never look back...

Time to change!

And in order to make those changes happen, a lot remains to be done!

The weekly assignments we get from our host and teacher put on top of the regular work that still needs to be done to pay the bills, make me wish there were more hours in a day.

A lot more hours...

At least I now have a sense of where I am going, and the conviction that I will get there!

Yes!

Made it!

Almost. Almost there...

Encouraging words are all around me. You can do it!

Deep inside me I have a sense that I should know where I am going. There seems to be an inner voice whispering promises for the future...

A couple more steps - helping hands reach out to me and pull me up. I made it!

I am standing on top of the cliff. I can see an open landscape that stretches for miles and miles in front of me.

Behind me is darkness.

Close by a fire is started. There is food and cold drinks are served. A celebration.

More and more people arrive.

There are stories, and laughter, and plans for the future.

From here, all paths are wide open...

The big, quiet shadow of an owl circles the celebration, curiously, before flying off. The hunt is on...



A new day and a new start!

There is time now to catch up on everything I didn't do over the past period of time. And more importantly, to do all the things that will move me forward on my path!

First I will treat myself to coffee and Dutch apple pie. Do you want whipped cream with that? Yes, yes, yes! Absolutely!

I have come such a long way! This is the time to celebrate!

It is one of the many wise lessons I have learned from our host, mentor and teacher, David Wood: Celebrate your accomplishments.

I thought I signed up for a short series of classes teaching internet marketing skills.

What I got was a six-week-course that changed all aspects of my life!

It has pushed me into taking action. It has helped me to face my challenges, and to overcome them.

To discover how I can express who I am, and in doing so help others...

I still have a lot to do ~ but I have created the foundation to build upon. Every step I'll take from here will help me to get paid for who I am...

And maybe most important ~ to celebrate life itself!

Also visit Anne Claire's blog 'Thinking Out Loud'

<http://anneclaires.blogspot.com/>

&

<http://www.cheiron-wellness.com/>

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