

Will-Power: and success or failure...

From Talks with Ramana p.390

Q: I try to gain will-power. After several years I am where I started. No success. How do I gain will-power?

R: Your idea of willpower is success. Will-power should be understood to be the strength of mind which makes it capable of meeting success or failure with equanimity. It does not mean certain success. Why should one's action always be attended with success? Success developed develops arrogance and us can be in the way of progress spiritually. Failure on the other hand can be beneficial insofar as it opens the eyes of the person to their limitations and prepares them to surrender (and to ask for help.) Self-surrender is synonymous with happiness. Therefore one should look to gain equipoise of mind under all circumstances. That is real will-power. Again one person may be doing only good and yet prove a failure. Another may do quite otherwise and yet seem successful. What is important is the state of mind, to be unmoved by the outcome. That is real will-power. (That is also aligning with the cosmic will.)

Jacob Beilhart "Love Letters: From *Spirit To You*" (excerpts)

1) Why do you not let Me carry all your burdens? For to Me they would not be burdens, but would change to pleasant agreeable actions.

4) Know this: You cannot receive Me as I am until you have been made ready by experiences. And you cannot fail to receive Me the very instant you are made ready. It is not a matter of My choice, nor is there any arbitrary will in the matter. It is growth, and there is no such thing as your being either neglected or favored.

6) What need you do to hasten matters? Nothing. You can do no more than the photographic plate referred to. You must submit. Then why do I write to you? Because this is part of the process. Do you not believe that this paper coming to you, is just as much a part of your experience as was your birth into physical life? Do you not know that all that is said or done to you in every way and in all things is a part of My development with you? I know you think you must sit in the silence to be unfolded, but this is the result of your intellect. You unfold more by coming in contact with things that stir your temper, and cause you to become impatient, than you do while you hide away from the noise and vexations of life.

16) O beloved, I come to you who are thoroughly convinced you have failed in business as a self. I come to compare books. I have furnished you with your capital, and started you in business. You used up your daily allowance, and your debts have outweighed your credits, and now you must go into bankruptcy.

Have you made a failure? Yes and no. A failure as far as being a success as a self, but a glorious success in so much as you did all I desired you to do--you found out the utter inability of your living without Me. You not only need My Life, but you need Me constantly to live it.

Yes, you have succeeded in all I have intended; for your failure to succeed, and to learn that you could not succeed, is the success I intended.