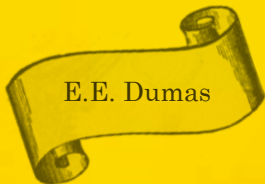




UNEMPLOYMENT
FOR FUN AND PROFIT
OR
MAKING THE BEST OF THE WORST



The “Path of Awesomeness” Manifesto

I believe everyone has the potential to be more awesome. There is no upper limit to awesomeness, and so there is no reason we should stop striving to be more awesome.

The “Path of Awesomeness” series has been written to show you the many different ways you can take steps toward boosting your ever-expanding awesomeness.

I hope you find the series helpful as you discover and develop the awesome person you are and will be.

Sincerely Enthused,
Your Friendly Author



The overabundance of time:

What a funny predicament unemployment is. When you have a job you can't wait to have free time, but when you all you have is free time you don't know what to do with it.

I'm here to say that unemployment is a skill, and it's no surprise that for the newly job-bereft the skill of personal time-management has atrophied. Having a great day is possible, but it takes some practice.

For all of you who are unemployed, or find yourselves with too little work and too much time, this zine is for you. Fear not, there's much to be gained from this new-found wealth of time.

Pastimes take on new meaning:

I discovered that all my favorite relaxing evening and weekend activities started to lose meaning when performed in the middle of the day. A funny movie, an action filled video game, or even a run in the park became tedious. It was time to discover new joys.

If your favorite activities solely existed to relieve stress of your work, they won't quite have the same oomph because you won't have the same levels of stress to relieve.

It's time to find new things to derive pleasure from, and that's why treating unemployment as a scientific experiment is key. There are new joys to seek out!

How a day gets in shape:

- Walk to the park with notebook in tow.
- During walk, observe only of what's around me, reserve brainstorming for later.
- Find a park bench or shady spot, start thinking of the day ahead.
- Set a few goals I can reach, and maybe add a couple more for good measure.
- Think of household chores that make me feel accomplished.
- Think of creative projects that make me feel smart.
- Think of rewards I can use as breaks between action.
- Now head back home and get to work!

The value of morning walks:

A nasty problem arises when you spend too much time in the home. You lose sense of perspective, and the world shrinks to a size that fits the confines of your walls.

Losing a sense of the world around only makes you feel more lonely. Thankfully there's an easy and cheap fix for this just outside your door!

Go for a walk in the morning, when it's cool and before the bustle of the day starts. Keep an eye out for new sights, take time to smell everything, and be sure to listen to any songbirds. You will be amazed how rich and full of wonder your surroundings are.

If you don't know, ask:

If you don't know what you want to do next in your life, being unemployed is the best time to find out! All you need is a phone and the internet and you're set.

I dreamed up a list of every neat sounding job I could think of, from Private Investigator to Whiskey Distiller and then I went online to find people who had these awesome jobs.

All you have to do is feel brave enough to talk to strangers who do exciting things, and ask them for a moment to chat about what they do. You'll not only learn about the job, but you'll discover what you're excited about through these conversations!

Projects are great in pairs:

Not only will you crave a feeling of accomplishment in your day, but you'll also desire socializing. You can satisfy both of these needs with a collaborative project!

Maybe you've got a friend who is also unemployed, or perhaps you know someone who has a free evening now and again. Start by brainstorming things you could design or build together, the list will be longer than you know!

Creative accountability to each other will power you through it, and you'll have some rich productive time to reflect on afterwards.

Go out there and make great things!

Why it's difficult to decide what to do:

You've probably experienced this before: You're sitting on a couch, wondering what to do, and nothing sounds interesting. But once you're up and active, you feel great!

If you're in a state of rest, you will find it difficult to imagine what a state of action feels like, and thus it won't sound appealing. The real difficulty lies with the predicting part of your brain.

Challenge your brain by approaching activities with curiosity, and not trying to imagine if they'll be fun or not. Our ability to predict fun isn't as accurate as we think.

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- Is Your Job Keeping You From Your Art?
- How to Not Fear Your Computer
- How to Spread the Joy

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