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Prompt 4

### Is Talent Overrated?

What leads to success: sacrificing and hard work, or through sheer luck? More often than not, people think that hard work and sacrifices are the only factors that drives them toward success. Unfortunately, that is not the case since luck can be what ultimately drives someone towards success. One can work long and hard, thinking that they will succeed, only to find no opportunities or open doors towards success.

In the case of horseracing, the debate is between good training vs good genetics. I believe that both take a large part in success. The horse might have a good trainer, good training sessions, great nutrition, and be in great shape to win races, but the horse's body might not be made for racing because it is too small or too large, might have an underdeveloped heart, lungs, or muscles, or the horse might get sick or injured accidentally out of nowhere because of a weak immune system or weak bones. Racing with weak bones are one of the worst things a horse can do because there is a high probability of the horse ending its career. The point here is that both hard work and genetics are important for a horse to win races and most importantly, succeed.

Previously, I have stated that both genetics and hard work are both important, but if I had to choose one of the two, I would say that hard work is the more important one. This is because even with bad genetics, the horse can still have a good trainer, and will have a good possibility of winning many races and succeed. If the horse had godlike genetics, the best possible body a horse could have, but it is not trained enough or even neglected by its "trainer", then the horse

will not be able to perform nearly as well as the horse with bad genetics but with good training. When it comes to genetics vs hard work/talent, they are both important factors, but hard work carries more weight when it comes to importance. Hard work carries 60 to 70 percent of the weight and genetics carries about 30 to 40 percent. (This is an opinion, so these numbers might not be accurate.)

The beliefs that I am displaying in this response applies in many situations, but not all. These situations include nature and the animals, to many situations humanity encounters in life, from athletics to careers. In the case of nature and animals, this belief does not apply much here since the animals are slightly trained to escape any potential predators, so they depend mostly on how their body is and how they are built. The better the genetics, the better are the chances that those animals will survive. This is where the idea of “the survival of the fittest” comes from. The “fittest” are those who have the best genetics out of their species. Those individual animals are the ones who are going to thrive. Take plants as another example. They are unable to work hard or have talent; they are plants. They may have genetics that make them have thorns, or chemicals that may harm or even kill animals that eat them.

When it comes to humans, things are a little different. In sports and athleticism, genetics still play a large role in success, but hard work is also very important to achieve goals and records. An example here is bodybuilding. A taller person will have a better chance of being stronger while having a good physique. This is because there is a larger space for muscle to grow, which leads to more muscle mass. In careers, or even in college, it is a bit more different still. Hard work is a bit more important than “genetics” or in this case, luck. People who don’t put in the effort in studying will most probably land them working at a job where they will not be

satisfied. Of course, luck plays an important role. An example is if people get accepted to a job or at a university.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that luck/genetics are involved in success. They are both important. One factor complements the other and work together to drive people or animals to success. The amount of importance of each factor depends on the situation or scenario given. This generalized belief applies to pretty much everything in this world. Everyone either have encountered many situations of these types, are encountering them right now, or will encounter them in the future. One thing is for sure: success is not guaranteed, so there are going to be times where we are not going to succeed. We don't know when we will fail, but when we do, it is just a part of working hard and another step towards success.