

Impossible is possible. Technology management subconscious

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Principle 1. Condemning harms you. You urgently need to stop condemning.

The uncontrolled striving to do good leads inevitably to the

destruction of everything you have managed to achieve.

The first principle of a successful life is quite simple. It addresses the fact that:

If you disagree with something, you will unconsciously seek out, in yourself or in people around you, that with which you disagree. And you will attempt to correct it.

Why we behave like that we will investigate later on. But it's a fact that we do. Possibly, because the ideas which we spend so much time fighting for so heroically are in themselves usually very good.

We have expectations

What are we talking about here? About the simplest and best of our expectations. For example, that people should be honest. Or decent (helpful, not selfish, not louts, not treacherous) and so on.

Or that people are rational beings with whom one can come to an agreement by talking. Without the need to threaten or fight or resort to any other sort of coercion.

Or is it such a bad idea that you should look beautiful? Or weigh so many kilograms and no more? Actually a very laudable expectation.

Or that you should earn a decent wage, to enable you to have a decent standard of living.

And so on.

Good ideas? No doubt. But how many difficulties they bring with them?! Not all of them of course, but definitely one or two of them. Perhaps not the ones just referred to, but some others, certainly.

What precisely is the problem with them?

The problem is that:

By having one or three or five or ten idea-expectations which are very important to you, you will be repeatedly dragged into the struggle to realize them.

The whole of life is a struggle

Who are you struggling against?

Most likely the **people around you – it's easier to get at them**. Children, parents, brothers or sisters, other relatives. Colleagues at work, bosses or subordinates. If they don't behave in the way you consider they should, you will quickly embark on the struggle to get them to mend their ways.

This struggle might be external, that is, you open your mouth and tell another person how he ought to behave. Furthermore, you talk in an energetically charged and emotional way, using the full range of your linguistic and vocal skills and sometimes employing physical force to enhance your credibility.

If you've been very well brought up and cannot bring yourself to communicate aggressively, you will achieve all the same ends, but silently, in your imagination.

It's easiest to struggle with yourself

Another very **convenient object to struggle with is yourself**. You're always in the right place to uncover any defects or a couple of small blemishes in yourself. How could you miss the opportunity to take yourself on? Of course you couldn't.

The struggle with yourself or people in your immediate environment creates the illusion that you can change something. But certain masochists choose to struggle against things over which they have absolutely no control – with traffic jams, officials, bureaucrats, bribe-takers, inert governments and stupid people in general. Certainly it's

possible to have some effect on these, but that would require single-minded, constructive efforts. Certain people do make such efforts – but we are not interested in them here.

We'll only be examining those who **in reality don't do anything, but simply address the situation by foaming with rage, furiously condemning all those "idlers" and "embezzlers", and accumulating in their bodies a huge quantity of emotional pollution.**

But we ourselves should understand that when we get drawn into a struggle, our lives will be neither happy nor harmonious. What sort of harmony can you have, when you urgently need to explain to your husband how precisely he should bring up a child; or how much money he should earn; or that he should stop looking at other women when he goes out.

How can you have harmony in your soul, when your vile body weighs 15 kilos more than it should?

What sort of harmony can you have, when your idiot-boss doesn't give you appropriate work and still has the cheek to expect you to work for that derisory pittance he pays you?

And so on.

And in fact it is from such considerations that the first principle of a successful life follows. Whilst you have any sort of expectation which is very important to you, you'll be continually drawn into the struggle to realize it.

Struggle as an emotionally charged process, potentially giving you a feeling of being victorious, is always more interesting than a peaceful, harmonious life.

Thus, in our system of values the feeling of victory derived from putting the world around you to rights is valued more highly than the feelings which a peaceful and tranquil life can give you.

And as soon as we see our chance of enjoying the buzz of victory, we go for it. Usually we fail, but that **never deters us**. The hope of helping your neighbor improve himself will, as one says, be the last to die. And usually only dies when you do.

Again, features of our instinctive behavior are manifesting themselves here – we'll discuss them later.

How do we find a subject in need of correction?

And how do we get this particular sensation of victory? As a result of the struggle , of course.

Who are we struggling against? Anyone we don't consider to be behaving correctly.

How do we get access to him, this scoundrel, so that we can conquer him and force him to live as we think he should? We have to find him.

That means that **we initiate a search for someone whose behavior does not match up to our expectations**. We're looking for him all the time and in the end, of course, we find him.

Superficially this looks like a process in which we are literally taken over by people or situations demanding our immediate intervention.

In fact, it is we ourselves who literally seek out and impose on ourselves the people and situations which feature things which we categorically disagree with.

Obviously such a demanding occupation requires a massive input of our time, energy and everything else .

To correct faults in people around us we are prepared to sacrifice everything which is dear to us and which we earnestly strive for.

Struggle with your child

You've just had that precious child and you're happy? Excellent. But several years go by and you discover that he's not doing well enough (for what?) at school and you get absorbed in a struggle to improve his performance. It's easy to predict the result of this long struggle for your brilliant idea: you accumulate a mass of resentments towards each other, your relationship collapses, the child escapes from you at the earliest opportunity and tries to keep communication with you to a minimum. The desired relationship of trust with the person closest to you evaporates.

Struggle in the family

Or, let's say, you are a woman who has married for love (it does happen). You are enraptured by your chosen one, he's perfect for you, and you dream of this bliss lasting forever. **But after six months to a year you discover that your chosen one does not quite live up to your ideal.** On the whole, everything is going well, but the odd small defect needs to be corrected. For example, he allows himself the pleasure of a glass of wine after a hard day's work. Or he's too wrapped up in his work and doesn't give enough (in your view) time to his family. Or something else.

And with the best intentions you tell him that he should change. Naturally, he doesn't hear you, since from his point of view everything is fine.

Confronted with his failure to understand your impeccable intentions, you get a bit worked up and try to use force to get him to accept a conviction which is very important to you. Confronted with your pressure, he starts to defend his "correct" view of the world. After six months, a year or two years your happy family is in ruins.

Familiar picture? Here again certain pernicious philosophers have put into your mind the idea of "two halves" which are

destined to meet. You understand that you were mistaken and that your husband is not your “other half” and you decide you should look for another one. Instead of simply giving up your attempt to correct your dear man with your lectures. You had love, harmony, wonderful relations and ... your excessively important expectation, which in the end has destroyed your harmony.

We struggle at work

Or you had a brilliant job which gave you the income you desired and which you found genuinely interesting. But there was also the, for you, very important expectation that relations with people at work should be as they are in a loving family. But they, as if in spite, were not as sincere and open as you would have wished. They were simply efficient, which didn't satisfy you. With time you have lapsed into an inner state of chronic indignation, and the job you loved before has become a place of torture, although externally nothing has changed.

Does such a thing happen? Everywhere over and over again.

Examples of objects of struggle

What might they look like? You unconsciously create for yourself situations which will continually annoy you

- For example, you are very unhappy about your loneliness – it will pursue you.
- You condemn weak men (penniless, feeble) – they will bring you down.
- You condemn small incomes – for various reasons you will miss out on large incomes.
- You condemn idiots (can't stand on their own two feet, anxious, louts, and so on) – they'll literally stick to you.
- You condemn girls and want your baby to be a boy –you can probably guess what you'll end up with!!

You can continue the list yourselves

A statement by one of the participants in a training:

When I'm behind the wheel, I'm always getting worked up by the behavior of the idiots around me. They've bought the right, but not the ability, to drive.

And what really offends me is that these idiots have crashed into my car 11 times, so now it looks like a mangled up tin can. Maxim

From a letter of a female reader of the blog www.sviyasha.ru/blog (Russian language).

...Everything's going fine thanks to Alexander Grigorievitch's system, I'm going to the trainings, I'm improving my self-image and femininity, men are showing interest in me, but I'm still alone, I haven't got a life partner. So sometimes I'm still being gnawed at by that worm which tells me that if only I can meet the man who is perfect for me, then I'll be really happy.

But that's not yet the whole story. From Principle 1 there follows the Result:

Result 1

Result 1: Any closed group possesses an internal harmony. Deviation from a norm by one member of the group automatically leads to deviation from the norm in the opposite direction by another member of the group.

What does this mean? That if in a family one of the parents takes on him or herself all of the family tasks (and without noticing condemns "idlers") , then another member of the family will be consigned to idleness and leisure.

If one of the parents is obsessed with getting rich (and condemns people who live on others), then another member of

the family (usually a child) will obviously be attracted to philanthropy or the hippy way of life.

If one of the parents is pathologically honest (and condemns dishonest people), nothing remains to the child but to become a liar or even a kleptomaniac.

At this point you might recollect the kinds of seeming disharmony which exist in your family or at work.

What you condemn, you attract to yourself. That means that if someone in your social circle has characteristics which you disapprove of, **don't just rush in and denounce the scoundrel.** Look at yourself – perhaps **you yourself are ascribing excessive importance to a particular view of the world and are thereby literally forcing the other person to adopt the opposite position.**

Start with yourself

And perhaps the best means to resolve this situation is not to get absorbed in a long struggle with whoever offends against your ideal, but rather for you yourself to mitigate slightly the importance which your expectation has for you and thereby reduce the task

which you have laid on your opponent (usually someone close to you) – and give yourself more room for manoeuvre when denouncing the person who is behaving “incorrectly”.

That is, to start establishing harmony it is recommended that you change yourself rather than correct other people.

I think it unlikely that such a simple idea has not occurred to you at least once.

But such an idea on its own will not enable you to cope with all those expectations which have excessive significance for you, and it's not always possible to put the idea into practice.

And is the Subconscious involved here?

The Subconscious in these processes is the agent of your unconscious desires. You wish to prove to someone what sort of person they should be. Excellent, your Subconscious engineers the presence of people or situations in order that you can realize your wish. Quite inexplicably you surround yourself with those people with whom you are obliged to struggle.

Your Subconscious has carried out your unconscious, but absolutely real, "order".

Is there a way out?

Is there a way out of such a situation? Can we avoid getting embroiled in an endless struggle, which destroys everything which could make our life comfortable and successful?

Of course we can.

The way out is quite simple and consists in the following: **stop condemning that which does not correspond to your expectations. It doesn't correspond, so let it be. We didn't create this world, and it's not up to us to refashion it. No one and nothing is obliged to conform to your preconceptions.** Even if you have the most wonderful picture of how the world should be and are under the illusion that you can change anything.

Stop condemning, abandon the struggle, accept the world and yourself as you really are.

And then you can channel the time and energy thus released into creating rather than destroying – into creating a successful, harmonious and, as a result, happy life.

You've probably heard similar advice at least once. But nothing's changed as a result. Because how is it possible to "accept" a child with poor marks, a husband who likes drinking, intrusive parents, dim or lazy colleagues at work, a

boss who can't put himself "in your shoes", being "overweight"?

It's totally impossible. Instead you have the struggle and the endless worries; the inner conflicts, whether manifested or suppressed; the increased pressure, the illnesses, the feeling of despair or loneliness; depression because of your impotence to change

anything. Nicotine, alcohol, tranquillizers or having a talk with a "good person" help, but only for a time.

Simple advice such as "sod it all" or "accept the world as it is" sometimes work, but very rarely. We need a more effective **instrument**.

What shall we do?

Let's look at the instruments.

To start with it is absolutely essential that you identify those highly important expectations which can destroy (or have already long since been destroying) your life.

In our system they are called "idealizations".

An idealization is a kind of idea or expectation to which you ascribe excessive significance.

When the expectation is frustrated you have an unbearably strong urge to correct the situation, and so you automatically get absorbed in an inner or external struggle to re-establish "order".

We usually assimilate idealizations in clusters – of two, three or even more. As a result your life is transformed into a continuous search for and struggle against deviations from what you consider correct.

Despite the fact that your struggle does not usually lead to

the desired results, but probably the opposite, you never give up. You don't even notice, it's part of your life.

It doesn't occur to you to think about the question whether it's worth continuing to squabble with your parents, given that you've been in conflict with them for ten, twenty years and nothing has changed over that time.

It doesn't occur to you to stop condemning your "excess" pounds – you haven't managed to get rid of them, and yet you've wasted a large amount of your nervous energy, money and time struggling against them.

How do you put a stop to it, given that you obviously think you're right?!

But stop it you have to, otherwise a successful and happy life will get further and further out of your reach.

Let's expose our most precious expectations

Somehow we have to expose this secret enemy pretending to be your best guide on the path to the "correct" life.

To expose it , over a period of two to three months, you **need to write down ALL your feelings in a special form of Diary, a Diary of self-observations.**

This diary comprises three columns.

In the **left-hand column** you write down one of your feelings.

In the **middle column** you reveal the idealization which gave rise to your feeling. Initially you write down your expectation: how the situation should resolve itself in a way which you would satisfy you. And then draw a conclusion as to precisely which idealization led to your dissatisfaction.

In the **right-hand column** you commit yourself to henceforth remaining calm and positive when a similar state-of-affairs is

imminent.

Here's an example of someone doing this.

What happened

Which of my idealisations

led to the feeling

What I'm committed to in future

Today was my mother's birthday. I'd asked my husband beforehand not to be late, as we were going to visit her in the evening to wish her a happy birthday. But he didn't come back at 6pm as I had asked him and there was no reply on his mobile. I rang him at work and they told me he was on an urgent call-out. I had to go to my mother's on my own, I was extremely upset. He only arrived at mum's after 11 pm, when everyone was already leaving. It turns out that there was an emergency at work and he had to deal with it urgently. Although it seems the reason was serious, I still can't calm down.

Why do his emergencies always happen when he's needed for some important family matter?

It seems to me that he arranges them just to spite me.

I think that I will only be happy with the situation when my husband takes an interest in family matters and doesn't just live for work! Outside of work he doesn't need anything! I sometimes wonder why he got married. Though of course it wasn't he who took the initiative in the decision to get married and his work is very responsible. But all the same **the family should stand together**, and it's no use bringing in more important reasons. Nothing can be more important!

Probably, **I attach excessive importance to my family relationships**, and I always get upset when my husband yet

again fails to fulfil the elementary family obligations of father and husband.

No doubt, this is due to my exaggerated expectations of how a normal family should live. It's **an idealization of my model of family life**

Henceforth I commit myself to maintaining a completely calm attitude to situations in which my husband upsets my plans because of external circumstances.

I elect to concentrate on the virtues of my husband. He is a strong and responsible person, he loves me and my child, he cares about us and fully provides for us.

This morning a girl-friend rang me up and asked me to help her with the organization of her mother's funeral.

I know her mother's been ill for a long time, I even helped her get the occasional medicine. I promised to help and rang work to ask for a day off. But my manager didn't allow me to take time off, as we are actually run by a committee and I have to provide it with the necessary documents.

I took a stroll to ring my friend to say I wasn't able to help her. She said not to worry, she'd find a way round it, but I was tortured all day by a feeling of guilt . And I'm afraid it'll prey on my mind for a long time.

If I had helped my friend in her hour of need, everything would be alright. But I wasn't able to help her, admittedly because of circumstances beyond my control. That means I'm a bad friend.

Probably I entertain an **idealization (exaggeration) of my imperfection**. A good (perfect) friend is obliged ALWAYS to help, no matter what circumstances arise. And I couldn't. I am a bad person.

I forgive myself for not always being able to be perfect human

being. I accept and approve of myself under all circumstances.

I am always ready to help people around me . But if life turns out in such a way that I can't do something, this is not a reason for self-condemnation.

I accept and approve of myself in all situations.

As you can see, writing the Diary is quite simple, but **you have to do it regularly**. And then all your excessively important idea-idealizations will stand before you in all their glory.

You can write up your Diary in a notepad, but do it so that no one else can read it.

It's also possible to build up a file on a computer. And it's possible to use the site **Self-transformation Helper** www.selftrans.ru – there at step 4 you'll find a special form for the writing up of the Diary of self-observation and the subsequent working off of the idealizations.

Be careful! Don' try to identify your idealizations without recording your feelings and by just observing them for yourself. Your feelings are such a natural part of your life that you simply won't be able to capture the idealizations which lie behind them.

Idealizations are a common phenomenon

The experience of work on the erroneous convictions of people over many years has shown that they all fall into the same traps. In other words, most people have roughly the same set of ideas of special importance for them. The combinations of idealizations vary from person to person, but they're all common.

I've set out below a brief description of 23 typical idealizations, which cover 99% of all the possible variants of the expectations which have special importance for us.

The list has been constructed in the alphabetical order of the names of the idealizations.

. **idealizations about money and goods** . Usually this idealization is of the form: "*I should be getting enough money to cover all my needs*". The idea (conviction) is on the whole good and correct; every human being is worthy of a prosperous life.

But the problem consists in the fact that God did not create a free dispenser for all the different types of goods. No doubt He forgot . So you have to earn goods. And most people, who don't have idealizations about money, do this.

But a person with idealizations about money is convinced that **he should receive a sufficient quantity of goods independently of his efforts**. And when he is confronted with reality, in which he is paid less, in his opinion, than he SHOULD, he is plunged into an inner protest.

As a result, instead of simply finding another job with a bigger salary, or a bonus, he channels all of his energy into feelings of the type "*It's impossible to live on this money*".

. **Idealization of trust, or belief in something**. At the basis of this idealization is the perfectly good idea: "*One must trust (and help) people one knows*". Basing himself on this, a person shows **an excessive trust in other people**. And gets very upset when they don't justify his expectations. What's peculiar about this idealization is the fact that it doesn't disappear even after being confronted with facts which show that reality doesn't correspond to the person's expectations. Accordingly, when confronted with cases of deception by people he knows, the person continues to trust them and lend them money, for example. And continues to get upset by their dishonesty.

It's one of the aspects of the more general idealization of relations between people.

- **Idealization of spirituality.** This idealization arises when a person ascribes excessive importance to his, on the whole, good conviction that "*all people should be spiritual*". Spiritual, moreover, in precisely that tradition to which he himself belongs.

Confronted with the fact that people are completely indifferent to questions of spirituality, or subscribe to a completely different model of "spiritual" or religious life, he is assailed by the feeling that they are "wrong".

Any manifestations of religious or national hostility are related to this idealization.

- **Idealization of Life, fate.** This idealization is characteristic of people who are sincerely convinced that Life or fate for some reason doesn't favour them. They are victims of circumstances unknown to them and are therefore condemned to permanent suffering.

In other words, there appears to be no positive attitude here. Although, probably, deep inside these people are convinced that they deserve more: wealth, well-being, recognition and everything else. This is their positive expectation.

Confronted with the reality that all these blessings are simply not handed out to them like that (as they are, for example, to the children of rich or distinguished parents), and that to achieve them one has to put in a lot of effort, they choose to adopt the role of wounded child. And all their efforts are directed to confirming their rightness and proving that fate is unjust to them.

Another form of this idealization is being in a state of grief. The person has the totally positive expectation that people known to or close to him will remain healthy and live forever. And if this expectation is not fulfilled, that is, one of the people close to him gets seriously ill or dies, a sense of grievance against Life for allowing such a mistake

takes a hold of his mind.

- **Idealization of beauty and external attractiveness**
Underlying this idealization is a perfectly positive conviction "*I should look beautiful*" and no less. When people with this conviction are confronted with the reality that they fail to measure up to the ideal of beauty conceived by them, they become obsessed by worries about their appearance. They are totally unable to reconcile themselves with how they actually look in reality. People with this idealization are permanently anxious about their appearance, how much they weigh, whether they're sufficiently well-groomed, whether they've got a good figure, whether they're well-dressed, whether their hair looks good, and so on.

It is one of the aspects of the more general idealization of one's imperfection.

- **The idealization of control of the world around you.**
Such an idealization arises when a person is firmly convinced that he "*should know about everything that happens around him, and control everything*". On the whole, it's not a bad conviction, since control is the basis of any management of processes.

At work the idealization of control manifests itself in chronic irritation at people's failure to do something "just right"; as a result "control-freaks" don't trust anyone, constantly interfere in everything, or even try to do everything themselves, since their colleagues "*mess everything up anyway*".

In family life this idealization manifests itself in the authoritarian behavior of one of the spouses, who imposes his will on others. Or as constant fears for the lives of people close to him, or anxieties about the unknown future.

- **The idealization of independence.** This idealization

occurs when a person, for some incomprehensible reason, is firmly convinced that "*no one dares to encroach on his freedom*". On the whole this conviction is a good one, but it leads to lots of problems. A person with such an idealization is forever on the look out for someone who is infringing his independence and will rebuff the "oppressor" in no uncertain terms.

Naturally, in his immediate environment there will be people who will try to take care of him (parents, spouse, wife), but this will elicit an intense desire to rebuff the "oppressor".

Moreover, the main thing which a person with such an idealization is concerned with is, not the **content**, but the **form** of his treatment by others. He can't tolerate any manifestation of authoritarianism, harsh control, or coercive pressure.

As a result people with such an idealization cannot work in large organizations, where they will always find an "oppressor" from amongst managers, no matter what their level, and enter into a conflict with him. So people with such an idealization are destined for private enterprise or a business run by himself.

Excessively independent women usually choose to marry a man with a marked tendency to dominate and then struggles against him heroically for years on end.

- **The idealization of norms of morality or ethics.** Underlying this idealization is the perfectly good conviction that : "*people should behave themselves in conformity with the norms of morality*". By morality here is meant the norms of behaviour accepted in a given society, time and territory.

Such an idealization occurs primarily in elderly people whose education corresponds with the norms of their time. They are quite often extremely annoyed by the amoral or unethical (from

their point of view) behaviour of young people, by a change in the system of life-values and by many other changes taking place in real life.

- **The idealization of a way of life.** This idealization arises when a person creates for himself an image of the conditions in which he thinks he should live. Confronted with the harsh reality in which his house or flat does not match up to his expectations, the make of his car is not very prestigious, and his children don't go to a very high-status school or HE establishment, he is assailed by inner feelings about the imperfection of life. In other words, instead of making an effort to improve his life in the way he would like, he expends a vast amount of energy on feelings of envy of the type: *"Some people have it good! But me..."*

This is one of the aspects of the more general idealization of Life.

- **The idealization of public opinion.** This idealization occurs in people who are sincerely convinced that *"their behaviour should never provoke disapproval, condemnation or even gossip in people around them."*

So they try to manage their behaviour in such a way that it never under any circumstances elicits public disapproval.

As a result they put themselves in a strait-jacket in their attempt to guess which of their actions might displease people around them, often when they don't even know who. They can't allow themselves to dress colourfully, laugh loudly, indulge in behaviour which is spontaneous or not approved of by society (like the work of internet marketing in a MLM-company), and so on. Often the personal ideology of such people is simple: do what you want, so long as no one finds about it. "Don't air your dirty linen in public", as the popular wisdom has it.

Naturally, such people are always repressing their natural desires to live freely and independently; such a model of behaviour does not increase one's zest for life.

- **The idealization of relations between people.** Such an idealization arises when you have a precise conception of how people around you should behave – they should be honest, carry out any duties they have undertaken, not be rude, not betray and so on. When you find yourself in a situation where people behave otherwise, irritation starts to build up inside you or you get aggressive, and attempt to impose on them your model of honest and discreet mutual relations.

Or, if you are not aggressive by nature, as you cannot bring yourself to accept their strange behaviour, you lapse into an energy-sapping mental state.

- **The idealization of personal development, education, intellect.** The idealization (exaggeration of the significance) of these qualities are characteristic of people who work in the areas of science or art, of the intelligentsia. It is characterized by the perfectly positive conviction: "*A person should be an evolved and educated being*".

As a result this idealization generates a contemptuous attitude towards uneducated or unevolved people.

- **The idealization of work.** Many people are "workaholics" and cannot imagine life without their beloved work. They are moved by a perfectly good conviction of the type: "*man is born to work*". When a situation arises in which either the holder of the conviction himself or someone else ends up without work, it has a long-term effect on his mental state.
- **The idealization of people's rationality.** This idealization manifests itself when you are convinced

that *"all people should behave rationally"*. On the whole it's not a bad idea in itself, but when confronted with reality, you might get irritated by the stupidity (or irrationality) of the behaviour of other people.

You consider that all people are rational, that one can always negotiate with them or explain something to them. But they behave in accordance with a logic which strikes you as strange and incomprehensible, or do insane (from your point of view) things. And the more strongly you feel about it, the more they persist in their deluded behaviour.

- **The idealization of people's of family, children.** This idealization arises when you are firmly convinced that *"you should have a family and children"*. Or when you have a clear model of how spouses should behave, how relationships between them should be, how family responsibilities should be allocated, how children should be brought up and so on. Obviously, you consider your convictions the most correct and are totally closed to any other point of view on the matter.

When it transpires that people close to you have a different opinion on these matters and have no desire to conform to your expectations, you get absorbed in a struggle for your ideals; in other words, it affects you emotionally in the long-term.

- **The idealization of sex** in all of its manifestations. This idealization arises as a result of the perfectly correct conviction that *"sex has to happen"*. And precisely in the way you imagine it should.

Correspondingly, if a situation arises in which for various reasons sex doesn't take place or it doesn't match up to your expectations, you experience long-lasting negative emotions. That is, you might sleep with lots of girls in your imagination (if you are a man, of course) and not have any real, intimate relations because of shyness, distrust, etc. Or you might be anxious all the time about whether you're an

adequate lover or not; or attach inordinate significance to intimate contact, regarding it as a big sacrifice or a blow to your self-esteem.

- **The idealization** (i.e. exaggeration) **of one's imperfection.** This idealization arises when a person considers that he "*absolutely must be good at everything, the very best*". As a result he can't relax even for a second – he must behave all the time in such a way that he avoids ever being "*not good, not the best*" at anything. He cannot allow himself to be imperfect.

Naturally, it's impossible to be perfect at everything, so the person is continually condemning himself for the apparent lack in himself of certain very important qualities (one's decisiveness, education, calling, birth, ability to socialize, etc.).

Another manifestation of this idealization is the continual fear of making a wrong decision, as a result of which the taking of a decision on any question (what to buy, where to go on holiday, etc.) drags on forever.

It's usually said of a person with such an idealization that he has a "*poor self-image*". He does not love himself, does not consider himself worthy of receiving anything good, can't stand up for his interests, can't turn anyone down, etc. All the grievances of a person with this idealization are directed only at himself.

This idealization is more common in women.

- **The idealization** (i.e. exaggeration) **of one's abilities.** This idealization arises when a person has the theoretically sound and correct conviction that "*he is very capable, is an excellent professional*". Usually he really is a very capable specialist in some particular field of activity.

However, by exaggerating the importance of this idea, he starts to have an inflated opinion of his professionalism and no longer wishes to listen to anyone's advice or hints. Outwardly this manifests itself as arrogance, dissatisfaction with small achievements, a desire to be first in everything. He often finds himself in conflict with a manager, as he considers himself more worthy of that position.

If they don't achieve success, people with such an idealization start blaming life or people around them, etc., for their problems. All of their grievances are always directed solely at people around them or circumstances, they never doubt their own infallibility.

He is very touchy and is very offended by any comment or doubts about the correctness of his actions.

This idealization is more often found in men.

- **The idealization (i.e. exaggeration) of one's exceptionality, pride.** This idealization occurs when a person believes that he is exceptional, sometimes called "having delusions of grandeur". Because of it the person considers that the world revolves around him; and that everything that happens in the world is directed against him or for him.

Accordingly, such a person only attaches importance to his own opinions, needs and interests, and despises everything else.

- **The idealization of one's pastimes, hobbies.** This aspect of our lives only becomes an idealization when a person has a very high opinion of his professionalism and success in some field (for example sport or politics), and gets extremely irritated when someone expresses doubts about them.
- **The idealization of the body, of physical health.** This idealization often occurs in people who are convinced that *"one must lead a correct way of life, take care of*

one's health". On the whole this conviction is correct, but at times it gives rise to contempt for people who are not in good physical shape and lead an incorrect way of life.

Another form of manifestation of this idealization is extreme hypochondria, a permanent anxiety about the state of one's health. People with the idealization of health are constantly paying visits to doctors and pharmacists, although objectively they might be perfectly healthy.

- **The idealization of a goal.** The idealization of a goal arises when you are firmly committed to the achievement of a goal which you have set yourself (*I always achieve a goal I set myself!*), and any obstacle or delay causes you intense irritation. You might get edgy and blame yourself or other people, it doesn't matter which. The main thing is that you can't bear it if you don't achieve your goal in the time you've set yourself.

A more detailed description of this idealization can be found in the book "Smile before it's too late" [4] or in "The encyclopedia of Idealizations" – you can see them in the Internet-shop Psymarket www.psymarket.ru

You can read the book "Smile before it's too late" at the site "Self-transformation Assistant" by clicking on "Read".

Let's reduce the significance of your ultra-important ideas

Let's say you've made the effort and identified 3 – 5 of your idealizations. They've been poisoning your life for many years, but it's never occurred to you that it might have

been a good idea long ago to stop the pointless or even harmful, judging by the results, struggle for your ideals.

What do you do with them next?

The answer is very simple: **you have to act in such a way that**

these brilliant ideas no longer drag you into the struggle, whatever happens to you or around you.

And when will this happen?

When the idea which before was very important to you becomes simply a good idea, but **not as important as before.**

In other words, you have to reduce **its significance in your system of values.** And once it's no longer very important, it's no longer necessary to be provoked when something happens which is "not right".

For example, before you always got worked up when someone didn't arrive at the agreed time. You had the **idealization of relationships in the form of the splendid expectation: "if someone has promised to arrive at an agreed time, he is obliged to keep this promise".**

Probably, amongst the people who are close to you and who have been around you for a long time, there are several who are continually late, and you invariably condemn them, at the expense of your mental health.

Now you have changed something in yourself, and **your expectation has taken on a somewhat different form: "if someone has promised to arrive at an agreed time, he might arrive at that time, or he might not, because of various circumstances".** And now, having arranged the meeting, you calmly wait for the person, if you need him for something. Realizing that he might be late, you take a book or a tablet beforehand and occupy yourself with reading.

And if you don't really need the person for anything, you wait 10 – 15 minutes, then calmly leave to sort out your own affairs. Now let him stew trying to work out whether you turned up or haven't yet arrived. Probably next time he'll try and get there on time (although that's by no means guaranteed).

So we see that

To free yourself from the endless struggle, all you have to do is revise your expectation a little, make it less important, less crucial.

How can you do this?

In the book "A rational world. How to live without unnecessary emotions"[2] 9 examples of work on idealizations are described. Here we examine just one of them.

Let's replace our inner attitudes.

For every idealization there are several external indications that it is present. One of

them is the recurrence of characteristic thoughts which keep going round and round in our

heads at the time of the emotion.

For example, with **the idealization of relations** such characteristic thoughts are of

the type:

- *Now how can he behave like that, he promised, didn't he!*
- *How can he raise his voice (shout, be rude, express himself) at me! It's awful! I*

can't bear it!

- *How can she say bad things about another person behind his back! It's awful!*
- *He just doesn't listen to me at all! It's awful! Is really possible to be so insensitive*

(selfish, think only about oneself, not take into account the interests of others)!

- *My girl-friend has deceived me (betrayed me, let me down, gone off with my boyfriend)!*

I can't bear it!

- *How could he forget that yesterday was my birthday (anniversary of wedding, of first meeting, birth of child, engagement, divorce, etc.)!*

- *He's an insensitive oaf! He could have guessed that I was expecting some consideration and help!*

With the **idealization of control** the following are characteristic thoughts:

- *I can't relax if I don't know where my child (husband, mother, brother, etc.) are, what he's doing, whether he's OK.*

- *Why didn't he do as I ordered? You can't trust anyone to do anything, you have to do everything yourself!*

- *I can't allow myself to rest, otherwise everything will fall apart straightaway!*
- *I know how people around me ought to act and I'll do whatever it takes to make sure they behave correctly!*

- *I'm very frightened of the future and I'm constantly worried because of this.*
- *I can't concentrate on what I'm doing because I'm always eavesdropping on what's happening around me.*

- *I can't relax so long as I'm not absolutely sure that today I've done everything I*

could (within the time set, like that, as one should, etc.).

With the **idealization of one's imperfection** some characteristic recurring thoughts

are:

- *I'm always worried that I'll fail to do something correctly!*
- *I have no right to spend time or energy on myself, I'm not worthy of it!*
- *It's awful if someone suffers because of me!*
- *I can't allow myself not to pay back the debt! I'll do it at any price!*
- *I'm to blame for not being able to help this person in time! I'll never forgive myself*

for it!

- *I'd rather put up with the situation or do everything myself than burden people with*

my requests.

- *There's no point my even trying, I'll fail anyway!*
- *I absolutely must make the right decision, I don't have the right to make a mistake!*

With **the idealization of one's abilities** the following are characteristic thoughts:

- *Who are you to teach me? I'll teach you everything you want myself!*
- *How can such a talentless person be a manager? I wouldn't take him on as a*

caretaker!

- *I don't need small results. It's either all or nothing!*
- *I'm a professional in what I do and I don't tolerate advisers!*
- *I can't tolerate suggestions or preaching!*

A complete list of characteristic thoughts for all 23 idealizations can be found in the

"Encyclopedia of Idealizations".

In the course of keeping your Diary of self-observation try to identify your

characteristic thoughts and enter them directly into your Diary.

Let's replace our characteristic thoughts by others

One can examine these recurring thoughts as **stable negative attitudes which**

determine our behaviour unconsciously (although you consider them positive and

wholly correct), and from which we somehow have to free ourselves.

That means that **to prevent your ideas becoming idealizations, you have to replace your negative attitudes by other more positive ones**, which don't drag you into a struggle for your ideal.

For this:

For every negative attitude (your characteristic thought) you must initially form an opposite positive attitude.

And then install the positive attitude into your Subconscious using the various devices for self-programming.

We'll talk about self-programming later on, but for now we'll

discuss how to correctly form a positive assertion (attitude, idea, expectation – these all refer to the same thing).

Set out below are the basic conditions for the formulation of a positive assertion [PA]:

1. **The positive assertion must be opposite in sense to the negative attitude and must cancel it out. In other words, you must declare what you wish to have instead of the quality (or assertion) which you find undesirable.**
2. **Positive assertions must be positive, that is, formulated without the particle “not”. That means that you must indicate what you want to have rather than what you want to get rid of.**
3. **A positive assertion is always formed with reference to yourself, that is, one always uses the pronouns: “I”, “me”, “myself”, etc. You’re changing yourself , not people around you or circumstances.! Don’t attempt to program a change in other people – they don’t want it and you won’t have any success.**
4. **A positive assertion should be “yours”, that is, it should be pleasing to you, and its repetition should summon up good feelings inside you.**

This is only the basic set of conditions for the formulation of a PA; a more complete inventory is drawn up in the site “Self-transformation Assistant” at Step 2.

It’s essential to observe these conditions, otherwise you’ll end up loading yourself with the usual verbiage (as with various kinds of affirmation), and your Subconscious will not understand what precisely you want.

Let’s examine what the positive assertions, which are the opposites of the characteristic thoughts cited above, might look like.:

The thought characteristic of the idealization – negative attitude

Positive assertion, cancelling out the idealization

I can't relax if I don't know where my child (husband, mother, I trust in Life and myself. I'm sure that all the people close to me are quite alright. I'll let Life take brother, etc.) is, what he is doing, whether everything is OK with him.

care of people close to me

Why haven't they done as I ordered? You can't trust anyone to do anything, I have to do everything myself!

I will gently and calmly direct the activity of people under me. I will gradually develop in my subordinates an attitude of initiative and responsibility towards the job being carried out.

You can't trust anyone to do anything, they have to ruin everything.

I will start to trust my colleagues. I will create a mode of operation which will enable my colleagues to learn do all tasks responsibly and to an excellent standard. With time I can easily get rid of those colleagues who either don't wish to or can't justify my trust.

I'm always afraid of failing to do something correctly!

I trust Life and myself! Everything I do is correct from the start. I completely approve of myself and my actions.

I don't have the right to waste time or energy on myself, I'm not worthy of it!

I'm worthy of the best of everything! It's a pleasure to allow myself take care of myself first.

Who are you to teach me? I'll teach you everything you want

myself.

I will allow people around me to show concern for me in whatever way they see fit. In a spirit of goodwill and interest I will nurture their attempts to help me.

And how can such a talentless person be manager? I wouldn't take him on as caretaker!

I accept that every person determines his own fate himself. My attitude towards people who have achieved important results for me, by whatever means, is one of respect.

A large number of the various positive assertions are cited in the Appendix to the book "A rational world. How to live without superfluous emotions", and in the "Encyclopedia of idealizations" – you can look at them there.

But here you **must learn to independently formulate the new positive assertions.** They'll be more successful at solving your problems insofar as:

– they'll be formed by you, which means that they'll reflect more precisely what you want to replace your present inner convictions, which you want to get rid of.

– As you free yourself from certain negative convictions, you'll acquire new ones, which you also want to get rid of, and you'll do this easily and quickly yourself.

If you haven't been lazy, kept up your self-observation Diary for a couple of months, and thereby recorded your characteristic thoughts, then the process of forming the positive assertions itself will require a couple of hours of work from you overall.

As a result you will acquire a list of those positive assertions (PA) which you would like to be guided by in future.

But so far it's just a list of nice phrases on paper or on the computer screen.

Now you have to bring it about that:

The Subconscious accepts them as commands which it has to follow in future.

This is by no means a simple matter, as we are all quite well protected from external influences. We're constantly being assailed by adverts "buy that, go this way, do this", so we're well-adapted to telling these appeals to get lost.

In just the same way our "internal censor" will tell our positive assertions to get lost – from its point of view they're no different from adverts appealing to us to do something.

How will we install a PA?

This means that we have to somehow get round it and get PA's into our Subconscious ourselves.

At this point there are two ways: direct and indirect.:

The direct way to install a new conviction into the Subconscious is to make a huge effort and thereby convince our "censor" that we're not having a passing fancy, but a perfectly serious intention.

In other words, we start to repeat to ourselves our PA's, at the same time imagining ourselves to be the possessor of a new quality – and not just once or twice, but a thousand or several thousand times. The number of repetitions should be directly proportional to your level of education and skepticism. The more degrees you've got, the more difficult it is to change something in the structure of your expectations – you already know everything. So you need a very long time to convince yourself that new PA's are very necessary and important for you.

Most people who try this way usually lose interest in the techniques of inner changes – you’ve probably given it a go and not achieved anything.

So people have devised lots of roundabout ways of installing the programs we need into our Subconscious by evading our “inner censor”.

What are these ways?

One of them, developed thousands of years ago by various Eastern teachers, is called meditation.

Classical meditation is a process whereby one achieves total inner silence, a complete emptying of the mind of all thoughts for long periods of time. It’s possible to achieve this by sitting motionless for hours on end, concentrating on certain processes in the body (breathing, pulsation of the blood), or on external objects such as a flame, a point on the wall or a mandala (a special drawing).

As a result of prolonged (months, years, decades) meditations it is possible to achieve a state in which one’s mind is empty (there is no flow of thoughts, at this moment our unwanted “inner censor” is switched off), allowing you to calmly introduce the idea you need into your Subconscious.

This method is completely ineffective in our frenetic times, when people simply don’t have the opportunity to meditate for months (or years) in order to achieve inner silence. And all the trainings or sound recordings, which prompt you to concentrate on something or imagine something, have absolutely no effect on your “censor”, which remains on the alert and thwarts any attempts at serious change; although, of course, you do achieve pleasant momentary states.

Technologies which, for example, force you to switch off the “inner censor” are more effective. And for this you don’t need to bang yourself on the head till you lose consciousness.

It's possible to use sleep, for example, when your "censor" switches itself off. That is, you dictate your PA's into a recording device and then set it on play-back all night at a low volume.

Another method is the **use of the "25th frame effect"**. You download your PA's into the computer program "Matrix of Success" and then it brings them up on your computer screen for a split second over all the other programs which are working on the computer. You occupy yourself with your own jobs on the computer whilst the PA's install [the Russian is literally "download".tr.] themselves into your subconscious. You can read about this program in more detail at the site www.psychmarket.ru .

Another way of "downloading" PA's "free" is the **use of special audio-recording with a set of PA's about a specific subject-matter**. With the help of special technology, the PA's, dictated by a speaker, are rendered imperceptible to the human ear and superimposed onto the sounds of nature. As a result you listen to the sound of the sea whilst the attitudes you require insinuate themselves into your Subconscious – your "censor" is not able to make out the PA's in the noise of the waves and then block them. But your Subconscious picks them up easily and assimilates them. The recording of the discs is done by a patented American technology .

For example, the effect of the "audiomood" "**I am delighted with myself**" is to improve a woman's self-image, that of the "mood" "**Tender Amazon**" to increase the femininity and sensuality of excessively active and business-like women. The "mood"

"**Real leader**" increases the self-confidence and leadership potential of men who lack self-confidence. You can look at the details of this technology and a list of ready-to-use "moods" at the site www.psychmarket.ru .

These technologies do not require any great effort on your part, but are time-consuming – a matter of a month or longer.

Effective Self-programming

The quickest and most effective method is to mentally repeat your PA's after you have forced your "censor" to switch off. And it's switched off **by raising the energy level of your body** – remember how at moments of emotional arousal you stop controlling yourself and carry out ill-considered actions.

But it turns out that it's possible to bring about a controlled arousal without emotion and, as a result, carry out necessary actions after thinking them through.

How do you achieve such a state of excitation? All you have to do is **breathe as quickly and as intensively as you can with the full force of your lungs for several minutes**. If you do this standing, you will always remain conscious, which will enable you to repeat the PA's you require. But as a result your "controller" will switch off, your PA's will pass directly into your Subconscious and there replace the unwanted negative convictions.

This process is not very simple, but it's very effective. Its use does carry with it contraindications for certain categories of debilitated and psychologically unbalanced people.

It's described in more detail in the book "Start Your Life Anew. 4 steps to a new reality" [2] – you can read it at the site-trainer "Self-transformation Assistant" www.selftrans.ru by clicking on "Read".

And on this site this technology of "Effective Self-programming" is applied in full at Step 2.

It's now time to bring together the results of this chapter.

Results

1. The first principle of a successful life is equivalent to: **Condemning harms you. You urgently need to stop condemning.**
2. This implies that probably you have several wholly positive convictions of great significance to you about what or how things should happen to you or around you. These hyper-important convictions are called "idealizations".
3. Idealizations are convictions, whose source is probably unknown to you and which, as a result, have a very powerful influence on your life. Confronted with a situation in which something doesn't correspond to your idealization, you

immediately get drawn into a struggle to make the situation correspond to your expectation.

4. Your struggle ends up on a collision course with circumstances and people who don't consider it necessary to follow your ideas. This gives rise to a very long-drawn-out and usually unsuccessful struggle, which takes up an inordinate amount of your time and effort.
5. You do not notice that you unconsciously condemn everything which does not correspond to your idealizations and launch yourself into a struggle against it.
6. Wishing to realize your hyperimportant expectation, you unconsciously seek out people and situations which fail to match up to your idealizations. As a result, you literally surround yourself with people (and situations), against whom (which) you are compelled to struggle.
7. Having got immersed in the struggle for your ideals, you either destroy that which is dear or close to you, or are diverted from your progress towards those goals which would have given you success and happiness.
8. In order to make your life more joyful and successful,

you need to reduce the value of your hyperimportant ideas to the level of ordinary ideas. As a result, your grounds for condemning anyone will disappear. And the idealizations will no longer thwart your efforts to achieve your goals.

9. All of this is probably quite straightforward, but practically no one makes this simple step.

Principle 2. Everything you have today you created yourself. Start rejoicing in your abilities as Creator now.

Being a martyr is very convenient – you can't do anything. And what's more something good

might come your way free of charge – we love losers.

No doubt you've met lots of people who love to imagine themselves unfortunate Victims of various circumstances. Maybe it's your favourite pastime.

Whom might you be victim of? Anyone in fact. For example, victim of a vile husband (or equally of a horrible wife). Victim of callous children or of tyrannical parents.

Victim of a nasty boss or of negligent employees. Victim of a callous girl-friend or victim of dishonest people.

You might even be victim of yourself. How can that happen? For example, motivated by a rush of kindness, you make some sort of promise to other people. Then you have to carry out the promise. At that point you realize that you shouldn't have made the commitment, but it's impossible to change the situation. And you soldier on bitterly trying to keep your promise and feeling a victim of your commitment, that is, of yourself.

In the countryside, where people are not particularly self-reliant, a very popular pastime is sincerely claiming to be a victim of an evil eye or even a curse which bad people have

put on you.

If you've been reading esoteric books, you might sincerely consider yourself a victim of bad karma. Or of life, which is supposed to be teaching you something, although you haven't the foggiest idea what.

This is only a list of the most popular games with the theme: "I'm a victim, pity me"; from amongst millions of every conceivable type.

What's bad about it?

What's the problem with a person who has chosen victimhood as his life-principle? By making this choice, **he has declared his total impotence to change anything. He has renounced his right to influence his own life, to direct it in some way, to change it for the better.**

What does a victim have to do? He has to suffer. And wait for someone to come along and take away his suffering. He himself can't do anything, apart from suffering torments and putting up with them.

People are super-perfect beings

And this is because we are blessed from birth with a super-perfect organism, which scientists have been studying for hundreds of years and whose possibilities they'll be studying for a similar length of time. There are many actions which we all perform without giving it a thought which the whole of contemporary science is incapable of repeating.

You don't believe it? Here's an example involving the driver of a car. After you've been driving along the same route for a couple of weeks, a habit is set up (an habitual model of behaviour HMB), which begins to direct the movement of the car. In other words, you get behind the wheel, start the engine, and then that's it: your consciousness can occupy

itself with any thoughts it likes which have no connection with the journey. In the meantime, since you've already automated the process required by the journey along the standard route, your hands and feet direct the movement of the car superbly. A special programme (a neural configuration) directing the movement of the car has installed itself in your Subconscious.

And yet scientists throughout the world have been grappling for decades with the problem of automating a journey along a prescribed route, and today we have the first results – experimental cars, which can apparently travel in good weather and on good roads, but the electronics can't yet handle the data-processing required when it's raining or snowing. But with you the problem of automating the movement of the car sorts itself out in a week. Just think how superior the potential of your brain is to that of the whole of contemporary cybernetics!

And you still consider yourself to be a defective creature...

A victim can't do anything himself

So, given that you consider yourself to be defective and powerless, you are compelled to look for some sort of Guru, Teacher, healer, or other person who specializes in solving other people's problems, to rescue you from your misfortunes.

In other words, when you see a crowd of people filling a stadium in search of a cure or karma-cleansing, you should understand that all these people are convinced that they can't change anything themselves, that they have firmly ensconced themselves in the role of victim.

And the position of the victim is nothing more than a conviction of the type "*I can't do anything about this. It's beyond me. I'll have to find someone to help me*", which has been stored in the Subconscious of every one of these people.

It's not karma, or an evil eye, or a curse or any other philosophy of impotence devised by people. It's nothing more than a negative conviction which has been stored in the Subconscious, **programming the person to behave as an imperfect human being.**

Moreover, you can be super-self-confident in your profession, for example, but at the same time you might take up a position of total powerlessness when it comes to relations between men and women, or health.

As you already know from the previous chapter, if desired, you can easily change these programmes of powerlessness by using the appropriate instruments.

What a clever dick we have here!

Understandably, many people will strongly object on reading these lines: *"How can he say that I'm doing nothing and just waiting for a saviour? No, I've been to a doctor (healer, psychotherapist, shaman, Teacher, etc.), to sort out my problem. I'm trying, it's just that I'm not having any success."*

Here the question arises: but why have you gone to these specialists?

People-victims always have the same request: *"Doctor, I can no longer live with my sick body and my wounded soul. Do something about them"*

There's another form of question I've never heard, for example, like: *"Doctor, it seems that because in some way I haven't been living my life correctly, I've ended up with colitis, cystitis, radiculitis and just about every other shittyitis there is. How should I change my way of thinking and behaving so that I can be healthy and happy?"*

It has to be said that most doctors and healers would be at a

loss to respond to such a question – they're not ready to cope with patients who take responsibility for their ailments. They're used to person-victims asking them to take away their ailments, which have somehow befallen them and which they themselves can't deal with.

And indeed, **they've never tried to deal with them.** They've just turned up in order to be the recipients of some sorts of rituals or procedures which will solve their problems. And then they'll just continue with their former way of life.

Does this remind you of yourself?

Do you intend to cling on remorselessly to this position? In that case, you can confidently close this book, it won't be any help to you. And look for another book which describes some sort of miracle-worker, whom you'll urgently rush off to in order to get him to sort out your misfortunes. And then another problem will arise and you'll rush off to find another specialist, and so on, for the rest of your eventful life.

Who's this book for?

It's worth someone continuing to read this book if he's ready to take on himself responsibility for what happens to him, **and admit that the situation he's ended up in today is the result of his inner convictions and the actions which flow from them.**

In other words, **you have to admit that the reality in which you live today has somehow or another been created by you yourself.**

Probably you don't fully understand how you've managed to generate all the things which poison your life today – that's normal. No one has taught you how to understand that process.

We'll try and do that together.

Let's look for the architect of your misfortunes

Let's say **you're having difficulties in your relations with the person closest to you – your husband (or wife). Or with the one you love**, whom you haven't yet succeeded in getting to the Registry Office. He drinks (is jealous, chases after other women, doesn't help, doesn't speak words of love, doesn't give you money, or whatever), and this really annoys you. You might wonder how you could have brought all that about yourself?

You already know from the first principle that your struggle for any ideas, however brilliant they might be, necessarily generates a counter struggle.

Maybe it's you who, acting from the best of motives, have provoked your loved one into such an unbridled struggle against you?

Probably it's unpleasant for you even thinking about this. Surely you're all soft and white, you've even got angel wings, how could you possibly have ruined anything? It's out of the question. It's **he who's ruined himself, you're just struggling to save him.**

It has to be said that this does actually happen, but quite rarely. That is, there are situations where you yourself have not created the conflict, but your loved one has in fact drastically changed (with age, change in place of work or interests, etc.). Probably, he's always displayed his less desirable qualities, but it's escaped your attention. Because **being in love is unconscious concentration on the virtues of the beloved whilst totally ignoring his inadequacies** [A Sviyash I. Nyezovibatko. Sex as joyful psychotherapy for the mature].

And so you too, afflicted by a love-induced paralysis of your capacity for rational thought, have been living in a fantasy-world. And then, when this rapture has died a natural death, and your eyes are opened, you lapse into a state of chronic dissatisfaction with your choice.

This does happen, but all the same you were not a victim of circumstances, but a person who made a decision about creating a relationship whilst in a state bordering on narcotic. And that, as we know, does not absolve you of your responsibility for what has happened. You brought this result about yourself.

Or you have a protracted conflict with one of your children, irrespective of his age. You consider that you are responsible for him. And you do everything in your power to make his life good. But for this he has to create a life which you consider to be the best.

So, pursuing this brilliant and, for you, very important goal, you do everything in your power to force the child into your purported Paradise. Naturally, he resists, which arouses your anger. The conflict grows, relations between you are damaged. You obviously feel yourself a victim of your intolerable child, who just does everything to spite you.

In other words, you yourself have created the very relations with the child which you find totally unacceptable. It's time to go to someone who can sort all this out.

Or let's take the **situation of of a protracted conflict between quite grown up children and their parents.**

Let's say you're a child suffering the intrusive attentions of your parents and feeling yourself a victim of their arbitrary authority. Ask yourself the question: how is it that in most other families, children have managed to form more harmonious relations with their parents? But you haven't..

Or let's take your **issue with your job or what you earn from it.** It's possible the content of the work is not to your liking (too boring, monotonous, nerve-racking, etc.). Or the amount you get paid. And you've been hung up on this dissatisfaction for many years. You consider that management doesn't pay you your due, doesn't value you, and get absorbed in an energy-consuming inner struggle. It turns you into a

totally impotent human being, who is unable to find the strength to change the situation. You choose to engage in struggle and sincerely consider yourself a victim of cruel circumstances. Probably you see your approaching pension as something which will release you from the torture.

It's possible that your situation is not as dire as that described above and that there are many problems that you don't duck, but sort out yourself. But nonetheless there are times when situations arise in which you lose heart and feel totally impotent. It happens to

everyone, that's normal. The important thing is not to get stuck in that state for years or decades.

What should you do?

How should you act in situations which you find unacceptable?

It's very simple. **Forbid yourself from moaning or complaining about your harsh fate or cruel circumstances or such like.**

And admit that you've brought it all about yourself.

You yourself have created your present relationships. You receive the income for which you have agreed to sell your labour. Your health is the result of your attitude to the needs of your body, and so on.

Rejoice in the fact that you create your own life. You are the real Creator of everything that happens to you.

Start to be proud of this.

Moreover, the worse your present circumstances, the more reasons you have for taking pride in yourself: you have approached your life very creatively and created for yourself the most wonderful conditions for inner growth.

In other words you have the possibility of striving for

something: the immense satisfaction resulting from those positive changes which you are able to bring to your life.

It's important just to start these changes and not slip into despair or fear, and not rush off in search of another saviour.

Only you can make the choice of which path to follow.

Precisely because of this, the second principle says: **start right now rejoicing in your abilities as Creator.**

This of course is not enough to extricate yourself from your situation in the best way – you will have to act. But not act as victim, rather as Master of your destiny who has gone somewhat astray in his strivings. But he still **chooses to be positive and remain so, whatever happens to him or around him.**

It's not simple, but it's possible.

There is no other way for you to achieve a successful and happy life. A foreign guru might reassure you and distract you with arguments about some sort of different life, but he can't solve your problems or realize your goals for you.

This is your task.

So once again take a deep breath, relax and feel joy at the chaos you've managed to create for yourself.

And start to look for the tools you need to change your reality in the way you desire. Changing won't just take an hour or a week, probably more like months or years. This will be a time of searching, discoveries and inner changes. And **the result will be the feeling that you are capable of constructing and not just destroying.**

And that is worth a great deal.

If you are prepared to "squeeze the slave out of you drop by

drop", as A.P. Chekhov put it in his time, and gradually become "Master", then, so as not to invent everything from scratch, you can follow out the recommendations of this book. But not just this.

You can and must make use of help

The above discussions in no way imply that the author does not recommend consulting doctors, psychologists, trainers and other specialists, of course not. Consulting them is very useful, as they can give you the benefit of experience and knowledge which would take you more than a life-time to acquire.

The other question is what methods they use and what your role is in the process of their work.

An example of a popular method is Hellinger Placement. If you manage to find a good specialist in this, you might solve your problems quickly (not necessarily of course). In the course of placements you will be positioned in accordance with the instructions of the instructor and say what you feel. That is, in this process you will play the role of a clod and be unable after the placement to do anything similar independently.

If you need to sort out your problem as quickly as possible and it doesn't concern you how the problem arose, then placement therapy would be suitable for you. But there's absolutely no guarantee that the problem won't recur, since **you haven't understood how the problem was created.**

Or take another popular method, NLP (Neuro-linguistic Programming). In this the person is usually treated as an object on which the specialist carries out various procedures.

The method effectively relieves a person of many fears and other problems, but afterwards he is unable to repeat any of it himself, since he is merely an object who has been manipulated. This is the usual approach in work with people

who don't wish to take responsibility for what happens in their lives.

But NLP does also contain lots of tools for those people who want to take control of what happens in their lives. This side of NLP is taught in various training courses.

Since most people adopt the position of victim, the methods of intervention are basically aimed at them.

The author of the present book is developer of the method called "The Rational Way". It's primarily aimed at people who wish to understand the reasons for events taking place in their lives, and then consciously build their lives in such a way that only the events they need take place.

You are the true Creator, so create your life consciously and without error.

Principle 3. Do you want to achieve something? Formulate your goal clearly and correctly

When you're hurtling off somewhere on some urgent business, stop for a minute and think: why the hell are you doing this?

Let's suppose that you've taken the decision to become Master of your life and create it virtually from scratch.

Why might this be necessary? Probably to bring about changes which in the past you haven't even attempted, because you felt yourself to be a victim.

But the changes have to be purposeful and not random, otherwise it'll be a pointless expenditure of time and energy with pointless results.

How do you get started?

We define what we want to free ourselves of

You have to start with **what precisely it is you want to achieve**. Or **what precisely you want to change in your life**.

Of course, you want everything straightaway and to perfection. And free of charge. And of course something reliable and not dependent on circumstance.

That might really happen, but not straightaway of course. You see, at present you are just an apprentice magician and if you rush things, you'll get the same result as in the famous song "I wanted to make a wasp, but got a goat with a pink stripe".

In other words, if you want a wasp, then **you have to start by describing it in all its details**. This is called the "formula for the goal".

In a decent business it's normal practice to clearly formulate an essential outcome; no one would talk to you if you didn't have a business-plan and a description of the intended final result.

But what happens in your personal life? Do you also construct a business-plan for getting married or losing the 15 kilos of excess bodily fat?

Hardly, you probably just muddle through.

One's personal life is organised on the lines of a flea-market: grab what you can before it's all gone. In a flea-market, not many people worry about a clear formulation of the desired result, they just grab at any opportunity to get a good deal and hope for the best.

Probably your personal life is like a flea-market (or a farmers' market).

In other words, you grab anything you can get your hands on. You might be striving to build up a personal life, but then you get totally side-tracked by the first chance to make a bit of extra money. Or you might occupy yourself every now and

then with health problems or struggle with your weight. This is the chaotic way we live our lives.

Of course, sometimes you manage to achieve something decent, but **usually just for a time, and then it peters out** (love, sex, money or how you want to look).

Now's the time to break away from this way of life.

It's time to **set up goals in your personal life, clearly formulate them, and then gradually move towards their realization.**

And if you're thinking about starting up a business, or you already have, doing this is absolutely essential.

So let's start with the choice of your goals.

How do you decide on your goals?

How is it possible to decide on them?

Naturally, by looking what you don't like about your life. This is the most pressing thing in your life and any advances you make in regard to it will give you immense joy and a feeling of freedom.

Let's start moving in that direction.

In other words, **take a notebook and write down all the things which bother you at the moment.** To begin with make notes as you go along.

Naturally, **when you start, you'll write down that nearly all the people around you and their attendant circumstances bother you:**

- the head of department is a prat and bastard.
- my husband is a skinflint and an idler
- my kid's an idler, all he knows about is computer games
- my sister's a pain in the neck, all she can do is whinge

and cadge money.

- my parents are always trying to sort something out, but haven't succeeded in thirty years of life together.
- my flat is cramped and old, I want to live comfortably.
- my salary – it makes me ill just thinking about it.
- my cat fouls wherever it feels like it, it's a pest.

And so on.

For some reason you usually forget about yourself. Although you might boldly write:

"I don't like being too fat", for example.

Let's accept responsibility for our situation

All this is fine, but there's no sign of the Master in this list; in other words, you've broken the Second Principle of a successful life.

That means that **you have to rewrite everything whilst accepting responsibility for the mess you've made of your life.**

It'll look something like this:

I find it unacceptable that:

- *I haven't been able establish normal relations with my manager and he vents his anger on me (I'm not taking into account my other colleagues; they're also playing the role of Victim, and the boss has to make a special effort to satisfy their demand to be victim)*
- *I relate to my husband in such a way that he doesn't want to give me money. I've been brilliant at squashing any motive he might have to achieve anything.*
- *I relate to my child in such a way that he doesn't want to learn and he's permanently in conflict with me.*

- *I'm not able to defend my interests against my sister's advances, so I'm forced to keep paying her off. She's turned me into a soft touch (even though I'm hard up) and herself into a professional scrounger.*
- *I'm always poking my nose into my parents' personal life and trying to teach them how to live properly (even though I'm a total flop at that myself...).*
- *I've been so distracted by my conflicts that I haven't found the time and energy to improve the state of my accommodation.*
- *I've chosen to accept a job with a low salary and love moaning about so I can extract sympathy from losers like myself.*
- *I couldn't even train my dog properly, he just runs amok.*
- *I'm always overeating and then I pretend to be the victim of the excess fat I put on (and I can't stop gorging because I'm feeling nervous all the time)*

Did you write something like this? Excellent. At this point it's important not to think you've turned into a saint, but to write everything down as it is.

Now you can turn to your concrete goals. They'll be obvious from the above list.

Another consideration is that you need to formulate the goals according to special rules, otherwise your Subconscious will avoid taking part in their realization. Or do so in such a way that you formally achieve the goal without it bringing any more joy to your life (remember the film "Bedazzled", which depicts such a situation – in a way the goal is achieved, but it doesn't bring any happiness).

Rules for the formulation of a goal

These rules are similar to those used in business, but there are certain peculiarities.

An event from real life

Someone I knew at school said she'd only marry a prince on a white horse... "She did get married, but now she's Mrs. Whitehorse"

We need to formulate our goals in such a way that our Subconscious perceives them as an order to act and sets about realizing them.

So start from the following rules:

- **The formulation of the goal (FG) should be as concrete as possible, that is, indicate a concrete result, which should be achieved as a result of investing a certain amount of effort.**
- **The FG must contain a result which can be achieved in a finite amount of time. It's desirable to indicate a deadline, planned by you, for the achievement of the goal.**
- **In the FG you should indicate criteria by which to judge when the goal has been achieved and further work with the FG no longer has any point.**
- **It is essential that one constructs the FG as a process to achieve a desired goal, not to avoid an undesired situation.**
- **The FG is constructed so that it is obvious that ALL the actions required to achieve the final result will be carried out ONLY BY THAT PERSON, who wrote the FG for himself.**
- **The stated goal should be in principle achievable and within the realm of your possibilities.**

- **The stated goal should be “yours” and arouse in you a passionate desire to achieve it.**

Starting from these rules, we can formulate goals which will solve the problems described above:

- *Within six months I will establish relations with my boss which I feel comfortable with.*
- *Within a year I will establish relations with my husband which will motivate him to gladly share his income with me and strive to increase it.*
- *Within a year I will gladly end the conflict with my son and establish trusting relations with him.*
- *I will develop an inner toughness and enable myself to defend my financial interests against my sister.*
- *I will completely forgive my parents and allow them to live their lives as they see fit.*
- *Over the course of three years I will look for and find a way of getting a flat with one more room.*
- *Within a year I will improve my self-image and find interesting work with a net salary of the order of at least £28,000 per annum.*
- *I will find and use a way of forcing my cat only to use a place allocated by me as a toilet.*
- *I will consciously establish a way of life which will enable me to keep my weight consistently below 55 kg.*

This is roughly what your goals might look like. Where possible, concrete quantitative values have been indicated for the goals cited above (*enlarge our flat by one room, with a salary of the order of at least £28,000 per annum, keeping my weight below 55 kg.*).

In almost all of the formulations, time-periods are indicated

for the planned achievement of the goals. **The deadlines should be such that they force you to start doing something, but at the same time don't make you fearful that you won't keep to the allocated time-limit.**

What about other goals?

Above we examined how to identify goals which remove unpleasantness from your life. As a result you'll square your shoulders and realize that life, if you make a bit of effort and deal with the results of your "creation", isn't so bad.

But you know there are other goals which are not responses to some unpleasant feature of your life: starting your business, buying a new car, going on a cruise, learning to sing or something else – a goal which you'd like to achieve, but which is only conditioned by your desire to have (achieve) it.

What should we do with such goals?

Nothing in particular. Simply formulate them correctly and include them in the general list of your goals.

What difficulties might there be?

Quite a lot.

The new goals might result from the strangest of motives. For example, **to prove to someone that you are a successful person**, as a result of which you might allow yourself to drive a very expensive car. So you set yourself the goal of buying such a car. Were it not for this motive, you'd buy yourself something cheaper. But surely you've got something to prove!

Or your parents still think you're a daft kid and you try everything in your power to prove to them that you're a mature, very successful and well-to-do person. So you set yourself goals which will put a lot of pressure on you and prevent you from doing things which in fact you want to do.

And so on.

Is it possible to set yourself such goals?

It's possible, but it's not necessary.

Listen to your body

Before you embark on the realization of your next goal, check what your Subconscious tells you on the matter.

Possibly it will approve your goal and so help you find the necessary ideas and connections.

But it's possible **it'll show you that a multitude of problems await you and that it'd be better if you didn't get involved.** That doesn't mean, of course, that you mustn't decide on such goals – you are Master of your life and your decisions. But when you undertake such a thing, you have to understand that probably serious problems lie ahead of you and that the result you end up achieving might differ markedly from the result you imagine today.

For example, you wish to take up a post which seems to you highly desirable. But your work-experience has shown you that it'd be better not to get involved. But you've ignored the hint, taken the bull by the horns and waded in; in other words, you've accepted the post. But very quickly it has become apparent that it involves several very unpleasant features which you weren't aware of before (you have to work nights or get involved in quasi-criminal activity, etc.).

How do you recognize your Subconsciousness's attitude to your choice of goal? It's very simple.

Use the method of "Mental Simulation"

That is, sit in an armchair, disconnect any telephones, and for 10 minutes imagine yourself to have achieved the result which the realization of the goal is supposed to bring about:

in every detail, with all the accompanying benefits, new responsibilities or changes.

In parallel, pay heed to your body and the signals it's sending you.

If you feel physically well and comfortable, and are having pleasant sensations in your body – that means your Subconscious is sending you a signal that you have set yourself an appropriate goal and that it's worth pursuing it.

If on the contrary you feel a chill, an unpleasant sensation or alarm, then you should understand that your Subconscious is sending you a signal that it would be a good idea abandoning this goal.

And having done this, you yourself will decide what to do. And you will take full responsibility for the consequences of this choice.

And that's it.

With that we complete the description of the Third principle of a successful and comfortable life. The gist of it simple – don't do anything blindly. Clearly identify your goal and everything else will fall into place automatically.

Well, not quite automatically, you have to work for it, nothing happens on its own. It's just that your efforts will be conscious and effective.

I'd like to believe in this.