

The Scroll Marked III

I will persist until I succeed.

In the Orient young bulls are tested for the fight arena in a certain manner. Each is brought to

the ring and allowed to attack a picador who pricks

them with a lance. The bravery of each bull is then

rated with care according to the number of times he demonstrates his willingness to charge in spite of the sting of the blade. Henceforth will I

recog-

nize that each day I am tested by life in like manner. If I persist, if I continue to try, if I continue to charge forward, I will succeed.

I will persist until I succeed.

I was not delivered unto this world in defeat, nor does failure course in my veins. I am not a sheep waiting to be prodded by my shepherd. I am a lion and I refuse to talk, to walk, to sleep with the sheep. I will hear not those who weep and complain, for their disease is contagious. Let them join the sheep. The slaughterhouse of failure is not my destiny.

I will persist until I succeed.

The prizes of life are at the end of each journey, not near the beginning; and it is not given to me to

know how many steps are necessary in order to reach my goal. Failure I may still encounter at the

thousandth step, yet success hides behind the next bend in the road. Never will I know how close it lies unless I turn the corner.

Always will I take another step. If that is of no avail I will take another, and yet another. In truth,

one step at a time is not too difficult.

I will persist until I succeed.

Henceforth, I will consider each day's effort as but one blow of my blade against a mighty oak.

The first blow may cause not a tremor in the wood, nor the second, nor the third. Each blow, of itself,

may be trifling, and seem of no consequence. Yet from childish swipes the oak will eventually tumble. So it will be with my efforts of today.

I will be liken to the rain drop which washes away the mountain; the ant who devours a tiger; the star which brightens the earth; the slave who builds a pyramid. I will build my castle one brick at a time for I know that small attempts, repeated,

will complete any undertaking.

I will persist until I succeed.

I will never consider defeat and I will remove from my vocabulary such words and phrases as quit, cannot, unable, impossible, out of the question, improbable, failure, unworkable, hopeless, and retreat; for they are the words of fools. I will

avoid despair but if this disease of the mind should

infect me then I will work on in despair. I will toil

and I will endure. I will ignore the obstacles at my

feet and keep mine eyes on the goals above my head, for I know that where dry desert ends, green grass grows.

I will persist until I succeed.

I will remember the ancient law of averages and I will bend it to my good. I will persist with knowledge that each failure to sell will increase my chance for success at the next attempt. Each

may I hear will bring me closer to the sound of
yea.

Each frown I meet only prepares me for the smile
to come. Each misfortune I encounter will carry in
it the seed of tomorrow's good luck. I must have
the night to appreciate the day. I must fail often
to

succeed only once.

I will persist until I succeed.

I will try, and try, and try again. Each obstacle
I will consider as a mere detour to my goal and a
challenge to my profession. I will persist and de-
velop my skills as the mariner develops his, by
learning to ride out the wrath of each storm.

I will persist until I succeed.

Henceforth, I will learn and apply another secret
of those who excel in my work. When each day is
ended, not regarding whether it has been a success
or a failure, I will attempt to achieve one more
sale. When my thoughts beckon my tired body
homeward I will resist the temptation to depart. I
will try again. I will make one more attempt to
close with victory, and if that fails I will make
an-

other. Never will I allow any day to end with a
failure. Thus will I plant the seed of tomorrow's
success and gain an insurmountable advantage
over those who cease their labor at a prescribed
time. When others cease their struggle, then mine
will begin, and my harvest will be full.

I will persist until I succeed.

Nor will I allow yesterday's success to lull me
into today's complacency, for this is the great
foundation of failure. I will forget the
happenings

of the day that is gone, whether they were good or
bad, and greet the new sun with confidence that
this will be the best day of my life.

So long as there is breath in me, that long will
I persist. For now I know one of the greatest
prin-
ciples of success; if I persist long enough I will
win.

I will persist.

I will win.

by Og Mandino