



ChimDingo Publishing - Motivational Speech



“A Journey of Personal Responsibility”



Brian R Heath *MBA Macq*

A JOURNEY OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY (not spoken)

Twenty-nine years ago I stood ...lonely and distraught ... **as an outcast**.

In the intervening years I stood ..., lost and confused, ...in the wilderness.

Two weeks ago I stood ..., proud and transformed, ...**on the dais**.

Welcome.

Today I invite you to share a journey, .. a long journey of personal responsibility, ... the twenty-nine year journey to attain my first university degree, a Masters of Management ¹.

The Game of Life is a bit like a poker game. Many of you, may be successful and happy with what life has dealt you, but some of you may **not be happy** with the way the cards have fallen and are contemplating change,... questioning your values...or are undecided about what the future holds.

I encourage you to challenge your reality and maybe take those risks, **that plunge**, you have maybe always wanted to, but could never quite summon the courage to do.

When I was fifteen I was dealt a losing hand and had to leave school. My crime, and for a shy teenager it seemed that I was being punished, was not intellectual ability, but poverty. My university aspirations were dashed. I was devastated. I withdrew, rebelled and derailed as my time in the wilderness began. **I would do it my way**.

By the wilderness, ... I mean that state of mind and living where you don't know implicitly who you are, where you are going, why you are doing things or **you choose to live a lie**. It is a period when your reality is limited to the perceptions that your educational and social norms dictate.

It is often a time when the bleakest moments of your existence occur,...tempered though by some of the most memorable.

My journey was all of those things. ...

Were there or are there now times like that for you?

¹ BRH – I went on to gain an MBA in General Management

I was always prepared to **throw my hand in**, take a risk and try for a new one. I had many changes. I always had hope, I always knew I was a good person and I always knew there was something better out there for me. It came down to personal responsibility and choices. I never gave in.

How prepared are you to change?

Laser eye surgery proved a catalyst to embark on a self-development program, try new things and extend myself. The wilderness was a good place to hide, but I no longer wanted to live in 'my problems', I now wanted to live in the 'solutions', **so I threw away my worn pack of cards.**

While I did not feel it was absolutely necessary to have a degree to succeed in life there was always that nagging doubt, that constant questioning from other people and that old chestnut of me not being responsible, so I enrolled here at MGSM, ...spending my house deposit in the process and culminating in my recent graduation.

It has **been a huge risk for me** and I didn't know where it would lead. I have the **key to unlock doors I haven't yet encountered** plus it led me quite unexpectedly, here at MGSM, to the woman I truly love! ² ...

That's the winning hand I have now been dealt. What will you do with your hand? Fold...Sit...or Draw?

If there is something you don't like about yourself or your situation, CHANGE IT! (pound)

Forget the meticulous life plan, take some big risks, do something completely at odds with your current pattern and see where it leads you. You may be pleasantly surprised.

It took me twenty-nine years to get my act together. Don't let it take you that long!

GET A NEW DECK AND DEAL A NEW HAND.

Thank you.³

² BRH - it didn't work out in the end - right people, wrong time & circumstances, but it was a wonderfully romantic story across cultures; I'll write about it one day.

³ **Coding Legend** [time limit 4 minute speech, 1 minute questions]

.....	Pauses
_____	Light & Shade / Emphasis / Change Tone
BOLD	Volume