

**Topic:** We never get what we want, but what we deserve

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Our life is very interesting if we take the time to observe and recollect it with a certain sense of humour. Sometimes it is the world that is very interesting. Now to someone who has breathing issues, a lung disease caused by inhalation of very fine silica dust, the disease is called “pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis.” It has 45 letters. Think about someone with this disease, explaining what disease he has to someone else. He would lose his breath trying to name the disease. This is the longest word in most English dictionaries. The second longest word is “Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia.” Guess what the word means? It refers to a phobia of long words. The name for the fear of long words itself is the second longest word in the world. Again, think about someone who has this phobia trying to share what kind of phobia he or she has. Like Ellen shares in her show, the word for this phobia actually has to be something short (Like Zzz). But no, it has to be this word which has 36 letters. For some of us, this will be the longest English we use in a conversation. This is life!

In life we never get what we want, but we are always given what we deserve. For me my first ambition as a seven-year-old boy was to become a truck driver. We lived in Phuentsholing then, and I had this uncle from our village who drove this magnificent and super decorated truck. Every time he comes to our shop, he would bring all those news from different places, especially about my friends back in the village. As a child I was fascinated by his lifestyle. He would travel wherever he wanted and eat at different hotels everyday. Only when I heard him complain about the heavy loading work and not having enough money, did I think ‘this is not what I want in life!’. I also nearly became a monk, seeing one of my monk friends carrying Nu. 500 as pocket money. It was my first time seeing someone my age having the authority to spend Nu 500 on his own. But that dream didn’t last long when he said that monks cannot marry or mingle with girls. From the age of 11, I had this plan of marrying and having a child to whom I will buy all the toys that he wants and play PlayStation with.

As teachers started asking for what our ambition is in the class, I was precise about my ambition. Once I watched this Bollywood movie where a chartered accountant g 2

lakhs (Rs.0.2 million) for a single signature. At that time, I said this is what I want to be. I also talked about this job with my friends, and I could see the same amusement and greed on their faces. They wanted more information regarding the job, and I said we just have to sign the paper. One of my friends also wanted to be a chartered accountant, unfortunately he couldn't because he couldn't pronounce the name correctly. Thus, I was the only one in the class with a different and unique ambition. Rest all wanted to be Doctors and engineers. In 8<sup>th</sup> standard, we finally had someone with an ambition that could beat the uniqueness of my ambition. She was the daughter of our new principal. Now when she said she wants to become a choreographer, everyone was shocked. No one in the class knew what that job was. Even my Dzongkha Lupon was confused. She tried to explain, but we didn't understand what the job meant. Only when she said it is what Karma Jerry does in the movies, everyone was like oh okay!

But as I grew up and took Science in 11<sup>th</sup> standard, my ambition changed to becoming a doctor. I had this thick Class 12 Biology textbook, where I wrote MBBS in bold with a permanent marker in the first page right below Veer Bala Rastogi, the author's name. I made Aristotle my "*Tsawai Lam*" Root Guru. However, on the class 12 result day, I realised I was not meant to be a doctor, for my marks didn't qualify me to get the scholarship. On that day, two things occurred in my mind. Firstly, I saw my friends laughing at me while my mathematics teacher snatched that stethoscope from my neck. Secondly, the definition of MBBS changed from Bachelors of Medicine, Bachelors of Surgery to Mouth Big; Brain Small. As I recovered from the trauma, I decided to take B.Sc. in Life Science in Sherubtse College. I thought I could become a Zoologist or Botanist, but that dream was shredded to pieces during the introduction session when our program leader said '50% of you will join the teaching profession, 10% of you will join public administration and the rest I don't know where you will end of going'. On the very first day of joining the college, I saw my plan disappear in thin air. Fun fact here, now as I look in the crowd today, I can see many of my classmates here in the crowd. I guess my program leader was not kidding when he shared those statistics. I still see him in my dream sharing those stats.

After graduating from college, I was set on becoming a Biology teacher. But then when the women on the phone asked me which course I want to take, the name Post Graduate Diploma in Contemplative Counselling Psychology sounded very

interesting. Maybe it was her voice, but it was at that moment I decided I am going to become a guidance counsellor.

Now let's come back to the beauty of life. As the classes began, I was developing more interest and love for the course. For the first time in my 17 years of education, I saw myself waking up by 6AM in the morning getting excited for the class. I could connect more with what the course has to offer. I found that joy in learning. That desire and curiosity was so different. I fell in love with the process of becoming a top-notch counsellor. For the first time, I felt like I was getting closer to knowing where I belong. And during my field practicum days: I realised God never sends us where we want to but where we belong. We never get what we want, but what we deserve."

So, as I end my speech here I would like to thank everyone for listening to this small journey of mine: the journey of changing my *Tsawi lam* from *Baba Aristotle* to Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche. Remember, when God takes something from you, he is planning something bigger for you. Learn to love the 'change' in life, you will live better.