

The Stonecutter

There was once a stonecutter who was dissatisfied with himself and with his position in life.

One day he passed a wealthy merchant's house. Through the open gateway, he saw many fine possessions and important visitors. "How powerful that merchant must be!" thought the stonecutter. He became very envious and wished that he could be like the merchant.

To his great surprise, he suddenly became the merchant, enjoying more luxuries and power than he had ever imagined, but envied and detested by those less wealthy than himself. Soon a high official passed by, carried in a sedan chair, accompanied by attendants and escorted by soldiers beating gongs. Everyone, no matter how wealthy, had to bow low before the procession. "How powerful that official is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a high official!"

Then he became the high official, carried everywhere in his embroidered sedan chair, feared and hated by the people all around. It was a hot summer day, so the official felt very uncomfortable in the sticky sedan chair. He looked up at the sun. It shone proudly in the sky, unaffected by his presence. "How powerful the sun is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the sun!"

Then he became the sun, shining fiercely down on everyone, scorching the fields, cursed by the farmers and laborers. But a huge black cloud moved between him and the earth, so that his light could no longer shine on everything below. "How powerful that storm cloud is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a cloud!"

Then he became the cloud, flooding the fields and villages, shouted at by everyone. But soon he found that he was being pushed away by some great force, and realized that it was the wind. "How powerful it is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the wind!"

Then he became the wind, blowing tiles off the roofs of houses, uprooting trees, feared and hated by all below him. But after a while, he ran up against something that would not move, no matter how forcefully he blew against it – a huge, towering rock. "How powerful that rock is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a rock!"

Then he became the rock, more powerful than anything else on earth. But as he stood there, he heard the sound of a hammer pounding a chisel into the hard surface, and felt himself being changed. "What could be more powerful than I, the rock?" he thought.

He looked down and saw far below him the figure of a stonecutter.

25 Books That Shift Your Mindset

- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change by Stephen Covey
- Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less by Greg McKeown
- The 5am Club: Own Your Morning, Elevate Your Life by Robin Sharma
- Crafting Your Purpose by John Coleman
- The 4-Hour Workweek: Escape the 9-5, Work Anywhere, and Join the New Rich by Timothy Ferriss
- David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants by Malcom Gladwell
- The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch
- Please Unsubscribe, Thanks!: How to Take Back Our Time, Attention, and Purpose in a World Designed to Bury Us in Bullshit by Julio Gambuto
- Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones by James Clear
- 100 Side Hustles: Unexpected Ideas for Making Extra Money Without Quitting Your Day Job by Chris Guillebeau
- The Tao of Pooh by Benjamin Hoff
- Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu
- The Good Enough Job: Reclaiming Life from Work by Simone Stolzoff
- You're a Miracle (and a Pain in the Ass): Embracing the Emotions, Habits, and Mystery That Make You You by Mike McHargue
- Keep Going: 10 Ways to Keep Going in Good Times and Bad by Austin Kleon
- The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
- Reasons to Stay Alive by Matt Haig
- Life's Journeys According to Mister Rogers: Things to Remember Along the Way by Fred Rogers
- The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life by Mark Manson
- You Are a Badass: How to Stop Doubting Your Greatness and Start Living an Awesome Life by Jen Sincero
- Badass Habits: Cultivate the Awareness, Boundaries, and Daily Upgrades You Need to Make Them Stick by Jen Sincero
- The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho
- Buddhism for Busy People: Finding Happiness in an Uncertain World by David Michie
- The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World by Eric Weiner
- The Power of Positive Thinking by Norman Vincent Peale