



/ It's a fine day today

Sunday / 29 August 2004

So, what's on my mind ?



Having Purpose & Going it Alone.

For all new readers, Der Invest Informant is not only about investment and economics, but it's also about personal outlook and empowerment amongst other things. Taking responsibility for our investments is just as important as taking responsibility for our lives. I might be getting a little off the "investment track" on this one, but as I often say, life is so much more than JUST investing. Bear with me.

Sometimes in life, when something we hear or see or read, it just goes "click" in our head. On a recent night out, I just had to "clear my head", so I went to the cinema – nothing special in mind, but decided finally on the film "King Arthur", as I tend to like historical based films and since the german film critics killed it¹, giving instead their "thumbs up" to Spider Man II - I needed no more contrarian signals than that to purchase a ticket.

In one of the scenes, where King Arthur is distraught at having to send his valiant knights on a final mission in order that they may gain their freedom from Rome's indenturement, he struggles with himself and his higher morals and ethics, saying something to the likes of : "Oh dear God, let me be taken on their part, only then shall I know that my life has had a purpose – only then shall I know that not all was in vain".

"Click" it went in my head – let me explain. Many of us in our lives, often complain about the day-in and day-out "grind" of life. I hear it all around me. The treadmill of life. Wake up, shower, shave, breakfast, commute to work, take the shit from boss, get stressed, little time for our children, little time for wife or husband or partner, commute home exhausted, thinking of that damn presentation or that client, eat our dinner and collapse on the couch. Throw in a 2 week holiday here or there – the hotel is crap, the food ok but not great and its raining. Now, multiply that by 20 years and it's no wonder we are all burn outs. It's just the way things are.

Well, I thought like that once too. That was about 20 years ago. I had had a high-tech job, worked anywhere between 12-15 hours a day and still got shat upon from the manager – his mismanagement and my living hell. Not only me, but the entire team suffered. We all thought it would pass – but months went on and we were all nearly sleeping in our chairs so exhausted from extended night shifts. One day I just snapped. I went into the manager's office and let'er rip big time. I thought, "OK, I'm outta here, but I'll get a life". He didn't fire me. He was too smart for that – he sat there like a rock, and let all my "disenchantment" with him roll gently over his shoulders. He was waiting for his pension – no need to rock the boat he must have thought. I quit a few months later and never looked back. I have never been on a payroll since. That was my little act of King Arthurism. My life now had a purpose. I would be in command of where, when and how I work. I just could not imagine a life of indenturement. Ok, I think you get my



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point. Since that epiphany, I have been more content and excited by life than I ever would have imagined. Sure I've been down, sure I've had rough times, but I have also travelled the world, worked in far away lands and learnt many things. But the most important thing I learned, is that you must be true to yourself and have faith in yourself. Some people are content with their surroundings but many people seem not to be. I know it is a process and that process takes time and patience. An interesting book which I had read on this subject a few years ago, is by an ex-corporate manager, a woman, who basically had also had enough, her name is Harriet Rubin² and the book is called "Soloing". It depicts the syndrome I just mentioned and how a plan can be made for people to move from corporate employee to a self-styled 1-man team, a solo act. I could relate with a number of points she makes and I think that it is also a thought which many people today have – the "grind" of corporate jobs is literally killing them. I can say from personal experience that soloing takes getting used to. Why? Because it goes against most of what one has been led to believe in school and society. On the other hand, I fall back to one of my standard sayings "If everyone is thinking the same thing, then not a lot of thinking is going on".

Along that very same theme, I started this newsletter. I have always been attracted to writing, to investments, to research, to history, to travel, to numbers, to creativity and out-of-box thinking, to brainstorming, to reading, to analysis. Not a lot of job specs fulfilling my criteria. That is why I call this newsletter "holistic" in nature. Everything is intertwined and interconnected with everything else. And I like to try and unravel some of these issues for my readers. Again, King Arthur was right; our lives must have a higher calling and purpose. I believe this is what I want to be doing – I am passionate about what I do. I am convinced that if we all would try and follow our own path and destiny as we choose, our lives would be much more contented AND we would be much more successful financially as universal law works with us, not against us. Equally, which I am going to talk about in an upcoming article, part of my considerations for this newsletter is the degree to which so-called "job security" is neither secure let alone a job. An oxymoron if ever there was one. Skilled and successful people are laid off at the tip of a hat – bottom line bad, we gotta correct it – ok, axe 3000 jobs. It's everywhere.

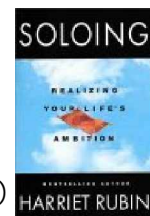
So, if soloing is a something you have even ever considered, I advise you at least read the book – it might help you weigh up things for or against. For me it has always been an open door to variety and contentment. Is that not what life should be about ?

Signing off Sunday night,
R.

The Film : <http://kingarthur.movies.go.com/main.html>

Hadrian's Wall : <http://www.aboutscotland.com/hadrian/> (extra info for history buffs)

Book : <http://www.gurteen.com/gurteen/gurteen.nsf/0/7CB5382DF23EDEB4802568C9003964F4/>



¹ maybe the german film critics gave it a "thumbs down" because the Saxon army was defeated J – who knows.

² I have absolutely NO connection with Ms. Rubin nor the publisher just as I have no connection with the film King Arthur