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Create, not duplicate

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The Uber-future has arrived. Similar to what many taxi-drivers have learnt, our lives and livelihoods can be disrupted in the blink of an eye. It can be either Uber-thrilling with opportunities or Uber-terrifying with obsolescence. It depends on whether we can adapt promptly. How prepared are we for the Uber-future? Are we original? Do we create?

On reflection, we spend most of our time following the rules and do not try to transform them. As a result, we become experts in our chosen fields but not revolutionaries. Some may feel that we have yet to live up to our full potential!

Perhaps, this is due to our upbringing. We strive to earn the approval and admiration of our parents, teachers and employers. We practise to achieve great grades and results. We believe that practice makes perfect, but forget that it does not make new creations.

For example, when a gifted child learns how to play Mozart's magnificent melodies, they practise his scores, but not compose original pieces. Practice can blind us to further ways of improvement. The more we practise, the more we become entrenched in old ways.

1. Be passionate in what we do

Practice requires commitment. What motivates one to practise for long

hours? It is passion. Passion is discovered through a natural curiosity or nurtured through an early enjoyable experience. To discover, go for breadth, not just depth. Generate new insights instead of merely focusing on existing knowledge. Investigate instead of conform.

"You have to be burning with 'an idea, or a problem, or a wrong that you want to right.' If you're not passionate enough from the start, you'll never stick it out."

Steve Jobs

2. Be empowered

Fewer rules enable us to be creative. By limiting rules, we are encouraged to think for ourselves. The only rule we need is to find joy in what we do. If we love what we do, we will be able to stick it out, especially in bad days.

To bring original ideas into the world, we need to live our passion, not others. Be free to sort out and discover our own interests.

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma — which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the

courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary."

Steve Jobs

3. Do not be afraid to fail

"Because almost everything - all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure - these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important."

Steve Jobs

To create, we need to push the envelope to discover and improve. As we move beyond our comfort zone, we may fail. Nonetheless, taking two steps forward then one step back is still progress. Failure is what teaches us on what we can do better in our next step. Learn from it. Keep moving forward. What does not kill us only makes us stronger and wiser, if we are not faint-hearted.

Be comfortable in our own skin. Be authentic. Listen to our guts. Explore, experiment and evolve. The world around us does not stand still and we should not too. Create to design a better future for all.

"The best way to predict your future is to create it."

Abraham Lincoln