

Want to predict your future?

Your plans for the future are going to succeed.

-- Chinese fortune cookie

In preparing to donate an old purse, I found this fortune. When I first received it many years ago, I read it and thought that it was telling me not to worry, because what I wanted in the future was definitely going to happen. As I read it recently, I found myself focusing more on the word “plans” than on the word “future.”

Now, I read this fortune to say that when we make plans for the future, we succeed. I also see that there is a difference between a vision for the future and plans for the future. Plans are the concrete, next action steps we take to make our visions a reality. For example, if my vision is that I have a fantastic job, I make plans to make my vision a reality.

Plans are long and short-term. Why? Because you need short-term plans to get you to where you can execute your long-term plans. You must take the first step, first. In the example of having a vision of a fantastic job, your long-term plan might be to spend your time doing what you love. Your shorter-term plan might be to move to a new job within one year. You must break down your plans until you create the plan that you can accomplish today! If your choice is to obtain a new job, your plan for today might be to network with three new people in your field of interest.

What plans do you have for the future? Have you made any plans? To get yourself on the path you want:

1. Envision what you want in the future.
2. Make long-term plans for how you will accomplish your vision.
3. Plan what you can and will do today to move you towards accomplishing your long-term plans.
4. Execute your plans.

Remember the old proverb that is the English equivalent of the Chinese fortune: “S/He who fails to plan, plans to fail.”

What did you accomplish this month? Acknowledge your achievements.

What are your plans for next month? Make your plans now.

Next month:

Know what to do but just can't seem to do it?
Some tips on how to make progress.

Tips for Living

Brought to you by

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The Third Week of Every Month

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