

FINANCIAL NEWSLETTER

Embracing the Arena: *A Reflection on Courage and Perseverance*

May 2024



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The OakTree Newsletter: More Income. More Safety. More Confidence

May 2024

Hello Christina,

Welcome to this month's newsletter! In our fast-paced lives, we often stumble upon words that deeply resonate and offer guidance. This month, let's explore Theodore Roosevelt's famous quote, "The Man in the Arena," reflecting on its timeless wisdom about courage and perseverance.

Embracing the Arena: A Reflection on Courage and Perseverance

In the midst of our fast-paced lives, there are moments when we encounter words that resonate deeply, offering guidance and inspiration. This month, I'd like to share with you a timeless reflection on courage and perseverance encapsulated in Theodore Roosevelt's famous quote, often referred to as "The Man in the Arena."

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."



Roosevelt delivered this poignant message in April 1910 during a speech at the Sorbonne in Paris. At a time of great societal change and uncertainty, Roosevelt sought to inspire a sense of civic duty and moral courage among his fellow citizens. His words, however, have transcended their original context, resonating with individuals across cultures and generations. The essence of Roosevelt's message lies in the image of the "man in the arena" – the individual who dares to venture into the arena of life, risking failure and criticism in pursuit of noble ideals. Roosevelt extols the virtues of such individuals, emphasizing their importance in driving progress and shaping history.

Moreover, Roosevelt's words remind us of the inevitability of criticism and failure. He urges us not to be swayed by the opinions of those who never dare to strive, but rather to embrace the challenges of the arena with unwavering determination.

In today's world, characterized by rapid change and uncertainty, the message of "The Man in the Arena" resonates deeply. Whether in our personal or professional lives, we are constantly confronted with obstacles and setbacks. Yet, it is precisely through confronting these challenges with courage and perseverance that we grow and achieve greatness.

As we navigate the complexities of life, let us heed Roosevelt's call to embrace the arena, knowing that it is in daring greatly that we find fulfillment and purpose. Let us strive to be the ones who dare greatly, who refuse to be deterred by failure, and who shape our own destinies. In closing, I invite you to reflect on Roosevelt's words and consider how they resonate with your own journey. May they serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement as we continue to strive for greatness in all that we do.

-Jim Barlow, MS, CFP

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Quotes Jim sent his family this past month:

"Anytime in my life when I have managed to go from a vision to a reality, the vision has not been a plan but a practice. In other words, what matters is not having a vision, but rather making a habit of returning to and revising the vision. For the big things in my life, I'm always coming back to them week after week—sometimes day after day. As new information arrives, the vision gets updated. The dream becomes more crystallized over time. It's a habit of thinking about where you want to go with an ever-increasing degree of clarity. You do not need a vision, you need the practice of envisioning." James Clear

When you have the choice to be right or be kind, always choose being kind."

Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

The De-Should Life

There's a simple way to reverse this process, which I call the De-Shouldifier. It's a method for bringing our problem-solving skills back online and exiting the stalemate of 'should'. Here's how it works:

- 1. Rephrase whatever thing you think you should do as something you WANT to do.*
- 2. Then write down the results you would get if you act on this want.*
- 3. Now take the opposite angle and ask yourself why, specifically, you want NOT to do this thing.*
- 4. Compare the results in #2 with the reasons in #3 and decide how you want to proceed." Jane Elliott*

Pain Paradox: Short-term easy leads to long-term difficult, while the short-term difficult leads to long-term easy." Rory Vaden

[Watch me on KSL!](#)



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