

### **We were punished for taking shortcuts.**

Time is money; nowadays shortcuts are generously rewarded (they're called 'efficiency'). 'Reverse engineering' is why China and India are dominating the planet with cheaper productivity, new innovative solutions and ROI.

### **We were taught to fear differences in others.**

The most powerful person in any group is the most flexible. Any country that operates a culture of isolated superiority will fail. The smart players are breeding global citizens with multiple language skills and an interest in travel and adapting to new cultures. One day you will actually meet that new friend from the other side of the planet whom you met on Facebook.

### **We focused on our weaknesses.**

When you have a strength and are interested in something, you become better at doing it. The better you become, the more success you'll find – and success breeds more success. With that comes confidence as you outstrip the competition and begin to fill your own niche. If you focus on your weaknesses, someone will always be naturally better than you are. You will, at best, be average, frustrated and desperately unhappy watching dullards with less talent getting better results with less effort. Sound familiar? Unless you change, this pattern will keep repeating itself as it has been since your first childhood test results, all the way up to your last appraisal.

### **We were taught not to question authority.**

Supposedly, the teacher/boss/government/system knows best. That's why we've just experienced the biggest cultural revolution that the Middle East has ever seen. Social media has allowed a platform for the conversations that make people realise that the status quo needs rebalancing – regularly. In a world where presidents ask boy billionaires for advice, the rest of us have to sit open mouthed and wonder why we never got the same 'lucky breaks' as those we admire on television. We probably did, but we're told to ignore them by people who 'know best'. They don't. But you probably feel guilty for even thinking this way.

### **We were scared to fail.**

In school, we were taught a simple paradigm: get good exam results, get into a great university and get a good job; get bad results, and be cursed to accept an average life and average job forever. We are so paralysed by a fear of failure that we won't even contemplate an opportunity because there's a chance it might all go wrong. Successful people know it's a numbers game. That's why Richard Branson, Donald Trump and Steve Jobs are leaders in their fields, because they know that 'risk equals life'.

### **We worry about making mistakes.**

99% of us remember the classroom laughing at our 'foolishness' and can't bear the idea of the same treatment in the corporate world.

When you understand that you actually make the right decision at

the time of making it (we don't have hindsight), you can have more confidence in your own informed calculations. Success comes to those who take action and are prepared to learn from their 'mistakes'.

### **We don't believe in ourselves.**

Here's a wake-up call. No-one else cares about you as much as you do, nor do they know you as well as you do. No one else is likely to be around you from birth to death either.

With only one guaranteed witness who also doubles as your primary cheerleader, why do you care so much about what others think? They too have their own agenda; so maybe it's time you cut yourself a little slack and stop listening to others' opinions. You can only read your life properly when you look at it backwards. A wayward exam result or scolding needs to be put in the context of your whole life. Basically, it didn't matter then, and it matters even less now.

This is why most of us will spend most of our adult life searching for a new way to reinvent ourselves, make sense of our pasts and hope we can find the formula to happiness before it's too late.

Wow. That was a bumpy ride wasn't it?

Angry? Confused? Feeling that you've been more than a little short-changed for the last 20, 30 or 40 years? So what's the answer? Simple – join or form a tribe.

A 'tribe' is the new buzzword for a community in the Internet generation. But this is just the beginning of things to come. My own tribe is The Life Designers Tribe – a community of life-long learners dedicated to helping each other become leaders, industry experts and high achievers in their business, personal and spiritual life.

I invite you to join the tribe and look forward to hearing all about your aspirations.



### **DAVE CRANE**

Dave is the founder of the Life Designers – a RAK FTZ licensed company that specialises in providing motivational entertainment that changes people for life using a combination of business coaching, self improvement tools, NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) and superior visualisation techniques. The Life Design Academy provides training in presentation skills, sales and communication techniques and stress management.

Email: [dave@thelifedesigners.com](mailto:dave@thelifedesigners.com) Web: [www.thelifedesigners.com](http://www.thelifedesigners.com)