

Have you ever wondered why people often go through life not fulfilling their deeper and unique potential? It is a question that vexes many people. After all it should be a relatively straight forward path comprised of will and talent which gets people to where they want to be. But life is not as simple as that path suggests. There are other deeper more nuanced forces at work which undermine our unique talent and will to succeed. To gain a better understanding of what can go wrong, I am going to attempt to paint a reasonably accurate picture of some of my early cricket success. Hopefully, it sets the scene for what was to follow and how easy it is to get lost in life. Once we become lost in life then it is incredibly difficult to live up to our unique potential as a human being.

As a young 17 year old teenager I was a reasonably talented cricketer. The two years previous in under age competitions, I had won the bowling averages twice, the batting once and equalled the batting average award on the other occasion and both years played in the divisions under 21 sides. My first year of senior cricket I fluctuated between the firsts team and the seconds. The former I did not do particularly well in, the later I won the batting average.

In the second year of senior cricket I was on the precipice of consolidating my place in the

When I did get out everyone including the captain congratulated me on a good innings. The Captain pulled me aside and really praised my determination and how that innings helped the side achieve a very good score. All up I seemed to have done well and was on the verge of really stamping myself as a permanent fixture in the firsts.

But here is the catch. I would not play again for the remainder of the season through my own volition. Additionally, I did not train again for the remainder of the year. Up until then I only missed training if I was very sick. Typically, I was the first to arrive and one of the last to leave. To that point, I had not missed a single game. Yet in the blink of eye, I dropped something I loved like a very hot potato.

It would be close to a decade later before I would pick a bat up in earnest and play a full season again. Somehow the will and desire to play cricket just vanished of the face of the earth. What could cause such a strange turn of events? Take a moment to guess what may have been occurring for me before reading on.

Obviously, a case of fearing success, right? Possibly to some extent a fear of success may have been mixed in there. But as is often the case a psychological diagnosis and the subsequent label frequently hides more than what it tells.

Let's go back to a few hours earlier. I had just found out that my girlfriend had cheated on me. The betrayal was something she had confirmed with me. In addition, she wanted to break up with me. As you can no doubt summarize these were hardly insignificant facts.

The impact on me was no doubt heightened due to her being my first love and first 'serious' girlfriend.

I was angry at first when she told me. But quickly I went emotionally and psychologically numb. A lot of what I was feeling and thinking was suppressed and repressed.

It is not hard to suspect that at some level there was an association between psychological and emotional pain and cricket. The link being that at some level playing cricket unconsciously reminded me of the significant betrayal that had just gone on.

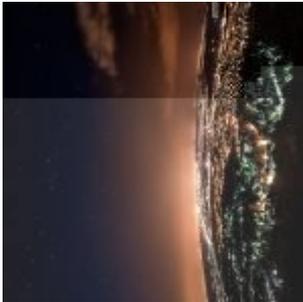
My mind could have chosen to believe that despite the adversity I went on to succeed. But as is often the case it's not a conscious choice as much as it's an unconscious selection. A way to think about unconscious selection is that there were many factors in place which made it extremely likely that I would have unconsciously selected pain over success.

There are a couple of points to be made thus far which are pertinent to this discussion. The first of these is that the betrayal by my ex-girlfriend was only part of the story. The diagnosis is only part of the story and still hides more than it tells. The betrayal was a trigger point for earlier childhood betrayals. There is not one betrayal but rather a seetr □□a

relationships, isolation, underachieving, overworking, frivolity and avoidance to mention only a few of many ways we



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