

LAW of LIFE #4: The Law of Three (perseverance vs. stubbornness)

(SEVEN ways on how to comprehend the **REALITY** of human situation)

Reasonable PERSEVERANCE with regard to LIFE's options and our personal expectation is what this Law allows. However, on many occasions what we have is not PERSEVERANCE, but STUBBORNNESS in the face of certain circumstances in which the Law of Warning is telling us "NO". When we have a doubt about a given situation, the wisest course of action is to make at least three attempts to ensure that it is not a lack of PERSEVERANCE; and, of course, each time to observe the result obtained.

Essentially, if some progress can be seen, however small, the purpose has chances of success. On the contrary, if stagnation or backward movement is observed, it is better to desist from the purpose to avoid falling into STUBBORNNESS or disobedience of the Law. However, if we are still not sure of the answer we can try up to a MAXIMUM OF SEVEN TIMES, because STUBBORNNESS will only lead us to achieve "what we want", but not "what we need" for our development.

At bottom, this is the Law that streamlines the use of vital energy. At times we can achieve what we want but at a very high cost. As Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950) noted: "The earth is still bursting with the dead bodies of the victors." We may also indulge ourselves in an undertaking of wasting energy uselessly, because such situations contribute little or nothing to our learning, or SELF-ACTUALIZATION. A typical example of wasting vital energy is trying to change someone else, because that is impossible.

Lawfully, there are no good or bad businesses, jobs or places, just those that are right for some people and others that are not. Learning to distinguish these situations can save us a great deal of energy and suffering in LIFE, because where one person fails, another is successful; what is an excellent business for one person can be the worst for another. The best way of knowing what is right for us is to use the Law of Three, for LIFE has a specific function for each particular individual.

In 279 BC., referring to the costliness of his victory at the Battle of Asculum, which gave rise to the phrase, a *Pyrrhic* victory, Epirian monarch Pyrrhus (318? - 272 BC) said: "Such another victory and we are ruined." In PERSEVERENCE, the appropriate amount of energy is expended, whereas in STUBBORNNESS more energy is expended than is produced. Listen to U.S. comedian George Jessel (1898 - 1981): "If you haven't struck oil in your first three minutes, stop boring!"

Truly, in PERSEVERENCE, energy is consumed and there are results, whereas in STUBBORNNESS energy is expended but there are no results. In PERSEVERENCE, there is effort, whereas in STUBBORNNESS there is toiling and struggle (there is lack of understanding). It is standing like an ox in the furrow with our sullen set eyes on the ground, and grumbling, 'This isn't fair dealing.' "None so deaf as those that will not hear," so taught English clergyman Matthew Henry (1662 - 1714).

Yielding PERSEVERENCE, entails living and thriving in the order of Universe, whereas in STUBBORNNESS there is pride (we must do whatever it takes) and ego (we must have our way). In PERSEVERENCE, headway is made, albeit slowly, whereas in STUBBORNNESS no headway is made or things begin to slip back. The situation stagnates, it does not flow, but we insist. Listen to Austrian psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich (1897 - 1957): "Cancer is due to the stagnation of the flow of the life energy in the organism."