

Joseph Wright
EDUC 6500
Professor Montgomery Lee
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Week 3, Chapter 3 - Class Discussion

Edwin Markham stated, “Choices are the hinges of destiny.” Do you believe this is true? Please justify your answer.

Life is certainly full of many different choices. There is an old Chinese proverb which says **“a journey of one thousand miles begins with a single step”**. With that in mind, I choose to say that yes, those steps, those choices we make, are indeed steps towards our destiny. Yet what is destiny? Is it a mystical force or fortune, to which we are bound, despite our own will? Perhaps it is, as some believe. I choose rather to focus on an alternative definition, that “destiny” is a final destination or outcome, and what or where that is depends strictly on the choices that we ourselves have made.

Choices matter. Some people prefer that they did not; it is those people I believe who promote the idea that destiny is some mystical force that propels us through life and that frankly no matter what decisions we make, we are simply hapless waifs in the swirling cosmic river of fate. Certainly this is an easier definition to accept, especially if the choices you have made have led you down a path of destruction, or you feel like your choices are of no consequence. I do not blame or judge others who thusly believe, but that is not the path for me. My choices are deliberate, and if not, I strive to make them so. I firmly believe that poet William Henley had it right when he penned “Invictus” in 1875. Below is an excerpt:

*In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed[...]*

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.*
