

**BECOMING YOUR**



**BY**

**LIVINGSTONE IMONITIE**

## **BECOMING YOUR DREAMS**

Becoming your Dreams...

Being what and who you dream of...

But many of us actually have dreams? Or rather, how many of us still have dreams?

Do you wake up every day and take life the way it is or are you pursuing something?

What are your dreams?

I remember when I was little I had so many dreams. I wanted to be a pilot, a doctor, an army officer and a farmer. I was a pretty good dreamer back then.

Most of us had dreams too when we were little. Some wanted to be famous and rich; some wanted to be Engineers, Business men, etc. But what happened?

What happened to those dreams?

Why is it that we are not where we dreamt to be?

What happened to us?

People are not born with dreams.

Oh, No they are not. As they began to grow, they started dreaming and worked towards their dreams and with time they accomplished their dreams. So ask yourself this question, 'Do I have a dream or am I just living'?

It will amaze you to know that there are many youths in our society today without dreams, they are just living and that is why I'm here to show you how to become your dreams.

First of all, you need to know what you want in life, what you want to become in life, what you want to achieve in life. That's your dream.

Do you want to be a musician, a fashion designer, a blogger, an actor, a doctor, an Engineer, a business man or woman? Whatever you dream of can be achieved in life but I tell you today it will not be easy. If it was easy, everyone would have accomplished their dreams. Every one of you can accomplish your dreams.

Don't get me wrong but are you ready to pay the necessary sacrifices? Are you ready to overcome the obstacle on the way?

When we see successful people on television living their dreams, we wish to be like them but how many of us are ready to pass through the challenges they had to overcome before being successful?

**Only but a few.**

You want to be the best musician but you are not ready to undergo series of training on your voice. You want to be a doctor and you are not ready to read your books. You want to be a fashion designer and when your boss corrects you, you feel offended and walk away. We want the end products but we are not ready to make the sacrifices. See, life doesn't work that way. You have to give something to get something.

At this point it will be nice if you get a notepad and a pen to take note of some of the key points I will be sharing with you. The training has already begun.

**What are the obstacles you will find on the way?**

When I said there will be obstacles on the way to becoming your dreams, I actually meant it. The road isn't smooth at all. A lot of persons give up on the way. Maybe you are one of such persons that have given up on his or her dreams because of the rough road. I tell you today that you made a wrong decision and if you do not correct it now, you will regret at the end.

Let's take a close look at some of the obstacles preventing us from becoming our dreams;

**OBSTACLE 1: PEOPLE NOT BELIEVEING IN YOU**

This is very true. Not everyone you tell your dreams to will believe in you. They tell you that you are too small or you are dreaming too big. They just say things to bring down your spirit. This has a very negative effect on a person especially when those who do not believe in you are your family members and close friends.

I heard a story about a young boy who wanted to study Art but his parents said No and forced him to study medicine. He got admission to study medicine. The young man actually did well and graduated with good results after 7 years in the University. But because he would not let anything destroy his dream, he gave his parents his certificate and went back to school to study Art.

This is one problem I have with parents. Some parents will not allow their children to study the course of their dreams. You are killing their dreams and it is wrong. Support their dreams and make them happy. When they study what they love, they will surely be successful because they will give in all their best.

Don't be the obstacle on the way to someone else dream. I am also talking to you. Don't make the same mistakes your parents made. Don't destroy the dreams of your children. Don't dream for your children.

Some persons start following their dreams but on the way other people talk negative about them and they give up. When I was in year 2 in the University, I wrote a material for a course that had no textbook. I discovered students were stranded on that particular course. Students from other faculty had written their own material but in my faculty, there was no material for the course. So I wrote one. I advertise the book to students in my faculty and other faculties and one day I got a call. Someone wanted the material. I showed it to him, and then he asked, 'who wrote this material?'

I told him I was the writer.

He felt disappointed. I don't know why but he wasn't happy. He said, 'because you are the one that wrote this material. I am no longer buying. I will buy from someone that has experience'.

I felt really bad that day. Why will someone say something like that to me?

Such is life. Because you are not famous, nobody wants to listen to the song you sang, or buy a product from you but they are forgetting that those famous people started small too.

Never let words from such people stop you from achieving your dreams.

The awesome part about my story is that I sold close to 100 copies of that material and I got testimonies from students of how the material helped them in passing the course. I didn't allow his opinion determine my work. You shouldn't either.

## **OBSTACLE 2: NO TIME**

I hate it when I discuss with people and they tell me the reason they haven't achieved their dreams is because there is no time. Do you expect God to freeze time just for you?

You have the same 24 hours with the guy making headlines but you keep giving excuses. Nobody wants to hear your excuses of failure; they want to hear your stories of success.

Stop giving excuses or blaming time.

Your dream is to become a programmer but you haven't started anything yet because you think there is no time for you to start. Keep complaining while others are achieving their dreams.

I have a friend who is a programmer and he has designed series of websites and apps for clients. He is just in year 3 studying Microbiology in Nigeria. Yes, Microbiology and not even Computer Science. He stayed with me for some time and I noticed something about him. He goes to classes late, reads his book at the early hours of the evening and at night, he is on fire with his laptop. While others were sleeping, he is either learning a new programming language online or he is working on a new project. Then he sleeps at the early hours of the day, now you know why he goes to class late.

I once asked him how he does it and his response was, 'Time Management'. The interesting fact about this young man is that nobody physically taught him programming. He learnt everything online. Yes, online.

And your excuse is that there is no time. Do you know that as a student in the higher institution, you are free 10,000 hours from your year one to your final year, excluding the time you use in cooking and sleeping.

If you really want to accomplish your dreams, then you need to create time to work on it.

'What about me? I am not a student, how do I get free time?'

### **Create it.**

I'm currently on Industrial Training and I go to work from 8am – 5pm from Monday to Friday.

So how do I have time to work on my writing and speaking?

It's quite simple. When I get home by 5:30 pm or 6pm, I take a shower and look for what to eat. After which I sleep. I sleep for 2 hours and wake up by 9:30pm. Then I work on myself. Its either I am reading a book, or I am on the internet getting in formation or I'm typing on my laptop or I am chatting. Yes, I chat too. I have a social life. I end up sleeping by 1am. So you see, while others who say there is no time are sleeping, I'm awake working with time.

And I love Saturdays. I achieve a lot on Saturdays. When I wake up, I do a little exercise, take my bath, eat and back to my books, readings, or typing. I read a lot. Most of the information I have are not from my parents or my lecturers, they are all from the books I read. I want to be a great writer and public speaker so I spend my time to read books written by great men.

I know where I'm heading to and having no time shouldn't be my excuse. I create the time.

Some of my friends who noticed that I was always online and with my laptop began getting worried. I got messages like;

'Stone, hope you are not into internet fraud?'

‘Stone, you are not serious at all, you are always online’.

While others think I was wasting my time, I was preparing myself to becoming my dream. When I launched my first e-book, the same people who said I was wasting my time were first to download the book.

There was a particular article I wrote and up till this moment, ‘7 things Guys Should Know About Ladies’ has not gotten a single negative comment. The article was on relationship and I wrote it few weeks after I started my Industrial Training.

Now the question is: what are you using your time to do?

Becoming your dreams or complaining of having no time?

### **OBSTACLE 3: F E A R**

I say this without fear or favour of anyone that the main reason youths of today are not becoming their dreams is due to FEAR. Fear of the unknown. What if I don’t make it? What if nobody believes in me? What if I invest in this business and I lose money?

You have not started and you are already scared of failing. Fear is the biggest obstacle. If you can overcome your fears, you are half way to becoming your dreams.

You have great ideas, ideas that can rule the world but you are scared. It’s normal to be scared, in fact that is what make us human but never allow your fears take over. Don’t give way to your fears. Who said you cannot make it in life? Who said you cannot become the superstar you want to become?

Because of fear you quit your dreams and you are busy working on someone else’s dream. If you don’t build your dreams, you will help someone else build his. Which do you prefer?

When I started my career as a public speaker, I was scared too. In fact the first day I stood on a podium to speak, I was really scared. I prayed the ground should open up and swallow me but I was already on stage and there was nothing I could do. It was what I wanted and I just had to face my fears. I

overcame my fears and started talking. My hands were still shaking but with time I was all over the podium. After the class, someone came to me and asked how long I have been speaking. I told him it was my first time and he was shocked.

Never let your fears steal your spotlight.

#### **OBSTACLE 4: THINKING YOU HAVE ARRIVED**

This is one problem I have with some Nigerians. Anytime they feel they have achieved something in life, they relax and then begin to fall.

We have Nigerians playing football for clubs abroad. Initially they were good but when their 'village people' started calling them world class players, they started falling.

Feeling too big to be better. They got too comfortable with their present situation and refuse to be better. Ask them how many times they have collected world best from FIFA.

You see an upcoming artist, just because he has released an album and he is a little bit famous, he wants to enjoy life and stops improving.

Because everyone in your local government area buys your product, you stopped improving on it because you think they cannot do without it.

Keep deceiving yourself.

This is nothing but pride and pride takes a man up and brings him down but humility brings a man down and then takes him up. Choose wisely.

Don't let pride block you from becoming your dreams. Always learn to humble yourself.

#### **OBSTACLE 5: BEING ON THE WRONG PATH**

Ask yourself, 'am I on the right path towards becoming my dreams?'

If No, then quit.

It's as easy as that. Quitting does not make you weak.

No No No...

It means that you have realised that you are on the wrong path and you have been wasting time and resources pursuing what was not meant for you.

Most youths are on the wrong path because their friends are on that path. We need to realise that we all have different goals in life. Because your friend is making it in music or fashion doesn't mean you will make it there too. If that is not your dream, please follow yours.

When I started writing, I had friends who were writers too but we were not doing the same thing. They wrote spoken words piece and presented in front of crowds. They got invited to present and no one was calling me to talk. I am a motivational speaker and nobody wanted to be motivated at that time so I switched. I wanted to get invited too. I wrote a spoken word piece, worst write up ever and yes I got invited to present it but I was not called out on stage that day. I was really angry. Few days later I got back to my senses, I wasn't feeling the joy, and something was missing.

Spoken word isn't my thing. I had to quit and run back to my motivational and inspirational write ups and here I am, getting invites to speak. This is what I love doing and I am not going to quit it for any reason.

You need to know that what works for John might not work for you. You have your own life to live.

I have read stories of people who followed their dreams by quitting what wasn't.

Did you know that the late popular Nigerian novelist, Chinua Achebe was on scholarship studying medicine before he changed to English, History and Theology? Now his first novel 'Things Fall Apart' is the most widely read book in modern African Literature.

What would have happened to him if he had remained in medicine?

What if I tell you that 'Falz The Bahd Guy', a Nigerian Hip Hop Rapper and song writer is a graduate of law?

What if I tell you that 'Basketmouth', Nigerian comedian studied Sociology and Anthropology from the University of Benin?

These persons discovered purpose; they discovered what they were good at, worked towards becoming their dreams. They had to quit one aspect of their lives to follow their dreams.

If what you are doing isn't making you happy, kindly quit and follow your dreams.

Now with all these obstacles on our path, what is the **WAY OUT?**

What route should you follow?

### **ROUTE 1: YOU NEED TO GIVE UP CERTAIN THINGS**

To achieve your dreams, certain things in your life have to go. You just have to give up certain things. You will have to cut down your hours of sleep, the hours you used in watching television, the hours you waste.

Don't tell me that you want to be the next richest woman or man in Africa and all you do with your free time is watch television. You spend so much time watching people with visions on television. Why not strive to be on television too impacting lives?

Please I'm not saying you have to give up fun just because you want to achieve your dreams. All I'm saying is that you have to set your priority right.

Are you willing to give up those unnecessary things that take your time?

You are on a road to becoming your dreams and those set of individuals whose aim is to bring you down need to be out of your life. Cut them loose. You cannot be pursuing your dream and any time a particular friend comes to your house, all she does is to gossip about other people's failure and misfortune. Cut them loose.

### **ROUTE 2: MOVE WITH PEOPLE WITH VISION**

It is popularly said birds of a feather, flock together. Learn to move with people with visions. If you want to be a graphic designer or a blogger, make sure you

have people who are graphic designers or bloggers as friends. Iron sharpens iron.

Move with people with similar vision and you will never lose track of where you are heading to. When you move around with friends whose mission in life is to get drunk and have sex with different ladies, no matter how holy you are, with time you will become like them.

Most of the friends I have are guys and ladies whose vision is to impact lives and they are in love with what they do. I have spoken word artists, programmers, graphic designers, musicians, Engineers, doctors, etc. as friends and anytime we are together; our main discussion is how to rule our world. With such people around me, I choose not to be left behind. I remain focus on my dreams.

Not everyone is expected to be your friend, choose your friends wisely.

### **ROUTE 3: GET A MENTOR**

Anytime I am called to speak to young folks, I always tell them to get a mentor. A mentor is a person who is willing to teach you, show you show secrets of how to be successful in a particular area of life. And please when looking for a mentor, make sure that person has succeeded in the field you are in. you cannot meet a novice to mentor you.

If you want to be successful in public speaker, do not meet a successful fashion designer to be your mentor.

No, that's so wrong. Rather meet someone who is a successful public speaker to mentor you. With that you will learn from the mistakes that person made and will not repeat the same mistakes.

No man is an island of knowledge, you need to meet people and learn from them. You have a dream and wish to become that dream, then get a mentor today.

### **ROUTE 4: BE UNIQUE**

I told you earlier that one of the obstacles to becoming your dreams is being on the wrong track.

Don't try to copy others. Be different. Be unique.

What made Michael Jackson stand out was his uniqueness in the music industry.

What made AY stand out in comedy is his uniqueness.

And what will make you stand out is **YOUR UNIQUENESS.**

That's the difference between a business man and an Entrepreneur. A businessman does the same thing as every other person to make money but an Entrepreneur looks for a problem and offer solutions to that problem and makes money while doing that.

I told you earlier that I went into spoken word poetry because my friends were getting the spotlight. But that wasn't my dream, that was just me trying to copy someone else's dream and I tell you today, you can never be the best copycat in the world.

So why waste your time trying to become someone else dreams?

What works for Cynthia might not work for Fiona. Discover your own purpose and work towards achieving it.

## **ROUTE 5: STOP DREAMING AND WAKE UP**

Some will ask, 'Stone, are you saying we should not dream?'

No, that's not what I meant.

You have been dreaming long enough, it's time to wake up and work.

Stop dreaming and start working towards making your dreams a reality. And while achieving your dreams, strive to be nothing but the best.

It's wonderful to have an idea, but it is time to put those ideas to work.

When I made up my mind to become a writer and a public speaker, I didn't stop there. I went to work. I began reading books and listening to other speakers. I even tried speaking to myself in my room and on the road. Some of my roommates thought I was going mad. Some said I was only deceiving myself but here we are today. They are currently reading my works and they are learning.

Put your ideas into action for actions speak louder than words. We are tired of hearing about your dreams; we want to see them in actions.

### **WHEN DO I START WORKING ON BECOMING MY DREAMS?**

When do you think you should start?

Is it when you start making money or when you are old enough or when the time is right?

Young man, start **NOW!!!**

Stop saying you do not have the necessary resources to start and you want to wait.

I wrote my first material on an 80 leaves long note. Photocopied it and started selling. I had just finished High School then and it will shock you to know that I sold just one copy. Yes, just one copy.

I didn't stop there. I told you before that I wrote another material when I was in year 2 in the university. I used only my tablet to write that material. I was not having a laptop and I needed to write. I just had to make use of what was available and I sold close to 100 copies.

It worked like magic.

Did you know that Chinua Achebe's Novel 'Things Fall Apart' was originally written with pen and paper before it was sent overseas for publishing?

Don't let your present situation stop you from becoming your dreams. Make use of what is available. I will talk more on this later.

## **HOW DO I START BECOMING MY DREAMS?**

### **SECRET 1: HAVE A DREAM**

What I meant by having a dream is simply having an idea. Know what you want to become, know what you want to achieve. A man without a dream is like a train without an engine.

What are your dreams?

If you do not have a dream, then why are you here?

But it is true that some people do not have dreams. I was chatting in a group some weeks ago, we were discussing about students working on their talents and a guy said he does not know what he wants in life, that's he was just living without any direction and he has no talent.

My advice to him was to check within himself, he will surely find something that makes him happy and start working with that.

Do you enjoy talking? Then work with your mouth.

Do you enjoy singing in the bathroom? Then start training your voice.

Do you like money? Then start thinking of a business idea.

Look within you and you will see something you enjoy, turn that into a dream and achieve greatness with it.

### **SECRET 2: WRITE THE VISION DOWN**

Have you ever taken a walk down the street and suddenly an idea just came to your head?

You were so excited but when you got home, you forgot it. It just vanished.

Most of us have had that experience.

Beautiful, now that is why I advise my clients to always move around with a pen and a sheet of paper in their pocket or bag, so that as the idea comes, you quickly write it down.

If you have a dream, don't just dream about it, write it down.

I have a diary where I write all my business ideas and it's always in my bag. Anytime I get an idea, I just write it down. When I have written it down, I don't forget about it. I start working towards achieving it.

You are a song writer, you could just be taking your bath and an awesome lyric will come to you. What do you do?

Quickly, run out of the bathroom and write it down.

You could be in your car driving and an idea can just come that will turn your business around. Stop the car and write it down.

It is always safer when the dreams or ideas are written down.

Even the Holy Bible said something similar in Habakkuk 2:2

*“And the Lord answered me,  
and said, **Write the Vision,**  
and make it plain upon tables,  
that he may run that readeth it”.*

### **SECRET 3: PRAY ABOUT IT**

The physical is indeed controlled by the spiritual. When you have written down the vision, pray about it. You can never do it alone. Allow God come in and help you in becoming your dreams.

### **SECRET 4: START SMALL, START NOW**

I have heard series of excuses from people who are not living their dreams. Some complained about their background, some complained about not having finances, some complained about not having the necessary tools.

Now listen, your yesterday's failure should not determine your tomorrow's success. Because you failed before doesn't mean you will fail again. Learn to think positive towards your dreams.

Your background does not mean your back is on the ground. Others in your family tried and failed does not mean you will fail when you try.

Stop complaining about not having money or not having the right tool. Being born into a poor family isn't your fault, but if you die poor, then it is totally your fault. There are many ways of making money in this country. All you need is an idea.

Do you have a business idea but no money to finance it?

Do you know that there are people called 'Business Angels'?

These people are looking for where to invest their money in. Meet them with your great business idea and a well-structured plan, convince them and they will invest. That's how you use other people's money to make money.

You want to be a great musician and you haven't written any song of your own. What are you waiting for? You don't have to wait for a record deal, start something first.

When I go out and tell people that I am a writer, their next question is 'what have you written?'

Not having a laptop shouldn't be an excuse. When I started writing, I was using my phone to write before I got a laptop.

Start working with what is available.

Steve Harris said something when he was invited to my school to speak. He said, 'it is not what you do not have that limits you, it is what you have and do not know how to use'.

Make use of what is available. Chinua Achebe made use of his pen and paper to write his best-selling Novel.

I used my tablet to write a full material and sold close to 100 copies. What excuse do you have for not achieving your dreams?

## **SECRET 5: DO NOT BE LAZY**

If it was easy, everyone would have been successful. One common trait I find in all successful men and women today is that they are not lazy.

To become your dreams you need to be hard working and be ready to sacrifice and not give up. There is no room for lazy people at the top and only the serious and hardworking ones get to the top.

I told you guys earlier on that I am a student, I am currently studying Civil Engineering and I am in Kano State undergoing a 6 months Industrial Training. This is my 8th weeks here and even though I am always busy, I have read 6 books and countless number of articles. I have written 3 articles and launched my first free e-book titled '70 Push Ups For Success'.

Out of the 3 articles, '7 Things Guys Should Know About Ladies', an article on relationship had close to 439 downloads and still counting and I haven't gotten a single negative comment on the work. Everyone loved it.

If you want to become your dreams, you need to be hard working. There is no time to be lazy.

It is time to becoming your dreams. I believe in you and I know you too will make it.

Always remember that your **SUCCESS** in life is directly proportional to your **SMART WORK**.

**WAKE UP GUYS AND BECOME YOUR DREAMS!!!**

**RULE YOUR WORLD.**

It all starts with an **IDEA**.



Thank you for reading...

Written by **LIVINGSTONE IMONITIE**

***Writer and Public Speaker***

**(ALWAYS READY TO SERVE)**

Powered by **Imonitie Empire**

(Motivating, Impacting and Teaching Young People Around the World)

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I love you and you must become your dreams...