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The Sir Randol Fawkes Scholarship Essay

"What specific event in the life of Sir Randol motivates you today? In what ways do you personally identify with Sir Randol?"

It almost seems absurd that a French majoring college student such as myself would find a commonality in the rich life of a well revered man such as Sir Randol Fawkes. Yet I feel if nothing else my foundation may somewhat match his. I understand the value in having both parents present in my life to instill proper values and to expeditiously encourage diligence while denouncing mediocrity: to have a father who emphasizes greatness and upon falling short to have a mother who says, "It's not how you start but how you finish."

It is uncanny how the failures, the inadequacies and the seemingly unrelenting feeling of worthlessness can quite brilliantly forge a person into who they are meant to be. Inspirational even still how the state of hopelessness, the fears that fog over, and the defeats that buckle knees often weave together to make the best success stories. When I look at Sir Randol Fawkes, I find that these more sobering and somber moments of his legend are what motivate me more than any of his revolutionary, terminal successes do. It is not the image of a man cut off by the shins and still managing to make it to the finish line that inspires me; rather it is the image of a man nearly resigned on the ground trying to convince himself to move onward and then does just that. The personal battle resonates to me more because overcoming oneself is notably the most challenging of all feats.

At the beginning of his career as a lawyer, Sir Randol was suddenly suspended from practicing law for two years. Undoubtedly, this blow absconded with his self-esteem and left him in a state of complete insecurity. Temporarily torn from his livelihood, Sir Randol found himself in New York: at which point he was in and, more often than not, out of work. However, during this discouraging time, he was able to tunnel out a path for the part of him sunken beneath the earth. In his memoirs, he recalls, "As I moved from job to job, a new self-awareness was gained and I felt personal growth take place within me. My wilderness experience prepared me to perceive life-values in a real world" (Faith that Moved the Mountain 76). This illuminating growth that he spoke of, that sort of raw, self-objectivity resting within defeat, is what I see as nothing short of a show of greatness. Every moment he allowed his failure to reinforce rather than to overwhelm him, he became a greater individual, a greater leader and a greater inspiration. Subsequently, I have come to the realization that failure is not so much of a choice as it is a necessity to greatness. Nonetheless, it is a state of mind, and as I move forward in my studies, I aim to utilize failure the way Sir Randol did: as a conduit to success.

Work Cited

Fawkes, Sir Randol. *The Faith that Moved the Mountain*.(2003). Nassau.