

### 3. The Success Triad

As my meandering quest for success progressed from its 1951 beginning I am now convinced three factors are proven essentials in noteworthy achievements: actions (what I am doing), behavior (who I am being during the doing), perception (how I am seeing myself, others and the rest of it through the process).

The first two – doing/being – are a duality sages have noted for centuries, highlighted on this desk plaque from the seventies:

“The way to do is to be.” Lao Tzu
“The way to be is to do.” Nietzsche
“Do-Be-Do-Be-Do” Sinatra

One storied view of the doing/being dyad is of Jesus visiting Mary and Martha in Bethany (Luke 10:38-42) where Martha was busy with meal preparations, “doing for”, as Mary was engaged in “being with” Jesus, listening to his words. When Mary objected to Mary not helping, Jesus said Mary’s way was better.

Both are important, but “being with” is the human connector. There are times when one is most appropriate, yet I remember John Bradshaw’s reminder, “We are human beings, not human doings.”

The third, perception, seeing, is our worldview. The truly successful, those who live humanely, develop and continue refining a healthy one which filled with verifiable information and core beliefs, two essentials for viable opinions, freed from bias.

In summary, “Success is theirs who are doing what they really want to do while being who they really want to be as an original self, with others, and the rest of it, seeing what is from a healthy perspective with a single proviso: Being more helpful than not.” Easy to say, hard to do, yet possible when we focus on what’s most important in the moment.

### 4. The Success Questions

Saying our quest for success means answering questions may seem a play on words, consider this: Question, the term, can be viewed as the coalescence of two – quest and ion – with quest “an arduous search” and ion “a net charge”; therefore, question can be viewed as “an arduous search driven by a personal charge.”

Curiosity is one key. It may have killed the cat, but it’s a core human quality. Watch infants taking it all in. They are seeking answers to life’s early questions. My success checklist includes these five, each answer is a prerequisite for the next:

Q1: What’s it about? What’s what about? Everything. Everything that’s important at the time. What’s the cosmos about? Earth? Life? Human life? My life? Your life? The answers form a healthy worldview, our foundation for success.

Q2: Who am I? As a person? With others? In the cosmic scheme? Knowing who we are is critical and keeps changing.

Q3: Where am I going? What’s my mission? My vision?

Q4: Who will go with me? Who are my fellow travelers and not?

Q5: How will I participate in life? What am I doing? Who am I being? How clearly am I seeing myself, others and the rest of it? How am I helping more than not?

Knowing our place and purpose encourages self-actualization as our[true]self. Personal evolution makes continued success elusive. Each question a set point for the next, especially the Q3 and Q4. When we are more concerned with who will go with us than where we are going we may be distracted from our purpose.

In his book, *Fire in the Belly*, Sam Keen noted that Howard Thurman told Paul Tillich, “The two most important questions in life are ‘Where am I going and who will go with me. If we get them reversed we are sunk.’”

While the epithets we recall as reinforcement can be excellent success triggers. Our original ideas are more valid.

Being curious about everything we see as important can be the most influential quality in our pursuit of success. What are your answers to these questions. That’s the ticket.