

Promptness.

Promptness is one of the qualities which command success. There are certain gentle, attractive qualities which win it, but promptness makes no suit for prosperity, it commands it. Promptness is leadership; it does not follow like some of the other virtues; it leads the charge, and plants itself first on the obstacle in its path. This is a prompt universe or it would cease to be a universe, and go back into the chaos out of which the divine Builder reared it. Every world sweeps round its orbit without the delay of a second; every planet completes its august circuit through the heavens on the instant; suns rise and set century after century, and the sublime movement of the universe goes forward without the loss of a moment. The overhanging heavens are God's time-keepers, by which earth sets its clocks, and marks the little interval of its life. The heavens which declare the glory of God declare also His promptness; the business of the universe is always done on time. The business of men's lives can be well done in no other way. The man who delays and is late violates that order which is Heaven's first law, and does what he can to turn the world back to original chaos. He destroys his own chance of success; he breaks up the carefully-laid plans of other men more faithful than he; he blocks the wheels of universal progress. Such a man is not only a failure, but a nuisance to the community in which he lives. If you want success, be prompt; fall in line with the stars, and do your work on the instant. God is prompt; you cannot afford to be otherwise.

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