BROKEN EGGS

A SPEECH FOR

THOMAS BELLEHCHILI

The egg. It is a perfect symbol. In its single cell it holds life and hope, nourishment and possibility. But what happens when the egg is broken? Have you ever had a broken dream? (Waiting audience answer here). Think about it…. the whole egg symbolizes life… a dream... the promise of things to come. What’s the other side of that image? The broken egg… a broken dream… hopes of nurturing golden fulfillment lost… (**Do you want to break the first egg here?)**

When I was five years old I dreamt I was Superman. I dreamt I could fly. I awoke and believed it was possible and tried. I will never forget how my mum saw me and said, “You can’t fly!! Get off that chair and go back to your room.” I did as she said. I went back to my room and cried. It was the first time I felt the crack and knew I had experienced my first dream broken.

When I was twelve years old I had another dream. I envisioned myself as a basketball player. I shared my ambition with my father who promptly said, “Forget it!! You will never grow to be two meters tall! You better go back to your room and study. I went back to my room. Again I felt the scars formed by the crack in my shell. My second dream had been broken.

There is an expression that teaches us, “Where there is life there is hope.” When I turned eighteen, I dreamt I was to be a superstar in Hollywood like Tom Cruise. I thought he was soooooo cool. Again my father heard of my dream and asked, “Do you want to be like Tom Cruise?” And of course I was bursting with anticipation at the thought and said, “**YES**!!! Of course I want that!!” And my father, being the realist, looked and me and said, “But you are **NOT** Tom Cruise. You’re Thomas. Go back to your room.” I went back to my room and cried once more.

It seemed as though all of my childhood dreams were broken. (Act and break the second eggs here) What is the point to dream in life? Why do we aspire to be greater than our circumstance? How do we prevail?

Yes, all my innocent dreams were broken… I finally went to University and concentrated on my studies… no more dreams for me… school was difficult and studying was so hard that the only thing I felt confident to do was copy and paste. I spent my life in the act of ctrl C and ctrl V.

I finally graduated and got my first job as a headhunter. It was a job that brought back my ability to dream, but it was too hard. All I could do was pretend…. pretend to call… I was really calling my friends… pretend to send emails to potential clients… I was really sending emails to myself…I pretended to print papers and applications… I pretended to work…don’t tell anyone but I practiced photocopying my hand…. until one day my boss called me and asked me into his office. He said we needed to **TALK.** **IMMEDIATELY.** That **NEVER** sounds too good but I went. “What do you think about your work?” He asked. I was a little puzzled. “Euuuhhh uhhh… What’s wrong? I did nothing…” To which he replied, “ You did do **NOTHING** and that’s **EXACTLY WHY YOU’RE FIRED**!!” (**If you want to make a joke you can say**)… speaking of broken dreams… I had **EGG** all over my face!! (**That’s an expression that means you were embarrassed.. Wait for the laugh).**

**(3-second desperate pause).** A week later I got a call from my girlfriend.Somehow I felt I was in for another life-defining conversation. And so she began, “ What do you think of our relationship? You never answer my calls and you always come back late and drunk!” Once again, me, the poor little innocent egg, responded, “ Who? Me? I did nothing!” And once again I heard those now infamous words, “Yes. You did **NOTHING**! For me we’re finished!!” Both my career and my relationship. Broken. Scrambled. Done. **(Break one egg here**) .

Let’s recap. I had no girlfriend, no job, and almost no hair. I felt like I had hit bottom. I was lost and alone. I went to by a book, “How to Be Successful.” I read it five times and had no success in trying to figure out what to do with my life.

And then one day one of my best friends called me from Taiwan and said, “Bro, don’t be sad!! I have a friend who wants to import wine. Why don’t you come to China?” My father, being the eternal optimist heard of the idea and prepared to smash another egg into a broken dream. “Forget it!!” he said. “First of all, knowing you, as soon as you try to start reading Chinese characters you’ll get a headache and also… don’t forget… the Chinese population is 1.3 BILLION… they **don’t need** ONE MORE… namely YOU!!

But my father didn’t realize Chapter 3 in the Book of Success was titled, “Don’t Listen to Fathers” so I purchased my ticket…

I was on my way to China and on my road to success. But first… the flight… after twelve hours of turbulence and eating noodles all the way, I began to really **FEEL** like a noodle!! I finally arrived to Mainland China! My dreams were returning….. until…

* My first glass of water… I burnt my tongue… it was HOT water.
* My first massage… I broke my back
* My first business dinner… I got drunk on Baijiu!!!

I couldn’t wait to get home, only to find someone waiting to greet me… a **cockroach**!! (Joke part here, for the intro) Yes, life was hard at the beginning….

Then Turning POINT HERE, from how I success and learnt from FAILURES

**But because of my past failures I realized I had really earned a lot through my experiences and was able to adapt to all situations:**

* I may have failed to be a basketball player, but when I played I met my best friend... (And we started business together in China)
* I may have failed to be an actor but now I can use my acting skills in the drama of life and business.
* I may have failed at being superman as a child, but I realized was superman last year in my life.
* I may have failed at my first my first job, but I learnt valuable skills that stay with me today.

Ladies and gentlemen, have YOU ever had broken dreams? Yes, of course you have, but that means you have the **ability** to dream. I urge and invite you- take back your dreams no matter what. Keep your dream, kiss your dream, cherish it and hold it close to your heart and one day **SUCCESS** will be yours! Your broken eggs will turn to golden eggs and you will make it one day!!! Just believe in yourselves! Thank you all!