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[A New Birdbath in the Garden, Douglas E. Welch](#)

For the weekend...

from Douglas E. Welch

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you will find it very hard to change their minds even if you make substantial changes in your behavior and your own life. "Once burned. Twice shy." is as true today as it ever was. People know when they are being scammed. No one likes being made to feel stupid. It often evokes the most extreme dislike and even hatred in others. Is this the type of anger you want to evoke? I certainly don't.

This entire concept of short-term rewards over long time rewards is something all of us fight with every day. From considerations about our health and weight loss to investment decisions and retirement planning, short-term thinking can pollute our best intentions and leave us struggling down the road. Abdicating your responsibilities is one of the worse short-term decisions you can make. It often doesn't even hold any short-term advantages. Consequences can sometimes come more swiftly than you might think.

Watch your interactions with others throughout your day and see if you are advocating your responsibilities just because someone else does it. One small, simple example is this. You arrive at the grocery store and find others parked badly - obstructing entrances, handicap spots, and fire lanes. You might think to yourself, "Well, if no one else is going to follow the rules, why should I?"

I can give you some reasons why you should, including -- being a good citizen, avoiding confrontations with others, and avoiding having your car towed and all the associated costs. Will others be punished? There is no way to tell, but it is in your best interest to avoid such complications such unnecessary complications in your own life regardless of what others might do.

Chaos

Do you have an acquaintance who is constantly dealing with chaos in their life? Is their life the proverbial "hot mess?" While life can throw you many different curveballs, I often find that much chaos arises from their failures to fulfill their most basic life responsibilities. You might forget to pay your car registration and then have to spend hours on the phone at the DMV clearing it up. Even worse, you might be pulled over and ticketed, causing even more lost time or money. Parking illegally can turn into a cascade of crises that include having your car towed, numerous fines, inability to get to work, loss of your job, and more. We don't often think enough about how our smallest missteps can lead to large crises...but we should.

Now, imagine those same thoughts being applied to larger issues like embezzlement and other crimes. Sure, others may embezzle funds, commit felonies, etc., and suffer no immediate consequences. They are risk-takers. They assume that they will never be held responsible for their actions. Are you willing to take such a risk? Are you willing to risk long sentences in prison? Probably not. Here it should be even easier to see why you should fulfill your responsibilities no matter what anyone else might do. It can go far beyond simple civil behavior and yet the same rules apply in the parking lot.

Ethics

An adage states "ethics are what you do when no one is watching." Nearly anyone can act ethically with someone looking over their shoulder, whether via security cameras or in person. What we do when no one is watching is more important. This is a clear marker of someone who takes their responsibilities seriously both for themselves and for those around them.

While it may seem easier to abdicate your responsibilities in the short term, I believe that in the long term you, and everyone around you, will suffer greatly. It may not

happen today. It may not happen tomorrow, but consequences will follow in some fashion. Why complicate your life just because others have decided to complicate yours?

4 Interesting Links

Here are 4 Interesting links for your weekend reading and watching



The starving orphan seeking a second helping of gruel. The spinster wasting away in her tattered wedding dress. The stone-hearted miser plagued by the ghost of Christmas past. More than a century after his death, these remain recognizable figures from the work of Charles Dickens. But what are the features of Dickens' writing that make it so special? Iseult Gillespie investigates. Lesson by Iseult Gillespie, directed by Compote Collective.



Wander Through An Enchanting Tunnel Of Plants To Find This New Bookstore In L.A.

from Secret Los Angeles

Not to be confused with its sister store [The Last Bookstore](#), Lost Books is the latest literary oasis to open in the city. You'll enter through a stunning, plant-filled tunnel that leads to this magnificent haven of tales. It's like stepping into the pages of *Treasure Island* or *The Secret Garden* and getting lost in a thrilling adventure where your imagination is free to run wild.

The verdant canopy has been lovingly installed by [Yuko Kitchen](#) — an urban jungle and one of our favorite spots to fill up on Japanese comfort food while stocking up on leafy gems or playful ceramics. These three restaurants pivoted during the pandemic to offer takeouts while selling the greenery that was previously only meant to be decoration. And, yes, they are also available to purchase at this new space.

Read

Luminous Holbein
Portraits Shine in Getty
Show

from Cultural Daily

Hans Holbein the Younger, one of the greatest artists of the Northern Renaissance, is being celebrated in a beautiful exhibition now on view at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

Amazingly, it's the first major retrospective of the German master's work ever mounted in the United States and is co-organized with the Morgan Library & Museum in New York, where the show opens in February 2022. It features more than 50 works, mostly portrait paintings and drawings, but also designs for metalwork such as badges and medals and a handful of related works by other artists from the period.



Holbein (1497/98-1543) was born in Augsburg, Germany, the son of a successful painter. He moved to Basel, Switzerland, as a young man and began building an artistic career as the Protestant Reformation swept over Northern Europe.

Read



Why Tacit Knowledge is More Important Than Deliberate Practice

from Commonplace

I want to spend an essay talking about tacit knowledge, and why I think it is *the* most interesting topic in the domain of skill acquisition. If you are a longtime Commonplace reader, you'll likely have come across this idea before, because I've written about it [numerous times in the past](#). But I think it's still good idea to dedicate a whole piece to the topic.

The reason I think it's important to write this piece is because every time I touch on the topic of tacit knowledge, inevitably someone will pop up on Twitter or Hacker News or Reddit or email and protest that tacit knowledge doesn't exist. I want something to link to whenever I come up

against someone who says this, mostly so that I don't have to repeat myself.

Read

Do The Work

by Steven Pressfield

I have read — and re-read — this book and would highly recommend you do the same. In fact, I am thinking that I will make it (and Pressfield's earlier book, *The War of Art*) required reading before I will work with any client. Both books have helped me tremendously in my life and work. We all have to start somewhere on our creative adventures and Pressfield's books are like an experienced guide that can help to lead us through the creative forest. Revisiting them on a regular basis reenergizes me to face the fight that all creatives feel.

Of course, creativity isn't just the domain of some specialized class of people. We are all creative in unique ways and we all experience the haunting voice of resistance, as Pressfield names the monster that frightens all of us away from big, transformative changes in our lives. Pressfield reminds us of the nature of this beast and gives us the tools we need to defeat it — again and again.

In my work, I meet so many people who don't realize their own potential. They drastically underestimate their power to change their lives and change the world. They face the resistance dragon and allow it to eat them nearly every time instead of emerging, triumphant, like St. George. It is often my goal to give them the tools — the horse, the lance, the sword — to help them slay the dragon of resistance just as I have to fight against it everyday. Sometimes I can bring them along with me — at other times, not, but I will never stop trying.

So, to repeat my unasked for advice — get these books, read them and then start on your own creative adventure. You can overcome resistance and create something new, something unique and something great!

DO THE WORK



STEVEN PRESSFIELD

Bestselling Author of *The War of Art* and *Turning Pro*

Foreword by Seth Godin

Amazon

Check it out from the LA Public Library



Apples, Douglas E. Welch

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