

Shoot for the stars

There's an old adage that I remember from when I was a teenager: "It's better to shoot for the stars and miss than to shoot for nothing and hit it."

Sounds good, doesn't it? It does to me, too. But the truth is that a lot more of us "shoot for nothing" than "shoot for the stars."

It's all a part of life. We tend to get all caught up in the day-to-day grind that life, work, family, friends, sports, and a variety of other pursuits give us – and so we stop trying to hit something higher. For whatever reason, we decide to settle for the mediocre.

It's a real shame – there are those around us who have great possibilities, great opportunities, great potential – and yet that potential will never be developed, because we choose to take the easy road, rather than a challenging one.

Hey – I know all about this – I don't challenge myself as much as I should. You're not alone.

Let's face it – we all can do better than we're currently doing. Even the high achievers among us can go a little higher. Most of us just pussyfoot through life, never challenging ourselves, never growing, never changing. We become happy to follow the mediocre path, when we could do so much more, if we'd just challenge ourselves a bit more.

So let's make a pact today. I'll try it if you do. Let's decide to stop taking the mediocre path. Let's choose excellence. Let's be – with apologies to the U.S. Army, who has used this phrase – all that we can be.

Let's accomplish more than we ever thought we could accomplish. We can go greater deeds than we've ever done. We can make greater contributions than we've ever made. We can become better than we ever have been.

We can be better – we can shoot for the stars – or at least become a star in the process.

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