

# FIND YOUR DESIGN

by Will Marre

**NOBODY IS BETTER AT BEING YOU THAN YOU. SO DARE TO BE UNIQUE, AND FULFILLMENT AWAITS.**

A few years ago, my close friend Chris attended a summer concert featuring a Beatles tribute band. The group was dressed up like a 1965 version of John, Paul, George and Ringo. They had the accents and music down. They were an amazing group of musicians perfectly imitating genuine rock stars.

They were also *fake*. After twenty minutes, Chris couldn't take it anymore. He left his family sitting on the grass and spent an hour walking home. To this day, Chris tells me that if he were

a musician, he would rather spend his life playing in small clubs than playing someone else's music to big crowds of Baby Boomers trying to relive their past.

Chris recognizes that he's an original, and he's not about to sing someone else's songs. This is also great career advice for us all: we must insist on being the rock stars of our own lives.

## **WE'RE ALL ONE OF A KIND**

What if you were perfectly designed to live your dream life? Well, you are. You were designed to succeed at what brings you deep and lasting joy. And fulfilling your Design is the music of your heart. All you have to do is hear it.

Although we share more than 99% of our DNA structure and basically 100% of our spiritual nature with other humans, there's still an amazing amount of room for individuality. Recent brain and personality research suggests that each of us is more unique than perhaps we

ever imagined. It turns out that a 1% DNA difference leads to tens of millions of physical, psychological and personality differences. Each of us is truly an original.

How we think, learn and excel are extremely idiosyncratic. Many of us feel frustrated and anxious when we're not allowed to do things our way. This turns out not to be stubbornness, but Design trying to shine through.

Our very uniqueness holds the key to our personal fulfillment. A dream life is built on discovering, or rediscovering, our authentic Design. Greatness always results from being different. No one can be better than you at being you. So don't compete — be unique. And turn up the volume.

## **WHERE TRAITS MEET TALENT**

So how do you find your Design? Luckily, surgery is not required. Nor are light explosives. You can discover it by simply becoming aware of your persistent traits and talents. Your Design is the



intersection of the traits and talents that you bring with you into the world.

Talents are skills that you perform exceptionally well and with natural ease. They are the outer you. They're how others see and experience you. Talent yields success with minimal effort.

Your traits define the inner you. They're the way you experience the world, what you pay attention to, what you derive deep satisfaction and value from, and how you like to engage life and others. A trait is a persistent quality of our essential identity. Examples include optimism, caring, courage and enthusiasm.

What you both value doing (traits) and do extremely well (talents) is what you were *designed* to do — your calling. Activities that are aligned with your Design give you energy rather than sapping it. You don't tire of them. You have to be told to stop doing them. You do them when you should be eating lunch. You would do them even if

you didn't get paid. They fire you up.

When you express your Design, you have no longings to do something different. Something better, yes. More opportunity, of course. A bigger stage, more impact — certainly. But you don't yearn to do something fundamentally different.

### **EXTRAORDINARY DECISIONS**

It's inspiring to believe that each of us is perfectly designed to fulfill our dreams — that our traits, talents and interests are signposts to the road of our greatest possible life. But it takes more than understanding and inspiration to actually live your dream life. It requires changing how you think, what you feel and what you do. Every decision you make either takes you closer to or further away from your dream life.

Yes, once you think about it, it's clear that to live an extraordinary life, extraordinary choices are necessary. Once, when I was

deeply confused, my father advised me, "Be who you are and do what you came for." It was his way of telling me not to be a fake Beatle.

I don't know what your dreams are, or what your extraordinary choices should be. I can only challenge you to consider your choices as you make decisions. All of us are ultimately responsible for our own lives. Our lives are our anthem. But spending our life imagining what it might sound like doesn't do any good. So pick up the microphone and belt it out. Imagine a world where we all productively expressed our unique design. More than ever, that's what the world needs.



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