

## THE FIVE DEADLY ENEMIES

No kingdom has ever existed that did not have enemies. There are essentially two types of enemies. There is the adversary with whom you are at open war, and then there is the far more dangerous enemy—the one that lives within your house, that works for your ruin within the walls of your own home.

You have such an enemy living with you at this very moment; not just one, but five distinct enemies that are unified in their goal, which is your utter destruction. They work in unison, strengthening and enhancing one another's efforts. They are tireless and relentless as they strive to defeat you.

All your life they have hounded you. You have found yourself struggling to maintain and build your kingdom and have been mystified as to why you were failing. Whenever you felt you were beginning to succeed, you looked behind you to find that all you had built was lying in ruins.

They use your best resources against you. They know and exploit all of your weaknesses. Who are these enemies that so viciously attack you?

They are the Lords of Mediocrity.

Each of the lords is the distant cousin and counterfeit of a

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more noble lord that works for your good. These rogue lords have set up their own small kingdoms within your realm and are constantly at your side, speaking in your ear, subtly attempting to undermine your success by poisoning your mind.

At first glance they appear as friends, greatly resembling their good cousins. They are your constant companions, your confidants, and advisors. They seem to be vigorously working for your good and the good of your kingdom, having only your best interest at heart. But you must not be fooled. You must learn to recognize them for what they are. Each of these enemies must be subdued and made to serve you. You must check their growth and subdue them, bending them to your will.

The first step in defeating any enemy is to recognize him. Powerful is the foe who works in secret. Once your enemy is targeted, you can then begin your own offensive. You can begin to build and strengthen your defenses so your enemy bothers you no more.

Unfortunately, you will never be able to completely rid yourself of the Lords of Mediocrity, since they are so closely related to their worthy cousins. But you can beat them into submission, starve them, and post a guard so that any attempt of theirs to once again rise up against you will be immediately crushed.

At long last, it is time you finally meet the Lords of Mediocrity.

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## THE LORD OF DOUBT

The Lord of Doubt is of a somber, but kindly, disposition. He is the brother of Fear and the distant cousin of Belief. Whenever a decision is to be made, he is there with you. With his head wagging mournfully, he listens compassionately while you excitedly tell him of your dream, plan, and vision. When your initial enthusiasm starts to wane, he puts his arm around your shoulder and sympathetically explains why this simply cannot be done.

“Where are your resources?” he asks. “Isn’t it true that you have never done this sort of thing before? Is it wise to begin such a thing at this time in your life? You have so much going on already!”

He continues in the manner of a loving uncle, patiently explaining why your plan will never work. No, it would just be better to continue as you have been and perhaps later another, more suitable, plan will arise.

Yes, you think, that makes perfect sense. Why did you ever think such an idea was possible? Who are you to feel that you could accomplish such a thing? It was a foolish and foolhardy plan. Thank goodness for your good friend, the Lord of Doubt. What would you do without him?

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Good question. The answer might just be “anything.”

Doubt is not the opposite of belief. Rather, it is inverted belief. It is negative faith. When you doubt, you are still believing in something, but in something negative, rather than something positive. You have made a conscious decision to believe the worst-case scenario, rather than the best.

Doubters excitedly point to the half-empty glass as their proof of why it cannot be done. Believers take note of the half-empty glass, but maintain that despite the empty portion (and sometimes because of it), their plan will succeed. This type of belief drives the doubters of the world crazy. Since they are unable to see it, it must not be possible.

There are only two types of people in the world: those who must see before they believe, and those who believe first, and then see the fulfillment of their dreams.

Never share your dreams with people who must see before they believe. They are the secret agents of the Lord of Doubt. Their doubt will poison your mind and possibly derail your dream. Unless the belief and support of such people is crucial to the accomplishment of your goal, don't waste time trying to convince them.

Only share your dreams and aspirations with those whose support and belief you can depend on. Be sure, though, to balance this caution with an openness to honest evaluation and constructive criticism. But such advice must come from those who truly believe in you and your ability to create the manifestation of your dream.

Belief is an essential ingredient in fulfilling a dream, because in order for anything to be accomplished in this world, one must first believe it is possible. People who must see before they