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How Will YOU Be Remembered? Part 1

By Mark Gorman

Next week the big announcements will be made and 50 million Swedish Kronors, nearly \$8 million US Dollars will be given away!

Every year since 1901, in October the news media around the world turns its attention to Stockholm, Sweden, to learn who has won the Nobel Prizes for that year, in 5 different categories. Nobel prizes are awarded to honor those who have made great achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and for peace. The Nobel Prize is an international award, and is administered by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden. Each of the 5 awards will consist of a medal, a personal diploma, and for 2007, a cash award of 10 million Swedish Kronors, which is approximately \$ 1,536,619.33 USD – more than \$1.5 million US Dollars.

Although there are 5 different categories for the Nobel Prizes, the category for which the name Nobel is best known throughout the world is the Nobel Peace Prize. In fact, if you mention the name Nobel to most people, the first thing that comes to mind is "The Nobel Peace Prize".

As you know, the Nobel Peace Prize is one of the most recognizable awards in the world, with its recipients being chosen for their outstanding contributions to furthering the mission of peace throughout our world. But how much do you know about the man whose name is attached to this most prestigious award? As I mentioned previously, just the mention of the name Nobel invokes thoughts of peace. Not a bad way to be remembered, right? Wouldn't it be wonderful if your name were synonymous with words like peace, honor, or mercy? And who better to teach us how to attain a legacy such as

this, than a man who has already done just that, Alfred Nobel.

Shortly after the death of his brother, Alfred Nobel picked up the Stockholm newspaper to read his brother's obituary. He was interested to know if they had described him in a way that properly memorialized his brother's life and achievements. Upon reading the obituary, he was horrified to learn that an error had occurred and the newspaper editors had thought that it was he, Alfred, who had died, and not his brother. He read it with his own eyes, the obituary of Alfred Nobel. He was shocked even further to read how his life had been summed up.

Although he is best known today for his namesake, the Nobel Peace Prize, Alfred Nobel was first made famous as an inventor. Among his many accomplishments, he was one of the inventors of dynamite. This, he found in his obituary, but as he read on, the writer began to detail many of the horrors which had resulted from the misuse of dynamite, including the deaths and injuries of those who had been victims of the incorrect use of dynamite. As he read this, Nobel was deeply troubled and saddened by the legacy that lay before him that morning. Was he really going to be remembered for all time as a monster? Would his legacy be that of a man of destruction?

After reading the paper that day, Nobel realized that he had an opportunity which is available to very few people. He could rewrite his own obituary. So Alfred Nobel decided to do everything he could to change how he would be remembered. He rewrote his will so that most of his wealth would be used to establish a foundation for rewarding and recognizing people who had worked diligently to promote world peace, as well as many other areas of contribution to the health and well-being of others throughout our world. This establishment came into existence in 1900, and has since been a symbol to the entire world of peace and unity.

Now, ask yourself a question. Do you believe that you will have a second chance to rewrite your own obituary?

You would be wise to begin thinking today, of how you want to be remembered. After all, an obituary is merely a synopsis of our life.

Think about it. When we leave this world, our life is summed up in one or two paragraphs of an obituary. So, if you died today, what would be written in your obituary? How would you be remembered?

You may ask, "Why should I care what people will say after I'm dead and gone?"

Simple, because it's what people are saying now, while you're still here. And what they say is a reflection of how much or how little your life affected them – of how great or small your contribution to this world has improved or diminished the quality of life for those around you.

You know, ancient Greeks didn't have obituaries. When someone died, they asked one

question, “Did he live with passion?”

So, do you live with passion? Because I have found that most people DO NOT live their life with passion.

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