

Some Things Aren't Meant to Be

I am a firm believer that in life, you get what you deserve—not necessarily what you want. Many people hold the notion that effort alone is enough, that if you show up and do something, you will benefit from the outcome. This is not true.

Life is not as simple as it often appears. There is far too much optimism surrounding the idea that merely “getting out of bed” and doing what is required will lead to success. Effort matters, but effort without intention, discipline, and self-awareness rarely takes you far. Even when you work hard, try your best, and do everything right, there is still no guarantee that things will work out.

This reality is uncomfortable, which is why many people reject it. It is far easier to believe that outcomes are guaranteed, that effort alone entitles us to success. That belief protects the ego. If things do not work out, the failure can be blamed on chance, timing, or unfairness rather than an honest evaluation of one's own shortcomings.

But growth begins where that comfort ends. Accepting that effort does not always yield results forces a deeper form of responsibility. It demands reflection and asking not only *whether* we worked hard, but *how* we worked, *what* we failed to understand, and *where* we fell short. Without this honesty, effort becomes repetitive rather than progressive.

There is a difference between trying and improving. Improvement requires acknowledging incompetence, not hiding from it. It requires admitting when you were wrong, when you were unprepared, or when your best simply was not enough yet. That admission is not weakness; it is the starting point of competence.

This is not meant to discourage ambition or dissuade anyone from pursuing meaningful goals. If anything should stand in the way of your aspirations, it is the inevitability of death—not the fear of failure. When we return to the idea that you get what you deserve, that belief should not paralyze you; it should demand more of you. It should push you to work harder, think deeper, and take greater responsibility for your outcomes.

Understanding that nothing is guaranteed does not justify complacency instead it eliminates entitlement. It reframes effort not as a promise of success, but as a prerequisite for growth. The absence of certainty is not a reason to stop striving; it is the reason to strive with intention.

Written By Saaam Japanwala