



A well-considered career choice

... and therefore, it is important that when you make a choice for a particular profession, you make this choice not only with your heart but certainly with your mind as well.

Let me take myself as an example. My passion was, and still is, to play the violin. When I was your age, I wanted nothing more than to play the violin all day long. I dreamed of becoming a professional violinist and giving concerts. I followed my heart and started studying violin at the Conservatory in Amsterdam. During this study I found out that there were actually a lot of very good and talented violinists. In the small provincial town where I grew up, I had never really been aware of this. Despite the fact that most of my fellow violinists were much better than I was, they still had enormous difficulties in finding a job. Most were doomed to accept some part-time job teaching in some small village in the province. This was definitely something I didn't had in mind when I chose to become a professional musician. I came to the conclusion that I had made a wrong choice and decided to switch. I started studying social sciences, that was also where my heart was, but moreover you could also find a good job with it.

And here I stand, with the goal of helping you to make the right choice for your career, in which you not only let your heart speak but also, perhaps even more, think rational, whether you can earn a good living with it.

During his speech, there was hardly any reaction from the youngsters in the final examination year of the 'Norton school'. Apparently, they were not really impressed by his speech, or at least they knew how to hide it well.

"Well, I am curious to know if anyone already has any ideas about the profession you want to pursue later," the educator continued in an enthusiastic tone. "Let your heart speak and I will then critically test your ideas with reason." Invitingly, he looked around the classroom.

A friendly boy tidily dressed, his hair neatly combed, raised his hand.

"Yes, please," the educator made an inviting gesture with his hand.

"I'm thinking of going into blowing up ATM's," the boy spoke in a calm and friendly tone.

"Uhm, blowing up ATM's? You mean to steal money?" the educator laughed.

"Yes exactly," the boy smiled.

"That's a good one, haha. Okay let's be serious now. What would you really like to become?"

"I am serious. Blowing up ATM's," the boy replied in a calm and serious voice.

The educator was momentarily taken aback, all he managed to bring out was a sheepish smile as he continued to look at the boy invitingly, vainly hoping he might share some additional information with them so he would have a little more time to think about how to respond to this now.

"But uhm, blowing up ATM's is a serious crime. I hope you realize that." Was the boy playing a trick on him?

"Yes, of course, I know," the boy replied in his calm and friendly tone.

The educator saw that the boy had aroused the attention of his classmates. Still not knowing exactly how to respond, he continued with some hesitation. "Gee, interesting. How did you come up with that choice?"

"Well, I am rather lazy by nature, I hate getting up early, I prefer to be active in the evening and at night. I like to have a lot of money and buy nice things like fancy clothes, watches and stuff and I want to drive a fat car. Besides, with a lot of money you can get hotter chicks."

“Well, well, well. And you want to take the risk of spending a large part of your life in jail for that?” he grinned meekly.

“Haha, no, that is of course not my intention. But that won't happen either. Blowing up an ATM generates between 50,000 and 100,000 euro, it doesn't injure anyone and, most importantly, the chance of getting caught is about 2%. If you are caught, the only thing that can usually be proven is the actual action that you were doing at the time. A maximum prison sentence for that would be,” pronouncing the word maximum more loudly and slowly, “about 4 years of which a part will be waived for good behavior. In the worst case you'll spend about 2 maximum 3 years in jail. “Worst case!” he repeated. “Then when you get out of prison, where, by the way, you have also been treated like a hero by your fellow prisoners, you can go on living like a king on earth. You'll never have to work again, no need any more to blow up any ATM, only for fun perhaps, hahaha,” he laughed out loud. “By the way, you'd have to make sure you don't get caught right away on your first or second job. But with 2% probability of being caught, that will be very unlikely to happen. That's my career choice, with the heart and with the mind,” he spoke after which he folded his hands over each other and leaned back in his chair.

Some chuckling could be heard in the classroom.

“But surely you can’t do something that is against the law,” the educator brought out in which there clearly was some emotion in his voice.

“When it does not go against your own values and standards, there is no problem in breaking a law. You drive too fast sometimes, don’t you?”

“Yes, but my goodness, you can’t compare driving too fast with blowing up an ATM!”

“If an offender judges his own offense acceptable, that is, when it does not clash with his own values and standards, then it is apparently okay to commit the offense. My little sister was hit by a car driving too fast,” he replied apparently emotionless.

The other students were clearly moved by his arguments, and an approving murmur arose.

“I find what you say completely unacceptable!” bellowed the educator in slight despair.

“Perhaps you should judge the career choice not only with your heart but also with your mind,” the boy spoke in a calm and understanding tone ...

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