

## **THE WAY TO SUCCESS**

We all know the fairy tales of a Danish author Hans Christian Andersen. But what do we know about his life? It is actually incredible. His life is a series of extraordinary events that gave him everything he wanted, so he did not distinguish between reality and fairy tales. He said: «The most amazing fairy tale is life» [1, p. 133].

He was born in the small town of Odense in a poor family. Andersen's father, who had received an elementary education, introduced his son to literature. He was a shoemaker. His mother worked as a washerwoman. Sometimes they did not have anything to eat. A part of the last name «sen» pointed to humble origin. Hans Christian did not like it, because it reminded him about hopelessness, poverty, insecurity and neglect of rich people. The page of his diary is preserved and contains surnames «sen» for contemporary celebrities (Thorvaldsen, Jacobsen, Hansen). Obviously, this was a manner of conviction that talented personalities can come from poor families and become famous.

However, later Andersen educated in gymnasium, university, gained a worldwide recognition and wealth. He visited almost all European countries. Among his friends there were such famous people as Charles Dickens, Bertel Thorvaldsen, Hans Christian Ersted. Kings of Denmark and Germany offered him friendship. What is the secret of this great success?

Firstly, Hans Christian Andersen believed in himself. «It doesn't matter about being born in a duckyard, as long as you are hatched from a swan's egg» [3, p. 217], – he wrote in autobiographical «The Ugly Duckling». Since childhood Hans has been sure of his uniqueness and talent. He always said to his mother that he would be a famous person and it happened. The monument dedicated to Andersen was built during his life and was designed including writer's preferences. Andersen's fairy tales have been translated into more than 125 languages. His birthday, 2 April, is celebrated as International Children's Book Day.

Secondly, the writer believed in God. He remembered one case in autobiography. Every autumn a little Hans went with mother to gather ears of corn on the field without permission. Once the owner caught them during this way of surviving, «he had raised the whip, but a boy looked him straight in the face and said: „How dare you beat me, if God can see it!”... The owner patted the boy on the cheek and asked about his name, and gave a coin» [2, p. 21]. One of his tales says: «God's will directs all for the better» [4, p. 285].

Thirdly, he was very insistent. He came to conquer Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, when he was 14 years old. For a long time he did not have normal nutrition, habitation, even warm winter clothes. But he did not give up, no matter how many doors were closed in front of him. His contemporaries remembered when he came to the noble people without invitation and read his works. Many years later after meeting Peter Wolfe told how funny a young man in the door said: «You have translated Shakespeare. I love him very much, and I wrote a tragedy. Here listen!» [1, p. 19]. Once again, Andersen offered his plays for their performances on the stage of the Royal Theatre and he met Jonas Collin, one of the most influential officials of Denmark. Colleen noticed his talent and began to help him. Since that time writer's life has changed completely.

Andersen's way to success was very difficult. Everything he has achieved is through his own efforts and beliefs. There were no preconditions for success, except his strong and bright personality.

## **LITERATURE**

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