



Hawkwood Books Blog : November 2019

Time Management

Long ago and far away, in Sin City, I was faced with the trials and tribulations of young people, six hours a day five days a week, their angst, issues, relationships, learning strategies, heartaches and general growing pains. Alongside this was the new encyclopaedic wisdom of the National Curriculum, the ambitions of parents, pressured colleagues and the, well management methods of management. Head on, full on, pretty much the same as you reading this, I would think, in different ways. Given so much to do in so little time, how do we organise ourselves without imploding?

Here's how Shakespeare considered the same problem, albeit for a king, in Henry VI:

*O God! methinks it were a happy life,
To be no better than a homely swain;
To sit upon a hill, as I do now,
To carve out dials quaintly, point by point,
Thereby to see the minutes how they run,
How many make the hour full complete;
How many hours bring about the day;
How many days will finish up the year;
How many years a mortal man may live.
When this is known, then to divide the times:
So many hours must I tend my flock;
So many hours must I take my rest;
So many hours must I contemplate;
So many hours must I sport myself;
So many days my ewes have been with young;
So many weeks ere the poor fools will ean:
So many years ere I shall shear the fleece:
So minutes, hours, days, months, and years,
Pass'd over to the end they were created,
Would bring white hairs unto a quiet grave.
Ah, what a life were this! how sweet! how lovely!*

And in the 21st century, how would the average multi-billionaire, super-entrepreneur divide up his day? Richard Branson might do it as follows:

*05.00 Wash and shave
06.00 Breakfast at the Ritz
07.00 Run Virgin Money
08.30 Exercise
09.00 Run Virgin Media
10.45 Coffee and cake
11.00 Run Virgin Mobile
13.00 Lunch at the Hilton
14.00 Run Virgin Atlantic
15.00 Tea and scones at Fortnums
16.00 Run Virgin Active
18.00 Dinner
20.00 Run Virgin Space
21.45 Hot Chocolate
22.00 Bed*

Managing time is not easy. Some people seem to do extraordinary things given the finite gift of days on Earth, but we're not all cut out to be entrepreneurs or have any particular 'X' Factor, so at the risk of sounding like Thought For The Day, perhaps the most extraordinary thing about managing time is that we have the reason and independence to consider managing it at all.