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Hammer Your Thoughts into Unity

First semester freshman year in college is one of the most unique times in a person’s life, if they are lucky enough to experience college at all. The pressures, the new scenery, all the responsibilities, and all the temptations of modern college life hit the college freshman like a brick wall. There is no perfect way to respond to all these new elements in one’s life, but there sure is a bad way to respond to them: neglect. Neglecting one’s studies and responsibilities are a major vice that the college freshman must avoid at all costs. No one in college is watching to make sure a student does his or her work; no one is there to guide him or her as closely or to stay on top of their many actions like they might have been accustomed to in high school. So how does one control one’s priorities, streamline their lives, and deal with the myriad of issues that are new to a college freshman? Well, William Butler Years puts it best; the first step is that one must “Hammer your thought into unity.”

This is a phrase that I have heard all semester. The first time I heard it, it escaped me. It was another saying that I decided would be important to learn. Not for any personal applications, but simply because I thought I would need to know it for some quiz or test. “Hammer your thoughts into unity” rang in my head, but for the wrong reasons. Only when the semester began drawing to a close, when I heard this line in class for what had to be a number of times in the triple digits, did I really began to think about it meant.

To begin with, my life needs some reconstruction, mush as a hammer does in real life. So much of my nascent college life has been a dichotomy. I have made friends for life, I have lost friends I’ve had all my life. I have neglected my studies; I have also had sleepless nights locked in Duren’s study rooms. I have gone to 9 football games, but I have gone to none of Duren’s events to try to meet people in my dorm. If someone were to interview me about what I wanted to get out of college at this moment, I would be hard pressed to give a good answer. What exactly do I want in my life right now? I want to/need to make good grades. I want to make friends and have fun. And I NEED Texas to win the National Championship. But what are my priorities, what keeps me going? Perhaps the figurative hammer in my mind can help me solve this

Hammers are a symbol of power, but also a symbol of destruction. To wield hammer is a great responsibility, a responsibility to be able to strike the hammer where and when appropriate. A hammer is not to be used as a weapon, rather a tool to construct and build. In many ways a hammer metaphor is applicable to knowledge. Knowledge is powerful, if not the single most powerful aspect of human existence. To wield it is to wield power. But one must be judicious with knowledge and wield it righteously. To then “hammer one’s thoughts into unity” is to use one’s knowledge to streamline one’s life, to add stability where there is none. And this is a great challenge unto itself.

How am I to hammer my thoughts into unity? To start with, I needed to find myself. All though it took me all semester, I think I am more aware of who I am. I am a fun-loving, passionate person. I am someone who hates to fail and who holds themselves to dangerously high standards. I am someone who watches out for my friends, but also someone who needs his friends to watch out for him. In this new sense of awareness, I can me accountable to myself. I know my limits and I know what I am capable of. I know what I need in life to be happy. I need to succeed in school, for it is the route to all my dreams. I may not be entirely sure what my dreams are, but that’s OK. The University of Texas can potentially provide me with anything I need. I already have all the friends I need and I need to make sure I keep them, because they are my lifeblood.

To further hammer my thoughts, I must be focused. I must not stray from my goals or any path I choose to travel on. I must know what I need and how I can about achieving. And all of this would not be possible without a certain mental unity. Without unity in my mind, I don’t know where I would be. I would follow and finicky passion, any unnecessary distraction. For something as clutter prone as my brain, a psychological hammer is the only appropriate solution. So after all this time, I think I can safely say I am more than capable of “hammering my thoughts into unity.”