

# The Road to Success

This prize is achieved by first entering the Gate of **Opportunity**. People are running through, but some have already settled in to the sit-down life of ease and comfort in what looks like the Beer Garden of **Bohemianism**.

Some manage to pass by those delights to check in to the **Hotel Know It All**, because they hold to mottoes such as *Nobody can tell me*, or *I don't need to practice*, or *I'm a born genius*, or yet: *I don't need a system*.

Similarly misguided cries are heard on the patio of the **Mutual Admiration Society**: *You're the Hit of the Age*, *You'll Set the World on Fire*, *You're a Wonder My Boy*, or (my favorite): *Caruso Can't Touch You*.

Those who avoid those three establishments of ill repute might still fall victim to the deep, dark well of **Illiteracy**, or the spinning, disorienting wheel of **Conceit**. A select few manage to board the train called **Right System** at the Railroad Station.

That doesn't stop some from running along the rail track towards Success, only to succumb to the ugly hand of **Vices**, the spinning fan of **Bad Habits** (blowing its victims towards Oblivion), or the pitfall of **Bad Reputation**. Others fall prey to **Charlatanism**, or get tangled up in the webs of **Jealousy** and **Do It Tomorrow**.

Those who overcome all these perils will enter the gates of **System**. But while the train crosses a bridge across the river **Failure**, those on foot are threatened by the Cauldron of **Misrepresentation**, and tempted by **Short Cuts**.

Some do manage to wade across the river to the other side, but there must overcome **Bad Temper**, **Carelessness**, **Shiftlessness** and **Bad Memory**. Then there's **Lack of Preparation**, a giant rock which the train can tunnel through effortlessly, while the surviving pedestrians must trek across it.

**Sprees**, **Laziness** and **Bad Business Methods** then still threaten them, until at last they come before two gates, the one for **Weak Morals** remaining forever closed, the **Gate of Ideals** open to the train (and some on foot).

Conclusion: you can be successful without adopting the Right System, but your chances are far smaller. And you'll have to make a lot bigger effort to get there.