

## INSPIRATION 101 – August 2018

As we look into being inspired, I want to do a little pre-assessment.

Have you heard of:

- 1a) William Shakespeare? He is British. What is he known for?
- b) Ola Rotimi? He's Nigerian.
2. Gani Fawehinmi? He's a Nigerian.
3. Celine Dion? She's Canadian.
4. Edson Arantes do Nascimento (popularly known as Pele)? He's Brazilian.
5. Fela Durotoye? He's Nigerian.
6. John Maxwell? He's American.
7. Amir Khan? He's Indian.
8. Emmanuella Samuel? She's an 8 year old Nigerian.
9. Soichiro Honda? He's Japanese.
10. Malala Yousafzai? She's Pakistani.

### Answers

- 1. a) William Shakespeare** – Poet, Playwright, Actor – Some of his works include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, and *The Merchant of Venice*.
- b) Ola Rotimi** – Playwright, Theatre Director – Some of his works include *The Gods Are Not to Blame*, *Our Husband Has Gone Mad Again*, and *The Epilogue*.
- 2. Gani Fawehinmi** – Human and Civil Rights Lawyer, Social Critic, etc
- 3. Celine Dion** – Singer – She sings well in both English and French.
- 4. Edson Arantes do Nascimento** (popularly known as Pele) – Football player
- 5. Fela Durotoye** – Motivational Speaker, Business consultant, Presidential aspirant, etc
- 6. John Maxwell** – Author, Leadership expert, etc
- 7. Amir Khan** – Actor, Talk show host, etc
- 8. Emmanuella Samuel** – Actress (comedy)
- 9. Soichiro Honda** – Engineer and Industrialist
- 10. Malala Yousafzai** - Human Rights Activist, Nobel Peace Prize winner. She was 17 years old when she won it.

If you got more than half of the answers correctly, well done. If you didn't, don't worry, just continue to learn and expand your horizon.

Now if you noticed, there were both male and female among the names I called. These people came from all around the world. These people were known for things in different fields of endeavour. Their ages also varied. What am I trying to say? God

has a purpose for your life, and you are not at a disadvantage because of your gender, family background, age, race, or area of interest.

What do these people have in common?

They were not satisfied with the status quo.

They are/were passionate about their cause.

They are/were committed to their cause.

They had people who bought into their vision.

Modupe Fadugba is an artist who is making waves in the art world. She said that one thing that encouraged her in 2016 was that when she was invited to talk to students in Ibadan International School about her works, she had the opportunity to watch the school's synchronized swimming team in action. It was surprising to her that there could be a synchronized swimming team in Nigeria, and in Ibadan, not Lagos for that matter. Also that year, she heard about the first black woman who won an Olympic gold medal in swimming. The woman is Simone Manuel from USA. The event was 100m freestyle. Only two black men have won an Olympic gold medal before. This goes to show that we blacks, even though the world has been denying it, have the potential to perform excellently in aquatic events.

So get up, do something and make a difference where you are. There are a lot of people working behind the scenes, so if you don't like the limelight, don't worry. There's something great for you to do. For example, a number of musicians have people who compose the songs they sing. Many people don't know the people who compose the songs, but the composers are happy that their songs are making waves. Many choreographers are also not known. Some broadcasters have people to research and write what they will be presenting on air. Usually it's the surgeon who is congratulated when the operation is successful. However, there are several other medical personnel involved. These include the nurses and the anaesthesiologists.

Looking at it from another angle, in a game of football, don't hope to be the striker if you're not meant to be a striker. If you are meant to be the striker, then go all out and be the best striker you can be. You will need to work as a member of a team in order to fulfil God's plan for your life. If there's no goal keeper, there's trouble. If there are no defenders, the goal keeper will almost have a heart attack whenever the ball comes his way. If the midfielders are not there to get the ball to the strikers, how will the strikers score? Whatever you are called to do, do it well. Be proud of your position. A slave girl in Naaman's household was the one who told him where he could get the solution to his problem of leprosy. There's the story of a hotel, El Cortez Hotel, where there was need for an extra elevator because of the human traffic. Architects and engineers had come together to decide how they were going to do it. As the main architect and engineer were in the lobby discussing the final plans of how they were going to cut a hole in each floor for the elevator, one of the cleaners heard them. The cleaner mentioned several reasons why that was not a good idea. He then said he had a suggestion. What was his suggestion? Build the elevator on the outside. The result... that was the first time in the history of architecture that an elevator was built on the outside of a building.

Don't be afraid to try something different, to combine things that were not combined before. I was going through a magazine, and there was an article about how psychologists have learnt something from artists. This knowledge has helped them in the treatment of their patients. Ben Carson enjoyed having classical music in the background when he used to operate.

Things can change. Don't be so quick to say they can't. For example, there was a particular year, the day of the staff meeting for my section, was changed from Monday to Friday. This enabled me to help a colleague in a different section, with something he was doing on Mondays. After that, staff meetings were returned to Mondays. A different example is that in ISI the Senior Prefect had always come from the Science class. One particular boy in the Art class then said that he was going to be the Senior Prefect. In his final year, he was the first Art student to become Senior Prefect. After that the Senior Prefects have continued to come from the Science Class.

So what are you thinking about? Don't build castles in the air, but don't limit yourself either. There's a champion inside you. You can make it. You will make it.