

Maximize Your
**Emotional
Intelligence**

To Master Your Thoughts

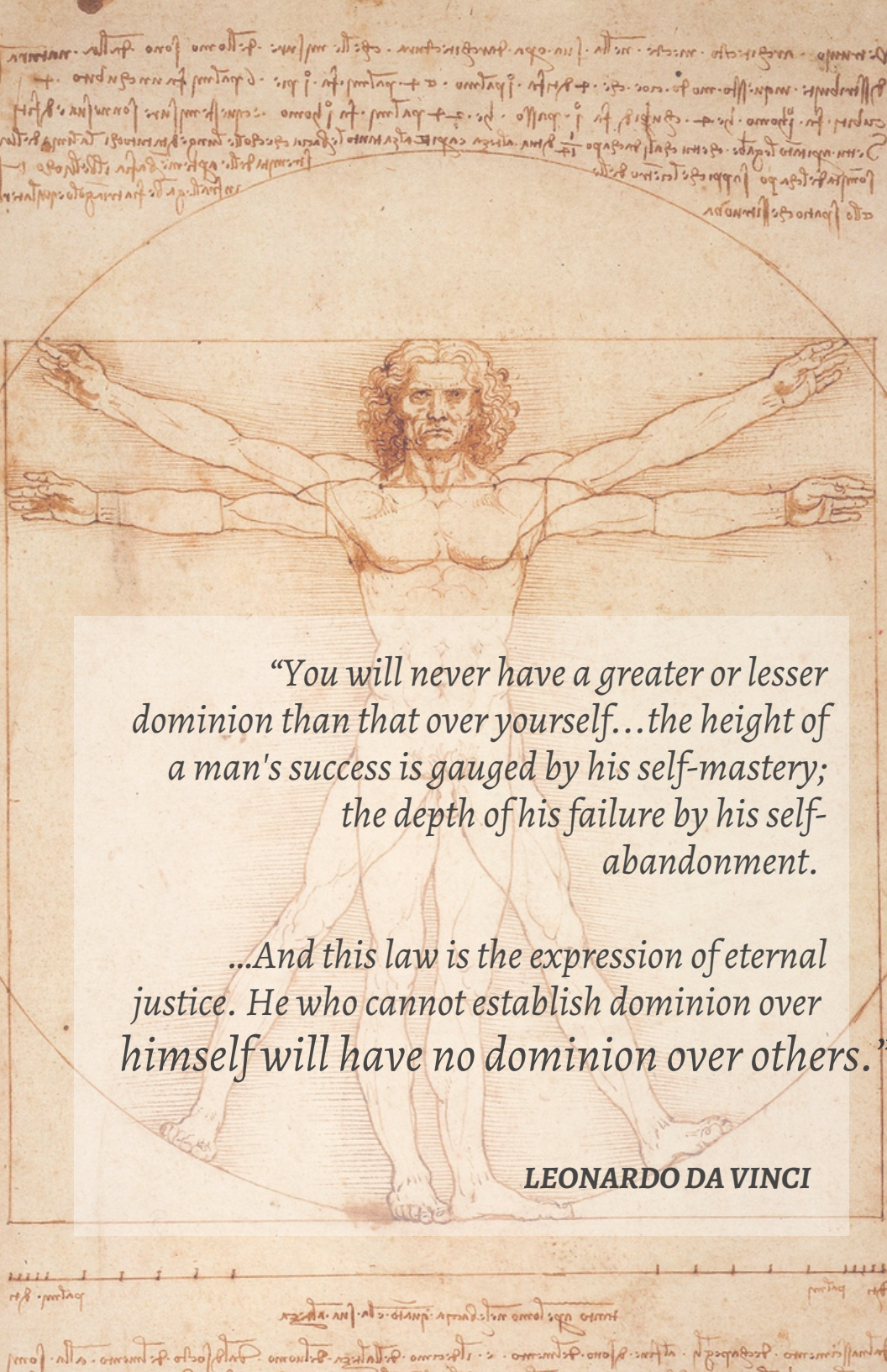
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*"You will never have a greater or lesser
dominion than that over yourself...the height of
a man's success is gauged by his self-mastery;
the depth of his failure by his self-
abandonment.*

*...And this law is the expression of eternal
justice. He who cannot establish dominion over
himself will have no dominion over others."*

LEONARDO DA VINCI

Introduction

According to Wikipedia, emotional intelligence is “the capability of individuals to recognize their own emotions and those of others, discern between different feelings and label them appropriately, use emotional information to guide thinking and behavior, and manage and/or adjust emotions to adapt to environments or achieve one's goals.”

You probably know someone that is highly intelligent from an intellectual standpoint but struggles with life. This is often a person with low emotional intelligence. Just because you're smart doesn't mean you can make your way through the world successfully.

Those with high levels of emotional intelligence also have control over their thoughts and emotions. They both go hand-in-hand. This makes it obvious why emotionally intelligent people are usually

quite successful. They get along well with others and have mastery over themselves.

By boosting the right components of emotional intelligence, you can gain mastery over your thoughts and emotions.

Consider these topics as a way to learn more about yourself and your options for enhancing your mastery over your thoughts and emotions:

1. **Chapter 1: What Having High Emotional Intelligence Can Do for You.** There are numerous advantages you'll enjoy from increasing your emotional intelligence. Find out how important emotional intelligence is to success and fulfillment.
2. **Chapter 2: The 5 Components of Emotional Intelligence.** Most experts agree there are five primary pieces to the emotional intelligence puzzle. See which of these matter if you want to

master your thoughts and emotions.

3. **Chapter 3: How to Master Self-Awareness.** You're not nearly as self-aware as you think. Find out what makes you tick by learning how to pay attention. You might be shocked by what you discover.

4. **Chapter 4: Self-Regulation.** How much control do you have over your thoughts, emotions, and actions? Learn how you can develop more.

5. **Chapter 5: Become a Master of Focus.** Ability to focus is an important skill. If you can't focus, you'll struggle to get anything done. The most successful people have a highly developed ability to focus their attention for an extended period of time.

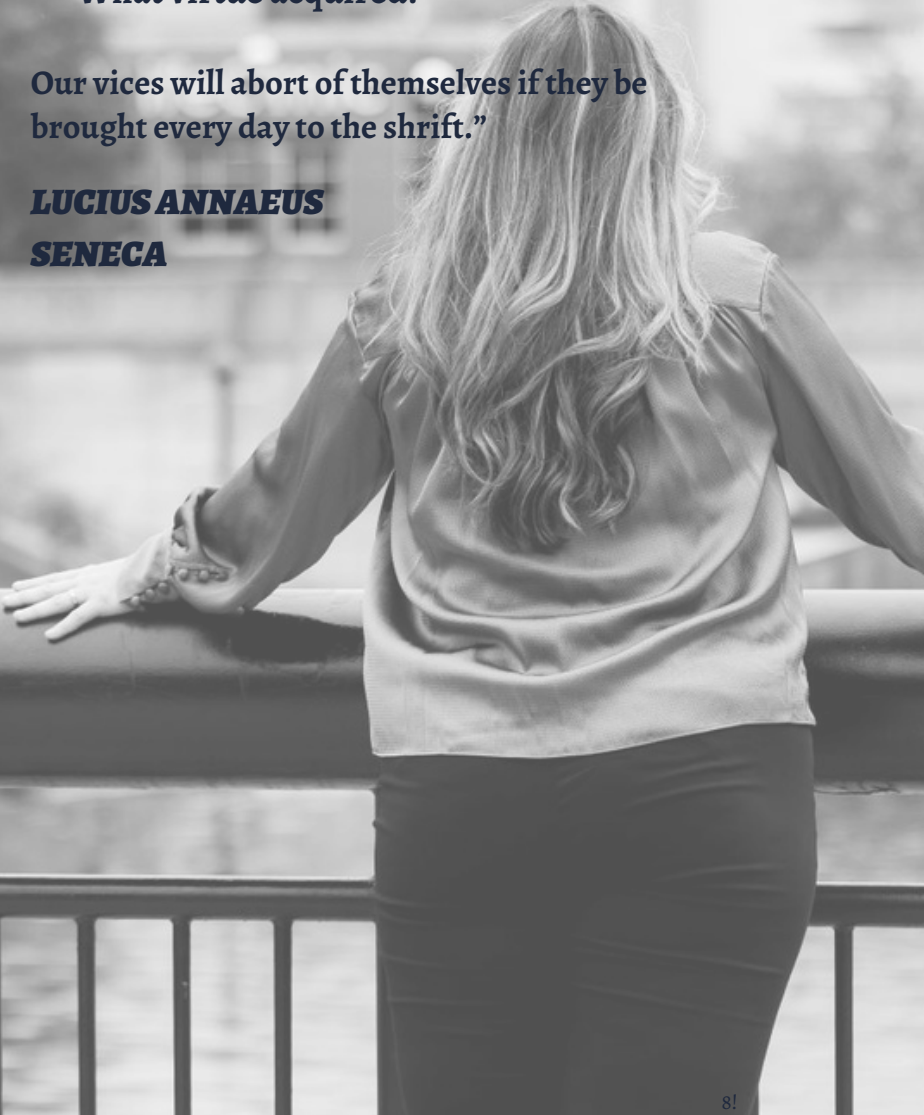
6. **Chapter 6: Motivation.** Are you motivated intrinsically or extrinsically? Why does it matter? You'll discover the differences and the relevance.

“We should every night call ourselves to an account:

- * What infirmity have I mastered today?**
- * What passions opposed?**
- * What temptation resisted?**
- * What virtue acquired?**

Our vices will abort of themselves if they be brought every day to the shrift.”

**LUCIUS ANNAEUS
SENECA**



What High Emotional Intelligence Can Do For You

You might think that emotional intelligence is fine for those in the arts and humanities, but emotional intelligence is necessary for success in all fields.

Emotional intelligence provides many benefits, such as:

- **Increases your social effectiveness.**
When you understand your emotions and the emotions of others, you can connect and communicate more effectively. It can be a great advantage in personal relationships.
- **Enhances your ability to lead others.**
When you understand motivation, emotional state management, and can empathize with others; you become a more effective leader

- **It boosts the likelihood of success.**

When you can control your thoughts, emotions, and behaviors, you can do anything.

- **It reduces bad habits and self-destructive behaviors.** Whether it's overeating, using drugs or alcohol, or wasting a day watching TV, emotional intelligence makes it easier to avoid these behaviors.

- **You develop mastery over yourself.**

This is the primary focus of this eBook. For some people, this is the whole point of living - to learn how to master yourself. How many times do you know the best course of action, but you do something else instead? Gaining emotional intelligence can be the answer.

Emotional Intelligence provides a lot of advantages. It's easy to pick out those who are high in emotional intelligence. It's also easy to pick out those who are lacking in this important characteristic. Emotional intelligence might not be the most exciting thing to develop. But, it might be the most important.

Even if you didn't do well in school, you can still be incredibly successful if you possess a high degree of emotional intelligence.

“Many of the confusions, conflicts, and disarrays that are rampant in today’s organizations, communities, and nations could have been avoided if leaders have solid self-awareness...”

ASSEGID HABTEWOLD

The 5 Components of Emotional Intelligence

Author Daniel Goleman is largely given credit for the idea of emotional intelligence and the description of the five primary components. **It's rare for someone to rate highly in all five without training and effort.**

Consider these five components:

1. **Self-awareness.** This is possibly the most critical component of emotional intelligence. **Having self-awareness means that you have a clear and accurate opinion of yourself.** You also have a good handle on how others perceive you.
 - If you have a high level of self-awareness, you're able to notice your emotions and think about them rationally in the moment.

If you're lacking in self-awareness, your emotions take over. You're only able to recognize your emotional state afterwards.

- You're able to learn from your emotional experiences. You don't have to repeat the past.
- You're aware of your strengths and weaknesses.

2. **Self-regulation.** It's great to be able to notice your emotions in the moment, but can you make a wise decision about how to proceed from that point? Are you able to redirect your emotions into a healthy positive direction?

- Can you control your impulses?
- Are you able to take responsibility for your actions?

- Do you respond in a reasonable manner when others are acting unreasonable?

 - Can you take a moment before you act or speak and make a mature, intelligent choice?

 - Do you know how to manage your negative moods and thought patterns?

 - Are you open to change and new ideas?
3. **Motivation.** Do you have the motivation that extends beyond money and acquiring possessions? Are you able to motivate yourself internally or do you require external motivation?
- Are you able to set goals and follow through to completion? Can you persist when things aren't going your way?

- Can you take the initiative to do something, or are you only motivated by discomfort, such as deadlines, the threat of losing your job, or other pain?
4. **Empathy.** Are you able to understand the emotions of others? Understanding yourself is the **first** step to understanding others. People are very similar in their basic emotional makeup.
- Do you take an interest in the lives of others? Are you able to help someone cope with emotional challenges they might be facing?
 - Do you know how to comfort someone else?
5. **Social skills.** The range of social skills needed can be vast, but these are things you've been learning since you were just a baby.

- Can you accurately interpret facial expressions?
- Can you anticipate the likely emotional reactions from others for the given situation?
- Can you communicate effectively? Are you a good listener?
- Are you able to influence others?
- Can you create and sustain relationships?

How well do you rate in each area? You probably found one or more areas that could use a little work. That's okay.

Few people rate highly in all of these areas. We're going to ignore empathy and social skills for our purposes. The other three components are more pertinent for mastering your thoughts and emotions.



“A strong human spirit with control over appetites of the flesh is master over emotions and passions and not a slave to them. That kind of freedom is as vital to the spirit as oxygen is to the body! Freedom from self-slavery is true liberation!”

RUSSELL M. NELSON

How to Master Self-Awareness

Emotions are part of the human experience. **They serve a valuable purpose.** For example, negative emotions can help to keep you alive. Positive emotions can encourage you to repeat positive behaviors.

However, the process isn't full-proof. Your emotions can also harm you if you give in to them. You might feel highly driven to eat a candy bar, though you shouldn't. You might feel an overwhelming urge to tell your boss exactly what you think, only to find yourself unemployed.

Our emotions aren't always accurate guides for making decisions or choosing behaviors.

Getting a handle on your emotions is critical! **But the first step is to become self-aware.** Most people just react with their emotions. It's imperative to be able to analyze and

understand them. In the process, you begin to understand yourself.

When you understand your own emotions and tendencies, you gain a better understanding of others, too.

“Engaging in meditative self-reflection and gaining increased control of inner experiences provides a person with a sense of control over fear and trembling and the chaos of life.”

KILROY J. OLDSTER

Know Your Values

You can't evaluate your emotional responses fully if you're not aware of your values. **It's hard to know if your responses are best for you if you don't know what's important to you.** Your values signify what you stand for. They are part of what makes you unique.

Living your values allows you to reach your goals and still be able to live with yourself. Your self-esteem suffers when you don't live according to your values. You feel fulfilled when you honor your values.

You've probably given little thought to your values. Could you quickly list your top five values, or would you need to think about it? Everyone should have a clear understanding of their values.

Use these ideas to identify your values and understand yourself better:

1. **Think about people you admire.**
These can be real people or characters from movies or books.
 - Why do you admire them?
 - What traits do they possess?
 - What traits do they not possess?

- What do you think their values are?
- Which of these values would you like to demonstrate in your own life?

2. **What values do you feel are important?** What are the values you believe all people should hold? What values do admire?
3. **Consider any peak experiences you've had.** When did you feel the best? When were you most proud of yourself? When did you want the world to take notice?
 - What values were you demonstrating at those moments?
4. **What values would you want your children to hold?** What would make you proud as a parent?

5. **What are your goals?** What values will support your goals? Is it possible that your goals are in opposition to your values? Something will have to give.

6. **Make a long list of values.** Keep writing for at least 20 minutes. Write down every value that appeals to you at all. A spreadsheet can be a useful way to create this list because it's easily sortable.

7. **Put your list in order.** You might have over 100 items, but just focus on the top 10. What are your 10 most important values? What are the top 5?

Keep this list handy and keep your values in mind as you complete this rest of this eBook. **Your values provide a unique perspective for evaluating your thoughts, actions, and emotions.** Avoid skipping this important step. You need some criteria to evaluate your self-mastery. Your values are part of that criteria.

“Only one who devotes himself to a cause with his whole strength and soul can be a true master. For this reason mastery demands all of a person.”

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Keep an Emotion Journal

You can't understand or address something you're not aware of. So, self-awareness is the most important part of developing emotional intelligence. **You can't master your thoughts and emotions if you're not aware of them.**

One of the best ways to learn to be aware of your emotions is to keep a journal that tracks your emotions.

Use these strategies to build your emotion journal:

1. **Use a journaling system that allows you to make notes throughout the day.** It's important to record your thoughts and observations as close to the incident as possible. Avoid relying on a single review at the end of the day. A small notebook works well. A portable recorder, or a smartphone, can also be effective and convenient.
2. **When you feel a change in your emotions, positive or negative, pay attention.** You might feel mildly annoyed that someone is asking to borrow a pen for the third time this week. Or you might be ecstatic that someone complimented you about your shoes. You might be impatient due to traffic or waiting in line.
 - Make note of the incident and the emotion you felt.

- Speculate on why the incident made you feel the way it did.
- Record what you were tempted to do as a result, even if you didn't do it. Perhaps you wanted to tell the person borrowing the pen to do a better job of keeping track of their own pen.
- What did you actually do? Now, list the likely outcomes of what you wanted to do and what you actually did.
- What would have been the best response? Now that the situation is over, what should you have done? What response would have been most beneficial for the situation?
- Consider if any response would have made a difference at all. Many things are outside of your control.

3. **Spend a few minutes each evening reviewing your emotions for that day.** Reflect on your notes. What patterns do you see? In what areas can you make improvements?

4. **Continue this process for an entire month.** After a month, you'll have a pretty good understanding of what makes you tick. You'll be quite impressed with yourself in some areas and embarrassed in others. That's good! It means that there's room for improvement!

Many people avoid keeping an emotion journal. This is natural. **The ego doesn't like anyone poking around too much.** Avoid allowing that to stop you. Keep track of your emotions for a month and see what you discover.

“I think for leadership positions, emotional intelligence is more important than cognitive intelligence. People with emotional intelligence usually have a lot of cognitive intelligence, but that's not always true the other way around.”

JOHN MACKEY

Consider How Others View You

This is a challenging exercise, but very revealing. **Most of us don't have an accurate representation of how others view us.** We tend to inflate our positive qualities and disregard our negative attributes. We filter our own behavior differently than others do. We often give ourselves the benefit of the doubt, but others often do not.

Use these ideas to consider how you appear to others:

1. **Take the perspective of an outsider.** Imagine observing yourself. What would you think about you? Consider:
 - **Your clothes.** What does your style of clothing say about you?
 - **Your house, car, and other possessions.**
 - **Your grooming.** What would you assume about someone with your level of grooming?
 - **Your job.** You wouldn't have the same impression of someone that worked in a bar as you would of a neurosurgeon.
 - **The way you interact with others.** How do you treat people? How do you respond to

them?

- **Your hobbies.** Imagine you know someone that skydives and rides a Harley. Now imagine someone else that likes to write poetry and volunteer at the animal shelter. You'll make different assumptions about those people. What do your hobbies say about you?

- **How you handle conflict.** Are you passive? Aggressive? Do you get upset easily? Do you stay calm, cool, and collected? Do you feel the need to be right? How do other people interpret your response to conflict?

- **Your friends.** What does the group of friends you maintain say about you?

2. **Consider the impact each of the above has on your life.** For example,

you might drive an old, beat up car. Your rationale might be that a car is a depreciating asset, you don't care about material possessions, and you'd rather save your money for something more meaningful.

- The average person might interpret that you don't make a lot of money, or that you can't manage your money. They might assume that you're not very successful in general, or that you're frugal.
- Now, think about how each of the beliefs that others are likely to have about you impact your life. For example, if you want to be seen as successful, getting a nicer car might be in order. If you don't care about such things, keeping your car makes sense.
- The opinions of others can impact your career, dating

options, how much you're trusted, and a lot of other things.

You might think that it's great to be free from worrying about what others think, but that would be a mistake. **You might not care, but that doesn't mean that the opinions of others don't have an impact on you or your life.** Take the time to take a long, hard, look at yourself.

“Every person is the master of his or her own destiny. What we think about alters our character. Our character organizes our personality, and our personality scripts how successfully we interact with other people and respond to a changing environment.”

KILROY J. OLDSTER

Self-Regulation

This is where the rubber really meets the road if you want to learn how to master your thoughts and emotions.

If you have control over yourself, everything becomes easier, whether you want to lose weight, make more money, or achieve any other type of goal. You have more control over your impulses, whether the impulse is to punch someone in the nose, tell off your boss, or eat a pint of ice cream.

Master Your Emotions

You've learned a lot about yourself, your emotions, and how you respond to those emotions. **Now that you have a higher level of awareness, it's time to learn how to master your emotions.**

You have a good idea of how you react to various situations in your life, as well as how you'd like to react. Now we'll begin implementing those preferable responses.

Follow this process to master your behavior and make wise decisions:

1. **Choose one emotion to work on.**
Think about the various negative, or overly positive, emotions you deal with on a regular basis and choose the one that's giving you the most grief in your life. Common culprits include:
 - Anger
 - Anxiety
 - Indecisiveness
 - Jealousy
 - Frustration or impatience
 - Shame or embarrassment
 - Fear

- It's really up to you. Pick an emotion that's making your life more difficult or an emotion that gets in the way of achieving your goals.

2. **Review your journal for when this emotion is most likely to occur.**

Imagine that you deal poorly with frustration. Find the times you're often frustrated and make a list of those situations.

- Strategize how you want to handle the situation. Have a plan, so you don't have to develop one in the heat of the moment.

3. **Avoid trying to do too much at once.**

Focus on a single situation that occurs each day. Master that situation before moving on to another. Trying to do too much can set you up for failure. Emotions can be tricky beasts to master. Proceed slowly.

4. **Catch yourself when you first experience the emotion.** The sooner, the better. **The key is to notice it rather than to be drawn into it.** Just see the emotion and how it feels in your body.

5. **Relax.** Focus on taking a slow, deep breath, and concentrate on how it feels moving in and out of your mouth or nose. This brings your focus back to reality, rather than allowing it to run wild with your thoughts and emotions.
 - Relax your neck and shoulders. Allow yourself to feel open. Feel as if everything can just pass right through you.

6. **Take a moment before you respond.** There's no rush. The world will wait for you to gather yourself. Remember your plan for this situation. Now, just execute it.

7. **Review.** After the situation is over, record your thoughts. How did you do? What was the outcome? What could you have done more effectively?

Keep repeating the process until you've mastered a particular emotion in all areas of your life. Then, move on to another emotion. Keep going! It might take a while to get through them all.

“The happiness of a man in this life does not consist in the absence but in the mastery of his passions.”

ALFRED LORD TENNYSON

Master Your Thoughts

You're gaining control over your emotions, and this will help to tame your thoughts as well. **However, there's more to mastering your thoughts than just mastering your**

emotions. The human brain can be thought of as a thought-producing machine.

Even if you're a monk living alone on a mountain for 10 years, the brain keeps chugging along throwing random thoughts at you. The frequency of thoughts can be reduced, but never eliminated.

What can be mastered is your response to those thoughts.

The key to mastering your thoughts is to not grab on to them. Imagine that you're driving down the street. There's a constant stream of traffic from the other direction that passes right by you. You don't give them a second thought. You notice them, but you forget about them as soon as they're out of sight.

Now, imagine that you see a car that looks an awful lot like your ex-boyfriend's or girlfriend's car. Was it them? Who was that person in the car with them? It looked a lot like one of your friends. Should you follow

them and verify? What's going on? Maybe you should call your friend and see what they're up to at this very moment.

This is an excellent example of what happens to everyone each day. Thoughts pass through our minds, and we allow most of them to drift away. **However, there are a few that stick and drive us crazy.** Once a thought sticks, it can be challenging to dislodge. These thoughts can take up all of your awareness and affect your mood.

Thoughts can be similar to a physical injury. They both cause pain, but with thoughts, the origin of the pain is in your mind.

Understand how thoughts affect your behavior:

1. **Notice your thoughts.** Just as you noticed and tracked your emotions, pay attention to your thoughts. There are far too many to write down, so just pay attention. Notice how crazy many

of them are. If you had a friend that spoke to you the way you speak to yourself, you'd likely find a new friend.

2. **Categorize your thoughts.** Put a label on each thought. You can come up with your own labels, but one suggestion is:
 - **Past.** Thoughts of the past are common. We don't tend to think about the peanut butter sandwich we ate seven years ago. Rather, we remember the things we regret, the things we enjoyed, or painful memories.
 - **Future.** We also like to speculate about the future. These thoughts are usually negative and create anxiety. But, these thoughts can be pleasant, too.
 - **Fantasy.** You might imagine yourself climbing a mountain, flying like a bird, or spending a

night with Brad Pitt. This is your basic daydreaming.

- **Critique.** This is when you criticize yourself.
 - “You’re an idiot.”
 - “You’ll never be able to do that.”
 - “She’ll never go out with you.”
 - “You’ll never find a better job.”

3. Notice the impact that thoughts have on your emotional and physical state.

Thoughts can trigger all types of emotions: anxiety, anger, fear, happiness, and anticipation, to name a few.

- Thoughts can affect your appetite.
- Your sleep can be affected.
- Your mood can be changed in an instant.

- Your decision-making ability can be altered.

You'll quickly come to see that the mind is a strange thing. You think about all kinds of odd things at random times. It's like you're living with a crazy person trapped in your head.

You'll also notice how unkind you are to yourself. There's probably no one in your life that's harder on you than yourself. You should be your own best friend, but you're probably not.

It's also easy to see the significant impact your thoughts have on your emotions and your life. If you're not managing your thoughts, you're leaving a lot of happiness and success on the table.

“If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all.”

MICHELANGELO

Redirect Your Thoughts

You can't completely eliminate your thoughts, but we'll cover a few strategies for minimizing them later. For now, let's focus on redirecting your thoughts in a more useful direction.

It can be easy to forget that we have a lot of control over our thoughts, but it's easy to prove.

Think about a bicycle.

Think about your bedroom from your childhood.

That wasn't so hard, was it? Obviously, you could turn your attention from this eBook to something else.

You can choose to do this at any time, but it's more challenging when you're in the midst of a strong emotional state. Just like it's easier to hit a tennis ball when you're by yourself than it is when there are 10,000 people staring at you, it takes practice to use a skill under pressure.

With these strategies, you can learn to redirect your thoughts under any circumstance:

1. **Awareness is the key.** Notice when you're engaged in a thought, particularly when that thought isn't related to what you're doing at the moment. What kind of thought is it?
 - Positive? You might enjoy it for a little bit if you have the time to spare. If you should be doing

something else, redirect it.

- Redirect all negative thoughts.
- If you're focused on what you're doing, that's how it should be.

2. **Change the thought to something useful.** There's no reason to continue with a thought, that's harming you in any way, even if it's just wasting your time.

- Pick a better thought. If you're working on your taxes, but you're thinking about your upcoming vacation, return your attention to your taxes. Tell yourself that getting your taxes done is important, and you can daydream later.
- If you catch yourself talking to yourself negatively, flip the script. "I'm an idiot" could become, "I'm intelligent about many things. I know I'll find a

solution to this challenge.”

3. **Change your physiology.** Stand up if you're sitting. Sit if you're standing. Take a deep breath. Jump up and down for 10 seconds. Yawn. Do something. You'll be surprised how much it can shake up your focus.
4. **Be persistent.** Negative thoughts are often bad habits. You can create a new, positive habit, if you're patient. Keep at it.

It sounds simple because it is. But, it's not easy. Start with simple situations. For example, practice redirecting your thoughts when your attention drifts from your daily tasks.

In time, redirecting your thoughts becomes a positive habit. You'll find that you can quickly turn off negative thoughts before they have a negative impact.



“Teach your kids emotional intelligence. Help them become more evolved than you are. Explain that, for instance, not everyone will like them.”

PAMELA DRUCKERMAN

Become a Master of Focus

To minimize extraneous thoughts, one solution is to increase your ability to focus. **If you can keep your attention on what you're doing, you'll have fewer stray thoughts.**

This is another important skill that's in short supply these days. People are constantly checking their email and social media. We can't seem to maintain a strong focus on anything anymore unless it's enjoyable.

Building focus will make it easier to keep your thoughts at bay. It also makes it easier to ignore them and get back to work. By enhancing your focus, you'll accomplish more and give your emotional intelligence a big boost.

Meditate

Meditation seems to be a cure-all for nearly everything. It has been around for thousands of years and has never been more popular.

Meditation can do a lot of things for the consistent practitioner:

- Gain focus and lengthen your attention span.
- Reduce stress.
- Minimize anxiety.
- Strengthen your mental health.
- Increase self-awareness.
- There are also many health benefits for your body.

Anyone that's serious about maximizing emotional intelligence should consider creating a daily meditation practice.

There are plenty of extensive guides on meditation, but here are some tips to get started:

1. **Find a quiet spot with minimal distractions.** A skilled meditation practitioner can meditate just about anywhere, but it's easiest to learn to meditate with minimal distractions.
2. **Set a timer.** Twenty minutes is a good number to shoot for. A timer will prevent you from needing to look at the clock obsessively. You won't have to worry about the time.
3. **Sit in a comfortable position.** Ideally, this is a sitting position that you can maintain for the duration of the meditation. Moving around too much reduces the effectiveness of the meditation.
4. **Focus on your breathing.** Feel the air moving in and out of your body.

5. **When your mind wanders, and it will, bring it back to your breath.** Keep going until your time is up.

You'll notice how challenging it is to keep your mind focused. It's not easy to pay attention to your breath, especially when there are so many other interesting things your brain can think up!

“Personal health is related to self-control and to the worship of life in all its natural beauty - self-control bringing with it happiness, renewed youth, and long life.”

MARIA MONTESSORI

Practice Focusing

You've spent most of your life distracting yourself, and that's why you're so good at it. **If you want to become good at focusing, you're going to have to practice that skill.**

Fortunately, there are endless possibilities to practice each day. Anyone that's motivated can become a highly focused person.

Let's consider a few ways you could practice each day:

- **Household chores.** This is a great opportunity to focus. Just like you paid attention to your breath during meditation, practice paying attention to your chores while you're doing them. Are you focused on washing the dishes, or are you thinking about your cable bill?
- **Your job.** See how well you can keep your mind on your tasks at work. Notice when your attention shifts to something else.
- **Having a conversation.** Are you fully engaged with the conversation, or paying attention to something else? Where are your thoughts?

- **Sitting in traffic.** Are you focused on your environment, which could include the radio, or, are you thinking about something unrelated to your journey?

As you can see, **every moment of your day is an opportunity to work on your ability to focus.** With time, your ability to keep your mind on a task will greatly improve. You'll also reduce the presence of random thoughts.

“Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control; these three alone lead life to sovereign power.”

ALFRED LORD TENNYSON

Motivation

How you motivate yourself influences your ability to master your thoughts and emotions. If you're extrinsically motivated, you're at the whim of everyone and everything. **If your motivation is internally based, you maintain control over your life and yourself.**

Extrinsic motivators are things like approval, money, and possessions. You want to get something from the world.

Intrinsic motivators are things like mastery, pride, satisfying curiosity, and a sense of achievement.

Understand that both are attempting to accomplish the same thing.

Why would someone want money? To feel a certain way. They might want money to feel

secure, successful, or that they've impressed everyone around them.

Intrinsic motivators also serve to create a certain feeling, but the results are entirely under your control. Extrinsic motivators are not.

It's much easier to manage your thoughts and emotions when your prime motivators are under your control. When you enjoy the activity, it's easier to maintain it. External rewards often require doing something you don't enjoy.

Think of it this way: you might love the piano and really enjoy playing it. You're receiving an internally-motivated reward. If you go to a job you dislike for the purpose of making money, your motivation is externally based.

What is your motivation for doing the various things in your life? Think about why you're doing the things in your life that you don't enjoy. See if there is a way to internally motivate yourself.

Conclusion

It's difficult to master life if you haven't mastered your thoughts and emotions. **Boosting your emotional intelligence is a great way to increase your mastery over yourself.** Of the five components of emotional intelligence, the most relevant are self-awareness, self-regulation, and self-motivation

Anyone that wants to maximize their personal development needs to also maximize their emotional intelligence. Be patient with yourself as you build these attributes. The freedom and success that come from mastering your thoughts and emotions are worth the effort.

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