

See the Dream

Essay by Joyeuse Muhorakeye

What if you had a dream, but couldn't see it—what would happen? Can you imagine what it would be like? Would you have a back-up plan?

There is a young man here, chasing his dreams, but he has one obstacle: he can't see. His name is Akbar, a student at Aiken High School wanting to be an artist. Overcoming blindness, Akbar learned how to play five musical instruments. With his sense of touch and listening, Akbar has dedicated himself to becoming a musician. Despite that, there are still some people who don't see his dream as something that will turn into reality. But this does not stop him. Akbar sees a different future for himself.

"No one can see my limit of how far or near I can go with my dreams unless they are God. If they can do it I can do it, too," Akbar declared, in his native Kirundi language. That said, it is always smart to have a Plan B, and Akbar's backup plan is to be a psychologist.

There also is a young woman named Joyeuse. Her dream is to be a doctor who specializes in kidney surgery—and that's me. Now you may ask why I want to be a surgical doctor. Well, the reason is because I want to help people. In my country of Rwanda, where I was born, it is very difficult to deal with kidney failure and to receive transplants. I know of many people who have to go to India for procedures. It costs a lot of money, and many people can't afford it. Therefore, they are not taken care of properly. And that is something I hope to change in the future, once I become a doctor. I would like to help those in need. The cost of it won't be free, but the least I can do for them is treat them with compassion, make my service affordable and allow payment over time. My back-up plan is to be a nurse, because either way, I'm still helping those in need.

Our first step in realizing our dreams is to identify where our dreams are needed most. Then we have to build a pathway to get there, little by little. I have put myself in a good position by getting good grades of A's and B's in my classes. I know I will need academic scholarships to afford college and make it to medical school.

We all have our own dreams and goals, and even if we have a Plan B, we still need to give our goals for now 100 percent of our effort, and not less. We must work hard to make every day, every second, pay and be worthwhile. We cannot let what other people think about us become our reality. Often, change is necessary to the realization of dreams—and those changes aren't always easy. #stay positive and be you!

I hope this podcast gets you thinking about your own dreams, goals, and plans. Whatever you want to see in your future, start now. It's not too late to make this year your very best. Put yourself in a position where you can see your dreams and make them a reality. Be proud of every success that brings you closer. Make all your sacrifices and effort worthy of your vision.

What is your dream?

What steps have you taken to achieve your dreams?

Do you have a back-up plan?

Do you think you're in a good position to achieve your dreams, and if not, what can you do to get there?