

Art for the Emperor

Several centuries ago, the emperor of Japan commissioned a Japanese artist to paint a particular species of bird for him. Months passed, and then years. Finally, the emperor went personally to the artist's studio to ask for an explanation.

The artist set a blank canvas on the easel and, within 15 minutes, had completed a painting of a bird. It was a masterpiece. The emperor, admiring both the painting and the artist's great skill, asked why there had been such a long delay.

The artist then went from cabinet to cabinet in his studio. He pulled out armloads of drawings of feathers, tendons, wings, feet, claws, eyes, beaks – virtually every aspect of the bird from every angle. He placed these silently before the emperor, who nodded in understanding.

The magnificence of any “whole,” you see, can never be greater than the magnificence of any singular detail.

What does that mean for us?

To have an excellent life, strive for an excellent year. Within that year, strive for an excellent month, and within that month, strive for an excellent day. Within the day, strive for an excellent hour. An excellent life is the sum of many excellent moments.

The same principle holds true for success in our professional lives. It is the mission of Life Care Centers of America to be a premier provider of long-term care, and the facility of choice in every community where we operate.

We earn that distinction hour by hour and day by day as we serve our residents and families.

--Beecher Hunter