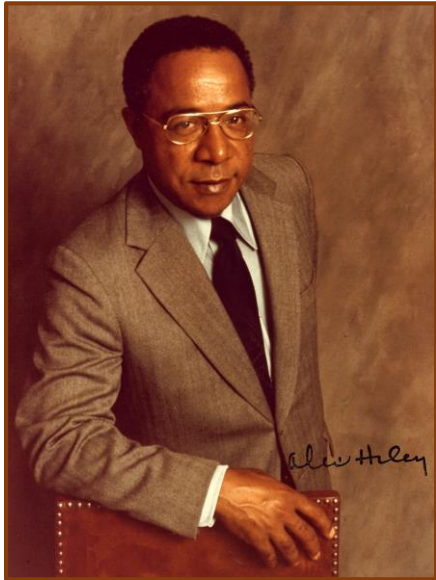


Don't Give Up on a Dream

For eight years, the struggling young writer turned out incredible numbers of short stories and articles for publication. And for eight long years, they were rejected.

Fortunately, he didn't give up, and for that, he – and America – will always be grateful.



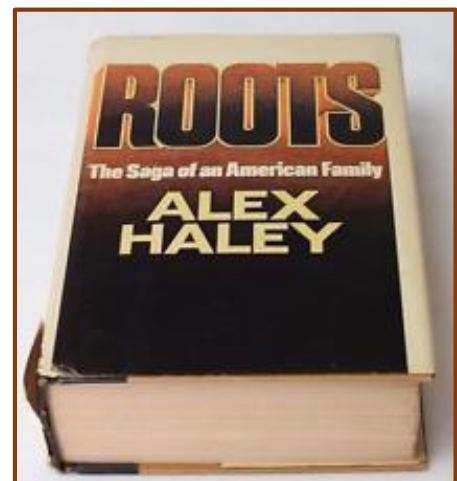
He spent much of his time in the United States Coast Guard writing a mountain of routine reports and letters. He learned how to say things eloquently, yet concisely. After his hitch in the Coast Guard, he tried desperately hard to make it as a writer, but despite those eight years and hundreds of short stories and articles, he was unable to sell even one.

On one occasion, however, an editor wrote an encouraging note on the rejection slip. It simply said, "Nice try."

Most of us would not rate that little comment very high on the encouragement list, but it literally brought tears to the young writer's eyes. He was given new hope and continued to persist. He simply would not give up.

Finally, after many years of effort, he wrote a book that has deeply affected the entire world and helped him to become one of the most influential writers of the 1970s.

His name: Alexander Murray Palmer (Alex) Haley. In 1976, he published the book *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*. The book was adapted by ABC as a television miniseries of the same name and aired in 1977 to a record-breaking 130 million viewers. It had great influence on awareness in the United States of African-American history and inspired a broad interest in genealogy and family history.



The message is clear: If you have a dream and if you really believe you have some ability that can be expressed, pursue that dream; don't give up Hang in there!

Remember, success might be just around the corner, over the next hill or at the end of that next effort.

– Beecher Hunter