

The Road Once Taken

Bill Roiter, author of *Beyond Work*, tells a story about a man named Jimmy and how he dealt with the complex way life evolves.



As a young man, Jimmy looked for a job he liked. To pass the time and pay his bills, he took up driving a cab – and found that he liked it. He especially enjoyed setting his own hours and meeting the flow of passengers whose lives intersected with his. This was the start of a 40-year career as a cab driver.

Satisfied with the emotional side of his job, Jimmy put his efforts into developing an overall expertise in the business of driving. With his wife's help, he saved enough money to buy his own cab license, and he went on to buy nine more cabs. He found himself not only doing the driving and socializing he loved but also running a successful business.

When after many years Jimmy's wife died, the joy went out of running the business. Jimmy sold all but one of his cabs. He now had enough money to retire, and he considered doing so. But he found that such a course of action left him too much alone. With his wife gone, he needed the activity and social connections of his former life.

The solution was simple: Keep driving a cab. Jimmy soon found a good rhythm – rising early as he always had, driving until noon, and then having lunch and relaxing in the afternoon.

Crises such as having a loved one die, suffering a serious illness, or facing some other adversity are inarguably painful. When those things happen, we often want to turn away from the life that led us to this suffering. However, as Jimmy found, a painful crisis doesn't necessarily cancel out the successes you've achieved or the ways in which you've achieved them.

Be patient when you go through a crisis. When it recedes, look again at the road you once committed yourself to. It still may lead somewhere you want to go.

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (James 1:2-4 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter