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Connecting with your intrinsic abilities

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MANY used to believe that an MBA was the be-all and end-all of a successful career.

If you survived the sleepless nights, endless case studies and syndicate work, then you were rewarded with a delectable salary and a holiday home at Zimbali. But the world has changed, and that is no longer the case.

An MBA is no longer the golden ticket it was once prized as. That is not to say it has lost its value; not at all. The value comes in the knowledge and perhaps more particularly the integration of the knowledge which we commonly refer to as wisdom.

Those who are wise, whether they hold an MBA or not, understand that they can only unlock and create value, success and magic in the world to the degree to which they themselves are unlocked.

In other words, in this fast-changing and dynamic world, it is not as much an external thing such as an MBA which will assure success, value and what I term "magic" as much as it is the intrinsic



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abilities of the individual.

The intrinsic abilities to which I refer include the ability to find creative solutions to age-old problems, to take total accountability for one's actions, to navigate rapid change, to be innovative in one's thinking and approach, and to have an awareness of self.

If you're wondering how to supercharge your career but can't afford an MBA, don't despair. You are the link to

your future, and more specifically your ability to connect with your intrinsic gifts and abilities.

How? Get a coach, turn off the television and read, get a mentor or go on a self-development course.

In conclusion I'd like to end with one of my favourite thinkers on the subject, Daniel Pink. "A lot of white-collar work requires less of the routine, rule-based, what we might call algorithmic set of capabilities, and more of the harder-to-outsource, harder-to-automate, non-routine, creative, juristic – as the scholars call it – abilities."

So as you leave work today, perhaps think about the possibilities that the development of unlocking your potential might have on your career.

Who knows, you could be the next Steve Jobs, but if you don't discover your intrinsic abilities, you'll never know – and neither will we.

● Lisa Steingold is an executive coach and the founder of Magic Unlocked.

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