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GET OUT OF YOUR OWN WAY

Your past impacts who you are, but it does not define who you will become.

By: [DOUG CAIN]

As many of you know, I get to my terminal office around 5:30 every morning. It allows me to take care of many emails, do some planning, review reports and in some cases, just envision where I am taking us in the future. But one of my favorite things to do in those pre-dawn hours is walk the property.

I like to go look at the trucks and trailers of Lake Truck Lines and the oilfield equipment of Lake Oilfield Services and think about what I am going to do, not just that day, but way off in the future. Sometimes I think about how, from my past, I got here to my present and how that has prepared me for this future that is before me.

I noticed something recently as I walked on the yard. The yard I normally walk on is about 5 acres of hard-surface crushed limestone, and I have enough lights on it that it looks like a high school football stadium from Highway 1604.

I noticed as I walked toward the middle of the yard, with massive lights behind me and equally

massive lights in front of me, that there were three shadows of myself in front of me and three shadows behind me. Now, anyone will tell you I am not a very deep person, but something profound hit me.

Those shadows behind me – two lighter ones on both sides and a very dark one directly behind – represented my past. The lighter ones were the mistakes I had made. The dark one represented the true spirit of who I am. Now, all three ended up connecting to the heel of my boots, and all were important in my life.

The mistakes you make in your life are obviously learning lessons (if you are smart enough to get the lesson), and of course, all lessons are necessary parts of growth. As anyone will tell you, I admit to having tons of skeletons in my closet. While I am not proud of those behaviors, I am glad I learned from them.

But that part of me – the part that is who Doug Cain really is – well, that's the very bold shadow directly behind me. That is what pushes me forward,

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demanding my very best in all that I do. Sometimes, just like Peter Pan trying to catch his shadow, I did not know that entity was there, pushing me, encouraging me and believing in me ... but it was always there.

Then I looked at the three shadows in front me. Those three guys have their place in my life, as well. As I stood in the early morning silence (with the exception of the roosters crowing and the cows mooing – I am out in the country, after all), I noticed something about my three friends in front of me that made me think.

The two lighter ones on both sides were very bold as they came off the tips of my boots, but faded the farther out in front they went. And the shadow in front of me? Well, he was bold and stayed pretty dark all the way out. Now, that got me thinking about what this meant.

I decided the ones on the sides indicated that many powerful influences will try to draw me to the right or to the left, but in any case, away from my true calling going directly forward. And the reason they became lighter? Well, that is because as I get closer to goals, my vision and my horizon, they will become less and less of an influence.

And my good friend in the middle that stays bold, straight and true? Well, that, my friends, is my destiny. Soon I will no longer be pushed by my "self," but instead, will be drawn toward what I am to do with my life. Soon, the notion of self will be left behind and what I am meant to do will be like a siren's song drawing me to it.

So what, you ask, does that mean to you? Well, I encourage to you to get out of your own way. You are neither a victim of your past circumstances nor hitting a glass wall in front of you, preventing you from going as far as your destiny will take you.

Remember, folks: It took 25 years for this potato-eating Irishman to become an overnight success. And now, I've gotta go and commission a picture to be painted. Until next time ...

For more information, contact Doug Cain at douglaslain@laketrucklines.com or 210-626-1329.