„‘You Can’t’ Shouldn’t Stop You – Why We Must Never Give Up on Talent“

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In schools, universities, and workplaces, many people hear it at some point: “You can’t do it,” “You failed,” or “You’re not smart enough.” For some, it’s just a sentence. For others, it shapes their self-image for years. These seemingly casual judgments are not only personal setbacks—they are costly for society. Every missed opportunity is potential that never comes to life.

You may know the feeling: shame, self-doubt, the nagging sense of not being enough. It can be paralyzing. Yet exactly this experience can become the foundation for extraordinary strength.

Our education system and many evaluation methods often measure performance linearly: grades, tests, narrow criteria. Creativity, unconventional thinking, and problem-solving frequently fall through the cracks. Countless people who could have driven innovation are written off too early. Imagine where we might be today if society and institutions had dismissed these individuals prematurely. Diseases could have been cured sooner, technology advanced faster, cultural milestones reached earlier. Every “You can’t” is a lost future—and a reminder that your contribution matters.

History shows that doubt and rejection do not define potential. Albert Einstein was long considered a slow learner and an outsider—today he is one of the most influential physicists in history. Thomas Edison was labeled inattentive and difficult—yet his inventions transformed billions of lives. Katherine Johnson, a mathematician at NASA, overcame discrimination to calculate trajectories that made the Apollo missions possible. Srinivasa Ramanujan, an Indian mathematician, struggled to pass formal exams and was often dismissed by institutions, yet his groundbreaking contributions to mathematics continue to inspire scholars worldwide. Had these individuals listened to others’ judgments, their breakthroughs might never have happened.

And these are just a few examples. Almost all well-known researchers and influential people faced similar challenges. Many schools, companies, and institutions favor predictability and routine. Those who think differently often fall through the cracks. Mistakes are not seen as part of learning but as signs of failure. This is not personal weakness—it is a structural flaw. If you have ever felt out of place or “not enough,” remember: the system’s judgment says nothing about your potential. Many of today’s trailblazers once stood exactly where you are now.

Rejection is not the end. Those who persist often develop extraordinary resilience and creativity. Your ideas have value, even if others don’t immediately recognize them, and your path does not have to follow the standard route. Every setback can make you stronger, more inventive, and more determined. “You can’t” is more than a judgment about you—it reflects the flaws of the system. The system is broken, poorly designed, and outdated. Human talents must be nurtured, not criticized for their weaknesses—and this should start in childhood and in schools. We shouldn’t force everyone into the same flawed system. People should be evaluated based on their strengths, not their weaknesses. There are no “dumb” or “smart” people—only those who haven’t yet found the right path, and those who have. Only you know what the right path is; what others say doesn’t matter.

Every person should know where they want to go. That feeling, that drive, is no accident—it points to your path. No matter who criticizes or tries to block you, follow it, even if it takes years, and change the world. And if that doesn't happen, you may change your city—or at least yourself. Your ideas, talent, and creativity could be exactly what the world needs right now. Do not let fear, doubt, or others' judgments define you. The future belongs to those who persevere—not to those who give up. Those who don't try cannot succeed. Set your goals high—the further you reach, the more you can grasp. In a system like this, however, perseverance over many years will be required.