



Planning Your Adventure

A fifteen-minute pause in a noisy world — with Paul Cleworth

THE BIG IDEA

In *The Goonies*, a gang of kids find a 350-year-old pirate map in an attic and — unlike every sensible adult in town — decide to believe it. Napoleon Hill wrote that whatever the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve. Note the order. Most of us never get past the first step. This episode is about daring to believe the map, then drawing the plan.

“Goonies never say die!”

— *The Goonies*, 1985

It was never about dying. It means: never give up on the thing you've decided to believe in.

“You have no power over me.”

— *Labyrinth*, 1986

Sarah doesn't beat the Goblin King. She stops believing in him — and the castle falls.

EPISODE OVERVIEW

The Hook	The Goonies — two pieces of paper, and the one the kids chose to believe.
Belief First	A plan is just belief with a to-do list attached.
The Doubt	Willow — the power was in his own finger all along.
The Fear	Labyrinth — you already believe in something. Choose what.
The Plan	The Princess Bride — storm the castle with what's in the shed.
Who It's For	Anyone who folded a map up and put it back in the attic.

WHY 'BELIEVING'?

In investing — an act of faith: backing a plan whose ending you can't yet see, and holding your nerve through the dark tunnels.

In family life — the adventures you take together are remembered. The sensible ones you skipped are quietly regretted.

In business — nobody built anything worth building without first believing the daft-sounding version of it.

In life — the arithmetic is never the obstacle. Deciding the adventure isn't for you — that's the obstacle.

“What if the map in the attic is real?”

— the question every good adventure begins with

STOIC & OTHER WISDOM

“Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve.”

NAPOLÉON HILL · THINK AND GROW RICH

“It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that they are difficult.”

SENECA · LETTERS TO LUCILIUS

“The impediment to action advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way.”

MARCUS AURELIUS · MEDITATIONS

“Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.”

W. H. MURRAY · AFTER GOETHE

REFERENCES THIS EPISODE

FILM

The Goonies (1985) · *Willow* (1988) · *Labyrinth* (1986) · *The Princess Bride* (1987)

MUSIC

The Whole of the Moon — *The Waterboys* (1985) · *Take On Me* — *a-ha* (1985)

BOOKS & THINKERS

Think and Grow Rich — Napoleon Hill · *Simple Wealth, Inevitable Wealth* — Nick Murray · *The Princess Bride* — William Goldman

THE STEADY PATH PRINCIPLE

Believe. Plan. Begin.

THIS EPISODE'S REFLECTION QUESTION

“What's the adventure I've quietly decided is 'not for me' — and what if I'm wrong?”

Not the sensible, shrunk-down version. The real one — the map you believed for a moment, then folded up because a grown-up voice told you to be realistic.

COMING UP — EPISODE 08

Time, Attention & the Art of Presence

“Where am I, when I'm with the people I love?”

Sit with the question before the next episode.

TAKE THIS WITH YOU Conceive it. Believe it. Then go and achieve it. Goonies never say die.

Slow down. Think clearly. Keep walking your steady path.

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