

Guided to Inspiration

In life, there are infinite forms of inspiration. To some, it is a summer sunset. Others embark on their life's journey only after some meaningful or memorable event occurs in their life. For some, however, inspiration takes the form of pages turned in the quiet solitude of one's own home where imagination and flights of fancy can take an ordinary person and transport them to some grander place. A location, within the boundless spaces of one's mind, that can bring a person to profound and often life-changing realizations that will forever impact the choices which that individual makes from that point on. A book can inspire someone to be an important part of their community and have an impact on others who, perhaps, they had never even known existed. A novel or short story can convince the reader to experience new lifestyles and explore new horizons. For me, a book inspired me to write a book. A piece of literature created within me a belief that I, too, could create works of fiction that might one day inspire future readers. That book which so impressed upon me the confidence I had long searched for and, beyond a shadow of a doubt, most influenced me in my life is The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglass Adams.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy was a book I had, up until about five years ago, never even knew existed. Although first published almost thirty years ago, I had lived the first twenty one years of my life completely ignorant of its glorious existence. The copy I own, in fact, was a gift to my nephew for his birthday. He, like I, had never even heard of the book and so, sadly, he just set it on his bookshelf and forgot about it. It wasn't until perhaps a year later, that I rediscovered the book and decided, simply on a

whim, that I would take a look at it. That decision, it turned out, was one of the best I have ever made.

As I began to delve into the lengthy tome, I realized that I had never laid eyes on a piece of literature the likes of this one. The humor ran, like a vein, throughout the book in a way I had never seen. The style of writing was conversational, witty and often times very quick. I had always imagined that a style, such as this, was not the kind that most folks found readable. What I discovered, as I quickly poured through pages that drew me further and further into a world of colorful, imaginative Sci-Fi wackiness, was that a good book didn't need to be filled with pages and pages of adjectives and paragraphs dedicated solely to expressing to the reader what the main character's hat looked like. This realization passed through me like a million volts of electricity and, suddenly, I believed that I was just as capable as any other writer of producing literature that could capture the public's imagination.

Through this book, I discovered a wonderful realization. This epiphany had nothing to do with my talent as a writer. What I finally understood was that I could write stories and tales that some might consider loony and yet, people would still WANT to read them. This understanding, granted to me by a book older than I was, yet unknown to me for the vast majority of my life, was the inspiration I needed to go head-first into writing stories that I hope, one day, people all over the world will be able to enjoy.