

WHAT TO DO WITH MY LIFE...

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S1 | E1 Route of Passage: Finding Your Vision

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[Start: 18:50]

A very, very, good afternoon to all those who are listening. This afternoon, I would like to share a story or account with you all and it is what to do with my life... a question that has been puzzling me for a long time and that a few months ago, I was able to realize (for myself).

But, you are probably wondering, “Who are you?” “What are you doing?”

My name is Oscar Moreno Lule. I was born in San Francisco, California, but when I was less than a year old, I moved to Mexico. In Mexico, I spent most of my life and I studied all through pre-school, elementary school, middle school, and preparatory school (10th - 12th).

And when I was in my second year of Preparatory school, my parents began to float this idea, “What would life be like if we moved to the United States?”

Then this idea became a reality in fewer than 6 months and we came to the U.S. seeking new opportunities, more money, another language... a better life -- American Dream basically... which thank God is, well -- we have achieved it.

When I was studying in a Preparatory school in Mexico, I wasn't clear on what I wanted to study. I was studying engineering (first). I didn't like engineering so, afterward, I changed to Law.

When I was studying Law in preparatory school, we had a field trip, this field trip to the Government Palace. This trip to the Government Palace, made me realize a lot of things that made me open my eyes.

When we entered the lobby of this building, it was —

(phew!) It was enormous, gigantic.

A lot of rooms, a lot of offices, bathrooms wherever, people walking, and there were various things calling out for your attention.

All the people working with their suits, impeccable faces, as if nothing were wrong... (but) none of them looked completely happy. None of them looked very happy. They all had this face that seemed like they didn't like their work and I said to myself, "If I am going to work doing something, I am going to work doing something I like."

Doing something that is enjoyable, I pour into, doing something to live and be happy. So, since that day, I've had this mystery, this question in my being - what would it be like, what would happen, if I happened to find a career that could make money (or a living), could help people, and make an impact on the environment?

[21:31]

So, I have had jobs like construction, worked washing plates, and worked in many things but when I went to Guatemala, I got to know a branch of agriculture ... it was very interesting to me the way in which you work, like what you cultivate, how you teach people, how you worked with nature instead of working against nature. So, when I went on this Carpe Mundi trip and I started to see how this Permaculture system helped the soil, helped the people there, helped all - the insects - it is a system in which all were beneficiaries.

This place is from Shad's dreams, an American, who is a very good person and treated us very well and was one of my inspirations to decide to study this career.

The other person, who had his own farm as well, is Irish - his name is Neal. The two of them had the life that I wanted. They wake when they want, go to the bathroom, arrive for work at the time they want.

Literally. Their life, their farm.

They had the life I always wanted. They had their spouses, their children, their own schedules ... they didn't have a boss to answer to.

On one occasion, with these two people, we got to go to this river, this river that later became a lake - the lake Atitlan.

When we got there — *foof!*

Everything was beautiful to see!

It was sunset, the water was slightly hot — warm! The warm water. The blue sky. Everything was beautiful.

[23:09]

Then, suddenly, Neal, the Irish guy gets into the water and it was like, if he got in the water, why shouldn't I?

Then I go in the water with him and when we were in very deep, we started talking and he told me - he told me a story from when he was young, how he felt trapped in the system, he felt trapped between finances (financial concerns), he felt trapped between getting up and going to work, coming back home, going to sleep then waking up to go to work again. He got so tired of it that he talked to his family, talked with his parents about this matter in an act of courage - because this is very brave from my point of view. He told them that he didn't feel comfortable with his life. He shared how he would like to devote his life to something more important than money. So, that in this moment he could pursue (it) with their blessing and they told him, "That's fine, you have the freedom to whatever you want."

I had so much empathy for him in that moment. I felt like this point is true for me too, up to a certain point. I felt like talking to my parents and to tell them I would like to do the same thing that he's doing.

I would like to have my own farm, but! In Mexico.

And well, that's my dream. Some day finish studying this branch of agriculture which is permaculture and when I have enough money - to be able to have my own place, a farm in Mexico ... to enjoy the wonders of nature, enjoy the wonders of the soil, enjoy the wonders of life, and not answer to anyone.

[Ends: 24:50]