



# SEARCH FOR A SELF IN JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL

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Jonathan Livingston Seagull is a book about Passion and find out the meaning of self. It is an ordinary book which teaches to be extraordinary. This is a book for anyone who dreams with a passion who doesn't fit into the pack. Jonathan Livingston Seagull doesn't feel like that he fits in with the rest of the flock. Other birds care only for food, flocking around the fishing boats in the hope of picking up scraps of fish and bread, while Jonathan Livingston Seagull tries by himself practiced on his skills of flight. Seagulls are not known for being graceful flyers or for being fast or agile but Jonathan Livingston seagull is inspired by these things.

Jonathan Livingston Seagull spends many hours practicing to fly faster, higher or more spectacular ways. To this seagull flying is a special one. It is the purest form of happiness. When it does fly higher and faster seagull feels satisfied. He becomes something extraordinary. But other birds did not like this so that he is exiled to live alone.

This is the story of an ordinary seagull who travels on an extraordinary journey. It is not a journey from one place to another on a map but rather a special journey. It is a story about what it takes to explore one's desire and to master the skill. Actually, Jonathan Livingston Seagull story is about a spiritual journey to find out the self. It is about how one person can become extraordinary and make himself become exceptional and find out the confidence and faith which lies in everyone. Jonathan Livingston Seagull practices through all the ways that most people react to the extraordinary. Jonathan Livingston Seagull becomes an outcast when he flies better than the ordinary seagull. Later on, when he returns to his pack he is treated with suspicion.

After sometime, Jonathan Livingston Seagull earns the trust of small loyal followers who learn from him and pass on his knowledge which has become theirs. When Jonathan lastly leaves, his power of flying becomes extraordinary supernatural ability Jonathan Livingston Seagull becomes a god and what he has achieved becomes the acts of deity and not of any other Ordinary seagull.

The message we get after reading in this work is every generation there are new goals to find out the secret of exploring their passion and developing it through practice. Message of Jonathan Livingston Seagull lives on everyone who is willing to look and work enough to achieve the goal. Richard Bach writes

"For most gulls, it is not flying that matters, but eating. For this gull though it was not eating that mattered, but flight. More than anything Jonathan Livingston Seagull Sea gull loved to fly". Jonathan 's attitude brings worry to his parents; his parents are disappointed in him but that did not affect him. Jonathan refuses to accept what others are saying. His mother asked

"Why is it so hard to be like the rest of the flock, jon?"

Why can't you leave low flying to the pelicans the albatross?"

Why don't you eat? son, you are bone and feathers"

"I don't mind being bone and feathers mom. I just want to know what I can do in the air and what I can't, thats all. I just want to know".

Though Jonathan failed in many practices he is not discouraged and tries to confirm the passion in his belly and the drive to do better. He is a very introspective gull. He would deconstruct to determine what he did and make improvements. One day he went too far, so the council members summons him to stand to center for shame. Jonathan is exiled from the pack.

"All alone he kept on learning what he had hoped for the flock, now he gained for himself alone, he learned to fly, and was not sorry for this price that he had paid. Jonathan seagull discovered that boredom and fear and anger are the reason that a gull's life is so short, and withered gone from his thought, he lived a long fine life indeed"

Jonathan Livingston Seagull is banished first then he believes in his dream and continues to live it. He keeps on practicing his flight. Now he meets other seagulls who are banished from other colonies. He takes the time to train them. Jonathan continues to learn. He is able to master himself. He also learns about love. He goes back to his Flock to see if there are other outcasts who can help.

Jonathan who wants more for his life goes after the more he finds, he is banished for being an outlier. Yet he learns to perfect his skills in love and kindness. Within that community Birds lead a normal life, only they live to eat fish off from boats. Here Jonathan discovers there is

"More to life than surviving". He finds new ways to fly at different speeds and ever so graciously.

However, Jonathan becomes an influence in the community and shows other seagulls the "more" there is to life. Before he dies, he wants to be remembered as a normal seagull not a god. A new religion is created after him, what happens in this world is, anybody who wants to improve the way of life is not just for ourselves but for others too and yet people try to stop them. People call them crazy. Here are some thoughts and lessons we can learn from reading this book.

- A) We should never be afraid to learn, we never know what more we will discover.
- B) Open your mind, be curious, stay curious, ask questions.
- C) He teaches others and shares what he knows even when others are against him and he is considered an outcast by his very own gull community. He shows forgiveness and with forgiveness we let off massive weights of hatred from us.
- D) If you want to succeed, you should know that you have already arrived or achieved it.
- E) Try to have a limitless mindset.
- F) Learn to love and show magnanimity. It is difficult to show love after we have gone through bitter experiences but you can always learn again and again to show love.
- G) Don't allow other's words to let you down.
- H) He believes so much in practice.
- I) When people refuse to understand you, they either call you a devil or God.

Main point here is Jonathan is not satisfied with the conventional routine of eating food. He believes there is more to life and flight than what he experiences with the flock. Inspired by his passion for flight, he continually strives to be better at it by constantly pushing himself beyond all possible limits. He flies out alone to practice his

flying skills from dawn to dusk. Sometimes he forgets to eat. He does not sit well with the flock as they feel he is not living by the rules nor does he honor the traditions.

Finally, he learns more than he could imagine and masters the art of flying. He becomes an extraordinary bird, attains a supernatural level of flight. He comes back to the flock to enlighten them of the possibilities available beyond their very limited idea of life. At last he gets few disciples and teaches them to fly beyond their imagination.

This book teaches the importance of living a meaningful life. Like this bird we all possess potential that is often disturbed by the mundane pursuits we have grown to mindlessly engage in. This book is a clear example that we must overcome the limits. This book teaches lessons of kindness.

### Primary Sources

Bach, Richard. *Jonathan Livingston Seagull: The New Complete Edition*. Simon and Schuster, 2014.

