



by: Pz  
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# look out world..

# HERE I COME!

I ain't gonna be just a face in the crowd.  
You're gonna hear my voice when I shout it out loud . . .  
. . . It's My Life —Bon Jovi

**H**ere we go, again. Another year is behind us, and like clockwork, a new one is poised and ready—whether we like it or not—to get underway. As we glance back we can easily identify the headlines and the people that made the biggest splash. I could focus on all that has transpired: the war and the weather; the Hollywood hookups and breakups, the sports heroes and zeroes, the trials and scandals, the countless faces and dwindling bodies that have become household names for no apparent talent or accomplishment that could justify their manufactured celebrity. There is the good, the bad, and the Oh, so ugly. I could rehash story after story and relive those that got the most coverage throughout our papers, our magazines, our TV, our radio, our internet. Yet, you have seen these chronicled over and over, and you certainly don't need me to repeat once more the news from days gone by. I could ask you to reflect on your own life and what you did or didn't accomplish, on your successes and failures, your pleasures and disappointments, your gains and losses. You are already intimately familiar with that story. You already know the lessons learned, the sorrows felt, the goals reached or those that fell short. I want to focus, instead, on right here, right now, and on what's in store for the future. I want to concentrate my energies, instead, on what you can expect from this new and glorious year and, better still, what it can expect from you.

Are you ready for the New Year? Is the New Year ready for you?

I have a curious but powerful feeling about 2006. I can't explain exactly why that is—only that it is something I can't escape. For many who have been struggling and frustrated and not able to get off the mark, move forward, or make the strides they long to make—this is your year. For those who have been working so hard and not seen the full impact or payoff of those efforts—this is your year. For those

who have hung in there in spite of tragedy or let-down—holding on, not giving up, staying the course, keeping the faith—this is your year. For those who have a definitive calling, a single-mindedness of purpose, or a valuable contribution to make to the human race—this is your year. This is the year when your voice will be heard. This is the year when you will not be just another face, but a face in the crowd that stands out. This is the year when you will do what needs to be done to get where you want to be. This is the year when you can awaken every morning, face the day and confidently shout, 'Look out world, here I come!'

### PZ'S POINTERS FOR STANDING OUT IN THE NEW YEAR

**Optimistic attitude**—As bleak as things can get you must not lose your ability to remain optimistic. Life will take some unexpected or unjust turns. Sometimes the results will not add up and bad things do end up happening to good people. What possible sense could be made of the recent heartbreaking death of the son of Indianapolis head football coach Tony Dungy? James Dungy was just shy of 19 years old—seemingly with his whole life ahead for the taking. Unfortunately, something went terribly wrong for this young man and he lost his way. For reasons, that may never be fully understood, he was unable to find his way back. Coach Dungy is a man of the greatest integrity, with unwavering faith and steadfast optimism. Amid this unfathomable loss he will lean on that faith and somehow find the optimism to carry on—as I'm sure his son James would want. All of us will face our share of adversity and pain—no one is exempt. Our mettle will be tested. Maintaining an optimistic attitude towards life itself is one of the keys to making it through when the low points rise to meet us. It's a state of mind one must

adopt to override the misery and despair that can overwhelm, devour and deter us.

**Kick it into high gear**—Don't wait for the New Year to swoop you up on a magic carpet and take you for a joy ride. It is up to you to be the aggressor. Get revved up about all that you are and all you can be. Get psyched about all the possibilities and all you are capable of achieving. Kick that plan into high gear, get going, and look straight ahead. Don't waste another minute crying over spilled milk. Don't relive another instant replay of coming up short of the finish line. No looking over your shoulder to see who's hot on your heels. You are in the race of life and the only competition you are up against is YOU.

**Discover the 'special' in you**—It's one thing to be told we are each unique and one-of-a kind, it's quite another to actually believe it. Discovering what it is about you that makes you special is part of uncovering your reason for being. If I asked you to tell me what you bring to the party that nobody else on the planet came with, could you tell me? When you single out the answer to that question, you will be well on your way to developing that specialty to its full potential. The world needs you to share who you are in the purest and most distinct form.

**Whatever you do—see it through**—How many of us get started on a project or plan or task or mission and don't see it through? How many of us don't give it all we've got until the very last and end up falling short of the goal? So many of us are guilty of getting excited about an idea, talk this big game, then somewhere along the course we lose our momentum or the will to stick it out and see it through to a completion. While speaking of his 1997 blow-out victory at the prestigious Masters, Tiger Woods illustrated this very point. Heading into the final back nine with a hefty lead over the pack the only

notion in his head was to hit each shot and see the round through. He had no thoughts of backing off or laying up or playing it safe. He attacked the remaining holes with a vengeance as he had done the previous 3 days with the notorious Tiger will and fortitude—we have since come to know—to give it everything his talent would allow. The tournament wasn't over for him until he put the last ball in the last hole. His approach was to play all 18 holes—play it out in its entirety. His 12-stroke lead didn't matter. He said later his dad had taught him at an early age to finish what he started, to see it through to the very end. This valuable life lesson can be applied to a championship round of golf or to any other task or test we come up against. If you start something keep at it until you have reached your goal. Don't let up or get side-tracked or coast or you'll surely lose your momentum and your efforts will collapse and come up short.

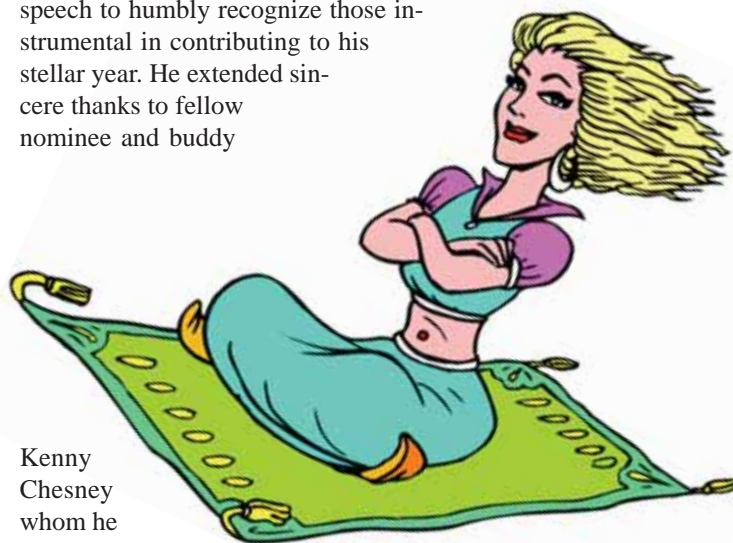
**Be fearless in your actions and decisions**—It's easy to be afraid when you take risks or chances. It's easy to have fear of the unknown or of putting yourself out there on a limb or a ledge. Always ask yourself, 'What is the worst thing that can happen?' Maybe you stumble or fumble or trip up or screw up. Maybe you lose money or lose face or look silly or seem foolish. So what if you do? So what if you try and falter? Don't be afraid to try again. Don't let fear be the factor that gets in the way of realizing your aspirations. Stand up for yourself and for your dreams and goals. Don't be afraid to shed the brightest light on the subject you can muster. Stand up for whatever it is that gives your life joy, purpose and meaning.

**A mind-set of worth**—Do you think you are worthy of having a successful life? Do you feel you are important enough or valuable enough to be a success and reach for the highest stars? Some of us don't have that mind-set. Some of us think that success is better reserved to be showered upon others and we don't measure up. Feelings of self-worth are largely determined in childhood. When these feelings are of a negative nature it poses greater difficulties to overcome. These issues may present challenges, but they are in no way insurmountable. If you didn't get that positive self-esteem ticket issued early on it's never too late to apply.

**Time—the great equalizer**—There is one absolute that exists year in and year out that never changes. Rich or poor, happy or sad, fat or thin, young or old, hopeful or hopeless, time is the one factor that is the equalizer. In its basic structure it stops for no man, it yields to no man, it favors no man, it compromises for no man. Time is the one variable that levels a playing field in that we all have access to those same 24 little hours. No one can buy more or make more or store it or hoard it or rewind it or control it. It's what we actually do with those hours that set us apart from each other. Some of us are here doing little more than taking up space. Some of us are meant to do more. Do what you can with what you have with the given time you have remaining on your clock. When you waste or squander or underestimate this precious commodity you lose

the chance to make the most of your short stay on this earth.

**Recognizing the helping hands**—All along the road of life there are players who participate in some small or substantial capacity in our journey. The higher you climb in your quest the more aware you should become of the helping hands of others. If not for them you would not be so accomplished. This is a lesson that we are quick to forget and need constant reminding. There are those who are too busy using anyone and everyone within their reach and, with little regard, will soon thereafter toss them aside when their usefulness is over. When country rocker Keith Urban recently won his industry's coveted title of Entertainer of the Year he took the allotted few minutes in his acceptance speech to humbly recognize those instrumental in contributing to his stellar year. He extended sincere thanks to fellow nominee and buddy



Kenny Chesney whom he thought was more deserving of the award, and then went on to applaud his road crew for their non-stop hard work and support. Urban is a star who clearly grasps the concept that it isn't all about him. He realizes he doesn't just show up, play his guitar, and sing to adoring fans in a vacuum, but that the folks around him, who represent so much of the guts of his tours, get so little of the glory. Make sure those around you who assist you in your journey are not stepped on, forgotten or slighted, but are generously acknowledged.

**Living without judgment**—One of the biggest weaknesses that human beings display is their irresistible urge to live in judgment of others. We are hasty to jump in and cast aspersions on any and all who qualify. We just can't help ourselves. We just can't resist. Take a peek at any message board. Regardless of the subject matter there will always be those who take the low road and resort to making unsavory, negative, critical, or mean comments. Even when that beautiful, young angel of a kid, Mattie Stepanek, died in 2004, there were those who posted the most inappropriate and shameful comments imaginable. I was picturing his heartbroken mom sitting there in the quiet and emptiness of her room reading these messages, hoping to come away with some comfort and solace from those of us who fell in love with her phenomenal son, only to see the hateful crap some less evolved idiots had posted. If you can't find something good to share about a sweetheart like Mattie you just need to go ahead and

concede how far down on the totem pole of life you are perched. Living without judgment is a constant struggle. When you are tempted to pass an unwarranted opinion hold up the mirror and take a good look at what you see staring back. When that image is a perfect one, than go ahead and judge. Until then, bite your tongue and think better of it. The world can be an infinitely better place with less judgment and more acceptance. You will be a far better person and stand head and shoulders above the crowd the fewer stones you cast.

**Are you doing what you love?** Anyone who is doing what they love will tell you how blessed they are to be living their passion. Steve Jobs, of Apple and Pixar distinction, is a man who can attest to that assertion. His road to fortune and fulfillment was paved with challenge upon challenge. He kept coming back to the fact he had discovered where his authentic talents were and decidedly stuck to his dream. Every time he was knocked down he found a way to recover. Every set-back became another dot to connect in his overall schematic of fame. Look around and you will spot others who are living what they love. Use them as inspiration to seek out your very own awareness of passion and purpose. You'll know it when you see it.

**Gratitude is king**—Above all, remember to be grateful for the life you have been given. We take so much for granted and have come to expect even more in return for giving so little—it is hard to be humble in an arrogant world. Make this New Year work in your favor. Insist upon it. Forget about making resolutions you won't keep. Focus on what direction you want your life to take and direct it accordingly. Whether it progresses in baby steps or giant leaps, keep at it. Raise your voice, make some noise, and make a difference. Be a stand out in how you conduct your life. Ultimately, you get back what you put out. Put so much of your heart and soul into it that you can't help but reap the rewards of the efforts you have sewn. Decide that whatever this New Year has to throw at you, you can hang in there and withstand the blows. Decide that no matter what obstacles spring up to get in the way, you will jump the hurdles and keep going. Decide that whatever trials are put in your path you will conquer each one with determination and dignity. The New Year is here—it's open for business and ready for whatever you will bring.

So, don't disappoint—by all means, just bring it on!

*Pz is a writer and empowerment strategist. Her self-help expertise focuses on relationships, fulfillment and the human condition.*

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