



# Great Undertakings Need Patience

09 October 2026 | Discipline | 3 minutes

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Those who seek only quick advantages do not finish great undertakings.

Confucius

## What does it mean?

In the Analects, Zi Xia asks about good government. Confucius warns against haste and small advantages. Both can prevent a great undertaking from succeeding.

Today we can apply this idea to building wealth. A quick gain may look tempting and distract us from a long-term goal. Checking costs and risks before taking a shortcut is an act of discipline.

## Put it into practice

- 01 Choose a money goal that is at least three years away.
- 02 Write down one quick advantage that is distracting you from that goal.
- 03 Check the costs, risk and benefit before choosing that advantage.

## YOUR TASK FOR TODAY

Take five minutes to write: "My big goal is ...; today I will avoid ... because that quick advantage puts my goal at risk."

## YOUR QUESTION

Which quick advantage is putting your larger goal at risk?