[ON COINCIDENCE](https://www.google.co.il/search?q=coincidence+fate+quotes&biw=1280&bih=932&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0CBsQsARqFQoTCPH7zITW5McCFUYY2wodt5oCnA&dpr=1) IN MY LIFE - JACQUES CORY

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages. [William Shakespeare](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/w/william_shakespeare.html)

“Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.”
― [Allen Saunders](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/276029.Allen_Saunders)

*Jaques to Duke Senior*

                          All the world’s a stage,

And all the men and women merely players;

They have their exits and their entrances,

And one man in his time plays many parts,

His acts being seven ages. At first, the infant,

Mewling and puking in the nurse’s arms.

Then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel

And shining morning face, creeping like snail

Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,

Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad

Made to his mistress’ eyebrow. Then a soldier,

Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard,

Jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel,

Seeking the bubble reputation

Even in the cannon’s mouth. And then the justice,

In fair round belly with good capon lined,

With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,

Full of wise saws and modern instances;

And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts

Into the lean and slippered pantaloon,

With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;

His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide

For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,

Turning again toward childish treble, pipes

And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,

That ends this strange eventful history,

Is second childishness and mere oblivion,

Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

As You Like It, Act II, Scene VII [All the world’s a stage] - William Shakespeare, 1564 - 1616

When I am contemplating my life I arrive to the conclusion that a substantial part of it was not a result of a planned program but rather a series of coincidences, lucky and unlucky, a play/reality, written by a masterful playwright. I couldn't have written a better one on my life as the coincidences were really extraordinary, and luckily most of them were positive. So, if I am a player in my life's play I presume that in due time I'll return to the manager of the world's stage, bow 6 times to the public, and after a standing ovation bow for a 7th and last time, one bow for each of my ages, receive a Tchapha/Kafa/High Five as we say in Hebrew/Arabic from my fellow players and from the manager and if there is a reincarnation I'll be assigned to my next job. If there is nothing after the play – my autobiography and website will be my memorial/pyramid, as I'll remain sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, feelingless, speechless, motionless, sans hearing (it has already occurred), sans writing, sans reading and watching, sans loving, sans caring for all my beloved, sans everything! But who is this Jaques, that by a strange coincidence shares my name and many similar traits.

**Jaques** is one of the main characters in Shakespeare's [*As You Like It*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As_You_Like_It). The 'Melancholy Jaques' as he's always being called is one of Duke Senior's noblemen who lives with him in the [Forest of Arden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arden%2C_Warwickshire). The role has long been a favorite for famous Shakespearean actors. Jaques' distinguishing characteristic is his unmitigated cynicism. He is the only purely contemplative character in Shakespeare. He thinks, and does nothing. His whole occupation is to amuse his mind, and he is totally regardless of his body and his fortunes. [Hazlitt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Hazlitt) describes him as "the prince of philosophical idler; his only passion is thought; he sets no value upon anything but as it serves as food for reflection". Jaques' role in the play is more of an observer than an actor. Early in the play, Jaques remains a mystery to the audience, being discussed extensively by fellow characters. Once he appears, Jaques' thematic importance and memorable presence in [*As You Like It*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As_You_Like_It) is quite impressive. Though much about Jaques' past is obscure, his conversations with [Rosalind](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosalind_%28As_You_Like_It%29) show that he lost his optimism while traveling the world. Whatever the root of his bitterness, Jaques always places himself outside the group of happy characters who populate Arden. His function seems to be to provide a sharp foil for the wit of other characters, but also to create a shadow within the sunny forest. Jaques is a constant reminder that in the real world time is not suspended, and grief, sorrow and death provide a counterpoint to all human joys, a kind of embodied presentiment of Poussin's 'et in arcadia ego'. Duke Senior is particularly interested in Jaques as he finds Jaques as a moral philosopher when he's in a melancholic mood. Jaques on the other hand constantly criticizes the Duke. He humorously curses the Duke because he and the other noblemen had to lose their wealth and comfort to please the stubborn Duke and live an uncomfortable life in the Forest of Arden. Jaques leaves the Duke, as soon as he is restored to his sovereignty, to seek his brother, Duke Frederick, who has stepped down and turned hermit. (based on Wikipedia).

Before my marriage and before finding Ruthy my love, I was known for my unmitigated cynicism, melancholy, I contemplated life from outside, contributing very little to society and to the economy, to other people and to my friends. I was a philosophical idler, with thought as my only passion, in a word – an observer rather than an actor. I lost my optimism not by traveling the world but by traveling society, always outside the group of happy characters, creating a shadow within the sunny forest, reminding that grief, sorrow and death provide a counterpoint to all human joys. I cannot forget that, as it is all written in my Diary, where I spoke vehemently on sorrow and death at the age of 17. When my friends were dating girls, reading detective stories, and watching westerns, I read the classics, learned languages, and studied at the university. I was a moral philosopher when I was in a melancholy mood then and after the crisis, when I lost all my savings by a scheme devised by my best friends, being in a melancholy mood on society, ethics, tycoons, turning again to acute pessimism towards the future of economy & society in face of the world's fundamentalism.

So, what [are the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_inspiration) seven [stages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Destiny)/ages/[coincidences of](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coincidence) [my life](http://www.ru.org/consciousness/coincidences-synchronicity-and-destiny.html)? Are they set by Divine Providence, coincidence, fate, destiny, luck, willpower? I never went to an astrologer, I am an atheist, and I prefer to believe that most of what happened to me was due to my willpower and if not – to coincidence. Yet, I reckon that many events cannot be explained rationally, but even if you are unlucky you can still fight against your "fate" and not compromise. If you are unlucky in love ten or twenty times you can continue your attempts until you find the "chosen" one. If you fail in a crucial examination at the university 4 times you can still try for the fifth time (and in order to assist fate a little bit – study this time with an economics genius as Yehuda Kahane). If you fail in your driving tests six times you can still try for the seventh time and (Thanks God) not be involved in an accident for 40 years, although friends tell you that when they see you driving they don't know if you drive forwards, in reverse or you are just parking. The French say "Aide toi el le Ciel t'aidera" – Help yourself and God will help you. This is probably my motto in life, as I am aware that fate can override your will (L'homme propose et Dieu dispose – Man plans and God decides), but if you try once and again – God, fate, destiny or coincidence will come your way. But what if in spite of all your attempts you fail – you were conned and after a couple of years of attempts you reach the conclusion that it is hopeless as you are fighting much stronger opponents. Even then - you can go to another direction win much more in other ventures and start a brilliant career in business ethics that otherwise you would never attempt to try. And, luckily enough, find that you have the motivation to read hundreds of academic books, write twenty books, teach thirty courses to thousands of students, and be reckoned as one of the leading figures in Business Ethics. Everything in my life was planned consciously or subconsciously as can be seen from my Diary, except of course all the things that were not planned that were substantial and very important, but I rather prefer to call them coincidences rather than fate, destiny, or God Will.

The first coincidence was in 1952, when I felt an outsider in my childhood studying and speaking French in an Arabic country, in a Zionist family loving Israel that was the worst enemy of Egypt, and on top of that experiencing at the age of 7 the burning of the European Cairo by the Shabab/mob who almost killed us as well, reading on our balcony chapter 8 of Alice in the Wonderland, feeling that I live in a nightmare where the Queen of Cards wants to behead everybody ("Off with his head!" which she utters at the slightest dissatisfaction with a subject), and experiencing bibliotherapy, seeing Cairo burning like Nero saw Rome, but without playing the harp. The coincidence was due to the fact that on the street floor was a shop owned by a Greek grocer who convinced the rioters that his shop and the building should be spared as the Greeks are friends of the Arabs, maybe he even gave them a bakshish to enforce his arguments, and there are no English, French or Jewish families in his building. If he was not Greek but Jewish I could have become a casualty statistics. We immigrated to Israel and there also I felt most of the time as an outsider but for different reasons, mainly cultural, without true friends, true love, true meaning for life.

As a matter of fact, if I believed in astrology, I'll start the list of coincidences with my date of birth – June 5, 1944. This was of course D Day, or almost – 6.6.1944. You can draw a lot of conclusions from this occurrence – you can say that all your life you almost attained your goals but not quite, as you were born almost on D Day, you almost became a CEO, almost earned millions, almost got your play on stage, almost achieved a big success as an academic, etc. But this is of course nonsense, as I perceive that I have achieved in my life much more than I expected, much more than any of my family and friends, at least in my view, if you examine the whole spectrum of achievement: career, culture, love, family, wealth, self fulfillment. I never intended to be a CEO, I never tried hard to become very rich, it is almost unheard of that an "anonymous" person manage to publish so many books, without being a well-known academic, novelist or playwright. On the other hand, you can draw the conclusion that being born one day before D Day is an omen that you'll be a precursor, a pioneer – and this turned to be quite true, as I was a precursor in attending Insead when it was a small business school, that very few heard about, least of all in Israel, the university of the European Union, that turned to be from 1967, when I studied at Insead, to nowadays one of the best business schools in the world.

I was a precursor in starting to work at Elbit in 1973, one of the very few Israeli high tech companies, and a quite small company, that turned to be one of the ten leading companies in Israel selling billions of dollars, while high tech was the biggest economic success of the state of Israel. I was also a precursor at Elbit in introducing profitability criteria to an engineering company, in focusing on humane management, as a CFO, initiating and leading one of the first Israeli IPOs on Wall Street, leading mergers and being one of the first Israeli's companies to acquire a company in the US. I was a precursor in working from home as a self employed and succeeding very much in the projects I managed and also financially. I was the first in the world to write a dissertation and academic books on ethics to minority shareholders, which turned to be the "hot" item in business and investment of the last 15 years. And of course I am one of the few who has such a wide scope of activities and careers – intellectual and professional. Last but not least, [I discovered](http://www.businessethicscory.com/Articles.html) (fate, coincidence?) the synagogue of Coria in Spain, the town of origin of my family, and I initiated, participated, and edited the translation into Ladino of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Well, anyhow, June 5 is also the day when the Six Day War started, on the same day the well known economists Adam Smith (1723) and John Maynard Keynes (1883) were born and this is why perhaps I chose to study economics, while I didn't know this coincidence until recently, and June 5 was chosen as the World Environment Date – a subject that I taught and wrote about extensively (unfortunately there is no Ethics Date yet). And to finish this topic in a humorous tone – D Day was planned to be on June 5, but due to unfavorable weather conditions it was postponed by a day, so my parents were right in their planning or the "stars" were right, but the stars are always right as we all know...

The second coincidence occurred in June 1967, when I felt an Israeli patriot who loved his country, when Egypt, Syria and Jordan, with Nasser as their leader, threatened to invade Israel, and on the date of my birthday June 5, I saw the last ship leaving Israel from my balcony, where I could have been as I had a ticket for the trip and the possibility to start a new life with a work in Switzerland, which I declined and chose to remain in Israel my country that was experiencing an extermination war that miraculously changed into the best victory ever. Another coincidence that occurred in the same month was that I was received at Insead in Fontainebleau, France, after a friend who worked on the same floor brought to my attention that I could receive a scholarship for Insead, as I was by coincidence one of the few Israelis of my age who knew the three languages of study at Insead – English, French, and German; French being my mother tongue, and German by coincidence or subconsciousness the foreign language that I chose to learn at the university in order to be able to read Goethe, work in Switzerland, or feeling part of the Israeli elites as I read recently in my Diary.

The third coincidence occurred in 1969, when I met Ruthy at a party and we decided to marry 3 weeks later, marrying 3 months later. I almost did not meet her as I was supposed to relocate to Belgium on behalf of Israel Aircraft Industries in a merger that was cancelled a couple of days before my departure, in the same week of the meeting with Ruthy. I could have been living in Switzerland, Belgium, France or the US, as many of my Insead friends chose to live, but because of a series of coincidences – the Six Day War, the cancellation of the merger with Sabca and Cobelda because of the Boycott (at last a boycott that benefited me...) – I chose to remain in Israel, I met Ruthy and all my future changed accordingly. Well, my ten years old grandson who is very bright, to whom I was telling this coincidence, explaining to him that otherwise he would not have been born, answered me: "But Saba (grandfather in Hebrew), if you would have married a Belgian, you would tell your Belgian grandson about the coincidence that was the cause of your relocation, as there are no coincidences."

A related coincidence occurred in 1973 when I decided to work at Elbit in Haifa leaving Tel Aviv and a rewarding job, because I sensed that I wanted to live in Haifa and educate in this city my children, in a way of life that suited us much more, as it was not hedonistic like in Tel Aviv. The coincidence was due to the fact that one of my interviewers at Elbit knew me from childhood as I used to return the balls that were thrown out of the basketball court where he played, and this was good enough for a recommendation much more than my MBA as I was told by the interviewer... Elbit was a turning point in my life, when at last I worked in a company where I fitted very well and enabled me to spread out my wings, become a Vice President of a leading high tech company, contributing much to its success, and obtaining financial rewards that enabled me to buy a house at the best neighborhood in Haifa. I took a very high risk when I chose this move, which proved very successful to my future. But as there were many candidates to this job, the recruiter chose me because of a complete irrelevant cause, or a familiarity, or a gut feeling, or by sheer coincidence…

The fourth coincidence (or act in a play, stage or age in life) occurred in 1995 when I worked as a self-employed consultant and project manager, succeeding even more that at Elbit, as my success was measured net to me, and I did not have to share it with many others, who deserved it rightfully or wrongfully. I worked from home from 1987 until 2000 in our new house at Denya on Mount Carmel with inspiring scenery, reinforcing my ties with my wife and children whom I could see at last very often. Here the coincidence was that my wife helped much a friend after her husband died, the widow who was grateful recommended me when her brother who had a high tech US company looked for a project manager who would manage their mergers in Israel, there was a good chemistry, and I earned in salaries and options (this time I did not buy shares but only received options at no cost) from that mutual connection enough money to live well enough throughout my pension years writing books on Ethics, provided that I don't live as my uncle until 104. My uncle retired from a large Bank at the age of 60 and continued to receive his pension until the age of 104, during 44 years much more than the number of years in which he worked for the bank.

To this chapter in my life we can add another coincidence that was detrimental & that I couldn't influence. I devised in 1996 with Israeli friends, Jews & Arabs, a startup called The Christian Heritage, a museum on the history of Christianity with miniatures of the most famous churches and cathedrals, in Nazareth, the holy city. I wrote the business plan, started to find investors and get the approvals, we had the blessing of the Arab Mayor of Nazareth (a communist) on the holy project and we met the relevant people in the Vatican, without receiving a formal blessing. The idea was that the majority of the million Christian pilgrims who visit Israel every year and in the future possibly millions would visit our museum. The startup would be very profitable, especially for the founders and investors, but also for the town of Nazareth, Christian charitable organizations, the Arab employees and workers who would work on the project, Israel, and all the stakeholders. Unfortunately, there was only a minor circumstance/coincidence that we did not foresee (although it was part of the Risks and Prospects) that there will be an Intifada, riots, many casualties, and no investments, especially in touristic startups. Nevertheless, I taught the business case and the business plan in my courses on Business Management at the University of Haifa, and was courageous enough to tell my students that we failed in this project, and it doesn't matter who was to blame, I assumed absolute responsibility as always, but we are in good company with 99% of the failed startups, but none of the entrepreneurs dares to teach students why most of the curriculums teach only successes as Apple, but no failures as our startup.

The fifth coincidence occurred when I lost most of my savings conned in a scheme executed by my best friends that conned as well thousands of minority shareholders (and not just me, as I was told that nothing is personal...). This negative event, after three positive events, could be compared to the first coincidence when the European Cairo was burned, but in retrospect both negative coincidences proved to be positive – we left Cairo a year after the burning of Cairo and the revolution that ensued, we could bring with us all our belongings, and without much risk receive our money in France and in Israel, and started a new life, not so easy at the beginning (and at the end also - for my parents) but very fruitful in the future, while those who left Cairo in 1956 could not take with them anything. The crisis of the minority shareholders' scheme and the ethical vocation that ensued changed my life completely, made me a better man. Before that - I had stage fright, I never gave a lecture, never wrote books, and after the crisis I devoted my time to society, earning less than 10% of what I earned before, but with a feeling of self fulfillment, contributing to society, teaching thousands of students in Israel and abroad, influencing them as well as the thousands of readers of my books and articles, lecturing before audiences of hundreds in English, French and Hebrew, and writing since 2001 twenty books in those languages, articles in five languages, a website with most of my works, and a rich correspondence. It also strengthened my family ties with my wife and children, I met excellent ethical people, as Henri-Claude de Bettignies, Joshua Sobol, Arieh Avneri, Henk Van Luijk, Harry Recanati..., far better than the unethical people with whom I severed my relations after they conned me.

The coincidence in this instance was that I worked for a few years as a projects manager in a promising American/Israeli company and I was told that because of my good services I was entitled to purchase shares of the company, although it was forbidden to other Israelis unless they worked for the company. As I saw the huge potential for the company I seized this opportunity/luck/bad luck and purchased with almost all my savings shares, dreaming to become a millionaire as some of my friends who seized a similar opportunity. I could not know that at the same time another company of the group that owned a substantial amount of the shares decided to takeover the promising company and allegedly caused the prices to drop by 90% forcing the other shareholders to sell their shares at this ridiculous price and lose all their investment. The Chinese say that every crisis is also an opportunity, I lost my money but gained my vocation and ultimately also won much more money in another project, as was explained before. This loss and the betrayal of my friends opened me to new worlds, made me much stronger, afraid of almost nothing, and all this happened by coincidence.

The sixth coincidence enabled me to start a meaningful academic career. I prefer to refer to all those stages not as luck but as coincidence, as they could have been luck for some people and extreme bad luck to others. It goes without saying that the first two coincidences - the burning of Cairo that caused hundreds of European casualties and wounded people, and the Six Day War that caused thousands of casualties, mainly to the Arab side, were very unlucky to the victims. The other three coincidences caused mainly financial losses – the boycott against Israel that brought to the cancellation of the purchasing of Sabca and Cobelda, but also when I gained from the shares others who sold the shares lost and when I lost from the shares those who purchased the shares won.

The trigger for the sixth coincidence was the sudden death of a colleague who taught projects management at the International MBA of the University of Haifa, Israel. I received my PhD in 2004 at CNAM, Paris, France, in the "esoteric" subject of Business Ethics.  When I applied, at the age of 60, to teach this subject at the main universities of Israel none was willing to give me the opportunity to teach. For some of them I was too old: how can you start a new career at the age of 60 without any experience in teaching? For some of them I was anathema – I was the first academic in the world who wrote a PhD dissertation on the subject of wrongdoing to minority shareholders, and who won from that – the tycoons who financed the Chairs of the professors and gave them excellent salaries as directors much higher than what they received in parallel at the university. Some professors were neoliberals totally opposed to my ideas of humane capitalism and were not eager to let their students attending any course from a dissident lecturer. Some of them were not willing to experiment my new methodology of teaching based on group dynamics and role playing with films and plays on business ethics dilemmas. And some professors, as Ilan Meshoulam at the University of Haifa, wanted to hire me but didn't have the hours available for my courses that varied from 32-60 hours per course, as I thought that 10-15 hours was not enough for teaching such an important course as business ethics and could not change any attitude, although most of the universities, including the Ivy League ones, taught if at all only a few hours of Business Ethics, as they had to allocate enough time for the more "important" subjects, such as marketing, finance, production, mathematics, economics, etc.

All the process of my PhD is woven with a series of coincidences to which I referred in my writings – I couldn't attend the most important meeting in which I had to present the draft of my dissertation to my first "directeur de these" because of a strike on the public transportation in Paris, which was probably one of the reasons of the antagonism with the professor, who decided to disqualify my dissertation. And by sheer coincidence (?!) I almost couldn't attend the first meeting with my new "directeur de these" a few years later because of the same problems with the metro, and when they occur you can't get a taxi either. This time I was lucky enough to find a taxi an hour later and my professor decided to wait for me. Well, this may prove a few things – that the metro is more on strike than on tracks. That if I believed in fate "mektoub" as we say in Egypt – all is written in heaven, I would have lost hope and see my first failure as an omen and don't try in applying more than a hundred publishers to publish my academic books, and more than a hundred universities to present them my dissertation on ethics to minority shareholders. Finally, when I was waiting for a decision on the date in which I had to defend my dissertation, a very difficult problem as the five members of the Jury were very busy travelling all over the world, I had a premonition that they would chose March 23, the date of the birthday of my mother Pauline who died a few years before and was possibly "watching" me from above, and indeed this was the chosen date, and on this date I "felt" that she was there with me assisting me to answer rightly to the "soutenance de these" at a large amphitheater of CNAM in Paris. Well, if this was not true, it is at least a good invention, si non e vero e ben trovato…

A few days before the start of the summer semester of the Business Management School at the University of Haifa, I received an urgent call from my friend Professor Ilan Meshoulam, to whom I proposed my course, telling me the sad story of the premature and sudden death of a colleague (all three of us worked in the past at Elbit) who was about to teach his course on projects management at the International MBA in English. The International MBA was an international venture, experimenting a model of cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis based on joint ventures that would ensue from this course between the students who would study together at the MBA program in English. This project was funded by international organizations provided that it would comprise 50% Palestinians from Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, 25% Israeli Arabs, 25% Israeli Jews. The rationale was that Israeli Jews can attend MBA programs on their own, but Arabs cannot afford to pay the high tuition fees for an MBA. Everything was fine at the beginning, as long as the talks were only on business issues, but when the discussions started to focus on Nakba/Naksa there were arguments, shouting, passions, that luckily did not harm the friendship of the MBA participants. Meshoulam asked me at first to teach projects management, but I refused as I was not an expert on the matter.

I proposed to teach my course on Business Ethics and promised to adapt it to the 32 hours available for the course. My courses existed in Hebrew and English anyhow, my films were all in English, as well as most of my cases and it was no problem for me to be ready for the tight dead...line of the course. The course was a success, I got excellent reviews, I taught the course to the other classes of Palestinians/Israelis until the program ceased. I never talked in the classes or outside of them on political issues, and the Palestinians were very cooperative in the group dynamics, in role personification on All My Sons, Wall Street, Erin Brockovitch, but however I didn't include The Merchant of Venice in my course (not also when I taught at Insead), as I didn't want to reinforce prejudices in case there were some. Jews and Arabs spoke openly on the problems of corruption in Israel and Palestine, which were much more acute in the Arab territories.

From this course and the opportunity that arose from the coincidence of the death of my colleague, I started to give courses also in other programs of the MBA school and other courses at the International MBA, courses to the Political Sciences MA, BA courses, 17 classes of the Naval Academy, BA courses designed for the management of large organizations as the Electric Company, Government and Municipal organizations, Police Officers, but I gave also courses on sustainability, business administration, globalization, leadership, business plans, social responsibility, social and economic justice, and others. All that at the University of Haifa, and in 2006 also at Insead in Singapore, but after the crisis of 2008 and the publication of my Hebrew textbook, the first of its kind, on Business Ethics by the University of Jerusalem, I gave also courses at the MBA programs of the Technion, the International MBA programs of the Tel Aviv University, Israeli colleges, the courses were received well by the students, I received the highest grades at the University of Haifa and very good grades at other universities as well. I taught successfully for 10 years at the universities & colleges until 2014, when I lost my hearing. If I didn't have this opportunity I could have failed in my attempts to teach, or maybe it would have taken longer.

And this brings us to the seventh coincidence, which could compare to the seventh and last age of Shakespeare, but in my case could be also a new beginning. In 2014 I lost almost all my hearing, this was an unfortunate coincidence, but which corresponded to my heredity. I had to resign from teaching, as all my courses were based on group dynamics that cannot work if your hearing is not well, even with the best hearing aids. I cannot participate also in meetings, especially if there is a lot of noise, and in Israel in the meetings and sometimes in the classes also there is a lot of noise. So, what can you do if such an unlucky event occurs. You have to bite the bullet - faire contre mauvaise fortune bon coeur. I wrote ten eBooks, including "Ethics Pays" proving that the most ethical countries thrive on all the quantitative and qualitative parameters, and vice versa. I have ceased participating in forums on ethics, dealing on current ethical issues, on social and economic justice issues, and focus my activities in more generic issues, most of them not related uniquely on business ethics, but on more general, cultural, linguistic, drama, films, literature, politics issues. It works well and maybe out of this coincidence we would find new ways of expression, as you have to keep busy whatever the circumstances are!

Well, I don't admit that I am in the last scene of the play, in my second childishness and mere oblivion, sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything. Shakespeare, who wrote it died at the age of 52, and wrote, staged and played as if he died at the age of 104. I am 22 years older and feel in the prime of my life, as Shimon Peres and Itzhak Navon our former presidents who were 20 years older than me and were very active even in their nineties. You don't decide when to quit the stage and you should act as if today is your last day on earth – working very hard day and night in order to finish a new book, see another play, visit another country. On the other hand you should act as if you'll live forever – starting to write books, conveying to future generations your insights, as you don't know when you'll be left sans everything, when the final coincidence will occur, actually this is the only case when you know for sure that it is not a coincidence but a certainty, as it is senseless to hope for eternal life!

A **coincidence** is a remarkable concurrence of events or circumstances which have no apparent causal connection with each other. The perception of remarkable coincidences may lead to [supernatural](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supernatural), [occult](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occult), or [paranormal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paranormal) claims. Or it may lead to belief in [fatalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatalism), which is a doctrine that events will happen in the exact manner of a predetermined plan. From a [statistical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statistics) perspective, coincidences are inevitable and often less remarkable than they may appear intuitively. An example is the [birthday problem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birthday_problem), which shows that the probability of two persons having the same birthday already exceeds 50% in a group of only 23 persons. Measuring the [probability](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Probability) of a series of coincidences is the most common method of distinguishing a coincidence from causally connected events. "The mathematically naive person seems to have a more acute awareness than the specialist of the basic [paradox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradox) of [probability theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Probability_theory), over which philosophers have puzzled ever since [Pascal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaise_Pascal) initiated that branch of science [in 1654] .... The paradox consists, loosely speaking, in the fact that probability theory is able to predict with uncanny precision the overall outcome of processes made up out of a large number of individual happenings, each of which in itself is unpredictable. In other words, we observe a large number of uncertainties producing a certainty, a large number of chance events creating a lawful total outcome." *Arthur Koestler,* [*The Roots of Coincidence*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Roots_of_Coincidence)