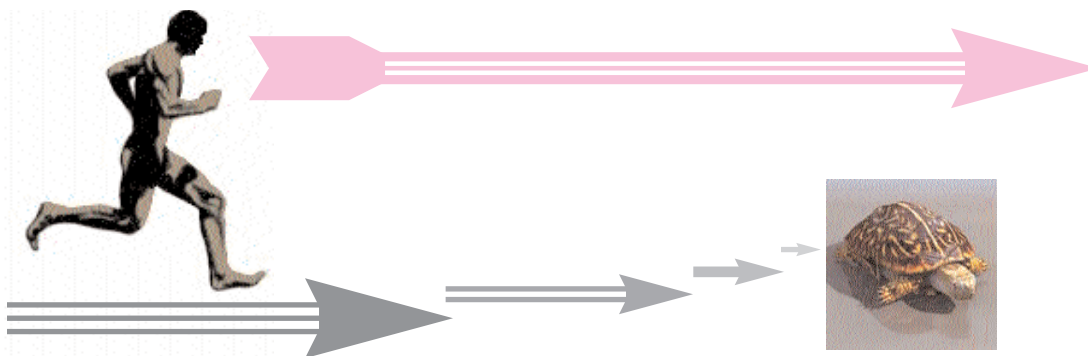


Qualities of the Creative Person

The fastest runner cannot overtake the slowest turtle. By the time the runner gets to where the turtle is now, the turtle moves up ahead by at least some amount. So if all the runner is doing is catching up with the turtle, it is not possible for him to overtake it.

The solution to this contradiction was found back in ancient times. It is important to set a long term goal. This large and serious ***Goal is the most important quality of a creative person.***

The Level of a Creative Person can be easily identified by the goals set in front of that person. The goals of remarkable people go «beyond the horizon» and it takes longer than one lifetime to accomplish them. It is remarkable that today it became impossible to achieve serious and valuable results without setting one's goals so highly.

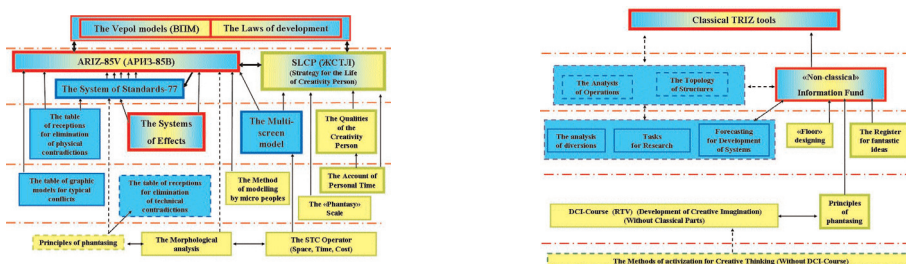


It is still not enough to simply have a great goal. To achieve it one must have a whole ***complex of detailed and well selected plans***; preferably, to span the whole path towards the goal. It is difficult to produce such plans and even harder to consistently carry them accurately. So constant self control and ***account of personal time*** becomes a great aid.

High work efficiency, the ability to perform a large amount of work in a short period of time is a typical requirement. However, for a Creative Person there is another important characteristic: the emphasis is not simply on work efficiency, or «overall productivity», but only on the work, which contributes to the realization of the proposed plans.

The famous science fiction author Jules Verne for many years collected and analysed various scientific information; which he then used to create some of his most interesting novels. He composed a library of 20 thousand notebooks. The information fund collected by Altshuller can be just as impressive, and not only with its size and the quantity of work. This fund was necessary for the foundation and development of TRIZ, and this makes such a fund very valuable.

Still, the Great Goal, detailed plans and even high work efficiency do not guarantee valuable results. One more important quality of a Creative Person is **the problem solving technique**. It is essential to be able to properly use all instruments of TRIZ - technological, organizational and informational. The ability to see the laws of system development and modelling, contradictions in the systems and ways to overcome them - all this pertains to the problem solving technique and it must be studied very seriously for a long time.



All of the above listed qualities are necessary for creative scientific work, but by themselves they do not guarantee success. There are many obstacles on the path towards the Great Goal and these obstacles must be overcome. As they say, «**stand your ground**», not be afraid to defend one's solutions and be able to realize them in any outcome.

And so only when all of these five qualities are present, and can achieve the necessary *productivity*. It must be remembered that the results do not come right away and not to the full extent. On the path towards the posed Goal some of the smaller results come first and then later they become more and more significant.

Through careful organization of work one can be producing results many years later. For example, Jules Verne's son used the information fund organized by his father to prepare for press a few novels that the writer was unable to finish.

Going back to the beginning, that is, to the most important quality of a Creative Person, one might ask: Which goal would be considered worthy enough to spend one's whole life striving towards it? Of course, everyone has their own goal, but general signs of a *Worthy Goal* (WG) can be identified.

First of all the goal must be positive, oriented towards improvement of life. Unfortunately, in quiet a few cases the goal also has negative and harmful consequences. So while achieving a goal, one must always strive to minimize the damage and maximize the positive effect.

WG must be original. Else, the means of achieving it must be original.

A well posed goal is infinite. It may be expanded like a tree grows from a sprout. Then the trees can be put together to make «a forest»...

As a rule, a truly Worthy Goal is not easily accepted by other people at first; it contradicts the familiar ideas and standard beliefs. Thus, it is very important for the WG to be very specific, so it can be evaluated from the very beginning and the path towards achieving it can be controlled.

Such a distant and unusual goal has an advantage as well: it does not compete with the goals of other people. So there is no need to haste the progress and carefully follow through with all the steps. This is very important when starting unusual and at first difficult work.

Nevertheless, even with such advantageous conditions, it is still important to demand constant realization of the steps, at least small ones. One a path has been chosen, it must be followed through.

In order to achieve any serious goal it is important to have a large information fund. Sometimes it is possible to use pre-existing information collected by others, though quite frequently one has to spend a lot of time and effort to create personal «information storage».

Finally, the WG can almost always be made independent, that is not requiring high cost and sophisticated equipment for its realization. The core part of the work can be done independently.

Studying and developing in oneself the qualities of a Creative Person has been part of the TRIZ course for many years. The study of grounds for choosing a goal began in 1983. *The Fund of Worthy Goals* is constantly reformulated (for both educational and practical purposes). All this allowed identifying certain correlations, which are the base of Strategy for the Life of a Creative Person.

