

THE FORT LIFE

MONTHLY MAGAZINE | MAY 2026 | VOL. 52

PEOPLE

*“Not Everyone Can
Come With You”*



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FORT Life
And More

PEOPLE

“Not Everyone Can Come With You”

FORT Reflection

Pay attention to the
people who “can’t”
with you...

but “can”
with everyone else.

- Unknown

There is something mystical about traveling and making a conscious effort to simply be still, to sit in silence and listen to the sound of your own voice.

As I sit in the hotel lounge of my Buenos Aires hotel, listening to the melancholic strings of Tango softly playing in the background, I find myself connecting with roots of gratitude planted over time by those who have influenced my world and, in some way or another, contributed to this new version of me...

A version I am slowly accepting, embracing, understanding, and perhaps most importantly, learning to respect as it reveals itself to me.

“Respecting yourself requires respecting the journey that created you and making a conscious effort to be better by it.”



In a time where life seems to be little more than a cluster of constant noise fueled by wants, obligations, and distractions, progress requires a pinch of silence so that self-reflection and peace of mind can take their rightful place and lead us toward discernment.

Life moves on and change will come. The only choices we truly have in the matter are whether we embrace it or fight it, and who we become in the process.

Perhaps that is why some shifts and adjustments in trajectory often feel so unexpected. Not because they arrive suddenly, but because we rarely take the time to pause long enough to listen, observe, and study the people in our lives for what they contribute to it and, equally important, what they take from it.

The truth is that in order to go where we must, in order to continue to climb our Everest, we eventually have to learn how to travel lighter than before.

Whatever and whomever consistently limits our growth emotionally, spiritually, physically, financially, or mentally, demands an honest assessment of whether they still belong in our journey.

Not everything, and not everyone, who accompanied us through one season is meant to accompany us through the next.

Growth has always required the release of habits, beliefs, and sometimes people who limit us instead of propel us.

For every positive reaction, there is an equal and opposite reaction.
Growth is no different.

As we evolve, so do our priorities, our standards, our ambitions, and the environments in which we feel most at peace. And because of that, some relationships naturally flourish while others slowly move toward the periphery of our lives.

That reality can be painful because, after all, we are in many ways the sum of those around us.

Our thinking, our routines, our perspectives, and even our aspirations are often shaped by the people we admire, the people we love, and sometimes even the people and things we covet.

While the word itself often carries a negative connotation, not every desire born from comparison is malicious. Sometimes it is inspirational.

History is filled with both men and women whose trajectories were forever altered because they caught a glimpse of a life, an opportunity, a standard, or a possibility greater than the one they currently possessed. What began as admiration, curiosity, or even envy eventually became ambition.

In many ways, the people around us become mirrors. Some reflect who we are. Others reveal who we wish to become. And a select few remind us of the consequences of becoming the wrong person.

They all have their role, hence why discernment is key.

Peeking through the shelves of my own mental library, I cannot help but think about the relationships that have occupied different chapters of my life;

The intimate ones.

The professional ones.

The friendships that survived decades.

The partnerships that at one point seemed destined to last forever.

And I find myself reflecting on a difficult truth:

Sometimes losing a person who is still alive can hurt every bit as much as losing one who is gone. The death of a friendship can be every bit as real as any other loss.

The death of trust.

The death of shared purpose.

Yet we are often too quick to place every ending into the category of failure.

Not everyone who is no longer around is a bad person.

Not every relationship ends because of betrayal.

Not every separation is evidence of wrongdoing.

Sometimes people simply arrive at the end of the chapter they were meant to occupy.

At twenty years of age, we pursue companionship.

At thirty years of age, we pursue acceptance.

At forty years of age, we pursue alignment.

As I knock on the door of fifty, I find myself pursuing something entirely different.

Peace.



Having come to the realization that very little truly matters unless it serves the betterment of ourselves and others, and it's connected to a purpose greater than ourselves, much of what we spend our lives chasing begins to lose its significance.

Regardless of the mile marker you find yourself in your journey, the destination is the same, but the people you choose to walk with matter.

People will enter and people will leave. They will leave footprints in your soul so guard your heart.

Some will walk beside you for decades while others will accompany you for only a season or two. The difficulty lies in understanding why they came.

Seek Alignment.
Seek Peace.

Do not compromise either of them. The right people align and adjust. The wrong ones often remove themselves.

The tricky ones require a lot of discernment. Seek it, find it, and hold on to it with all your might.

Do not spend time and energy on people who do not value your efforts and can not find a place for you in their lives, yet somehow find room for everyone else.

Determine your value and select the level of happiness you wish to dance to. Protect it and protect your peace at all costs.

In the end, a meaningful life is not built by accumulating more people. It is built by recognizing the value of the right ones God has placed in your life.



Humanly written by:
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TRAVEL

Growth Changes How You Travel

There was a time when travel meant movement without much thought behind it. You went where people told you to go. You stayed where it looked good. You said yes to everything, because the goal wasn't clarity, it was experience.

And experience, at that stage, was measured in volume.

More cities. More nights out. More stories to tell.

For a while, that works. It teaches you how to move, how to adapt, how to read people and environments quickly. But eventually, something shifts. You begin to feel the difference between being entertained and being aligned.

That's where growth starts to change how you travel.

You become more aware of your energy. Not in theory, but in real time. You notice which environments sharpen your thinking and which ones drain you. The wrong hotel is no longer just inconvenient, it affects how you show up the next day. The wrong company isn't just a bad night, it lingers longer than it should.

And slowly, your decisions start to reflect that awareness.

You choose differently.

You pick places where you can think clearly. Where you can wake up without noise and move with intention. Where a dinner turns into a real conversation instead of background music for distraction. You start to value environments that give something back.

Because at this stage, energy is no longer unlimited.

In business, we call this allocation. You don't deploy resources randomly. You place them where they produce a return. The same principle applies to how you move through the world.

Travel stops being about where everyone is going, and becomes about where you need to be.

That shift comes with a cost.

You become more selective, and not everyone understands it. The group trips fade.

The spontaneous chaos loses its appeal. To some, it looks like you've pulled away.

You haven't.
You've become intentional.

The same pattern shows up in business. Companies that grow don't chase every opportunity.



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They position themselves in the right environments, with the right partners, at the right time. They choose direction over noise. Your personal life is no different.

How you travel is a reflection of how you live. If every trip still looks like your past, then you're not evolving, you're repeating. And repetition, without reflection, eventually becomes stagnation.

At some point, the destination matters less than the decisions you make when you get there. Because growth doesn't just change where you go.

It changes who you allow to go with you.



SALES

Choosing The Right Clients

In the early stages of business, every client feels like progress.

You're building, proving, surviving. Revenue is validation, and any deal that closes feels like momentum. You don't ask too many questions about alignment, because the priority is simple, keep the business moving forward.

And for a time, that mindset serves you.

But growth has a way of exposing what you couldn't see at the beginning.

Not all revenue is equal.

Some clients bring consistency, clarity, and long-term opportunity. Others bring friction, distraction, and a steady erosion of your standards. The problem is, both pay. And because they pay, they often get treated the same.

That's where operators get stuck.

The wrong client rarely looks wrong at first. It shows up in small moments. A delayed payment that becomes a pattern. A constant need to renegotiate terms. A lack of respect for your process, your team, or your time.

Individually, each issue feels manageable.

Collectively, they reshape your operation.

You start making exceptions. Adjusting workflows. Asking your team to compensate for behaviors that shouldn't exist in the first place. Over time, the business begins to bend, not toward performance, but toward accommodation.

And that shift is expensive.

It doesn't just affect your margins. It affects your culture. It creates internal frustration and external inconsistency. The team feels it, even if it's not always said out loud.

At some point, you have to make a decision. Growth in sales isn't just about acquiring more. It's about refining what you keep.

Letting go of a client is rarely about one moment. It's about recognizing patterns that no longer align with where the business is going. Patterns that, if left unchecked, will become part of your standard.

And standards, once lowered, are difficult to rebuild.

The same principle applies personally.

Not every relationship, commitment, or environment is meant to stay. Some serve a purpose for a season. Others are transactional by nature. The mistake is trying to force permanence where it doesn't belong. In both life and business, growth requires separation.

You create space by removing what doesn't fit. You strengthen your position by tightening your expectations. And you scale not by doing more, but by doing less of what consistently creates friction.

The paradox is simple.

The moment you stop chasing every opportunity...

Is the moment better opportunities start to find you.



OPERATIONS

Outgrowing Old Processes

Every process in a business starts with a purpose.

At some point, there was a problem that needed structure, and a system was built to solve it. That system created consistency. It reduced errors. It allowed the business to operate with a level of control that wasn't there before.

And because it worked, it stayed.

The challenge is, businesses don't stay the same.

As volume increases and complexity grows, processes that once created efficiency can begin to create friction. Not all at once, but gradually. A few extra steps here. An approval layer that no longer adds value. A report that gets generated, but never truly used.

Individually, these things seem small.

```
package com.example.entity;
public class User{
    private Long id;
    private String firstName;
    private String lastName;
5
6
7    public User(Long id, String firstName, String
8        this.id = id;
9        this.firstName = firstName;
10       this.lastName = lastName;
    }
    public Long getId(){
        return id;
    }
    public void setId(Long id){
        this.id = id;
    }
}
```

Together, they slow everything down. This is where many operations quietly lose speed. Not because of a lack of effort, but because of an accumulation of outdated systems that no one has revisited. The team follows the process because it exists, not because it still makes sense.

Familiarity becomes the justification. And familiarity can hide inefficiency for longer than it should.

Growth forces the issue.

What was once a minor delay becomes a bottleneck when multiplied across volume. What once felt manageable becomes a constant drag on execution. Decisions take longer. Communication gets layered. Momentum starts to stall.

And in business, stalled momentum is expensive.

It affects timelines, trust, and ultimately, performance.

The discipline required at this stage is different. You don't just build processes, you audit them. You ask direct questions. Is this still necessary? Is this the fastest path? Is this adding value, or simply adding steps?

Because operational excellence isn't about how much you build.

It's about what you're willing to remove. This applies beyond business.



We all operate with personal processes. Habits, routines, ways of thinking that were built at a certain stage of life. At one point, they protected us. They helped us navigate uncertainty and produce results.

But growth changes the requirements. What worked before may not work now. And holding onto it simply because it's familiar can limit what comes next.

The discomfort is real.

Letting go of something that once worked feels like risk. But keeping it when it no longer serves the outcome is a greater one.

If you don't evolve your systems, your systems will define your ceiling.

In business and in life, the operators who continue to grow are the ones willing to rebuild. Not once.

But continuously.

PHILANTHROPY

Scaling Impact Without Losing Purpose

In the beginning, giving feels simple.

It's direct. You know where the help is going, and more importantly, you understand why it matters. The connection is clear, and the act of giving carries weight because you can see the impact in real terms.

There's no distance between intention and outcome.

As growth happens, that changes.

More resources create more opportunity to give, but they also introduce complexity. More applications, more decisions, more systems to manage the volume. What once felt personal begins to take on structure.

And structure, if not handled carefully, can create distance.

This is where many organizations lose clarity.

Philanthropy becomes a line item. A program that operates alongside the business instead of being connected to it. The intention is still there, but it starts to feel diluted. The systems begin to take priority over the people they were designed to serve.

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That's the tension.

Scaling impact requires systems. Without them, you can't manage growth. You need criteria, accountability, and consistency to ensure that decisions are made fairly and effectively.

But systems alone are not enough.

If you don't actively protect the original purpose, scale will eventually replace meaning.

In business, we talk about maintaining culture as you grow. Philanthropy requires the same discipline. You build frameworks to handle volume, but you maintain touchpoints that keep the mission real.

You stay connected to the outcome.

You remember that behind every application, every request, every decision, there is a person, not just a number. Metrics help you measure progress, but they should never replace perspective.

The balance is intentional.

You expand your reach without losing your focus. You grow your impact without disconnecting from the reason it exists. And you ensure that as the operation becomes more sophisticated, the purpose remains clear.

Personally, this extends beyond formal giving.

Time, attention, and resources all follow the same pattern. As life becomes more complex, it becomes easier to justify doing less. To wait for the right moment, the right conditions.

They rarely come.

Giving, like anything meaningful, requires intention.

It has to be built into how you operate, not something you add when it's convenient.

Because impact is not defined by scale alone.

It's defined by how well you preserve its meaning as it grows.



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TECHNOLOGY **Legacy Systems Hold You Back**

Every business has systems that helped build it.

They were the right solutions at the right time. They created structure, supported growth, and allowed the operation to move forward with confidence. Without them, the business wouldn't be where it is today.

That's what makes them difficult to replace.

Legacy systems don't fail all at once. They age gradually. A manual step here. A workaround there. A delay that becomes accepted because it's been part of the process for so long.

At first, it feels manageable.

Over time, it becomes limiting.

The real issue isn't the system itself, it's the accumulation of small inefficiencies that come with it. When systems don't communicate, when data isn't easily accessible, when processes require unnecessary steps, the business begins to slow down.

And that slowdown compounds.

Decisions take longer. Execution becomes inconsistent. Teams spend more time navigating the system than producing results within it. The operation still functions, but not at the level it could.

This is where growth gets capped.

Legacy systems create a ceiling that isn't always obvious until you start pushing against it. Competitors move faster. Opportunities require more agility than your current structure allows. And what once felt stable begins to feel restrictive.

The hesitation to change is understandable.

Upgrading systems requires investment. It introduces temporary disruption. It forces teams to learn new processes and adapt to new expectations. In the short term, it feels easier to maintain what exists.

But maintenance has a cost.

Over time, it becomes more expensive than transformation. This isn't just a business issue.

We all operate on internal systems. Beliefs, assumptions, and ways of thinking that were built based on past experiences. At one point, they served a purpose. They helped us navigate challenges and make decisions.

But like any system, they can become outdated.

If they're not revisited, they limit how we think and how we grow. The same patterns repeat, even when the environment has changed. The results plateau, not because of effort, but because of outdated frameworks.

The discipline is recognizing when something that once worked no longer does.

And having the willingness to change it. Because growth requires upgrades. Not just in technology, but in mindset.

And the longer you wait to make that shift, the more expensive it becomes.



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Sudoku Online

Difficulty: Easy

		6			8	5		
	2				6		4	
5		1		7	4	2		6
1	7	5						
		9				4		
						1	8	7
4		7	6	1		8		3
	9		2				1	
		2	8			6		

Play online at <https://www.sudokuonline.io/easy>

Team
FORT



Damian



Ely



Danny



Sebas



Goretty



Brian



Esther

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