

# Forged Man Creed

The greatest threat to the world, societies, communities, families...

It is not...food shortages, economic recession or depression, terrorism, politicians, fires, floods, pandemic or nuclear war.

The biggest threat to the world is a broken man. There are no shortage of them.

We all know this is to be true. Not only because we see it around us. Because at some point we've seen it in ourself. We've seen the broken man when we are alone in a quiet room. When looking into a mirror. When reflecting on who we know we could and should be, but see a lesser man gazing back at us with tired eyes and desperation on his face. When the affirmation we chase from others runs dry and we are left to rely on shreds of our own confidence that cannot support the weight of our needs.

Brokenness is the chaos we've brought to, and sometimes create in, the world.

Every man faces a choice between two challenges. The Lesser Challenge that maintains his comfort, but also his delusions. Or the Greater Challenge to building life and legacy. Most commonly it is an unconscious, default choice toward the Lesser Challenge made while adrift, leading to poor outcome after poor outcome in his life.

The Lesser Challenge comes at a great cost. The Greater Challenge requires a great investment.

Will you be a debtor or an investor to your own life?

The past several generations have had the luxury of making a choice of comfort, leisure and complacency. Accepting the lie that this is a destination, and even what it means to be a man. Trading the CHANCE at legacy with a lie...

Generations of men have not had to DO HARD THINGS to ensure hard things don't come to themselves or their family. Making the trade for a certainty and comfort, instead of for the chance at LIFE and LEGACY...

We've spent enough of our one life giving this broken man attention. So this is where I will end it for him here as well. Though you will have to revisit him later if you choose the Greater Challenge. There is business to be done with him.

There is a way to choose the Greater Challenge. A way to push back the comfortable lie. A way to DO THE HARD THINGS. A way to repair the brokenness that forges a man who is stronger than he would have been if he'd never been broken at all!

Time to turn from the Broken Man to The Forged Man.

Most men don't make the choice to participate in their own rescue and repair plan. Some will.

We are the men who will. We are Forged Men, and orient to the world with humility because we choose honesty about our past and current brokenness. And with confidence, sometimes borrowed at first, we forge something useful and beautiful from it all.

What IS a Forged Man? At the core he is, and reflects three values...

The Forged Man is an Intentional man. He is committed to the battle against his primary opponent. That opponent is the man who sleeps in his bed, thinks his thoughts, and makes his decisions. He knows there is no comfort in the fight, and remains alert because his opponent is always present to fire away with lies about his identity, his ability, his options, and his worth. The Forged Man doesn't have to work to keep his opponent close because he is always there, but he does always have to work to keep him prisoner. This requires new, intentional and consistent action that will fill him with purpose he's never felt before, and impacts areas of his life in ways he never imagined possible.

The Forged Man is a man of Integrity. He considers not what he is capable of, but what his calling is. Then he crafts and collects the capabilities to keep the promise he makes to himself to relentlessly and unapologetically chase that calling. On this journey he diminishes and kills off the threat he used to be to himself. This is victory he has never fully known before, but will continue fighting for once he recognizes the reward of freedom it provides. This victory requires ground to be held every single day, and new ground to be taken at every opportunity.

The Forged Man is a man of Honor. No man is called to simply serve himself. He is honorable because he keeps the promises he makes to others. The Forged Man's calling will inevitably lead to responsibility for the life and livelihood of others. Whether emotional, physical, spiritual or financial...many will LOOK to him, and a sacred few will depend on him as they craft their own story and uncover their individual calling to impact the world. The Forged Man will never aim to be the center of the other person's story, or command their calling, but will be a hero that guides the next hero into the most whole and equipped person they can become.

The Forged Man recognizes that to thrive into and through a life of Integrity, Honor and Intention, he will depend on a Cohort of other good men, who will also depend on him. He recognizes that growing alone is like addition,  $1+1+1$ . Alternatively, he knows that with other Forged Men growth becomes multiplication, which provides the exponential effect of time, resources, support, insight, encouragement, and accountability. Because he knows he only has one life he believes in the value of great relationships that enrich his life, especially in the moments encountered where he will look back and say "I don't know how I would have done this on my own." This is the way a living and lasting legacy is built for the Forged Man.

Every man is left with a path to choose. To continue being...and someday end...a broken man. Or to take the one next step to begin writing his Forged Man story of Integrity, Honor and Intention for his life. Along the way he will build camaraderie in a place he can contribute and grow, and become someone he, and others, would otherwise never meet in this lifetime.

As it is said, every man should be a warrior AND a gardener.

The seed of a Forged Man is in every man. You are the only one who knows where it is buried and can begin to cultivate it. Will you tend to and fight for it? Will you allow other good men to tend to and fight alongside you as well? The fruit of your labor will be a thriving life...and a legacy that lasts.