

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO THE READER

CHAPTER 1 THE FORTUNETELLER AND THE CARDS OF FATE

CHAPTER 2 THE PROFESSOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF
GENIUSES

CHAPTER 3 THE JIGSAW OF GENIUS

CHAPTER 4 WHAT PART DOES INTELLIGENCE PLAY?

CHAPTER 5 THE NATURE OF GENIUS

CHAPTER 6 DEFINING GENIUS IN THE TOWN OF GENIUSES

CHAPTER 7 THE "*CHANGE YOUR SELF BUY YOUR SELF*" SHOP

CHAPTER 8 WE CAN OFTEN RECOGNIZE GENIUS

CHAPTER 9 THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
GENIUS

CHAPTER 10 THE CHOICE OF CALLING

CHAPTER 11 WHICH PATH SHOULD I CHOOSE?

CHAPTER 12 BE PREPARED

CHAPTER 13 CLAIRVOYANCE OR CONFIDENCE?

CHAPTER 14 THE OBSESSIONAL GENIUS

CHAPTER 15 GETTING TO UNDERSTAND GENIUS

CHAPTER 16 THE WILL TO WIN

CHAPTER 17 TAKING A CHANCE AND RISKING

CHAPTER 18 GETTING TO UNDERSTAND GENIUS

CHAPTER 19 INTERVIEW WITH GENIUS

CHAPTER 20 THE CREATION OF UNIVERSAL INTELLECT

CHAPTER 21 BRILLIANT DISCUSSION

CHAPTER 22 FINDING AND DEVELOPING YOUR INNER GENIUS
AND YOUR CREATIVE POTENTIAL

CHAPTER 23 THE SQUARE OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT LIFE

CHAPTER 24 THE MAZE OF MASTERY

CHAPTER 25 AND WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED

CHAPTER 26 THE CARDS OF FATE—AGAIN

CHAPTER 11 WHICH PATH SHOULD I CHOOSE?

"But Madam Librarian, I have not discovered a great talent in myself. I can't sing or compose. I don't have a great talent for mathematics..."

"Sophie, some people can be very cruel in their advice. You know that time is the stuff that life is made of. You are searching for that thread of time that you can spin into the cloak of exceptionalism—of genius. Finding the right thread is your job. You are already exceptional because you are looking for it intelligently. The great masses of people have no vision of what they might be. They have caged themselves into the cell of electronic toys. They are enthralled by video games, not life. They lose themselves in the world of the television.

"It is for people like you that we keep this Town of Geniuses alive. Some people, like you, still seek the path of greatest opportunity rather than the path of least resistance. The world needs you people.

"But let's get back to how geniuses chose their callings in life. Maybe their example will help you?

"For a long time Karl Gustav Jung hesitated between the natural and the humanitarian sciences as he wasn't attracted by any of them. He intended to devote himself to surgery but he was not enthralled by that idea either. But

when he came across *The Textbook on Psychiatry* by Richard Freiherr von Krafft-Ebing, it said that 'Psychiatry is a science about personality,' and his fate changed at once. At that moment Jung understood that he had found his true calling. 'Then it brought me into the greatest excitement,' confessed the scientist many years later in his interview to BBC in honor of his 80th birthday. 'I felt the heart of the problem. And then I decided to become a psychiatrist as I finally saw the chance to combine my interest in philosophy, natural sciences and medicine and that was the major task for me.'

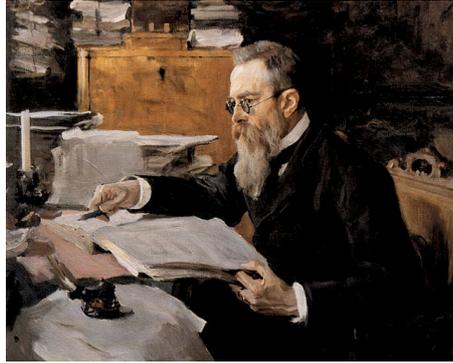
"Meanwhile the choice turned out to be risky as at that time psychiatry was in its infancy as a science it was not considered to be prestigious and was quite hopeless because the achievements of the 19th century medicine didn't lead to serious progress in the treatment of mental disorders.

"During his studies at the university Ivan Turgenev made friends with Timofei Granovsky. Surprisingly, at that time Timofei wrote poems and intended to become a man of letters. Compared to him Turgenev was interested in science from a philosophical and humanistic point of view. Their journeys took them in somewhat different paths. Today Granovsky is known as an outstanding historian and teacher and Turgenev as a great writer of fiction. He was so esteemed that he was awarded an honorary doctorate in civic law from Oxford near the end of his life.

"You might guess that in fields as diverse as mathematics and music the paths would have been chosen early in life—but this is not always the case. Creative minds may travel many paths before they find themselves on the highway of happiness that allows their gifts to flow—to find the most rapid current for their creativity.

"The world famous mathematician Sophia Kovalevskaya liked to write poems when she was 12 years old and she was sure that she would become a poetess. She became the first female full Professor in Northern Europe. Mathematician Nickolay Lobachevsky, famed for his novel non-Euclidian geometry continued writing poems while a student, having already chosen his true calling. He has been called the Copernicus of geometry.

"The magic of melody has often been hidden from those who eventually enchanted us with their musical creations. Nickolay Rimsky-Korsakov wrote: 'I have never dreamt of becoming a musician, I wasn't very diligent in studying music but I was captivated by the thought of



being a sailor.' The fact is that in his family outstanding music abilities were common so that is why no one, including Nickolay himself, treated his nautical dreams seriously. His melodic interest was growing and becoming stronger gradually but when he realized how deeply involved in music he had become he couldn't struggle with it any more.

Nickolay Rimsky-Korsakov - a Russian composer, a master of orchestration. He wrote: "If they say about music that it resembles something, there is still nothing to fear. But if the music resembles nothing, then everything goes wrong"

"Many predicted that Gioachino Rossini would be one of the best singers of Italy and it was his only passion for years. His interest in composing came much later. Without his switching of careers he would not have composed *The Barber of Seville*, *William Tell* or 36 other operas.

Click for one of the most exciting pieces of music yet written—The William Tell Overture:

<https://vimeo.com/68950744>

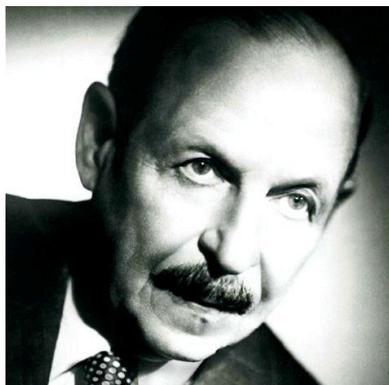
"But let's move on to your reason for being here in the Library. Sometimes it happens that having chosen their calling people realize themselves in their selected field in quite another way than they could imagine it first. William Hogarth dreamt about serious painting without paying any attention to the talent of caricaturist-improvisator that became his career. But his witty mind and power of observation directed him to the right decision. 'I applied my artistic talents to quite a new genre, that is to painting

and creating cravings on modern moral topics that haven't been tried yet in other countries and other times.'

"Here is an example of his cartooning showing 'interested' judges concentrating on an important case.



"Imre Kalman is another example. He composed symphonies and wasn't going to try other music genres. But after he had received the Robert Folkman Prize at the Budapest Academy of Music he journeyed to Germany being quite sure that he would find a publisher for his works. But neither in Berlin, in Leipzig nor in Munich did he find interested publishers or impresarios.



Imre Kalman - a Hungarian composer of operettas. When a beginning composer invited Kalman to the premiere of his operetta, and after the performance asked his opinion, the master answered:
"You see, I am used to listening to others' opinions about my own works."

"If the world doesn't want my symphonies, I will entertain them with operettas.' he counseled himself. He was indignant and vexed but he assumed it would be a temporary detour from his chosen path. But in Budapest in 1908, on the twelfth of February the premier of his operetta *Autumn Maneuvers* was such a great success that his detour became his super highway.

For a thoroughly enjoyable part of the first act of Countess Maritza, with some of the most memorable melodies yet produced for the musical theater. (It is in German.) Click

<https://vimeo.com/147366745>

"We cannot say that Chopin, Aivazovsky and Renoir wasted their time when they devoted it to painting, music or singing respectively because it opened new avenues for their creative personalities. However, perhaps we shouldn't separate different kinds of art, such as music and painting because sometimes they come together in the perception of a genius. For example, the 'Polish Mozart,' Frederick Chopin when viewing fine works of art would hear music stimulated by his vision. This is called *synesthesia*.

"You might understand, Sophie, that the more versatile a person is, the more chances to not to be mistaken with the choice of calling, as it becomes the favorite ground for the formation of one's talent. You, for example, might fail to become a great painter or a musician since they are not major interests in your life. But being more versatile, more widely studied, you can realize your true self much easier."

We walk back to the empty room. The picture is on the right, the mirror is on the left and there is nothing else. Which should I prefer? Will either help me on my road to self-realization? The secret of this room is that there is a point in which a person sees his or her reflection in the mirror and clearly understands what is painted in the

picture. It means that self-knowledge emerges. I must see my myself, my whole being, my past and my potentials—and I must see myself in the world. What do I need? What does the world need? Will it be enough to paint all day in my cold loft in Montmartre—even if no one appreciates my canvases? Will it be enough sit all day at my piano composing symphonies that no one wants to hear?

The world wished for an electric light—and Edison's magic wand provided it. Orphans slept in the streets of Calcutta, and Mother Theresa found them shelter. The world wanted musical fantasies and Kalman, Lehar, Romberg, Rogers and Strauss granted their wishes. But can I become important to the world? Can I be the best that I can be? In which direction should my pursuit of excellence point me?

My mind returned to the Library. The book in my hands was almost a part of me. The pages turned, but just before the book closed, on the last page I discovered an earthenware fragment with a strange design. It was a perfect fit for one of the jagged edges on my jug. One of the seven mysteries of genius was solved.