

One step forward ...

Just about everyone is acquainted with the old saying "One step forward, two steps back" which essentially means that as soon as you feel that you are making progress, a setback occurs and you cannot help but feel that you are back at the beginning or even worse off than before.

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The phrase has a very interesting origin: It was the title of a pamphlet written by Vladimir Lenin in 1904, in which he went into some detail regarding the internal divisions in the Marxist party in Russia. He wrote this approximately a decade prior to the Russian Revolution after which he ultimately established Soviet Russia ... and the rest is history. I am not going to count the steps in that case.

Getting up

Reading the latest news (including the current ironic situation in Russia), it would seem that all humanity is always doing is taking more steps back than forward. Or is that really the case? Perhaps the saying should apply only to politicians and not to us 'normal' citizens.

Every morning I am amazed to see that traffic remains congested and despite everything that is happening, the good people of this country get up (mostly in the dark) and go to work. These same good people greet each other, converse, work together, laugh together and respect each other's differences and similarities, despite the fact that news reports tend to focus only on strife and conflict. Fact is, we are not that different and we mostly want the same things – good jobs, stability and peace.

Adapt for prosperity

Adaptability has become the cure for many a political ailment of our time. Together, we

adapt to our circumstances and we make the absolute best of it by forging ahead. It isn't human nature to lie down and give up. The doom and gloom brigade are far and few and should keep to themselves. Instead, we honour those who came before us by learning from the fruits of their labour and improving the foundations they lay.

This is very apparent in the potato industry where producers keep on producing despite challenges presented by pests, climate change and water issues, to name but a few. The progress made in the potato industry will be front and centre soon when researchers convene to reflect on the latest trials and trial results in the potato industry. This is all positive and all non-political. It represents more than just two steps forward – it represents a will to improve, survive and thrive, no matter the circumstances. Sure, not everything is always coming up roses, but no one is admitting defeat.

So let's leave the politicians to operate in reverse and stumble over their internal divisions while the rest of us grow and develop. Let us adopt a mantra of going at least three steps forward while making room for a single step back once in a while, which we will regard as a learning curve from where we will go forward again. There is no other way.

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