



Life's Journey

by **Melody Garcia**

Perhaps it was a divinely guided meet the day I decided to accept an invitation to attend an Eric Worre convention here in Orlando, FL. Relationship marketing's finest and eager entrepreneurs all converged to gain expert wisdom to grow and develop themselves, their business and network. I was personally marching to my own drumbeat that day. I attended not because of the industry, rather an internal compass in my personal journey to find my own true worth, re-define and re-ignite my own identity, to make sense of the calamity and challenges that happened in so many levels that tested my very belief system and my very existence. To the outside world, I was the perfect chameleon of charm, energy, intelligence, wit, and public presence but internally I was sinking faster than I could breathe and relied on my "perfected crafts" to play out in public, the perfected smile, energy and a curious mind.

It was during a quick break that fate stepped in. Finishing some notes, I happen to look up as this man walked passed me. He smiled, I smiled back, and he doubled right back. My first thoughts, "Oh here we go." The first thing that hit me was his level of energy, walking confidently right up, he extended his hand and said: "Hi, I'm Evan and you are?" We exchanged pleasantries, contact cards, small talks and parted ways. He was interested in my Philanthropy engagements. Right after the convention, as I crossed the parking space, I hear my name being yelled at in a rather congested parking lot, looking around, I find him literally



Thanksgiving Special Edition Article

"If I tell you my Story"

The Journey of Evan Klassen

causing traffic as he rolled down his window and said "Melody, I'm leaving for Japan, but I want to let you know I'll be in touch when I get back." And thus started a path of friendship over the last 9 months as I took a "student of life seat" to observe this almost "none human" with an insane trajectory of passion and success "do his thing" as he traveled globally.

Meet Evan Klassen...



Who exactly is Evan Klassen? A two-time Best Selling Author of "Think and Grow Rich Today" and "Transform." Inspirational Thought

Leader of the Year, A global jet-setter who has traveled well over 26 countries with an unstoppable force in launching highly successful businesses around the world. A soulful singer-songwriter, purpose driven Entrepreneur, an enthusiastic and passionate motivational speaker whose platform message is to inspire everyone to live happy and reach the peak of success with fulfillment and so much more. His name has been linked to business giants, experts, and had been countless interviewed and published in many articles over time.

But his journey didn't start that way. Evan was far from being the man he is now. Born from humble beginnings in Dushanbe, Central Asia, Evan is the middle child out of 9 children. His family escaped from a country ridden in communism, poverty, and persecution to Germany by the time he was 8 years old. As a young boy, Evan developed an inferiority complex of "not being good enough" which was further compounded when he was academically held back one year. He believed he was a "dumb kid,"



Evan speaking in Rimini 1

a belief that stayed deeply rooted through his teens. To protect himself from potential bullying, he leveraged by trying to find something nice in everyone. Evan didn't have big dreams for himself as other children did and he believed he would not really amount to much.

The first stirrings of Evan's entrepreneurial independence started at the age of 11 when he decided to work as a newspaper route boy. By age 14, he was holding down 3 jobs, including being a factory worker, while also maintaining school. Most of his days would start at 6am and end at 12am. The money he made at the time gave him a sense of financial freedom and independence and built his confidence. Moreover, the ability to help out his large family gave him a strong sense of accomplishment and pride.

At the age of 20, Evan went through a very difficult personal situation that led him to severe depression with thoughts of ending his life that became too alluring. *"It is in*

the moment of indecision, because of the fear of not meeting other people's expectation that leads to a depressed state," he quips.

It was also around that time that a friend invited him to attend a seminar in relationship marketing. This was the conduit to his introduction to self-development and network marketing. It was only then that he understood what true Entrepreneurship had meant and it was not an easy journey the first 6-months. His residual income? A mere \$14.05 and where others may have understandably thrown in the towel, Evan decided to **persevere against the odds**. Surrounding himself with valuable mentors, who allowed him to look at his life with a different "set of eyes" a solid grit on his goals of becoming a millionaire and intense focus.

New beginnings...

At age 21, Evan moved to the United States, with a dream of becoming somebody. He knew from the get go that he did not want to

work for anyone else but himself. With nothing but a dream he set to pursue real estate and failed the first few attempts. He recalls the lack of confidence that others had on his credentials as an immigrant learning the English language and geographic locations in general. For the first year and a half, he was just hustling to make money to just survive. He showed up 6 days a week and worked 12-18 hour days and this was during the recession where everyone was losing their home. Everyone kept telling him he should quit and get a regular job and he became determined not to. Then to top it off, Evan ends up rear-ending another car. It was one of the final breaking point, where he found himself asking God why He would allow him to continue to suffer. But it was also a moment of clarity, his "why" which was his family, his mother, served as the strong purpose to continue. In 2008, while the entire country suffered through the recession, Evan soared in real estate. Closing more deals than he can handle, unaffected by news due to carrying on a great positive attitude with unwavering solid focus he went for it. He felt he had nothing else to lose and he took massive action. *"When you go through the most difficult times, they are not setbacks, but set ups for your success, set up for your new beginnings. It's the time when you make that decision, that your destiny is shaped. Find the opportunities in the problem and you will succeed."*

In 2011, he decided to go back into relationship marketing. It was also at that time, Evan found himself having to start back from scratch when a business he spent a year building did not come into fruition and he took a significant financial hit and went back to square one of losing it all.

In 2012, he was asked to co-author the book **"Think and Grow Rich Today"** and in process of writing



30 MANILA UP!

this book, he re-discovered his true meaning, discovered his deepest pain and allowed himself to re-assess his own authenticity with the love he has for people.

He shared that at the height of his depression in his early twenty's, he came across a homeless street beggar and was insanely jealous of that man's situation. The main reason was that he knew if he took his own life, so many people would get so hurt, but if he were the homeless man, no one would care. It was a humiliating feeling, because he sought out to be the person whom society shunned out. Evan adds, *"I did commit suicide... not in the physical form, but in my former self. I ended his limited beliefs, I ended all that held him back to becoming completely unleashed in life."* God humbled him to the point of authenticity.

He became more compassionate and understanding of people and this paved the platform of his purpose which is to truly empower people to live happy. He adds, *"we often wait for things to happen in order for us to create happiness and the truth is that happiness comes before success. It comes before we achieve certain things. If we are not happy with what we have right now, having more of what we want will not make us happier."* By giving people compliments, by believing in them, he saw and felt the internal change within.

God had always been the center of Evan's foundation. *"Happiness is every moment's choice. Don't blame the circumstances but accept the cards that you have been dealt with and blame effectively. Become the best version of yourself,"* he strongly encourages.

Evan's 3 Step Process to transformational thinking...

Evan has a **3-step transformational thought process** that allows him to continue to be empowered even through the toughest of circumstances and allows the experience to transition into the mental focus of a positive moment. Evan's formula is quite simple. **First**, ask yourself what are you going to focus on? **Second**, how are we going to feel about it and **lastly**, what are we going to do about it? These 3 steps will help you assign the meaning to it and *once we learn how to change the way we look at things, then the things we look at start changing.*

During one of his reflections, he really recognized that one of his gifts was a genuine love for humanity and despite the fact that God had allowed pain in the process, it was through that, he became a brilliant networker because he learned to see the "soul of man" behind the titles, behind the facades and behind the pretenses.

Evan in Japan



One of the most powerful questions he asks himself during any adversity or pain is how can he look at things from God's perspective? What blessings can he culminate from the experience and what can he be grateful for?

A Message to his younger self...

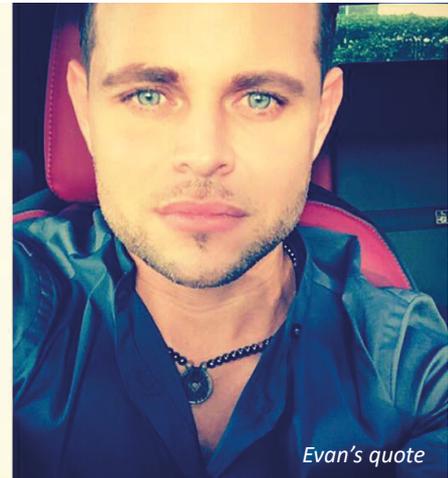
As he looks back at his life, I asked him, what would he say to his younger self? The young boy who had so much doubt and carried an internal pain? This brought an emotional pause, as I observed Evan, reach back in his past and in soft gentle tones, he said, "I would tell my younger self that everything he was afraid only existed in his mind and was not the truth. That God gave me certain gifts and that all the pain and struggles are part of the purpose because **my destiny and my pain carries the message that will end up helping so much people.** That these are necessary and are going to become the foundations and the drive that would inspire a lot of people. So accept it and allow it to grow you into a good person and it was never meant to destroy you. It allowed me to feel different feelings so I can be compassionate, so I can love like other people can't love and care deep where others can't care... and to trust that I have **a beautiful destiny ahead** of me."

Synchronicity and Serendipity ...

How exactly does Evan Klassen's own personal journey collide with mine? An evident of God's answer to a challenging prayer I sent up in the midst of my own intense pain. You see, I asked God at the very time my faith in Him was tested, that if He truly cared about me, He needed to send people that could see past through my perfected "chameleon" character, to have the basis of intense pain I had felt, whose talents mirrored mine in all ways, so that no words had to be expressed and who, through adversity, were made stronger. I was tired of seasons and reasons and that God needed to send in the lifetime change makers, those whose journey ignites everything within me that felt broken and I would know by discernment of their character, their thought process and their genuine love for mankind and ...Evan (among others later on) shows up at the most unexpected time in a place I would perhaps not typically attend.

I regard him and his journey with the utmost respect, value our friendship like a rare gem, admire his steadfast unwavering belief and love for humanity with a resounding passion that mirrors my own heart, his ability to stay grounded, his exuberance each new day brings with a child-like excitement and his meteoric rise to the top with a razor sharp focus and purpose of helping people live life to the fullest, breaking chains of limiting beliefs, hurtful pasts and ignite the very reason they were placed on earth and all the

THE FUTURE
BELONGS
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Evan's quote

while giving God the glory, all the time.

This is the **real** Evan Klassen I have come to know and admire beyond the obvious achievements and accolades. We have tackled on volunteering in the past, focused on helping less fortunate families, have a witty exchange of ideas or comments and genuine respect for each other's journeys, and take on the world with the gifts we have been equipped with, with the purpose of making a difference in the lives of others and leave a legacy as we point others upwards, onwards and blazingly forward. It is a solid certainty and honor to have been blessed to become friends.

Evan's Final thoughts to Readers...

"Strength doesn't come from what you can do. It comes from overcoming what you thought you couldn't." Life is happening for you, not to you. Accept the difficult times as a means to grow you. Welcome the pain, welcome the process and in the end you will see that all these are means to your destination of a beautiful life. And he adds his popular catch phrase "To the TOP!"

Catch Evan's Journey on Social Media:

Web: www.Evanklassen.com

Snapchat: [therealEvanKlassen](https://www.snapchat.com/add/therealEvanKlassen)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EvanKlassenVIP

Twitter: [@EvanKlassenVIP](https://twitter.com/EvanKlassenVIP)



Evan and Tony Robbins