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## On Talent Part One

**Today, Matt Manna released the story entitled “On Talent Part One” in PDF format.**

- “*On Talent Part One*” was written by Matthew C. Manna. It was published on November 10, 2017.
- The website address for “*On Talent Part One*” is <https://www.mattmanna.com/ontalentpartone/>.
- Please direct all correspondence to: [matt@mattmanna.com](mailto:matt@mattmanna.com).

Thanks for stopping by,

**- MATT**



Photo by Josh Sorenson on Pexels

# ON TALENT PART ONE

*Any philosophy or guiding principle that treats talent as a product, instead of a prerequisite, is utter nonsense.*

Every drummer's "ten best" list contains the name Buddy Rich. From seasoned pro to beginner, Buddy is universally recognized as the master. Why? What made Buddy so good? The answer is talent.

Talent is natural ability. It is separate from, and paramount to, knowledge, character, and discipline. A popular and enduring principle concerning talent is summarized by the claim: "Anything is achievable so long as one works at it enough." This is utter nonsense.

The result of "working at it" is experience and experience cannot generate talent. It's true that experience can develop talent. But it's equally true that talent must exist before development can occur. Any philosophy or guiding principle that treats talent as a product, instead of a prerequisite, will lead to an infinity of headaches. Speaking of which...

The German mathematician named Georg Ferdinand Ludwig

## **ON TALENT PART ONE**

by Matt Manna

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Philipp Cantor removed the headache of infinity from the philosopher's mind and placed it firmly in the mathematician's mind. Buddy Rich does the same thing to drummers. Even after years of experience, the distance between the talent of every other drummer in the world, to the talent of Buddy Rich, is a headache inducing infinity.

Talent's power is not limited to individual pursuits. An organization (every organization) either has the talent to succeed or it doesn't. This is particularly true among elite company.

The Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots have each won six Super Bowls. The Dallas Cowboys and the San Francisco 49ers have each won five Super Bowls. The Kansas City Chiefs, Green Bay Packers, and New York Giants have each won four Super Bowls. The Denver Broncos, Washington Commanders, and Los Angeles / Oakland Raiders have each won three Super Bowls. The Buffalo Bills, Minnesota Vikings, Cincinnati Bengals, Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers, Arizona Cardinals, Tennessee Titans, and San Diego / Los Angeles Chargers have never won a Super Bowl, though each played in the Super Bowl at least once. The Detroit Lions, Cleveland Browns, Houston Texans, and Jacksonville Jaguars have never played in a Super Bowl.

This disparity does not mean the Detroit Lions have less experience than the Pittsburgh Steelers. In fact, the Detroit Lions were founded in 1930, three years before the Pittsburgh Steelers. Disparity in Super Bowl victories indicates a disparity in talent.

What's true in the NFL is true in every pursuit. Talent is natural ability that is separate from, and paramount to, experience, knowledge, character, and discipline. Nothing can change this reality.

Note: Some claim the New England Patriots won four Super Bowls with talent only slightly above average. This claim is shortsighted. Coaching, like everything else, is a talent.

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by Matt Manna

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