Video Camp Script: Aristotle

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**What you see**

In classroom, Professor Aristotle at white board writing what looks like equations and formulas

Alexander the Great walks into the classroom carrying a stack. He is wearing an army uniform.

He dumps a pile of stuff on the table. There is a mixture of plants, dead animals (stuff animals, a human head and modern items like an Ipod.) Aristotle starts to sort through the items.

Aristotle picks up and examines a couple of plants and an IPad. (in the background, music from 2001 Space Odysessy….Straus Thus Spake Z starts

Music stops and Aristotle picks up a seed. They both walk over the window and look out to a large tree.

Start of collage of stills. Puppy to dog, caterpillar to butterfly, fertized egg to human being. Last sequence, puppy to cat

Transition from shot of being in the classroom to a still of a classic image of Aristotle.

**What you hear**

**Aristotle:** There is got to be a formula for human happiness. Let’s see if I add plenty of food with good times with friends…no that will only add up to a lot of calories. How about if I start with virtue…

**Alex the Great:** Professor Aristotle. How you doing Teach?

Aristotle: Alex, you back from your latest greatest adventure. What did you bring me back this time?

Alex: A whole bunch of new stuff you have never seen before.

Aristotle: Interesting. (pushing the human head aside) Alex, been doing a little plundering, have you. I think this is for your collection.

Alex: Sorry Professor. That is one for my heads of state collection.

Funny thing. I saw a bunch of monkeys almost worshiping something like this on the outskirts of town. Odd object. I will plant with the others and see if anything grows from it.

Now we are talking. A seed. Look at this Alex. This is what I am talking about. See that tree out there Alex. That tree started out like this seed. I want to discover how this seed knew to become that. How did this become that…this become that and this become that..even more amazing how this knew not to become that. That would surely be messy if everything didn’t become what it was supposed to become.

Switch to narrator’s voice

Still picture of Aristotle starts to speak using Crazy Talk animation

Switch back to Professor Aristotle in the classroom. He is fanatically drawing all kinds of lines, equations and words

Switch to Gene Wilder in the movie Young Frankenstein. He is in bed asleep, tossing back and forth.

Shot of selection of self-help books with the words “purpose” in them, for example,” A Purpose Driven Life.”

Back to Professor Aristotle in the classroom.

After he says “Class dismiss” pan to empty classroom.

And that was Aristotle’s quest – to understand how anything and everything became what it was supposed to be and not something else. Without the benefit of knowing what we know today as genetics and DNA, he pursued the same scientific path…observe what nature does…

Aristotle (crazy talk): That’s right. I looked to nature to reveal the nature of becoming. What interested me was how to become the most excellence human being possible. For that, I needed to understand the very DNA of the human soul. Gee, I love the sound of that, the DNA of the human soul, but I have no idea what that means. My word was essence…that which made something what it is. How could I discover that? Well, it is time to go back to the black board.

Professor Aristotle: Actually, it is a white board now, but needless to say, I still can’t figure out human happiness. The key to human happiness is

Gene Wilder: “Destiny, destiny, I must fulfill my destiny.”

Professor Aristotle: I just had a moment That is it…the end, the goal, the very purpose of our life draws us toward who we are truly mean to be. The end is the final cause. It is all a matter of unfolding. To be truly happy is to live according to our purpose.

Narrator:

Sound familiar? Ever wondered what your unique purpose in life is or ifyou were born to do something special, if so, you are thinking Aristotelian.

Professor Artistotle: That’s it . Class dismissed….oh, everyone is already gone. Well, great class anyway.

Possible ending: crazy talk images of two puppies talking to each other

Puppy #1: Wait a minute. He didn’t know it was great class until the very end.

Puppy #2: Right. It wouldn’t have made sense if he said it five minutes into the class. Same is true with human happiness. When you get to the end, then you know you have arrived at your destination and final purpose.

Puppy #1: So we don’t know we are going to be happy go lucky adult dogs until we are. What if I end up a cat? I can’t stand the thought.

Puppy #1: Don’t worry. Stay true to your dog nature and be the best dog you can be…it will all unfold.