



**Outstanding Student,  
School of Hotel and Tourism Management 2018**

**Miss Amanda Putri WANTONO**  
*BSc (Hons) in Hotel Management &  
Minor in European Studies*

I had a bit of a struggle when asked to share my views or tips to 'success'. Who am I to give advice or opinion to others when I am only a 20-year-old struggling with the notorious option paralysis in contemporary job seeking and "finding her dream"? Fortunately, I have had the honor to meet amazing people in my life. From educators to sociologists, these people have impacted my life and inspired me to be better each day.

*"The interminable present of meaningless working is 'balanced' by a dreamt future in which imaginary activity replaces the passivity of the moment. In his or her day dreams the passive worker becomes the active consumer." (Berger, 1972)*

This quote was extracted from a phenomenal book called *Ways of Seeing*, written by British art critic, John Berger. My mentor, a lovely German man who now works in life sciences, enjoys having discussions of such with me, occasionally drawing quotes from Lao Tzu, Ortega or Berger. Although I am no match for his intellectual capacity and experience and to be honest I often shudder internally at his faith towards my potential, I sometimes partake the role of a showman as a defense mechanism and tried to impress him by talking about Western philosophers that I have not read about before. Yet, whenever I tried to do that, he would only look at me sadly for a fraction of a second, as if to leave space for my ego to subside. Just as the same way he looked at megalomaniac people and their social media obsession, unhappy and complaining workers and the erosion of authenticity for conformity.



That aside, this quote resonated with me. It made me wonder, what is stopping us from subconsciously burying a dreamt future with meaningless work? What are we afraid of? Is the dreamt future even ours or was it planted in us by mass-publicity and consumerism? Healthy publicity is about communicating ideas to ignite progress, not of the envy-pleasure-reassurance cycle that plagues our society.

To me, ingredients for a better life:

1. Books (or meaningful conversation)
2. Nature (existed before you did!)
3. Solitude (best accompanied with #2)
4. Water (drink now!)
5. Generosity (amplifies itself)
6. Be a traveler, not a tourist

I am Amanda Putri Wantono, a final year student majoring Hotel Management and minoring European Studies. Thank you for reading, hope you have a nice ahead!

Shalom!



