

DEEP FOUNDATIONS



“Never build shallow foundations in another person’s life. Because we do not know how high they may one day need to rise.”

Two old friends meet again over coffee.

They have not seen each other for three decades.

They exchange stories.

One has become a technology entrepreneur and built an empire. The other has built a steady professional life.

By coincidence, both are now building homes on land they had long dreamed of owning.

The entrepreneur’s project is ambitious. A ten-storey apartment block, with a penthouse at the top for her family.

The professional's project is smaller. A single-storey home. Modest, but perfect for his family.

They compare progress.

Both have just laid their foundations.

Concrete slabs.

Deep.

Solid.

Then the world shifts.

A market crash halts the entrepreneur's grand plans as the value of her company falls.

At the same time, fate smiles on her old friend. He wins the lottery.

Suddenly the man who had little has everything.

The woman who had everything must scale back.

Then the irony appears.

The entrepreneur's foundations, engineered for a much taller building, allow her to build a beautiful single-storey home with ease.

The lottery winner now has all the money he could wish for.

But he can only build what his foundations will support.

A house is one thing.

But what about people?

When a teacher meets a child for the first time, they cannot know who is sitting in front of them.

A quiet pupil may become a leader.

A distracted one may become a thinker.

A struggling one may one day find the thing that brings them alive.

The same is true for coaches.

On day one, a coach cannot know whether they are working with an average athlete, a late developer, or a future champion.

That is why foundations matter.

Teachers and coaches owe it to every student to build them carefully.

Not just for who that person appears to be today.

But for who they might one day become.

Tony Bennett

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