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## Hard Work, Destiny, and Luck: A Personal Story

I am reflecting on a story that has profoundly guided my career. As the saying goes, "Things happen for a reason" (قال تعالى: وعسى) (أن تكروهوا شيئاً وهو خير لكم).

When I finished my PhD from [Loughborough University](#) in the UK 🇬🇧, I was granted exceptional leave to remain due to the situation in Lebanon 🇱🇧 —a noble act by the UK Government to support Lebanese citizens during a difficult time. Naturally, I was desperate to find a job. I applied to countless positions, one of which was for a database administrator at a respected university. I felt confident after the interview, but to my dismay, I didn't get the job. I was heartbroken.

In that moment of sadness, I began to reflect on my journey. I realized that if I had landed that position, I might have been stuck in a technical role for years, far from my true potential. Thankfully, just two weeks later, I was shortlisted for a role at [The University of Salford](#). This time, I was offered the position of Research Fellow, which changed the trajectory of my career forever.

Working under the mentorship of Professor Peter Brandon was a turning point in my life. His decency, charisma, and leadership inspired me daily. Peter exemplified what it meant to be a leader who valued tolerance and inclusivity. He created an environment where diverse ideas flourished, and his support helped me grow both professionally and personally.

With hard work and focus, a touch of destiny, and a sprinkle of luck, I eventually became the Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation at Salford before I left at the end of 2011. This journey taught me invaluable lessons about resilience and the importance of seizing opportunities when they arise.

As I reflect on this experience, I want to emphasize that success is rarely a straight path. It is often a combination of hard work, destiny, and fortunate circumstances. Each setback can lead to unforeseen opportunities, and we must remain open to the possibilities that life presents.

Let my story be a lesson to others: embrace your journey, trust in the process, and never underestimate the impact of mentorship and leadership in shaping your future. My honest advice: learn from the past and plan for the future.

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