



The Shortcut That Cost Everything

Myth Game



Marco worked in a legendary architectural workshop where apprentices spent years mastering the art of design. While his peers practiced their strokes and studied complex physics, Marco spent his time looking for ways to finish his tasks faster than everyone else.



One afternoon, Marco discovered a way to trace the master's old blueprints and pass them off as his own original ideas. He felt incredibly clever, watching his colleagues struggle with difficult calculations while he enjoyed the afternoon sun, believing he had hacked the system.



When the city's annual design exhibition arrived, Marco's stolen concepts won the top prize, earning him a gold medal and a prestigious promotion. He stood on the stage with a smug smile, convinced that effort was for those who weren't smart enough to find a shortcut.



Soon, the Council commissioned Marco to design a grand bridge that would span a treacherous mountain gorge. It was a monumental task that required deep engineering knowledge and innovative solutions that could not be found in any of the old books he had copied.



Standing at the edge of the deep canyon, Marco looked at his blank scrolls and felt a cold pit of dread in his stomach. He realized he didn't actually know how to calculate structural tension or wind resistance because he had skipped every foundational lesson in his youth.



The bridge Marco attempted to build was a hollow shell that buckled and collapsed under its own weight before the construction was even finished. His lack of knowledge was exposed to the world, and he was stripped of his titles and sent away in total disgrace.



Marco found himself back in a tiny, dusty room with nothing but a single candle and a stack of basic textbooks he had once ignored. The silence was heavy with the weight of his regret, but he finally understood that he couldn't build a future on a hollow foundation.



Every morning, Marco woke up before dawn to practice the simple skills and mathematical formulas he had once mocked. His hands grew calloused and his mind grew tired, but for the first time in his life, he actually understood the logic behind every line he drew.



Months turned into years, and Marco slowly built a new reputation for being the most reliable and thorough craftsman in a small village. He no longer sought the fastest way, only the right way, finding a deep and quiet satisfaction in every sturdy wall he helped create.



Years later, Marco stood before a masterpiece of his own original design, built with patience, sweat, and hard-earned integrity. He realized that while shortcuts might offer a fleeting shadow of success, true achievement is a mountain that must be climbed one honest step at a time.