

Learning from the Masters

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The extraordinary experiences I have had in the game of golf often occur on walks in the park with like-minded players. Having been blessed to play golf with kind, caring and masterful people, it is during those walks that I have laughed, discovered untapped reserves of my own spirit and grown as a human being.

At its best, the game of golf exposes players to the masters who value the ideas and lessons expressed in *Golf in the Kingdom* and who believe that everyone is able to share such an extraordinary experience.



The ordinary round of golf is usually comprised of an experience where individuals play as a group and simply go through the ordinary motions of the game. Despite the chance to experience the wonder and grace of golf, players often get stuck in their own internal world and leave the course feeling distant and unfulfilled. Scores are tallied, moments are shared and, with it all, it is generally a pleasurable experience - almost in spite of our patterns.

During high-school, I had the pleasure of being paired in a tournament with a good friend from a rival school. He and I had watched every moment of a British Open together, sharing a deep passion for the game and a propensity for laughter and joy. That day we enjoyed an extraordinary walk in the park. We laughed and told stories and got out of our heads and just played the game.

When I stood on the 18th tee, I realized that I was playing the best round of my life. I was shocked! Immediately following this realization, I double bogeyed the last hole by hooking the tee shot out of bounds. Despite a return back to my internal, fearful and doubting self, I still managed to win the event, but that's not what stays with me after all these years. The trophy was nice, but the memory of the laughter, lightness and joy I experienced in that round and sharing the experience with my like-minded friend - that's what it was really all about.

I have been fortunate to be exposed to many masters over the years, and I have come to deeply understand that these experiences are what have drawn me to pursuing the game of golf as a path of mastery in my life.