

Tom Morris

World's Top Public Philosophers and Pioneering Business Thinkers

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Disruption
- Ethics & Values
- Goal Setting
- Inspiration & Achievement
- Overcoming Adversity
- Personal Growth

About Tom Morris

Tom Morris has become one of the most active public philosophers in the world due to his unusual ability to bring the greatest wisdom of the past into the challenges of the present.

A native of Durham, North Carolina and a Distinguished Alumnus of Durham Academy, Tom was a Morehead-Cain Scholar at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, which has honored him, along with Michael Jordan, as a recipient of their "Distinguished Young Alumnus Award." He holds two masters degrees as well as a joint Ph.D. in both Philosophy and Religious Studies from Yale University, as well as other, honorary doctorates in recognition of his public work of bringing practical philosophy back into the cultural mix. Tom served for fifteen years as a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame, where he quickly became a campus legend, in many years having an eighth of the entire student body in his classes. Recent projects involve novels, nonfiction books, and a script for an immersive theatrical experience featuring AI and the robotics of five hundred years in the future. He is a firm believer that ideas rock the world. Tom is now Chairman of the Morris Institute for Human Values in Wilmington, NC.

Select Keynotes

- **Breaking Down Walls and Building Something New**

Some walls are good. Others get in the way. The key to groundbreaking success in any endeavor is breaking down needless barriers and forming great partnerships. This talk explores the power of collaborative excellence and avoiding the forces that often prevent it, drawing on such great classics as *Gilgamesh*, *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *Beowulf*, *Frankenstein*, and *Moby Dick*.

- **Plato's Lemonade Stand: The Transformative Mind**

The most successful companies and highest performing individuals are eager for challenge and can move from difficulty into delight. They live the old adage, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade," and they do so at a very deep level of transformative alchemy. In this popular talk, Tom shows how any of us can become alchemists of challenge and change. Tom's book to go along with this talk is: *Plato's Lemonade Stand: Stirring Change into Something Great*.

This keynote is the perfect compliment to Tom's new book *Plato's Lemonade Stand*, which is all about challenging change and moving from difficulty to delight in uncertain situations. Speaker addresses "stage of life" issues.

- **Socrates in Silicon Valley: The Essential Jobs@Work**

Steve Jobs somehow overcame his extremely difficult personality enough to change the world. How did he do it? And what can his deep operating philosophy mean for each of us in our work? For this talk, Tom dug into resources never previously consulted for the surprising success of a controversial legend. In turns entertaining and revelatory, this presentation will bring you ideas you can use right away. Tom's Follow-up book is his highly praised *Socrates in Silicon Valley*.

- **The 7 Cs of Success**

If you've come here after reading one of my books or hearing one of my talks and are looking for a little reinforcement for the framework of ideas I call "The 7 Cs of Success" you're in the right place!

Life is supposed to be a series of adventures—and that means reinventing our work, renewing our relationships, retooling how we do things,



refreshing our inner attitudes, and coming to new forms of personal achievement as a result. If you've read or heard about my 7 Cs of Success, I hope they will help with your upcoming adventures, in all the opportunities you face. And I hope to keep serving you as your philosopher! The great thinkers of the past have given us lots of ideas we can use with great effect right now.

Big takeaways include:

1. We all need goals. Having something worthwhile to complete builds self-confidence. Continue to be amazed by the amount of people who sort of exist in an unconscious state without setting goals.
2. Know Yourself and Be Comfortable with Yourself. Have always believed self-knowledge and self-love are crucial. Both lead to complete self-honesty, which is the best kind of honesty instead of hearing it from someone else.
3. Sometimes, it is time for a new hill or adventure. At times, the new hill or adventure may prove to be really difficult journey, however, with any journey there is something good that lies ahead. This "good thing" may be courage, resilience, confidence, creativity, self-actualization, etc.
4. Attitude of confidence. Where attention goes; energy flows. Having interests in varied hobbies and disciplines makes one an interesting and confident individual.
5. You are what you think. If one can consciously direct conscious thinking to edifying/assisting others, true transformation takes place.

• **The Four Foundations of Greatness**

What makes for great teams and partnerships during challenging times? Tom has combed through the world's great literature, philosophy, psychology, and social science to discover the simple tools for great work together. There are four values that, respected, nurtured, and applied well in our work together, make for great fulfillment and true excellence. This presentation will give you a powerful framework for making the most of your energies and efforts with other people, whether inside your organization, or with the other people you serve. This talk is based on Tom's classic leadership book, *If Aristotle Ran General Motors*.

• **True Success in Changing Times**

Tom has gathered the greatest global wisdom for success in challenging, uncertain times into seven simple and powerful concepts whose faithful implementation can vastly improve any business or life. This talk has been developed and refined through more than a thousand presentations worldwide to some of the largest global corporations and trade associations, as well as to small groups of enterprising individuals. Often the top hit of any national convention or annual meeting, this presentation inspires immediate implementation and positive change. Great follow-up books by Tom are *The Oasis Within*, *True Success*, and *The Art of Achievement*.

Select Book Titles

- **2020:** Plato's Lemonade Stand: Stirring Change into Something Great.
- **2017:** Socrates in Silicon Valley: The Essential Jobs @Work
- **2016:** The Golden Palace: A Journey of Beginnings (Walid and the Mysteries of Phi)
- **2015:** The Oasis Within: A Journey of Preparation
- **2006:** If Harry Potter Ran General Electric: Leadership Wisdom from the World of the Wizards
- **2005:** Superheroes and Philosophy
- **2004:** The Stoic Art of Living
- **2002:** The Art of Achievement: Mastering The 7 Cs of Success in Business and Life
- **1999:** Philosophy for Dummies
- **1997:** If Aristotle Ran General Motors: The New Soul of Business
- **1994:** True Success A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF EXCELLENCE
- **1992:** Making Sense of It All: Pascal and the Meaning of Life

Select Testimonials

"Never before did I have to contend with physically pulling my attendees from a speaker; they just couldn't get enough of you! But most importantly, the subject matter was 100% on target, and met our objective of prompting discussion and afterthought well into the evening - a mark of true success. We can't wait to have you back in front of our 1,000 plus person region in June!"

— Jenn Krasnigor, SE Regional Meeting Planner, Price Waterhouse

"Tom Morris is a font of knowledge with a firecracker presence. The way he lit up the room with big ideas and engaged all of the participants was truly impressive."

— Lovdy E. H. Grossman, Director, Office of Conferences & Training, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at

