

Announcer: Welcome to The Extra Mile podcast for bar exam takers. There are no traffic jams along The Extra Mile when you're studying for your bar exam. Now your host, Jackson Mumey, owner of the Celebration Bar Review.

Jackson Mumey: Well, hey, everyone. Welcome to Episode 70 of The Extra Mile podcast for bar exam takers. This is Jackson. I'm so glad that you're with me today and spending a little bit of your day with me talking about the bar exam.

Today's release date of this episode will be the last day of the bar exam in a couple of jurisdictions: California, Texas, New Jersey, but the Bar exam will now be over in most jurisdictions like Florida, New York, the UBE. Many of you are in that process of heading home. Maybe a little bit of recovery. Obviously many of you are still in the exam, at least as today's episode releases. Over the next few days as people check in with us and listen, I hope that this message will be helpful.

What we're going to be doing today is completing the episode we started in Episode 69 about the hero's journey. This will be Part Two. Interestingly enough, the hero's journey episode is already our most-heavily downloaded episode out of all of the ones that we've done. I'm not sure exactly why that was. Maybe it's because it was the day before the bar exam, but in any event, I appreciate so many of you listening.

I do want to invite all of you to subscribe, not only to the podcast, but I'd love to get your ratings and your honest reviews on Apple iTunes. You can do that by going to the iTunes site, clicking on our podcast, and giving your rating and review. You can also subscribe to the podcast from that location or you can go to our website at CelebrationBarReview.com. You will click on the link at the top of the page for podcasts and you can find all of our previous episodes in the show notes as well as having the opportunity to subscribe. If you haven't done that yet, I would invite you to do that.

Obviously, there's two very distinct groups of people we're talking to today. They're the people that are just completed or have just completed their bar exam. Then there's everyone else, the people who are presumably going to be taking the bar exam sometime in the next year or so. As I said in Episode 69, talking about the hero's journey really seems to be an appropriate discussion for people just as they're going into the exam. For those of you who are not at that point right now, it's still pretty useful, I think, to just see what the arc of this journey is like and what it means and what can happen.

In today's message, I want to talk a little bit about the rest of the hero's journey. We stopped last time with the reward, the 9th Step out of 12, which was seizing the sword, which is hopefully what people have been doing this week all around the country on their bar exams. Basically overcoming their greatest challenges and transforming themselves as a stronger person and hopefully with the prize.

Now as we sort of pivot to the end of the hero's journey, if you think back to the movies that you've watched with great heroes. To me, any of the Star Wars movies or the Wizard of Oz or Indiana Jones or, certainly in classical mythology, the story of Ulysses is the classic example of this. We've got a few more steps to consider and I think they're appropriate for bar takers. That's what I want to talk about today, these final steps in the hero's journey. The source for our material and our discussion of this comes from Joseph Campbell's monomyth and we'll like that up in our show notes if you're interested in knowing more about it. This is such a universal theme and I think it really applies in our situation. Let's jump in and look at Steps 10, 11, and 12 in the journey and see how it applies to a bar student.

Step 10 in the hero's journey is called, "The Road Back". This is essentially a reverse echo of that original call to adventure that we talked about in the last episode in which the hero first had to cross their first threshold. Now the hero is on their return home and now the anticipation of danger is replaced with something else. In the hero's journey, sometimes that's a claim or it could be vindication or absolution, even exoneration.

I would say that the hero's journey for bar taker and the road home is a little bit different in a sense. I think that many of you are going to be coming back into the real world with perhaps a sense of vindication. I hope that's what you've got, but also some uncertainty, some lack of clarity perhaps about how the exam went and how you did. I think that that is, for most people, perfectly normal and perfectly natural.

In some upcoming episodes, I'm going to talk about sort of postmortems on the bar exam and how to evaluate how you might have done. It's a little too early for that, believe it or not, just in these last couple of days of the test, but I want to recognize that the feelings that you have leaving the exam site and heading back to wherever home is for you definitely is a road back. Your journey is not yet over. For some people, I think, the anticipation is they're going to take the exam and then it's all done. Then they're really surprised. When people finish the exam, the tendency is to think, "Well, I'm done. That's it. Cut it off completely." Then when that doesn't happen mentally, it's really a struggle and it can be very frustrating and a little bit unsettling.

The reality is that the hero typically needs one last push back into the ordinary world. The moment of coming back into the ordinary world is a big step. It's a moment in which you have to choose sometimes between your own personal objective and that of a higher cause. What I mean by that is for some of you, the return to normal, daily, non-bar-study life will be very welcome and very normal and very easy.

For a lot of people, it's not so easy. It's tough to give up all of that time and investment in this big task. It's tough to know what to do with yourself. It causes a little bit of, and I'm not trying to diminish this in any way, but it's a little bit like

PTSD. For some people, they're really, really struggling to acclimate themselves back in normal or regular life. Part of the challenge here is recognizing that you've just been on this amazing journey, this incredible discovery, and opportunity to prove your worth and your ability. Then all of a sudden, boom, it's over, it's done, and now you're just sitting around waiting for someone to exonerate you or vindicate you or to affirm what you thought was true. It is very difficult to wait.

As you get into this transition time that's now coming up if you've just taken the exam, you're going to find that it's very common to be really almost narcissistic, to feel a little estranged from other people, to not know how to explain the experience you've just had to them if they've never been through it. You might find that the people around you are a little gun shy around you. That they're a little timid or a little tentative in dealing with you. If so, that may be a result of the way that you are behaving right before the exam or in the run-up to the test. It's going to take awhile to re-acclimate yourself and re-acclimate those around you to you. I want you to just be aware of that.

One of the ways that you can make that happen, in my experience, is that if you take a higher cause, a bigger picture of you, that you have simply gone out, done the best work that you could do, and now it's not in your hands any longer. It's not your decision to make if you passed or failed. It's totally up to the examiners. When, I think, you can stand back and say, "I've done my part and now I'm done," it makes the road back a lot easier, but it's no less significant for people. That's the 10th Step.

The 11th Step is called, "A Resurrection". This is, for many people, the climax in which there's this final and most-dangerous encounter with death in a typical storyline, but it also represents something typically greater than the hero's own existence, with the outcome having far-reaching consequences, both to the ordinary world and the lives of those you left behind.

I would tell you that the closest analogy for me would be when the time comes for your bar results to be released. This will be a time of great anxiety for many of you. In some jurisdictions, you'll know the day that results are being released and even the time. In others like New York, it's a big surprise and you just wake up one morning and there it is in your inbox. Either way, this is a final and a dangerous encounter. It's going to be something that we'll be talking about as results start to come out. We're going to give you some strategies and some suggestions about how to deal with it.

Right now, for those of you just leaving your exam sites today, tomorrow, the next day, it's a long way away. It's at least six weeks away before we get to that stage. I just want you to know that that sense of resurrection of, "Do I have my career, my new career? Do I have my new life? What's going to happen?", all of those things will be dealt with at the appropriate time. You're just not there right now.

When you succeed on the bar, certainly part of what happens is that this success, this destruction of the enemy, whoever the enemy was for you that was attacking, that you emerged from this battle, we're told typically the hero emerges cleansed and reborn. In a sense, as a new attorney in a new jurisdiction, that's what your life is going to be like. It's an exciting time. There's going to be a great deal of learning and opportunity and opportunity to make a difference in your legal community. I just want you to know that that's out there. It's coming and we're going to talk about it and certainly it's worth anticipating, certainly with some degree of eagerness, although you're going to have to be patient. If you're in a jurisdiction like California where it takes months and months to get the results, that patience really will be tested.

The final step of the hero's journey is called, "The Return with the Elixir". I love this because this is the stage in which our heroes return home to their ordinary world as changed individuals. They've grown as the person. They've learned a whole lot of things. They've faced terrible dangerous. Perhaps even intellectual death, if you will. Now they look forward to the start of the new life. In doing so, they bring fresh hope to those they left behind: a direct solution to their problems or perhaps a new perspective for everyone to consider.

In our path, one of the great things that we are able to do is to interview past bar students who were successful on the exam. We have gotten so many amazing stories and reactions to those stories. To me, it's sort of the return with the elixir. It's the opportunity for people to share what their particular story was. I invite you to check out our prior episodes on this podcast, but as well to look at our website and our testimonials page. There's a lot of information there. A lot of wisdom from people about the things that they learned, the elixir, if you will, about passing the bar.

You know, it's something to look forward to. While we're not there today, I want you to know that those of you that do succeed will come back different people. You will have grown from all of this. I know that you've learned a number of things, both [inaudible 00:12:43] and in terms of yourself. You face some extraordinarily difficult times. Now you can look forward to a new life.

Now, there will be those who do not succeed on the bar, whose results are not favorable. We'll have different messages for you and things to talk about. Your journey will cycle back around and you will make another run at that sword, the reward in seizing the sword. It will happen. Just know that for those who are successful, their journey will ultimately culminate by what they're able to give back and what they're able to share and demonstrate, both as members of the bar and as passing bar takers.

It's been a lot of fun for me to work with my students through and leading up to this February bar exam. I'm just now starting that process with my July bar takers. It's always fascinating to switch from people at the end of their journey, or at least one part of the journey, to people just beginning the journey again.

I'm always sort of amazed at how that process happens, how we start with so much anxiety and fear and lack of knowledge about what's going on and end up with these confident, excited people, and certainly successful people when results come out.

If you're one of the people who's finished taking the bar this week, congratulations. What you've done so far is a great accomplishment. Now I really invite you to try and settle back into the world, to keep your mind on things other than the bar exam. Results will be here soon enough. We'll be talking about that on this podcast as we get closer to all of those dates and sharing information as those results come out.

Now I also have to say that I'm obviously recording this before the exams and so I can't tell you what crazy things have happened on the exam yet, if any, but we'll share some of that in upcoming episodes and we'll share with you what we learned and what our students told us as they came out from this test. I hope you'll stick with us for all of that.

In any event, it's been a pleasure working with all of you in the February bar exam. Onward to the July group. Thanks for all of you who have continued to share your time with us on this podcast. I hope you'll continue to download and be part of what we're doing.

If this is your first time coming along with us or you've just found us recently, I do also want to invite you to join me on Thursday at 3pm Eastern for a master class called, "How to Make the Next Bar Exam Your Last Bar Exam." Goodness, I couldn't even remember the title of my own webinar. "How to Make the Next Bar Exam Your Last Bar Exam." These are the four steps that passing bar takers have to go through. It's a 90-minute live master class. 3pm Eastern, 12-noon Pacific time. It's a great class. Very useful and I think very helpful. We've gotten terrific feedback on it.

You do have to register in advance and you can do that in one of two ways. You can go to our website at CelebrationBarReview.com. Click on the button that says, "Claim My Seat," and we'll get you registered. Or if you prefer to use your text messaging, you can text the phrase, all one word, "NEXTBAREXAM", text that to the number 33444. The phrase is "NEXTBAREXAM". Text that to the number 33444 and we'll get you registered and then we'll see you Thursday for this master class on, "How to Make the Next Bar Exam Your Last Bar Exam".

That's it for this part of our message today. I'm going to wrap up with a few concluding words, but been great to have you with me on this journey and I wish you a successful here's journey.

Well, I hope you found today's podcast valuable and if you did, I'd like to invite you to subscribe to The Extra Mile podcast. You can do that in one of two ways. You can go to iTunes and subscribe there or you can go to our website,

CelebrationBarReview.com, click on the podcast link at the top of the page where you'll find our show notes and all the past episodes and you can subscribe from there.

Now, if you'd like even more of The Extra Mile than we offer in these podcasts, I want to also invite you to join our private Facebook group called, "The Extra Mile". This is a community of current and past successful bar takers who've come together for advice, support, information, and some terrific resources. We've put together The Extra Mile as a monthly, paid subscription offering.

I want to just share with you some of what's involved and some of the benefits you're going to receive when you join The Extra Mile Facebook group. First, and I think most significantly, you'll receive access to our popular, economical Bar U course as part of the membership. Bar U provides digital lectures and outlines and selected questions for seven state bar exams: California, and New York, Florida, Texas, Georgia, New Jersey; in addition to all of the Uniform Bar Exam jurisdictions and the multi-state bar exam.

Membership in Bar U alone would normally cost you about \$100 a month, but it's free with your paid subscription to the Facebook group. I think you'll find this a great way to just have access to substantive, current material, lectures, and outlines for all of the subjects that are on the bar exam.

In addition to that, members of our Facebook group receive access to our online writing workshop course that contains four lectures on essay writing, plus sample questions and model answers. That course sells \$499.95 all by itself, so definitely a value when you're part of the Facebook group.

All of our Facebook members will receive free seats for three brand new master classes we're doing this year. These are being offered to the public, actually for sale, for \$50 per class, but they're free to our Facebook group members. The topics of these new master classes, which are presented in conjunction with our partners at Learning Strategies, will be on, "Abundance for Life," and "Living the Law of Attraction," and "Rapid Reading Made Easy". They're three topics that I've extensively taught as ways to enhance and improve your bar exam scores and your study and I think you're going to find them really valuable. In addition to all of that, our Facebook members will get my proprietary exam predictions for each exam and you'll receive our exclusive video countdown leading up to the upcoming bar exam.

On top of all of that, and even most significantly, you'll get the support and the advice that comes from a community of people who really want to see you succeed on the bar. Our past bar students who've been successful have generously agreed to come on and offer their insights and advice and I come into the site on a daily basis to offer additional resources and to do Q&A. Really encourage you to check this out.

In the show notes, you'll find the link to sign up for this Facebook group. One other thing about it. There's a 5-day free trial. You can actually sign up and not have anything charged until you've been able to experience it for yourself. When you take all of the benefits together, it's several hundred dollars worth of resources available for only \$77 a month. There's requirement to continue the subscription. It's every 30 days until you cancel. Really invite you to join us there on The Extra Mile. Well, that's it for today. Thanks for being with us. We'll see you on the next episode.

Announcer:

Thanks for listening to The Extra Mile podcast for bar exam takers at www.CelebrationBarReview.com.