

## Twitter Thread by Steve Burns



**Steve Burns**

@SJosephBurns



**Ten lessons from the book:**

**“What I Learned Losing a Million Dollars” by Jim Paul and Brendan Moynihan**

**A thread ■■**

"There is more to be learned from Jim Paul's true story of failure than from a stack of books promising to reveal the secret formula for success."

—FROM THE FOREWORD BY JACK SCHWAGER

# WHAT I LEARNED LOSING A MILLION DOLLARS

JIM PAUL AND BRENDAN MOYNIHAN



Columbia Business School  
Publishing

"Experience is the worst teacher. It gives the test before giving the lesson."

"Smart people learn from their mistakes and wise people learn from somebody else's mistakes."

"A fool must now and then be right by chance." - William Cowper

<https://t.co/Uq1h66riIF>

“ Personalizing successes sets people up for disastrous failure. They begin to treat the successes totally as a personal reflection of their abilities rather than the result of capitalizing on a good opportunity, being at the right place at the right time, or even being just plain lucky. They think their mere involvement in an undertaking guarantees success.

Brendan Moynihan, [What I Learned Losing a Million Dollars](#)

“Speculating is the application of intellectual examination and systematic analysis to the problem of the uncertain future.”

“Man is extremely uncomfortable with uncertainty. To deal with his discomfort, man tends to create a false sense of security by substituting certainty for uncertainty. It becomes the herd instinct. - Bennett Goodspeed

“There’s nothing worse than two people who have on the same position talking to each other about the position.”

“Success can be built upon repeated failures when the failures aren’t taken personally; likewise, failure can be built upon repeated successes when the successes are taken personally.”

<https://t.co/C1tPvURUHy>

“ Even if the position is a net profit, the trader or investor can go through the Five Stages. Consider when a market position is profitable but not as profitable as it once was. When that happens, he becomes married to the price at which it was the most profitable. He denies that the move is over, gets angry when the market starts to sell off, makes a bargain that he'll get out if the market moves back to that arbitrary point, gets depressed that he didn't get out, and maybe even lets the profit turn into a loss, thus slipping again into denial, then anger, etc. He creates a chain reaction of loops that result in further losses.

Jim Paul, [What I Learned Losing A Million Dollars](#)



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“ In a continuous process, the participant gets to continuously make and remake decisions that can affect how much money he makes or loses. On the other hand, a discrete event (e.g., a football game, roulette, blackjack, or other casino game) has a defined ending point, which is characteristic of external losses.

Jim Paul, [What I Learned Losing A Million Dollars](#)

Book link: <https://t.co/obUVOG6Wlt>