

There's Always a Way

Most limitations are failures of expectation, not failures of opportunity.

Humans are the only species capable of changing virtually everything about their circumstances.

We are also the only species that routinely chooses not to. This piece is about the gap between capability and willingness — and what it means to see around a limitation rather than stop at it.

Tony · FitFiliate · 2025

Advancement is a uniquely human condition — and uniquely resisted.

A lion can be the best lion in the Serengeti and still just be a lion in the Serengeti. A human can change the entire situation. We can create tools, change location, change diet, change career, change the people around us. In almost every circumstance, we can change anything. And yet we spend enormous energy finding reasons why we cannot.

This is not laziness exactly. It is perception. And it is the nearly universal default: we look for reasons why not before we look for ways how.

Limitations as Cheat Codes

Most limitations are universally applied. That means the people who find their way around them are the ones who get ahead — not because they have more resources, but because they stopped treating the limitation as a rule.

The banking system is a useful and absurd example. At some point the American dream of homeownership became, effectively, the bank's decision about what you are allowed to buy. Most people accept that and stand in the pre-approval line. But there are other lines: multi-family, commercial, investor, off-market, creative lending. The limitation is real. The popular path through it is not the only one.

Limitations are not walls. They are the popular route. There are always other routes.

The Actual Question

The question is never really whether something is possible. In almost every case, it is. The actual question is whether you are willing to do the work a less conventional path requires.

Humans are romantically inclined to overestimate their work ethic. We overstate our tolerance for difficulty and understate our preference for ease. Accepting a limitation is almost always easier than fighting it. So we accept.

But there is a difference between choosing the valley and screaming at the mountain for not letting you through. One is a decision. The other is a delusion.

The filter worth applying

Pass every stated limitation through this: Is this genuinely impossible — or is it just hard, unconventional, or something I have not fully tried?

Then ask the harder question: If shown an alternate path, would I be willing to trade what is required to walk it? If the answer is no, the limitation was never the problem. The goal was a distraction.

Once you accept that effort is your only real limitation, everything becomes clearer. Not easier — clearer.