

# Inquiring Minds: Recent Random Thoughts

#28 March 2014 REVISITED AND RESPONDED TO BY READERS OR MYSELF APRIL 2014

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## ADDENDA AND RESPONSES TO [INQUIRING MINDS#28](#)

### CHRISTIAN MANDATE COULD PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC M.O.

The obvious question is: when is there enough discussion/questioning to warrant action? Throughout history there have been those who would prefer discussion over action as a delaying tactic once the "preponderance of evidence" suggests action is appropriate. Think of global warming, affordable health care act, etc. However, once action is taken, there is always room to re-evaluate if new evidence suggests such.

### HYPOTHETICAL REASONING POISONED BY P.C. FEARS

Fear generated by being politically correct poisons curiosity, freedom of expression, promotes the status quo, and is just plain unhealthy. I find it being practiced by some liberals as well as some conservatives.

### BUT CAN MULTI-TASKERS REALLY FOCUS THAT WELL?

This is from my friend Buz:

Thanks Joe. Many interesting thoughts. I will add my medical 2cents...multitasking as been considered a great talent and ability, and a boon to the ever increasing rapidity of our lives. The most recent medical studies however show that multitasking actually decreases our ability to do jobs well with accuracy and more significantly contributes to short term memory loss. By multitasking we take down the filter that acts like a gateway for memory. Think

of it as the bouncer at the door of a posh nightclub. Slow evaluation and admission makes for a better collection of individuals in the club. Keeps the less desirable characters out. Open the gates and it becomes a disorganized mob without any ability to file, identify, select.

Much of our so called "senior moments" are caused by too much info being inputted at the same time day after day, moment to moment. We "lose the picture" like a traffic controller who suddenly forgets where all the planes are.

Trying to be focused on one task at a time, "being present", as you have so well expressed, makes for better brain function in the long run. As well as giving us more intense experiences to remember.

### RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE: TOOLS THAT TAKE US AWAY

Moments before this writing Patricia and I were having a celebratory Manhattan commemorating the very hour some 44 years ago when we were married at Immaculate Heart of Mary church in Belmont, CA. In



the middle of our little visit she got a text and left me at the altar of our memories to attend to the message of another. It was just a moment's interruption, but such reminded me

how much I often dislike the "communications" technology at times like this. True, high tech has most of us super-connected, but it can also fragment our time where everything can be a distraction from the matter at hand. Sometimes it seems like we are living in parallel universes, potentially everywhere but not really anywhere. I seriously wonder what these implements of mass diffusion are doing to us when I see all sorts of people walking like zombies up or down our street talking or looking into a little piece of plastic and ignoring the walk or the interaction with the children in the carriages they are pushing. I wonder what we have become, and what we will become as we get more and more connected to everywhere but the reality in front of our noses.

Is it any wonder why more and more people are taking retreats in silence away from hyper-connectivity, to be away from it all, away from the maddening crowd, alone and at peace with nature and silence. Being so disconnected actually frightens me also, but that's another story.

Wait a second, I just heard Patricia pick up the cell phone in the other room, unaware of my typing these thoughts. I now hear our son David singing "Happy Anniversary." It's so nice, I think, that he can and does phone us daily. Sometimes the technology brings us together over time and space. It's a great tool as long as we do not allow it to tool us. And life goes on, even for a contrarian.

THANKS FOR YOUR  
ENCOURAGING RESPONSES