

Inquiring Minds: Random Thoughts & Musings

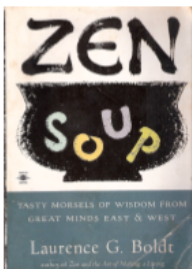
“Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.” Victor Borge #17 Sept. 2, 2012

Mission Past publications: #1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6 #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12 #13, #14 #15 #16 Comment

Why the Delay on this Blog?

When I was out for 8 months my [journaling](#) was therapeutic. It was my link to some like-minded family and friends. Now my back is 90% better. I am up and about and am writing less. Instead I have been forwarding on select articles by columnists who put forth a worldview we can hopefully embrace. To offer my two cents now is to summarize that which moved me most since last posting.

The Topic of Humor Still Interests me, esp. *a la Zen*



“Like a sudden bolt of lightening, a shot of humor can pierce the veil of automatic mundane consciousness and charge the moment with insight and energy.” [<more>](#)

More Quotes on Humor

When a man is wrapped up in himself, he makes a pretty small package. --John Ruskin

A man isn't poor if he can still laugh. --Raymond Hitchcock

Comedy is the last refuge of the nonconformist. --Gilbert Selees

Our sincerest laughter
With some pain is fraught. --Shelly

Men show their character in nothing more clearly than by what they think laughable. --Johann Goethe

Laugh at yourself first, before anyone else can. --Elsa Maxwell

I crack myself up.--a bro-in-law when he was in his teens.

“Do You Want to Be Right or Do You Want a Relationship?”

I first heard this saying about a decade ago from a friend who happened upon a disagreement my wife and I were having. He and his wife taught a course on Engagement Encounter to those about to get married, and this was one of the mantras they used.

Two weeks ago a cousin of mine in hearing about some spousal slip-up, said with smile, “No need to explain, Joe, you're married.”

Both thoughts were encouraging since they acknowledged that differing perspectives sometimes lead to difficulties in communication; and that this was pretty universal to those in a enduring relationship, married or not. How we handle the difference(s) will make all the difference.

The same could be applied to friends who value their friendship over sharing adverse political opinions. This principle might apply to political parties as well because without respect, humility, and cooperation, we're doomed as a nation, a species, and a planet. The apes are waiting in the wings.

Moving Forwards, Articles Movies, Events, and/or Books

WARNING: SOME OF THIS MATERIAL MAY CONTAIN CONTENT OF A LIBERAL NATURE. READ IT OR NOT AT YOUR OWN DISCRETION.

-1-The first 80 pages of Daniel Boorstin's classic [The Discoverers](#) talks about men measuring time, and its profound effect on history. -2-

[Why you shouldn't dismiss Ayn Rand:](#) her philosophy lives



on as the basis of conservative thought. (highly recommended.)

-3- Barbara Marx Hubbard, a noted futurist, is the leader of [Conscious Evolution](#) where she offers a plan to help co-create the future.



-4- [The Art of Selfishness website](#) offers some interesting insights into co-dependency versus self respect, called Self Care at [Al-Anon](#). Much different than Ayn's.

A Soulful Moment Shared

Irascible as one side of him oft is, a friend recited a poem he had memorized in his youth. This revealed a talent and tender side of him which I never knew existed.

*My Soul, there is a country
Afar beyond the stars,
Where stands a winged sentry
All skillful in the wars;
There, above noise and danger
Sweet Peace sits, crown'd with smiles,
And One born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files.
He is thy gracious friend
And (O my Soul awake!)
Did in pure love descend,
To die here for thy sake.
If thou canst get but thither,
There grows the flow'r of peace,
The rose that cannot wither,
Thy fortress, and thy ease.
Leave then thy foolish ranges,
For none can thee secure,
But One, who never changes,
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.*

-by [Henry Vaughan](#)

Well, that's all, folks, for this issue. Hope it provoked some thought. -Joe