

Inquiring Minds: Not so Random Thoughts

#29 May 2014 "...for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." - (Luke 17:21)

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GOODNESS BEGETS ITSELF

It always amazes me how my higher self spawns more good will and opportunity than when I am in a funk. I remember my upbeat teachers best of all. Many believe we are creators, gods if you will, of our own reality. Good-seekers (God-seekers?) are open to and often call forth the good in others. Those with critical eyes often see and bring forth the negative in the same people. Kismet, karma, etc.

To tap into this positive side is one of the reasons, I believe, people join and attend spiritual communities, go to parties, etc.: these provide an opportunity to present one's best self, receive the best others have to offer, and bask in goodness. More basic than Psych 1, but bears remembering when trying to fend off all the negatives in the news, situations, people around us.

I suppose more down-to-earth people are "realists," and the overly positive person can be a bit tiring at times; but it's always so pleasant to be open to "the good



news," (meaning of gospel), its joy and humor when one can. I think of Benigni in *Life is Beautiful*, where he remained most

positive in a Nazi concentration camp mainly for his son's sake. Such an inspiration!

THREE WONDERFUL WOMEN ROLE MODELS JUST PASSED

Mom was long overdue, yet her lingering presence somehow brought us together to care and nurture her for a decade in her dependent state. She also provided

work and financial support to her three Latina caretakers. The last of her generation in our family, [her funeral mass](#) was well attended by family and those who knew her.

Brigitta Grenier was a determined, compassionate, and a well-read person who raised four children in the 1950's, and then put herself through a master's



program. We often discussed history and politics, she being the first to tell me that I was not overly liberal(?). Her memorial was packed with family, friends, and church companions. She was a force at 87, and influenced many.

I knew Mary Burns better, just had lunch with her and Bob, and wrote about [her fighting city hall in Bear Valley and creating a school in Africa](#), all when she was in her Golden Years. Ironically, it was she who told me to read Adyashanti whose book I will review below. Of the three, her passing was the most sudden and surprising. I did not attend her eightieth birthday, but was told that she was the best dancer in the room. She still owes me a list of the her favorite ten books to read. I will have to talk to Bob about that.

I will miss these women, especially my mom; but all left me with something uniquely different.

CONSERVATIVE LA HOST AND AUTHOR SEDUCTIVELY SIMPLE

Talk show host and author Dennis Prager bills himself as "a passionate moderate." If you can get by his somewhat authoritarian

approach to his hypothetical audience of high school students if he were their principal, he does raise some interesting questions about how our American culture may be toxic to itself. [If you are interested, take a look and form your own opinions](#). It might show you what you are up against. It might also be an interesting exercise for students of critical thinking to critique and evaluate each piece contained therein. This is not a test, just an exercise. :)

RESURRECTING JESUS: A MYSTIC'S VIEW OF THE GOSPEL

Adyashanti grew up in Menlo Park, and had his first spiritual awakening "on Saint Joseph's hill" overlooking the school I attended years before. We missed his speaking May 4 at Palo Alto Unity Church as we prepared for mom's memorial; but I am just finishing his [book of the above title](#). It makes so much more sense to me than the literal interpretation of the gospels of dubious historical fact but replete with meaning



and as a means to a spiritual awakening. Just as Jesus spoke in parables not in lecture format, so also his many deeds and miracles were miraculous for other reasons. Adyashanti sees the Gospel stories as unique lessons on how to attain enlightenment and awaken the slumbering God within. Very eastern, but very real and very compelling to those who are open to this mystic's interpretation of the gospel stories.

Hats off to us all, *Namasté. Joe*