Inquiring Minds: 3 Months of Hibernation, Healing, Mystery, and Wonder

#66 Nov.-Dec. 2022 I now understand why the Russians read, write, and drink—winter! -JB

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Child's Video on Resolutions — Viral

You may have seen this adorable little girl on YouTube acting out some thoughts on New Year Resolutions.



Resolutions Change as We Do

In the musical *Hamilton*, Aaron Burr's curt advice to the younger and talkative Alexander Hamilton trying to impress him ("talk less, smile more..") was both funny



and prescient. Both men would suffer by their excesses of Political Correctness or being overly transparent to a flaw. I sometimes identify with Hamilton, especially when I get on my soap box or ask too many questions, and become the pesky gadfly of Socrates.

Yet there are and were times where speaking up benefitted myself and others, especially when in various leadership roles over the years. So, when I screw up, I have to swallow my pride, apologize if needed, and, if possible, learn from my mistakes. NOTE: Several recent Studies show older adults disengage from regrets better than youth. (Scientific Am.(2010).

Some other personal insights come from the noted existentialist thinker Simone De Beauvoir as reported in the podcast Philosophize This and other sources. Her book The Second Sex set the groundwork for the various waves of feminism. "One is not born, but rather she becomes a woman."



Her deep thoughts about Freedom in *The Ethics of Ambiguity* shows the many aspects of freedom, its paradoxes, etc. For one, one personal value of freedom is linked to valuing the freedom of others. Implications for human rights for various movements, from #metoo, to George Floyd to Ukraine. (10 min **Video here**)

8 min. Crash Course on One's Search for Meaning

I wish I had these video Cliff Notes when I was in school to get an overview of all the stuff we were wading through.

15 Logical Fallacies used in False Reasoning

(Logic simplified for our own use in for debates and informal discussion Short, simple, & clearly written with examples. here)

60 Minutes: Medically Unexplained Cures at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes

"Bill Whitaker reports on the unexplained healings that have occurred at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in the south of France, and the team of world-renowned doctors and researchers who investigate the claims of cures. Air Date: Dec 18, 2022." 15 min. Clip

These are the days of miracle and wonder
This is the long distance call
The way the camera follows us in slo-mo
The way we look to us all, oh yeah
The way we look to a distant constellation
That's dying in a corner of the sky
These are the days of miracle and wonder
And don't cry baby, don't cry
Don't cry... The Boy in the Bubble by Paul Simon

How is it that a much admired friend who is an avowed atheist can wish people "Merry Christmas" and dressing up as Santa for his family and grandchildren?

a) He's not really an atheist. b) He believes in the Spirit of Christmas. c) He has read and was greatly influenced by Joseph Campbell's book <u>The Power of Myth</u>, or d) all of the above. If you guessed b) and c), you are correct.

Joseph Campbell in his philosophy and research has allowed believers and non-believers to come together in this great synthesis: Myths believed, whether literally or figuratively believed (according to Carl Jung and others) tell us something about the human psyche or soul, and are teachers of great wisdom, hope, joy, and morality.

George Lucas was the first Hollywood filmmaker to credit Campbell's influence. Lucas stated, following the release of the first *Star Wars* film in 1977, that its story was shaped, in part, by ideas described in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* and other works of Campbell's. <u>EWIKI</u>



JOSEPH CAMPBELL

HAPPY NEW YEAR. WISHING US ALL THE BEST. MAY EVERY DAY BE A LITTLE HOLIDAY. —Joe B.