

THINGS ONE LIKES REMEMBERING...

Words are the daughters of Earth, wrote Samuel Johnson.¹ This I, on the other hand, seems to be a daughter of words....

Words!...parents of Mind--equal to saying, progenitors of my very being; for it is within Mind that this I has known and manifested Life: Thoughts in Words through Consciousness to Body and back. Do not all other of Nature's animals, by their lesser conscious 'reasoning,' prove?--that to Reason did Humankind ascend from amoebic creation, to abide at top of Earth's Animal Kingdom?.

Words and their linguistic lexicons--the foundation of any civilization--reflecting its' conditions and understandings dependent upon peoples' mutuality of definitions in their communication of Reason. By example, here is strict translation of the beginning of the Christian *New Testament* Book of John:

"In The Beginning was *The Logos* [Reason], and *The Logos* [Reason] was toward godness, and *The Logos* [Reason] was a god."

Word-filled books from girlhood on; so long as I felt one between arm and ribs Self was grounded. No matter what a next moment sadly might bring to mind, escape was at hand. It's the same now, nearly 83 years into this thing called human existence, as thoughts force words that have plagued Humankind's unending battle with realities of aging antecedent to dying.

Over the years, countless words of hundreds of books passed via eyes into this mind. This year eight bins of the most currently accumulated library was sent on their way either to the local library or, collections like the bicentennial Dickens, to schools-- detoured to new paths; hopefully to lighten others' passage of Time and knowledge.

In truth, no more words can be written to capture the living quandaries and emotions of the vulnerable human condition. Thus, before one last, small volume is sent to new reader pastures, here saved for posterity are words of the golden sediment of writers' lives fully lived, suffered, and forgotten--memorable lines worthy of immortality in the heart of Lexicon Heaven:²

¹ American preacher, 1822-1882.

² Leavens, Robert French, Compiler; Leavens, Mary Agnes, Collaborator, *Great Companions*, Boston, Mass.:The Beacon Press, 1939. Unless otherwise noted, page references are to this volume.

“I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul.”³

“[N]ot meaning [a] church-creed professed,” but “the thing a person does practically lay to heart...concerning his or her vital relations to this mysterious universe, and his or her duty and destiny there. That is his or her religion; or, it may be, his or her mere skepticism and no-religion...and I say, if you tell me what that is, you tell me to a very great extent what the man or woman is, what the kind of things he or she will do is. Of a man, woman or of a nation we inquire, therefore, first of all, what religion they had.”⁴

“ [T] he] greater part of the fatigue from which we suffer is of mental origin...chiefly due to the conflict in the mind between the instincts and the will.”⁵

“Fight hard, be brave, keep your powder dry, have good friends, learn resignation, and cultivate a sense of humor is the best counsel for adjustment.”⁶

“Whoso would be a man or woman must be a nonconformist. ... It is easy in the world to live after the world’s opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man or woman is he or she who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude. ... Speak what you think now in hard words and tomorrow speak what tomorrow thinks in hard words again, although it contradict everything you said today.... Is it so bad...to be misunderstood? Pythagoras was misunderstood, and Socrates, and Jesus, and Luther, and Copernicus, and

³ Henley, William E., English poet, 1849-1903, last line of *In Memoriam, R. T. Hamilton Bruce*, page 243.

⁴ Carlyle, Thomas, Scottish essayist and historian, 1795-1881, from *Tools and the Man*, page 402.

⁵ Hadfield, Arthur, English psychotherapist, 1882-1967, from *The Renewing of Strength: “The Mental Factor in Fatigue;”* page 159

⁶ Myerson, Abraham, American neurologist, 1881-1948, from *Freedom Through Self-Control*, ending line.

Galileo, and Newton, and every pure and wise spirit that ever took flesh. To be great is to be misunderstood."⁷

"If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and—which is more—you'll be a Man [*or Woman*] my son!"⁸

"Use well the moment; what the hour brings for thy use is in thy power...let each person wheel with steady sway round the task that rules the day, and do his or her best."⁹

"They also serve who only stand and wait."¹⁰

When war broke out between Spain and the United States, U.S. President McKinley needed to find and secure cooperation of one Garcia, leader of insurgents somewhere in Cuba's mountains. A man named Rowan, given a letter by the President, searched and traversed hostile country dangers on foot to deliver the letter to Garcia: "Rowan took the letter and did not ask, *where is he?* Civilization is one long anxious search for just such individuals. General Garcia is dead now, but there are other Garcias.... The world cries out for such: he is needed, and needed badly--*the man who can carry a message to Garcia.*"¹¹

⁷Emerson, Ralph Waldo, American philosopher, poet, and essayist, 1803-1882, from *Self Reliance* essay, page 241.

⁸ Kipling, Rudyard, British author, 1865-1936, ending line from *If—*, page 244 (feminine references added).

⁹ von Goethe, Johann Wolfgang, German philosopher and dramatic poet, 1749-1882; from *The Day's Work*, page 270. [Following which this writer penciled in the words, "*Dead man, you live no more; but you have settled this morning's score.*"]

¹⁰Milton, John, English Puritan poet, 1608-1674, last line from *On His Blindness*: page 271.

¹¹ Hubbard, Elbert, American writer, 1859-1915, from *A Message to Garcia*, page 309.

"As thou thyself art a component part of a social system, so let every act of thine be a component part of social life. ... I shall do nothing unsocial, but I shall rather direct myself to the things which are of the same kind with myself, and I shall turn all my efforts to the common interest, and divert them from the contrary. Have I done something for the general interest? Well, then, I have had my reward."¹²

"My task which I am trying to achieve is, by the power of the written word, to make you hear, to make you feel—it is, before all, to make you *see*."¹³

In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who lie
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.¹⁴

"Nihil est melius quam vida diligentissima;" "Nothing is better than diligent life."¹⁵

¹² Aurelius, Marcus, Roman emperor and Stoic philosopher, 121-180, from *The Common Life*, page 381.

¹³ Conrad, Joseph, English novelist, 1857-1924) from *Art the Giver of Vision*, page 415.

¹⁴ John McCrae, Canadian physician, 1872-1918, *In Flanders Fields*, page 503.

“Poverty and limited options are powerful recruiting sergeants.”¹⁶

In appreciation of Cellini’s artistic perseverance despite criticisms: “People see not the patient doing of it, nor think, how great would be lost to humankind, if it had not been done. As in a building, stone rests on stone, and, wanting the foundation, all would be wanting, so, in human life each action rests...but is forgotten and buried.”¹⁷

“How extremely fortunate is he or she born into Life, to whom it does not occur until most near its’ end to ask, and try to answer, what was its’ purpose, except to create more of itself to ask and try to answer the same question?”¹⁸

“Full humanness means full fear and trembling, at least some of every working day.... ... It cannot be stressed enough: to see the world all as it really is, is devastating and terrifying.”¹⁹

Delusion is not that one uses mind: “It uses you... Descartes...had, in fact, given expression to the most basic error: to equate thinking with Being and Identity with Thinking.”²⁰

“It’s the time it takes to take the take that takes the time. It’s the time it takes between the takes that takes the time to take the takes.”²¹

¹⁵ Winchester, Simon, 1944-, British-American novelist and journalist; from *The Surgeon of Crowthorne* (retitled *The Professor and the Madman*).

¹⁶ McCall Smith, CBE, FRSE, Alexander, 1948-, British-Zimbabwean writer and Emeritus Professor of Medical Law, University of Edinburgh, from one of his novels.

¹⁷ Michelangelo, 1475–1564.

¹⁸ Lenci, Tosca, 1935-, Italian-American author, toscalenci.com.

¹⁹ Becker, Ernest, 1924-1974, Jewish-American cultural anthropologist and writer; from *The Denial of Death*.

²⁰ Tolle, Eckart, 1948-, from *The Power of Mind*.

²¹ Schneider, Roy, 1932-2008, actor and amateur boxer.

“Sarcasm = the great escape of Sensitum.”²²

“Nothing can be accomplished without Time, Intention, Decision, and Volition (provided one has the skills necessary for the task).”²³

“Watson said, ‘Evil indeed is the man who has not one woman to mourn him.’” “Holmes said, ‘Intense mental concentration has a curious way of blotting out what has passed.’”²⁴

“The ‘Messiah’ will come as soon as the most unbridled individualism of Faith becomes possible.”²⁵

“The spell is broke; the charm is flown!
Thus is it, with Life’s fitful fever:
we madly smile when we should groan:
delirium is our best deceiver.
Each lucid interval of thought
recalls the woes of Nature’s charter;
and he that acts as wise men ought,
but lives, as saints have died, a martyr.”²⁶

“The net fairness that exists in a household reflects the household’s degree of fairness in distribution of its’ collective gross productivity.”²⁷

“To be neutral between right and wrong is to serve wrong.”²⁸

²² Anonymous.

²³ Anonymous.

²⁴ Conan Doyle, Arthur, 1859-1930, from his writings.

²⁵ Kafka, Franz, 1883-1924, Jewish novelist and short story writer.

²⁶ Gordon, George, Lord Byron, 1788-1824.

²⁷ Lenci, Tosca.

²⁸ Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

“In order to complete the integer of ‘pi’, it shall be necessary Physics abandon ‘circles’ as axiomatic, where *apparent* self-evidence leads to supposition didactic.”²⁹

“This is best: to live each day as if it were thy last, without haste, or sloth, or hypocrisy.”³⁰

“Little do men perceive what solitude is, and how far it extendeth; for a crowd is not company, faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk is but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love.”³¹

“Thus, like a precious, fleeting foam over the sea of suffering arise all those works of art in which a single individual lifts him/her self for an hour so high above his/her personal destiny that his/her happiness shines like a star and appears to all who see it as something eternal and as a happiness of their own..... To such men/individuals the desperate and horrible thought has come that perhaps the whole of human life is but a bad joke.... To them, too, however, the other thought has come: that man/human beings is/are not merely [a] half-rational animal[s] but a child/children of the gods....”³² .

“He felt creeping over him that mysterious mood of receptivity which is the courted darling of every artist.” Also: “...the appalling consciousness of the gulf between the ideal and reality that [sends one] to the bottle.”³³

“The only force that maintains Life in a world of progressive disintegration is the link between the compulsive need to express and the freedom to invent.”³⁴

²⁹ Lenci, Tosca.

³⁰ Aurelius, Marcus, 121-180, from *Meditations*.

³¹ Bacon, Francis Bacon, 1561–1626, English statesman and philosopher.

³² Hesse, Hermann Karl, 1877–1962, German-born poet, novelist, and painter; from *Steppenwolf* (made gender neutral).

³³ Patton, Frances Gray, 1906–2000, American short story writer and novelist; from novel, *Good Morning, Miss Dove*.

“Authenticity depends upon being faithful entirely to the essential ambiguity of Experience.”³⁵

“For he to whom the present is the only thing that is present knows nothing of the age in which he lives.” And, “I am the only person in the world I should like to know more thoroughly, but I don’t see any chance of it just at present.” And, “I must decline your invitation due to a subsequent engagement.”³⁶

“The pellet with the poison’s in the vessel with the pestle, the chalice from the palace has the brew that is true.” No! “The pellet with the poison’s in the flagon with the dragon, the vessel with the pestle has the brew that is true.”³⁷

“...Auden’s point...We all need to love something. Anybody can fall in love with anything or anyone: love requires an object, that’s all.” And, “[I]mplicit in any Kantian view of the matter...one should have a baby because one wanted that baby to be born and have a life, not because one wanted the pleasure oneself of having a baby.”³⁸

“The formula for Guilt is:

$$G = \frac{(h)(m)(c^2)}{Pp}$$

³⁴ Benet, William Rose, 1886–1950, American poet, writer and editor; remark made under writer Samuel Beckett entry in Benet’s *The Readers Encyclopedia*.

³⁵ ?

³⁶ Wilde, Oscar Fingal o’Flahertie Wills, Irish poet and playwright, 1854-1906. (As to the first of these quotes, *compare* Cicero: “To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child.”

³⁷ From movie, “The Court Jester” with Danny Kaye; co-written, co-directed, co-produced by Melvin Frank and Norman Panama.

³⁸ Smith, Alexander McCall, *ibid*, from *The Careful Use of Compliments*.

Where h = history; m = memories in microseconds; and Pp = psychophysiology. When properly solved, $G = 0$.”³⁹

The above small remembrances from the so many lost memorable words will close with a few more mentions from *Great Companions*:

The essay, “Hidden Child, by Henri Frédéric Amiel, 1821–1881, Swiss moral philosopher, poet, and critic; page 107.

Essays by James Arthur Hadfield, 1882–1967, pioneer of psychodynamic psychotherapy in Britain: “The Renewing of Strength (*The Mental Factor in Fatigue*),” page 59, and “Self-Realization” (the function of ideal versus phantasy), page 211.

Marcus Aurelius’ discourse about conforming to one’s better nature—*i.e.* being content having done something in accord with it.... (*Why expect payment for that, any more than payment to eyes for seeing?*); page 225.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (*can’t care what people think:*) “Self-Reliance:” “Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind. Absolve you to yourself and you shall have the suffrage of the world.” Page 241.

³⁹ Lenci, Tosca.