

# *the Wonder Funnies*



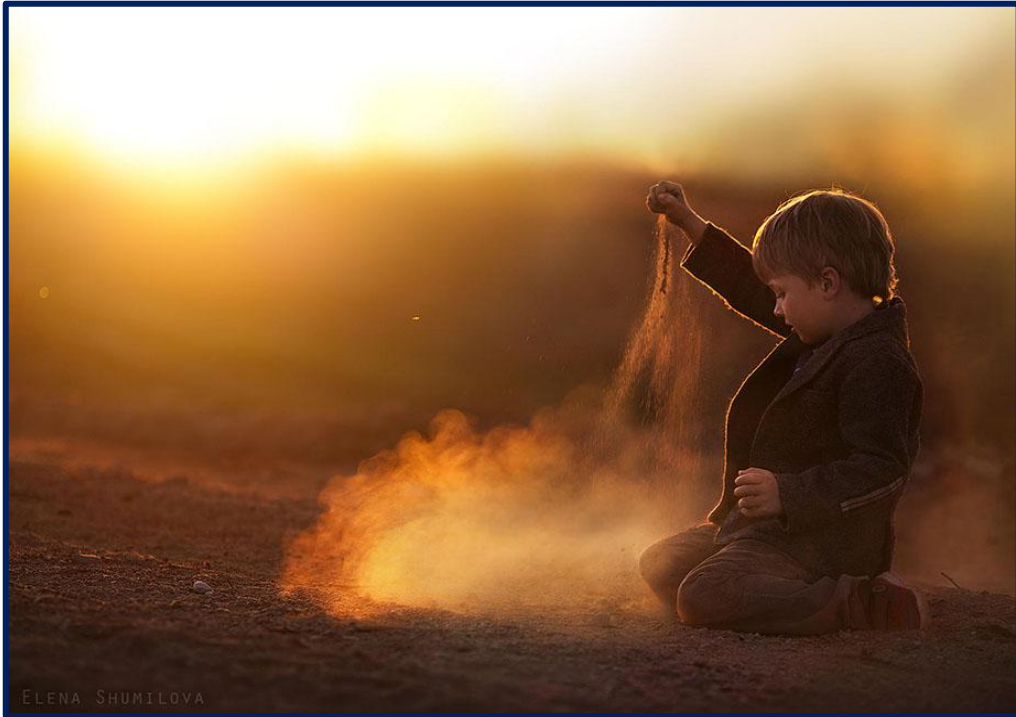
*... a collection of images & sayings  
designed to amaze & amuse*

*via Scaughdt*  
an (i)am publication



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“If you stop and really think about it, you come to realize that we all get robbed of the mystery of being alive. We get robbed of the glory of it because we forget its majesty; we get robbed of the glory of it because we don't remember how we got here in the first place ... When we are born, we awaken slowly and deeply to everything around us. From our birth through our young childhood, our minds are slowly turning on the lights, and we stare in wonder at everything fresh and new around us – ‘*Sun*’ and ‘*round*’ and ‘*sky*’ and ‘*blue*’; ‘*mother*’ and ‘*father*’ and ‘*delicious*’ and ‘*love*’ ... Then we get a bit older and society begins to mold our minds, and the tone of our perception begins to slowly darken – learning ‘*don't*’ and ‘*rules*’ and ‘*hopes*’ and ‘*danger*’ ... Then we move into young adulthood and fully enter the culture that has by then enveloped us, and the shadow of wonderment becomes but a hidden memory – it is then that we focus on things ‘more important’: ‘*job*’ and ‘*car*’ and ‘*responsibility*’; ‘*success*’ and ‘*sex*’ and ‘*healthcare*’ ... This transition is so slow and so steady that we soon come to believe that life isn't that big of a deal, that life isn't amazing, that life isn't staggering, that life isn't wonderful. And yet life *is* amazing – and staggering – and wonderful, in every single moment we live it. We have simply gotten used to it, have simply blanketed over the raw amazingness of it all with categories and labels and routines and conventions; turning the phenomenal into the normal, the peaceful into the boring, and the miraculous into the familiar. My Friends, it's time we all woke up again to the glory that is this conscious life. It's time we remembered that these too are amazing days, and that we are all so blessed to witness them.” ~ inspired by Donald Miller



*“Wonderment is the beginning of all true Wisdom,  
just as Joy is the birthplace of any real Love.”  
~ inspired by Socrates*





## *An Introduction to what Follows...*

Ever since choosing the life of a Peace Pilgrim back in the summer of 2005 (and even a few years before that), I have always been somehow summoned to write down my thoughts about Meaning & Purpose & Morality & Truth – not to make any money (all of my writings will always be offered to all for free, and indeed aren't really “my” writings at all) and certainly not to attain any measure of fame or following, but rather to preserve what measure of wisdom I have been blessed to attain; to provide some sanctuary for the principles and profundities that I have rediscovered over the course of these past 5+ decades of living; to keep them safe until a generation could come along ready and willing to put them into courageous practice, and thereby reap their sublime rewards ...

And in doing so, I found it helpful to separate the many thousands of posts, essays, comments, and ponderings into various categories (almost all of them accompanied by relevant images &/or photographs) – releasing them one by one in book form whenever enough had been collected ... Now, after engaging this process almost every day for the past twelve+ years, the time is nearing when I will be setting the writing aside and venture forth into different endeavors; walking different paths, still in the hopes of spreading the message of Peace. And as I have been “wrapping things up” and releasing all that has been shared so far, I began to realize that there were a small collection of quotes & memes & images that didn't seem to fit into any of the then-existing folders. They all relayed a deeper Wisdom that could be beneficial to a reader – and as such I didn't want to throw them away, and yet I really didn't know what to do with them. And then it occurred to me that all of them were either sources of humor or amazement (hence the title of this collection); that all of them either reminded us to expand our perspective to re-appreciate the innate grandeur of life, or inspired us to allow mirth and laughter to come once more to the fore of our living.

And so here they, my own little collection of “*Wonderfunnies*” ... May they remind you of your small-yet-incredibly-significant place in this, our most beautiful Universe, and may they inspire you to remember to laugh in great Joy as you build lives of great Love therein.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.

*Scaughdt*  
(March 2018)



*“We are dying for lack of wonderment,  
not for lack of wonders ...  
We are sad for lack of Loving,  
not for lack of love.”*  
~ inspired by G. K. Chesteron

*The Doors between the Two ...*  
(01/01/2018)



*"In our Universe, there are things that are known, and things that are unknown -- and ever between the two, there are doors." ~ via William Blake*



*The moment you are Born ...*  
(01/02/2018)



*The moment you are born you inherit a name, a religion, a nationality, and a race ... You then spend most of the rest of your life either defending or rebutting this fictional identity that doesn't actually exist.*

(Life Tip: Be your True Self instead!)



*Shouting the Universe alive ...*  
(01/03/2018)



*"We are the miracle of force and matter making itself over into imagination and will ... You for one, and me for another ... The Universe has shouted itself alive, and each of us is one of those shouts." ~ via Ray Bradbury*



*Into the Light of all things ...*  
(01/04/2018)



***"Go deeply into the Light of things. Let the inherent Harmony of Nature become your first and only teacher."***

~ via William Wordsworth



*When great trees Fall ...*  
(01/05/2018)



“When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder, lions hunker down in tall grasses, and even elephants lumber after safety. When great trees fall in forests, small things recoil into silence, their senses eroded beyond fear ... Just the same, when great Souls die, the air around us all becomes light and rare – sterile. We breathe, briefly. Our eyes, briefly, see with a hurtful clarity. Our memory, suddenly sharpened, examines everything, gnaws on kind words unsaid – promised walks never taken. When great Souls die, our reality, bound to them, partly takes leave of us as well. Our own Souls, dependent upon their soft nurturing, now shrink, wizened by their absence. Our minds, once formed and informed by their radiance, fall somewhat away. We are not so much maddened as reduced to an unutterable unknowing – like those who live in dark, cold caves ... And yet, also after great Souls die, after a period of time anyway, a great Peace blooms; slowly, yes, and always irregularly, and yet bloom it does. Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration. Our senses, newly restored, never to be the same, whisper gently and incessantly: *They existed ... They existed ... We can Be ... We can Be and we can Be better ...* Those great Souls are gone, yes, and yet we can truly Be, because they existed.” ~ inspired by Maya Angelou



*The smallest of Heroes ...*  
(01/06/2018)



*"I love it when a little flower  
or a tuft of grass grows up  
through the concrete. It's so  
friggin' heroic." ~ via George Carlin*

“You may encounter many defeats, and yet you must never be defeated. In fact, it may indeed be necessary for you to encounter your defeats, so that you can thereafter know who you are -- what you can rise from -- how you can come out of it stronger -- how you can shine.” ~ via Maya Angelou

*And the Master said ...*  
(01/07/2018)





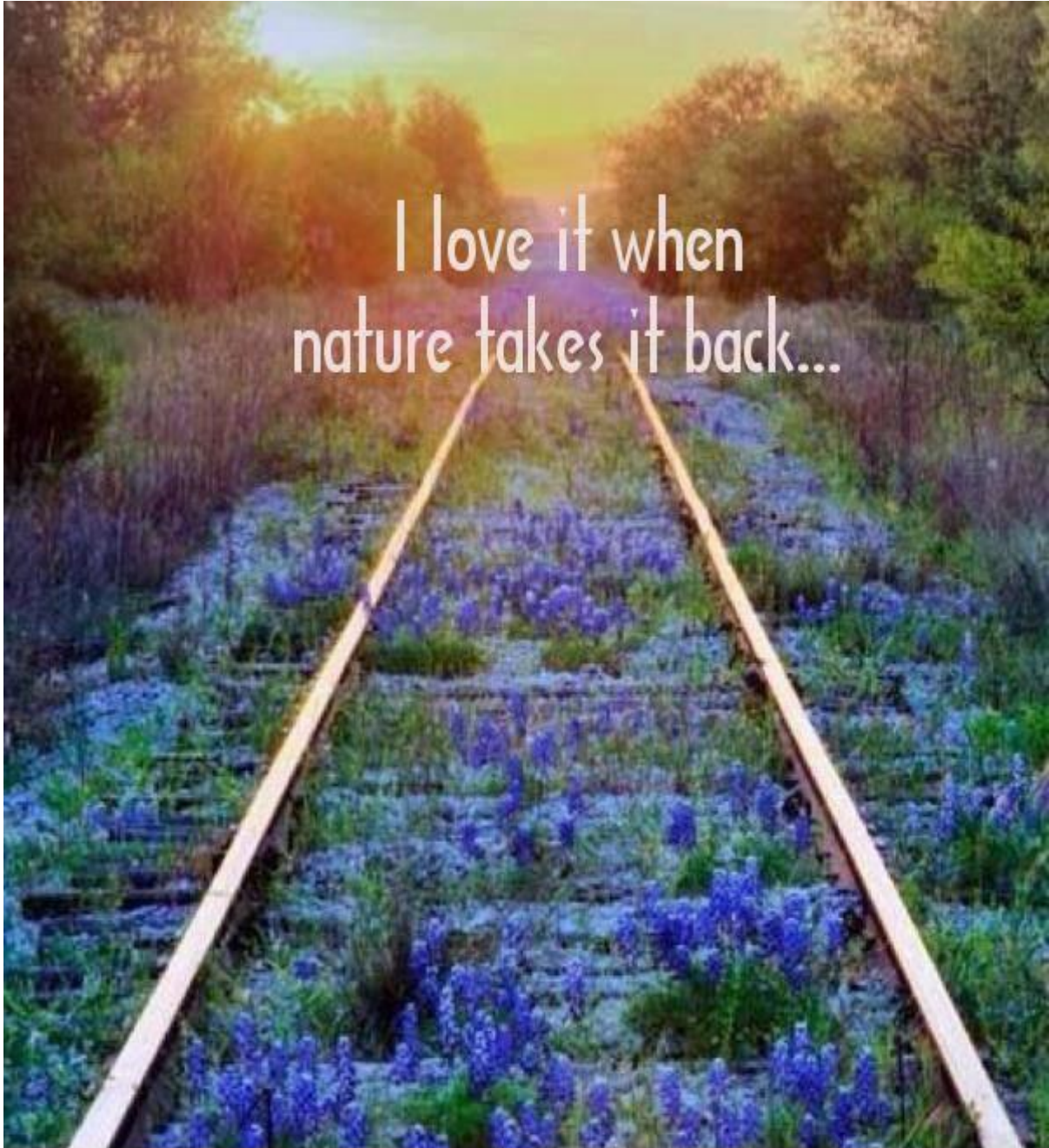
*She won't need saving ...*  
(01/08/2018)



***The Earth will still be here long  
after we're gone ... and She will  
thrive beautifully in our absence.***



*Taking it ever back ...*  
(01/09/2018)



... and Nature always takes it back.

*The simplest of Answers ...*  
(01/10/2018)



*"Perhaps we are looking at this from a wrong perspective; this search for the truth, for the meaning of life, for the reason of God. We all have this mindset that these answers are so complex and so vast that it is almost impossible to comprehend them. And yet, quite to the contrary, I think that their answers are incredibly simple; so simple that they are all staring us straight in the face, screaming their lungs out to be seen -- and yet we fail to notice them. We're looking through a telescope, searching the stars for those answers, when those answers are actually much closer to us than the specks of dirt resting on our telescope's lens." ~ via Jason Q*



*A most Beauty-full blue dot ...*  
(01/11/2018)

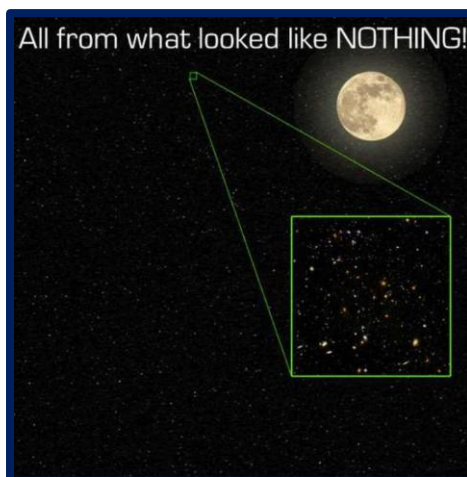
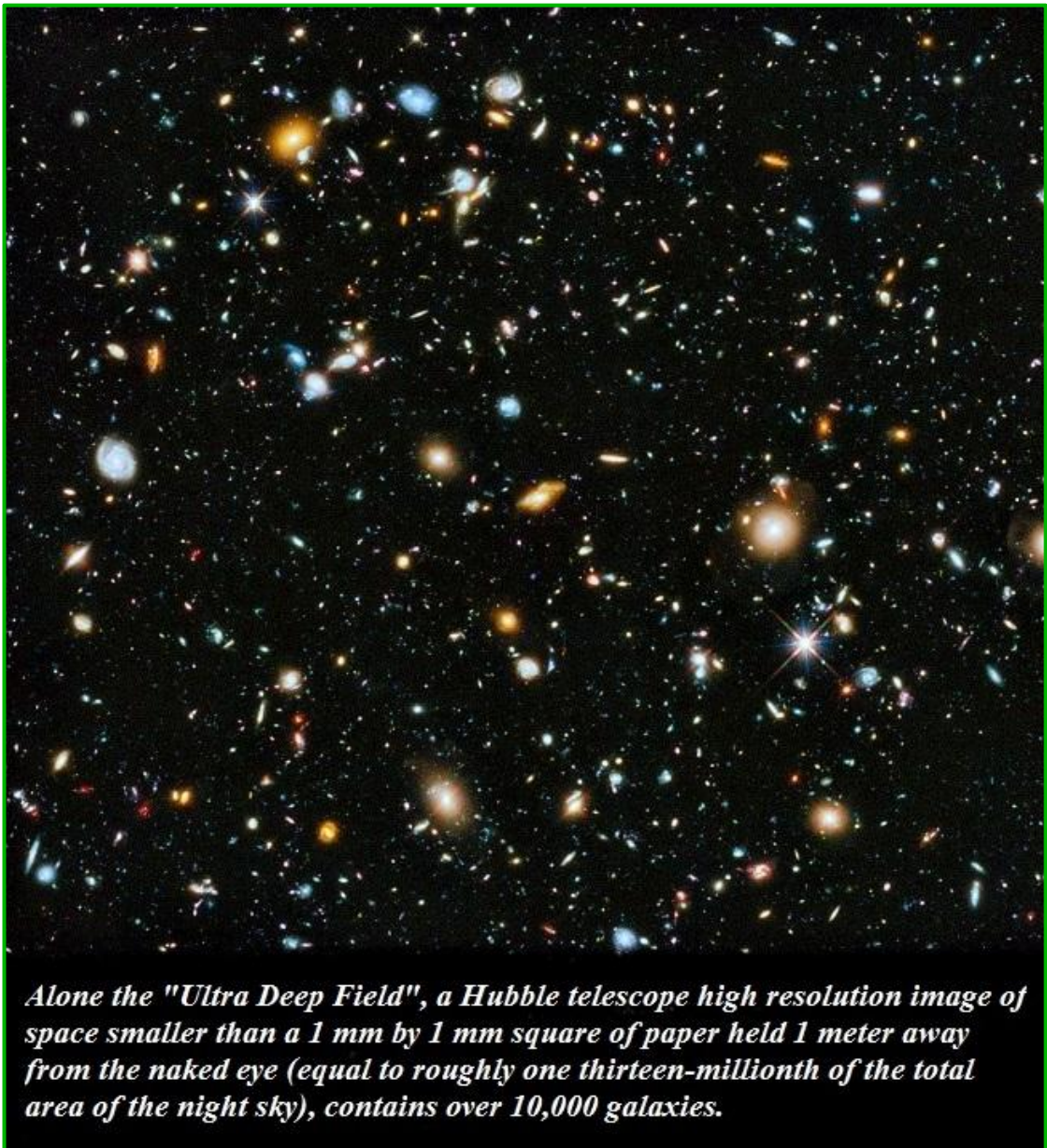


"Look at this dot. That's here. That's Earth. That's home ... How odd to see our planet on its oh so small stage in its oh so vast cosmic arena. And how odd to think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pale blue pixel upon the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner -- how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they still are to judge or imprison or enslave or even kill one another, how fervent their hatreds and how deep-seated their ignorances. Think of the cries of anguish inspired by and all the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and CEO's and politicians and preachers -- all so that, in faux glory and hollow triumph, they could become the momentary masters of even a tiny fraction of a dot.

All our posturings, all our imagined self-importance, all the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are all challenged by this glimmering point of pale light. In truth our planet is a lonely rock hurtling through the great enveloping cosmic darkness ... And there is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could successfully migrate. Visit, yes. Settle and inhabit, not for centuries. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is all we have; the Earth is where we must make our stand ... Astronomy is truly a humbling endeavor, for there is perhaps no better demonstration of the rampant folly of human conceit than this distant image of our tiny world. It underscores our pregnant responsibility to finally deal more kindly with one another, to finally respect our animal cousins, to finally preserve and indeed cherish this pale blue dot; the only Home we've ever known."

~ inspired by Carl Sagan

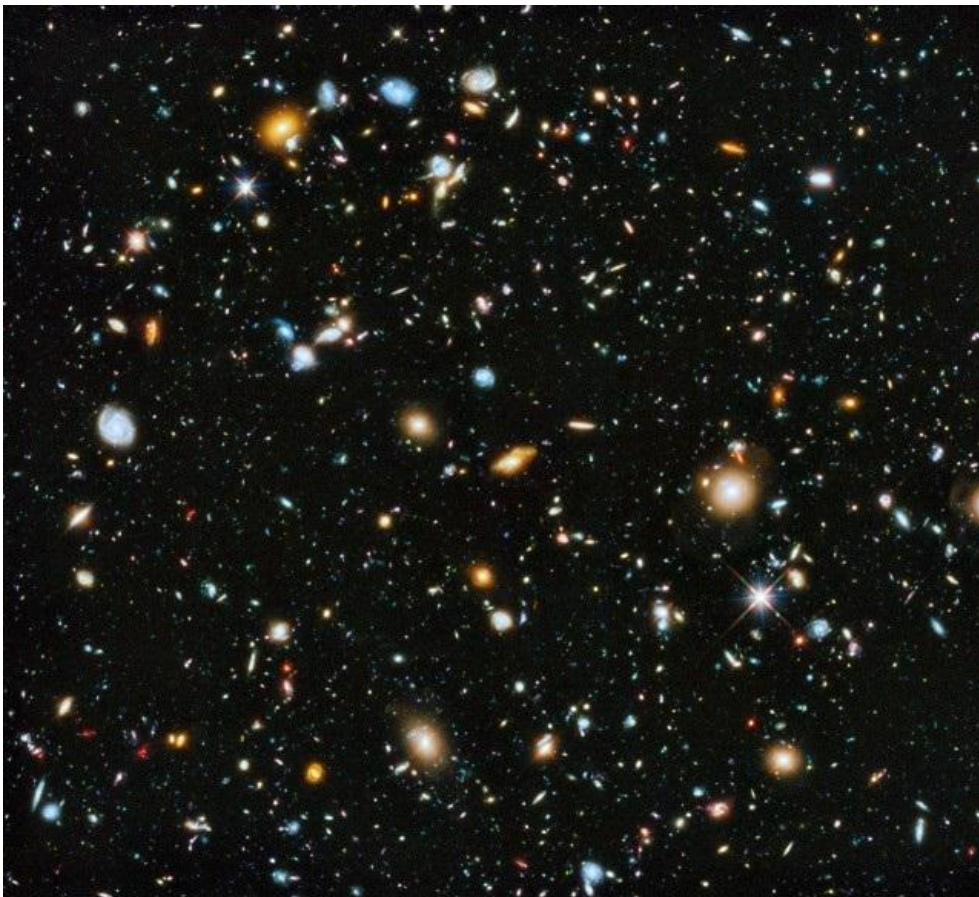
*One step to Oneness...*  
(01/12/2018)





The first step to knowing real Peace is awakening to our innate & irrevocable Oneness ... An the first step to awakening to our innate & irrevocable Oneness is setting aside our beliefs & convictions & "knowledge" -- even if just for an instant -- to open our minds in Humility; to consider a Universe far grander, a life far more scintillating, and an awareness thereof far more priceless than anything we have heretofore imagined ... And the first step into that required exuding of humbleness is the choice to see -- to truly *SEE* -- that we are anything but alone in our Universe, and that we are very far indeed from becoming the stewards thereof; that all our conflicts & concerns & worries & wars -- all our debates & dramas & amassings & arguments -- don't really mean that much; that they are certainly not worth fighting over -- and most definitely not worth killing or even hurling insult.

Yes, the very first step on the Way to Peace, my Friends, is realizing the uncomfortable Truth that -- despite all our sensible doubts & reasonable disappointments & understandable furies -- our lives, and indeed nothing within them, are truly in any way solely, or even primarily, "about us."



*"We are stars wrapped in skin ... The Light you are seeking has always been shining within your Heart, and the Truth you wish to know has always been softly whispering to you from deep within your Soul." ~ unknown*



*A few refreshed Perspectives ...*  
(01/13/2018)



*Perspective Check: If alien astronomers currently living in a galaxy 65 million light years away are looking at us through a telescope right now, they are watching dinosaurs roam the Earth.*

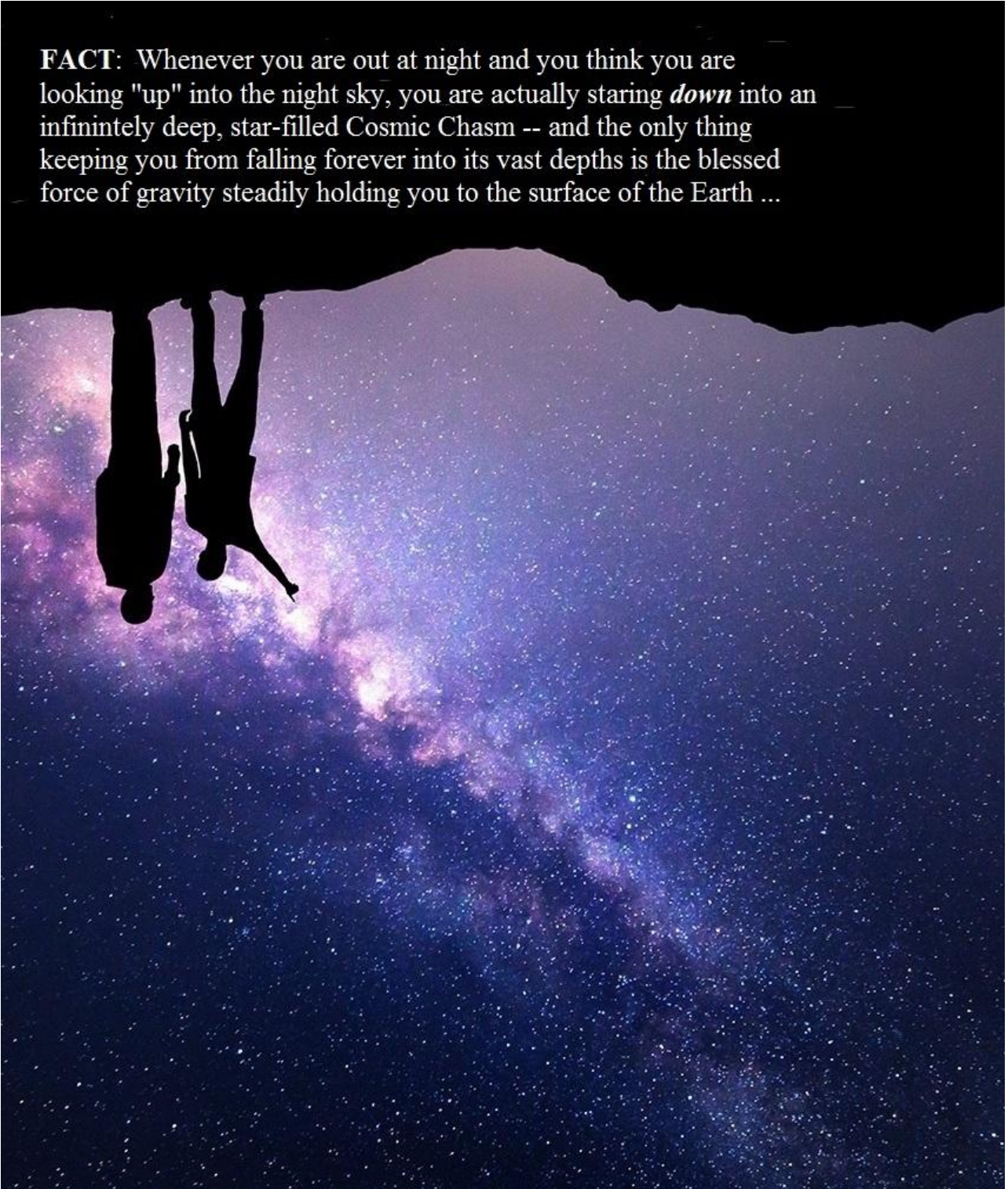


*Perspective Check: This is how galaxy UDF 423 looks -- 10 billion years ago.*



*When UP is Down ...*  
(01/14/2018)

**FACT:** Whenever you are out at night and you think you are looking "up" into the night sky, you are actually staring *down* into an infinitely deep, star-filled Cosmic Chasm -- and the only thing keeping you from falling forever into its vast depths is the blessed force of gravity steadily holding you to the surface of the Earth ...



*Where you actually ARE ...*  
(01/15/2018)



\*You are currently travelling on a 4.5 billion year old spaceship -- a spaceship that is self-sufficient, complexly organic, and life-sustaining.

\*Your spaceship is orbiting a power source that is roughly 1 million times larger than your ship; doing so at a speed of roughly 67,000 miles per hour.

\*Your spaceship's power source is currently travelling towards the source "Vega" (25 light years away) -- at roughly 43,000 miles per hour.

\*There are roughly 200 billion other power sources, many with orbiting spaceships similar to your own, in your galactic neighborhood -- a neighborhood which itself is cruising through space at roughly 1.5 million miles an hour.

Kind of gives a whole new meaning to the phrase  
*"Be still and know that I am God"*, doesn't it?

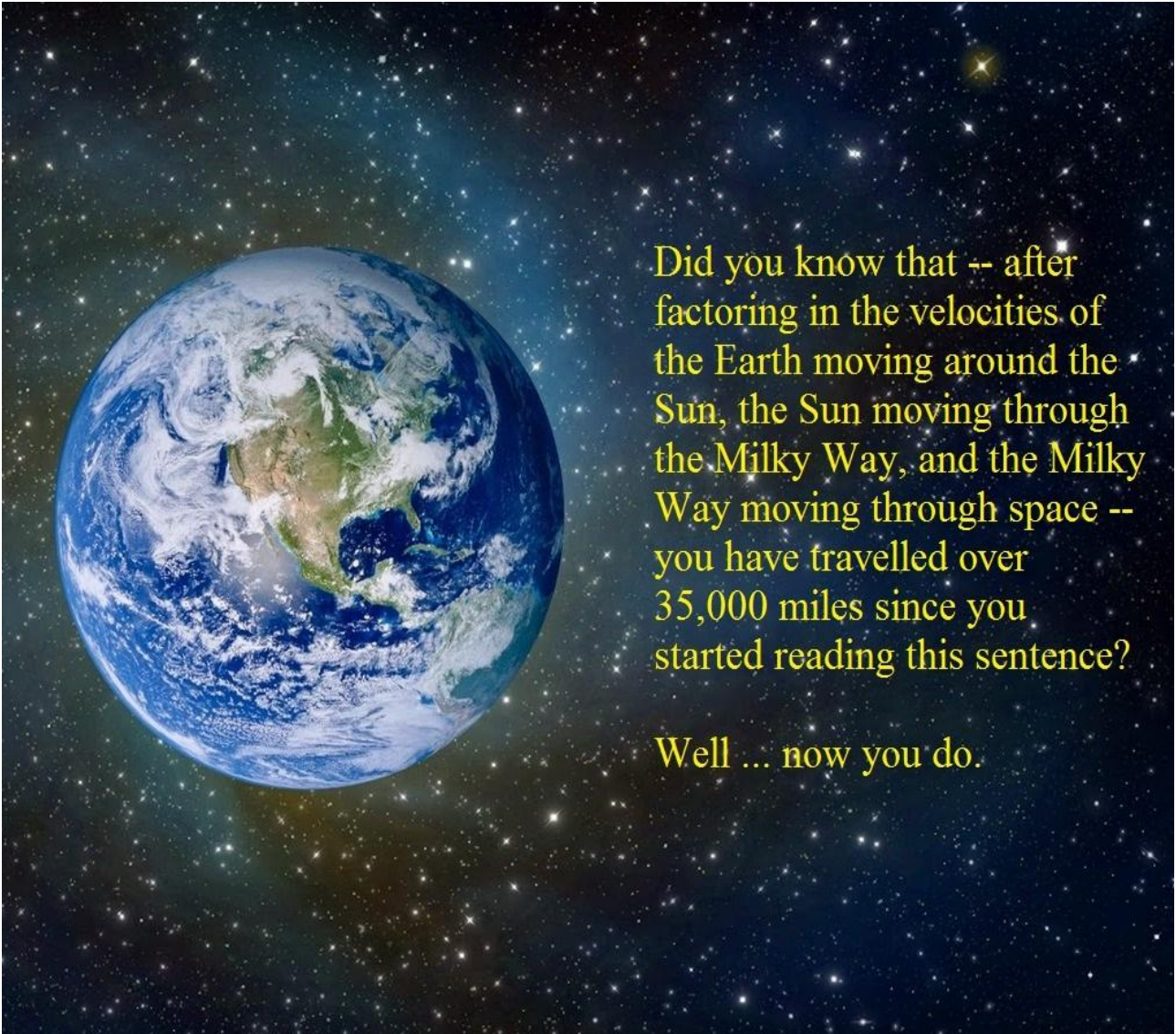


*Detaching from Pluto ...*  
(01/16/2018)



*Think about it ... From the day it was officially established as a planet to the day that title was revoked, Pluto didn't even finish a single revolution around the Sun.*


*Zooming while standing still ...*  
(01/17/2018)



*“It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest often weaken and the wisest often err ... For our peace to be real, it must remain ever unaffected by outside circumstances. For our truth to be real, it must remain ever unaffected by our internal arrogance.” ~ inspired by Mahatma Gandhi*



*All that you can See ...*  
(01/18/2018)

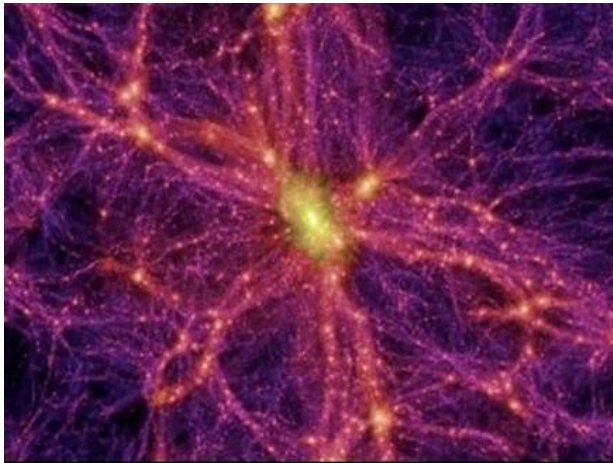


If you hold up a grain of sand,  
the patch of sky it covers  
contains about 10,000 galaxies.

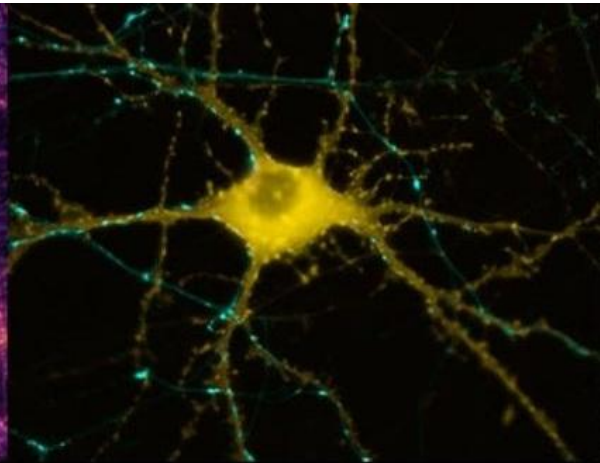
*We are not separate grains of sand in the  
desert. We are actually the entire desert in  
individual grains of sand ... As above, so below  
-- and as above, so within ... Let us remember  
this Truth -- and then let us act accordingly.*



*Everyone, all-ONE ...*  
(01/19/2018)



Universe expanding into a network of galaxies



Nerve cell



London



Graphical representation of the Internet

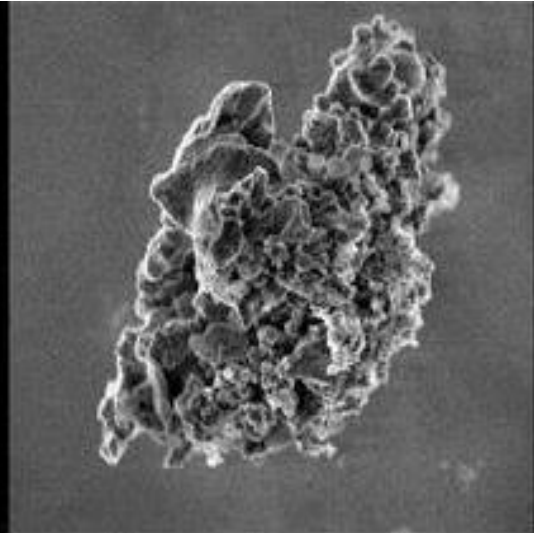
*"Pull a thread anywhere and you'll find it's attached to the rest of the Universe ... It is indeed a psycho-sociological law that no being can rise above his or her individual shortcomings or transcend his or her personal challenges without simultaneously lifting the entire community of which she or he is an integral part. In the same way, no one ever selfishly sins, or suffers the effects of another's selfish sins, alone."*

~ inspired by Nadeem Aslam & Helena Blavatsky

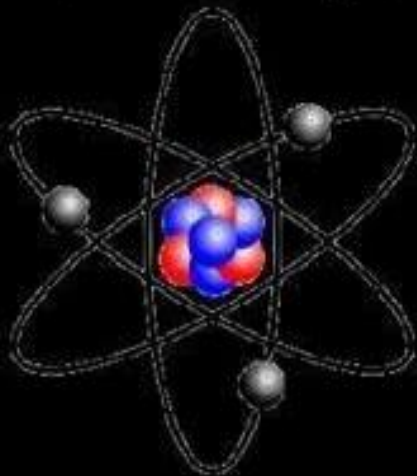


*Exactly the right Size ...*  
(01/20/2018)

A speck of dust



is halfway between the size of



this

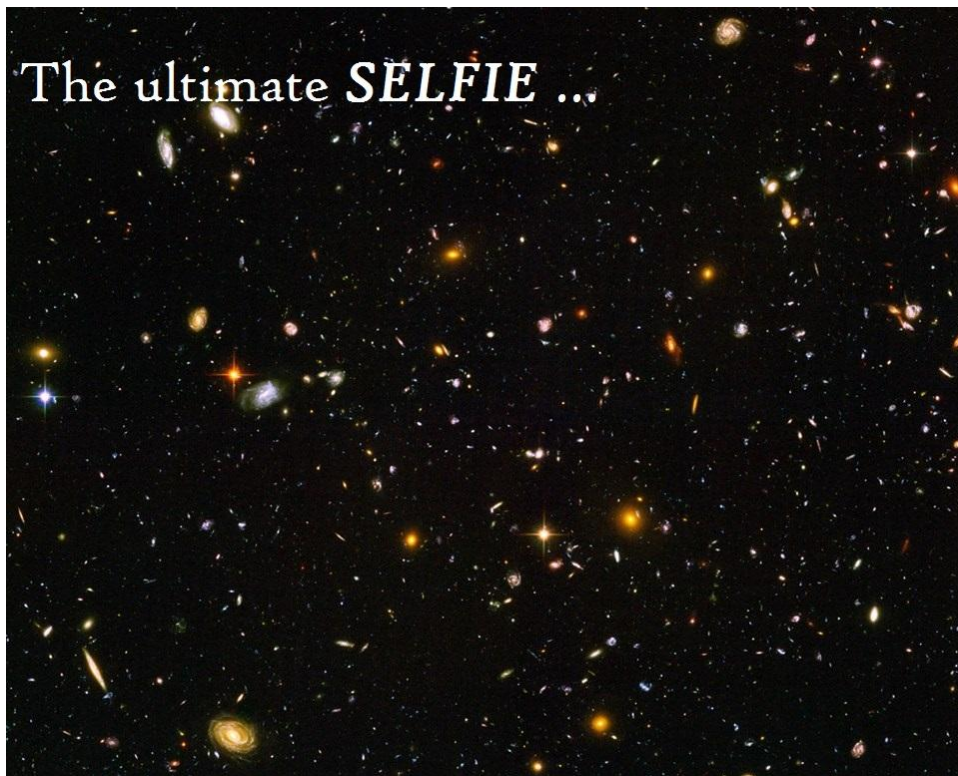


and this.

**Newsflash:** *You are exactly the right size to DO amazing GOOD for the others in your life ... Please act accordingly.*



*Who we truly ARE ...*  
(01/21/2018)



*Be graciously humble, for you are made of the earth ...*  
*Be courageously noble, for you are made of stars.*

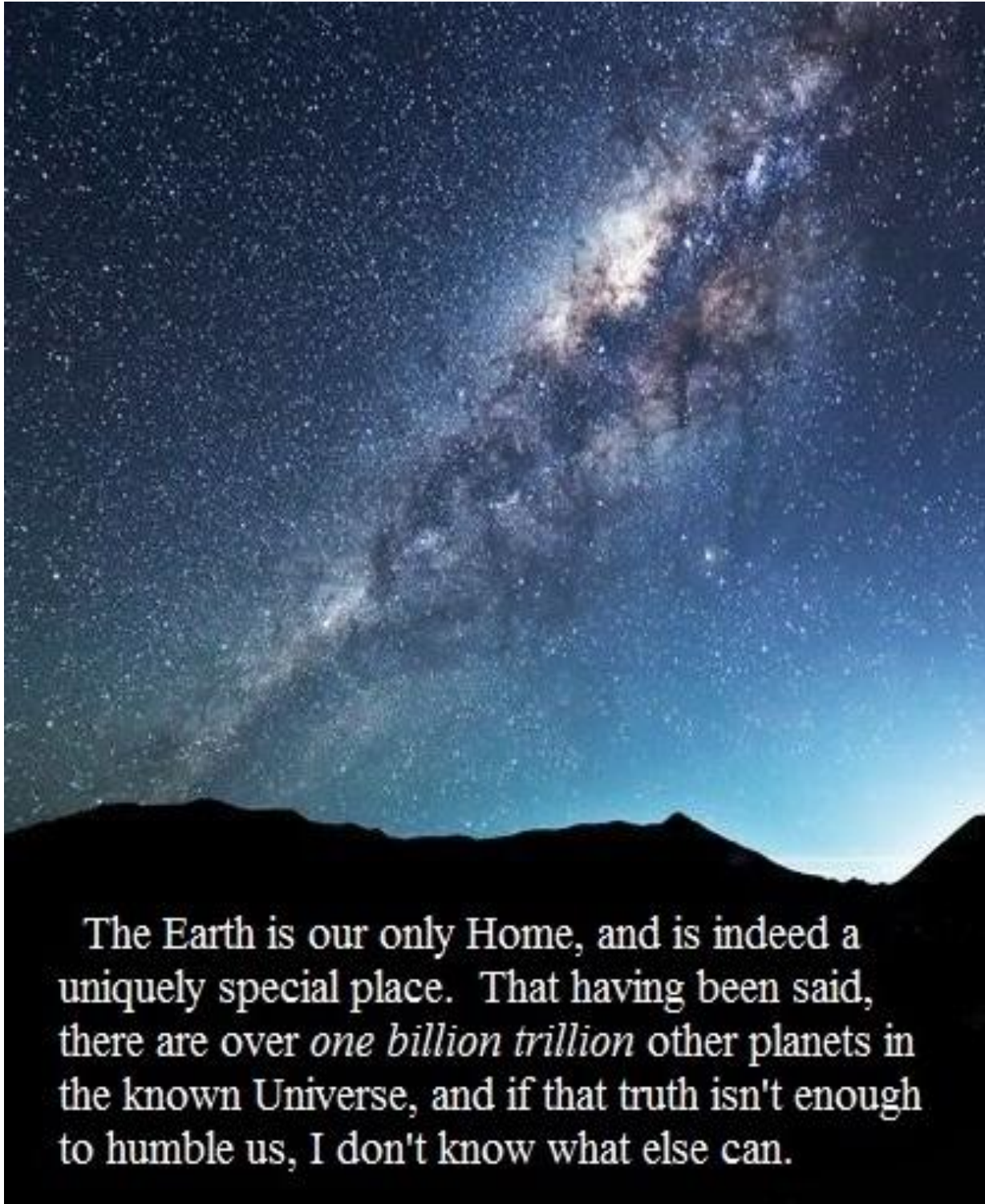
*Immersed in the ONE ...*  
(01/22/2018)



*"Cosmos* is a Greek word that speaks to the order of the Universe. As such, it is -- in a real way -- the direct opposite of the word **chaos**. *Cosmos* implies the innate and irrefutable interconnectedness of all things. It conveys a subtle yet profound awe that all awake beings must have for the seamless way the Universe is put together, and for the overarching Harmony that underlies every interaction therein." ~ via Carl Sagan



*A billion trillion Homes ...*  
(01/23/2018)



The Earth is our only Home, and is indeed a uniquely special place. That having been said, there are over *one billion trillion* other planets in the known Universe, and if that truth isn't enough to humble us, I don't know what else can.

*A lovely bundle of Wonders ...*  
(01/24/2018)



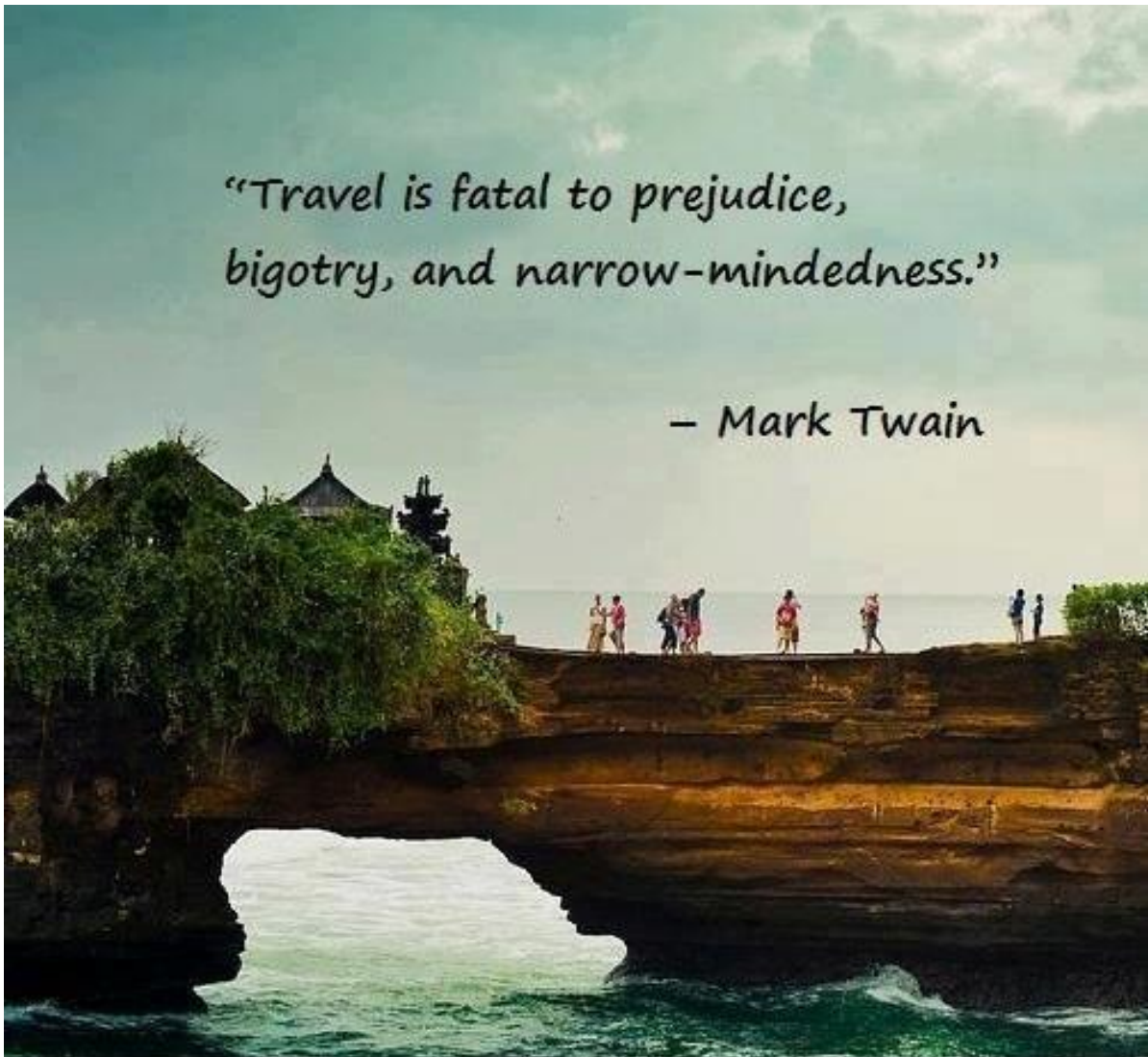
You are the direct result of over 3.8  
billion years of evolutionary "miracles" ...  
***It's time to start acting like it.***



*Choosing to go HERE ...*  
(01/25/2018)

*"Travel is fatal to prejudice,  
bigotry, and narrow-mindedness."*

*– Mark Twain*



*"There is no sense travelling if one  
remains asleep while under way ... As  
such, the real voyage of discovery consists  
not in witnessing new landscapes, but  
rather in having ever-newly awakened  
eyes no matter where one happens to be."*

*~ inspired by Marcel Proust*

*Partners in the Dance of Living ...*  
(01/26/2018)



*"Ever dwell on the ever-present wonders in your life ... Gaze upon the stars overhead and see yourself running with them -- Feel the raindrops upon your brow, and know that they are but your partners in the dance of living." ~ inspired by Marcus Aurelius*



*To LOVE what you Love ...*  
(01/27/2018)



"You do not have to be good. You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine. Meanwhile the world goes on. Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers. Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting – over and over announcing your place in the family of things" ~ Mary Oliver

*Taking note of the Beauty ...*  
(01/28/2018)



*"Blessed are they who remember to see beautiful things in humble places, and who take note of the astounding that always resides in the normal."*

~ via Camille Pissarro

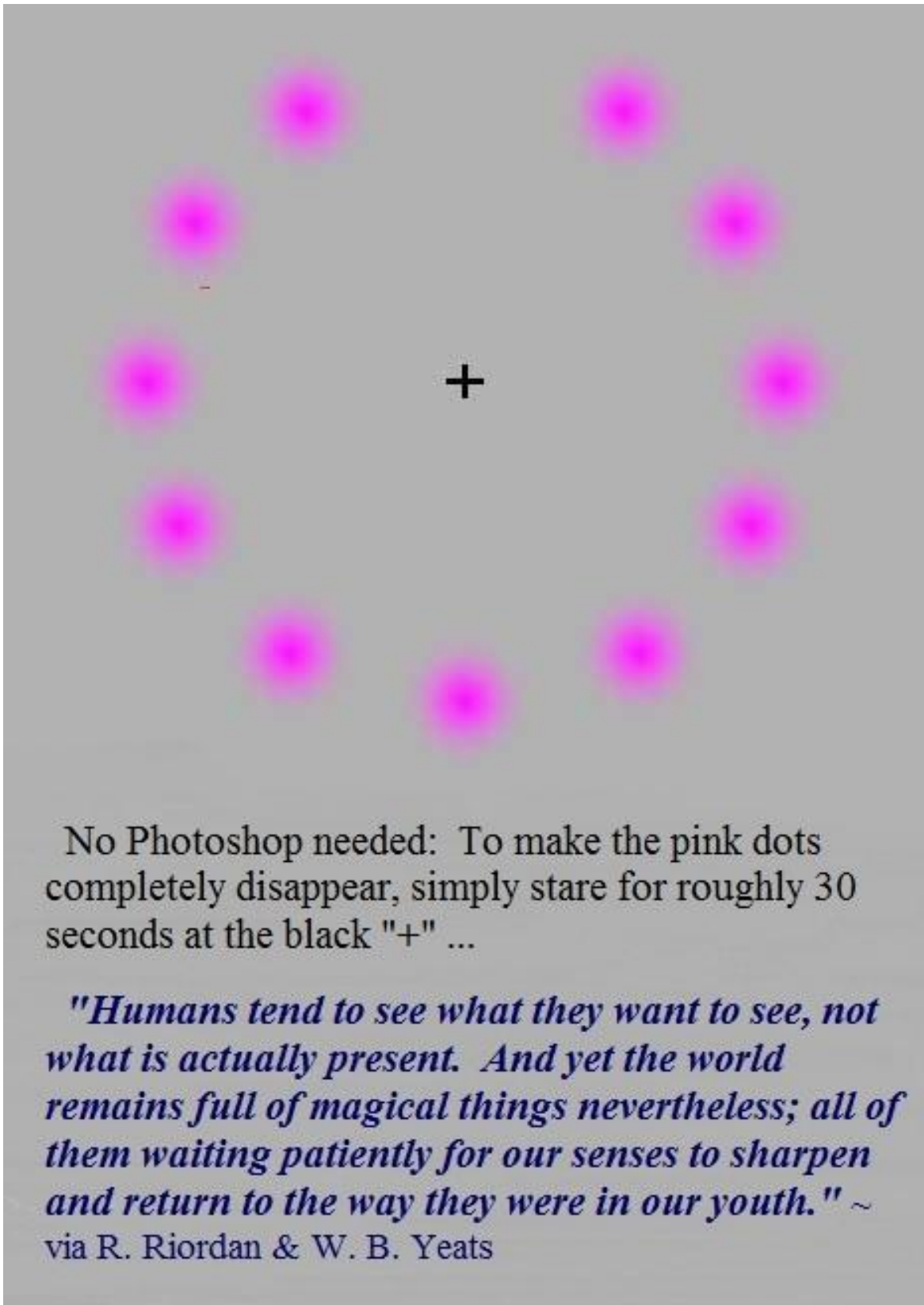


*Contrary to what we have been told ...*  
(01/29/2018)



***"Contrary to what you have  
been told, you are not merely a  
material being." ~ via Amit Goswani***

*no Photoshop needed ...*  
(01/30/2018)





*what Humility IS ...*  
(01/31/2018)



***Humility*** is a strange thing -- the minute you're certain you've got it, is the minute you've actually lost it.

Knowledge & Perspective are two of life's greatest of gifts, and yet they both pale in comparison to Humility -- for it is Humility that allows us to step back from what we know to *See* that which we do not; it is Humility that allows us to free ourselves from our primitive shackles of certainty in order to broaden our depth of understanding & empathy, and it is Humility that -- in end effect -- allows us to truly open ourselves to the camaraderie of others ... It is first & foremost Humility that allows us to truly LOVE.

*"We make our world significant by the courageous bent of our questions and the humble depth of our answers" ~ via Carl Sagan*

*All is possible ...*  
(02(01/2018))



*“Choose to love your times of solitude, for those who are near you are now far away... and this shows that you are setting forth to truly live, and that the space around you is thus beginning to grow vast. Be happy about this growth, and be gentle with those who remain behind. Be confident and calm in front of them. Seek out some simple and true feeling of what you have in common, something which doesn't necessarily have to alter when you yourself change again and again. And don't expect any understanding; but believe instead in a Love that your kindness is storing up within you. And have faith that in this Love there is a strength and a blessing so large that you can travel as far as you wish without ever having to step outside of it.” ~ via Rainier Maria Rilke*



*real Beauty is Heart-deep ...*  
(02/02/2018)



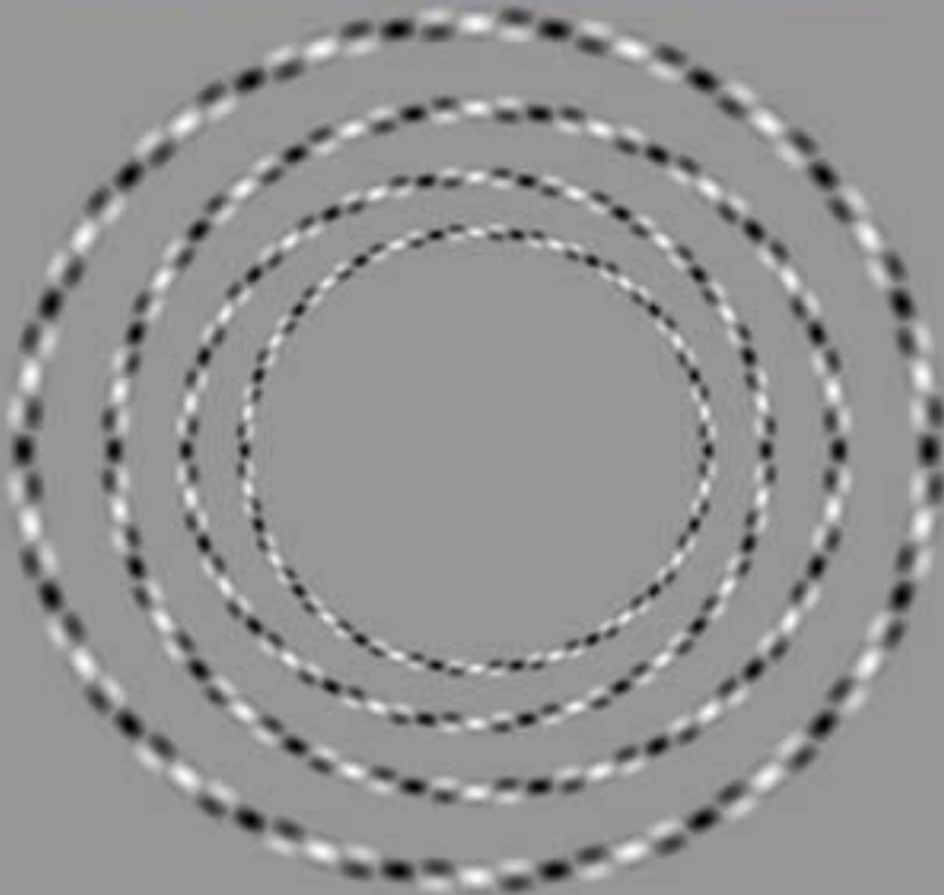
**We were young and beautiful**

Now we are just beautiful

*“For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his fingers through it. For poise, walk with the knowledge you are carrying even the smallest the burdens of others ... The loving Care of human beings will never become obsolete. People -- far more than things – must be restored, renewed, refreshed, revived, reclaimed and reinvigorated. And it is our loving Care is that which does the same.” ~ inspired by Sam Levenson*

*Finding the greatest Treasures ...*  
(02/03/2018)

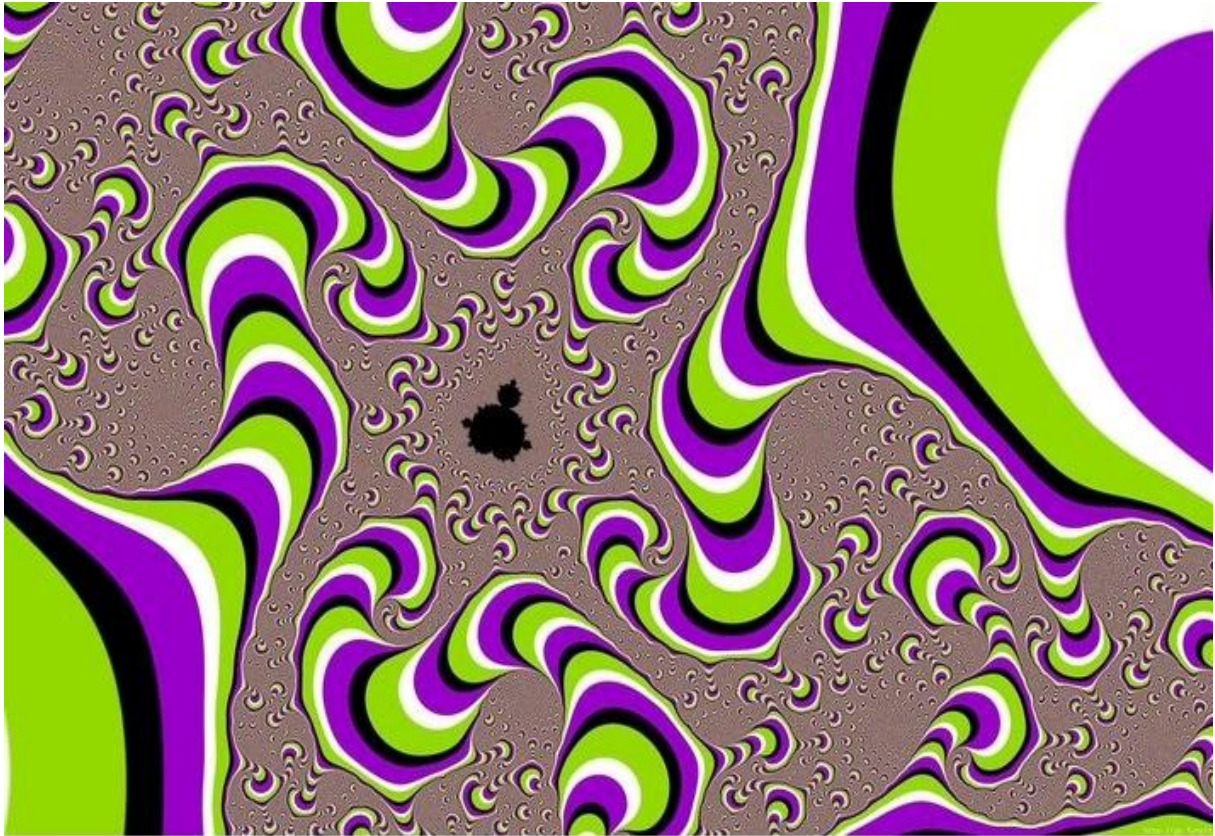
How many times do these lines intersect?



"I have been finding treasures in places I did not want to search, and hearing wisdom from tongues to whom I did not want to listen. I have been finding beauty where I did not intend to look, and learned much from journeys I never wished to undertake. I have been closing my ears and eyes for far too long, and have finally come to understand that miracles are only called miracles because they are most often witnessed by those who cannot see through life's illusions. In contrast, I am now ready to see what exists on other side; ready to see what truly exists behind the blinds" ~ via Suzy Kassem



*To question EVERYTHING ...*  
(02/04/2018)



It is wise to remember that we are never truly  
Seeing what we think we are seeing ...

Question everything, my Friends -- EVERYTHING!

*“Question everything. Find your own light ... Refuse to demand rigidly defined areas of doubt and uncertainty, and yet ever remember that the wise man proportions the strength of his belief directly to the evidence at hand.”*

*~ via Buddha, Douglas Adams & David Hume*



*to Find, we must first LOOK ...*  
(02/05/2018)



*“There is nothing like looking, if you want to find something. You certainly usually find something if you look, though it is not always quite the something you were after.”*

*~ J.R.R. Tolkien*



*Those eyes, those Eyes ...*  
(02/06/2018)

Consider the following ...



You have two eyes, each composed of 130 million photoreceptor cells. In each one of those cells, there are 100,000,000,000,000 (100 trillion) atoms – that's more than all the stars in the milky way galaxy.

However, each atom in each cell in each eye formed in the core of a star, billions of years ago, and yet, here they are today, being utilized to capture the energy released from that same process.

Essentially then, You are you gazing at YOU to reawaken you to You.

*“I have been and still am a seeker, but I have ceased to question stars and books; I have begun to listen to the teaching my Heart whispers to me” ~ via Hermann Hesse*

*The trickiest little Thing ...*  
(02/07/2018)



***"Every being innately believes that the limits of his own field of vision are the limits of the world. For the eye only chooses to see what the mind is already prepared to comprehend." ~ via Arthur Schopenhauer & Robertson Davies***



*Cleaning our biggest Windows ...*  
(02/08/2018)



*"If we would simply cleanse the doors of our perception, everything would appear as it truly is -- infinite and Beauty-full." ~ via William Blake*

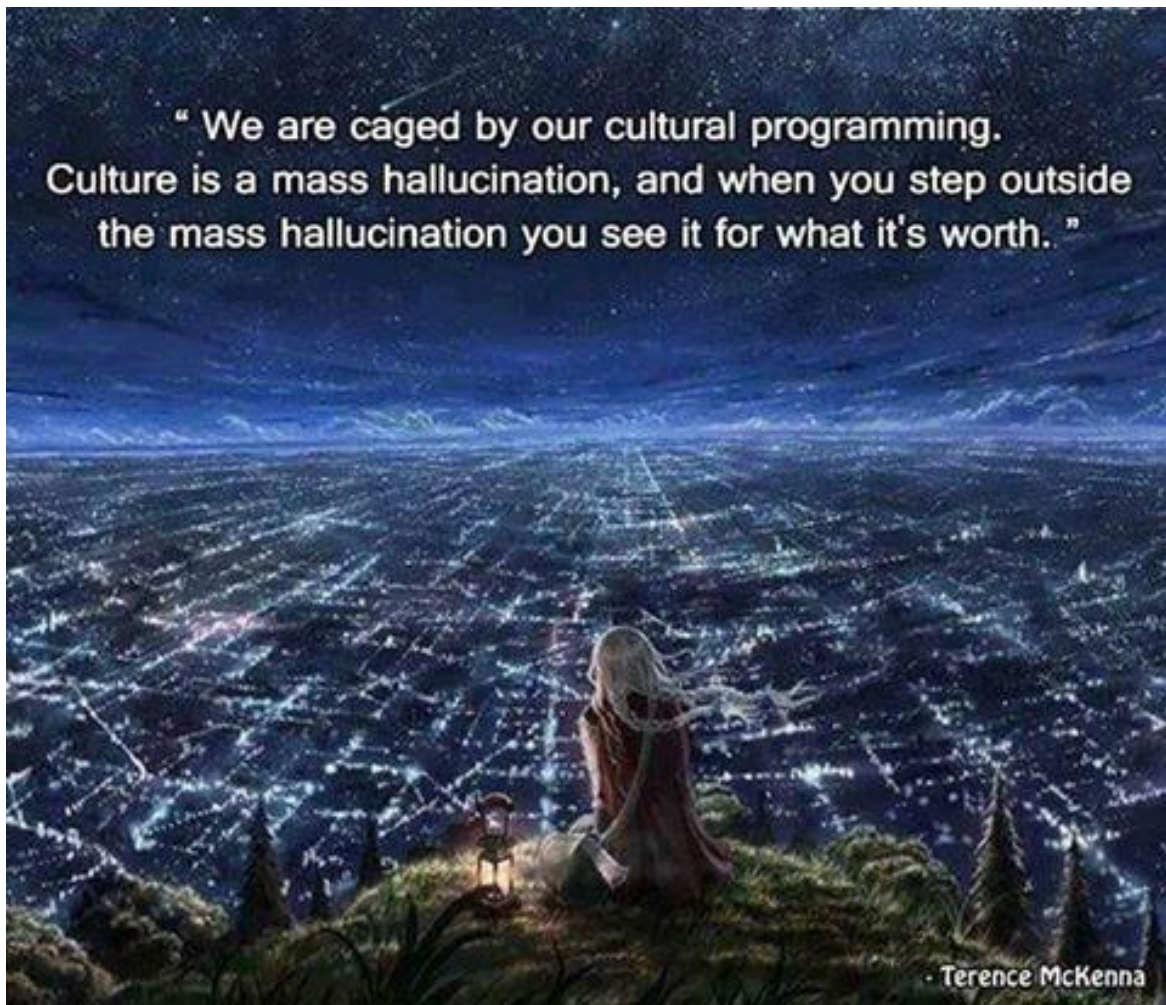
*unpopped Culture ...*  
(02/09/2018)



*"Popular culture is a place where pity is called compassion, desire is called love, propaganda is called news, wary safety is called peace, zealous opinion is called knowledge, and fulfilling a duty is called selfless service." ~ via Criss Jami*



*the Mass Hallucination of the masses ...*  
(02/10/2018)



*“We have to re-create our own culture. Don't watch TV, don't read magazines, don't even listen to NPR. Create your own roadshow instead. The nexus of space and time where you are right now is the most immediate sector of your Universe, and if you're worrying about Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton or Mark Zuckerberg or any other so-called 'celebrity', then you disempowering yourself; you're giving it all away to icons -- icons which are preened and maintained by a mass media machine so that you want to dress like X or have lips like Y or believe like Z or speak like W ... This is a shit-brained kind of thinking that is nothing more cultural diversion ... The only thing that is **real** is you and your friends and your associations and your community, and yet we are told that we're unimportant, that we're secondary, that we're too ill-informed, that we're peripheral. And once you accept those lies from on-high you become a mere player, and you don't want to even play in the game. You have one primary mission that you must engage before your life can truly begin – you have to reclaim your mind. You have to get it out of the hands of the cultural engineers who are turning you into a half-baked moron consuming nothing but the trash – both physical and ideological -- that's being manufactured from the bones of this dying world.” ~ inspired by Terence McKenna*



*Not caring about the Care-full ...*  
(02/11/2018)



This strip is disturbingly relevant -- relevant to all American military actions abroad, relevant to the majority of citizens who still believe that their politicians care about their communities, relevant to the abject lack of criminal justice for people of color in the United States, relevant to the imminent global Mass Extinction Event that will indeed wipe out a significant portion of humanity within the next 150-200 years, and relevant to the still rampant & fully inexcusable support of animal agriculture (non-veganism) that is that Extinction's primary protagonist.



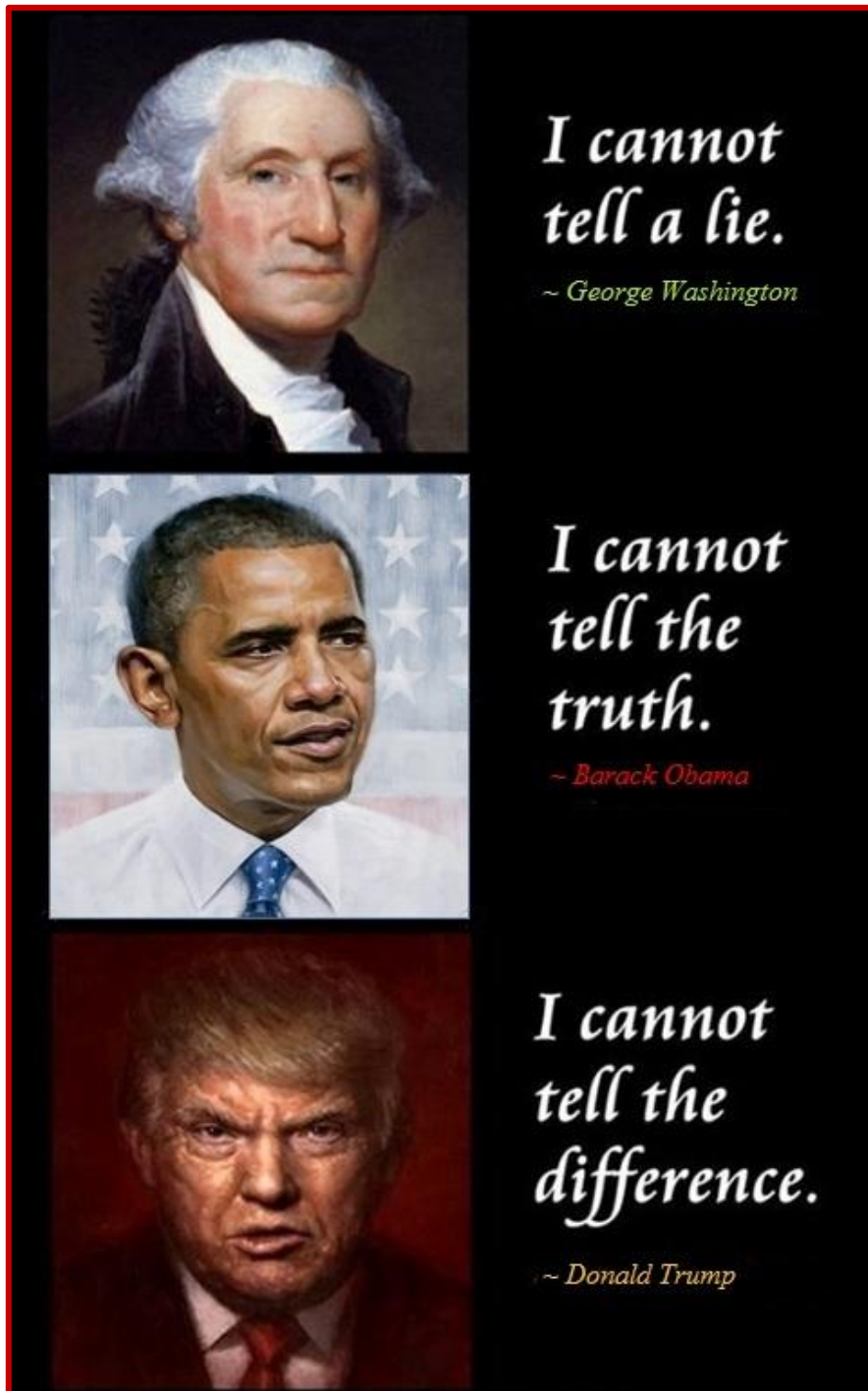
*Sufficing it to say ...*  
(02/12/2018)



**"You'll never find a more wretched hive of scum and villiany."**



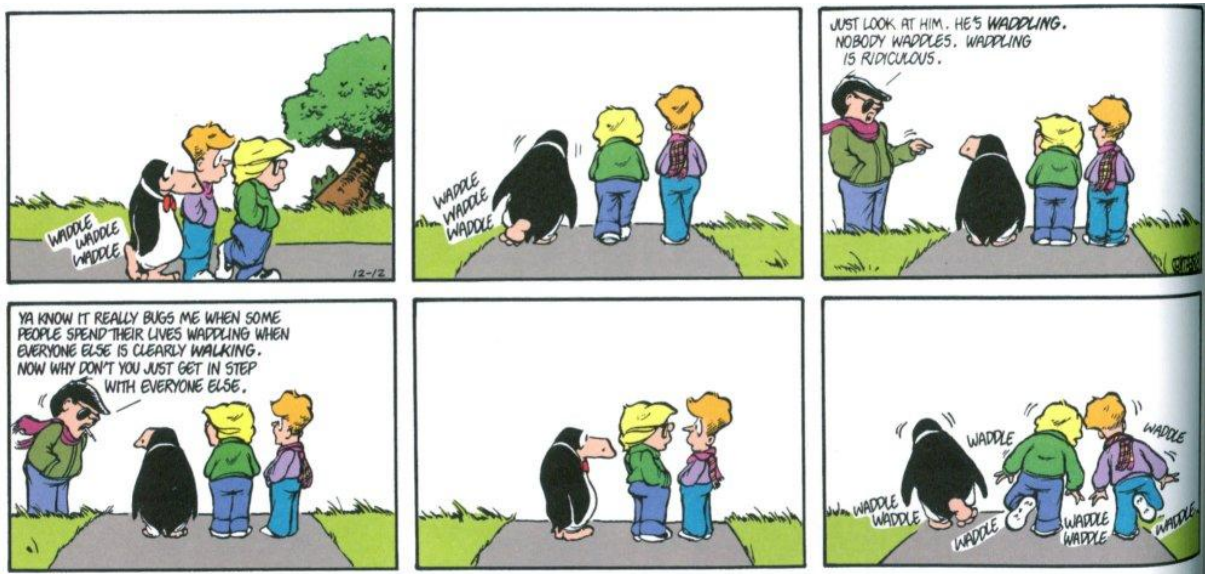
*All of the same Machine ...*  
(02/13/2018)



*“Empire is a massive thing, and not easily fought. It is dictated by a rising bureaucracy, a receding initiative, a freezing of caste, a damming of curiosity — and a hundred other insidious factors. It has been going on for centuries, and it is too massive and too Machiavellian a movement to stop. To fight Empire is to have it defend itself and grow stronger, and yet withdrawing from Empire — removing as much of our energy and our attention and our money as we can — will hasten the great day inevitable when Empire caves in on itself and crumbles.” ~ inspired by Isaac Asimov*



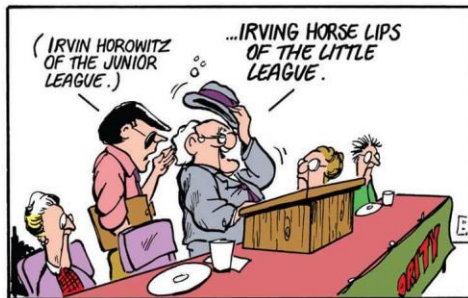
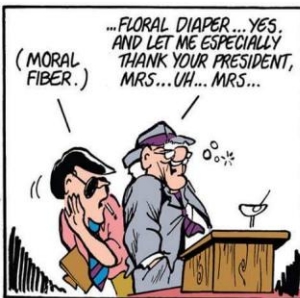
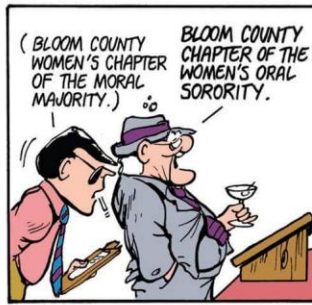
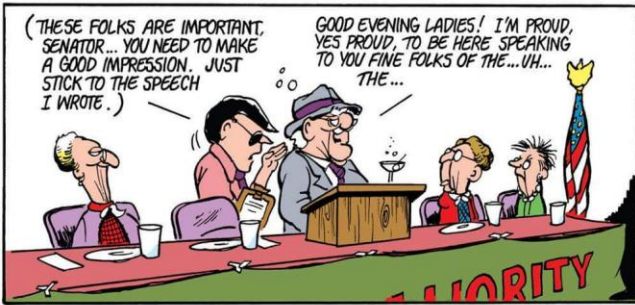
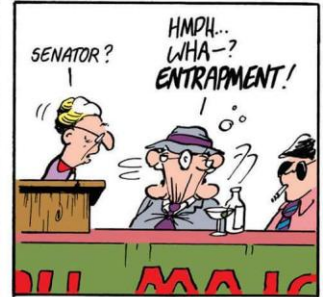
*Walking the Bigger Talk ...*  
(02/14/2018)



Lapping up the lies ...  
(02/15/2018)

1981

BERKE BREATHED'S  
**BLOOM COUNTY**





*escaping escapism ...*  
(02/16/2018)



I'm a brazen nonconformist  
... just like all my friends.

*"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you someone else is the greatest accomplishment ... It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society ... Rebel children, I implore you, fight the turgid slick of conformity with which they seek to smother your glory." ~ via Ralph Waldo Emerson, Jiddu Krishnamurti & Russell Brand*

*Getting started anyWay ...*  
(02/17/2018)



Even the most “enlightened” of masters used to ask the “dumbest” of questions ... Even the most skilled of dancers used to stumble through the easiest of steps ... Even the most caring of Saints used to succumb to the most banal temptations of selfishness, apathy, hopelessness, and anger.

The key to **WAKING UP** – the key to becoming truly Human(e) again; the key to finally living a full life of Purpose & Meaning & Joy & Love – is not to one day finally take “the final step” that will ultimately “get you there.” Rather, the key to your transcendent Enlightenment is to finally exude the Courage & the Integrity required to look all your naysayers & all your denigrators squarely in the eye ... and then take the first and only step along that Noble Way.

*“It isn't by getting out of the world that we become enlightened, but by getting into the world...by getting so tuned in that we can ride the waves of our existence and never get tossed because we become the waves” ~ Ken Kesey*

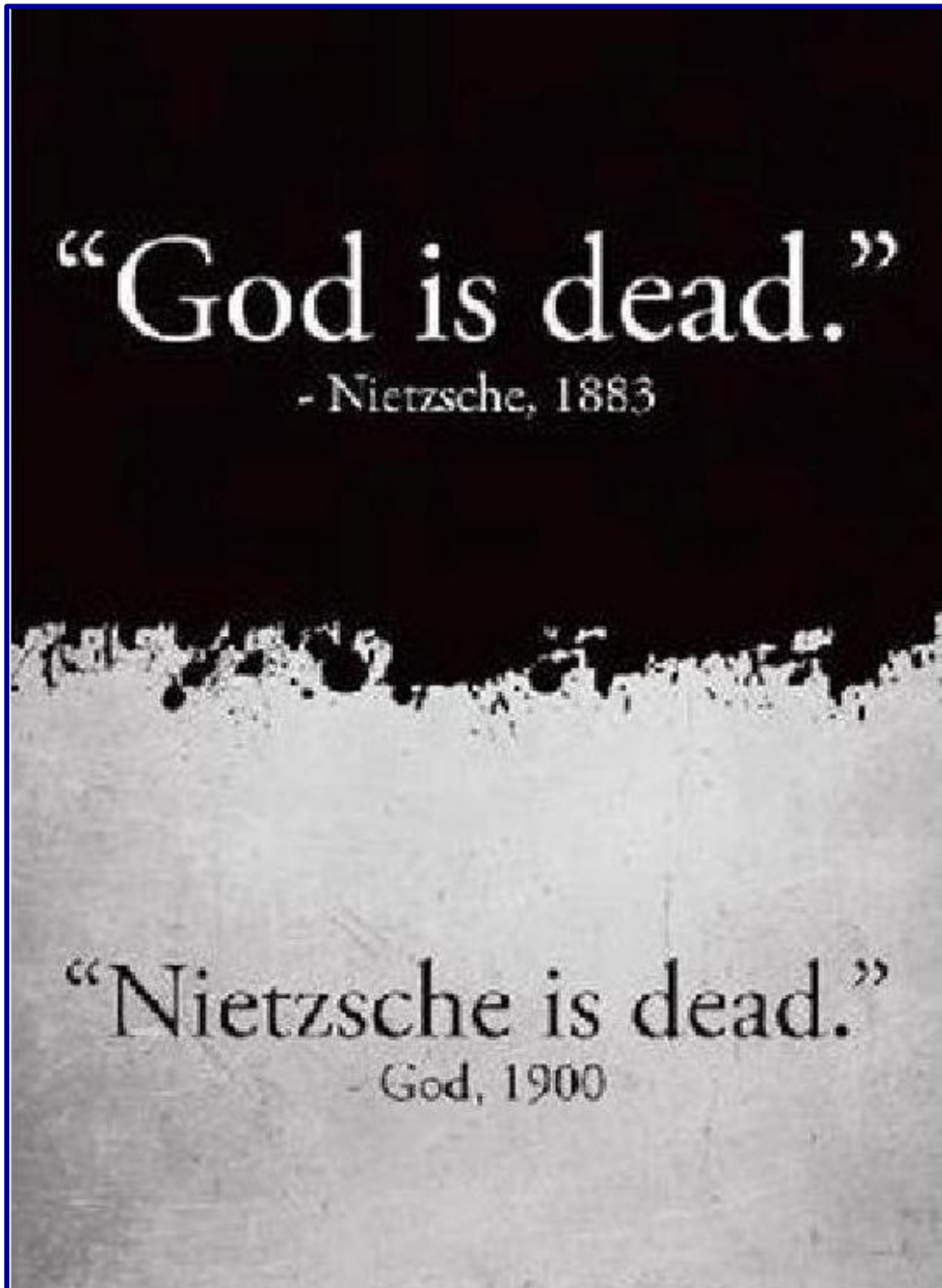


*an American tradition ...*  
(02/18/2018)



To truly honor the American Christian tradition requires celebrating the birth of a humbly unselfish and ridiculously minimalist Jewish savior by feeling especially "saved" while receiving loads of gifts left beneath a Pagan tree by an obese Germanic trespasser.

*Sure he is, but who dun it? ...*  
(02/19/2018)

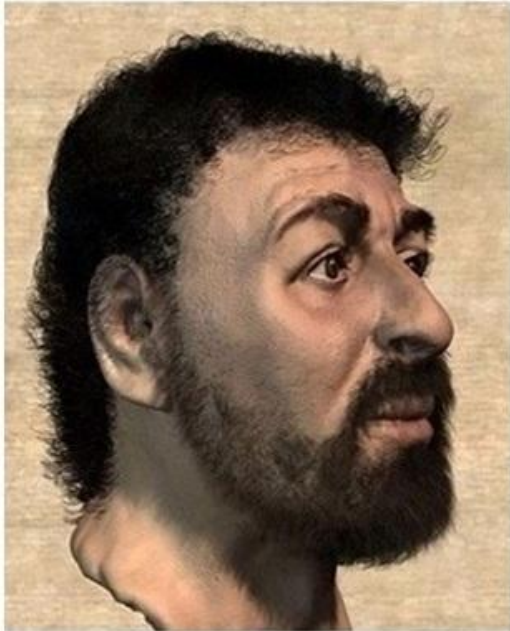


*“All God does is watch us and kill us when we get boring. We must never, ever be boring ... I think God, in creating man, somewhat overestimated his ability ... We cannot hear the voice of God by climbing the topmost steeple. Rather, we must go ever downward, for God dwells amongst the people.” ~ via Chuck Palahnuik, Oscar Wilde & John Henry Newman*

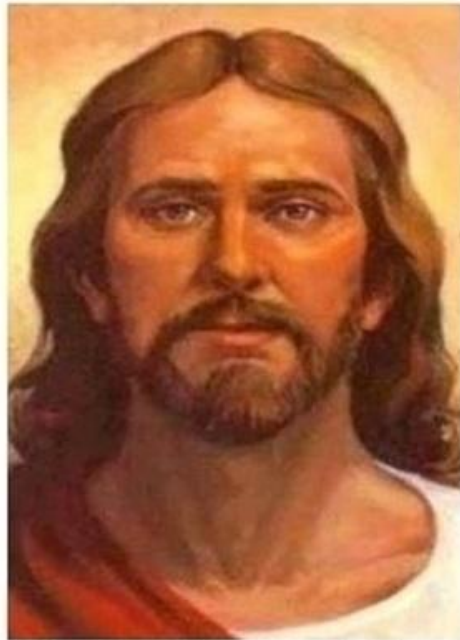


*The ugliness of judging Beauty ...*  
(02/20/2018)

Now *this* is some truly Good News:



How Jesus probably looked ...



How Jesus is portrayed today



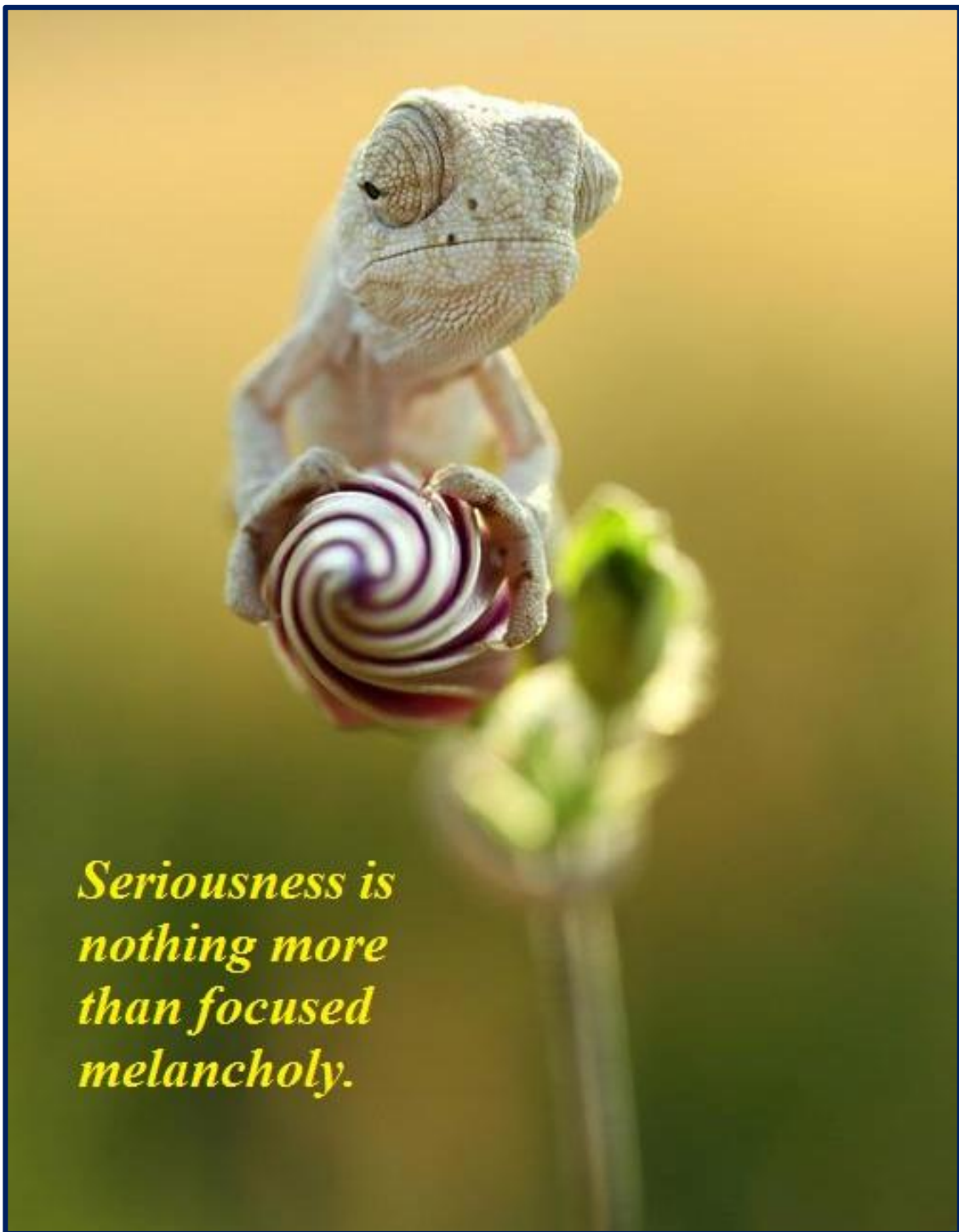
How I look most days ...



How I will one day be portrayed 🤪

If you are judging Beauty (yours or another's) by applying culturally approved standards of a person's external appearance, you are doing it wrong ... Beauty is not how you "measure up." Beauty is how you treat others when the chips are down.

*A most serious Sadness ...*  
(02/21/2018)

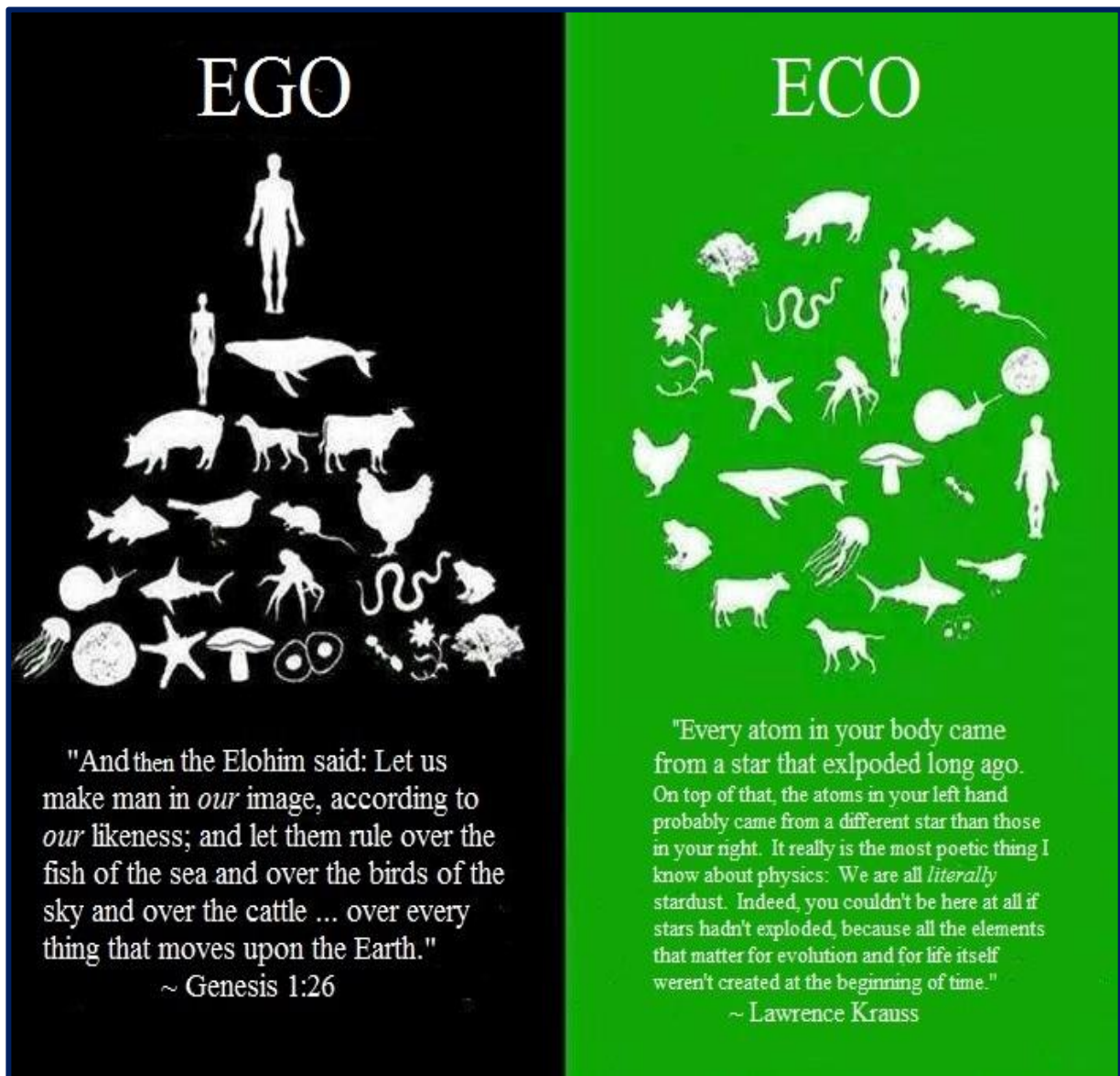


*Seriousness is  
nothing more  
than focused  
melancholy.*

*“The unhappy person resents it when you try to cheer him up, because that means he has to stop dwelling on himself and start paying attention to others. Unhappiness is the ultimate form of self-indulgence. When you're unhappy, you get to give all your attention to yourself. You get to take yourself oh-so-very seriously and dismiss the suffering of others with but the slightest of glances.” ~ inspired by Tom Robbins*

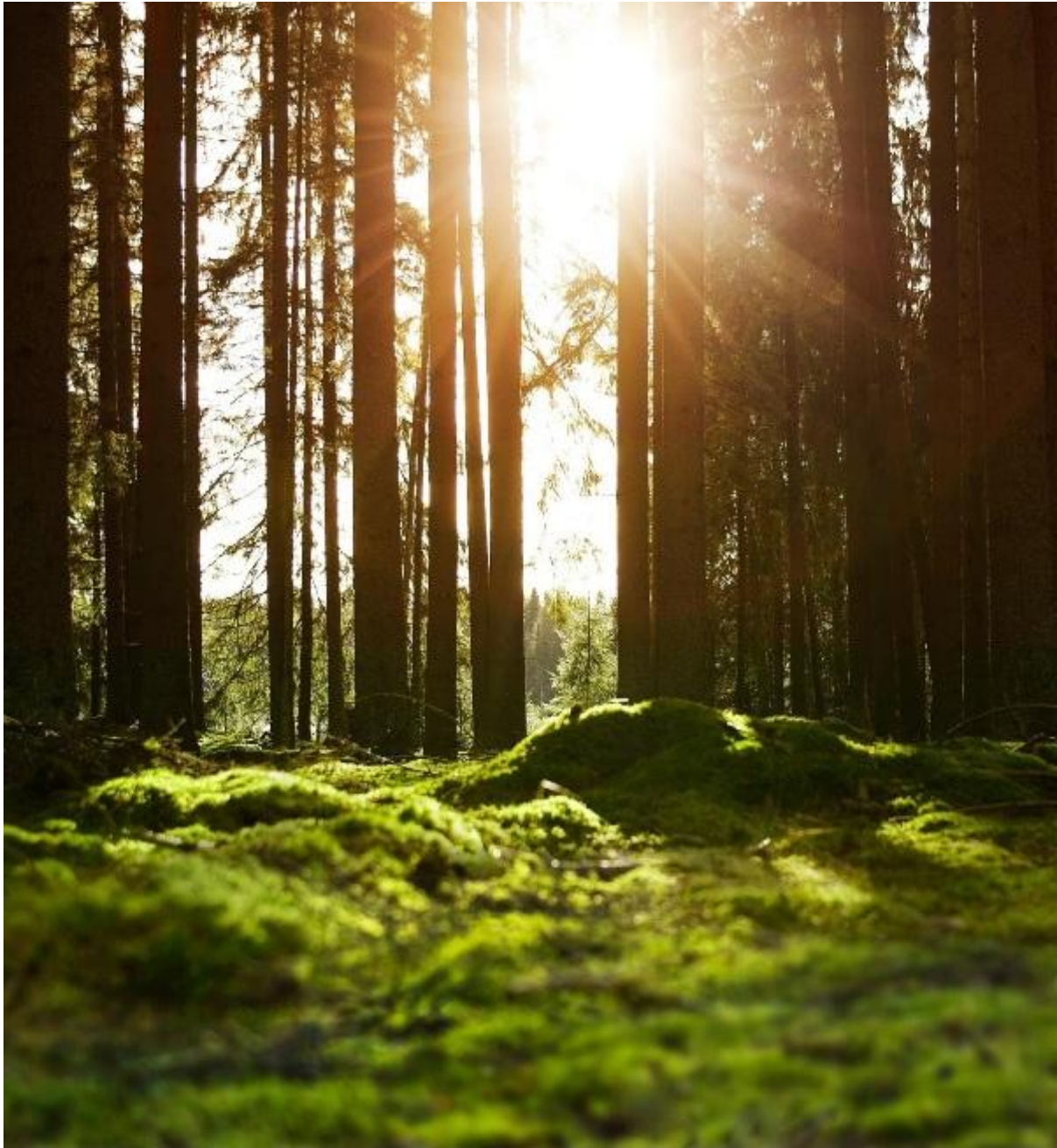


*Ego vs ECO; me vs the ONE ...*  
(02/22/2018)



*"Science is not only compatible with spirituality; it is a profound source of spirituality. When we recognize our place in an immensity of light-years and in the passage of ages, when we grasp the intricacy, beauty, and subtlety of life, then that soaring feeling, that sense of elation and humility combined, is surely spiritual. So are our emotions in the presence of great art or music or literature, or acts of exemplary selfless courage such as those of Mohandas Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr. The notion that science and spirituality are somehow mutually exclusive does a disservice to both" ~ Carl Sagan*

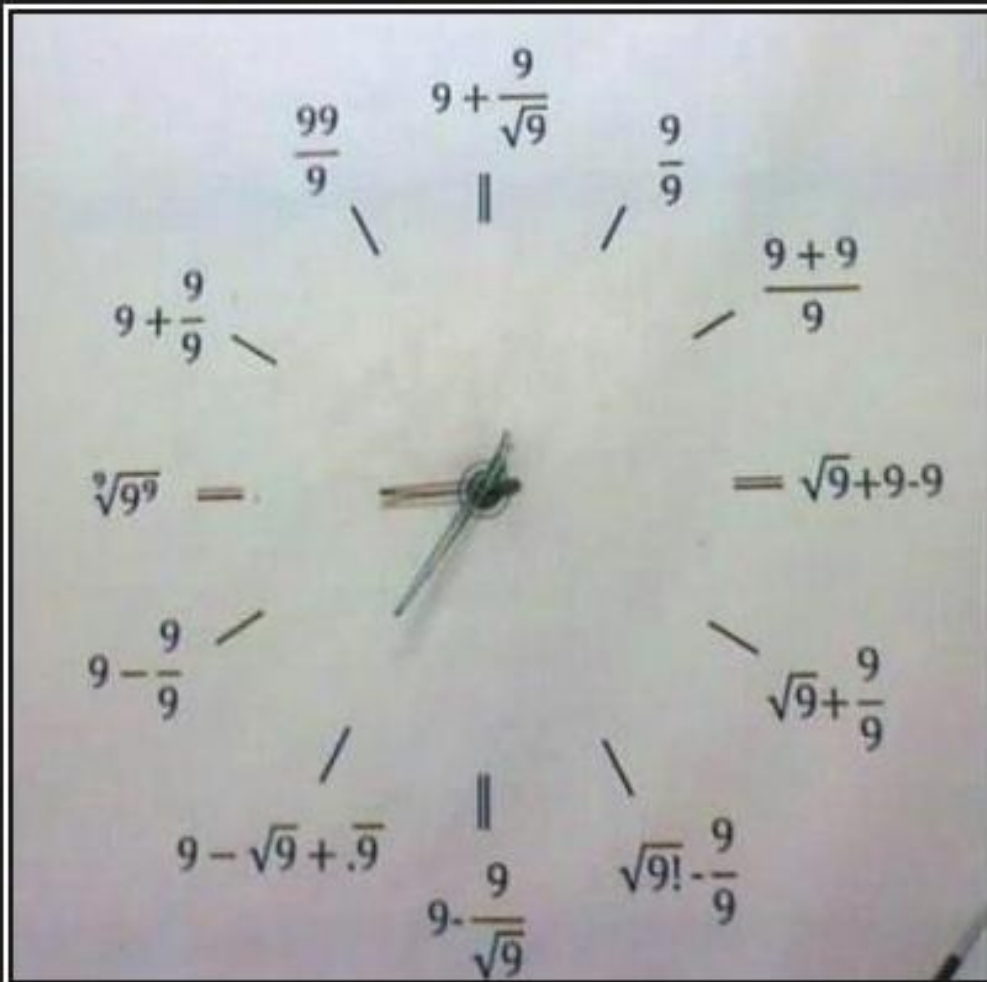
*Murdering a most beloved God ...*  
(02/23/2018)



*"Man is the most insane species. He worships an invisible God while slaughtering a visible Nature -- without realizing that the Nature he slaughters is the invisible God he worships" ~ Hubert Reeves*



*on the workers of Math & Poetry ...*  
(02/24/2018)



*"The difference between the poet and the mathematician is that the poet tries to get his head into the heavens while the mathematician tries to get the heavens into his head. Oddly enough, neither of them will ever know any real success unless they first travel through the Heart."*

*~ inspired by G. K. Chesterton*

*The one Great Spectacle ...*  
(02/25/2018)



*“There is one spectacle greater than the sea, and that is the sky. There is one spectacle greater than the sky, and that is the Soul. And there is one spectacle even greater than the Soul; and that is shining the Soul’s Light upon another in need.” ~ inspired by Victor Hugo*

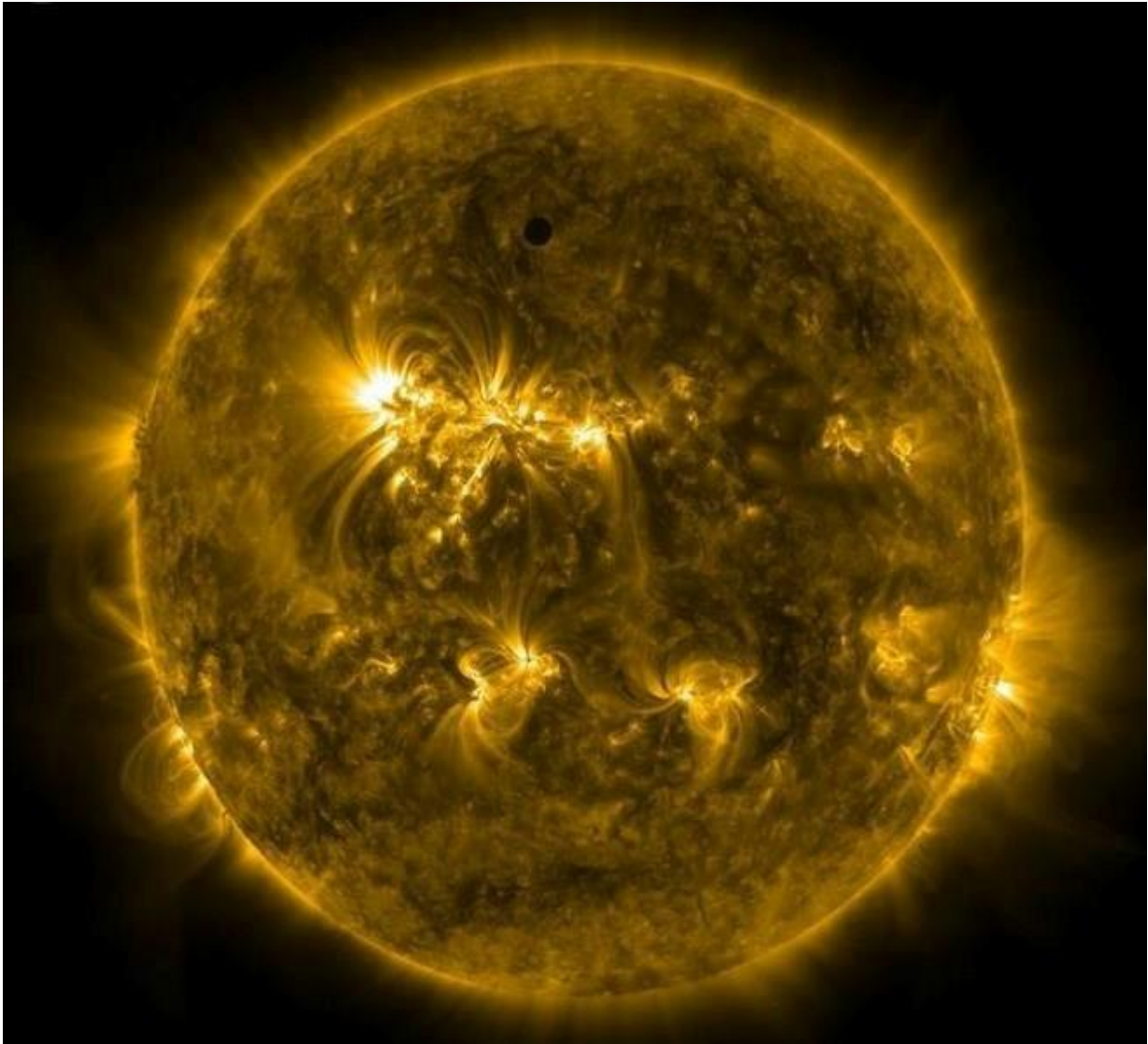


*to BE like the Moon ...*  
(02/26/2018)



*"The moon does not fight. It attacks no one, and neither does it worry. It does not try to crush others. It keeps steadfastly to its course, and yet by its very nature it gently influences all beneath it. What other body could pull an entire ocean from shore to shore? The moon is gently faithful to its nature, and thus its power is never diminished." ~ Ming-Dao Deng*

*what the Sun never says ...*  
(02/27/2018)



*"Even after all this time the Sun never says to the Earth, 'You owe me' ... And look what happens with a Love like that -- It so easily lights the whole sky." ~ Hafiz*



*While making that Face ...*  
(02/28/2018)



***Life-tip: If you ever find yourself serving others while making this face &/or holding this posture, then no matter what it is you are doing, you are doing it wrong.***



*What it means to LOVE ...*  
(03/01/2018)



*“On the one hand, unconditional love cannot ever be swayed by time or circumstances. On the same hand, to Love unconditionally does not necessarily mean to give your unconditional time ... Sometimes, to Love completely we must never see someone again. This, too, can be Love -- if done to give someone the freedom to exist fully and be deeply happy, even if it must be without you.”*

*~ inspired by Stephen Kendrick & Vironika Tugaleva*



*To quench the deepest thirst ...*  
(03/02/2018)



***GUFRA*** (noun) ... The amount of water that can be held in one's hand or hands.

*It means nothing to quench one's own thirst when there are others still parched nearby.*

*through the Eyes of a Child ...*  
(03/03/2018)

*A 5-year old girl looked up at her big brother one morning and asked, "Jimmy, what is LOVE?"*

*And Jimmy smiled as he looked down to her and answered, "LOVE is when I know you take the vegan chocolate from my school pack every morning, and yet I Joy-fully keep putting the next one in exactly the same place every night."*



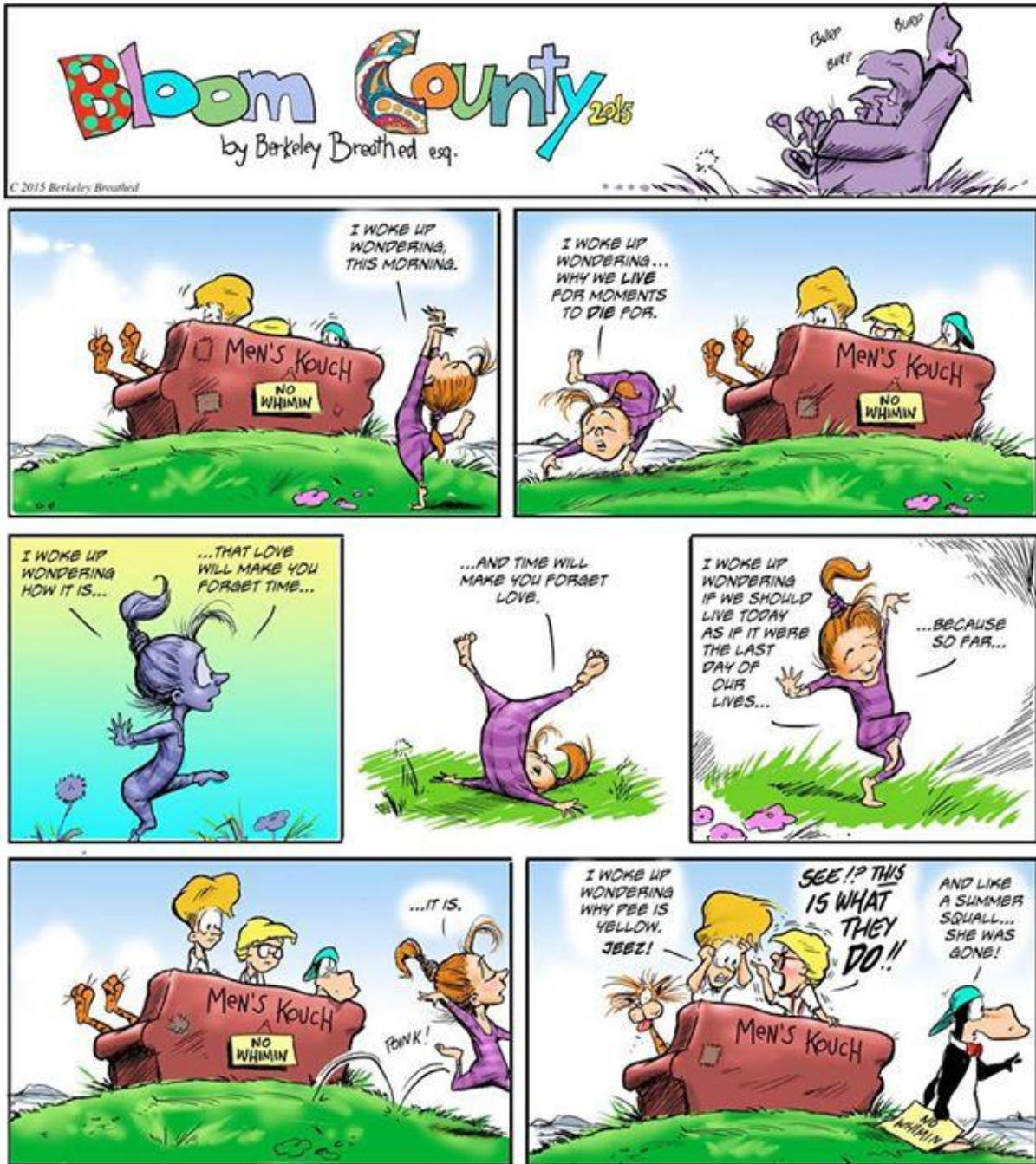


*the Oak and the Cypress ...*  
(03/04/2018)



*"Let there be spaces in your togetherness, and let the winds of the heavens ever dance between you. Love one another but make not a bond of love: Let it rather be an undulating sea between the shores of your Souls. Fill each other's cups but drink never from the same chalice. Give one another of your bread but eat never from the same loaf. Sing and dance and be joyous together, and yet let each of you remain strong alone ... Give your hearts completely, and yet never into each other's keeping. And stand ever together, even while never too nearby. For the pillars of every strong temple stand apart, and the oak and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow." ~ via Kahlil Gibran*

What we ALL do ...  
(03/05/2018)



*“I would always rather be joyful than dignified ... Nobody has ever measured, not even poets, how much the Heart can hold. Keep searching for that still-nonexistent limit.” ~ inspired by Charlotte Bronte & Zelda Fitzgerald*

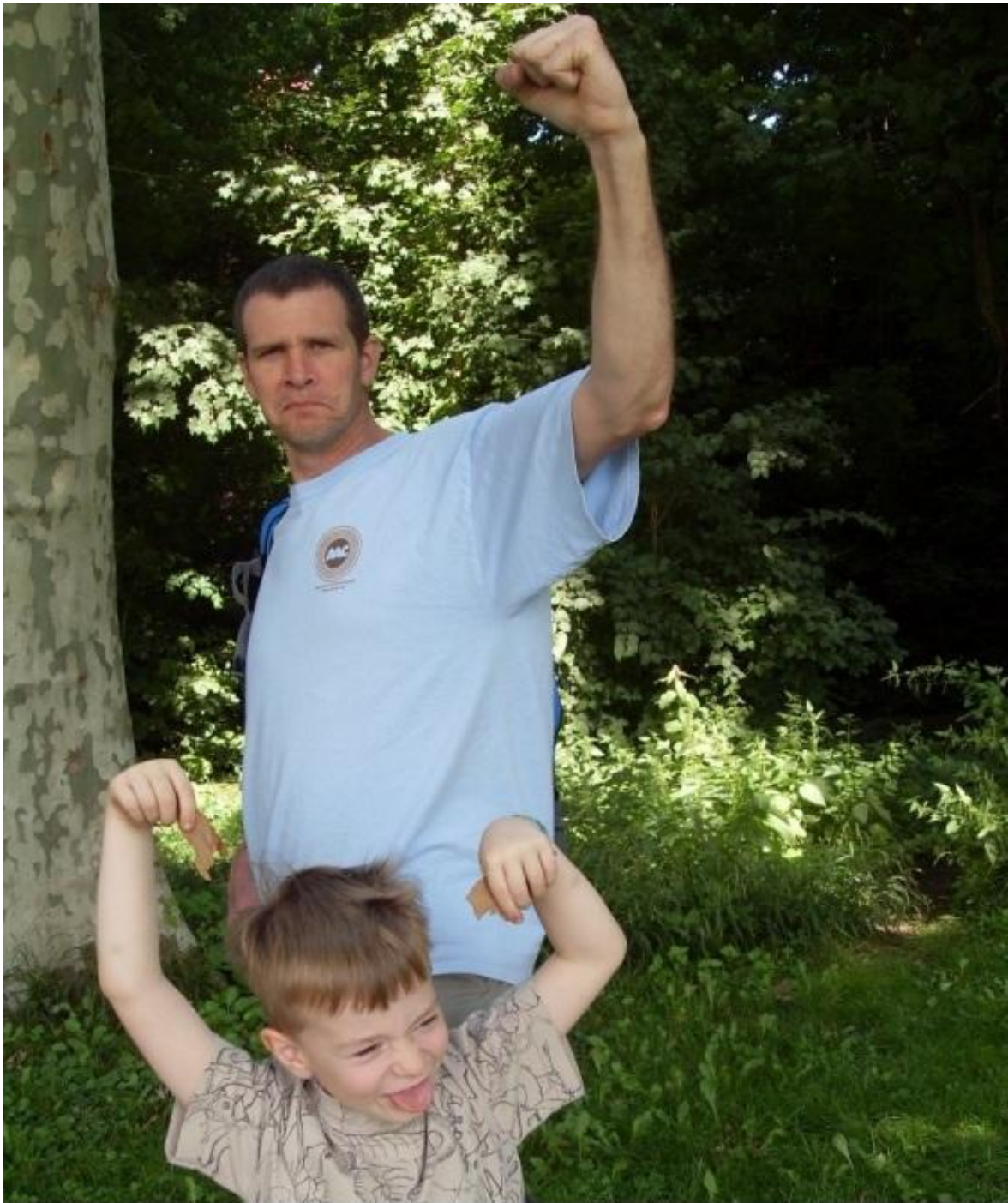


*No tools necessary ...*  
(03/06/2018)



*When Kindness flows  
from the Heart, tools are  
no longer necessary.*

*Getting really Strong ...*  
(03/07/18)



*It is **LOVE** and **LOVE** alone  
that makes men truly Strong ...*

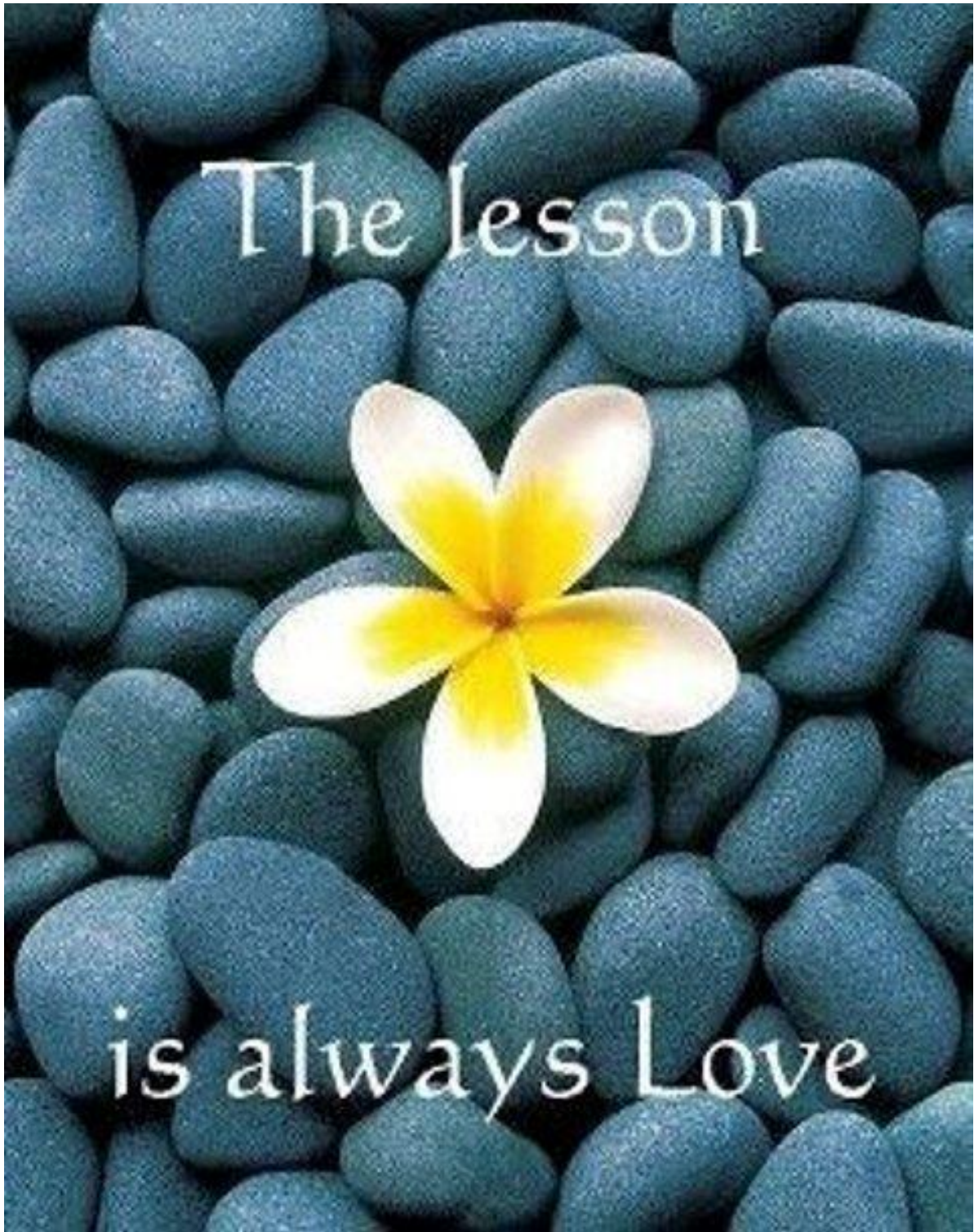


*The one & only Lesson ...*  
(03/08/2018)



*There are an infinite number of subjects for you to study, and yet only one of them is truly worth mastering.*

*Always – in all Ways ...*  
(03/09/2018)





*to Be a bearing Witness ...*  
(03/10/2018)



*It can be somewhat cleansing to witness a cleansing, and yet we can never become truly Clean until we become the very agents of that purification; until we become the ones reaching out to Care; until we become the ones whose cleansing is being watched and witnessed.*

*Life in every Desert ...*  
(03/11/2018)



*Life too in every desert ...*  
*Love too in every broken heart.*

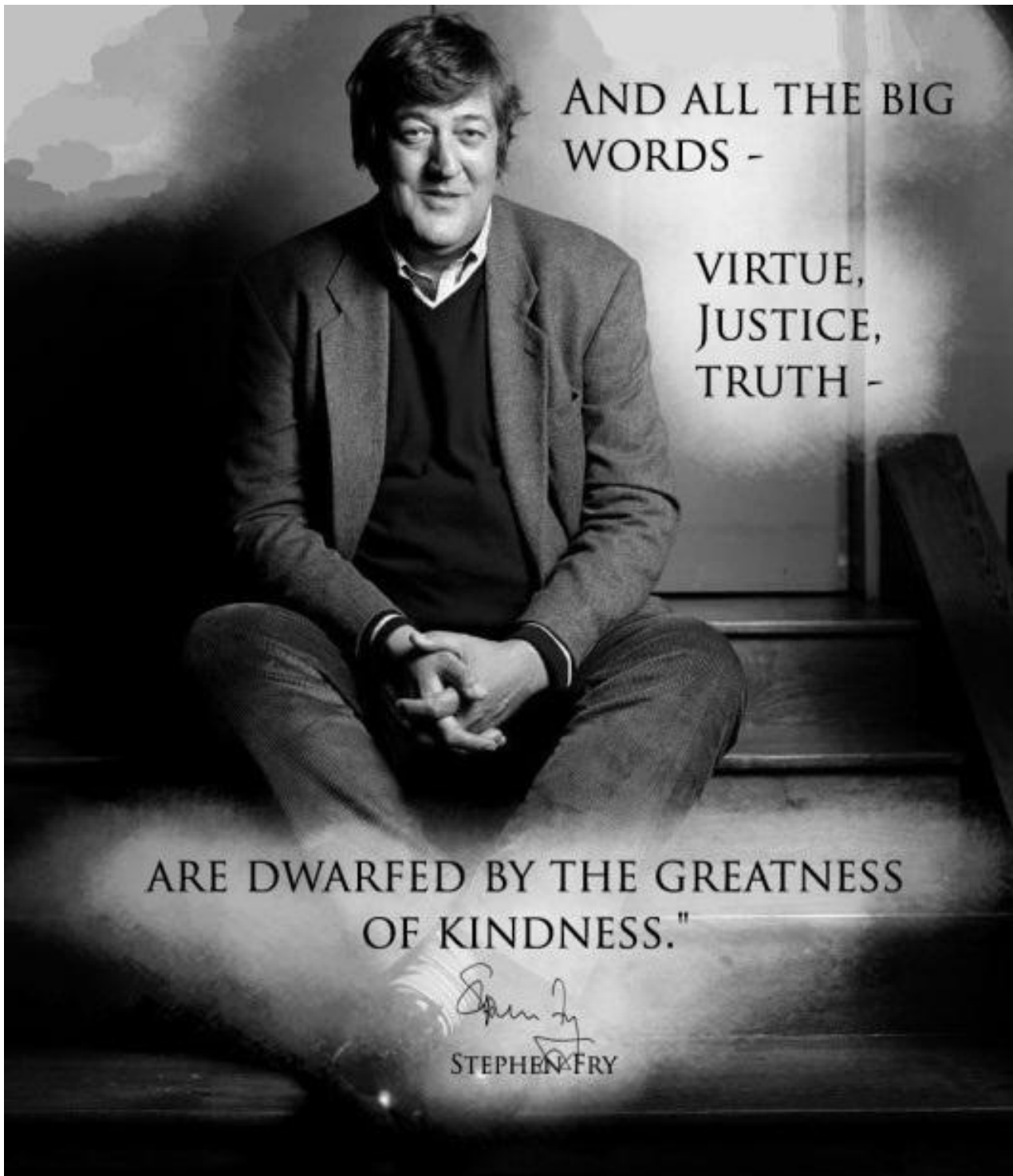


*ONE in a hundred billion ...*  
(03/12/2018)



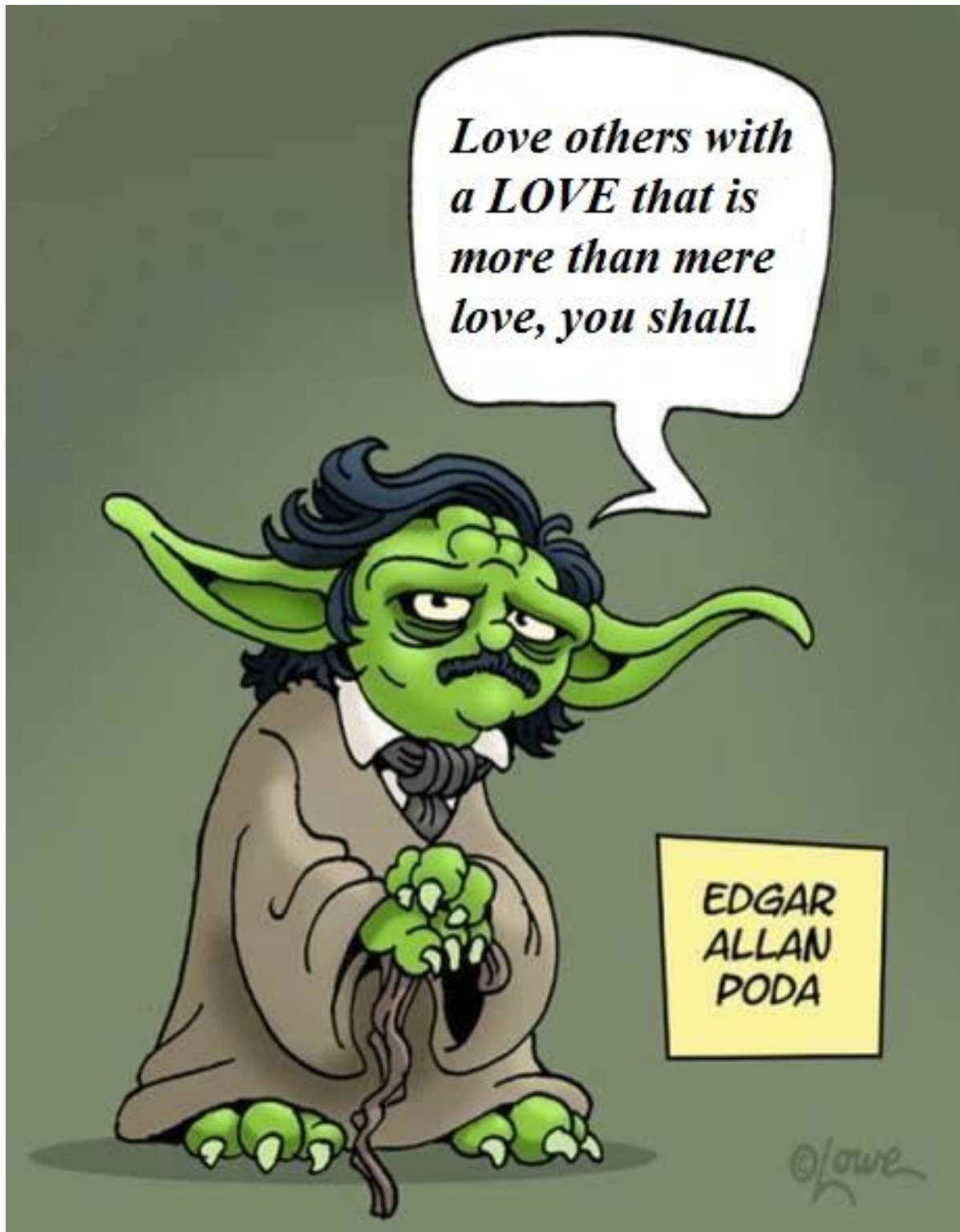
*“Each & every sentient being is, in the greater cosmic perspective, profoundly unique and truly amazing. As such, if any other being disagrees with you in any way, please remember to at the very least let them live. For even if you look into the darkest recesses of one hundred billion other galaxies, you will never find a comparable replacement.”* ~ inspired by Carl Sagan

*dwarfed by the Greatness ...*  
(03/13/2018)





*and quoth the Raven, EVERmore ...*  
(03/14/2018)



*Compassion is a verb ...*  
(03/15/2018)



***Real Compassion means  
acting on one's sense of  
empathy, just as real  
Love means acting on  
one's faith in goodwill.***

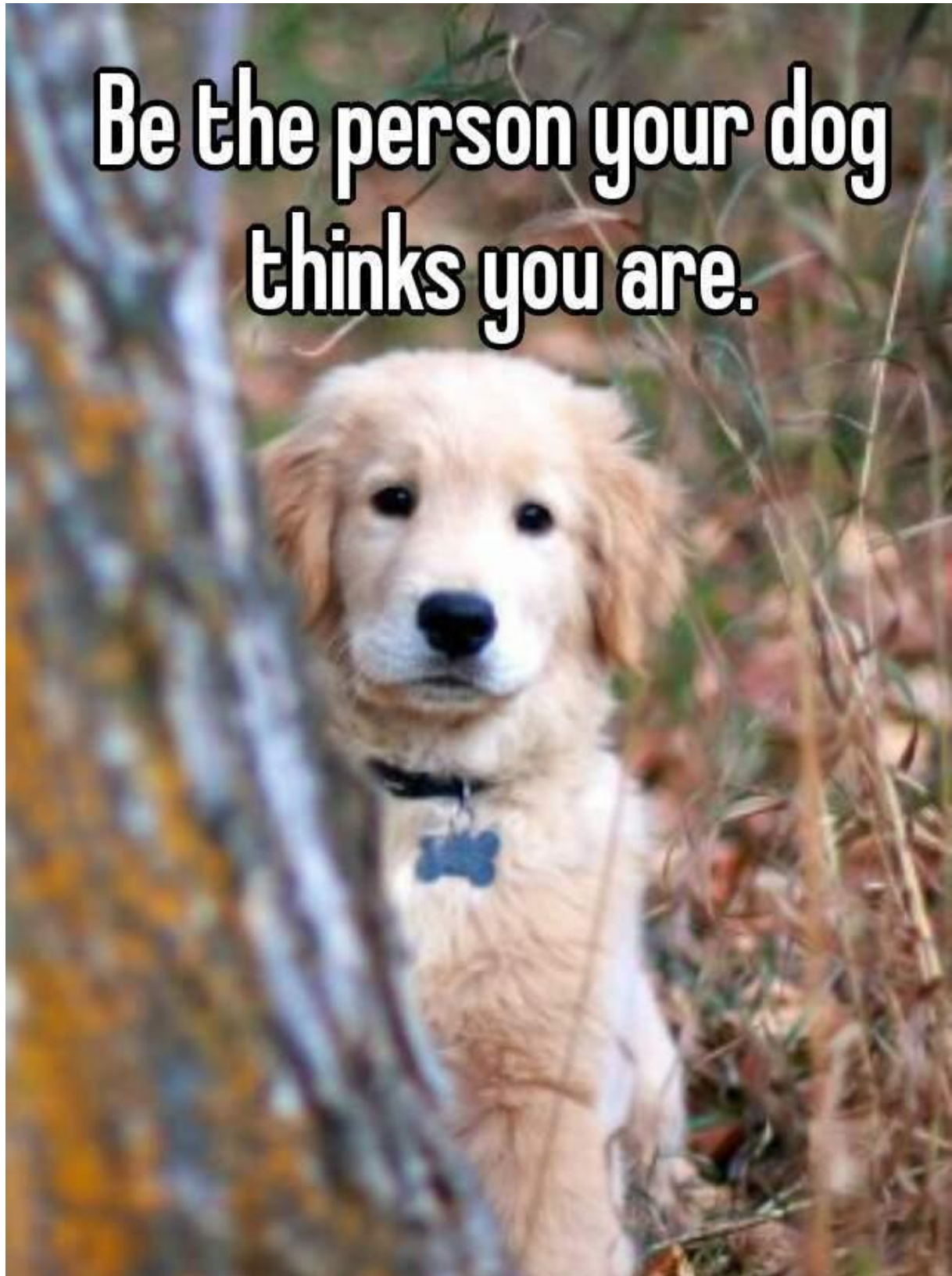


*Dogs really Get It ...*  
(03/16/2018)



*(Quite obviously, the dog knew all along.)*

*the Person we need to Be ...*  
(03/17/2018)

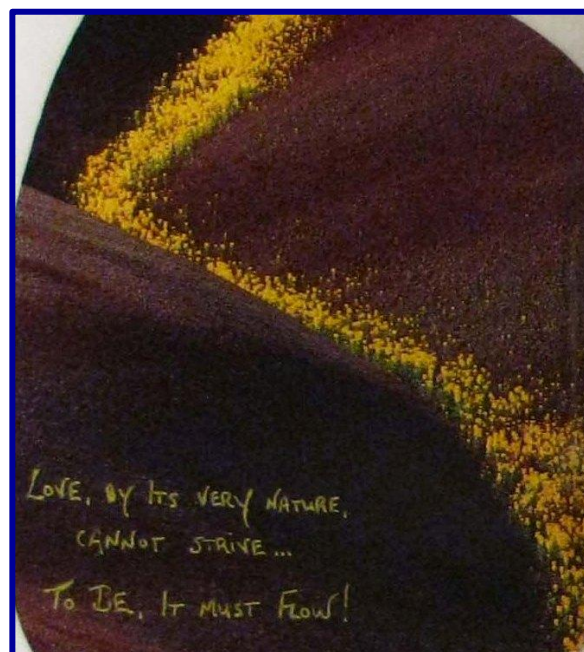




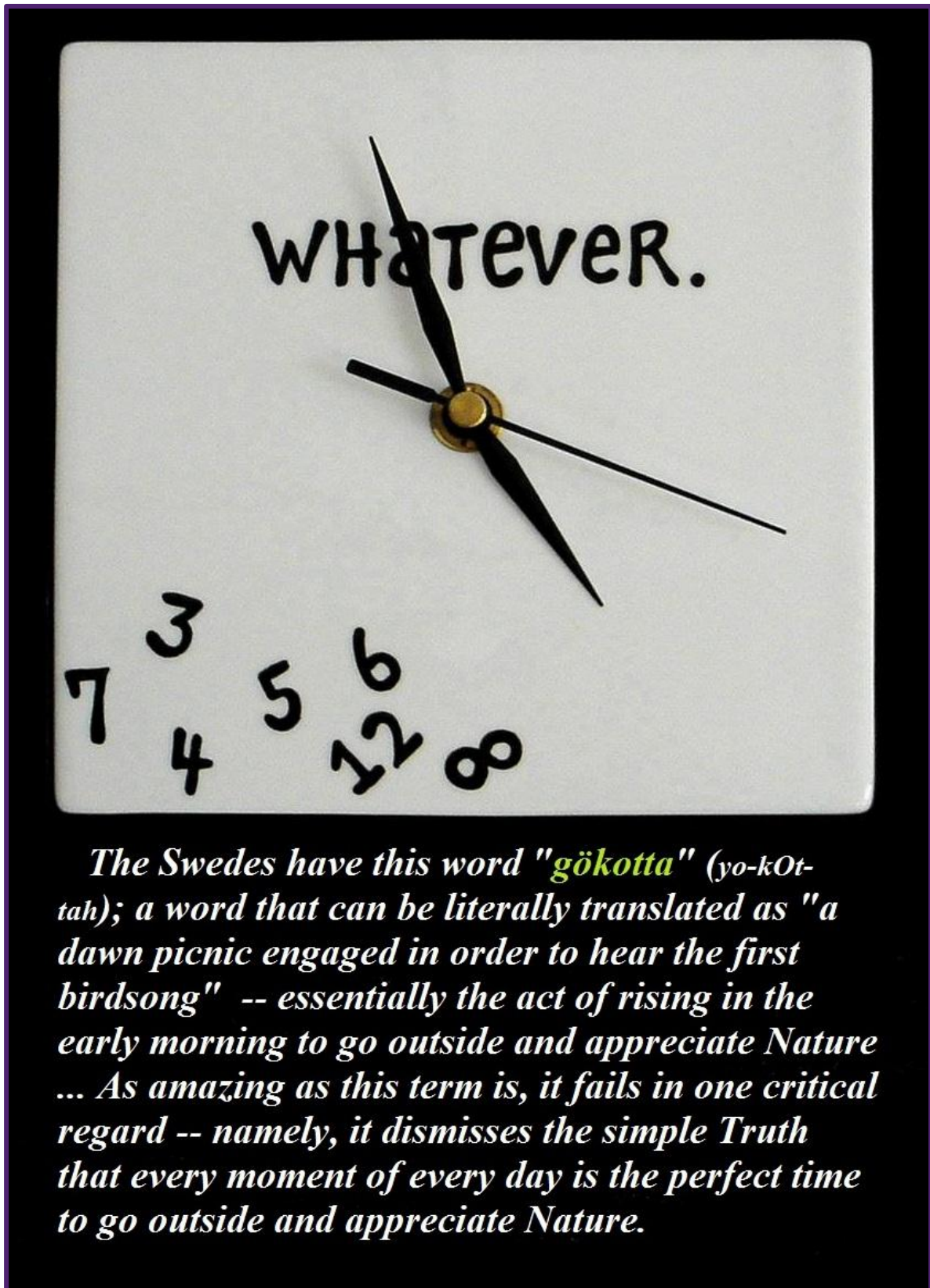
*to drink the Water of Living ...*  
(03/18/2018)



*"The Water of Life is LOVE ... Let go of your fears and dive deeply into this greatest of all oceans." ~ via Rumi*



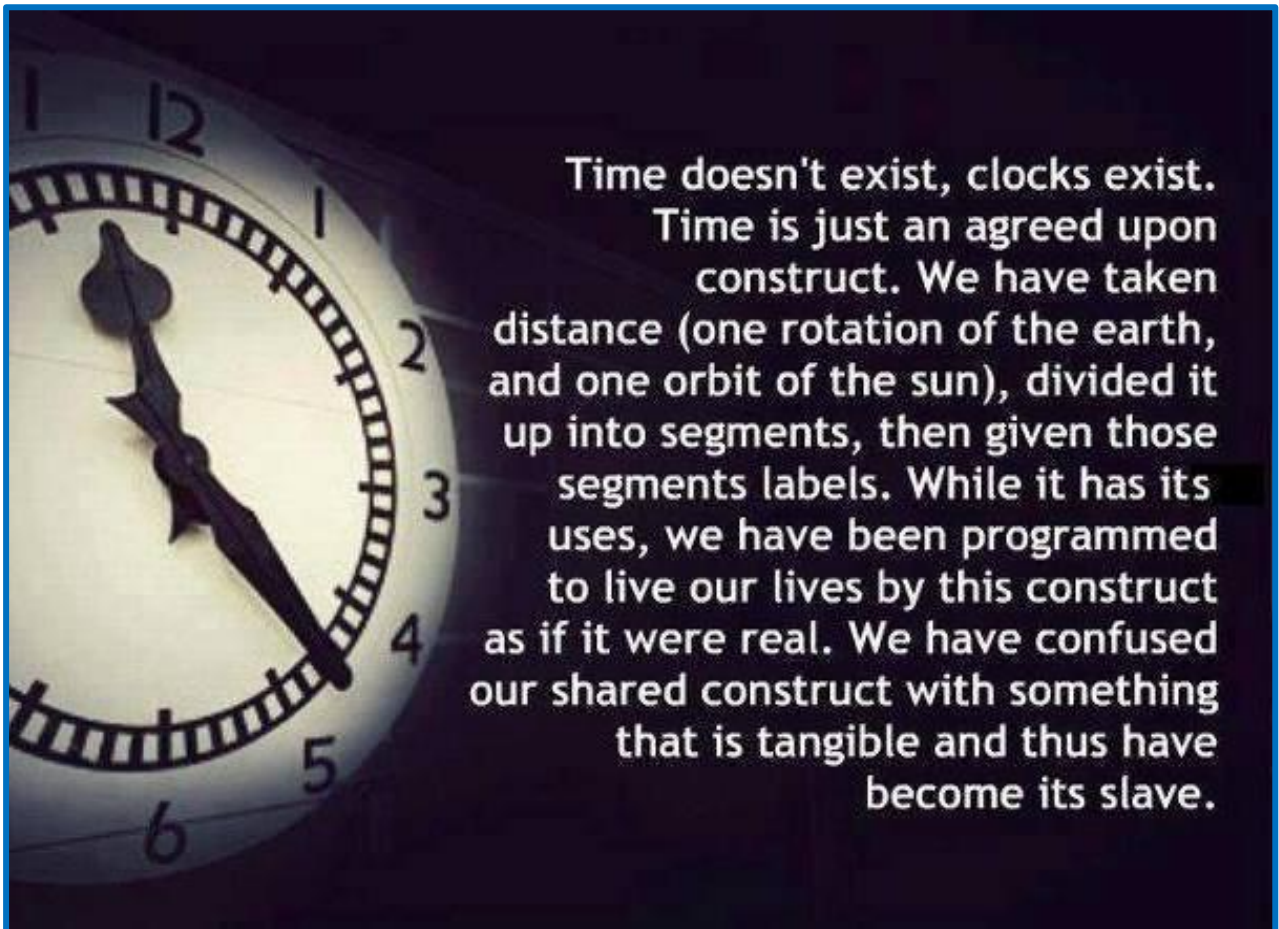
*Every moment is THE Moment ...  
(03/19/2018)*



*The Swedes have this word "**gökotta**" (yo-kOt-tah); a word that can be literally translated as "a dawn picnic engaged in order to hear the first birdsong" -- essentially the act of rising in the early morning to go outside and appreciate Nature ... As amazing as this term is, it fails in one critical regard -- namely, it dismisses the simple Truth that every moment of every day is the perfect time to go outside and appreciate Nature.*



*Agreeing on Time ...*  
(03/20/2018)



*on slowing down, all-Ready ...*  
(03/21/2018)

*All you've got is this one present moment,  
so hurry up and slow down already ...*





*re-Membering to Balter ...*  
(03/22/2018)...



***BALTER*** (verb) -- To dance gracelessly; with much verve and great enjoyment, and yet without particular art or skill.

***Regardless of event or circumstance, the truly wise remember that each moment is priceless -- and then they balter accordingly.***

*what the Faith-full Man perceives ...*  
(03/23/2018)

8. What is the importance of timing in decision making?

*I think I'll tell you tomorrow.*

9. Give an example of how timing is important in decision making.

*(see #8 above)*

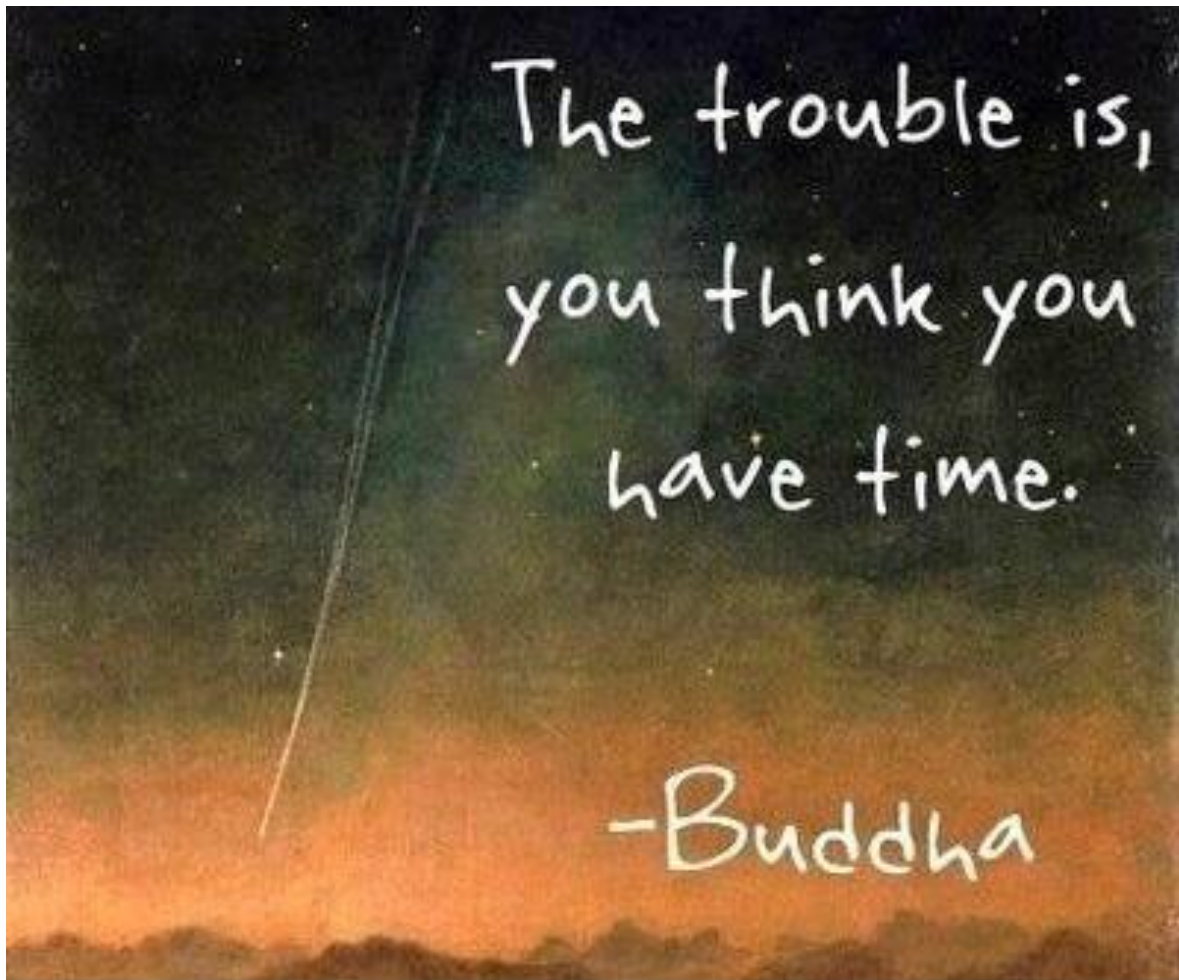
10. What role do values play in decision making?

*To be honest, I really don't care.*

***"The faithful man perceives nothing less than great opportunity during great difficulties. Flowing through his spine, his faith and his courage work seamlessly together. Such a man does not fear losing his life, and thus he will willingly risk losing it in order to empower it. And by this he actually ends up valuing his life -- and enlivening his life -- much more than the man who fears losing his." ~ Criss Jami***

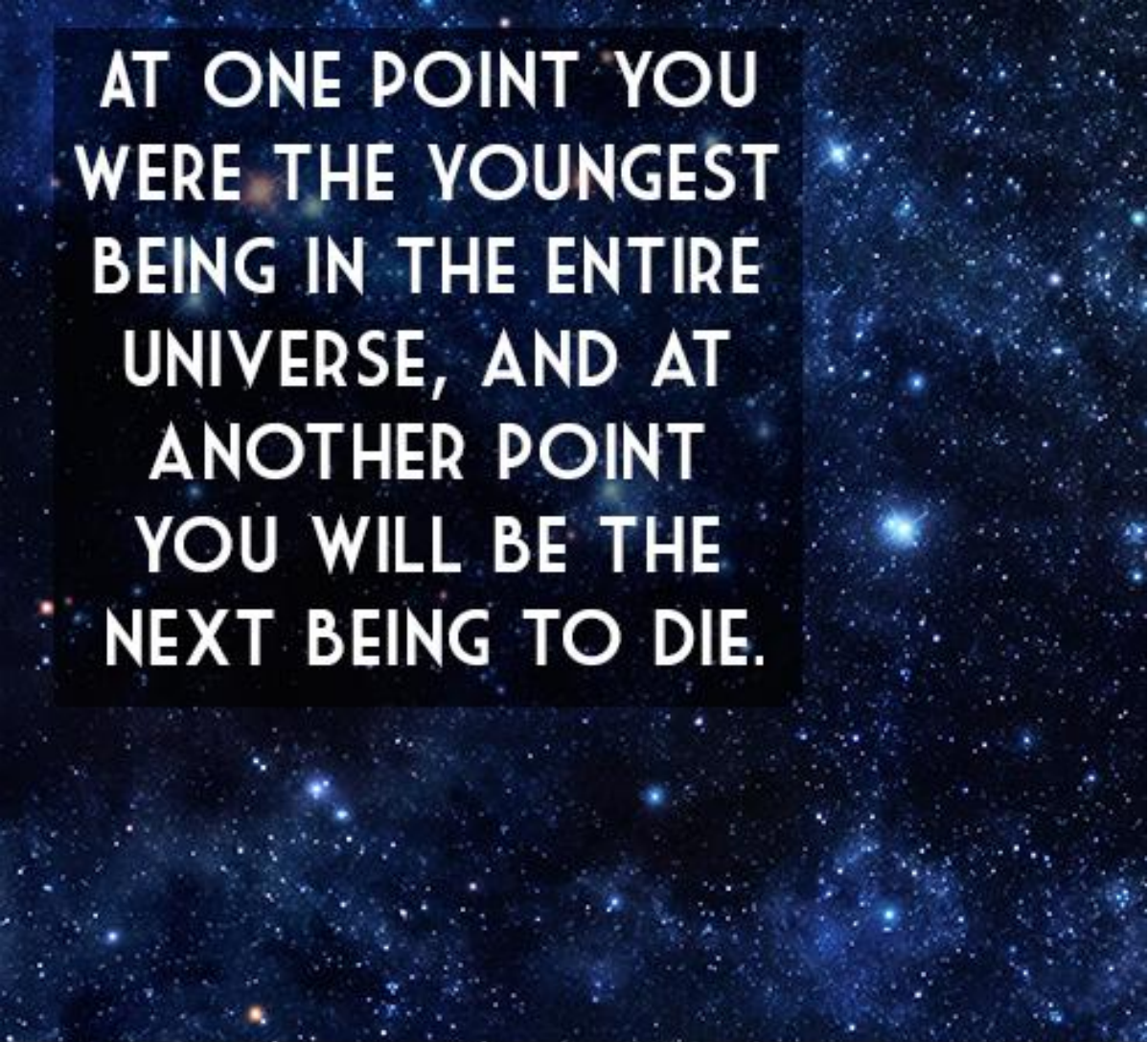


*to Live well; to Die well ...*  
(03/24/2018)



*"It stands to reason that anyone who chooses to live well will ultimately die well, with the skills required for remaining the same: being present in the present moment, remaining humble during acts of selfless bravery therein, detaching from all outcomes thereafter, and keeping a vibrant sense of humor throughout." ~ inspired by Victoria Moran*

*ever the First; ever the Last ...*  
(03/25/2018)



AT ONE POINT YOU  
WERE THE YOUNGEST  
BEING IN THE ENTIRE  
UNIVERSE, AND AT  
ANOTHER POINT  
YOU WILL BE THE  
NEXT BEING TO DIE.

*Remember to live  
each & every day  
accordingly.*



*on learning Real Skills ...*  
(03/26/2018)



*“Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone ... We shall all pass this way but once; so any good that we can do or any kindness we can show to any other being; let us do it straight away. Let us neither defer nor neglect those noble chances, for we shall never pass this way again. ”*

*~ inspired by Pablo Picasso & Etienne de Grellet*

*Being ridiculously Kind ...*  
(03/27/2018)



***"If people never did silly things  
nothing intelligent would ever get  
done." ~ Ludwig Wittgenstein***

*"No deed of selfless Kindness,  
no matter how small or useless or silly it seems,  
is ever wasted." ~ via Aesop*



*Choosing to SEE ...*  
(03/28/2018)



*(This tip is twice as effective -- and three times more important -- in all those moments you are not visiting the Grand Canyon.)*

*To truly SEE, we must choose to deeply LOOK.*

*The grace of GRACE ...*  
(03/29/2018)

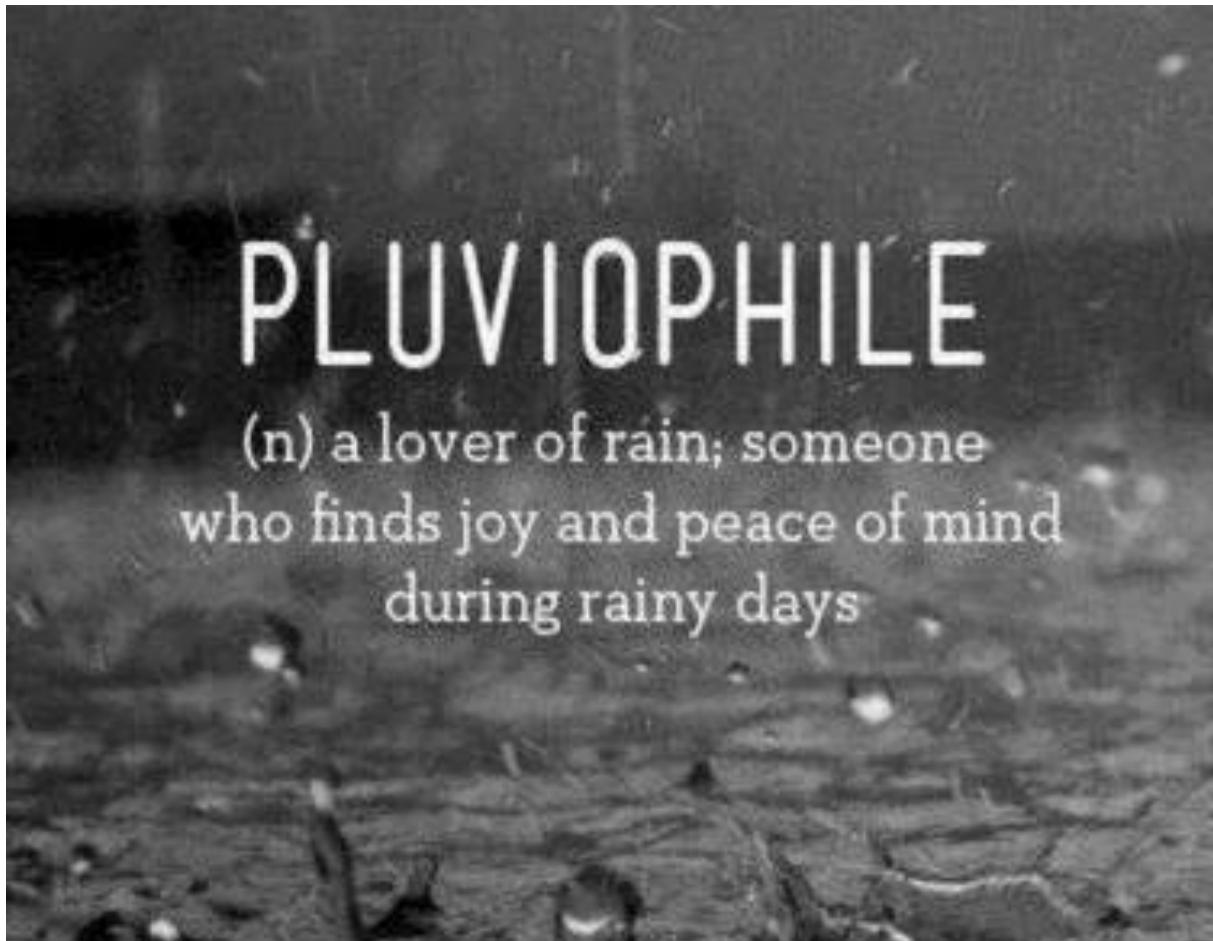


***GRACE*** (noun) ... *the profound beauty reflected by all beings who find themselves under the direct influence of a dynamic combination of courage & freedom.* (inspired by Friedrich Schiller)

*P.S. Courage & Freedom only exist in “dynamic combination” during daringly willing acts of self-sacrificial Caring.*



*How to LOVE the rain ...*  
(03/30/2018)



*"You can always dance in any storm. Don't wait for the rain to stop falling because it might take too long. In fact, you can do it right now. Wherever you are, right now, you can start. Right now, in this very moment, you can dance." ~ via Israelmore Ayivor*

*To also LOVE the Darkness ...*  
(03/31/2018)



***"I will LOVE the Light, for it clearly illuminates my Way  
... and I will also LOVE the Darkness, for it enables me to  
See by starlight." ~ via Og Mandino***

*"Light thinks it travels faster than anything else, but it is wrong in harboring this notion. For no matter how fast light travels, it always arrives to find that the darkness has always arrived beforehand, and is patiently waiting for it ... We are all forests, a night of dark trees: and yet those who are not afraid of our shadows will always find full banks of roses under our branches ... We must dream a long time in order to finally awaken to acts of grandeur, and that dreaming is always first nursed in darkness." ~ via Terry Pratchett, Nietzsche & Jean Genet*



*It is only the Will that matters ...*  
(04/02/2018)



(P.S. It is the Courage to LOVE that counts –  
not the kiss rewarded thereafter.)

*When true POWER finally arrives ...*  
(04/03/2018)



*"It is when you truly no longer care what anyone else thinks of you that you attain a dangerously awesome level of Freedom and emPOWERment." ~ via Spirit Science*



*Dealing with it ...*  
(04/04/2018)

name: \_\_\_\_\_

## FILL in THE SOLUTIONS

**DIRECTIONS: READ EACH OF THE PROBLEMS AND COME UP WITH A SOLUTION FOR EACH ONE.**

<b>PROBLEMS</b>	<b>SOLUTIONS</b>
You fell on the playground and scratched your knee.	get up and deal with it.

*"Resilience is the key to living peacefully, and by resilience I mean accepting all our new realities, especially those that happen to be far less pleasurable than the ones known just before ... We can fight such unpleasantness if we wish, of course, and yet in the end this means doing nothing but screaming in vain about what we've lost. Or, as an ever-available alternative, we can embrace such moment with courage -- by embracing what has happened with gratitude, and making something good from it." ~ inspired by Elizabeth Edwards*

*Impossible is NOTHING ...*  
(04/05/2018)



***"Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change that world ... Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion ... Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare ... Impossible is potential ... Impossible is temporary ... Impossible is nothing." ~ Muhammad Ali***

“You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to do is recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by each present moment, and then to embrace them all with courage” ~ via Thomas Merton



*The engineers of Tomorrow ...*  
(04/06/2018)



*The engineers of the  
future will be gardeners  
and poets ...*



*to Walk boldly through Life ...*  
(04/07/2018)



*May the Sun bring you renewed Strength  
by day ... May the moon restore your Peace  
by night ... May the rain wash away your  
worries and renourish your Resolve ... And  
may the breeze gently guide you back to your  
True Self -- that you might walk boldly  
through this life, bringing Joy & Beauty to  
all who cross your Path. ~ unknown*



*every day a Summer's Day ...*  
(04/08/2018)



## ***"The Summer Day"***

(by Mary Oliver)

*Who made the world?*

*Who made the swan, and the black bear?*

*Who made the grasshopper?*

*This grasshopper, I mean-*

*the one who has flung herself out of the grass,*

*the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,*

*who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-*

*who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.*

*Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.*

*Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.*

*I don't know exactly what a prayer is.*

*I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down*

*into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,*

*how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,*

*which is what I have been doing all day.*

*Tell me, what else should I have done?*

*Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?*

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do*

*with your one wild and precious life?*

*Heading back HOME ...*  
(04/09/2018)



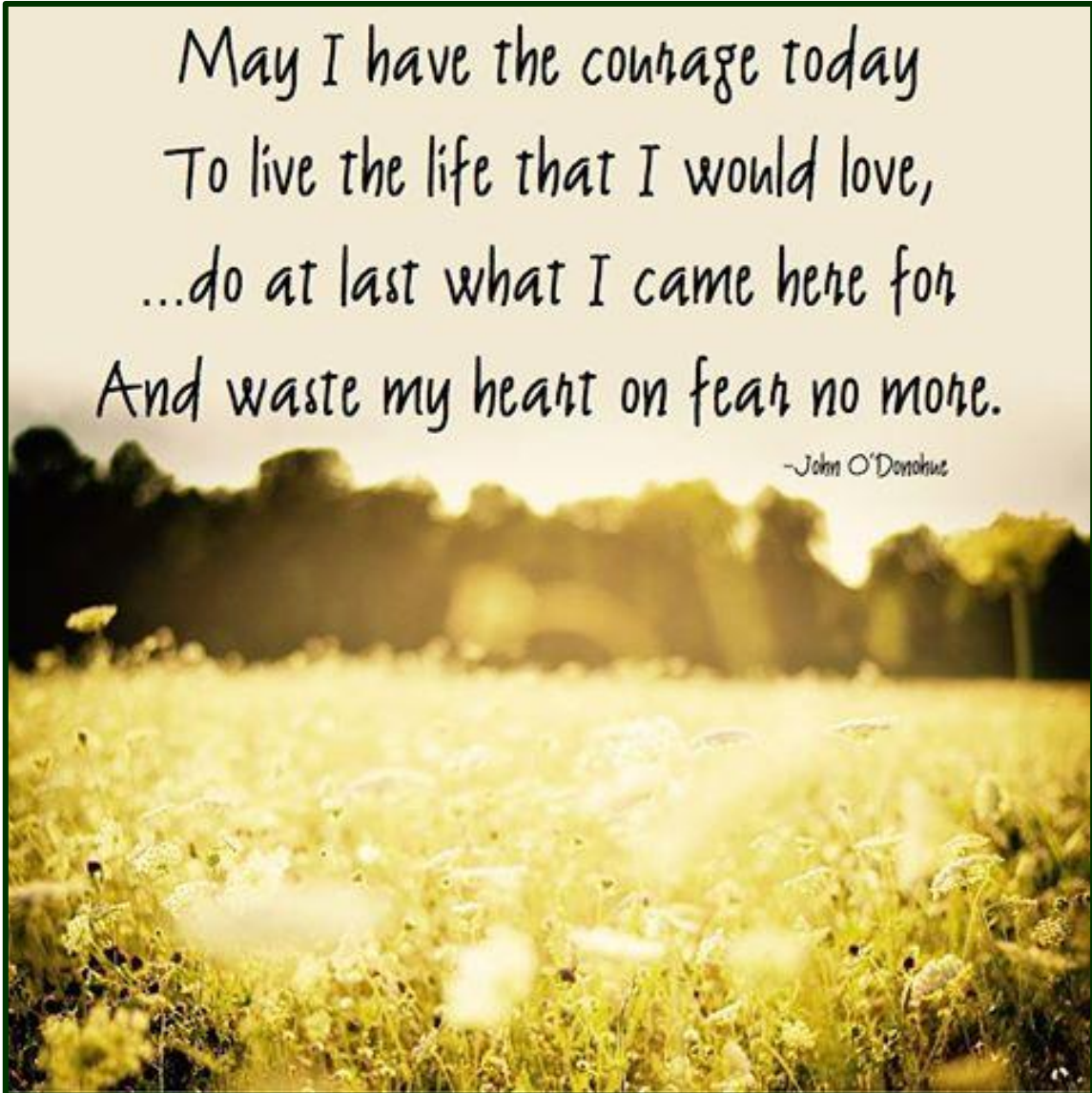
“The changing of Bodies into Light, and Light into Bodies, is quite comfortable for the course of Nature, which seems to utterly delight in every transformation ... We come out of the darkness of our mother's womb with eyes, and so it must be that it is Light that shapes and guides us therein. And it must be therefore just as true that those who allow Light back into their Hearts after they are born will transform themselves accordingly, and thereafter always find their way back Home.” ~ inspired by Isaac Newton & Rumi



*To make a Good Story ...  
(04/10/2018)*

May I have the courage today  
To live the life that I would love,  
...do at last what I came here for  
And waste my heart on fear no more.

*-John O'Donohue*



***In the end, we are all  
merely stories ... Remember  
to make yours a Caring one.***

*Always two cups ...*  
(04/11/2018)



*Here on the frontier, the leaves are falling.  
And though I am surrounded by barbarians,  
And you, you are thousands of miles away,  
There are still two cups on my table.*

*(Jayata, 20th Buddhist Patriarch, 4th century B.C.)*

*Here on the frontier, the snow is glistening.  
And though I am surrounded by emptiness,  
And you, you are quiet in the distance,  
There are still two cups on my table.*

*Here on the frontier, the robins are singing.  
And though I am surrounded by friends,  
And you, you are happy in your elsewhere,  
There are still two cups on my table.*

*Here on the frontier, the wildflowers are blooming.  
And though I am surrounded by angels,  
And you, you reside forever in my memories,  
There will always be two cups on my table.*



*“Hello,” Life says, “Remember me? We started out together here, way back when you were just a bundle of innocent amazement. Remember how you saw the world with nothing but Joy & Wonder? ... We were such rowdy playmates then. We painted on the sky with clouds, and reveled in everyone who crossed our path. Can you remember how I thereafter became stained and heavy with trouble -- with lots of ‘Not safe’, and ‘Not now’, and ‘NO’? Your parents and teachers and politicians and preachers dressed me up in painful clothes, and then made you wear them, too ... You don't recognize me now, do you? And yet I've never abandoned you – I've never left your side – I've never lost my wild, happy desire to show you, to play with you, to amaze you, to guide you, to hold you close, to inspire you ... So my dear **ONE**, do you want to run away with me again? Shall we elope without ever leaving? Because that's possible, you know. For I've never been anywhere but Here – never been anytime but Now -- ever waiting for you to awaken and remember – ever waiting for you to **LOVE**.”*

*~ inspired by Jacob Nordby*



*“And I will take one from a thousand  
and two from ten thousand,  
and they shall Become a single One.”  
~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 23)*