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Arlington Optimist Club

Wyatt Sawyer

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PLAN to speak to you in AMERICAN, NOT English. Difference????? In cases.

Illustration: Suppose a Japanese, head of Giant Corporation came to Texas. Had studied ENGLISH diligently.

Here is what he hears:

(Most of our funny language is for emphasis of some kind.)

1. I'll meet you at 8 o'clock SHARP! Diff. in 8:00 and 8:00 sharp????

2. Let's go to Joe's place for a Bar B Q sandwich. I hear his sandwiches are PLUMB GOOD!!! Plumb-good better than GOOD!

3. Hey, look at that fellow he fell DOWN. Did you ever see anyone fall UP????

4. Who's that with your sister? Oh, that's a widow-woman friend. Did you ever know a WIDOW-MAN???(Widower, yes!)

5. Look at that fellow, he's got on the same-identical shoes that you're wearing. What's the diff. in SAME & IDENTICAL?
6. Son, LIFT - UP that window please. Ever lift-down anything Impossible!!

7. Hey, Joel! Did you see that guy run clean-through that RED light?

Did you ever see anyone run DIRTY-THROUGH a red light????

is THROUGH as far advanced as CLEAN-THROUGH??????
SHORT TITLE TO MY SPEECH:

"FROM THE TABULA RASA OF JOHN LOCKE TO THE SUMMUM BONUM OF PLATO AND ARISTOTLE." or "WOULDN'T YOU RATHER BE ALL YOU CAN BE???

QUESTION: WHAT MAKES UP A MAN, A LIFE, A BEING?

QUESTION: WHAT BRINGS THAT LIFE TO IT'S HIGHEST POTENTIAL OF PRODUCTIVITY, USEFULNESS AND VALUE?

JOHN LOCKE: English philosopher and psychologist: Said man, at birth is a TABULA RASA: or a blank sheet of paper...... a blank blackboard........

HE BECOMES AND IS.....what is written on his blank spirit and soul.

We ARE then, what we SEE, HEAR, TASTE, SMELL, TOUCH & FEEL !!!!! + Intuitions.

ARISTOTLE & PLATO: spoke much of the SUMMUM BONUM----the ultimate good. The Good Life. The Best Life.

QUESTION: What GROWTH IS MAN capable of--over all????
GROWTH COMES IN FOUR WAYS:

1. Physical. Skin, bone, hair etc.

2. Spiritual. Education in spiritual matters.

3. Mental growth: Takes discipline, exercise, expert guidance and correct materials to learn from.

4. Emotional: How we feel. 80% of our DECISIONS in life are made with the Emotions—how I feel about it, rather than what I KNOW about it.

QUESTION: What is AVERAGE Emotional level of American Womanhood today? Level of American Manhood today?


SOME INTERESTING REFLECTIONS:

1. BELIEVE: the basic protoplasmic make-up in your body at the moment of your birth SET the MAXIMUM time you could possibly live—with everything in your favor and working for you. A cut-off time. That’s it. CAN BE SHORTENED—but not lengthened.
2. EACH has some SUPERIOR talent or ABILITY which TRANSCENDS many if not most others around you.
   MAY never discover it.
   MAY develop it partially.
   MAY develop it totally.

3. BELIEVE: there is a PEAK of achievement each of us has in our makeup. You can reach THAT height and NO MORE.
   Exercise, training, education; Nothing will lift you above that gifted-level.

MAN'S GOAL; HIS SUMMON BONUM-------
   The Ultimate Success he is capable of achieving in life.
   IF HE DOES LESS HE IS EITHER:
   Ignorant of this Treasure of Living.
   Lazy, and willing to settle for LESS than his very best. CHEAPER, ED
   EVIL, and violates the INTENTIONS of Heaven, EXPECTATIONS of others
   GREATEST TRUST that a man has with HIMSELF

ALL OF THIS LEADS UP TO ONE WORD:
   MATURITY !!! or Perfect or Complete.
5. THE SECRET OF THE SUCCESSFUL LIFE
IS MATURITY: 5 tests:

1. MATURITY is: the ability to harness one’s TEMPER and CONTROL any situation—thus settling all differences without violence or destruction.

2. MATURITY is: the ability and determination to arrive at well-based DECISIONS and stand by them. (Exploring endless possibilities exhaust life before it is fully extended.)

3. MATURITY IS: the seasoned capacity to FACE unpleasantness, frustration, discomfort & even defeat.....without unwarranted complaint nor collapse of inner will to WIN!

4. MATURITY IS: just plain Humility! Being big enough to say, "I was wrong." or "I am sorry I mistreated you. And in the numerous instances in which you ARE RIGHT, the " I told you so" floats gently into infinity in the silence of your pleasure of knowing you had done well.
Maturity is: the art of living at peace with that which we cannot change.

When you have reached even 80 to 85% of these great virtues, you are a real man.

And... [signature]

SIR, I WANT TO SHAKE YOUR HAND!
A mule is an animal with long funny ears,
He kicks up at anything he hears,
His back is brawny and his brain is weak,
He's just plain stupid with a stubborn streak,
And by the way if you hate to go to school
You may grow up to be a mule;
Or would you like to swing on a star,
Carry moonbeams home in a jar,
And be better off than you are,
Or, would you rather be a pig?

A pig is an animal with dirt on his face,
His shoes are a terrible disgrace,
He's got no manners when he eats his food,
He's fat and lazy and extremely rude,
But if you don't care a feather or a fig,
You may grow up to be a pig,
Or would you like to swing on a star,
Carry moonbeams home in a jar,
And be better off than you are,
Or would you rather be a fish?

A fish won't do anything but swim in a brook,
He can't write his name or read a book,
To fool the people is his only thought
And though he's slippery he still gets caught,
But then if that sort of life is what you wish
You may grow up to be a fish.

And all the monkeys aren't in the zoo,
Ev'ry day you meet quite a few
So you see it's all up to you
You can be better than you are,
You could be swinging on a star.