**LisaPACS**

***“"So what's wrong with taking the back streets?--You'll never know if you don't go."”***

**A View of Our World**

"One of the finest scenes and subjects of religious contemplation is to walk into the woods and fields, and survey the works of the God of the Creation. The wide expanse of heaven, the earth covered with verdure, the lofty forest, the waving corn, the magnificent roll of mighty rivers, and the murmuring melody of the cheerful brooks are scenes that inspire the mind with gratitude and delight".   
Thomas Paine  
  
"the West won the world not by the superiority of its ideas or values or religion but rather by its superiority in applying organized violence. Westerners often forget this fact, non-Westerners never do."  
Samuel P. Huntington  
  
God is love. Love is the proof of God, and forgiveness is the proof of love. --Dale Cramer in Levi's Will as taken from the frontispiece of Jane Kirkpatrick's *The Daughter's Walk*.

"All the world's indeed a stage, and we are merely players, performers and portrayers..." Rush  
  
"All p-branes are not created equal!" Stephen Hawking ;)  
  
"This is an achievement of which you may well be proud; and a grateful country will not be unmindful of it. ... The flag that floats over you is that of a young Republic who bids defiance to her enemies, whenever and wherever found! Show the world that you know how to uphold it!" Admiral Raphael Semmes  
  
"I now know that real love sweeps into one's life with the fury of a sudden storm. It is instant and powerful. Nothing else matters. Reason, restraint, judgment are swept away with the force of a swollen river surging past its banks, and nothing--not a thought or feeling, sensations or life itself--can ever be the same again" Carolly Erickson. *The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette*

She was a survivor, as her father had told her many times, and though there was a certain satisfaction to that knowledge, it didn't erase the pain or regrets. ... Young and old, male or female, pretty much everyone wants the same things: They want to feel peace in their hearts, they want a life without turmoil, they want to be happy. Nicholas Sparks. *Nights in Rodanthe*  
  
"A motorcyclist has to drive as if everybody else on the road is out to kill him. A few of them are, and many of those who aren't are just as dangerous..." Hunter S Thompson. *Hell's Angels*  
  
"We would gain more by letting others see us as we are, than by trying to appear as we are not." Susanne Dunlap. *Emillie's Voice*

"the theologians of the different schools pronounced a sufficient variety of dogmas to daunt the souls and bewilder the minds of ordinary mortals".  
An early 1800s Texas pioneer woman on religion.  
  
"Yet if we take the past away from those we love--even to protect them--do we not steal away their very selves?"  
Margaret George. *The Memoirs of Cleopatra*  
  
"We also have to stop giving out 14th-place trophies. For whatever reason, we've adopted the idea that the best thing we can do for our kids is to remove all conflict and struggle from their lives. We're so concerned with people's feelings that we shield them from the truth. When you finish 14th, you don't deserve a trophy. What you do deserve--and what you need--is a lesson in how the real world works. When you don't perform, you get nothing. The phrase is 'To the victor go the spoils' not 'Spoil those who aren't the victor'. If we continue to shelter our kids the way we do, we'll have a generation of adults who can't handle the financial, emotional, and political struggles of everyday life. It's the struggle that makes us strong. If we understand up front that everything isn't going to be handed to us, that struggle becomes a blessing. Many of the greatest people in history had a bad lot in life, and most of them were great BECAUSE of that lot. Need I remind you that Jesus was born in a manger?" Glenn Beck. *An Inconvenient Book*

"Few people in public affairs act with the good of their country in mind, whatever they may say to the contrary, this happens by accident. No one in public affairs acts out of general benevolence, but each believes that what he wants and what the country wants is often the same thing. As such, almost no one in public affairs ever acts with the good of humankind in mind." Benjamin Franklin on politics as taken from *Ben Franklin* adapted by Blaine McCormick.  
  
"The truth is that 'reality' shows, like bottled water, teach us an important business lesson, a lesson that is both inspirational and heartwarming: People are unbelievably stupid. "   
Dave Barry, *Dave Barry's Money Secrets*  
  
"In some deep place in her heart, [she] had kept alive the silly romantic notion that somehow [he] had once known her as no one else ever could. But it was not true. He had never even glimpsed her." Kim Edwards, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*  
  
"Like Everyone else I am alone inside this pearly flesh--and I am afraid". Sena Jeter Naslund. *Abundance.*

"There are times, it seems, that God throws a cosmic switch that moves the track beneath us, hurling our lives headlong in a new and uncertain direction. Of these times just two things are certain: It's best we don't know what's ahead. We can never go back."   
Richard Paul Evans. *The Sunflower*  
  
"When one door closes another door opens. But we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us." Alexander Graham Bell  
  
'If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed.' Mark Twain  
  
"Religion must use law to empower itself and control the people who they need in order to survive. I give you an ability to respond and your response is to be free to love and serve in every situation, and therefore each moment is different and unique and wonderful." *The Shack*  
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

In an eMail from my cousin Allison:

"A Woman"  
  
This is written in the Hebrew Talmud, the book where all of the sayings and preaching of Rabbis are conserved over time.  
  
"Be very careful if you make a woman cry, because God counts her tears. The woman came out of man's rib. Not from his feet to be walked on. Not from his head to be superior, but from the side to be equal. Under the arm to be protected, and next to the heart to be loved."  
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

**Dirge Without Music**

by Edna St. Vincent Millay; from *The Buck in the Snow and Other Poems*, 1928  
  
I am not resigned to the shutting away of loving hearts in the hard ground.  
  
So it is, and so it will be, for so it has been, time out of mind:  
  
Into the darkness they go, the wise and the lovely. Crowned  
  
With lilies and with laurel they go; but I am not resigned.  
  
Lovers and thinkers, into the earth with you.  
  
Be one with the dull, the indiscriminate dust.  
  
A fragment of what you felt, of what you knew,  
  
A formula, a phrase remains,--but the best is lost.  
  
The answers quick and keen, the honest look, the laughter, the love,--  
  
They are gone. They are gone to feed the roses. Elegant and curled  
  
Is the blossom. Fragrant is the blossom. I know. But I do not approve.  
  
More precious was the light in your eyes than all the roses in the world.  
  
Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave  
  
Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind;  
  
Quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty, the brave.  
  
I know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned.  
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~  
The land was ours before we were the land's,   
She was our land more than 100 years  
Before we were her people. She was ours   
In Massachusetts, in Virginia,  
But we were England's, still colonials,  
Possessing what we still were unpossessed by,  
Possessed by what we now no more possessed.  
Something we were withholding made us weak  
Until we found out that it was ourselves  
We were withholding from our land of the living,   
And forthwith found salvation in surrender.   
Such as we were we gave ourselves outright  
(The deed of gift was many deeds of war)  
To the land vaguely realizing westward,  
But still unstoried, artless, unenhanced,  
Such as she was, such as she would become.  
Robert Frost, "The Gift Outright"  
  
At President John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961, the capital blanketed with freshly fallen snow and capped by a glaring winter's sun, Robert Frost was scheduled to read his newly composed poem "Dedication." The conditions made it impossible for him to see the pages, so instead he delivered from memory an older verse about the birth of America--a poem, he once said, "about what Madison may have thought." ... Frost's lines remind us of the ultimate sacrifice made by men whose bodies rest in soldiers' graves across the original thirteen states. They also evoke the cause to which our founding generation gave themselves wholly. The founder's legacy, like the soldiers' sacrifice, was a gift to future generations of Americans that could never be, and never was intended to be, repaid. It was "the gift outright."  
Colleen A. Sheehan . *James Madison and the Spirit of Republican Self Government*  
  
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~  
William Shakespeare's Sonnet 116:  
Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come:  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.  
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~  
In this short Life  
That only lasts an hour  
How much-how little  
Is within our power.   
--Emily Dickinson  
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~  
All things to nothingness descend,  
Grow old and die and meet their end;  
Man dies, iron rusts, wood goes decayed,  
Towers fall, walls crumble, roses fade...  
Nor long shall any name resound  
Beyond the grave, unless 't be found  
In some clerk's book; it is the pen  
Gives immortality to men  
--Master Wace, *Chronicle of the Norman Dukes* (including my ancestors)

The above pages of quotes and poems was on my pages online for many, many years at Virtual Tourist (http://members.virtualtourist.com/m/6e490/) but is now only found on the web.archive.org Internet WayBack Time Machine. (https://web.archive.org/web/20131107030958/http://members.virtualtourist.com/m/6e490/)

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

...love wasn’t pretty words and easy promises. Love was hard. It challenged you and changed you. It filled your heart and sometimes hardened it, too. Love demanded sacrifices. She’d made many...   
Jennifer Donnelly, *Rogue Wave*

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

**The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off! Gloria Steinem**

*There were once billions of monarchs, now there are millions. There had been millions of Eskimo curlews, billons of passenger pigeons, and trillions of Rocky Mountain locusts—now there are zero.*

*These animals are trying to warn us. The milkweed and the monarchs are canaries in the coal mine. Humans numbering nearly 8 billion, are also threatened. The broken planet that is killing insects and birds and frogs is killing us too. We are under attack. Watch the news. Go outside. A report by an Australian think tank ran the numbers: if nothing changes, human civilization as we know it today will likely collapse by 2050. Il’l be 65. I hope I die before the monarch migration does.* Sara Dykman. ***Bicycling With Butterflies***. 2021. p110.