



**Think Abouts 08**

**Condensed and annotated  
by  
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### Introduction

Welcome to this collection, one of several in a series. . .

Mostly about life, and living, but some on Nursing, Religion, etc., no jokes here though. These again are mostly from the email circuit, passed around until their origins are lost in the paperless trail!

I hope that they may cause you to pause and consider them as they did for me.

If I feel strongly enough about any essay my comments will follow it!

In thoughts we live,





### Intelligence test - try it

This has got to be one of the most interesting intelligence tests I have ever seen. It's very short so try it, you may be amazed. A quick test of intelligence. Don't cheat! Because if you did, the test would be no fun. I promise, there are no tricks to the test.

>>> Read this sentence:  
 >>> FINISHED FILES ARE THE RE-  
 >>> SULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIF-  
 >>> IC STUDY COMBINED WITH  
 >>> THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.

Now count **ALoud** the **F's** in that sentence. Count them **ONLY ONCE**: do not go back and count them again. See below...

Answer below:

There are six **F's** in the sentence. One of average intelligence finds three of them. If you spotted four, you're above average. If you got five, you can turn your nose at most anybody. If you caught six, you are a genius.

There is no catch. Many people forget the "OF"s. The human brain tends to see them as **V's** and not **F's**. Pretty weird, huh?

It fools almost everybody.

### Interesting airline stand/communication

The following is from a letter by a professional friend and her return flight to D.C. this week.

"I just wanted to drop you all a note and let you know that I arrived safe and sound into Dulles Airport tonight [9/15] at about 6:00. It was an interesting flight.

The airport in Denver was almost spooky, it was so empty and quiet. No one was in line for the security check point when I got there so that went fairly quickly, just x-ray of my bags and then a chemical test to be sure nothing explosive was on them.

Then I waited 2 1/2 hours to board the plane. What happened after we boarded was interesting and thought I would share it with you.

The pilot/captain came on the loudspeaker after the doors were closed. His speech went like this:



First I want to thank you for being brave enough to fly today. The doors are now closed and we have no help from the outside for any problems that might occur inside this plane. As you could tell when you checked in, the government has made some changes to increase security in the airports.

They have not, however, made any rules about what happens after those doors close. Until they do that, we have made our own rules and I want to share them with you. Once those doors close, we only have each other.

The security has taken care of a threat like guns with all of the increased scanning, etc. Then we have the supposed bomb. If you have a bomb, there is no need to tell me about it, or anyone else on this plane; you are already in control. So, for this flight, there are no bombs that exist on this plane.

Now, the threats that are left are things like plastics, wood, knives, and other weapons that can be made or things like that which can be used as weapons.

Here is our plan and our rules. If someone or several people stand up and say they are hijacking this plane, I want you all to stand up together. Then take whatever you have available to you and throw it at them. Throw it at their faces and heads so they will have to raise their hands to protect themselves.

The very best protection you have against knives are the pillows and blankets. Whoever is close to these people should then try to get a blanket over their head—then they won't be able to see. Once that is done, get them down and keep them there. Do not let them up. I will then land the plane at the closest place and we WILL take care of them.

After all, there are usually only a few of them and we are 200+ strong!  
We will not allow them to take over this plane.

I find it interesting that the US Constitution begins with the words "We, the people"—that's who we are, THE people and we will not be defeated.

With that, the passengers on the plane all began to applaud, people had tears in their eyes, and we began the trip toward the runway.

The flight attendant then began the safety speech. One of the things she said is that we are all so busy and live our lives at such a fast pace. She asked that everyone turn to their neighbors on either side and introduce themselves, tell each other something about your families and children, show pictures, whatever. She said "for today, we consider you family. We will treat you as such and ask that you do the same with us."

Throughout the flight we learned that for the crew, this was their first flight since Tuesday's tragedies. It was a day that everyone leaned on each other



and together everyone was stronger than any one person alone. It was quite an experience.

You can imagine the feeling when that plane touched down at Dulles and we heard “welcome to Washington Dulles Airport, where the local time is 5:40”. Again, the cabin was filled with applause.

Last night I saw a program with college students where one of them said that at their campus there are no more hyphenated titles, i.e., African-American, etc., everyone is just an American. No one will ever be able to take that pride away from us.”

**Be safe on-line!**

This message is not just to warn kids about the dangers. We should all take the advice. About a month ago a woman in San Diego wound up in the hospital because a man she met on the internet attempted to kill her. A lot of people feel safe confiding personal information to “friends” we meet on the internet, yet we really know nothing about them. All we know is what they tell us. So everyone should be careful. That person you are talking to on the other side of the United States could be someone that lives only a few hours away. That kind “friend” could be a deranged person. You never know and it is always better to be safe than sorry!

Forward this to anyone you know who has kids, and if you don’t have any, pass it on anyway.

Shannon could hear the footsteps behind her as she walked toward home. The thought of being followed made her heart beat faster. “You’re being silly,” she told herself, “no one is following you.”

To be safe, she began to walk faster, but the footsteps kept up with her pace. She was afraid to look back, and she was glad she was almost home.

Shannon said a quick prayer, “God please get me home safe.” She saw the porch light burning, and ran the rest of the way to her house.

Once inside, she leaned against the door for a moment, relieved to be in the safety of her home. She glanced out the window to see if anyone was there. The sidewalk was empty.

After tossing her books on the sofa, she decided to grab a snack and get on-line. She logged on under her screen name ByAngel213. She checked her Buddy List, and saw GoTo123 was on. She sent him an instant message:

ByAngel213: Hi I’m glad you are on! I thought someone was following me home today. It was really weird!



**GoTo123:** LOL. You watch too much TV. Why would someone be following you? Don't you live in a safe neighborhood?

**ByAngel213:** Of course I do. LOL I guess it was my imagination cuz' I didn't see anybody when I looked out.

**GoTo123:** Unless you gave your name out on-line. You haven't done that have you?

**ByAngel213:** Of course not. I'm not stupid you know.

**GoTo123:** Did you have a softball game after school today?

**ByAngel213:** Yes and we won!!

**GoTo123:** That's great! Who did you play?

**ByAngel213:** We played the Hornets. LOL. Their uniforms are so gross! They look like bees. LOL

**GoTo123:** What is your team called?

**ByAngel213:** We are the Canton Cats. We have tiger paws on our uniforms. They are really cute.

**GoTo123:** Did you pitch?

**ByAngel213:** No I play second base. I got to go. My homework has to be done before my parents get home. I don't want them mad at me. Bye

**GoTo123:** Catch you later.. Bye

Meanwhile.....

**GoTo123** went to the member menu and began to search for her profile. When it came up, he highlighted it and printed it out. He took out a pen, and began to write down what he knew about Angel so far.

Her name: Shannon. Birthday: Jan. 3, 1985. Age: 13 State where she lived: North Carolina.

Hobbies: softball, chorus, skating and going to the mall.

Besides this information, he knew she lived in Canton because she had just told him. He knew she stayed by herself until 6:30 p.m. every afternoon until her parents came home from work.

He knew she played softball on Thursday afternoons on the school team, and the team was named the Canton Cats.

Her favorite number 7 was printed on her jersey.



He knew she was in the seventh grade at the Canton Junior High School. She had told him all this in the conversations they had on-line. He had enough information to find her now.

Shannon didn't tell her parents about the incident on the way home from the ball park that day. She didn't want them to make a scene and stop her from walking home from the softball games.

Parents were always overreacting, and hers were the worst. It made her wish she was not an only child. Maybe if she had brothers and sisters, her parents wouldn't be so overprotective.

By Thursday, Shannon had forgotten about the footsteps following her.

Her game was in full swing when suddenly she felt someone staring at her. It was then that the memory came back. She glanced up from her second base position to see a man watching her closely. He was leaning against the fence behind first base, and he smiled when she looked at him.

He didn't look scary, and she quickly dismissed the fear she had felt.

After the game, he sat on a bleacher while she talked to the coach. She noticed his smile once again as she walked past him. He nodded and she smiled back. He noticed her name on the back of her shirt. He knew he had found her.

Quietly, he walked a safe distance behind her. It was only a few blocks to Shannon's home; and once he saw where she lived, he quickly returned to the park to get his car. Now he had to wait. He decided to get a bite to eat until the time came to go to Shannon's house.

He drove to a fast food restaurant and sat there until time to make his move.

Shannon was in her room later that evening when she heard voices in the living room.

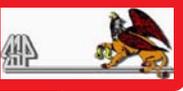
"Shannon, come here," her father called. He sounded upset, and she couldn't imagine why.

She went into the room to see the man from the ballpark sitting on the sofa. "Sit down," her father began, "this man has just told us a most interesting story about you."

Shannon moved cautiously to a chair across from the man. How could he tell her parents anything? She had never seen him before today!

"Do you know who I am Shannon?" The man asked. "No", Shannon answered.

"I am a police officer and your online friend, GoTo123."



Shannon was stunned. “That’s impossible! GoTo is a kid my age! He’s 14; and he lives in Michigan!”

The man smiled. “I know I told you all that, but it wasn’t true. You see, Shannon, there are people on-line who pretend to be kids. I was one of them.

But while others do it to find kids and hurt them, I belong to a group of parents who do it to protect kids from predators. I came here to find you to teach you how dangerous it is to give out too much information to people on-line.

You told me enough about yourself to make it easy for me to find you. Your name, the school you went to, the name of your ball team, and the position you played. The number and name on your jersey just made finding you a breeze.”

Shannon was stunned. “You mean you don’t live in Michigan?” He laughed. “No, I live in Raleigh. It made you feel safe to think I was so far away, didn’t it?”

She nodded.

“I had a friend whose daughter was like you. Only she wasn’t as lucky. The guy found her and murdered her while she was home alone. Kids are taught not to tell anyone when they are alone, yet they do it all the time on-line. The wrong people trick you into giving out information a little here and there on-line. Before you know it, you have told them enough for them to find you without even realizing you have done it.

I hope you’ve learned a lesson from this and won’t do it again.”

“I won’t,” Shannon promised solemnly.

“Will you tell others about this so they will be safe too?”

“It’s a promise!”

\*\*\*\*\*

Please send this to as many people as you can, to teach them not to give any information about themselves. This world we live in today is too dangerous to even give out your age, let alone anything else. Be safe.



### Interview with God - Words

I dreamed I had an interview with God.

“So you would like to interview me?” God asked

“If you have the time” I said.

God smiled. “My time is eternity. What questions do you have in mind for me?”

“What surprises you most about humankind?”

God answered... “That they get bored with childhood. They rush to grow up and then long to be children again.”

“That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health.”

“That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future.”

“That they live as if they will never die, and die as if they had never lived.”

God’s hand took mine and we were silent for awhile.

And then I asked...

“As a parent, what are some of life’s lessons you want your children to learn?”

God replied with a smile. “To learn they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is let themselves be loved.”

“To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others.”

“To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.”

“To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and it takes many years to heal them.”

“To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.”

“To learn that there are persons who love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings.”

“To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently.”

“To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others. But that they must forgive themselves.”

“And to learn that I am here always.”

**What would your conversation with God be like?**

I've learned.....

I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night"

Age 6

I've learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either.

Age 7

I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back.

Age 9

I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again.

Age 12

I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up.

Age 14

I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me.

Age 15

I've learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice.

Age 24

I've learned that brushing my child's hair is one of life's great pleasures.

Age 26

I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there.

Age 29

I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it.

Age 39

I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it.

Age 42

I've learned that you can make some one's day by simply sending them a little note.

Age 44

I've learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his or her



**need to cast blame on others.**

**Age 46**

**I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies.**

**Age 47**

**I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.**

**Age 48**

**I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours.**

**Age 49**

**I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone.**

**Age 50**

**I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.**

**Age 52**

**I've learned that keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills.**

**Age 52**

**I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, You miss them terribly after they die.**

**Age 53**

**I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.**

**Age 58**

**I've learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, work to improve your marriage.**

**Age 61**

**I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.**

**Age 62**

**I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.**

**Age 64**

**I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.**

**Age 65**



I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision.

Age 66

I've learned that everyone can use a prayer.

Age 72

I've learned that it pays to believe in miracles. And to tell the truth, I've seen several.

Age 75

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

Age 82

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch - holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

Age 85

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

Age 92

I've learned that you should pass this on to someone you care about. Sometimes we all just need a little something to make us smile. It's Ageless.

**Our entire lives are a learning process...**

### I'VE LEARNED 2

I read these and saw bits of my life in my mind. These are things that are so true and yet so hard to remember at the time they are most needed. Enjoy.

I've learned -

That you cannot make someone love you. All you can do is be someone who can be loved. The rest is up to them.

I've learned -

That no matter how much you care, some people just don't care back.

I've learned -

That it takes years to build up trust, but only seconds to destroy it.

I've learned -

That it's not what you have in your life, but who you have in your life that counts.

I've learned -

That you can get by on charm for about 15 minutes. After that, you'd better know something.

I've learned -

That you shouldn't compare yourself to the best others can do, but to the best you can do.



I've learned -

That it's not what happens to us that's important. It's what we do about it.

I've learned -

That you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

I've learned -

That no matter how thin you slice it, there are always two sides.

I've learned -

That it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

I've learned -

That it may be easier to react than to plan ahead, but it's much less effective.

I've learned -

That you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

I've learned -

That you can keep going long after you think you can't.

I've learned -

That we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

I've learned -

That either you control your attitude or it controls you.

I've learned -

That regardless of how hot and steamy a relationship is at first, passion fades and there had better be something stronger to take its place.

I've learned -

That heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I've learned -

That learning to forgive takes practice.

I've learned -

That there are people who love you dearly, but just don't know how to show it.

I've learned -

That money is a lousy way of keeping score.

I've learned -

That sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down will be the ones to help you get back up.

I've learned -

That just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.

I've learned -

That maturity has more to do with the experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

I've learned -

That no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

I've learned -



That it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.

I've learned -

That no matter how badly your heart is broken the world doesn't stop for your grief.

I've learned -

That background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

I've learned -

That just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other, and just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do.

I've learned -

That we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.

I've learned -

That your life can be changed in a matter of seconds by people who don't even know you.

I've learned -

That even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help.

I've learned -

That the paradigm we live in is not all that is offered to us.

I've learned -

That credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

### Attitudes

Jerry is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time.

How do you do it?"

Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it.

I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life.

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes, it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or



bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life." I reflected on what Jerry said. Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business: he left the back door open one morning and was held up at gun point by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination.

The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center.

After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body.

I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

Jerry continued, "...the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared.

In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man. I knew I needed to take action.'"

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead'."

Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

### Jewish Sons

(author unknown)

A Jewish father was concerned about his son who was about a year away from his Bar Mitzvah but was sorely lacking in his knowledge of the Jewish faith. To remedy this he sent his son to Israel to experience his heritage.

A year later the young man returned home.

"Father, thank you for sending me to the land of our Fathers," the son said. "It was wonderful and enlightening, however, I must confess that while in Israel I converted to Christianity."

"Oy vey," replied the father, "what have I done." So in the tradition of the patriarchs, he went to his best friend and sought his advice and solace.

"It is amazing that you should come to me," stated his friend, "I too sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian."



So in the tradition of the patriarchs, they went to the Rabbi. “It is amazing that you should come to me,” stated the Rabbi, “I too sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian. What is happening to our sons?”

Brothers, we must take this to the Lord,” said the Rabbi.

They fell to their knees and began to wail and pour out their hearts to the Almighty. As they prayed the clouds above opened and a Mighty Voice stated,

“Amazing that you should come to Me. I, too, sent My Son to Israel....”

### Just when you thought you knew everything

1. In many states the highway patrol carries two gallons of Coke in the trunk to remove blood from the highway after a car accident.
2. You can put a T-bone steak in a bowl of coke and it will be gone in two days.
3. To clean a toilet: Pour a can of Coca-Cola into the toilet bowl... Let the “real thing” sit for one hour, then flush clean.
4. The citric acid in Coke removes stains from vitreous china.
5. To remove rust spots from chrome car bumpers: Rub the bumper with a crumpled-up piece of Reynolds Wrap aluminum foil dipped in Coca-Cola.
6. To clean corrosion from car battery terminals: Pour a can of Coca-Cola over the terminals to bubble away corrosion.
7. To loosen a rusted bolt: Applying a cloth soaked in Coca-Cola to the rusted bolt for several minutes.
8. To remove grease from clothes: Empty a can of coke into a load of greasy clothes, add detergent, and run through a regular cycle. The Coca-Cola will help loosen grease stains.  
It will also clean road haze from your windshield.
9. The active ingredient in Coke is phosphoric acid. Its pH is 2.8. It will dissolve a nail in about 4 days.
10. To carry Coca Cola syrup (the concentrate) the commercial truck must use the Hazardous material placards reserved for Highly Corrosive materials.
11. The distributors of coke have been using it to clean the engines of their trucks for about 20 years!

It's the REAL thing?



### Keep It Short, Dummie!

Keep it short and concise!  
 The Gettysburg Address required only 266 words;  
 the Ten Commandments, 297 words;  
 the Declaration of Independence, 300 words,  
 and the order of the U. S. Office of Price Administration to reduce the price  
 of cabbage, 26,911 words.

Draw your own conclusions. . .

You can always tell when a government has grown too large, when the  
 paperwork exceeds the amount of actual work being done.

### LETTER FROM GOD ABOUT WOMEN

When I created the heavens and the earth, I spoke them into being. When I  
 created man, I formed him and breathed life into his nostrils.

But you, woman, I fashioned after I breathed the breath of life into man  
 because your nostrils are too delicate. I allowed a deep sleep to come over  
 him so I could patiently and perfectly fashion you. Man was put to sleep so  
 that he could not interfere with the creativity.

From one bone, I fashioned you. I chose the bone that protects man's life.  
 I chose the rib, which protects his heart and lungs and supports him, as  
 you are meant to do. Around this one bone, I shaped you.....I modeled you. I  
 created you perfectly and beautifully. Your characteristics are as the rib,  
 strong yet delicate and fragile. You provide protection for the most delicate  
 organ in man, his heart. His heart is the center of his being; his lungs hold the  
 breath of life. The rib cage will allow itself to be broken before it will allow  
 damage to the heart. Support man as the rib cage supports the body.

You were not taken from his feet, to be under him, nor were you taken from  
 his head, to be above him. You were taken from his side, to stand beside him  
 and be held close to his side.

You are my perfect angel.....You are my beautiful little girl. You have grown  
 to be a splendid woman of excellence, and my eyes fill when I see the virtues  
 in your heart. Your eyes..... don't change them. Your lips – how lovely when  
 they part in prayer. Your nose, so perfect in form. Your hands so gentle to  
 touch. I've caressed your face in your deepest sleep. I've held your heart  
 close to mine.

Of all that lives and breathes, you are most like me. Adam walked with me  
 in the cool of the day, yet he was lonely. He could not see me or touch me. He  
 could only feel me. So everything I wanted Adam to share and experience with  
 me, I fashioned in you; my holiness, my strength, my purity, my love, my pro-



tection and support. You are special because you are an extension of me. Man represents my image, woman my emotions. Together, you represent the totality of God.

So man.....treat women well. Love her, respect her, for she is fragile. In hurting her, you hurt me. What you do to her, you do to me. In crushing her, you only damage your own heart, the heart of your Father, and the heart of her Father.

Woman, support man. In humility, show him the power of emotion I have given you. In gentle quietness, show your strength. In love, show him that you are the rib that protects his inner self. Did you not know that as "WOMAN" you are special in God's eyes? Now we really know!

Amen!

### Life

Read carefully and understand the meanings!!

Love starts with a smile, grows with a kiss, and ends with a tear

Don't cry over anyone who won't cry over you

If love isn't a game, then why are there so many players?

Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget

You can only go as far as you push

Actions speak louder than words

The hardest thing to do is watch the one you love, love someone else

Don't let the past hold you back, you're missing the good stuff

Life's short. If you don't look around once in a while, you might miss it

A best friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have

Some people make the world special just by being in it

Best friends are the siblings God forgot to give us

When it hurts to look back, and you're scared to look ahead, you can look beside you and your best friend will be there

True friendship never ends. Friends are forever



Good friends are like stars... You don't always see them, but you know they are always there

Don't frown. You never know who is falling in love with your smile

Nobody is perfect until you fall in love with them

Everything is okay in the end. If it's not okay, then it's not the end

Most people walk in and out of you life, but only true friends leave foot-prints in your heart

To the world you might be one person, but to one person, you might be the world

### Life Map

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE

1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Memorize your favorite poem.
3. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have or sleep all you want.
4. When you say, "I love you", mean it.
5. When you say, "I'm sorry", look the person in the eye.
6. Be engaged at least six months before you get married.
7. Believe in love at first sight.
8. Never laugh at anyone's dreams.
9. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.
10. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.
11. Don't judge people by their relatives.
12. Talk slowly but think quickly.
13. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"
14. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
15. Call your Mom.
16. Say "bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.
17. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
18. Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; Responsibility for all your actions.
19. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
20. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
21. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.
22. Marry a man/woman you love to talk to. As you get older, their conversational skills will be as important as any other.
23. Spend some time alone.



24. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
25. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
26. Read more books and watch less TV.
27. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll get to enjoy it a second time.
28. Trust in God but lock your car.
29. A loving atmosphere in your home is so important. Do all you can to create a tranquil harmonious home.
30. In disagreements with loved ones, deal with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
31. Read between the lines.
32. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
33. Be gentle with the earth.
34. Pray. There's immeasurable power in it.
35. Never interrupt when you are being flattered.
36. Mind your own business.
37. Don't trust a man/woman who doesn't close his/her eyes when you kiss.
38. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
39. If you make a lot of money, put it to use helping others while you are living. That is wealth's greatest satisfaction.
40. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a stroke of luck.
41. Learn the rules then break some.
42. Remember that the best relationship is one where your love for each other is greater than your need for each other.
43. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
44. Remember that your character is your destiny.
45. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

### The Important Things Life Teaches You

#### 1 ~ Most Important Question

During my second month of nursing school, our professor gave us a pop quiz.

I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello'."

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

#### 2 ~ Pickup in the Rain



One night, at 11:30 PM, an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxi cab. She seemed to be in a big hurry! She wrote down his address, thanked him and drove away.

Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached.

It read: Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes but my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Nat King Cole

### 3 ~ Always remember those who serve

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?"

"Fifty cents," replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied a number of coins in it. "How much is a dish of plain ice cream?" he inquired.

Some people were now waiting for a table and the waitress was a bit impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she said brusquely. The little boy again counted the coins.

"I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed.

When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies - her tip.

### 4 ~ The Obstacle in Our Path

In ancient times, a king had a boulder placed on a roadway.

Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock.

Some of the King's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, But none did anything about getting the big stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables.

On approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. As the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been.

The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.



The peasant learned what many others never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve one's condition.

### 5 ~ Giving Blood

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at Stanford Hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness.

The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save Liz."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood. Attitude, after all, is everything.

Work like you don't need the money.

Love like you've never been hurt.

Dance like nobody's watching.

### "The Lil' Girl in the Park"

There was this lil' girl sitting by herself in the park. Everyone passed by her and never stopped to see why she looked so sad.

Dressed in a worn pink dress, bare foot and dirty, the girl just sat and watched the people go by. She never tried to speak, she never said a word.

Many people passed, but no one would stop.

The next day I decided to go back to the park, in curiosity, to see if the lil' girl would still be there.

Yes, she was there, right in the very spot as she was yesterday, and still with the sad look in her eyes.

Today I was to make my own move and walk over to the lil' girl.

For as we all know a park full of strange people is not a place for young children to play alone. As I got closer I could see the back of the lil' girl's dress was obscenely shaped.

I figured that was a reason the people just passed by and made no effort to help.

Deformities are a low blow to our society and so help you if you make a step toward assisting someone who is different.

As I got closer the lil' girl lowered her eyes slightly to avoid my intent stare. As I approached her, I could see the obscene shape of her back more clearly.

Grotesquely shaped in a humped over form.

I smiled to let her know it was OK, I was there to help, to talk.

I sat down beside her and opened with a simple Hello.



The lil' girl acted shocked, and stammered a 'hi,' after a long stare into my eyes. I smiled and she shyly smiled back.

We talked till darkness fell and the park was completely empty.

I asked the girl why she was so sad. The lil' girl looked at me and with a sad face said, "Because I'm different." I immediately said, "That you are!" And smiled.

The lil' girl acted even sadder, she said, "I know."

"Lil' girl," I said, "you remind me of an angel, sweet and innocent." She looked at me and smiled.

Slowly she got to her feet, and said, "Really?"

"Yes, you're like a Lil' Guardian Angel sent to watch over all those people walking by,"

She shook her head, yes and smiled. With that she spread her wings and said, "I am, I'm your Guardian Angel", with a twinkle in her eye.

I was speechless, sure I was seeing things.

She said, "for once you thought of someone other than yourself, my job here is done".

I got to my feet and said, "Wait, so why did no one stop to help an angel?" She looked at me and smiled, "You're the only one that could see me, and then she was gone.

And with that my life was changed dramatically.

So, When you think you're all you have, remember, your angel is always watching over you.

Every one of your friends is an Angel in their own way.

### Life 101

There are moments in life when you miss someone so much that you want to pick them out of your dreams and hug them. Dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go; be what you want to be, because this is not a dress rehearsal.....you have only one life and one chance to do all the things you want to do. Make the most of it.....no one will ever write on your tomb.....worked a lot. People don't remember what you said or what you did....they remember how you made them feel. If you made them feel loved, treasured, respected — then you will be loved and remembered in full measure in return.

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, enough hope to make you happy.

Always put yourself in others' shoes. If you feel that it hurts you, it probably hurts the other person too. The happiest people don't necessarily have everything or the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.



Happiness lives for those who cry, those who hurt, those who have searched, and those who tried, for only they can appreciate the importance of people who have touched their lives. Love, if you are brave enough to risk finding it.... begins with a smile, grows with a kiss and ends with a tear.

The brightest future will always be based on a forgiven past, you can't go on well in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches. When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so that when you die, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

### THE CARPENTER

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire.

They could get by. The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you." What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up less than the best. At important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built. If we had realized that we would have done it differently. Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house.

Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Build wisely.

It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity. The plaque on the wall says, "Life is a do-it-yourself project." Who could say it more clearly? Your life today is the result of your attitudes and choices in the past. Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.

Love You

What would you do if every time you fell in love you had to say good-bye?

What would you do if every time you wanted someone they would never be there?

What would you do, if your best friend died tomorrow and you never got to tell them how you felt?

What would you do if you loved someone more than ever and you couldn't have them?

Some people live, and some people die and some people dream and pray and hope and wish and love.

But I want to tell you I love you, and you are a true friend.

If I died tomorrow you would be in my heart.

Would I be in yours?

Man/Woman's Best Friend or what?????

James Crane worked on the 101st of Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. He is blind so he has a golden retriever named Daisy. After the plane hit 20 stories below, James knew that he was doomed, so he let Daisy go out of an act of love. With tears in her eyes she darted away into the darkened hallway. Choking on the fumes of the jet fuel and the smoke James was just waiting to die.

About 30 minutes later, Daisy came back along with James' boss, who Daisy just happened to pick up on floor 112. On her first run of the building, she leads James, James' boss and about 300 more people out of the doomed building. But she wasn't through yet, she knew there were others who were trapped. So, highly against James' wishes she ran back in the building.

On her second run, she saved 392 lives. Again she went back in. During this run, the building collapsed. James falls on his knees into tears. Against all known odds, Daisy makes it out alive, but this time she is carried by a firefighter. "She lead us right to the people, before she got injured" the fireman explained. Her final run saved other 273 lives. She suffered acute smoke inhalation, severe burns on all four paws and a broken leg, but she saved 967 lives.

The next week, Mayor Guilaini rewards Daisy with the Canine medal of Honor of New York. Daisy is the first civilian Canine to win such an honor.



**Mental exercise.**

VERY interesting, this.

**THIS IS A REALLY QUICK ONE!**

Have you ever wondered if your mind is normal or different? Well, do this little mind exercise and find out at the end! Free will or synaptic wiring?

You be the judge. Check out the following exercise, guaranteed to raise an eyebrow. There's no trick or surprise. Just follow these instructions, and answer the questions one at a time and as quickly as you can. Again, as quickly as you can but don't advance until you've done each of them — really.

Now, scroll down (but not too fast, you might miss something).

What is:

1+5

2+4

3+3

4+2

5+1

Now repeat saying the number 6 to yourself as fast as you can for 15 seconds. Then scroll down.

**QUICK! THINK OF A VEGETABLE! Then arrow down.**

Thinking of a carrot, right?

If not, you're among the 2% of the population whose minds are different enough to think of something else. 98% of people will answer with carrot when given this exercise.



## Monday, Tuesday

On Monday there were people fighting against praying in schools  
 On Tuesday you would have been hard pressed to find a school where  
 someone was not praying

On Monday there were people trying to separate each other by race, sex,  
 color and creed

On Tuesday they were all holding hands

On Monday we thought that we were secure

On Tuesday we learned better

On Monday we were talking about heroes as being athletes

On Tuesday we relearned what hero meant

On Monday people went to work at the world trade centers as usual

On Tuesday they died

On Monday people were fighting the 10 commandments on government  
 property

On Tuesday the same people all said 'God help us all' while thinking 'Thou  
 shall not kill'

On Monday people argued with their kids about picking up their room

On Tuesday the same people could not get home fast enough to hug their  
 kids

On Monday people picked up McDonalds for dinner

On Tuesday they stayed home

On Monday people were upset that their dry cleaning was not ready on time

On Tuesday they were lining up to give blood for the dying

On Monday politicians argued about budget surpluses

On Tuesday grief stricken they sang 'God Bless America'

On Monday we worried about the traffic and getting to work late

On Tuesday we worried about a plane crashing into your house or place of  
 business

On Monday we were irritated that our rebate checks had not arrived

On Tuesday we saw people celebrating people dying in the USA

On Monday some children had solid families

On Tuesday they were orphans

On Monday the president was going to Florida to read to children



On Tuesday he returned to Washington to protect our children

On Monday we emailed jokes  
On Tuesday we did not

It is sadly ironic how it takes horrific events to place things into perspective, but it has. The lessons learned this week, the things we have taken for granted, the things that have been forgotten or overlooked, hopefully will never be forgotten again.

On Monday - pray and be thankful  
On Tuesday - pray and be thankful  
On Wednesday - pray and be thankful  
On Thursday - pray and be thankful  
On Friday - pray and be thankful  
On Saturday - pray and be thankful  
On Sunday - pray and be thankful

As Americans we have become complacent, it is sad that it takes a major blow to wake us up every once in awhile. What's sadder still is how soon we also forget and lose the momentum we gained.

#### More interesting info

Pearls melt in vinegar.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

The three most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca Cola, and Budweiser, in that order.

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs, but not downstairs.

A duck's quack doesn't echo... and no one knows why.

And, the best for last..... Turtles can breathe through their butts.

#### My Mother Told me so

A Story To Live By, by Ann Wells (Los Angeles Times)

My brother-in-law opened the bottom drawer of my sister's bureau and lifted out a tissue-wrapped package. "This," he said, "is not a slip. This is lingerie." He discarded the tissue and handed me the slip. It was exquisite; silk, handmade and trimmed with a cobweb of lace. The price tag with an astronomical figure on it was still attached.



“Jan bought this the first time we went to New York, at least 8 or 9 years ago. She never wore it. She was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is the occasion.”

He took the slip from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the mortician.

His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, then he slammed the drawer shut and turned to me. “Don’t ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you’re alive is a special occasion.”

I remembered those words through the funeral and the days that followed when I helped him and my niece attend to all the sad chores that follow an unexpected death. I thought about them on the plane returning to California from the Midwestern town where my sister’s family lives.

I thought about all the things that she hadn’t seen or heard or done.

I thought about the things that she had done without realizing that they were special.

I’m still thinking about his words, and they’ve changed my life.

I’m reading more and dusting less. I’m sitting on the deck and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I’m spending more time with my family and friends and less time in committee meetings.

Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experience to savor, not endure. I’m trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I’m not “saving” anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event - such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, the first camellia blossom. I wear my good blazer to the market if I feel like it. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries without wincing. I’m not saving my good perfume for special parties; clerks in hardware stores and tellers in banks have noses that function as well as my party-going friends.

“Someday” and “one of these days” are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it’s worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I’m not sure what my sister would’ve done had she known that she wouldn’t be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think she would have called family members and a few close friends. She might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think she would have gone out for a Chinese dinner, her favorite food. I’m guessing - I’ll never know.

It’s those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited. Angry because I put off seeing good friends whom I was going to get in touch with - someday. Angry because I hadn’t written certain letters that I intended to write - one of these days.

Angry and sorry that I didn’t tell my husband and daughter often enough how much I truly love them. I’m trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives.

And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special.

Everyday, every minute, every breath truly is... a gift from God.

[Live life...](#)



### My Special List

I have a list of folks I know...  
all written in a book,  
And every now and then..  
I go and take a look.  
That is when I realize  
these names... they are a part,  
not of the book they're written in...  
but taken from the heart.  
For each Name stands for someone...  
who has crossed my path sometime,  
and in that meeting they have become...  
the reason and the rhyme.  
Although it sounds fantastic.  
for me to make this claim,  
I really am composed...  
of each remembered name.  
Although you're not aware...  
of any special link,  
just knowing you, has shaped my life...  
more than you could think.  
So please don't think my greeting...  
as just a mere routine,  
your name was not...  
forgotten in between.  
For when I send a greeting...  
that is addressed to you,  
it is because you're on the list...  
of folks I'm indebted to.  
So whether I have known you...  
for many days or few,  
in some ways you have a part...  
in shaping things I do.  
I am but a total...  
of many folks I've met,  
you are a friend I would prefer...  
never to forget.  
Thank you for being my friend!

“Ability will enable a man to go to the top, but it takes character to keep him there.”



### NASCAR & a perspective

On 18 February 2001, while racing for fame and fortune, Dale Earnhardt died in the last lap of the Daytona 500. It was surely a tragedy for his family, friends and fans. He was 49 years old with grown children, one, which was in the race. I am new to the NASCAR culture so much of what I know has come from the newspaper and TV. He was a winner and earned everything he had. This included more than “\$41 million in winnings and ten times that from endorsements and souvenir sales”. He had a beautiful home and a private jet. He drove the most sophisticated cars allowed and every part was inspected and replaced as soon as there was any evidence of wear. This is normally fully funded by the car and team sponsors. Today, there is no TV station that does not constantly remind us of his tragic end and the radio already has a song of tribute to this winning driver. Nothing should be taken away from this man, he was a professional and the best in his profession. He was in a very dangerous business but the rewards were great.

Two weeks ago seven U.S. Army soldiers died in a training accident when two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters collided during night maneuvers in Hawaii. The soldiers were all in their twenties, pilots, crew chiefs and infantrymen. Most of them lived in sub-standard housing. If you add their actual duty hours (in the field, deployed) they probably earn something close to minimum wage. The aircraft they were in were between 15 and 20 years old. Many times parts were not available to keep them in good shape due to funding. They were involved in the extremely dangerous business of flying in the Kauhuku mountains at night. It only gets worse when the weather moves in as it did that night. Most times no one is there with a yellow or red flag to slow things down when it gets critical. Their children were mostly toddlers who will lose all memory of who “Daddy” was as they grow up. They died training to defend our freedom.

I take nothing away from Dale Earnhardt but ask you to perform this simple test. Ask any of your friends if they know who the NASCAR driver killed on 18 February 2001 was. Then ask them if they can name one of the seven soldiers who died in Hawaii two weeks ago.

18 February 2001, Dale Earnhardt died driving for fame and glory at the Daytona 500. The nation mourns. Seven soldiers died training to protect our freedom. No one can remember their names and most don't even remember the incident.

**It comes down to who's really important, or just famous!**



## New Commandments

1. Thou shall not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
2. Thou shall not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
3. Thou shall not cross bridges before you come to them, for no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.
4. Thou shall face each problem as it comes—you can only handle one at a time anyway.
5. Thou shall not take problems to bed with you, for they make very poor bedfellows.
6. Thou shall not borrow other people's problems. They can better care for them than you can.
7. Thou shall not try to relive yesterday for good or ill, it is forever gone. Concentrate on what is happening in your life and be happy now!
8. Thou shall be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear different ideas from your own. It is hard to learn something new when you are talking, and some people do know more than you do.
9. Thou shall not become "bogged down" by frustration, for 90 percent of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive action.
10. Thou shall count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

## Nice Person

Hello There Nice Person  
 Did Anyone Ever Tell You,  
 Just How Special You Are  
 The Light that You Emit  
 Might even Light a Star  
 Did Anyone Ever Tell You  
 How Important You Make Others Feel  
 Somebody out here is Smiling  
 About Love that is so Real  
 Did Anyone Ever Tell You  
 Many Times, When They were Sad  
 Your E-mail made Them Smile a bit  
 In Fact It made Them Glad  
 For the Time You Spend Sending Things  
 And Sharing whatever You Find  
 There are No Words to Thank You  
 But Somebody, Thinks You're Fine  
 Did Anyone Ever Tell You  
 Just How Much They Love You  
 Well, My Dearest "Online " Friend



Today I am Telling You  
 I HOPE I GET THIS BACK  
 I believe that without a  
 Friend you are missing out on a lot!!!  
 Don't be confused by friends and  
 acquaintances, there is a difference!  
 Because I care about you...

Things are not what they seem!

Justice - When you get what you deserve  
 Mercy - When you don't get what you deserve  
 Grace - When you get what you don't deserve

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead the angels were given a space in the cold basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied...Things aren't always what they seem.

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest.

When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field. The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel how you could have let this happen! The first man had everything, yet you helped him. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let their cow die.

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied. When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it.

Then last night as we slept in the farmer's bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I told him to take the cow instead.

Things aren't always what they seem. Sometimes this is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way we think they should. If you have faith in God, just trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You might not realize it until much later.



## Dear Friends,

The following was sent to me by my friend Tamim Ansary. Tamim is an Afghani-American writer. He is also one of the most brilliant people I know in this life. Here is his take on Afghanistan, the horror, and the whole mess we are in.

I've been hearing a lot of talk about "bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age." Ronn Owens, on KGO Talk Radio today, allowed that this would mean killing innocent people, people who had nothing to do with this atrocity, but "we're at war, we have to accept collateral damage.

What else can we do?" Minutes later I heard some TV pundit discussing whether we "have the belly to do what must be done." And I thought about the issues being raised especially hard because I am from Afghanistan, and even though I've lived here for 35 years I've never lost track of what's going on there. So I want to tell anyone who will listen how it all looks from where I'm standing.

I speak as one who hates the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden. There is no doubt in my mind that these people were responsible for the atrocity in New York.

I agree that something must be done about those monsters. But the Taliban and Ben Laden are not Afghanistan. They're not even the government of Afghanistan. The Taliban are a cult of ignorant psychotics who took over Afghanistan in 1997. Bin Laden is a political criminal with a plan. When you think Taliban, think Nazis. When you think Bin Laden, think Hitler. And when you think "the people of Afghanistan" think "the Jews in the concentration camps." It's not only that the Afghan people had nothing to do with this atrocity. They were the first victims of the perpetrators.

They would exult if someone would come in there, take out the Taliban and clear out the rats nest of international thugs holed up in their country.

Some say, why don't the Afghans rise up and overthrow the Taliban? The answer is, they're starved, exhausted, hurt, incapacitated, and suffering. A few years ago, the United Nations estimated that there are 500,000 disabled orphans in Afghanistan—a country with no economy, no food.

There are millions of widows. And the Taliban has been burying these widows alive in mass graves. The soil is littered with land mines; the farms were all destroyed by the Soviets. These are a few of the reasons why the Afghan people have not overthrown the Taliban.

We come now to the question of bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age. Trouble is, that's been done. The Soviets took care of it already. Make the Afghans suffer? They're already suffering. Level their houses? Done. Turn their schools into piles of rubble? Done. Eradicate their hospitals? Done. Destroy their infrastructure? Cut them off from medicine and health care? Too late. Someone already did all that. New bombs would only stir the rubble of earlier bombs. Would they at least get the Taliban? Not likely. In today's Afghanistan, only the Taliban eat, only they have the means to move around. They'd slip away and hide. Maybe the bombs would get some of those disabled orphans, they don't move too fast, they don't even have wheelchairs.



But flying over Kabul and dropping bombs wouldn't really be a strike against the criminals who did this horrific thing. Actually it would only be making common cause with the Taliban—by raping once again the people they've been raping all this time.

So what else is there? What can be done then? Let me now speak with true fear and trembling. The only way to get Bin Laden is to go in there with ground troops. When people speak of "having the belly to do what needs to be done" they're thinking in terms of having the belly to kill as many as needed. Having the belly to overcome any moral qualms about killing innocent people. Let's pull our heads out of the sand. What's actually on the table is Americans dying. And not just because some Americans would die fighting their way through Afghanistan to Bin Laden's hideout. It's much bigger than that folks. Because to get any troops to Afghanistan, we'd have to go through Pakistan. Would they let us? Not likely. The conquest of Pakistan would have to be first. Will other Muslim nations just stand by? You see where I'm going. We're flirting with a world war between Islam and the West. And guess what: that's Bin Laden's program. That's exactly what he wants.

That's why he did this. Read his speeches and statements. It's all right there. He really believes Islam would beat the west. It might seem ridiculous, but he figures if he can polarize the world into Islam and the West, he's got a billion soldiers. If the west wrecks a holocaust in those lands, that's a billion people with nothing left to lose, that's even better from Bin Laden's point of view. He's probably wrong, in the end the west would win, whatever that would mean, but the war would last for years and millions would die, not just theirs but ours. Who has the belly for that? Bin Laden does. Anyone else? -TA

And now we're facing off against Iraq (again). To finish the job we started and should have finished back in '91. We might not have had a Sept. 11th if we had removed Saddam then from power as we have the Taliban now. I find it confusing that there are protestors out now, for "No War in Iraq!" Where were these people when we took on Afghanistan? Can they not see that there is NO difference between the two? One was a dictatorship of religion, and the other is a dictatorship of one!

### One People

As the soot and dirt and ash rained down,  
We became one color.

As we carried each other down the stairs of the burning building,  
We became one class.

As we lit candles of waiting and hope,  
We became one generation.

As the firefighters and police officers fought their way into the inferno,  
We became one gender.



As we fell to our knees in prayer for strength,  
We became one faith.

As we whispered or shouted words of encouragement,  
We spoke one language.

As we gave our blood in lines a mile long,  
We became one body.

As we mourned together the great loss,  
We became one family.

As we cried tears of grief and loss,  
We became one soul.

As we retell with pride of the sacrifice of heroes,  
We become one people.

We are  
One color  
One class  
One generation  
One gender  
One faith  
One language  
One body  
One family  
One soul  
One people  
We are The Power of One.

We are United.

We are America.

This candle was lit on the 11th of September, 2001.

Please pass it on to your friends & family so that it may shine all across America.

Pay attention

Dear Friend,

As You got up this morning, I watched you and hoped you would talk to me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday but I noticed you were too



busy trying to find the right outfit to put on and wear to work or class. I waited again. When you ran around the house or dorm getting ready I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello, but you were too busy. At one point you had to wait fifteen minutes with/ nothing to do except sit in a chair. Then I saw you spring to your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip. I watched as you went to school and work and I waited patiently all day long. With all your activities, I guess you were too busy all day to say anything to me. I noticed that before lunch you looked around, maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, that is why you didn't bow your head. You glanced three or four tables over and you noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate, but you didn't. That's okay. There is still more time left, and I have hope that you will talk to me even yet. You went home and it seems as if you had lots of things to do. After a few of them were done, you turned on the TV or the net; I don't know if I like TV or computers or not, just about anything goes there & you spend a lot of time each day in front of them, not thinking about anything-just enjoying the show. I waited patiently again as you watched TV and ate your meal but again you didn't talk to me. At bedtime I guess you felt too tired. After you said goodnight to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That's okay because you may not realize that I am always there for you. I've got patience, more than you will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well. Because I love you so much, a long time ago I left a wonderful place called Heaven and came to Earth. I gave it up so that I could be ridiculed and made fun of, and I even died so you wouldn't have to take my place. I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, praise or thought or a thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one-sided conversation. Well you are getting up again and once again I will wait with nothing but love for you hoping that today you will give me some time. Have a nice day!

Love Always, Your Friend,  
Jesus

p.s. do you have enough time to send this to another person?

#### Petition

FCC petition to stop worship services broadcast on tv and radio

Date: Tue, 11 Feb 2003 09:56:06 -0800

No matter where you stand on the religious aspects of this issue, I think all can agree that this is censorship, which is NOT what this country was founded on. If someone doesn't like the show, they have the right to turn it off. This should not infringe upon the rights of others to watch.

Besides, positive shows such as this one certainly aren't hurting anyone.

Which is more than I can say about countries who are killing people in the name of God.

CBS will discontinue "Touched by an Angel" for using the word God in every program. Madeline Murray O'Hare, an atheist, successfully managed to



eliminate the use of Bible reading from public schools a few years ago.

Now her organization has been granted a Federal Hearing on the same subject by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, DC.

Their petition, Number 2493, would ultimately pave the way to stop the reading of the gospel our Lord and Savior, on the airwaves of America.

They have 287,000 signatures to back their stand!

If this attempt is successful, all Sunday worship services being broadcast on the radio or by television will be stopped. This group is also campaigning to remove all Christmas programs and Christmas carols from public schools!!

You can help! We are praying for at least 1 million signatures. This would defeat their effort and show that there are many Christians alive well, and concerned about our country. As Christians we must unite on this.

Please don't take this lightly. We ignored this lady once and lost prayer in our school and in offices across the nation.

Laws (petitions) are basically negative. They are enacted to prevent others from certain actions a group (small or large, but usually a minority) finds offensive or fears others doing. Explained in one of my law classes: we can think of our rights as a bundle of straw, and every law takes away one or more straws from that bundle, they never add to it.

This particular group is trying to take away OUR right to view material that they don't want to be subjected to, that in the true sense of freedom, THEY could just choose not to view. But instead they wish to deny everyone their right of free choice, instead of exercising their own.

#### PRAISING GOD FOR LIFE!

A lthough things are not perfect  
 B ecause of trial or pain  
 C ontinue in thanksgiving  
 D o not begin to blame  
 E ven when the times are hard  
 F ierce winds are bound to blow  
 G od is forever able  
 H old on to what you know  
 I magine life without His love  
 J oy would cease to be  
 K eep thanking Him for all the things  
 L ove imparts to thee  
 M ove out of "Camp Complaining"  
 N o weapon that is known  
 O n earth can yield the power  
 P raise can do alone  
 Q uit looking at the future  
 R edeem the time at hand  
 S tart every day with worship



**T**o “thank” is a command  
**U**ntil we see Him coming  
**V**ictorious in the sky  
**W**e’ll run the race with gratitude  
**X**alting God most high  
**Y**es, there’ll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...  
**Z**ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

See ya in the next issue...