

I AM WISDOM ELIMINATES FEAR AND DOUBT

The greatest blessings of (humankind) are within us and within our reach. A wise (man or woman) is content with (his or her) lot, whatever it may be, without wishing for what (he or she) has not.

Seneca

Envy

The quote from Seneca was a little slanted by gender. It is proper to note that Lucius Annaeus Seneca the Younger lived during the time of Jesus, and he died roughly thirty years after the crucifixion. It seems that Seneca and most all Biblical writers were focused on writing to men. No real reason to mention this except for the fact that I took some liberties with his quote about envy and felt a need to explain.

Envy by simple definition means a person wants what another person has. The sentence may start like this: “I want a better car than my neighbor Sherry. She is so pretentious about her “ride”. When I get my new Tesla, I’ll show her what’s what.

Really? How does that work?

What we can all be sure of is that having something that is perceived by the person wanting something does not mean that when the person owns that something the world will be a better place or something. I know your saying “That’s a goofy sentence Ted,” but please read it again to see if you can find a way to agree with me. I want you to agree with me, and yes, I am envious of your approval.

Wise people do not envy frivolously. The wise realize there are some good reasons why they don’t have many of the things they really want. We continue to write and talk about the effects of the pandemic on our lives. For a while I found myself being envious of people who were not over fifty like me because they were not in a “high risk” category. Then I saw the effects of Covid-19 on strong youthful people who were putting their lives in danger as they provide medical attention to the infected. My thoughts were quickly muffled by logic and recognition that change is inevitable.

The wise emerge in both life and pandemic realistic about the consequences of winning, succeeding, or possibly losing. They may want to win as much as the next person, but they are aware of how many principles will remain unchanged whatever the outcome. They don’t exaggerate the available options. Wise know how much we remain tethered to some basic dynamics in personalities, health, and job or material possession we acquire. During the year we were anxious about Covid’s effect on the simple things that had been taken away...where we

shop or dine, or educate our children, or where and how we worship. The pressure has been difficult on most of us in many ways.

This past year has without question affected and infected millions of people around our planet. I am convinced the world will only emerge victorious when the South African word “ubuntu” becomes a universal way of thinking and acting. Ubuntu is a quality that includes the essential human virtues compassion and humanity. By translation the word emphasizes “I am because we are.” What a glorious thought. Uniting and becoming one in the face of adversities we face brings peace and resolution. The situation has drug on for 14 months with little promise of it changing soon. Wisdom tells me that patience and intentional work to instill the ubuntu philosophy in our lives will bring peace and strong relationships going forward.

To quote a dedicated friend to us all—Rick Eckart, we know change does not happen immediately. With Rick’s permission, I am including his email to the greeters and our Church sent on Cinco de Mayo.

“Cinco de Greeto

Handshakes and hugs are still a couple of months away. But some Greeters are thinking of "shaking it" at home.

You see, this is a traditional time of year for the Greeters, when the winter jackets come off and the spring weather comes in. It's a celebratory time Greeters refer to as "Cinco de Greeto".

While the famous handshake dance will wait for another year, and the ceremonial coffee and donuts will be delayed for a couple months, the Greeters feel like there is a lot to celebrate.

So they will be "shaking it" at home with the traditional Cinco de Greeto dance. Even if you don't know the dance, everyone on Zoom knows the chorus to the song, right?

Thank you Rick for reminding us about the good times to come when patience prevails.

Peace Always

Ted