

SO THE MEASURE OF ALL THINGS

So, what is it this time? Trying hard to be who we always thought we *should* be? Trying to drive our lives instead of being driven? Letting things come as they may or simply forcing things our own way. Happy endings are not always the case, and time wasted is more than what often happens. We learn from our hardships, we decide that next time we will be more careful. We say that from now on it is only ourselves that we must first please. Indeed, man's first duty is to himself and himself alone. But isn't that what we constantly do? And now, *Who is the measure of all things?* Protagorus' dictum says "man is the measure of all things" Plato tried to correct Protagorus. "God and not man is the measure of all things." We did not listen to Plato...

IF YOU ARE CASE SENSITIVE, DO NOT READ THIS:

I would like to get a tattoo
 Ok, what would you like to get?
 Unconcerned... I guess I want to get it on my back, where I don't see it
 Really?
 Yes, cause I don't wanna get bored with it.
 Ok, what would you like to get?
 Unconcerned... I guess I don't want something big and I don't want it to show...
 Ok, what would you like to get?
 I don't want something big and I want it special, not common you know?
 Common yes.
 Sooo, what's the theme that you would like to have?
 What do you mean?
 What's the idea that you would like to get tattooed on your skin?
 Unconcerned... I guess exactly... you tell me cause you're the expert... I've never had a tattoo before...
 over the phone:
 -when can I call you to take an appointment?

how much for a 3.5cm x 10cm 1 color design?
 favorite phone questions:
 1. how much for a medium size tattoo?
 2. asking for directions to the shop followed by silence forcing me to ask, "from where?"
 3. are you going to be busy tomorrow at about 5:30
 4. do you have the number for... (that other shop)

Lady: "I wanna get a tattoo today, but I do not know what to get?"
 Me: "Well... what do you like?"
 Lady: "I don't know..."
 Me: "Well you must like something? Roses, Hearts, Animals, tribal, Your Kids, Your Mom... Something?"
 Lady: "No, none of those, I do not know... but I want it today."
 Me: "That design is too busy to tattoo that small."
 Girl: Really?
 Me: Yeah, it'll be a blob in 6-8 weeks.

Girl: Are you sure?
 Me: Well, let me ask someone who knows what he's talking about.
 "how many needles is that?" like they know the fucking difference.
 -what is in tattoo room?
 -I want a tattoo, What do you recommend?
 -I want to get it in a special place on my body, can you tell me where?
 -I want to get it where I can't see it cause I don't wanna get bored with it
 Me: "Well... what do you like?"
 -Must it's only a color, why is it so expensive??
 -Can you cover it up with skin color? My friend told me it works...
 -I want to cover up this tattoo but I want to remain the same size...
 -How much does it hurt?
 -Where does it hurt the most?
 -Are you done?? (after 1 min of working)
 Girl: Really?
 Is it ok if I move while you're tattooing me?

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.



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There is charm in mystery. A rare quality lies in the hidden. Seductive like a secret, unseen, unknown, untouched, unscarred, perfect, whole, solid...eternal. Mystery inspires hope and fear, it has no middle ground, no human awkwardness which we call the hazy grey area of not knowing. Not knowing how to react, what to feel, or what to decide at certain moments in life.

Mystery has a certain edge to it that is second to none. Nothing compares to what is mysterious, be it a god or a person; like someone behind a voice, a musician behind an instrument, unseen, untouched, only heard and imagined. It is only where human frailty and imperfectness hide behind artistic genius. The same applies to many things in life; books, poems, theater, technology (the finished product that bears no human trace in its making), movie animation, even to real human characters in movies. These characters become role models to many, just like the ancient myths of Greek gods and Mesopotamian gods whose stories fascinated whole populations and they became the role models to everyone living there and then.

Mystery is the maker of magic, magic is an answer to mystery.



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Magic embellishes mystery, it gives it color and depth, and that makes it beautiful. Beautiful like a dream or a daydream which in turn is the source of hope, the whole point in life. To have no hope is to have no life. Physical death is not scary, what is scary is the spiritual death of the individual; The death of a dream or hope, the slaughter of the soul. The death of an ideal once proudly held or the death of an aim or a goal. Physical death is a mystery to all, and to make this mystery more acceptable people have come up with answers for it; life after death and that idea is beautiful, poetic, hopeful and bright like a dream. The mystery of tomorrow is our daily cutting edge. What would we do if we knew we could not fail? How would we live if we could see tomorrow and the day after? The mystery of tomorrow is like the thrill of unwrapping a gift. It is this exciting anticipation of discovering and uncovering what is unknown, bitter or sweet. It is this question that keeps us looking forward to fully living one more day. Will we fail? Will we succeed? Will we make it or break it and finally get to understand? How will it feel? What will come after...?

Who or what lies behind the veil? Who is behind art and music and words? Who are these people who create a barrier between them and the rest of the world? Those who talk to the world with music, words, shapes and color. Those who decide to 'hide' themselves (or part of themselves) behind a book or a song or a tattoo on their skin. Are they hiding something or merely revealing a glimpse of what they are for the world to see and touch?

Who are we surrounded with? The endless and everchanging stream of people we encounter everyday has a direct and indirect influence on the course of our lives, decisions and turns and accidents. Who is hiding behind the tiger below or the bold statement above? Why did these people decide to create a mystery about themselves to the world around them? And when you get closer, what will you find behind the veil? What will be inside the cave that has an intimidating face?

What lies in a cat's mind?

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Your comments are highly appreciated. If you have any ideas for this newsletter, or if you have something to say and would like to have it published, please send email to: hady@hadybeydoun.com

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MYSTERY



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