




POTPOURRI

To Stimulate & Entertain; Figuratively: 'Panem et Circenses'

The Noble Eightfold Path of Buddhism

to develop
Wisdom:

1. Right View
2. Right Intention

to develop
Ethical Conduct:

3. Right Speech
4. Right Action
5. Right Livelihood

to develop
Mental
Development:

6. Right Effort
7. Right Mindfulness
8. Right Concentration

Featured Quote:

The drive to make money is at the root of the business world and "we have to assume human behavior is what it is, and that's what you need government for." -- *Michael Walzer, Princeton moral philosopher*

BIG Q #72 :

Almost all Japanese and Scandinavians are literate, but most Iraqis are not--even tho' writing was done there 4,000 years ago.

HUMOR [?!]:

A woman returned home from evening church service, and was startled by a burglar. She yelled: 'Stop! Acts 2:38!' [Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.] The burglar stopped in his tracks, and she calmly called the police. As the officer cuffed the man, he asked him: 'Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you.' 'Scripture?' replied the burglar. 'She said she had an ax and two 38s!' --from *Philip S.*

FACTOID:

In 1965 half the Catholic children in the U.S. were in Catholic elementary schools; today it is 15%.

Now ya know:

Iron objects became common in the Fertile Crescent and China only after about 2,000 years of experience making bronze artifacts.

"Parting is all we need to know of hell." --*Emily Dickenson*

KWIKWIZ:

711. Who completed university quicker: Thomas Jefferson at *William & Mary* or Alexander Hamilton at *Kings College* [now *Columbia U.*]?

712. The Bank of America is about a century old; what was its original name?

713. What % of Catholics are Americans?

714. What do scissors, a used Q-tip, a bullet, a baby's tooth, drugs, pornography and forty \$1,000 bills have in common?

715. Name the five animals that were domesticated in the New World.

The advent of the **cash register**, invented in 1879 by a Dayton bar owner, allowed merchants to thwart pilfering clerks by charging 99¢ [instead of a dollar], thereby forcing cashiers to open the register to give change.

2012 will mark the end of the Mayan calendar's Long Count, when a great epoch will come to a close, and the winter solstice that year will have the Sun rise within the dark rift at the center of our Milky Way galaxy.

Is this convincing?

If all men are created equal, how was slavery justified?

1. Historically, prisoners of war were killed, so making them slaves was more humane.

2. Debtors could be treated cruelly and even forced to give 'a pound of flesh'...so slavery was more kind.

3. Children in an impoverished family would die of starvation, so selling them into slavery kept them alive.

1976 Census: 59% of women aged 40-44 had 3 or more children; 20% had 5 or more; 6% had 7 or more.

2006 Census: 28% had 3 or more; 4% had 5 or more; 0.5% had 7 or more. [*four decades after the Supreme Court declared birth control a constitutional right*]

✿ The British Empire abolished slavery in 1933.

✿ The **Four Greatest Democratic Statesmen** were: Pericles, Churchill, an American with one year of education: Abraham Lincoln, and FDR. Three were aristocrats, Lincoln was raised in grinding poverty, and his father signed his name with an X. --*J. Rufus Fears*

✿ *Teddy Roosevelt* said the two greatest Americans were: **George Washington** and **Abe Lincoln**.

✿ **Cats** have 40 more bones than humans: mostly in the spine and tail.

✿ The **black-white testing gap** could be eliminated by four consecutive years of having a teacher from the top 25%. --*Los Angeles study*

✿ The roughly **600 coal-fired power plants** in the U.S. are responsible for almost 1/3 of the country's total carbon emissions.

✿ **Umbrella** comes from the Latin for "shade," or "shadow," *umbra* — via the Italian *ombrella*. **Parasol** comes from *pare-*, a prefix that means "prepared for" or "guarding against"; and *sol*, for "sun." **Bumbershoot** comes from the same root as "umbrella," but the *umbra* ("shade") gets its "b" pronounced in front of it as well, and adds the *shoot* (as in "chute") for the idea of "falling" or "coming down."

KWIKWIZ answers:

711. Jefferson in two years; Hamilton in six months

712. The Bank of Italy

713. 6% [67 million of 1.1 billion]

714. All were found in books at second-hand bookstores. -- *Henry Alford*

715. the turkey in Mexico/American S.W.; llama/alpaca and guinea pig in the Andes; Moscovy duck in S. America; dog throughout America.

CHALLENGE #159 was:

He had all his dental fillings removed to prevent U.S. and Russian agents from sending radio signals to his brain, but had an IQ [181] higher than Einstein's. He also believed that the Jews wanted to eradicate the African elephant because its trunk was a reminder of an uncircumcised penis. **Answer:** Chess genius Bobby Fischer

[*Note: Fred M. got the previous week's tree challenge.*]

CHALLENGE #160:

In the Bible, there are numerous instances where a woman who was not expected to get pregnant, did. In every case, but one, it was a boy. Name the exception. [Bonus points for naming the others.]

Final Q: Should companies that are bailed out by the Government be allowed to make political contributions?