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Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Dear David,

 Ara Norwood

Welcome to another hard-hitting issue of *Uncommon Sense*, my free semi-monthly publication.

If you are receiving this through social media, why don't you consider becoming a regular subscriber so you never miss an issue. Visit my website to sign up (www.aranorwood.com).


I've got a lot on the docket in this issue. First, we explore clues (I call them indicators) that life leaves us with regularity. Next, I offer a blunt assessment of the second-most intolerant movement facing the west today -- Leftism.

(Admittedly, Islamic terror groups like Isis are worse.) And I share some musings about getting conflicting advice.

I hope and expect that whatever your interests, you will find some value herein.

OK, let's get started.

Indicators

One of my favorite movies of an earlier era was ***The Return of the Pink Panther***. This slapstick comedy, starring Peter Sellers playing a bumbling, inept detective named Inspector Clouseau, had me laughing uncontrollably at times. In one of the more memorable scenes, Inspector Clouseau is explaining to his aid, Cato, that all great detectives have one thing in common -- instinct. He goes on, "That rare ability to know immediately without having to stop and reason. And in my business it can easily mean the difference between life and death." Then the doorbell rings and Clouseau goes to answer it. He opens the door and sees a darkly clad figure handing him a bowling-ball sized bomb with a lit fuse. Clouseau takes it and thanks the man,  Instinct who then scurries off. Clouseau carries the bomb back into his living room as he continues his lecture to Cato: "Yes, that split-second timing when instinct tells you. . ." and then he finally catches on as to what is about to happen. It's really quite funny. You can see that scene by [clicking here](#).

What Clouseau failed to comprehend were various indicators. A ringing doorbell at a late hour was an indicator. A dark-clad, faceless, voiceless person standing on his doorstep was an indicator. A black spherical object with a lit fuse protruding from it was an indicator. The silent, faceless person on the door step running off into the night was an indicator. Clouseau was quite slow in catching on to the blatant clues that surrounded him.

Many of us are no different, but it's not slapstick -- it's tragic.

Think about the people you surround yourself with, either in your work or your personal life. Is there a person who lies to you? That's an indicator. Is there a person who wastes your time? That's an indicator. Is there a person who bores you? That's an indicator. Is there a person who consistently lets you down? That's an indicator. Conversely, is there someone who defends you? Is there someone who seems to have your best interests in mind? Is there someone who challenges you and helps you grow? Those are all indicators also. You need to have the courage to rid yourself of the first group and to embrace and support the second group.

Indicators are not limited to the quality of our relationships.

Think about your health. Are you feeling burned out, tired, sore, lethargic, sleepy, or stiff? Do you feel sapped of energy? Do you feel dizzy or foggy? Is it difficult to move? Those are all indicators. A better diet, more consistent sleep, an exercise program, and a trip to the doctor are all probably in order.

Indicators are not limited to the quality of our physical health.

Think about your sense of meaning. Do you feel anxiety? Do you lack purpose?

Do you find yourself less ethical than you were in the past? Does your conscience seem pinched, or worse, does it seem numb? Those are also indicators of a dullness in your spiritual life. You need to find a way to be inspired again, whether it be to join a service organization like the Rotary Club, or to read something inspiring (try [The Anatomy of Peace](#)) or open the New Testament and read the Gospel according to St. John, or go to church, or pray, or get out in nature somewhere, or get away from the city lights and be over-awed by the stars in the cosmos late at night. You need to recalibrate your spirit.

Indicators are not limited to the quality of your spiritual life.

Think about your finances for a moment. Do you live paycheck to paycheck? Do you find that you just can't make your money stretch to the next time you get paid? Do you find yourself turning to credit cards for basic expenditures? Do you find yourself eroding your savings? Are you in over your head with debt? You need to turn that around or you will be poor. Read [Money: Master the Game](#) by Tony Robbins. In fact, read it twice. And during the second reading, actually put into practice the tips you find there. It will change your life for the better. And get a fiduciary, which means, get a financial planner who can help you and who is unbiased. If you are in southern California, I recommend Mike Sears of [World Class Retirement](#). He's not only one of the most astute financial planners in the country, but he is without question a man of unmatched integrity and principle.

Bottom line: pay attention to the indicators that are sending you clues all the time. Whether it involves your car, your digestive system, your eye-sight, your conscience, your relationships, or your finances, don't ignore the indicators. Pay attention to them.

And then act!

The Elephant in the Room

Dissecting Leftist Ideology, Part 2: Intolerance


Progressives (i.e., Leftists) like to flatter themselves. They see themselves as good people and as finer, more decent people than others who do not share their ideology.

One of the things they like to call themselves is tolerant. That makes them sound noble and caring. It makes them sound big-hearted and inclusive. And since they call others (i.e., religious conservatives) intolerant, the Progressive-Left draws a stark line of demarcation in the sand: on their side are the big-hearted, kind, accepting, nice guys, and on the other side of the line are mean-spirited, cruel, backwards, Neanderthals who are clueless and need to be shunned.

Trouble is, it's all a lie. It's a ruse. It's deceptive. It's dishonest. It's a house-of-cards. It's the precise opposite of reality.

If you question this assessment, consider the following examples of Leftist intolerance:

- Left-leaning New York Governor, Andrew Cuomo, openly declared that conservatives are [not welcome in the state of New York](#). (He called them "extreme conservatives" but he was referring to all conservatives.)
- Brendan Eich, the CEO of Mozilla Corporation, was [forced from his job](#) by Leftist Extremists who could not tolerate the fact that Mr. Eich donated to a cause they didn't believe in.
- A Brown University student who is Leftist to the core worked to get the [ROTC banned](#) from campus.
- Leftists are [intolerant](#) of religious symbols such as the Ten Commandments.
- The Left are [intolerant of Christians](#) who won't support gay marriage.
- The Left wishes to [criminalize](#) those who disagree with their take on Climate Change. And if you even so much as question the premise of the global warming activists, the Left [wants you investigated](#). In fact, a top French weatherman challenged the Leftist narrative on global warming and was [promptly fired](#) from his job.
- The Left is intolerant of prayer. Thus, when a high school football coach prayed with his team, [he was fired](#) by the Leftist Administration.
- Likewise, a popular fire chief in Atlanta affirmed his Christian beliefs that homosexuality is immoral, and was [promptly fired](#).
- A Leftist professor is so intolerant of all things Israel, that [she would not help](#) a 13-year-old girl with a school project because the girl is Israeli.
- The Leftist Administrators at the University of Tennessee [refused to allow](#) students to hold a Christmas party because they are intolerant of anything approaching Christianity.

- And a Leftist Federal judge (an Obama appointee) [banned a high school](#) in Indiana from showing a Nativity scene in the school's Christmas musical.
- A married couple, both professors at Yale University, point out that students have a right to wear Halloween costumes of Mexican dress (like a sombrero) and were [viciously assaulted](#) by insane and intolerant Leftist students to the point that the professors resigned from their teaching posts.
- And on our college campuses, where free inquiry and opposing ideas are supposed to be confronted and hashed out, we have one non-Leftist speaker after another being harassed or otherwise unable to deliver their speech. Charles Murray was  Intolerance [chased out of Middlebury College](#), Heather MacDonald was [harassed at Claremont](#) McKenna College by an angry mob of Leftists, at Evergreen State College, the [Leftist students chased off](#) one of their own faculty members, Professor Bret Weinstein, and campus security says it cannot protect him. At UC Berkeley, both [Milo Yiannopoulos](#) and [Ann Coulter](#) were prevented from delivering speeches they had been invited to give, all by Leftist radicals that the Administration did not stop.

I've provided more than a dozen examples of Leftist intolerance. I could quadruple the examples even while limiting myself to accounts from just the last 5 months. Americans have to wake up and recognize that America itself -- the very idea of America as a bastion of freedom -- is under assault by an entity that wishes to fundamentally transform the United States and turn it into a socialist wasteland.

What to do?

I suggest you copy and paste this article into a Word document and print it out. Then go back to the links I've provided here and print out the stories associated with those links. The purpose of that is to have back up material handy to support the statements I have made. Then, whenever you have the opportunity to speak to someone who is Left of center, pull out your Word document and go over each of the points I have outlined here. In rapid-fire succession, go over each point, not lingering on any one point for too long; just get them all out there in the open and have the Leftist try to justify Leftism. (And believe me, he or she will invariably try -- it's their religion.) But watch how flimsy their responses are. And point that out to them in no uncertain terms. Then invite the Leftist to look hard in the mirror and reconsider their approach. You may occasionally persuade someone. But at the very least, you will have shown the die-hard Leftist that you are on to them, and that should be enough.

True Americans have to have the courage to confront, to stigmatize, to persuade, and, if necessary, to fight. If they do not, they will cede their country over to

Leftists who will be able to then declare victory for the unconditional surrender we have given them.

And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

Shameless Plug

Norwood Addresses The Founding Fathers

I recently had the distinct honor of addressing the Westlake Village Sunrise Rotary Club. My topic was "Six Great Men" -- an introduction to the Founding Fathers of our great republic. Highlighting Benjamin Franklin, George



Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton, I walked the audience through their respective family structure, physical characteristics, temperament, educational background, careers, and political philosophy. We had a good Q&A segment and the audience, which seemed quite attentive, asked some insightful questions.

Following the program, the meeting planner wrote to me as follows: "I hereby award you 10 Atta-Boys for the outstanding job you did this morning. You are to be acknowledged for your great research, topic organization, and for your ability to evoke good questions from your audiences."

We immediately booked a follow up program for early next year.

From Ara's Journal

When Advice Collides

We often get our advice from experts on what to do in certain situations, yet many times, the advice we are given by one expert is at odds with that given by another expert.



Journal
Writing

Case in point: not long ago I suffered a neck injury. I'm not sure exactly how I got injured, though I have some theories. Either way, it got so aggravated that at one point I'd say I was at about an "8" on the ten-point "Pain Scale." I was in deep discomfort and just miserable. I couldn't even put on (or take off) my under-shirt without help from others, and sleep became a real dilemma, as I couldn't get up out of bed without experiencing severe pain.

So I went to a doctor in the Urgent Care center in my community. The doctor on call told me to alternate heat and ice where the pain was. I did so. A few days later, I got in to see my primary care physician. He told me to not follow the instructions of the Urgent Care doctor, but instead, to limit my treatment to heat.

But the pain did not go away, and so, out of desperation, I did something I've never done in my entire life: I went to see a Chiropractor. It wasn't a bad experience. However, this professional completely contradicted the previous two medical professionals. He insisted I only go with ice.

So here we have three highly trained professionals, and all three of them have opposing views. Who to believe?

I remember once talking with one of my college students. We were in a quasi-mentor/mentee relationship at that time. He ran a small business. He had been getting advice from his father (a smart businessman), and his older brother (also a smart and successful entrepreneur in his own right.) Then he sought advice from me. I gave him advice that was different from that which his father gave him, and also different from that which his brother gave him. He pointed that out to me and said he didn't know who to believe. I told him the following: "Don't believe your father, and don't believe your brother. And don't believe me, either. Believe the market. Follow any of the advice you have received and see how the market responds. For the market can bury you, but the market can also make you wealthy, if you listen to it."

I have found that to be sound advice. The principle seems to be: When you get contrary advice, use your best judgment as to what direction to take, and if you have no idea (as was the case with me when the three doctors told me different things) just try any one of them and see what kinds of results you get.

If you discover it's a pain in the neck, try something else and see if you get better results. If it's still not working, try to get advice from someone who is a specialist in your situation and try their advice. You might get lucky.

The World of Words

Mesmerized

Building Your Power of Expression



Dictionary

Mesmerized, n. past tense

Pronunciation: məzˈmərɪzd

Meaning: If you've ever encountered someone or something that held your attention in a way that transfixed you, one could correctly say you were mesmerized. The adjective would be mesmerizing.

Usage:

- *The magician was so far beyond the ability of other magicians I've seen that I was simply mesmerized at her ability to dazzle.*
 - *She was mesmerized by there blue eyes that stared so intently into her own.*
 - *You were so cool under pressure that I just sat there mesmerized and dumbfounded at your ability to stay collected in such circumstances.*
-

New subscribers, the Special Report "11 Ways to Beat the Odds" should have been sent out to you already. If you have not received it, please communicate that to me via email (ara@aranorwood.com).

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Sincerely,

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