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Dear David,

Greetings! I hope this finds you well.

In the **Self-Development** column, we review the amazing life and leadership of the Catholic missionary, Mother Teresa.

In the **Elephant in the Room** column, I share some observations about the Leftist response to the recent Supreme Court personnel changes.

In the **From Ara's Journal** column, I reflect on the differences in world view by people in general.

And the **World of Words** column bequeaths to you a dandy of a word that will positively impact your power of expression.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

Great Leaders of the Past: Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa was the Founder of the Missionaries of Charity. Her 87 years of life represented a quiet and unrelenting effort to bring comfort to the poorest of the poor. Such efforts earned her a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, something that she never sought. Ethnically, she was Albanian, yet she sought and received Indian Citizenship, and like Churchill, whom I profiled in Issue #170 of *Uncommon Sense*, she was made an honorary Citizen of the United States in 1996.

Mother Teresa's productivity was, in a word, prodigious. At the time of her death in 1997, her Missionaries of Charity operated 610 Missions in some 123 countries. Born Anjezë (Agnes) Gonxhe Bojaxhiu, she was deeply devoted as a Roman Catholic, and she considered August 27th, the day she was baptized, to be her "true birthday" even though she was actually born on August 26th, 1910. The youngest child of an Albanian family, once her father died when she was 8, her mother raised her a Roman Catholic from then on. In her early years Agnes was fascinated by stories of the lives of missionaries and their service, and by age 12 was convinced that she should commit herself to a religious life. She left home at age 18 to join the Sisters of Loreto as a missionary. She never again saw her mother or sister.

She initially went to the Loreto Abbey in Rathfarnham, Ireland, to learn English, the language the Sisters of Loreto used to teach school children in India. At age 20, she took her first religious vows as a nun on May 24, 1931. At that time she chose the name Teresa after Thérèse de Lisieux, the patron saint of missionaries. She took her solemn vows on May 14, 1937, while serving as a teacher at the Loreto Convent School in eastern Calcutta.

Although Teresa enjoyed teaching at the school, she was increasingly disturbed by the poverty surrounding her in Calcutta.

On September 10, 1946, at age 36, Teresa experienced an epiphany, or what she later described as "the call within the call" while traveling to the Loreto convent in Darjeeling from Calcutta for her annual retreat. "I was to leave the convent and help the poor while living among them. It was an order. To fail would have been to break the faith." She began her missionary work with the poor in 1948, replacing her traditional Loreto habit with a simple white cotton sari decorated with a blue border, adopted Indian citizenship, and ventured out into the slums.



Initially she started a school in Motijhil; soon she started tending to the needs of the destitute and starving. Her efforts quickly caught the attention of Indian officials, including the Prime Minister, who expressed his appreciation. Teresa wrote in her diary that her first year was fraught with difficulties. She had no income and had to resort to begging for food and supplies. Teresa experienced doubt, loneliness and the temptation to return to the comfort of convent life during these early months. She wrote this deeply moving entry in her diary:

Our Lord wants me to be a free nun covered with the poverty of the cross. Today I learned a good lesson. The poverty of the poor must be so hard for them. While looking for a home I walked and walked till my arms and legs ached. I thought how much they [the poor] must ache in body and soul, looking for a home, food, and health. Then the comfort of Loreto came to tempt me. 'You have only to say the word and all that will be yours again.' The Tempter kept on saying . . . Of free choice, my God, and out of love for you, I desire to remain and do whatever be your Holy will in my regard. I did not let a single tear come.

Teresa received Vatican permission on October 7, 1950 to start the diocesan congregation that would become the Missionaries of Charity. Its mission was to care for, in her own words, "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone." It began as a small order with 13 members in Calcutta; today it has more than 4,000 nuns running orphanages, AIDS hospices, and charity centers worldwide, and caring for refugees, the blind, disabled, aged, alcoholics, the poor and homeless, and victims of floods, epidemics, and famine.

In 1952 Mother Teresa opened the first Home for the Dying in space made available by the City of Calcutta. With the help of Indian officials she converted an abandoned Hindu temple into the Kalighat Home for the Dying, a free hospice for the poor. She renamed it Kalighat, the Home of the Pure Heart.

Those brought to the home received medical attention and were afforded the opportunity to die with dignity, according to the rituals of their faith; Muslims were read the Quran, Hindus received water from the Ganges, and Catholics received the Last Rites. "A beautiful death," she said, "is for people who lived like animals to die like angels -- loved and wanted."

Mother Teresa soon opened a home for those suffering from Hansen's disease, commonly known as leprosy, and called the hospice Shanti Nagar (City of Peace). The Missionaries of Charity also established several leprosy outreach clinics throughout Calcutta, providing medication, bandages and food.

As the Missionaries of Charity took in increasing numbers of lost children, Mother Teresa, who was constantly looking for new opportunities to bless the lives of various types of downtrodden, saw the need to create a home just for them. In 1955 she opened the Nirmala Shishu Bhavan, the Children's

Home of the Immaculate Heart, as a haven for orphans and homeless youth. The order soon began to attract both recruits and charitable donations, and by the 1960s had opened hospices, orphanages, and leper houses all over India. Mother Teresa then expanded the order throughout the globe. Its first house outside India opened in Venezuela in 1965 with five sisters.

Mother Teresa left us a number of memorable sayings, including the following:

- *Peace begins with a smile.*
- *Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.*
- *If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.*
- *Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary.*
- *We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But if that drop were not there, I think the ocean would be less by that missing drop.*
- *Stay where you are. Find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering, and the lonely right where you are.*
- *We can do not great things. Only small things with great love.*
- *Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.*

- *Joy is the token of a generous personality. Sometimes it is also a mantle that clothes a life of sacrifice and self-giving.*

In 1985 she was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a White House ceremony by President Ronald Reagan. She was also among the top 10 women in Gallup's annual poll of the most admired man or woman, making the list some 18 times and finishing first several times. In 2016, she was posthumously canonized by the Roman Catholic Church, and made a saint.

As is the case with all great leaders, Mother Teresa has had people criticize the astonishingly charitable work she has been engaged in. For instance, writer David Scott, author of *The Love That Made Mother Teresa*, wrote that Mother Teresa limited herself to keeping people alive rather than tackling poverty itself, as if there is some easy solution to poverty. Barbara Smoker of *The Freethinker* magazine (a secular humanist publication) fiercely criticized Mother Teresa after she won the Nobel Peace Prize because of Mother Teresa's strong opposition to abortion (and Barbara Smoker's own deep commitment to the practice.) She has also been criticized for her view on suffering: according to an article in the *Alberta Report*, she felt that suffering would bring people closer to Jesus. The quality of care offered to terminally ill patients in the Homes for the Dying has been criticized in the medical press. The late atheist antagonist, Christopher Hitchens, author of *god [SIC] is Not Great*, was also highly critical of her. Perhaps he has a new view now.

At age 73, Mother Teresa suffered a heart attack in Rome while visiting Pope John Paul II. After a second attack struck 6 years later, she received an artificial pacemaker. By the time she turned 80, after a battle with pneumonia while in Mexico, she suffered further heart problems. She offered to resign her position as head of the Missionaries of Charity, but the nuns of the order, in a secret ballot, voted for her to stay. She was simply seen as indispensable. Reluctantly, Mother Teresa agreed to continue her work as head of the order.

In April 1996, at age 85, Mother Teresa fell and broke her collar bone. Four months later, she was suffering from malaria and failure of the left heart ventricle. Although she underwent heart surgery, it was clear that her health was declining. When she fell ill, she made the decision, seen as controversial by some, to be treated at a well-equipped hospital in California instead of one of her own clinics. On March 13, 1997, at the age of 86, she stepped down from the head of Missionaries of Charity. She died 6 months later, September 5, 1997, at the age of 87.

The number of lives she touched due to her drive and her devotion is hard to calculate, but there is no question that thousands of the world's unfortunates received measures of relief and dignity that, without Mother Teresa, they never would have experienced. She is truly one of the most godly human beings to ever walk the earth.

The Elephant in the Room

The Left and the Supreme Court

A fascinating spectacle is playing out before our eyes in American politics, and it is instructive in helping the body politic understand the destructive force that is the American Left.

Justice Kennedy had announced his retirement from the Supreme Court on June 27th. It is interesting to see how people on the political Left responded to his decision to retire.

- The DNC itself was holding a conference call on June 27th when Donna Brazille interrupted their proceedings to share the news of Justice Kennedy's decision to retire. One can hear gasps and moans and shouts of "Oh my God!" from various people on that call. You would have thought the President had been shot, except in that case, they would have said "Thank God!" instead of "Oh my God!"
- A headline at the uber Left-leaning *Slate* proclaims, "Anthony Kennedy Just Destroyed His Legacy as a Gay Rights Hero."
- House minority leader Nancy Pelosi tweeted "The future of our democracy is at stake."
- California Senator Kamala Harris went one better, claiming that President Trump's nomination of a new Supreme Court Justice meant "we are looking at the destruction of the Constitution."
- The Reverend Al Sharpton tweeted "We have no choice but to organize, strategize, vote and act. Ambivalent attitudes are not a [SIC] option! All civil and human rights are at stake. What side are you on?"
- A Comedy Central writer tweeted that he wished "this Kennedy had been shot instead of the other ones."
- Gay Rights activist Thor Benson (@thor_benson) tweeted: "As a member of the LGBTQ community, Justice Kennedy being replaced threatens my rights. It also threatens the rights of minorities, women and Muslims. Trump must not be allowed to replace him before November. Let the people speak first."
- Someone named Calvin (@calvinstowell) tweeted: "Kennedy made this decision knowing Trump would get to replace him. He is not a good guy." I guess Calvin believes that Justice Kennedy had a moral obligation to operate under Calvin's timetable and not his own.
- A number of people on the Left simply hurled F-Bombs at Justice Kennedy. Tommy Vietor (@TVietor08) simply tweeted the F-word in all caps with thirteen "U's" rather than the traditional single "U". And Ian Millhiser (@imillhiser) showed how articulate and civil he can be by tweeting "F_ck. You. Justice. Kennedy."

And it pretty much goes downhill from there, with Leftists trembling, quaking, and convulsing, spewing out cries that their rights are going to be taken away, and shedding tears of remorse that the good old days are gone, and speaking as if the final battle of Gog and Magog has arrived.

True to form, President Trump has now selected a replacement for Judge Kennedy. Brett Kavanaugh, who has been serving as a judge in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, was selected on July 9th, but what is fascinating is how the Left reacted to this development. The Leftist Hate Machine went into overdrive to decry the horrors of selecting Judge Kavanaugh. But it wouldn't matter who President Trump selected; the Left would have let loose with the same shrill screams of agony.

For proof of this, the leaders behind the Women's March, an anti-Trump group bent on anarchy, sent out a Press Release. They had drafted this Press Release long before the President made the announcement of Justice Kennedy's replacement. This is evident from the fact that when these angry, embittered, unfulfilled women sent out their Press Release, it read, in part, as follows (and I'm not making this up):



Washington, DC - In response to Donald Trump's nomination of XX to the Supreme Court of the United States, The Women's March released the following statement:

Such happy people. Especially the one in the middle holding the sign.

"Trump's announcement today is a death sentence for thousands of women in the United States."

So what can we learn from this Press Release, apart from the slap-stick silliness of opposing a person by the name of XX?

What we learn is that the Press Release was largely written prior to the President announcing his pick for the nation's highest court. And what this means is that those who wrote the Press Release didn't care who President Trump selected.

Their concerns are not based on what they imagine are the weaknesses of any particular candidate. Instead, their opposition is purely ideological and agenda-driven. They are not giving a cogent analysis of the merits or deficiencies of any particular candidate. All candidates, if selected by President Trump, are equally hated, and blindly so.

All of President Trump's final candidates for the Supreme Court seat were strict constitutionalists. They believe in applying the actual constitution when judging cases, and not some fantasy-notions of what they want the Constitution to say. In fact, when one considers the lawless character of Leftists in general, particularly in

lieu of their stance on illegal immigration (which they do not acknowledge is illegal in the first place) and their penchant for wanting dangerous felons released from prison, one realizes that the Left is not only opposed to all of the candidates President Trump was considering, and not only opposed to President Trump as a matter of "un"-principle, but are actually opposed to the United States Constitution itself.

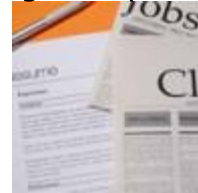
And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

Check out [my website](#) for tools to help you with your career, your presentations, and other matters.

Shameless Plug

Is Your Résumé Overdue For an Overhaul?

You may be gainfully employed, you may be unemployed, or you may (knowingly or unknowingly) be heading for a layoff. Having an impressive résumé can set you apart from the competition and position you for your next job.



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Your résumé is your marketing brochure, and you do not get a second chance to make a first impression. Make an investment in yourself!

* * * * *

"I purchased Norwood's résumé guide last month and it's amazing! He goes through the processes step-by-step and you end up with not only a résumé that will get you that interview, but the skills necessary to be confident so you succeed in your interviews resulting in you receiving job offers (yes, offers)." -- D Smith, Santa Clarita, California

"I could not have gotten my first job without your expertise. Thank you so much! I learned that I had to reword and improve my résumé in order to be taken seriously in the workforce. I had been given tips from my professors in Health Science and other professionals but your advice was just what I needed. It took weeks of frustration waiting for interview calls when I happened to stumble across your website and discovered that I needed help. Your publication enlightened me with your knowledge on the wording and format needed to attract an employer. Furthermore, your booklet helped me recognize certain skills and work experience that I would have never considered important until you got me thinking about it. Thanks for a great product!" -- R. Espana, Valencia, California

From Ara's Journal

People Are Different

I still marvel that people do not see what I see.

I suspect some of them, the more thoughtful ones, also marvel at me for not seeing things as they do.

Some things strike me as obvious. Some courses of action seem to me to be non-arguable. Some matters of a moral nature are, in my mind, unambiguously right or wrong. Some job candidates impress me so much that I cannot conceive of considering other alternative candidates.



Sometimes I direct someone who reports to me to carry out a work assignment. The assignment seems clear, and yet the person goes about it entirely in the wrong way. And I scratch my head and wonder, "How could they have not understood how to approach this?!"

This phenomenon extends to very simple sentences that are misunderstood. I say "A" but someone hears "Q".

The fact of the matter is that our brains and our backgrounds are so very different from one another. People who do things or think things differently than I do are not necessarily wrong or wrong-headed. What it actually means is that their life-experience is different than mine. And their brains are wired differently than mine. What they do makes perfect sense to them. Just like what I do makes perfect sense to me.

While that does bring up the question of which one of us actually is wrong in our thinking, (and I am just as susceptible to being wrong or incomplete as the next person) I believe the more important question is how to uncover the assumptions

that others have that lead them to the conclusions they arrive at. I believe it is important to be mindful of the fact that there is a potential richness in the variety of perspectives that are possible. I sense that advocating for a particular viewpoint should be preceded by inquiry -- seeking to uncover what the assumptions are that an opposing viewpoint is based on.

If I get good at that, life will be better.

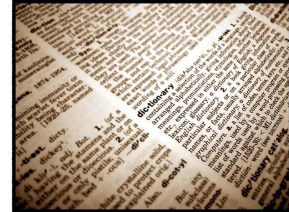
The World of Words

Alacrity

Building Your Power of Expression

Alacrity, n.

Pronunciation: ə'lākɹədē



Meaning: Alacrity refers to brisk and cheerful readiness. It denotes eagerness, willingness, enthusiasm, and even has a connotation of speed and promptness.

Usage:

- *She accepted the invitation with alacrity.*
- *We want to move with alacrity, and put a stop to improper conduct while its still going on.*
- *The little tyke jumped up and down with alacrity as he inched closer to the candy store.*

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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www.aranorwood.com

Sincerely,

Leadership Development Systems, P. O. Box 801681, Santa Clarita, CA 91380-1681

Ara Norwood

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