

Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

Quick Links

[Ara's Web Site](#)
[Facebook Page](#)

Dear David,

Wishing you all a fun-filled and safe Halloween tonight.
And happy birthday to my younger brother, Mike!

Enjoy this round of food-for-thought as we close out the month.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

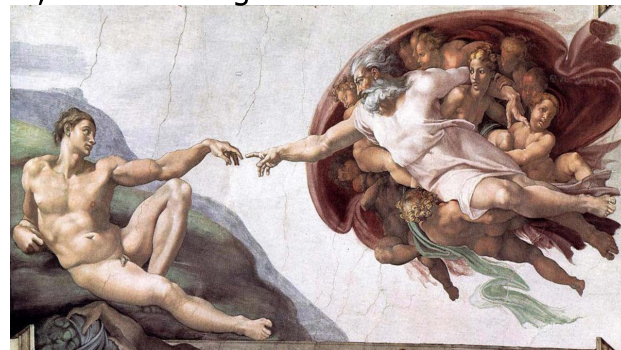
Artistry

Of the major disciplines that are a part of Western Civilization (Arts, Letters, Sciences) the Arts truly capture the imagination. Granted, the sciences are fascinating, giving rigorous-minded individuals an opportunity to make new discoveries in matters involving botany, chemistry, physics, physiology, math, astronomy, biology, statistics, engineering, and many other disciplines.

The Letters, consisting of poetry, prose, drama, non-fiction, holy writ, are also quite captivating. Whether one's interest is with Goethe or Shakespeare, Emerson or Tolstoy, Dickens or Twain, Joyce or Faulkner, de Cervantes or Homer, Tolkien or Lewis, Steinbeck or Chaucer, Eliot or Proust, or any other great writer, one can never be at a loss for mental stimulation.

Yet it is the artist that truly spellbinds. . . From painting to sculpture to music to dance, to theater to photography, to films, the creative genius that has come out

of great works of art has been breath-taking. For those who appreciate painting, one can turn to such masters as Picasso, Van Gogh, da Vinci, Rembrandt, Monet, Michelangelo, Raphael, Titian, Munch, van Eyck, Goya, or Gauguin. For those who appreciate sculptures, we have Michelangelo, Alexandros of Antioch, Rodin, Paul Landowski, Donatello, Bernini, Bartholdi, and others.



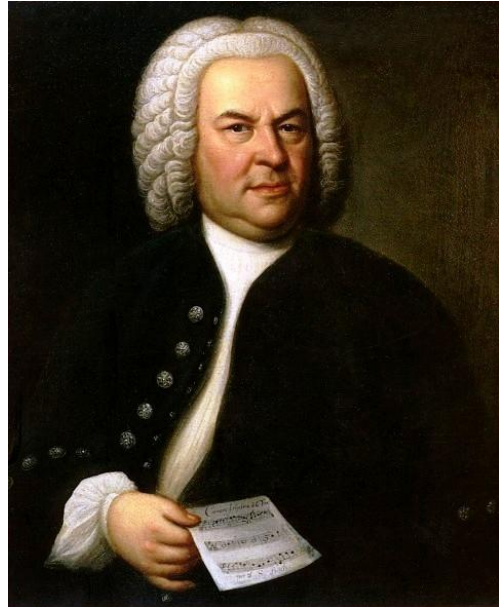
Music, which is the first art, has given us such luminaries as Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Chopin, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Handel,

Debussy, Haydn, Schubert, Stravinsky, Mahler, Schumann, Verdi, Vivaldi, and Mendelssohn. The list goes on.

It seems to me that all of these artists approached their craft with a sense of creativity, distinctiveness, and flair. These giants lived life in a way that set them against pedestrian norms of everyday life. They sought to reach into the unknown and produce something that was unlike anything ever produced before.

I believe we can spice up our work with artistry. It's a choice. Whether it involves a presentation we deliver, a report we prepare, a meeting we host, an initiative we launch, a product we design, or a service we offer, we can approach our craft with the mind of an artist. That mind requires that we look at convention, then enhance it, taking it beyond its normative boundaries in a way that embraces taste, elegance, and creativity, and in a way that inspires and empowers.

For example, I am a practicing musician, playing the guitar in my performing duo, Dawn of Ascension. I am also a professional speaker and seminar leader. I recently was preparing for a full-day seminar I was to deliver to a client in Utah. While at a rehearsal with my band-mate, Venessa (lead vocalist for our duo, Dawn of Ascension), the thought came to me that perhaps we could provide live musical interludes before the breaks during that business seminar. I had never done such a thing before, but the client was warm to the idea, and we pulled it off. That's artistry.



Art, if done well, has the distinctive quality of having your unique "fingerprints" all over it. No one else can replicate that uniqueness. For instance, the Pythagorean Theorem is named after its discoverer, Pythagoras, the Greek philosopher who figured out a natural law involving Euclidean geometry and triangles. Yet, if Pythagoras had not made his discovery, someone else eventually would have figured it out. By contrast, if Beethoven had not composed his magnificent 9th Symphony, no one would have. The nature of art is simply too complex. It requires the uniqueness of the artist.

Consider approaching your work, no matter the nature of your work, as if you were an artist. Chances are high you can do much to put your unique touch on every aspect of your work. Don't be afraid to let the artist in you come out and roam. You will be glad you did, and you will stand out as distinctive, unique, and a valued part of society.

The Elephant in the Room

What is the Left Defending?

The Left, which I believe is bent on destroying Western Civilization, fails to defend certain things that I believe need defending (e.g., the sovereignty of the United

States, the unborn, the notion of the sacred, freedom of speech, etc.)

But what *do* they defend? I think that is a telling question. So let's take a look.

- Last year, President Trump referred to MS-13 gang members as "animals." Remember, these gang members are among the most brutal and sadistic in the country, butchering innocent men, women, and children in the most inhumane manner possible. How did a Leftist leader respond to President Trump's characterization? Nancy Pelosi replied, "Does he not believe in the spark of divinity, the dignity and worth of every person?" Conclusion: Nancy Pelosi defends the presence of MS-13 gang murderers, seeing divinity, dignity, and worth in each one of them.



MS-13 Gang

- Also last year, an Islamic terrorist organization known as Hamas ordered thousands of Gazans to riot on the border with Israel, with the objective of removing the barrier fence to murder or maim Jewish citizens living on the other side, Bernie Sanders felt that Israel was out of line to defend themselves. Conclusion: Bernie Sanders defends Islamic terrorist actions against Israel.



- When President Trump branded the city of Baltimore as crime-ridden, drug-ridden, and rodent-infested (all of which is true), the late Elijah Cummings, a died-in-the-wool Leftist, and other Leftists pounced all over President Trump, calling him a racist. Conclusion: the Left not only condones such filthy, vile conditions in one of America's great cities, the Left supports such dank swill.

I could go on, showing how Leftists actually support Islamic terrorism, how they support the killing of babies even after they are born, how they support socialism, how they support open borders and illegal immigration, how they support homelessness, how they support crime, how they support drug addiction, etc. But these first three examples should suffice.

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

Need Help Preparing For That Next Big Interview?

So you have trouble with job interviews? You get nervous? You feel unprepared? You get psyched out? I understand. And that is why I am pleased to alert you to my eBook: ***Your Interview Roadmap***. At over 12,000 words and with six appendices, this guide book will open your eyes to what really goes on in the world of interviewing from both sides of the table, and will prepare job seekers to hit it out of the park 80% of the time. (OK, more like 90%, but I prefer to be understated.)



If you are interested in purchasing the product, you can [click here](#) to make your purchase. The

advice you will glean from this eBook is golden! I would charge you six times the price of the eBook to give you the same advice in person.

If you've done poorly in job interviews in the past, you can turn it around. The answers are there. Take action!

From Ara's Journal

Dreams

I remain in awe of the power of the human brain. One only need consider and reflect on the dreams they often have while asleep in bed. Upon waking up, if I remember my dreams I just awoke from, I am often struck by how vivid, how complex, how rich in detail, such dreams were.

Last year, I attended Church with a congregation down in the South



Bay. While there I met a man and his wife who were serving there as full-time missionaries for a season. I had lunch with this couple once or twice, and grew to have the highest regard. The man in particular was a very impressive individual, a pillar of energy, decency, and intelligence. And his wife was as saintly and virtuous as they come.

While I haven't had much communication with him since we went our separate ways, yesterday I dreamed he and I were sitting in the cultural hall at Church, having a conversation and catching up. In the dream, he pulled out a cigarette, lit up, and started smoking, something that he would never actually do in real life, and it would be forbidden within the walls of the Church. I was so caught up in the conversation, I didn't even notice at first. Then I saw what he was doing and said, "Stop the presses! *What, on earth, are you doing?!*" He had a sort of embarrassed smirk and quickly dropped the cigarette on the floor, putting it out with his shoe, while I proceeded to ask him about his commitments to his ecclesiastical obligations.

I'm not the type to look for any sort of symbolism or "message" in such dreams. But I do find the rich detail of our dreams a reason for giving pause and reflecting on the enormous power of creativity and fluency with which our minds can spin a coherent (or incoherent) story. If our minds are capable of generating such rich imagery on the spur of the moment without any hesitation, does that not suggest our minds can be deliberately utilized for higher purposes when the need for creativity becomes front and center?

What I take from that is the belief that creative genius can come from most everyone. We just have to be willing to embrace it.

The World of Words

Enclave

Building Your Power of Expression

Enclave, n.

Pronunciation: ɛnˈklāv



Meaning: This geographic term refers to a portion of a territory within a larger territory whose inhabitants are culturally or ethnically distinct. More generally, it can also refer to a place or group that is different in character from those surrounding it. For example, a small group of people who only speak French who live surrounded by people who only speak English is an example of an enclave.

Usage:

- *The engineering department is traditionally a male enclave.*

- *Vatican City is an example of an enclave in Rome, just as the small republic of San Marino is the only other enclave in Italian territory.*
- *Television programs finally resumed within this privileged enclave.*

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).

For more information on my work, follow me on Twitter ("Ara Norwood"), or on Facebook (keyword "Leadership Development Systems") or via my website: www.aranorwood.com

Sincerely,

Ara Norwood
Leadership Development Systems

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ drdorrough@yahoo.com](mailto:SafeUnsubscribe™_drdorrough@yahoo.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by ara@aranorwood.com in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!