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Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue #227

November 23rd, 2020

Welcome to another dose of *Uncommon Sense*.

The **Self-Development** column explores the importance of listening (just like the previous issue.)

The **Elephant in the Room** column delves into what to expect from a Biden-Harris Presidency, and it's not pretty.

The **From Ara's Journal** column explores yet another cerebral topic.

And, of course, the **The World of Words** column serves up a delectable word. Truly.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



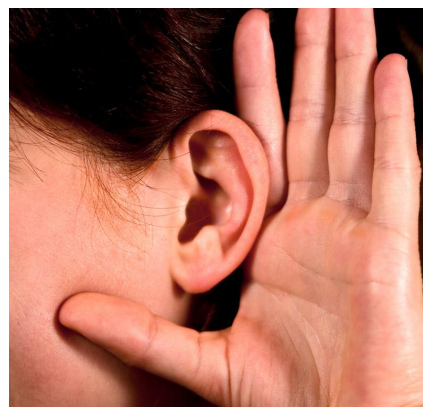
Self-Development

The Self-Absorbed

I wish to continue the theme from Issue #226 of *Uncommon Sense*, where I explored the notion of Listener as Perceiver.

Just the other day I ran into an associate. This one is a talkative chap who had taken notice of one of my many endeavors, so he asked me a question about it: "I noticed you are involved in [such and such.]" I replied, "Yes, I've been involved with [Topic X – the specifics are not relevant] for about 8 years now."

That was the end of my part in the conversation, because once I uttered that sentence, he took that as his cue to launch into a 20-minute monologue on his own history with [Topic X.]



This is a common phenomenon. A lot of people will ask how you are doing as a lead-in to enable them to tell you how they are doing. Many will ask how your weekend was, not because they are interested in how your weekend was, but as a way to pave an opening to their own recitation of how their weekend went. Not very many of us are truly interested in, or curious about, what is going on with others. Far too many of us have an insatiable desire to talk about ourselves.

Dale Carnegie would urge us to do the precise opposite. In his seminar book, *How To Win Friends and Influence People*, which I read in 1979, he advocates for the idea of being authentically interested in other people, and for asking them sincere questions based on authentic interest in order to better understand others. I concur. People can often be utterly fascinating in terms of how they think, what they believe, how they express themselves, and what they have experienced. We gain so much more by listening than by talking.

A lesson we would all do well to learn.

The Elephant in the Room

The Beginning of the End of Liberty

I am not a Republican. I am not a Democrat. I am an American Patriot who believes political parties do more harm than good.

While I proudly voted for President Donald Trump in this most recent presidential election, had the Democrats selected Tulsi Gabbard as their nominee rather than Joe Biden, I might have voted for her, even though I do not agree with all of her political



positions. Frankly, I do not agree with any politician's positions 100% of the time. The only person on earth whose political positions I agree with 100% of the time are my own.

One of the strangest aspects of the 2020 Presidential Election is the fact that at the end of election day, we did not know who the clear winner was. In fact, even now, although it appears that Joe Biden will likely become our next President, we cannot be absolutely certain of that. There is no question there were lots of irregularities with the voting, and many examples of corruption and back-room shenanigans that were deliberately designed to steal the election away from President Trump, (after all, Democrats routinely have to cheat to win and they have no qualms about doing so). Still, there may not be enough corrections and adjustments in the voting outcome to tilt the result in President Trump's favor, partly due to the abject cheating that took place. Unfortunately for Joe Biden, should he ultimately become our 46th President, his presidency will forever be shrouded in suspicion that his victory was/is tainted by cheating. He is going to have a difficult time governing effectively, and this is assuming a perfect case where Mr. Biden is not cognitively compromised during what will likely be a short time in office.

What can we expect from a Joe Biden presidency?

The beginning of the end of liberty as we know it.

It won't happen all at once, but as with the Boiled Frog Syndrome, we will see a gradual erosion of our liberties. The Left will be fully saturated in our government at the highest levels, and with an extremely flaccid President who is mentally impaired at times, you can imagine the Leftist snakes in our Government from the Vice President on down to be salivating at the fact that they finally have the perfect storm they have been waiting for to ram their "Progressive Agenda" (translated "Regressive Agenda") down our throats, unabated. And to top it off, there are very few warriors among the Republicans. Most Republicans don't even understand the nature of the conflict we are in, meaning we are at war, right now, but only one side is fighting.

Mr. Biden ran one of the most lackluster campaigns in modern presidential history. He is not a man known for his energy (unlike Donald Trump, who is a human juggernaut.) Because Mr. Biden is a man of flimsy character, and is susceptible of being manipulated by the radicals that now fill many seats in his party, we can expect a weakening of the American character, as various leaders within the Democrat Party, a party that has been hi-jacked by the Left, try to out-radicalize one another. Based on the current appointments Mr. Biden has declared he will put in key positions, it is clear he is far more interested in being "Politically Correct" and pandering to the Left (by appointing women and minorities, and, I am sure, we will soon see LGBT – especially "T" – activists in key positions, even though doing so will never satisfy the radicals of the Left, as it will never be enough.) This is because, as a true man of the Left, Joe Biden doesn't think in terms of "Who would be the most qualified Secretary of State, or Secretary of Defense, or Secretary of the Treasury?" Instead, he thinks in terms of, "What woman can I place in this position? What LGBT person can I place here? What black person can I place here? What Hispanic person can I place there?"

What is likely to happen? Try these on for size:

- Instead of putting America first, as Donald Trump did, expect the Biden Presidency to put America last. There are already signs this is going to happen.
- Expect radicals to impose all sorts of unnecessary environmental laws in a vain effort to reverse the effects of Global Warming. If you think having plastic bags and straws targeted for removal is a waste, just wait. The environmental whack-jobs out there are certain to try to completely transform our way of life as they attempt to bring us back to the Middle Ages.
- If you are white and if you are working, expect to be subjected to mandatory sensitivity training in your place of employment, where you are told in no uncertain terms that you are a seething racist, a horrible human being, and that black people have every reason and every right to despise you for being white. You will be taught to loathe the color of your own skin. It will be seen as payback time.
- While criminals are going to experience a zenith in terms of how they are perceived in society, law-abiding citizens are going to be at the mercy of the criminal element. Guns will likely be confiscated by the federal government, police forces will see their budgets slashed, many law enforcement officials will simply leave police work and look for new careers, crime will escalate to unimagined levels, murder rates, rape rates, robbery rates, and other violent crime rates will skyrocket, and calls to 911 will go unanswered. Many criminals who are now incarcerated for violent crimes will find sympathetic judges and District Attorneys who value the lives of thugs over the lives of the law abiding, and dangerous felons will be freed from prisons to roam our streets and terrorize our communities with impunity. Our large cities like Baltimore, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Detroit, etc., will become a petri-dish for violent crime that will continue unabated since there will be fewer police officers to stem the tide of violent crime. And more and more places will succumb to the madness and make illegal drug use – we're talking hard drugs here, not just marijuana – a completely legal activity.

- Expect a weaker military. Biden will be persuaded to slash the budget for the Armed Services and give the money to various pet projects like controlling Global Warming.
- Expect China to ride roughshod over us and steal our technological secrets (including military and weapons technology) with impunity. Expect Joe Biden to allow China to rape our economy and reverse all of the checks President Trump put in place with tariffs.
- Expect our economy to sink to new lows. Unemployment rates will like skyrocket and reach Depression levels. The retirement accounts of our citizens will be taxed to the hilt, forcing older people to forestall their retirement, and currently retired people to seek employment again in a depressed job market.
- Expect radicalized Leftists in government (think the "Squad") to develop blacklists of anyone they perceive was not anti-Trump enough, and to openly shame them and ostracize them. You can expect professors to be fired from their jobs at colleges and universities, simply for holding non-Leftist views, let alone Conservative views.
- A new zeitgeist will descend upon our culture, with the Left being emboldened to attack their enemies (or total strangers) with reckless abandon. If you recall BLM thugs accosting diners in restaurants and taking their drinks, expect to see more virulent escalations of that, as the thugs simply physically assault the diners, and chase them out of the restaurant, while purses and coats and cell phones get left behind, then the thugs will devour their food that they were enjoying before disappearing into the night.
- But you can also expect the following: The Left, with a straight face, will blame Conservatives (and will continue to blame Donald Trump) for everything vile that the Left themselves are doing to our society.

This is just a small sampling of my predictions of what we can expect for the next four years. And it's just the tip of the iceberg. Save this list of predictions, print them out and put them on the wall, and check them off as they happen. In 2024, after the next Presidential Election, see how many of my predictions came true.

A final thought: The only thing that could possibly nullify some of the above would be if strong opposition from Republican leaders were to be exhibited. If people like Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio maintain their courage and fight decisively in the halls of government; if influencers such as Dennis Prager and Victor Davis Hanson and Newt Gingrich continue to speak out and make a persuasive case for American Values (i.e., Conservatism), then perhaps we can save America in 2024, when the damage done by the Biden (or Harris?) Presidency is on full display for all to see, and enough American citizens who haven't been brainwashed by Leftism vote in droves to restore liberty.

But until then, hang on for the ride of your life. It's going to be bumpy.

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

Shameless Plug

Want to Succeed at your Next Job Interview?

With the COVID-19 pandemic going into its 6th month, many people have become displaced in their jobs. You may have lost your job, or perhaps you may be vulnerable to losing your job in the near future.

While you will be scrambling to start interviewing with prospective employers, it may have been some time since your last interview, and you may be rusty.

You may well benefit from my Special Report, [**Your Interview Roadmap**](#).



Let's face it: if you hired me to coach you through the process of an effective interview, the fee would run into the hundreds of dollars. And spending hundreds of dollars when you are unemployed (or about to become unemployed) is a difficult thing to do. I wrote this Special Report so that for less than \$100, **in fact, less than \$50**, you would have access to the golden nuggets that, if followed, would greatly put the odds in your favor that you'll perform brilliantly at your next interview. And every interview after that.

Just ask D. Smith of Santa Clarita who bought my Interview Guide and successfully landed a job soon thereafter:

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

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've done poorly in job interviews in the past, you can turn it around. The answers are there. Take action! [Click here to get started](#). You won't regret it!

From Ara's Journal

On Awe and Understanding

Some things stun me.

Sometimes I find I am in awe of something.

When this happens, it is best I not speak until I collect my thoughts and come down to earth. It's best I not speak because on such occasions I am so in awe that I truly do not know how to articulate an intelligible sentence.

Here are some examples:



- When I see a PGA golfer hit the ball in a game, and that ball sails hundreds of yards and goes into the hole, (something called an Ace), I absolutely have a shrill meltdown, and I am not even interested in the game of golf! How on earth could a golfer accomplish such a feat?! (By the way, a golfer named Andrew Magee scored an Ace on a Par-4 hole, an impossibility until he did it, and that particular ball sailed 332 yards – that is more than 3 football fields! Had I witnessed that, I likely would have fainted).
- I have a friend, TF, who is a deeply spiritual human being. I sometimes ponder whether she is capable of walking on water, so deep is her devotion to the Savior. There are rare times when she will favor me with an extended conversation over the phone about spiritual matters. I am usually transfixed by the power of her words, and then later, I am frustrated I did not record her words so they could be transcribed for future reference.
- I love to be away from city lights. I love being out in nature. It just doesn't happen often enough. But when it does happen, if it's on a clear night, I gaze into the blackened sky and stare at the stars in the cosmos. Occasionally I see a comet or a shooting star. I am mesmerized by what I see. My thoughts immediately go to the divine Creator and I marvel at His creations, wondering how He does it.
- I know a young man, EN, who has courageously turned his life around from a dark, dangerous place to a place of goodness. This is a complete and total transformation, and it has not come without painful consequences as he broke away from the pull of the past and embraced a future that seemed completely foreign to him. I am spellbound by such a transformation! I know not what to make of it. But I am profoundly grateful for it.

These four examples could be multiplied. Yet, I recognize that while I am in a state of wonderment for such things, that does not mean I have a deep understanding of them. Perhaps my understanding is shallow, at best.

That surfaces a profound truth: ***awe is not the same as understanding***. We might rightfully be awed by something that occurs, something of cosmic proportions. But just because we are awed by something in no way suggests, necessarily, we understand the thing we are awed by. For understanding to occur, we must be reflective, contemplative, even prayerful. We must be ponderous and patient and commit to the long-view for our ruminations. We must, in a word, allow the mystery to marinate in our mind.

Understanding comes at a great price and after great effort.

The World of Words

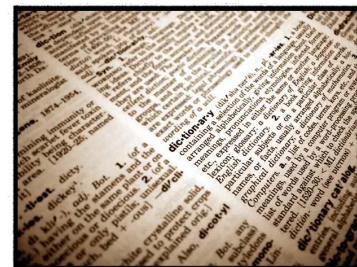
Marinate

Building Your Power of Expression

Marinate, v.

Pronunciation: mə-rə-nāt

Meaning: This word is generally used in the context of the culinary arts, having to do with allowing food to soak in some sort of flavoring (red wine vinegar, for example) for the purpose of enhancing the flavor, or tenderizing the meat, or occasionally, for short-term meat preservation. However, I use the term in a non-traditional sense, to denote allowing an



idea to bathe in my mind for a period of time, in order for me to become more intimately familiar with a concept or an idea, or to deepen my general understanding of something.

Usage:

- *Let this particular problem settle and marinate a bit before we decided the best approach to solving it.*
- *If I were you, I would carefully consider every word of this draft of the speech and let each idea marinate before you do any editing.*

Or, as I used it in this issue of *Uncommon Sense*:

- *We must, in a word, allow the mystery to marinate in our mind.*

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