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Are Our Senators and Congressmen worth 2 Billion Dollars Per Year?



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Are Our Senators and Congressmen Worth 2 Billion Dollars?

Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



We spend almost 2 billion US dollars per year on 100 senators and 435

Congressmen in the United States of America. That does not include some special perks like pension and healthcare. I don't mind the expense of maintaining a group of representatives (ours or lobbyists?), if they produced value for the money spent on them. The fact remains that they have done nothing for the country in decades. Here are some examples:

The Republicans fought tooth and nail to kill Affordable Care Act (ACA), a.k.a. Obamacare instead of cooperating and making it work. They didn't provide any suggestions to improve the plan. In the meantime, they still don't have a plan of their own to replace ACA. Question that we should be asking is what have the fat cats been doing for the last ten years other than having a comfy life on our hard-earned money? Imagine a corporate executive sleeping on a given project for ten years. How long will he last in his job? Now, may I ask you why did you reelect these blood sucking leaches? Do you care more for your party and labels you carry than the good of the country?

Now a question to Democrats: Did you elect your Congressmen (or women) and Senators only to impeach and get rid of Mr. Trump? If that's your only goal, I pity your low life. What have your reps done to work on infrastructure, immigration reform or homeland security? Please remove your colored partisan glasses and see the real world with naked eyes. Why do you reelect those power mongers? Why don't you make them accountable for the task they are supposed to do?

"Call it the Seinfeld Congress — all about nothing. It's gotten so small-ball that one congressman, a chairman of a highly influential committee, introduced legislation once to recognize the national significance of magic." (Politico)
Congressmen (women) and Senators are less reliable than a used car salesperson. They are worse than hemorrhoids, traffic jams, and cockroaches, lines at the DMV, zombies and herpes. Realize how they are wasting your money:

1. A base annual salary of \$174,000
2. A \$1.2 million to \$3.3 million allowance
3. Up to 239 days off
4. Office and staff allowance: \$1,353, 205
5. A generous retirement plan
6. They fly free
7. Death benefits

(Source: <https://realityblogger.wordpress.com/.../the-senate-how-much-.../> and numerous other sources)

Majority of them are womanizers, corrupt (bought by companies and lobbyists). Many of them are child molesters and wife abusers. (You can search their history).

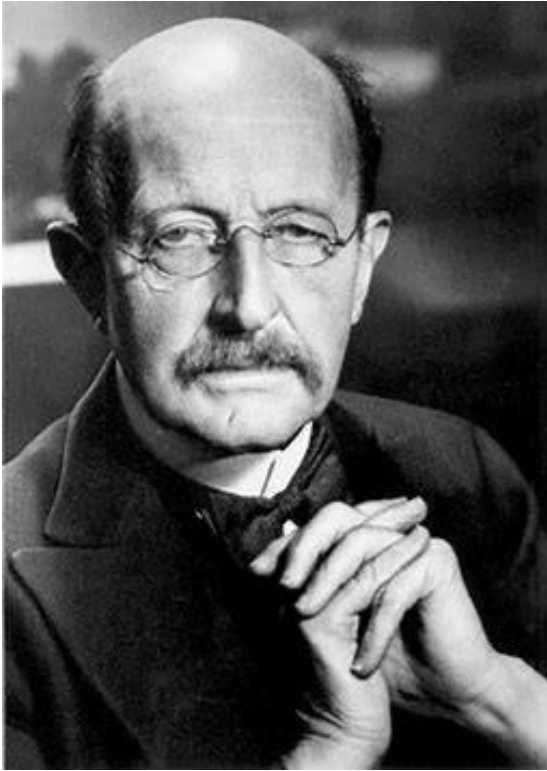
So, what can you do? Here are some suggestions:

1. Think independently. (Labeling yourself as liberals or conservatives will not get you brownie points. No one cares. Yes, you may impress the ignorant in dinner parties.)
2. Evaluate your Reps and Senators' work
3. If not satisfied, don't vote for them. Vote for independents
4. Contact them to let them know what you think
5. Here is the contact list

https://www.senate.gov/.../contact_informati.../senators_cfm.cfm

Wake up friends and countrymen! Never reinforce failure and if you do not see what you should see, you'll be a victim over and over again. Remember, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

Quantum Theory and Other Pleasures of Life by Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



Max Plank

The social media is full of political acrimony. Our social life is full of friends who only enjoy talking about their half-cooked theories in politics, economics, finance and international affairs. I consider that a total waste of time. In the same breath, I consider discussion on religion rancorous and dividing. No one seems to be interested in pursuing real knowledge. I am no better than others. The other day, a friend of mine posted a topic on Quantum computing on Facebook (he is an exception). It was very basic and was supposed to familiarize laymen with Quantum banking which may be in our

future. I must confess that I couldn't grasp the concept completely. I studied physics and higher math for nine years (starting in eighth grade until the final year of engineering). Since I have been indulging myself with my friends in trifle, superficial and passionate discussion on politics and pseudo economics, I have lost it all. Yes, What a loss!

I have decided now, at the age of 72, to reacquaint myself with math and physics. I think that a string of numbers and letters in mathematical formulae can evoke a greater excitement in my life than indulging in harsh and scathing discussion on politics, economics or religion

. A large number of areas of the brain are involved when viewing equations, but when one looks at a formula, it activates the emotional brain. I am going to reacquaint myself with Euler's formula. It comprises the five most important

mathematical constants - zero (additive identity), one (multiplicative identity), e and pi (the two most common transcendental numbers) and i (fundamental imaginary number).

Do you know how GPS is used in pinpointing locations? It is done with the help of Pythagorean Theorem: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. The equation is at the core of much of geometry, links it with algebra, and is the foundation of trigonometry. Without it, accurate surveying, mapmaking, and navigation would be impossible.

I remember solving problems with imaginary number used to be such a thrill: $i^2 = -1$. How can that be? Think and also remember, most modern technology, from electric lighting to digital cameras could not have been invented without them. The list goes on and on. Let's not forget the most recognized and popular formula of all time: $e = m \cdot c^2$. Einstein followed up on this insight with his famous concept of relativity in 1915.

I want to understand the joy of Quantum Theory. Few scientific concepts are as weird as the quantum theory. It predicts that future events could influence the past. And, it states that particles that might be found anywhere have a zero probability of existing in one particular place! Is this not mind boggling?

I want to learn more about speed of light. Why is it always stuck at approximately 186,282 miles/second, no matter who's observing it. Why can't anything move faster than light? How time dilation can be possible which states that the faster you go, the slower time passes for you? Is this not entertaining?

I am excited. While I am going to discover math and science again, you can refresh yourself with history, psychology, arts, general knowledge, world geography, fine cuisine, fashion, language, sports or any subject of your choice instead of wasting your time arguing about politics and religion.

Believe me, it will not only give you pleasure, it will make you and people around you better human beings. Make use of time while enjoying life. We are not here forever.



"I don't want to know." I snapped. I controlled myself and replied, "Yes, you're right, the weather's very nice today."

"How do you know? You have been sitting inside all day," my wife asked.

"Because the sun is shining through the window, and when the sun shines through the window, you know the weather is nice" I answered.

"What do you have against nice weather? Nice weather should make you happy," my wife wondered.

"I've nothing against nice weather," I said, "I've nothing at all against the weather. But I don't want to know what it's like. The thing is, you see, I no longer want to know anything."

My wife was so disturbed that he called Nari and said, "He's sitting in the room and no longer wants to know anything."

"What doesn't he want to know?" asked Nari.

My wife said, "Nothing. He no longer wants to know anything at all. He no longer wants to know what he sees, such as what the weather's like. He no longer wants to know what he hears, such as what people say. And he no longer wants to know what he knows, such as ways to obtain moksha or fruits of karma."

After she hung up, she looked at me and asked, "Tell me something you don't know anymore and ought to know."

I said "I know a lot but the sad thing is that most of the knowledge is of no use to me. They are unnecessarily clogging my space under medial temporal lobe"

When my wife heard that, she tried to comfort me and said, "But you don't know

what the weather's going to be like tomorrow."

'Yes, I don't know what it's going to be like,' I replied, "but I still know what it can be like. I remember rainy days and sunny days."

I stayed in my room, and every day my wife brought me food, I looked on my plate and said, "I know they're potatoes, I know that's meat, and I know that's cauliflower – and it's all no use."

The next day my wife came and said, "You don't know how to say "nice weather" in Chinese,"" and she went out, closing the door behind her.

When I heard that, I began to think. It was true I knew no Chinese, and it was no good saying "I no longer want to know that either, because I hadn't learned any Chinese yet."

I called Nari and apologized to him, "Nari, I am sorry, I was rude to you, but I want to know how to say 'nice weather' in Chinese. How can I learn to say that?"

"Have you heard about a thing called the Internet?" Snapped Nari.

I replied, "Yes, what a great idea! Thanks."

I looked for the answer on a thing called Google. It gave me an immediate answer. Next time when my wife brought food for me I told her, "Hǎo tiānqì."

"What's that?" She asked.

"That's how you say 'Nice weather' in Chinese.

Thanks Google! I really don't need to know anything anymore.

Perspective

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A Nation of Reasonable People? By Anil Shrivastava ‘Musafir’

Early every newspaper around the world covered the history making event. On Thursday, 3 January, two Muslim-American women were sworn into the United States House of

Representatives. Together, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib became the first Muslim women in the history of the US to become two of over 400 House representatives. Cameras followed the two everywhere, from the moment they arrived in the capital, to the time they along with their families celebrated after the oath of office was administered. One wore a colorful Somali headscarf, in a nod to her Somali-American roots; the other, Rashida Tlaib, wore a maroon Palestinian thobe. Such was the excitement about her thobe that a Twitter hashtag, #showyourthobe, asked other Palestinian- American women to also display their own embroidered traditional garments. Many did.

This, however, was not how the hubbub over Rashida Tlaib’s swearing in would end. The cameras that had been trailing the newly elected representative followed her to a reception held that evening by the progressive organization MoveOn.org, which has long opposed President Donald Trump and his policies. When asked to take the microphone, Representative Tlaib recounted a conversation she had previously had with her son. “Bullies don’t win,” her son had told her. Tlaib said she responded with, “Baby, they don’t. And we’re going in there and we’re going to impeach the Mother Fu%\$#@].” Applause followed and Tlaib quickly gave up the microphone.

I didn’t see much reaction on social media by my liberal friends. Imagine if someone used the same slur for Obama or any other Democrats. Such is the partisanship for so called social reformers. The House majority leader, Democrat Nancy Pelosi, said she would not have used such words herself but that Tlaib’s words were certainly “nothing worse than

[what] the president has said”. Other Democrats, particularly those belonging to the prim and trite “when they go low, we go high” Obama- Clinton

camps, who have long insisted that they must stand for civility and not bow to the depths Trump plunges to, were also silent.

For her part, Tlaib refused to apologize. She stood by her words; she had said exactly what she had intended to say, and what she had meant to say. Many agreed with her; a hashtag echoing her call for impeachment

trended on Twitter for hours as angry Democratic supporters rallied in favor of Tlaib.

The Tlaib episode is notable for several reasons. For starters, while she may have been criticized by certain news media outlets and Republican politicians, she did not face any actual consequences for her use of indecent language. She was not officially censured; the US government did not begin any proceedings against her. Threatening Republican mobs did not gather outside her house, and while Trump did say that her comments were “highly disrespectful” and that she had “dishonored herself” when specifically asked, he too was powerless to actually stop her from using similar language in the future.

Tlaib’s statement also reveals the turn that minority women will have to take in the years to come. Minority organizations, many that balk at giving women leadership positions within their own organizations and boards, have been eager to embrace the two new emblems of minority women leadership. Tlaib’s use of inappropriate language is far beyond the narrow codes of decency that are viewed as permissible to most.

If we don’t criticize them as we do to Trump for much milder language, we are not a nation of reasonable people. This country is certainly going down the hill.

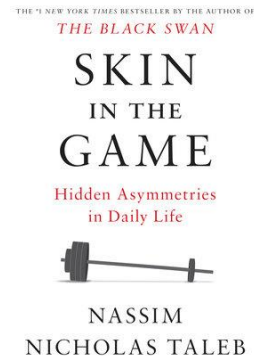


Book Review

Author: Nassim Nicholas Taleb

Publisher: Random House (304 pages)

Reviewed by Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



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“Skin in the game” was first coined by Warren Buffet. It means having incurred risk in the pursuit of some goal or achievement. To give an example in a layman’s term, business leaders should not enjoy big profits unless they suffer the consequences of bad judgment. Thus, the corporate and political leaders should have skin in the game. It is a great notion especially what we see happening around us today. We all know that we don’t put our leaders, business magnets and religious pontiffs responsible for the damages done to society by their decisions or decrees. As a matter of fact, they are rewarded for their bad decisions with perks and secured life after leaving their positions.

The book in review, “Skin in the Game: Hidden Asymmetries in Daily Life” by Nassim Nicholas Taleb emphasizes that if someone inflicts risk on others and the consequences become damaging, the person responsible needs to pay some price for it.

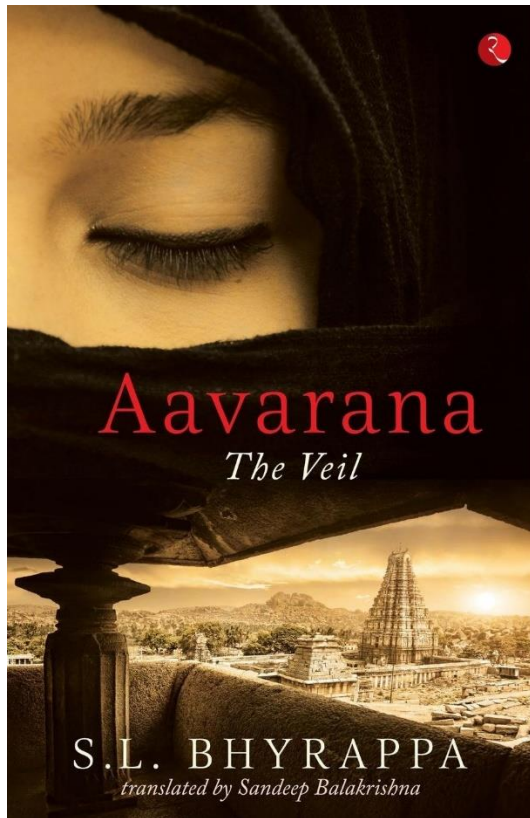
To use an example: George W. Bush made horrendous mistakes that brought great suffering to peoples of the Middle East and the United States, but won a second term and, having retired, enjoys a new avocation—oil painting. America’s large banks have been run and coddled by leaders with no skin in the game. If their bets paid off, they won big; if the banks teetered, the public bailed them out—what Taleb calls the “Bob Rubin trade.” Transferring the pain of risk in this way impedes learning.

In contrast to the present time, in ancient times most leaders were warlords—warriors who risked death in battle. Societies were run by risk takers, not risk transferors. We must have cause-and-effect mechanisms. People should face consequences for their actions.

Hammurabi (the ancient law giver of Babylon) got it right: “If a builder builds a house and the house collapses and causes the death of its owner, the builder shall be put to death.” Thus, we come to understand “skin in the game.”

Taleb sums up as: There is no love without sacrifice, no power without fairness, no facts without rigor, no statistics without logic, no teaching without experience, no complication without depth, no science without skepticism, and nothing without skin in the game.

As Aesop noted, dogs enjoy greater security than wolves, but lack freedom. Wolves have more freedom than dogs but may be eaten by even stronger denizens of the wild. That brings to my mind what should be the consequences for the recent government shutdown? Should Ms. (Plastic Faced) Pelosi and Mr. (Rubber Faced) Trump be rewarded by their admirers for making us suffer? Where is the skin in the game for them?



Author: S.L. Bhyrappa

Publisher: Rupa (389 pages)

Reviewed by Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

Avarana – The Veil is a very provocative novel by the famous Kannada writer, S.L. Bhyrappa. Avarana, the veil is referred here as hiding the truth. The entire novel depicts a forceful struggle between hiding the truth for political correctness and creativity vs. presenting the truth as it is. What should a writer or an artist choose?

In this novel, Bhyrappa has shown courage to remove the veil from inhuman Islamic practices which may not go over well with intellectuals and politicians who try to put a

veil over those practices in the name of secularism and inclusiveness.

The story in Aavarana revolves around its protagonist, Lakshmi who was renamed Razia after her conversion to Islam as a precondition to marrying Amir who is a Muslim. Razia is forced to eat beef and follow orthodox Muslim practices by Amir's parents. Amir, who came across as a liberal and secular person first, wants Razia to follow his parents' wishes. Eventually she returns to her ancestral village and to her Hindu cultural roots following estrangement with Amir (who remarries without divorcing her). Razia reads the writings of her father's excerpts and realizes the historical atrocities of Muslims towards the Hindus. She refuses to work on a government sponsored program that intends to hide those facts.

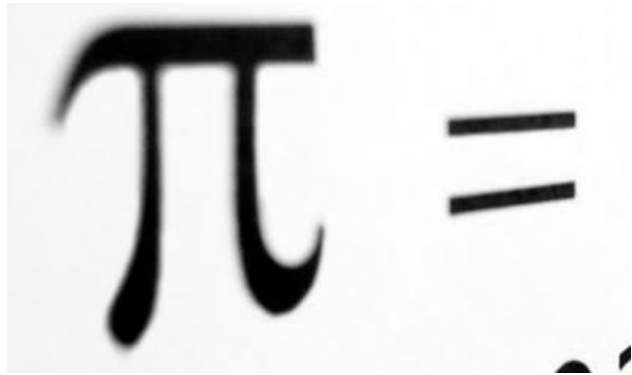
This was my first introduction to Bhyrappa's style. I was deeply impressed by his art of storytelling and the ability to vividly describe situations. I can equate his style to two greatest novelists that I have come across, Premchand (Hindi) and Charles Dickens (English).

However, while Bhyrappa has exposed the fact about Islamic rulers being iconoclastic (the breaking of Hindu temples and idols), he has mentioned nothing positive about their contribution to India such as iconic architectural structures, literature or intellect (Sufis for example). His depiction of the

Muslim life in India is entirely negative. All the Muslim characters in the novel are conservative and closed-minded.

The novel's English translation is lucid and pleasing to read. Overall, Bhyrappa is convincing in his argument that an artist should not hide truth in search of beauty. –
Reviewed by Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

SCIENCE ESSAY



THE LIFE OF PI

March 14 is fast approaching. We celebrate Pi Day on March 14 because the first three numbers in value of Pi are 3.14 and March 13 is 3-14.

“Pi” (π) is the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter ($\pi=c/d$). “Pi” is a constant number, meaning that for all circles of any size, Pi will be the same. The diameter of a circle is the distance from edge to edge, measuring straight through the center. The circumference of a circle is the distance around.

The trouble is that everyone wants a piece of Pi. The Christians claim that in the Old Testament of the Bible, a circular pool is referred to as being 30 cubits around, and 10 cubits across which comes to 3 when you divide the circumference (30) by diameter (10).

The Egyptians, on the other hand, claim Pi as their own since the vertical height of the pyramid at Giza has the same relationship to the perimeter of its base as the radius of a circle has to its circumference.

The Indians claim that they were the first to invent the value of Pi. They claim that the value of Pi was determined by them in 3000 BC (by the time Rigveda was written). They claim that the Rigveda mentions the perimeter of a pit is 3 times its diameter- therefore approximating the value of π at 3.

Well, the Chinese can’t be left behind. They claim that the value of Pi was first determined by Liu Hui, a mathematician of the Cao Wei Kingdom.

In modern times (AD), the mathematician Archimedes used polygons with many sides to approximate circles and determined that “Pi” was approximately $22/7$ (twenty-two divided by seven). The symbol (Greek letter “ π ”) was first used in 1706 by William Jones. The use of π really became popular after it was adopted by the Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler in 1737.

Despite the claims, Pi is an extraordinary mathematical symbol. Here are some fascinating facts about π .

In recent years, with the help of Super Computers, “Pi” has been calculated to over one trillion digits past its decimal point. And as we all know, a “trillion” is a very large number, unless of course, we are talking about the United States Federal Deficit, which is approaching twenty-two trillion (22,000,000,000,000) dollars!

Of course, only thirty-nine (39) digits past the decimal point are needed in order to accurately calculate the spherical volume of our entire universe, but because of Pi’s infinite and pattern-less nature, it’s a fun challenge to memorize, and to computationally calculate more and more digits.

We can never truly measure the circumference or the area of a circle because we can never truly know the value of pi. Pi is an irrational number, meaning its digits go on forever in a seemingly random sequence.

In 1995, Hiroyoki Gotu memorized 42,195 places of pi and is considered the current pi champion. Some scholars speculate that Japanese is better suited than other languages for memorizing sequences of numbers.

During the famed O.J. Simpson trial, there were arguments between defense attorney Robert Blasier and an FBI agent about the actual value of pi, seemingly to reveal flaws in the FBI agent's intellectual acumen.

Since there are 360 degrees in a circle and pi is intimately connected with the circle, some mathematicians were delighted to discover that the number 360 is at the 359th digit position of pi.

The first million decimal places of pi consist of 99,959 zeros, 99,758 1s, 100,026 2s, 100,229 3s, 100,230 4s, 100,359 5s, 99,548 6s, 99,800 7s, 99,985 8s, and 100,106 9s.

Comedian John Evans once quipped: "What do you get if you divide the circumference of a jack-o'-lantern by its diameter? Pumpkin π ."

So why should we care so much about pi? The beauty of pi, in part, is that it puts infinity within reach. Even young children get this. The digits of pi never end and never show a pattern. They go on forever, seemingly at random. This tension between order and randomness is one of the most tantalizing aspects of pi.

On Our Soapbox Moments!

By Vishwambhara Adiga

We all face moments where we have little time to react and end up either alleviating or making a situation even worse.

I have been having conversations with my 5-year old on how to handle criticism, bullying and other common circumstances of day to day life either in a school setting or outside. I noticed that she used to be upset over a little annoyances.

This evening she came to me after dinner, sat on my lap and slowly whispered, "Daddy my friend standing next to me in my Zumba class told me something not so very nice."

"Really? What was your response?" I asked her.

To my astonishment, she replied, "I told him that I am not going to talk back to you."

That amount of attention to details, self-awareness, self-control and situational leadership, I thought, she is already half way through the meditation journey!

It makes me proud and, at the same time, more aware about how I should react to a situation in front of her moving onwards.

Truth behind Ending the Shutdown

by Musafir

I feel sorry for President Trump as his shutting down the government lasted only 35 days. He can't be listed in the Guinness Book of world records. The crown goes to Belgium where they went without a Government for 541 days. Imagine! 541 days without having to hear politicians squabble! Wouldn't even feel the need to go on vacation.

The Belgian factions were divided by language. The Flemings versus the French. We are divided by right and left political factions. I wonder which is worse. At least when the Flemings and the French argue they might not understand each other. Though we speak the same language, we don't want to understand each other.



The former record was set by Iraq. They lived happily without a government for 248 days. I had expected Mr. Trump to do better than Iraq. George Bush, at least, beat Saddam Hussein at an expense of one trillion American dollars. So what? A win is a win, after all.

Hillary Clinton warned, "Americans can't afford another day" and urged supporters to call their senators and "demand a vote to re-open." She didn't want Trump to beat her husband's record of shutting down government for 21 days.

One really cool thing Hillary Clinton could have done was sneak a new government in without anyone noticing. She is good at these kinds of things such as destroying computer records using a hammer and getting away with that. She could have made it something fun by repeating her famous quotes, "I suppose I could have stayed home and baked cookies and had teas, but what I decided to do was to fulfill my profession which I entered before my husband was in public life."

It is suspected that Queen Elizabeth II of England was planning to seize the moment during the government shutdown and attempts to reclaim America for England.

Some say that the whole shutdown was plotted by the Indian techies. The story goes that Trump told one of them, "I'm having some trouble with my government."

The techie answered, "Have you tried turning it off and on again." You know where our president got the idea from? Trump seems to be worried about the Chinese and the Russians. How about them Indians?

It's still a mystery why did Trump really end the shut down? It is rumored that Pelosi told Trump in a secret meeting that she would agree to fund a border wall if he (Donald Trump) left the country forever. Mr. Trump disagreed. However, Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani suggested, "He should absolutely take this deal. I mean, if he stays in the country, Pelosi will ultimately put him in prison."

The writer is busy finding the truth and will let you know what really happened when the smoke clears. Stay tuned

WALKING BY A WATERFALL WITH A TURBULENT MIND

by Musafir



Butch (Real name Bacchan) and I were childhood friends. We used to climb hills and walk through streams together in the hilly span of Jharkhand (a rolling and scenic state of India). Both Butch and I felt frivolous and inconsequential to the world at large. Such were our conditioning.

Butch and I were getting near the Lower Ghaghri Fall. It was an intimidating display of nature. I was awestruck with the beauty and intensity of nature. Suddenly, Butch broke my concentration and asked, "What does the enormous force of water remind you of?"

"It reminds of nothing. Of course, it's awesome and beautiful," I replied.

Sixty years later, I got to visit the Niagara Falls for the umpteenth time. I don't know why, but this time I got reminded of Butch's question, "What does the enormous force of water remind you of?"

I started reflecting. It reminded me of my state of mind which was full of restless thoughts. The gushing water felt similar to my mind, and the currents were my thoughts. The mind was neutral like the water. It was neither peaceful, nor turbulent in itself. The current made it turbulent as

desires and fears produced thoughts inside me.

I realized that my mind was always disturbed. I was restless like water falling from the falls. Thoughts of all kinds ingressed and

egressed incessantly inside me agitating my inside similar to the current that was agitating the water.

"How do I become tranquil and calm down my mind?" I thought.

I realized that I couldn't calm the water by holding the water and not letting it move. It was necessary to let the water flow to the Niagara River and then to Lake Ontario. Rivers provide direction to water and lakes (ultimately the ocean) provide them a peaceful reservoir. Our thoughts, desires and fears are like the water. We need to direct our thoughts to a purpose and provide them a focus. Ultimately, our thoughts will find self-knowledge, the ultimate reservoir.

We must learn to calm down the turbulence in our mind. When we control our mind and make it peaceful, we get more control over our life. However, as water flows in its own direction disregarding anything else, we must control ourselves without trying to change others. This is the key to living. I was peaceful, at least, for the time being.



Hypothermia Tips

Written by
Dr. Niru Prasad

The chill winds of winter pose a variety of health concerns including one that is particularly serious - - hypothermia.

Niru Prasad, M.D. on staff at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital's department of ambulatory pediatrics, explains that hypothermia occurs when a person's core body temperature falls well below normal as a result of prolonged Exposure to cold. "Symptoms of moderate hypothermia are mental confusion, clumsiness and loss of interest in activity," says Dr. Prasad, noting that treatment should be immediate. "Get the victim out of the cold and into a warm environment, replace wet clothes, serve warm liquids and apply hot water bottles or heat pads."

Dr. Prasad states that in cases of severe hypothermia, loss of the shivering response (the body's way of speeding metabolism and generating heat) and loss of consciousness may result. She cautions against trying to warm the victim with active measures and advises that the victim be covered gently with blankets, removed from the cold environment and taken to the hospital or immediate medical attention.

To avoid hypothermia, take the following precautions:

Eat a well-balanced diet and take a high calorie snack if you expect to be out in the cold for a long period.

Avoid alcohol, it causes your body to lose heat faster.

Dress in light, loose and layered clothing that will trap layers of air and provide extra insulation.

Know the effects of any medication you are taking. Some affect the body's response to outside temperature changes.

Truth about U.S. Immigration

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



Unlike European countries where immigrants are often alienated, the U.S welcomes legal immigrants to come here and assimilate with the mainstream. They are given the chance to become part of the American story and are encouraged to accept citizenship. You,

I and our children and grandchildren are the proof of this fact. We cannot get this opportunity anywhere else, be that Russia, China, Europe, Latin America, Arabia or Africa.

In 2017 after Mr. Trump took office, 1.49 million legal immigrants moved to the United States, a 7 percent increase from the 1.38 million a year before. India was the leading country of origin, with 175,100 arriving in 2017, followed by 160,200 from China/Hong Kong,

Let the truth be told. I haven't found any presidential action on part of Mr. Trump that can label him as anti-immigrant. He has stated over and over again that he wants many more immigrants to come to the U.S., but they have to come here legally. Watch the clip attached here. [283254812672](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=283254812672)

150,400 from Mexico, 54,700 from Cuba, and 46,600 from the Philippines.

Immigration from European countries were negligent. Mr. Trump has also proposed to give citizenship to millions of dreamers.

I being of Asian-Indian origin can count number of people in Trump's cabinet belonging to my ethnicity which is unprecedented. They are

1. Raj Shah, Deputy Press Secretary
2. Nikki Haley, former UN Ambassador
3. Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commissioner,
4. Neomi Rao, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA),
5. Seema Varma, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS),
6. Vishal Amin, Intellectual Property Czar,
7. Neil Chatterjee, chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
8. Manisha Singh, Secretary of state for economic and business affairs.

I meet folks who are vehemently opposed to India opening its borders to Bangladesh and Pakistan, but when it comes to the United States, they side with open borders and uncontrolled influx of masses pouring over illegally just because Mr. Trump opposes that.

I find nothing wrong in Trump saying that the immigration system is broken and we need to fix them. United States is the only country which is obligated to take care of men, women and children entering here. So, there is nothing wrong in stopping them from entering the border. If wall is the solution, let it be.

We often hear critics argue that we are not a benevolent nation when it comes to immigrants. The fact is that we let in more immigrants than any country in the world and therefore are already more generous than anyone else. The U.S. ranks highest in immigrants moving here each year. Here is the ranking:

1. United States
2. Germany
3. Spain
4. United Kingdom
5. Japan
6. Italy
7. Canada
8. Australia
9. France
10. Switzerland

Contrary to the popular belief, the U.S.A doesn't give any preference to Europeans. You may be hearing that the Whites will become less than 50% of the U.S. soon. So, what are we upset about? I may not agree with Mr. Trump on many issues. This may not be one of them.

(Please write to the author with your point of view)



NOSTALGIA



HE SHE AND VALENTINE

By Ashokkumar

He: I am your valentine
you be my concubine
She : Shut up you mister
I can at best be your sister
He: When love is in the air
Everything should be fair
She: You get kicks in your rear
You must get ready to bear
He: Oh my dear miss
Not kick, let it be kiss
She: Don't try to have some fun
my morality is that of a nun
He: Don't you have feelings hidden
which may really be forbidden ?
She: I gonna out of your sight
And out of your mind
If love is really blind
You'll have another find

Death of an unknown person

By Ashokkumar

August 14, 1945, the day Japan surrendered to the US . Everybody was happy and euphoric. In Times Square New York, a small time photographer was walking on the street. Suddenly he saw a sailor and a nurse walking on the road each going their own way. The photographer requested them for a pose, an intimate friendly kissing pose. Both took it casually, consented to the photographer's request, and went on their way. None of the trio bothered to know each other.

When the photo appeared in one of the newspapers, it became a sensation. Many called it the best expression of the celebration. The photo got republished in many newspapers and magazines. Soon people wanted to know about the persons in the photograph. It remained a secret for many decades. Tracking people was not easy then.

After some years many woman came forward claiming to be the nurse in the photo, but they all turned out to be fake. Decades later the right man and woman were identified, both busy in their lives and surprisingly unaware of the interest they had generated globally. The photo till this day remains the most iconic picture signifying the end of World War II.

The sailor in the picture was George Mendosa of Middletown, Rhode Island. who recently died at the age of 95. the girl was Greta Zimmer Friedman, a dental assistant. She died in 2016, age 92. They left an immortal impression on everyone's life



1. Did Confucius say this?: "Have no friends not equal to yourself."
2. Name the movie that won Laurence Olivier the Oscar award? Hamlet
3. Who invented the World Wide Web?
4. Britain and France declared war on Germany after its invasion of which country?
5. How many electrons are in a hydrogen (H) atom?
6. What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?
7. Which car company made the humanoid robot ASIMO?
8. Name this state, nicknamed "The Land of Enchantment."
9. What are the basic units of life called?
10. Before cassette tapes, eight tracks and cd players, the masses listened to what?

Answers: 1. Yes 2. Hamlet 3. Tim Berners-Lee 4. Poland
5. (one) 6. Mayflower 7. Honda 8. New Mexico 9. Cells
10. Transistor radio

No More Musophobia” by Anil Shrivastava “Musafir”



We have been trying to get rid of a few stubborn mice from our home for years. It was 2012 when my wife first spotted them and shouted, “There is mouse in the house.” Then she found one more then one more then one more. We had to replace our freeze, throw all the groceries from the pantry and get the entire house including the basement professionally cleaned. We called several reputed rodent removal companies such as MiceRUs, Micesorous, MiceNotNice, MouseArrest, MicemanCometh and NoMoreMrMiceGuy.

Getting no results, I finally hung a note on the community board of my neighborhood supermarket:

“We have several mice living in our house that need to be removed. If you are an expert at trapping/removing mice, please contact us at ##%#@5744.com”

I received an email the next day, “Hi! I am responding to your ad in the supermarket looking for help in disposing off some mice. I think I can do the job. If interested, please let me know. –Arnold S”

Me to Arnold S: “I still am looking for someone to do this. You are the only

person who responded. I have seen 3 mice already, but there may be even more. What will it cost to get rid of them?"

Arnold S to me: "It will depend on method that you would like to use. Generally for this situation I'd like to use the Exterminator option. This will cost you \$100 an hour to neutralize all the targets. - Arnold S"

Me to Arnold S: "What is Terminator? Is it something like Arnold Schwarzenegger used in the movie, Terminator?"

Arnold to me: "I meant terminator mines. They are directional mines that have small plastic explosives and contain steel ball bearings that are sent flying toward mice. I'd set a trip-wire by the entrance to mice holes. Any mouse coming out of the hole will be shredded in thousand pieces. If you have children or pets, I recommend that you outsource them to your parents or in-laws. -Arnold S"

Me to Arnold S: "Um, is not that a little extreme? I don't think our neighbors would like someone setting explosives in their neighborhood."

Arnold to me: "My methods are extreme, but effective. From what you describe, we are dealing with veteran mice that would stop at nothing but Exterminator. I just want to bring the right tool for the job. I understand that you don't want to use Exterminator.

The next option is to set a sniper position inside your home and wait until the mice come out to shoot them. I will bring another person with me called spotter. My spotter and I will wait as long as it takes to get the perfect shot on each mouse. Some jobs like this may take a week at \$100/hour. My spotter and I will not sleep until we get rid of mice in your house. During that period please do not come near us or talk to us. We'd bring a 0.50-caliber M82 sniper

rifle to ensure that mice really die. Since you have problem with noise, we'll bring silencers so that your neighbors won't know what is happening inside. -Arnold S"

Me to Arnold S: "Are you ex-military? I think I'll need at least one reference before I give you the job"

Next day, I got a reference from someone called Nicholson.

Nicholson to me: "I am an old client of Arnold. He told me that you wanted a reference for a job. Let me start off by saying that you couldn't have made a finer choice. Arnold is the best there is. He literally saved my life countless times in Afghanistan.

Back in 2015, I was posted to Afghanistan to fight the Taliban. Arnold was hired to escort me during the war. Everything was going fine until our convoy was hit by the enemies. Next I knew that I woke up in a prison camp with Arnold. They took Arnold and me in a hut where at least eight Taliban were planning to kill us. Arnold managed to kill all eight Taliban only using pepper spray. He not only killed the eight, he managed to capture five more who served us as butlers. This happened because Arnold scared them.

This just goes to show you that if Arnold can take care of men, he can certainly annihilate mice in your house. - Nicholson"

Arnold S to me: "You may have received a recommendation from Nicholson. I am going to ask Joe to send another recommendation. -Arnold S"

Me to Arnold: "Please stop telling your references to email me! We have already decided to live with mice. After 7 years we are used to them. We no longer suffer from musophobia."

