

You May Say I'm a Dreamer...

By Charlie Alnut

Walking barefoot on the beach one winter afternoon, a fellow stubs his toe on some-thing unseen. After jumping around on his good foot for a few minutes and squeezing his damaged big toe with both hands until it stops throbbing, he eventually hobbles over to the spot where he hurt his foot. There sticking out of the sand he discovers the handle of what turns out to be a very special magic lamp. It's very special because instead of only summoning a genie when he rubs it, he gets: a rainbow, the parting of what had been a solid overcast gloomy sky, a sunbeam that illuminates only him and the immediate one square foot of beach that he is standing on, and a voice that says, "My son, I applaud the self control you demonstrated after having stubbed your frozen toe on the sharp spout of the lamp and not even thinking of, much less muttering, a curse. I will grant you three wishes. But, please consider carefully since whatever you request will have an everlasting effect on the future of the universe."

It's like he's been thinking for years of the possibility of just this event coming to pass. The fellow doesn't even hesitate. He is completely prepared. As if he's been rehearsing what he'll ask for once the almighty eventually appears in his life he clears his throat and asks, "Would it be too much to ask you for complete world peace, to abolish all suffering and put an end to global warming?"

"Are you absolutely sure? Although there isn't anything beyond the scope of my power, granting your three requests is actually trivially simple."

"Quite certain and absolutely sure."

And with that remark and the wink of a celestial eye, the third planet out from a relatively minor star on the peripheral edge of an average galaxy ceased to exist. Meanwhile, a couple years earlier ...

When that guy finally shows up, he'll be my and a few other folk's hero. Then again, he'll also be the goat for the majority of the world's population. But that's OK. It all balances out since nobody will be left to either praise or to blame him. A real win - win situation.

He hasn't shown up yet (that we know of), so until he does it's up to us to cope with and maybe even improve our world. We seem to have a really unique opportunity. We could be the first bunch in history that actually does something to make life better for everything (not just ourselves) on Terra. The place has really become a soup sandwich even though I'm sure all of our ancestors had the absolutely best intentions. When was the last time you were reminded to "... leave the place better than when you found it"?

You probably think I'm trying to win the sarcasm prize, so let me give you a little quiz to demonstrate my point. Can you name the three commodities that were responsible for making the US of A such a terrific economic success in a record amount of time after it became independent? Survey says: Whaling, tobacco and cotton.

Get the picture?

If not, there's another expression that goes, "If you aren't outraged you're not paying attention." Maybe I can help. In any case, I'd like to provide you with some ideas about 21st Century Science and Technology to consider and apply as you see fit or reject if you can fault them. Perhaps I can provide information for you to think about and possibly consider

doing things for definite reasons rather than just going with the flow - economic, political or advertising - that has failed to ponder the lasting consequences of too many best intentions.

For example: Carbon Credits. That's where legislation will mandate how much carbon, mostly in the form of exhaust gasses like carbon dioxide, each process is allowed to release. If you, your factory, generator or whatever processes are covered by the eventual rules exceed the limit you get penalized. If you fall consistently under your limit you get to sell the shortfall as a credit to the exceder so he can reduce or avoid the penalty he'll otherwise be charged. Does this really make sense to any of you? It's like paying the church to receive an Indulgence. Or, in modern parlance, it's like obtaining a fidelity credit - pay somebody else to remain celibate while you commit adultery, then when you get caught you can point to your policy with pride and say, "Ya but - I've got this offset!" Pretty disgusting when you put it in those terms although maybe not as obscene as last quarter's record oil company profits that are government (meaning taxpayer) subsidized. At the same time, the Renewable Energy Incentives bills can't get through Congress. How many cents of every dollar you pay for gas, oil, propane or electricity will end up in somebody else's pocket because of Carbon Credits? Paying for credits, penalties or just administrating the system will not come out of any profit margins. While the atmosphere continues to be polluted some time in the future can you imagine that the big boys at Exxon are gonna be saying, "Gee, I wish it was still 2008 when we broke our profits record - back before the Carbon Credits rules started."

You can reach me at charliealnut@gmail.com . I'd be interested in your idea's as well. Until the next time ... (cue John Lennon's Imagine).

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Dear Community,

We are writing this letter to express our gratitude to so many in our community and outside it who helped with Echoing Evergreen Booster Day Camp.

In December we lost 90% of everything that belonged to the camp due to the flood that effected everyone in our community. Because of the kind hearts of so many individuals and businesses, many of you came forward to support camp and made it the best year ever!!!

Most of the kids who came were affected in one way or another by the flood, and to see the smiles on their faces and enjoying themselves was priceless. There were so many in our community who want to remain anonymous- and we thank you.

Thank you to the businesses in our community including: KLS, Absolute Marble and Granite, Vernonia Lions Club, Wauna Mill, Dass Logging, Black Bear Coffee Shop, Holce Logging, Mike Pihl Logging, Gwin Logging, Soderback and Daughters Trucking, Vernonia Dental, Wauna Federal Credit Union, Clever Cricket, Vernonia Hardware Store, Sentry Market, Hancock Forest Management, Wilcox and Flegal, Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters, Metro West Volunteers, Mist Fire Department, Intel, Vernonia Police Assocation, Skidmore Trucking, TNW Firearms, Vernonia Jamboree, Windemere Charitable Giving, Photo Solutions,

PIA Western Alliance, Weyerhauser, Beaverton Rotary, Storage Too, Cedar Ridge, St. Helens Community Credit Union, and Wards Mobile Shop.

Also to so many individuals, Marsha King, Rita Behnke, Tony Hyde, Shelly and Herb Husson, Sue and Kevin Robertson, Peter and Leslie O'Leary, Jim and Judy King, Carol and Gary Davis, Trish and Ron Maldonado, Beth DeLemos, Randy and Sharon Parrow, Thereasa Morris, Mary Lou Busch, Susan and Dale Pedersen, Penny Costly, Maria Lemay Dennis and Marilyn Pederson, Kathy Ward.

And to all of our group leaders and station leaders- your hard work and effort for the week is the reason we are able to have camp. We appreciate each and every one of you more than you could ever know. Without all of your generosity whether money, volunteering or craft supplies, camp would not have gone on this year. I truly want you to know how much we appreciated everything you did to help us and the kids.

Yours Truly,

Echoing Evergreen Booster Camp Core Staff
Katie Poetter
Robin Dennis
Michelle Dennis

