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YOUR
MESSAGE
OF...



...DESTINY!

"DESTINY! DESTINY! NO ESCAPING THAT FOR ME! DESTINY! DESTINY! NO ESCAPING THAT FOR ME!" screams Gene Wilder as Frederick Frankenstein in *Young Frankenstein* as he realizes there is no escaping his heritage...or his future.

Fortunately for us, we don't live in a celluloid world, our words and fate scripted and ordained by forces outside our control. But while there is no telling exactly what will happen tomorrow or the day after, we place our faith in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said,

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

In other words, it seems that our world, as a whole (and there are certainly more than a handful of notable exceptions), is growing more loving, caring, and tolerant with each day. At least that's the thought that helps *us* get out of bed most mornings.

Dr. King's "arc of the moral universe" quote was inspired by American Transcendentalist, reforming minister, and abolitionist Theodore Parker (1810 - 1860) who wrote, "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice."

Yeah, a little verbose. Say what you want about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (and most of those things we would say would be quite positive), but you can't say he wasn't a great editor.

Same with Abraham Lincoln who, in his Gettysburg Address ended it with the upbeat and forward-looking, "...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." Lincoln was no doubt inspired by Parker's remarks from his "The American Idea" speech given at a Boston anti-slavery convention. In it, Parker said, "A democracy — of all the people, by all the people, for all the people..." If only Parker had been president, maybe he'd have gotten credit.

The first known use of the phrase "The right (or wrong) side of history" is from *Old Egypt*, a 1903 book by Rabbi Henry Pereira Mendes. Mendes wrote, "Nachbi, whose grandson, like Setur's was destined to make a name, though not on the right side of history."

While the thought that there is a right and wrong side of history (presumably the right side being the one that is fair, kind, and loving), it's important to remember that as



"I STAND ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY"

a famous quote notes, "History is written by the victors."

Ironically, while this quote is often credited to Winston Churchill, it may have been inspired by the Nazi's commander-in-chief of the Luftwaffe, Hermann Göring, who said of the Nazi's and their global ambitions, "We will go down in history either as the world's greatest statesmen or its worst villains." Looks like both Churchill and Göring were right. Although if you really want to be accurate, there seems to be no known citation for Churchill or anyone else originating the "victors" phrase. Historian, playwright, and social activist Howard Zinn calls a phrase like this a "truism," a "statement that is obviously true and says nothing new or interesting" (Oxford Dictionaries).

So the point is, if you want to be on the right side of history—or herstory—create it. If you don't like the way things are, as Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." As a practitioner of non-violence and leader of the Indian independence movement from the British, Gandhi helped India gain its independence. In the process, he became an inspiration for those seeking civil rights and freedom around the world.

Go write the right side of history!



We don't know this man's story. We don't know why he is in a wheelchair, how long he's been in it, or if it's a life-long condition.

What we do know is that he was one of the thousands of people at a ComicCon and when we said we liked his t-shirt, he was kind enough to pose and allow us to take his picture.

What we also know is this man's spirit is HUGE! We've certainly experienced a few hardships in life, just like all of those who have lived for more than a few years. We've lost and left jobs, had relationships end and ended relationships, We've experienced the deaths of family members, but all of these expected life challenges pale in comparison to being physically disabled.

18 months that left her blind and deaf. She became the first blind and deaf person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Her college education was paid for by Standard Oil magnate Henry Hutton's Rogers, after an introduction to her by Keller adviser Mark Twain. Keller became a world-famous speaker, author, and advocate for those with disabilities. Her political activism included being a suffragette, a pacifist, and supporter of birth control. In 1915 she founded Helen Keller International, an organization dedicated to research in vision, health and

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- **Franklin Roosevelt** was President of the United States for 12 years. He led America out of the Great Depression and led the Allied Powers in WWII to defeating the Axis countries. Another highlight: At the age of 39, while vacationing in Canada, Roosevelt became ill. He was diagnosed with polio that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Refusing to accept that he was permanently paralyzed, he tried a variety of therapies, including hydrotherapy at a resort he purchased in Warm Springs, Georgia. This center still operates as the Roosevelt Warm Spring Institute for Rehabilitation. He also founded the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, now known as the March of Dimes.

- **Elvis Presley** has been blind since shortly after birth, but some of his professional accolades include 35 U.S. top ten songs, 25 Grammy Awards (the most ever for a solo artist), and selling over 100 million records around the world. He is also a political activist, working to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday, and in 2009 was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace.

- **Helen Keller** born in 1880, contracted an illness at

as the result of a illness and high fever at the age of 18 months. Keller has also won a Golden Globe and four Emmy nominations. Her charitable work includes Easter Seals, the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, USA arts, and the Red Cross Celebrity Cabinet. She received the 2016 Martin E. Ruderman Award (and it's \$100,000 prize) for promoting disability inclusion.

Others who have done notable things in spite of challenging disabilities include:

- **Stephen Hawking**, Diagnosed with a form of ALS at 21, Hawking has achieved world acclaim for his work in physics. He communicates with a single cheek muscle attached to a speech device.

- **Frida Kahlo**, The famed artist contracted polio at 6 and as a teen suffered a trolley accident that broke her back, an incident from which she never fully recovered.

So, yes, we all have challenges that compare to hold us back. And the greatest of these challenges fear. But as long as we act as if we aren't afraid (even if we are) and keep in mind that "TEAM is for others," we will have the opportunity to become our greatest selves.





...CREATIVE SUPERIORITY

Thomas Edison—
1,093 patents including the phonograph, movie camera, and long-lasting light bulb.

Nikola Tesla—
278+ patents including alternating current, the radio transmitter, wireless lighting, and the Vertical Take-off and Landing Aircraft.

Most things always be reduced to "greater than / less than"? What we always judge? Both Tesla and Edison created amazing things that changed the world. But rather than hold up one as greater than the other, we

appreciated, understand that the creative wherewithal to fashion stone points to wooden handles using a torch took far longer.

Although it took considerable time, creativity

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...to create some of the most world-changing inventions ever.

Each of us is creative. It is the core of what makes us human—the need to create. As humans we consciously select from countless options and place these selections in a specific order to do everything from dress ourselves in the morning to follow a career path.

"Life is the art of drawing without an eraser."

- John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare under President Johnson

Creativity is literally in our DNA.

The very earliest first signs of creativity in our pre-human ancestors are 1.4 million year old animal bones with cut marks. Even if those cut marks were made by something as simple as a stone that had been picked up, it's clear demonstration of the creative mind at work, a conscious thought discerning that of all the stones available, this one was the best for the job literally at hand. The oldest flaked tools are from Ethiopia and were created 1.4 million years ago. Even as long ago as 300,000, 200,000 years before the first of Homo Sapiens

input from others.

No matter the creative activity, making a spear or a skyscraper, it's all about choices. And selecting from available choices is a creative act. While selecting what, where, and how to eat our breakfast may not seem like a creative act, it is. The ability to choose—to consciously and deliberately consider options and the consequences of each on us, on others, in the moment, and in the future before selecting one—is what makes us creative, human, and separates us from animals and computers. Can animals or computers choose from options? No. Can they consider the short and long term ramifications of those options, on them and others, in the present and in the future, the moral, and judgmental implications of their options? No. Humans have "free will" We wish. Plus we can always unplug the computers if they get an attitude.

"Creativity takes courage."

- Albert Einstein, French artist

Be creative. Be courageous. Use your free will. We promise not to judge.



...TRUST

"You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you'll live in torment if you don't trust enough."

- Dr. Frank Crane, minister, speaker, and columnist

Trust. We need it to function in our daily lives. We trust that when we put in our time at work, at the end of the week we'll get paid.

We trust that after placing an order at a restaurant we will (A) get the food we requested, (B) it will be prepared as we expect, (C) our food will be brought to our table in a reasonable time, and (D) we will be charged according to the price on the menu. That's a lot of trust for a single transaction.

And here's some pretty important trust we have to have every day:

that someone out there's important. Regardless, even knowing that every once in a while a drive in traffic can lead to tragic consequences, we

take that risk. And when we turn the concept of trust into a mathematical equation, Trust = Action/Time, we can see why we accept the risk. Over time, our experience has been that

trust is a good thing.

1. Don't Compare—Comparing people, feelings, or needs to be better than others. Comparison creates a win for all and improves better personal performance.

2. Be Supportive—Offering advice, experience, and help inspires others to reach out to you.

3. Be Assertive—Express your opinion and bring creative "win-win" solutions.

4. Honor Commitments—Say what you'll do and then do what you said.

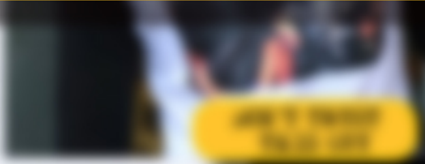
5. Don't Be Selfish—Share credit whenever possible. Accept blame when you should.

Of course, there is no guarantee that those we don't know are deserving of trust or even that those we do know will always be trustworthy. But being with a trusting attitude will not only make our lives more enjoyable, but also make us more of a joy to be with. In short, if we want to trust others, we must be trustworthy. **Trust**



trust is a good thing.

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ME



...HONESTY

"Honesty is the best policy."

-Benjamin Franklin



It's all standing.

There's a no win question, one which no matter where the truth is, the result is not going to be good.

"Do these pants make my butt look big?"

Answer in the affirmative, bad.

Answer in the negative, also bad. "What do you mean these pants don't make my butt look big? Are you saying my butt looks big no matter what pants I'm wearing?"

This brings up the difference between truth (the fact), honesty (the fact with a dash of sincerity), and alternative facts. Let's talk

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1776 to raise funds and support for the American Revolution he brought with him his coonskin cap that had been across the Atlantic to keep his head warm. In Paris, he discovered that his non-European styling—he didn't wear a wig or powder his hair—fit the French notion of the backwoods American. Although Franklin was a city dweller through and through, he played up his rough-hewn appearance. Upon his presentation to the King, Franklin didn't wear a French costume, but rather dressed "down," wearing a plain brown suit and carrying his coonskin cap under his arm.

Was Franklin, by presenting an image of himself that was not his true self, not being honest? He was, at the very least, being misleading.

Was Franklin, using the nom de plume of Richard Saunders when he published *Poor Richard's Almanac*, not being honest?

Perhaps the answer to these questions is best found in one of *Poor Richard's* sayings.

**"A lie stands on 1 leg,
Truth on 3."**

It may be that the lie is only standing on 1 leg, but

ACTUALITY: "You look beautiful. I love you just the way you are. And yes, these pants are not the most flattering in a way your backside."

ALTERNATIVE FACTS: "I'm hungry. Are you hungry? Want me to go out and get us something? There's this great deli in Manhattan. I could be back in three days."

We live in an age of scalable facts. Even if the facts are black and white, they are positioned along a spectrum of gray, with the exact amount of black or white that creates the (scalable) gray changing as the needs of the "facts" change. On one end of the spectrum is TRUTH and on the other is ALTERNATIVE FACTS. At that gray area in between? That's honesty. And when it comes to our interactions with ourselves, each other, and the truth, that's probably the best policy. It requires some thoughtfulness and compassion, but there's nothing wrong with exercising those muscles as frequently as possible.

And when it comes to exactly what kind of person you'd honestly like to be, we quote Oscar Wilde,

"Be yourself."

Everyone else is already taken."



You Are What You Wear



In Charge



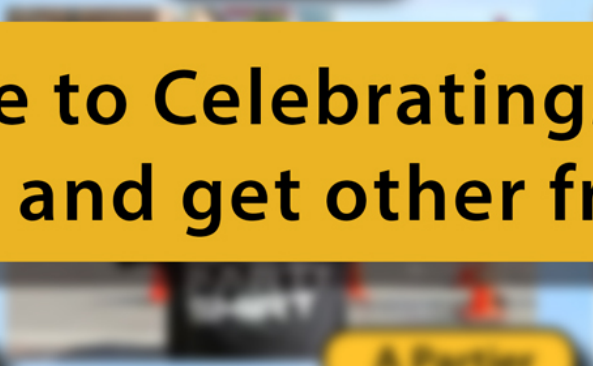
Aligned



Love



Relaxed



A Partner



Present



Confused



Grateful



Happy

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