

Lessons from the Second World War

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Dr. Tod Worner

1

- 1) Know the truth.
- 2) Stand up for it.
- 3) When knocked down, get up.

2

KNOW THE TRUTH

3



We have changed our education in the last thirty or forty years so that students are really not being taught history—they are not being taught *what it was that got us here*. History gave way to being taught “issues” and “issues” are something abstract. They are just out there. They somehow just *show up*. That is the fundamental reason why we have this seeming obliviousness or ignorance about the way the world has got to be managed in order to make everything else work well. If we don’t know that, then it’s all going to fall apart.

– Charlie Hill
(on insight)

4



The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but right through every human heart -- and through all human hearts. This line shifts. Inside us, it oscillates with the years. And even within hearts overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained.

— Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (on the complicated nature of man)

5

The first principle is that you must not fool yourself
and you are the easiest person to fool.

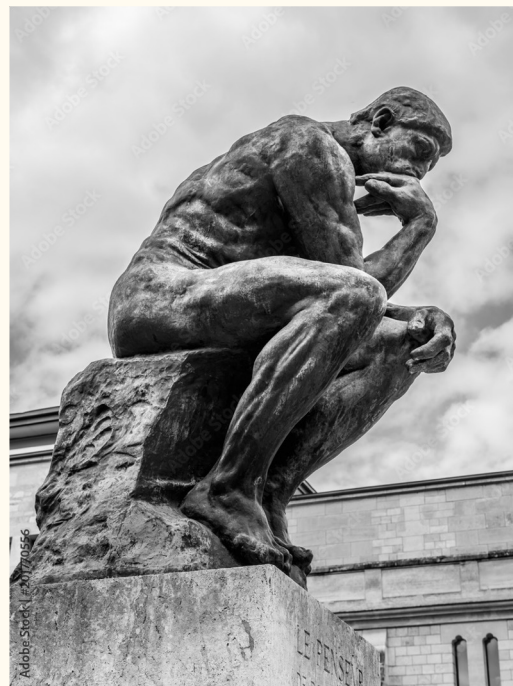
– Richard P. Feynman

“Man is a rational animal.”

“No, *capable* of reason.”

– Jacques Barzun

(On Human Nature, blind spots, bias, & susceptibility
to untruths)



6



Macbeth's self-justifications were feeble – and his conscience devoured him. Yes, even Iago was a little lamb, too. The imagination and spiritual strength of Shakespeare's evildoers stopped short at a dozen corpses. Ideology—that is what gives evildoing its long-sought justification and gives the evildoer the necessary steadfastness and determination. That is the social theory which helps to make his acts seem good instead of bad in his own and others' eyes, so that he won't hear reproaches and curses but will receive praise and honors.

– Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

(On the dangers of ideology)

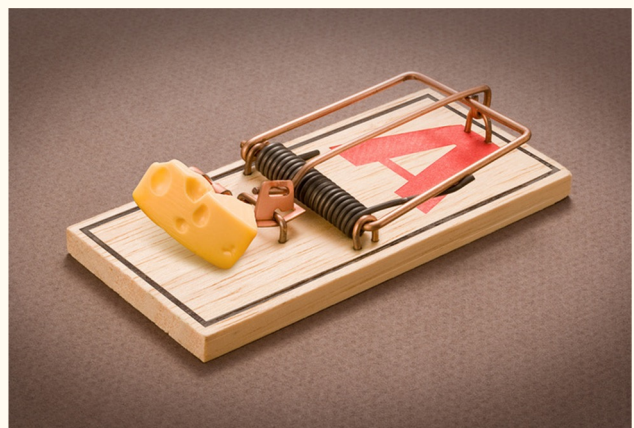
7

The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it emotionally.

– Flannery O'Connor

United wishes and good will cannot overcome brute facts. . . Truth is incontrovertible. Panic may resent it. Ignorance may deride it. Malice may distort it. But there it is.

– Winston Churchill



8



Over a half century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of old people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened." Since then I have spent well-nigh 50 years working on the history of our revolution; in the process I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own toward the effort of clearing away the rubble left by that upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened."

– Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
(on the fate of life without God)

9

How many winds of doctrine have we known in recent decades, how many ideological currents, how many ways of thinking. The small boat of the thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by these waves - flung from one extreme to another: from Marxism to liberalism, even to libertinism; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism and so forth. Every day new sects spring up, and what St Paul says about human deception and the trickery that strives to entice people into error comes true.

Today, having a clear faith based on the Creed of the Church is often labeled as fundamentalism. Whereas relativism, that is, letting oneself be "tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine", seems the only attitude that can cope with modern times. We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires.

– Pope Benedict XVI (on God as criterion)



10

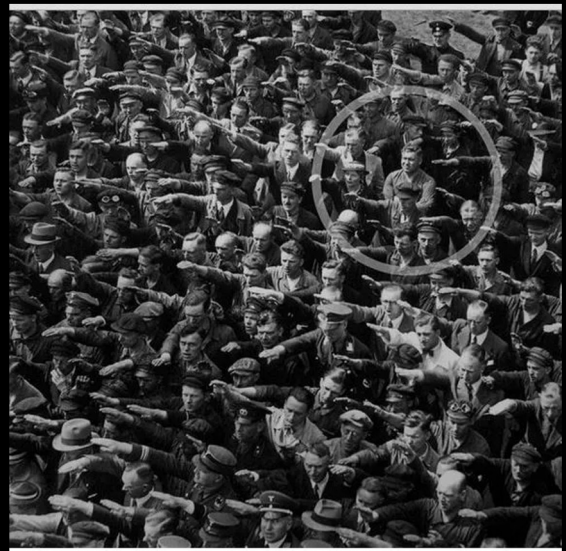
STAND UP

11

When bad men combine, the good must associate;
else they will fall, one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in
a contemptible struggle.

– Edmund Burke

(popularly changed to “The only thing necessary for
the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”)



12

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me.

– Pastor Martin Niemöller



13



[Courage] is when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what.

– Atticus Finch, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

14

A ship in harbor is safe, but that's not
what ships are built for.

– John Shedd



15

I like a man who grins when he
fights.

– Winston Churchill



16

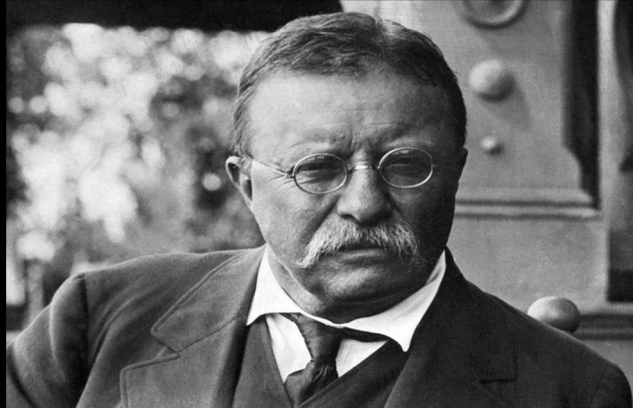
Put out into the deep!
– St. John Paul II



17

WHEN KNOCKED DOWN, GET BACK UP

18



It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

– Theodore Roosevelt

19

Fall seven times, stand up eight.

– Chinese proverb

20



Never give in! Never, never, never, never!

– Winston Churchill

21



The Church is a perpetually defeated thing that always outlives her conquerers.

– Hilaire Belloc

22



We are all worms, but I do believe I am a glow worm.
– Winston Churchill