

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR

Before I knew it, the weekend was upon us and it was time to meet John and his wife. I wasn't sure how I felt about that but Pam convinced me to pick up a nice bottle of wine and she got a neat gift to bring. After a bit of searching, we found John's place. Very unusual it was, nestled in the trees. Considering I had pegged John as a bum back at the park, it was a surprise to see a very elegantly designed home set back in beautiful landscaping. Pam was excited. I held back a bit. But as we entered the house, the emotion exploded. It was as if we had not seen these people for fifty years! Hugs and handshakes, smiles and laughter filled the air. And there was me captured into the mood. Finally, we settled down and I had to take a quick scan of the house. In the corner of my eye, I saw Pam handing the little gift over to Joy. She instantly burst into tears of joy and hugged Pam. I could hear the giggles and thrills as they melded. It was hard to focus as everybody was still talking a mile a minute. John stopped my scanning.

"Tom, I am so glad you were able to make it. Can I get you and Pam a beer or a glass of wine? I have a very nice Riesling from Germany if you would like to try it?"

"John, that would be nice. I brought you a bottle of Madeira. I thought you may like this as it is also a special wine."

"Tom, that was very nice. That is one of my favorite wines. Thank you. Perhaps we can try it after dinner."

Because John noticed me scanning the house, he offered me a tour. I said I would love to and we headed into the back. I was really surprised. It was a very unusual place, with collections and evidence of hobbies everywhere. The house exuded taste and elegance everywhere. The house did not have a square corner. It was all glass, wood and open design. I had never been in such a different, comfortable house. It also exuded warmth that penetrated relaxed me. Time flew by. We had an absolutely spectacular dinner. The conversations flowed with amazing excitement. It wasn't until later that John suggested we take the Madeira and sit out on the balcony.

As we sipped a drink and sunk back to look up at the stars, I couldn't help but notice my rough edges of the week were gone. Once the bristles disappeared, it was pleasant. For the first time all week, I felt at peace. There was harmony in the air. "John," I sighed, "this is great. It is times like this that give me a reprieve from the world around me. I wish I could have more time like this."

"Why don't you?" John queried.

Here was my queue to moan again. "Good question, John. I guess I am caught up with everything and it all seems so negative. I always seem to be reacting to things. There is always a problem and we can't seem to get ahead financially." I caught myself feeling like an idiot about crying the blues so I paused. "But John, you look so peaceful and well set up. How have you gotten to be this way?"

"Tom, I think my life was also like yours once upon a time. I am grateful that I was able to get myself out of the kind of boxes that you appear to be in. I call them the commercial and the spiritual boxes that sapped my energy and fed me negativity. To cleanse, I had to first cast away what I had learned, open my mind and find out who I really was. It was quite a journey. If you really want to know about my journey, I would be pleased to tell you what I learned and how it worked for me. But I have to tell you that you will need to cast away your old opinions and teachings first."

That was a pretty strange statement. Who he really was? What does that mean? Maybe he is with the Mafia, I thought. My curiosity was now getting the better of me. Perhaps I could gleam something useful out of this so I should look like I am interested. "John, I would be honored if you would tell me."

"Tom, you need to first understand who you really are. There are two dimensions of this. I would classify these as your spiritual and terrestrial aspects. If you want to be coy about it, this is your mortal and immortal duality. One is who you are as a real live God-created human being in terms of your rights and freedoms, as you live and breathe on earth. The other is who you really are in the grander, spiritual scheme of things."

"John, I am not sure what you mean. I know exactly who I am. I am a human being and I have a name. I am me. I have a birth certificate to show that."

"Ok, Tom, let us follow that notion of yours. You hit on the first critical identity issue. You, a real live, God-created human being are actually being identified as a combination of upper and lower case letters. If you look at that birth certificate do you notice how your name is presented?"

Ok, time to humor this guy I thought. I hauled out my certificate. "It is my name, right here. It says Thomas Doubtfull."

"Is it in capital letters?"

"Yes it is in capital letters. So what?"

"Well do you remember how you were taught to spell your name all the way through school? Or have you ever noticed how the writer's bible -Chicago Book of Style - tells you to identify real people? It is Thomas Doubtfull, not THOMAS DOUBTFULL in capital letters. It appears that you have simply assumed that these were one and the same. This would mean that you have simply accepted this other version as you. But these are clearly two different entities. One is you, the real live sentient human being and the other is an artificial entity that is only a fictional name."

That certainly made me pause a moment. "So what is the significance of this?"

"First, understand that these are different. In understanding who you really are, it must be clear that the capital version is not you. It is a thing, a word, nothing else. Secondly, understand that this thing and you have different rights. Each is subject to different laws. Just because you have been taught it is you and accept it as being you does not make it so."

"Well, so what? Are these rights different?"

"In knowing this duality and what those rights are, you can choose how and when to apply them. The truth is that once you separate out the two, you can open up a new world of financial flexibilities. Let me explain. One is subject to God's law and common law, which dates back a long way and evolved to protect the individual's rights and freedoms, even from governments and Kings. It started with the Magna Charta and has been written into The Declaration of Independence. So it is still a prime aspect of today. The other, in capitals, is a fictional entity called a Strawman that you think is you. That entity is subject to statute law, and all the laws you are used to based on commercial activities."

"Like what?"

"This is the stuff that is all around you everywhere, like Income Tax, and the Marriage Act for example. By you assuming that these two are the same, you actually become subject to statute law thereby offering to give up your common law rights. I know you are wondering why this is so. Right now accept that this is important in knowing who you are. Knowing the distinction between these can make significant changes to your financial affairs and your freedoms. You can also have a look at your other cards and see how many times you see the capital version."

That certainly caught my attention. Rather than arguing about it, my curiosity was telling me to listen. "Ok, I will not forget to get you to explain this later. What you are saying, I think, is that this Strawman thing is like a corporation where it is just a name and it has a corporate charter attached to it, as well as falling under the Corporations Act."

"Exactly, Tom, that's an excellent analogy. Let us leave that alone now and look at the other box. The second major aspect of knowing who you are is related to the spiritual side. You probably feel that you don't know what your purpose in life is and you are simply subjected to the whims of happenings that you have very little control of. In understanding who you really are, you need to know that you do have a higher purpose and that you can take charge of your own destiny if you so desire."

"Now you're pushing it, John. I am hardly in control of the rotten thugs and collection agencies that call me. And I am hardly in control of other people's actions on my life." I could feel an argument building. Boy could I set him straight about that topic! I think John could sense it. He leaned back and spoke slowly.

"Tom, that is true to some extent, but let me give you a simple example. Let us say you are sitting quietly and a thought is brought into your head. Let us call this a *'reactive thought'* as you have no idea where it came from. You just thought about stopping on the way home and getting a bottle of champagne to sip with your wife. Any idea where it came from? Is there a machine inside generating thoughts? Well, it does not matter, because it is simply a thought, which is energy. Now you have a second interesting phenomenon taking place called intent. Let us add intent to the thought. You have some choices around a possible event. Do you stop or not. You can ignore this thought or you can act on it. It is simply your choice. So you decide to act on it and stop. Guess what? Now you have transformed a thought into real physical action creating a sequence of events through intent. It is a set of physical actions and

different energy. This will then end up in an event that will create an experience for you and your wife. This experience will then generate some new thoughts like maybe some joyful ones? Do you see this? You could have just as easily used intent to ignore it and gone home to sit in a couch potato form. No matter what you do, it is a matter of making a choice. Is that not called control?”

“Actually, John, I see that to some extent. I am used to doing that in a more complex way when I convert my thoughts and ideas into a thing called a business plan. That business plan is then converted into physical tasks that create some form of physical reality. But that is when I am in control of the thought process I am generating, not when some other thugs force me into a reaction”

“Tell me what the difference is. These are still thoughts that you can choose your own reaction to. Everyone does this but they pay little attention to the process. You may not be aware of it but thoughts are very powerful, and as you will begin to understand, are real energy waiting for a transformation into reality. Can you believe that the choice as to what thoughts are focused on, whether bad or good has an impact on what actually happens and what you attract to yourself at a later time?”

“Well, Ok, I can sort of see that but it is not really credible. What about all those other people and events that get me to react in a negative way to protect myself? This automatically fills your mind with crappy thoughts.”

“Once again, these are all still your choice and you need to know that you can still choose how you think or react to a bad event even if it is one out of your control. You have a choice on how you react and that choice can generate feelings of fear, which is destructive energy, or love, which is constructive energy. Those thoughts bombarding you are of two categories, what I call destructive noise and what I call constructive thoughts. Over time, once you know who you are and that you are capable of transforming any thoughts into action and good experience, you will change the balance from 95% destructive to 95% constructive. Through this transformation, you will clearly begin to control your destiny and attract other positive energies like a magnet. You will see a positive change in your life.”

“John, let’s leave that alone for now. I can buy some of it but what has this to do with who you are on the spiritual side?”

“Tom, I am glad you asked. This gets a bit heavy. I, like you, have always been a pragmatic individual. Seeing is believing I always said. I needed to be shown proof to believe anything. So I also had a tough time with this. I graduated from university with a degree in math so I liked to see numbers. Also, on the spiritual side, I have not had a very good opinion of God in conjunction with religious beliefs. Religions have accounted for the greatest amount of destruction on this earth. Even now, our political leaders back up their destructive wars with religious reasoning. My life was not unlike yours a mere five years ago but I got myself to think outside of the traditional boxes of life that we have trapped ourselves into. Let me sketch this scenario out for you and we can get into more detail when I explain some of the books that got me outside of the box.”

“Well this should be interesting because I feel the same way.”

“God has been presented to us as something we kneel down and worship. We give money in support of this powerful deity that is the creator and the power. The religions that support this belief system have grown to immense financial proportions and are vortexes sucking in people’s donations. This God, however, doesn’t seem to care about anyone in particular and hardly listens to starving hordes and daily cruelties.”

“Yes, I certainly agree. That is why I have built up such a bad taste about religion and God. I am perplexed as to how this obvious conflict simply escapes all these religious people and they follow like sheep.”

“Tom, you are right. But that’s part of the illusion. God isn’t like that. The vengeful God of control taught to you is to keep you in fear of life, in fear of judgment. But I’ve learned in escaping the illusion that God isn’t like that. I’ve learned that we are sparks of divinity. A spark of God. The most recent revelation of this has been *‘The Book of Life’* by Michael Sharp. You can go to his website at www.michaelsharp.org if you want to.”

“Thanks, John, I will do that.”

“Making this realization changes everything. When you realize who you are, you realize that God, if there is such an identification, is actually you and if anybody needs to be worshiped it should be you. You are one little component of this force termed as God. You were created in his image. Call it energy, the force, or whatever you wish but there are two parts to you. The one part is the soul that has a higher purpose. The other is the physical mind and human

biology that inhabits the earth. The soul, housed in this body, tries to communicate with the body and your mind so it can experience the goodness of living. The body, however, is trapped in a box or pathway that someone else interested in controlling you made for it. That is the nature of the spiritual box. You are trapped in the illusion of thinking you, God and your soul are separate. The truth is that you are all ONE. Once you know who you are, and you understand the power resting in you, you can get past the duality, tap into the power that is within, and get absolute control over your own destiny.”

“Any questions?”

“John, now that’s pushing on my reality limits. This is a bit hard to accept. What you are telling me is that first I thought the Strawman and me were ONE but we are dual. Now you are telling me that I thought me and God were separate but we are really ONE? That’s pretty far out. Now you are telling me I have all this power but don’t know it? Something doesn’t compute here. And I am still having some difficulty understanding why this is all important in getting out of these boxes.”

“Tom, take it easy. I don’t want to fry your gray matter. I am going to take you back into your reality zone, as you call it, then we will get back into some more pragmatic stuff with some references for you to decide for yourself. What is really important is that you understand that things are not as they appear and that you are actually a very different human than you have been led to believe. It is called awareness. It is what makes up and changes a belief system.”