

November 13, 2016  
*“Justice for All”*



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*“Do not judge and you will not be judged.”*

Jesus (4BCE - 28CE)

*"Experience is the teacher of all things."*

Julius Caesar (102-44BCE)

*"Experience is the most efficient teacher of all things."*

Plini (23-79CE)

*"Experience teaches."*

Tacitus (55-117CE)

*"The intuitive mind is a sacred gift; the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honours the servant and has forgotten the gift."*

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

*“The most distinctive mark of an ethical person is the ability to take another’s point of view, to put one’s self in an other’s place and see life and its problems from a point of view different from one’s own. To be willing to test a new idea, to be able to live on the edge of difference in all matters intellectually, to examine without heat the burning questions of the day, to have imaginative sympathy, to be an open and flexible thinker, to feel things with poise, to be cool and calm in one’s judgments, is to be ethical.”*

A. R. H. Fairchild (d. 1970)

*“I can learn nothing from people who agree with me, who simply affirm what I say and what I do.”*

Rienk Vlietstra (1946 -)

BeiYin (ca 1945 - ) German Philosopher and Operator of FalconBlanc, a European Retreat Centre for people with the desire to restructure their lives, writes as follows:

*“The best teacher is conscious observing and relating to daily circumstances. One then responds out of one's own experiences, being aware that this comes out of an old programming which happened in one's past. So also acknowledging this reality, one is able to decide to follow this track or to try a new way, what might guide to a new experience and trigger new unknown reactions to be observed, thereby creating growth in awareness... in other words: Life is the best teacher - if one is open to it!*

*'Experience' is not necessarily a teacher; and for sure not the most efficient, because experience usually serves to confirm the old experiences that formed a person's self image. The best and most efficient teacher without doubt is one's own awareness. But for it to be effective, I must step beyond my existing personality; only then can there be true learning. Otherwise everything I experience only serves to confirm my programmed personality... largely constructed in a survival mode constrained by my narrow and limited self-image and world view.*

*To be able to go beyond one's personality one must be so saturated with experience - in a very long evolutionary process - that there's no room left to grow within its existing boundaries. Then - being well-cooked in one's own juices - what might happen through much suffering like personal tragedies, loss of family, bankruptcy or lengthy illness, the personality breaks down and gives space to take the first step beyond one's self-centered existence.*

*This is a long way to go, although there is a short cut available; but humanity is so stuck in its self-preserving existence, such that hardly anybody wants to know about it, when it is associated with self responsibility and being engaged in a challenge. Hardly anyone questions what is happening around one. There are no questions. The need to defend oneself, one's property - where affirming one's old 'experiences' is central - has become so strong there is no opening for anything radically new.*

*'Life is the best teacher'. But is that teacher really welcome? It seems people prefer 'second hand life'. Just to say, 'Experience is the BEST teacher' exposes how tricky the personal mind works... pretending to be attentive to life's experiences and believing it to be what's happening! What a naivety! The best teacher - from one's personal perspective - is the one who just confirms the 'status quo.' Real teachers, those who might provoke and trigger questions, will usually be avoided and/or rejected. Or is it not so?" BeiYin asks. "What is your reaction now?"*



*“I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind,” writes 3<sup>rd</sup> Isaiah of the vision God placed before him...*

*to draw 5<sup>th</sup> cy BCE Jews away from a physical to a spiritual Temple; likewise 2<sup>nd</sup> Isaiah wrote during the Exile to Babylon that preceded it, “Look... I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

But the Jews could only build on their old experiences, and reaffirm God's presence by rebuilding their Temple.

These are the folk of whom God spoke to 1<sup>st</sup> Isaiah in the 1<sup>st</sup> Temple - when he was called to prophesy to them ca. 590 BCE during the siege of Jerusalem,

*“Go and say to this people: ‘Listen and listen, but never understand; look and look, but never perceive. Make this people’s hearts unfeeling, make their ears dull, shut their eyes tight, or they will use their eyes to see, use their ears to hear, use their hearts to understand, and change their ways... and, in so doing, be healed.’”*

Quite obvious, isn't it, that dramatic satire wasn't invented in the 21<sup>st</sup> cy.

### PAUSE

When all 3 stages of Isaiah prophecy were edited and assembled into one scroll - around 300 BCE - its redactors put the following in the introduction,

*“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? I'm up to here with the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you. Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil and learn to do good; seek justice... i.e., rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” So says Yahweh.*

*“The best teacher - from one's personal perspective - is the one who just confirms the status quo. Real teachers, those who might provoke and trigger questions, will usually be avoided and/or rejected.*

*Or is it not so?”* BeiYin asked in the passage I quoted earlier. *“What is your reaction now?”* he asked.

What did Jesus say when his disciples were admiring that same Temple, of which Yahweh said he'd become tired of what went on there and of which Jesus himself had earlier said, *“It has become a den of robbers.”*



*“not one stone will be left on another; all will be thrown down.”*

Jesus was one of those “teachers” of whom BeiYin writes, *“Real teachers, those who might provoke & trigger questions, will usually be avoided and/or rejected.”*



Teacher Jesus warned his disciples, his pupils, *“They'll arrest you and persecute you; handing you over to synagogues and prisons.*

*“You will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.*

*“You will be betrayed by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.*

*“You will be hated by all because of my name...*

*"The intuitive mind is a sacred gift; the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honours the servant and has forgotten the gift."*

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

I think the 'GIFT FROM GOD' that is Jesus is that he is blessed with an intuitive mind - two weeks ago he knew he must go through Jericho, because Zacchaeus had to see him; he could have gone round, the road is easier. It's the way most caravans to Jerusalem went.

Jesus' intuitive decision to go through made possible God's gift to Zacchaeus, a life changing one... because his eyes and ears were opened, his heart moved, ...and Zacchaeus was healed.

Jesus could have done the rational thing and go round, but he went through... because he listened to his heart; he didn't suppress the gift, but followed where it led him.

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Can you not see the disciples listening to Jesus today, his predictions about what's going to happen to them?

The smell of rational fear is beginning to glisten, rising wetly from every pore; and Jesus sees it too... so he continues,

*"But not a hair of your head will perish. Hang in... it will be the making of you. I am the way... keep your eyes on me."*

*"Not a hair of your head will perish?"* Bull feathers!  
*"It'll be the making of you?"* It'll be the death of me!  
*"Keep my eyes on you?"* You, they crucified you man!  
That's the most irrational advice I've ever heard!

*"Take up your cross and follow me,"* said Jesus.  
And not because it was the "rational" thing to do, but because it is the "right," the "just" thing to do.

The way Jesus leads us into is one of "justice for all," not only the powerful... the wealthy... the privileged, but everyone. Jesus knew it was so. That was his gift.

More of the same, bigger, better, stronger, maybe, but not different, cannot provide *"Justice for All."*

That will require a whole new way of being.  
And, according to Isaiah's Yahweh, it will be.

There was nothing "rational" about young people offering to stand in the way of bombs and gunfire, in the many wars fought in the last hundred years; somehow they just knew they had to do something.



As they did what their intuition led them to, so we follow ours. We just know... somehow, one day, the wolf will lie down with the lamb.

And, one day, *"They shall no longer hurt or destroy on all God's holy mountain; everyone will plant and everyone will eat, and there will be... 'Justice for All,'"* Amen.