

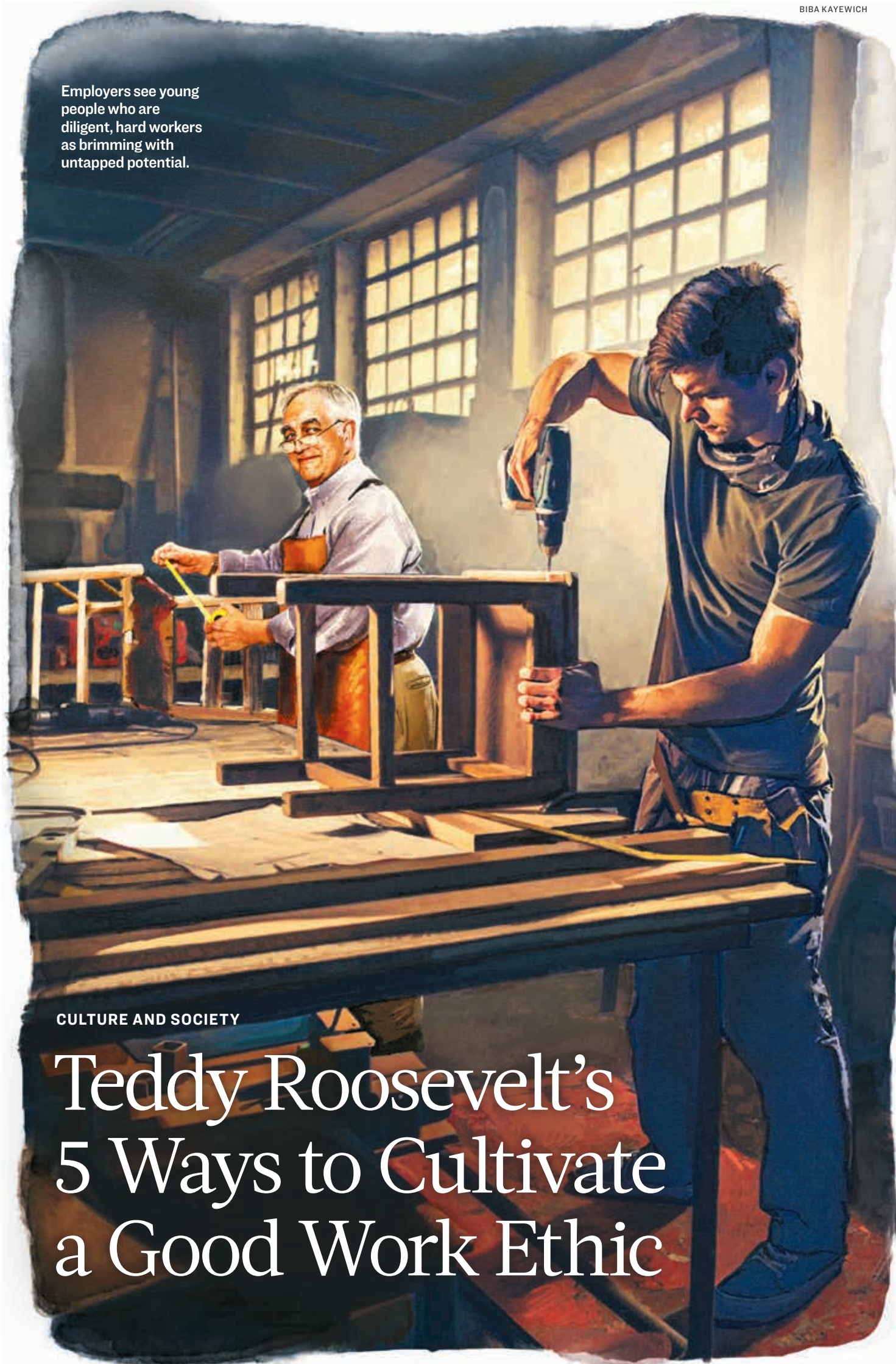
THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION

BIBA KAYEWICH

Employers see young people who are diligent, hard workers as brimming with untapped potential.



CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Teddy Roosevelt's 5 Ways to Cultivate a Good Work Ethic

Whatever the position or salary, a good work ethic will make an employee stand out

By Annie Holmquist

It happened to be on the outskirts of a conversation between a 17-year-old young man and a middle-aged married couple a few weeks ago. About to graduate from high school, the 17-year-old politely inquired as to what the husband of the couple did for work.

Soon, the two were setting up a time for the high schooler to come out and see the inner workings of the man's business. Given earlier conversations with this man about how eager he was for good help, I imagined I could see wheels turning in his head at the prospect of the diligent, untapped talent that stood before him.

The need for good workers these days extends far beyond this one man's business. And judging from a recent Wall

Street Journal article, finding good help in young people like my 17-year-old friend above isn't an option that's out there for most employers. In response, employers are rejecting ageism and embracing workers closer to retirement than high school, hoping that the more mature worker will at least give a good, solid eight hours per day of honest, diligent work, even if he or she is a bit harder to train when it comes to technology.

"There's a willingness from this group to work the opening shift or to close down for the day, to cover during lunches and breaks or even be on call as needed," one employer told The Wall Street Journal.

In addition to being flexible and diligent, older workers aren't necessarily looking for huge salaries, nor are they

quick to move on to a new position in order to climb the career ladder, making them further attractive to employers.

Having done a fair amount of hiring in the past decade, I can sympathize. While I've unearthed some very good workers among the younger generation, I've also been somewhat taken aback by the things some younger hires ask for, as well as the lack of loyalty some exhibit once they join a company. So much so that I, too, began thinking of older hires as more desirable.

As I'm somewhat still a member of the younger generation myself, such a predicament challenges me. Where did we lose the principles of hard work, and how can we regain them? The writings

Continued on Page 3

Being faithful in the little things will eventually open doors to big opportunities.



Ed Hajim gives a graduation speech at the University of Rochester in 2010.

ADVICE TO GRADUATES

A Lifetime of Wisdom

Financier and philanthropist Ed Hajim uses his story and new book to touch younger generations

By Jeff Minick

It's cap-and-gown season again, when graduates from America's schools are awarded their diplomas and round out another stage of their lives. This rite of passage ranges in scope from homeschooled high school seniors receiving their recognition in a backyard ceremony celebrated by relatives and friends to a university stadium packed with thousands of proud parents, grandparents, and others eager to witness the latest achievement in the family saga.

Typically, these events bring a guest speaker to the stage whose purpose is to encourage graduates as they commence their next adventure. Some of these commencement speakers appear because of their accomplishments and prestige. Some are renowned for their power to move an audience with their enthusiasm, passion, and stories. Some are invited to the podium for their ability to touch the hearts and minds of the young.

Edmund "Ed" Hajim ranks at the top in all these categories.

A Turnabout Tale

Hajim's story qualifies as a classic rags-to-riches Horatio Alger tale for our time.

His father's early financial success was wiped out by the Depression. The Syrian immigrant was in St. Louis when he met the young woman who would become Hajim's mother. Once married, the couple set out for California, where Ed was born in 1936, but the family continued to struggle financially. When Ed was 3, his mother took him back to St. Louis and filed for divorce.

Continued on Page 2



Ed Hajim, age 8, in Hermosa Beach, Calif., in 1944.

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ADVICE TO GRADUATES

A Lifetime of Wisdom

Continued from Page 1

"When people fail early in life," Hajim said of his father, "they sometimes have an awful time later." He then added, "My father loved me more than anything else in the world."

His father loved him so much, in fact, that he kidnapped him on a visit to St. Louis and took him back to California, telling his son that his mother had died. More than 50 years would pass before Ed learned the truth about his mother, tracked her down, and reestablished a relationship with her.

His adolescence was chaotic, to say the least.

"I lived in 15 to 20 places before I was 18," Hajim said. Work took his father away for long periods of time, leaving Hajim first to the care of babysitters and then to foster parents. Eventually, he landed in an orphanage where his life took on some semblance of order and stability.

After winning a Navy ROTC scholarship, Hajim attended the University of Rochester, where he majored in chemical engineering. After a stint in the service and some time as an engineer, he attended Harvard Business School, found employment on Wall Street, and rose to the top of his chosen profession, serving in executive positions in all manner of brokerages and businesses, and becoming a legendary figure in the world of finance.

Hajim credits many people and factors, including luck, for his success, but none more than his wife Barbara. They've been married for nearly 60 years.

And since we began with Horatio Alger, it's worth noting that in 2015, Hajim became the recipient of the prestigious Horatio Alger Award, given to individuals for their personal initiative and leadership, belief in the free-enterprise system and importance of higher education, and determination to achieve a better future.

Hajim's interest in students and learning is more personal than providing financial aid.

Lighting the Fires of Learning

That Hajim feels forever grateful for his own education can be seen in his lifelong devotion to the University of Rochester, where he served for more than 20 years as a university trustee. In 2008, when he received an eight-year appointment to head up the trustees, he donated \$30 million to provide students with scholarships and to endow Rochester's Edmund A. Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He has also funded scholarships for other institutions.

But Hajim's interest in students and learning is more personal than providing financial aid. He has delivered motivational speeches at numerous graduations and to groups of youth, including those whose background is as rocky and as hardscrabble as his own.

In addition, he has authored two books that are meant to inspire readers, again with an eye toward the young. His memoir, "On the Road Less Traveled: An Unlikely Journey from the Orphanage to the Boardroom," takes readers from the tough, gut-wrenching years of his childhood to the drive and determination that led him to his success. Here, too, he emphasizes the value of education.

"On the Road Less Traveled" makes a good graduation gift. In fact, after speaking at the Brunswick School commencement in Greenwich, Connecticut, where Hajim and his family have long resided, each member of the graduating class received a copy of this memoir.

But now, there's a new book out by Hajim, and it's aimed even more directly at the younger generation.

Passions, Principles, Partners, and Plans

"The Island of the Four Ps: A Modern Fable About Preparing for Your Future" contains a lifetime of wisdom distilled into the story of Marketus, who travels to an island from his home in search of answers to some of life's big questions. Along with his guide, Archimedes, Marketus visits the four villages of passions, principles, partners, and plans, drawing lessons from each of them and integrat-

ing that knowledge into a working template for his future.

At the end of each visit is a list of key ideas along with questions intended to fire up the reader's own thinking. When visiting the Village of Principles, for instance, Archimedes and a blacksmith explain to Marketus that an individual's principles apply to four realms—self, family, work, and community. These realms are then re-presented as one of the key ideas at the end of the chapter, along with the questions, "How do you apply your principles in each realm?" and "How might you apply them in the future?"

Here, then, is an elevated yet simple-to-use and fun guide to life for young adults. So if you're looking for a graduation gift, "The Island of the Four Ps" deserves a place at the top of the list.

Hajim at Home

Ed Hajim in person is the same man we find in the books and online interviews.

When I spoke with him by phone, for example, I met a man of humor, passion, and intelligence who shared his thoughts without a trace of ostentation or pretension. Here are just a few of them:

"Never be a victim. Focus your energy on what's next."

"A man can accomplish anything if he doesn't want the credit."

"It's important to find someone to love. That's your true partner."

"Surround yourself with people who can do what you can't."

"When you have a friend, at least once or twice a year spend time together."

"Early failure can be a gift. Trying something that doesn't work teaches you."

"I'm trying to give people questions they should ask themselves."

A Note to Graduates and Other Young Adults

In his introduction to "The Island of the Four Ps," Hajim tells readers, "That's why I wrote this book—so you can use my experience to help you navigate troubled waters." Readers who are paying attention should walk away from this fable with some polished gemstones of wisdom.

But Hajim's book should also serve as a reminder that nearly everyone from the ages of 15 to 25 surely knows some older people—a grandparent, an uncle or aunt, an employer—whose knowledge and experiences are also worth hearing. When we actively seek out these older men and women, we often encounter stores of history and philosophy gleaned from good times and bad.

And if we avail ourselves of them, we can add to our own storeroom of wisdom.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust On Their Wings," and two works of nonfiction, "Learning As I Go" and "Movies Make The Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va.



Ed Hajim with his family at the University of Rochester dedication of his statue in the Science & Engineering Quadrangle named after him in 2016.

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Teddy Roosevelt's 5 Ways to Cultivate a Good Work Ethic

Continued from Page 1

of the late U.S. President Teddy Roosevelt have some insight to shed on that question.

According to Roosevelt, one of the first things that makes a good worker is the willingness to put the company before one's own personal time. In an 1899 letter to Anna Roosevelt Cowles, Roosevelt explained how difficult it was to get away from his job as governor of New York. He didn't discount the need for some rest time, but he did realize that duties need to come before desire.

"I have just got to make up my mind that while I am Governor, everything has got to bend to my being such, and I can simply snatch occasional holidays as the opportunities arise," his letter reads.

In that same letter, Roosevelt revealed another element of a good worker: namely, eagerness to work on a job that gives purpose.

"I am so glad to be Governor—that is, to be at work doing something that counts, that all the bothers and worries are really of small consequence," he wrote.

In essence, a good worker isn't necessarily out to make the most money and get continual raises; instead, he's fulfilled if he knows he's working for a good cause, even if it doesn't bring in a lot of money.

Similarly, a good worker is willing to start small and do the little things well.

"I ask of you the straightforward, earnest, performance of duty in all the little things that come up day by day in business, in domestic life, in every way, and then when the op-

portunity comes if you have thus done your duty in the lesser things, I know you will rise level to the heroic needs," Roosevelt said in a 1903 address at the University of California-Berkeley.

In essence, Roosevelt was reminding us that we don't have to start with a big salary right off the bat, nor a big office or cushy benefits package. Being faithful in the little things will eventually open doors to big opportunities.

One can't have a prescription for a good worker without including character, and in this respect, Roosevelt doesn't disappoint.

"I believe thoroughly in the sound and vigorous body," he said during a speech at the University of Minnesota. "I believe still more in the vigorous mind. And I believe most of all in what [counts] for more than body, for more than mind, and that is character."

What kind of character produces success on the job, not only for the employee but also for the employer? Honesty, courtesy, kindness, and diligence are a few good traits to start with.

Finally, a good worker is one who doesn't give up just because the formative years of his career are over. He continues "looking forward, and not back," as Roosevelt wrote in 1908. Nor does he consider a position as beneath him if it pays less or is lower on the career ladder than one he had earlier.

"I have never sympathized in the least with the kind of man who feels that because he has been fortunate enough to hold a big position he cannot be expected to enjoy himself af-



President Theodore Roosevelt spoke extensively on the topic of what makes a good worker.



ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

terward in a less prominent position," he wrote.

If the economy hits a downturn soon, as many have predicted, a paycheck won't be so easy to come by. When that time comes, it'll be those who have learned Roosevelt's principles of a good work ethic who will have a leg up when it comes to landing those jobs.

Let's not miss the boat by ignoring them.

Annie Holmquist is a cultural commentator hailing from America's heartland who loves classic books, architecture, music, and values. Her writings can be found at Annie's At-tic on Substack.

DEAR NEXT GENERATION

Advice from our readers to our young people

Teaching Kids Fiscal Responsibility

It's never too early for kids to begin learning the differences between financial discernment and instant gratification

Preteen children are so innocent and impressionable. It's the best time to implant in their conscience the most important values that you wish upon them. There's a plenitude of values to choose from. Along with religious values, monetary values can also be imparted to children. Preteens are easily impressed with what the world has to offer. At such a young age, the financial cost to parents to open up their children to the monetary world can come in the form of a cash "allowance" and can be used as a teaching tool.

In the early 1960s, my father gave me a quarter-dollar allowance once per week when I was a preteen. I happily stretched that quarter to satisfaction. Very little of it went to candy; a lot of it went to Topps baseball trading cards, which included bubble gum (5 cents per pack). The baseball card industry was a boon to the neighborhood boys in the 1960s. We were all in on the comparison, trading, and "flipping" of baseball cards for competition to win baseball cards from the other neighborhood boys. We also attached baseball cards with wooden clothespins to the front

forks of our bicycles to make flapping noises with the spokes as we pedaled.

My method of stretching the allowance that I gave to my children was somewhat different, but the lesson was similar: to understand fiscal responsibility right away. In the mid-1980s, every once in a while I would hand each preteen child a five- or 10-dollar bill. But that money came with conditions. They couldn't spend it all at once; they had to "budget" the money to stretch it. They bought Topps baseball trading cards too, and their collection grew bigger than what I ended up with. In my day, baseball cards weren't "collectibles." But in my children's preteen days, monetary values were applied to baseball cards according to each player's total baseball statistics, compared with other players' total baseball statistics. My children put the best cards in collector's albums to keep them in pristine condition.

For my children, my overall goal was to teach deferred purchase with some of their "allowance." An example: to go into a toy store, settle on a toy to buy, but walk out of the store without a purchase and wait for a week to see whether the chosen toy was still a "good purchase." When children are taught to avoid instant gratification, they learn through patience the art of financial discernment.

—Dan Arthur Pryor, New Jersey

What advice would you like to give to the younger generations? We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch, if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned experience. We feel that the passing down of this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral

foundation can future generations thrive.

Send your advice, along with your full name, state, and contact information to NextGeneration@epochtimes.com or mail it to:

Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001



BIBA KAYEWICH

Dan Arthur Pryor says he would receive a weekly quarter-dollar allowance; most of it went toward baseball trading cards.



“Nearer he drew, and many a walk traversed / Of stateliest covert, cedar, pine, or palm” (Book IX. 434, 435), 1866, by Gustav Doré for John Milton’s “Paradise Lost.” Engraving.

ILLUSTRIOUS IDEAS AND ILLUSTRATIONS: *The Imagery of Gustav Doré*

Looking for Wisdom Behind Beauty’s Mask

Gustave Doré was a prolific illustrator of the 19th century. He created images for some of the greatest classical literature of the Western world, including the Bible, “Paradise Lost,” and “The Divine Comedy.” In this series, we’ll take a deep dive into the thoughts that inspired Doré and the imagery those thoughts provoked. For the first article in the series, visit “Illustrious Ideas and Illustrations: The Imagery of Gustave Doré.”

By Eric Bess

We all love to see beautiful things. What would our lives be without beauty? Yet there’s always the chance that beauty adorns and accompanies harmful things. How do we discern when something is truly beautiful or when beauty merely masks the detrimental?

In this penultimate part of this series, we continue to extract wisdom from Milton’s interpretation of the biblical story of Adam and Eve. Previously, we left Satan as he turned into a serpent to find a way to hurt God through Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve were blissfully enjoying the Garden of Eden, unaware of Satan’s presence, although the Archangel Raphael has warned them about Satan.

The Union of Wisdom and Beauty
Upon waking, Adam and Eve wish to tend to God’s garden, to shape it and mold it into a beauty respectful of God, but there’s so much to tend to. Eve suggests that they split up, but Adam is concerned that Satan will have better success hurting them if they’re apart:

But other doubt possesses me, lest harm

Befall thee severed from me; for thou know’st
What hath been warned us—what malicious foe,
Envy our happiness, and of his own
Despairing, seeks to work us woe and shame
By sly assault and somewhere nigh at hand
Watches, no doubt, with greedy hope to find
His wish and best advantage, us asunder,
Hopeless to circumvent us joined, where each
To other speedy aid might lend at need.

(Book IX, Lines 251–260)

Anything can be adorned with beauty, even those things that might prove to be destructive.

Adam reveals an important aspect of the relationship between the masculine and feminine: They must work together and aid each other against evil’s onslaught. Milton also repeatedly refers to Adam’s wisdom and Eve’s beauty throughout his writings, suggesting that these two—wisdom and beauty—must work together as one if resistance to temptation and obedience to God are to be accomplished.

In “Nearer he drew, and many a walk traversed,” Doré shows Adam and Eve sitting off in the distance. They sit under a canopy of the over-

grown garden teeming with life. A light shines upon them as if to showcase their union in the light and love of God. Satan, disguised as a snake, sneakily watches them and awaits his opportunity.

The Danger of Beauty’s Excursion
Despite Adam’s warnings, Eve convinces Adam that everything will be OK and she can take care of herself. Eve goes off by herself, and it isn’t long before Satan follows her to initiate his attack. Her heavenly beauty, however, catches him off guard, and he almost forgets the hatred in his heart:

Such pleasure took the Serpent to behold
This flowery plat, the sweet recess of Eve
Thus early, thus alone; her heavenly form
Angelic, but more soft and feminine,
Her graceful innocence, her every air
Of gesture or least action, overawed
His malice, and with rapine sweet bereaved
His fierceness of the fierce intent it brought.
That space the Evil One abstracted stood
From his own evil, and for the time remained
Stupidly good, of enmity disarmed,
Of guile, of hate, of envy, of revenge.

(Book IX, Lines 455–466)

Here, Milton suggests that Eve’s heavenly beauty possesses the power of transforming that which is sinful and hateful into what is good. Beauty inherently has transformative potential. Seeing this beauty he could not possess, however, refueled his anger, and he approached Eve to begin his temptation.

Eve is taken aback by the speaking serpent: How can this animal speak when none of the other animals can speak? Satan responds that the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil gave him his powers, and that she too should eat from the Tree. She knows she can’t eat from this tree. It is the one thing God has asked her and Adam not to do.

Satan, however, goes straight to the source of her pride: her beauty. He tells her that she’s so beautiful she should be worshiped by all as though she were a goddess. Now, only Adam gets to enjoy her beauty, but her beauty is too much for just one man and the unworthy animals of the garden:

Fairest resemblance of thy Maker fair,
Thee all things living gaze on, all things thine
By gift, and thy celestial beauty adore,
With ravishment beheld—there best beheld
Where universally admired. But here,
In this enclosure wild, these beasts among,
Beholders rude, and shallow to discern
Half what in thee is fair, one man except,
Who sees thee (and what is one?) who shouldst be seen
A goddess among gods, adored and served
By angels numberless, thy daily train?

(Book IX, Lines 538–548)

He assures her that there’s nothing wrong with the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If there were, why would he be able to eat from it and gain these powers to speak like a human? Surely, if she eats from it, she will become even more beautiful and godlike, like the beings in heaven.

She thinks this over and considers that the serpent might be right, that maybe they misunderstood God’s commandment, for why would God not want them to have the fruit from this tree if God truly loved them? She takes fruit from the tree and eats. She immediately becomes drunk and feels as if she is divine. During her drunken stupor, Satan slithers away, back into the brush of the garden.

In “Back to the thickest slunk / The guilty serpent,” Doré shows the moment Satan leaves the indulgent Eve with fruit in her hand. In contrast to “Nearer he drew, and many a walk traversed,” here, Adam and Eve are separated.

The spotlight is on Eve, illuminating her beauty but also the disobedience that her beauty now accompanies—as the fruit in her hand indicates. Adam sits in the shadows of the background with his head on his hand as if he is in deep, contemplative worry. Might this scene represent the inner discord that occurs when beauty and wisdom are separated; when beauty indulgently adorns things other than the divine?

The Union of Wisdom and Beauty
Throughout the history of Western civilization, beauty has come with its caveats. Plato warned about its dangers, suggesting that the poets should be exiled from the Republic since they had the power to make anything seem enticing. There is truth to Plato’s concern: Anything can be adorned with beauty, even those things that might prove to be destructive.
How can beauty benefit us? Beauty can inherently transform those who experience it, but toward what end? How can the transformation be beneficial? Is it how Milton suggests: that beauty should be unified with the intellect and made obedient to God’s commandments? Is beneficial beauty that which fulfills these requirements?

Eric Bess is a doctoral candidate at the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (IDSVA) and assistant professor at Fei Tian College in Middletown, N.Y.

BOOK REVIEW

By Anita L. Sherman

German forester Peter Wohlleben has had a love affair with trees for decades.

His keen insights have captured the interest and imagination of scientists, scholars, environmentalists, students, and anyone passionate about our natural world.

Many of his observations come from study and research done in his native Germany. A majority of trees in Wohlleben’s world live in the temperate zone, in the second largest biome on the planet, covering some 25 percent of the world’s forest area—beeches, oaks, spruce, and maples to name a few—but his concern for all of nature’s trees is undisputed.

For fans of Wohlleben’s best-selling book, “The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate,” get ready to be enchanted and enlightened again. Wohlleben, who also authored “Forest Walking: Discovering the Trees and Woodlands of North America,” has aptly been described as a “tree whisperer.” In his latest homage to one of the earth’s richest resources, he looks to the wisdom of ancient forests and the knowledge they offer as roots for a brighter future.

The forest has its own social network and hidden connections. It’s fascinating to learn about the interrelatedness of trees, the creatures that find comfort in their branches and bark, the composition of the soils that support their growth, and how better to decode nature’s signs.

Hallowed and Historic Ground

Wohlleben’s unique, sensitive writing style is an important part of his approach to protecting and preserving the world’s forests. He humanizes those acres of trees. He makes the reader sympathetic to those tracts cut clear by heavy machinery in the name of progress and profit.

Readers of “The Power of Trees: How Ancient Forests Can Save Us if We Let Them” will no doubt be touched when learning how root systems communicate and share their knowledge with other tree species, how mother trees will shade and protect young saplings, and how a forest has the capacity to regrow and renew itself if left on its own.

Old trees, like human parents and grandparents, pass on their wisdom to their offspring. For trees, this is a slow process, but nevertheless their ability to adapt and learn is something Wohlleben finds fascinating and hopeful.

More than merely gatherings of trees, forests hold myriad ecosystems that include thousands of different species from animals to fungi and bacteria. When a tree is lost, a whole host of life is affected.

While steeped in his own brand of forest management, Wohlleben goes against a



Trees have much wisdom to impart according to Peter Wohlleben. “The Crossroads at the Eagle Nest, Forest of Fontainebleau,” 1844, by Charles-Francois Daubigny.

lot of what contemporary forest management programs advocate. This often pits him against owners of tree plantations, where a forest is planted for high-volume production of wood, which usually involves planting one type of tree as a monoculture forest, or clearcutting, an extreme logging method by which resilient natural forests are harvested and replaced with man-made tree plantations.

The author looks to the wisdom of ancient forests and the knowledge they offer as roots for a brighter future.

Wohlleben trusts the wisdom of the trees and believes that human arrogance stands as an impediment to the future life of forests. In many cases, he points out where modern forestry management is heading in the wrong direction. Wohlleben would opt for the quiet reverence of natural forest restoration over the loud blaring of heavy equipment laying waste not only to trees but also to the soil sustaining them.

For Wohlleben, these methods clearly fly in the face of mother nature. Step aside

and let nature, which is better equipped, heal itself, he says.

Natural Air-Conditioning

Wohlleben has walked in many woods. He is a distiller of all the information that trees hold. He seems to have decoded their language and is proud to speak on their behalf. He does so with passion and conviction, essentially offering a blueprint for a new kind of forestry that is more focused on saving old-growth forests than planting new ones.

He shares the latest emerging scientific research that shows how trees adapt to changing environmental conditions, passing this knowledge down to their offspring. Trees help cool the environment locally and across continents, and old-growth forests may be the most effective.

With a very altruistic and classical approach to forest preservation, Wohlleben offers convincing data about deciduous forests and how they can help cool the climate over open landscape, and he explains why finding a balance with forest-dependent industries is a challenge.

If you aren’t familiar with Wohlleben’s other books, you’ll enjoy discovering his knowledge and sensitivity about the world of trees and appreciate his



‘THE POWER OF TREES: HOW ANCIENT FORESTS CAN SAVE US IF WE LET THEM’
By Peter Wohlleben
Greystone Books
May 2, 2023
Hardcover
280 pages

passionate voice. He offers a compelling message, a compassionate plea, to preserve nature’s bounty—not just for the trees, but for us as well.

The book is written in a well-paced narrative and conversational style. The chapters are short, and each packs a punch.

I highly recommend this read.

Anita L. Sherman is an award-winning journalist who has more than 20 years of experience as a writer and editor for local papers and regional publications in Virginia. She now works as a freelance writer and is working on her first novel. She is the mother of three grown children and grandmother to four, and she resides in Warrenton, Va. She can be reached at anitajustwrite@gmail.com

LITERATURE

Faith, Trust, and Hope Are Paramount

By Kate Vidimos

In his short story “Pegasus, the Winged Horse,” Nathaniel Hawthorne shows, through young Bellerophon’s endeavors to capture the flying horse, Pegasus, that faith, trust, and hope can achieve the impossible.

To Capture a Myth

Bellerophon sought to defeat the Chimæra, a three-headed monster with the heads of a lion, a goat, and a snake that ravaged the land of Lycia. But he cannot fight the monster alone.

Bellerophon comes to the Fountain of Pirene with a beautiful, golden, and jeweled bridle. He comes to capture Pegasus, who drinks from this fountain. He believes Pegasus’s swiftness in the sky will help him destroy the evil Chimæra.

However, the immortal Pegasus isn’t easy to catch, because he is wild and powerful. Many doubt that Bellerophon can do this.

Different Levels of Faith

Bellerophon encounters four people at the fountain, each with their own opinion about his goal. An old man used to believe in Pegasus, but thinks that it was his imagination and a fading memory. Another man of middle age declares that Pegasus isn’t

real and no one can use a flying horse, for it can’t plow a field. A young maiden thinks she might have seen and heard the horse, but was too frightened to look. Only a little child believes in Pegasus.

Bellerophon settles down each day by the fountain to watch and wait for the winged horse. Many mock him and openly display their disgust for his dream; only the boy remains by Bellerophon’s side, encouraging him to have faith.

If not for the little boy’s faith and trust continually uplifting him, Bellerophon would have left the fountain. Many times he doubted himself, and feared that Pegasus wouldn’t appear.

Highest Aspirations

Yet one day, the little boy earnestly cries, “Dear, dear Bellerophon, I know not why it is, but I feel as if we should certainly see Pegasus to-day!”

This utter faith and trust prove correct. After a good wait, the boy suddenly tells Bellerophon to look at a reflection in the fountain. Something bright and strong flies above their heads. It’s Pegasus!

Bellerophon and the little boy hide. Soon, the mighty flying horse lands and begins to drink and frolic by the fountain. Waiting carefully, Bellerophon sud-



In Nathaniel Hawthorne’s short story, Bellerophon tames the immortal Pegasus with faith and perseverance. “Pegasus,” 1675–1680, by Jan Boeckhorst. National Museum of Fine Arts, São Paulo, Brazil.

denly jumps onto Pegasus’s back and is whisked higher and higher into the air. Pegasus tries to throw Bellerophon off, but Bellerophon stays astride and soon gets the magical bridle over Pegasus’s head. Pegasus is won.

Dare to Believe

In “Work: A Story of Experience,” Louisa May Alcott says: “Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead.”

We all have dreams, goals, and beliefs, yet sometimes we are scared and doubt their reality.

Through this daring tale, Hawthorne demonstrates that faith, trust, and hope are paramount. In order to combat the

doubts and fears that threaten to dismiss our aspirations and beliefs, we must have childlike faith, trust, and hope. Such a faith recognizes the promise and value of our aspirations and fights the doubts that war against our dreams.

With these virtues, we can see our dreams and believe in them. And, when the time is right, we can pursue them and see where they take us.

Kate Vidimos is a 2020 graduate from the liberal arts college at the University of Dallas, where she received her bachelor’s degree in English. She plans on pursuing all forms of storytelling (specifically film) and is currently working on finishing and illustrating a children’s book and is currently working on finishing and illustrating a children’s book.



▲ (Clockwise from top L) Eleanor “Ellie” Hamby and Sandra “Sandy” Hazelip in Zambia (with resting rhinos in the background); on Half Moon Island, Antarctica; at Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia; and in Japan, with Mt. Fuji in the background.



TRAVELING AROUND THE WORLD

2 Grandmothers’ 80–Day World Tour

2 81-year-old best friends decided to celebrate their birthdays with the adventure of a lifetime

By Anna Mason

When Sandra “Sandy” Hazelip turned to Eleanor “Ellie” Hamby in advance of their 80th birthdays and suggested traveling around the world in 80 days, her best friend was instantly all-in.

“Ellie’s eyes got big and she said, ‘Woo-hoo!’ She started making definite plans for that to happen,” Hazelip told The Epoch Times.

That was five years ago. And the intrepid pair have since been to 18 different countries, across all seven continents. They’ve visited Antarctica, seen eight world wonders, ridden camels, zipped through Finland’s forests on a husky sleigh, and been caught in a wild storm crossing the Drake Passage by boat. They’ve boarded a tiny plane in Kathmandu, Nepal, and flown over Mount Everest; taken a hot air balloon over the Egyptian pyramids; and encountered a python up close and personal in Australia.

It all might seem like a far cry from everyday life in Texas, where they both reside, but the adventure-loving grandmas have always had a thirst for travel.

Hazelip, former president of the Texas Geriatric Society, is one of the physicians for Hospice of the Big Country in Abilene; she has written books and lectured on women’s health issues in several countries.

Hamby is an international documentary photographer whose work has been published widely in the United States and Africa; she also serves as the director of Zambia Mission, an organization providing much-needed medical care in remote areas of the African countryside.

The two met on a medical mission in Zambia at age 58, shortly after Hazelip’s husband, Don, passed away. Hamby is a widow to her spouse, Kelly, and both ladies call their late husbands the loves of their lives.

Successful and happy, both grandmothers are way too busy to consider retiring any time soon. “I wouldn’t retire from something I love as much as medicine,” Hazelip said, and Hamby is currently on her 27th medical mission.

Documenting their fun and games is part of the enjoyment. The two write a travel blog, Around the World at 80, and have multiple social media pages. Earning an enormous online following, they also caught the attention of several major news outlets in different countries, who have invited them for appearances and interviews

They circumnavigated the globe in one direction, beginning in Dallas and ending up in Australia, before flying back to the United States.



▲ Sandra “Sandy” Hazelip (L) and Eleanor “Ellie” Hamby take a hot air balloon ride in Bali, Indonesia.

The Memories

Several years after they first met, Hamby and Hazelip progressed to becoming firm friends, and the explorations began. Describing themselves as “big budget travelers” they took three major trips before planning to travel around the world in 80 days—and on each of the three trips, “some big, wild things” happened.

Their first trip was the trans-Siberian train in 2008, which they booked second class. Unbeknown to the two Texas women, they were witnesses to a crime that took place during their journey, resulting in their having to sign a lot of police documents. “That’s the longest train ride ... We always call it ‘Murder on the trans-Siberian,’” Hamby said.

On their second trip, through Southeast Asia in 2009, when the two were on their way to Shanghai on a public bus, a pedestrian was knocked down by their bus, leaving them stranded on the side of the road amid the chaos of the accident.

“[The police] gave us a flashing escort to a train station,” Hazelip said.

Next, while in the Middle East sleeping in a Bedouin tent in the Syrian Desert in 2011, they had to escape across the border from Damascus after war started in Syria that night.

Needless to say, after navigating such adventures, the two ladies were ready to take up the challenge of a round-the-world trip.

The World Trip

Originally, the plan was to set off some point after Hazelip’s and Hamby’s 80th birthdays in April and August of 2022, but after making all their reservations, the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. “But COVID did not shut us down,” said Hazelip. “Instead, we made our trip around the world in 80 days at 81, a year later.”

Fascinated by the Jules Verne novel-turned-TV series “Around the World in 80 Days,” starring fictional English adventurer Phileas Fogg, the two set off on Jan. 11 this year, returning on April 1 to keep exactly to the timeframe. They circumnavigated the globe in one direction, beginning in Dallas and ending up in Australia, before flying back to the United States.

Arriving in Antarctica, their first destination, was a bit of a shock to the system. “January is their summer, but it was still, of course, very, very cold,” Ha-

zelip said. Then, also in January, the duo would set foot in Lapland in the Arctic Circle, during Finland’s winter. “That was colder,” Hazelip said.

First, though, they explored remote Easter Island with its mysterious heads—“a fascinating, beautiful, tiny little island” as Hamby called it—and spent some time in Chile and Argentina. Next, they took off to Spain for a welcome day’s jaunt on a hop-on, hop-off bus.

Landing in Finland hoping to see the northern lights, Hamby and Hazelip got an all-time thrill on a husky ride through the woods. It wasn’t exactly the gentle little ride around they thought it would be.

“When they gave the command for the huskies to take off, we went for several miles as fast as we could. We were just holding on for dear life ... but that was quite fun,” Hamby said.

They were fortunate enough to see the “impossibly beautiful” northern lights after spending two nights in Lapland. “My gracious! What an experience to see that sky light up with colors that we cannot imagine,” Hazelip said.

Then it was time to go see the majesty of Rome before heading to London. From there, they flew to Nairobi and then to Zanzibar, in the Indian Ocean, where they were able to learn more about the spice island’s history.

A few of the locations they visited that stood out the most are Zambia’s stunning Victoria Falls, and the pyramids of Giza, which they saw from the vantage point of a hot air balloon. The exquisite Taj Mahal, which they hot-footed it to after arriving in India on Feb. 25, was “just surreal,” and a heavenly wonder for Hamby to photograph.

“Absolutely beautiful. It was just amazing,” Hamby said.

After their very Indiana Jones-esque small plane ride from Nepal over the Himalayas at the start of March, it was onto Australia and the Great Barrier Reef.

“That was where Ellie had the adventure of allowing a python to wrap itself around her body,” Hazelip said.

So after completing their trip around the world, which they succeeded in doing in precisely 80 days, did they stop and take a good rest?

Not likely.

“I went to work Tuesday,” Hazelip said. Hamby said: “I went to work Monday. You know, people ask us, ‘Did you get tired, doing all that traveling?’ But we never did; we never missed a day. We never stayed in bed that whole time because we were too tired or something. We were either flying or we were out exploring and taking pictures.”

“In a heartbeat, we would do it again,” Hamby said. “Sandy and I love to travel. In fact, we are working on our next trip—in 2024.”

Hazelip said: “When we plan a trip, we just plan to go have fun. But let me tell you, the added happiness of ... all the comments we’ve received from the public and the media telling us what joy we’ve brought into other people’s lives as they followed us along on this trip, and how we’ve inspired others to get up and start doing something—this is so fun for us.”



FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

ALL IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Summer Shower

By Emily Dickinson

A drop fell on the apple tree,
Another on the roof;
A half a dozen kissed the eaves,
And made the gables laugh.

A few went out to help the brook,
That went to help the sea.
Myself conjectured, Were they pearls,
What necklaces could be!

The dust replaced in hoisted roads,
The birds jocosely sung;
The sunshine threw his hat away,
The orchards spangles hung.

The breezes brought dejected lutes,
And bathed them in the glee;
The East put out a single flag,
And signed the fete away.



ALL IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK



(SIR RANULPH FIENNES) GARETH CATTERMOLLE/GETTY IMAGES; (BACKGROUND) ALL IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK

By Aidan Danza

THE BOWHEAD WHALE

Whales are some of the marine world’s most fascinating creatures.

Their sheer size and weight, along with the unusual songs they sing, make them so. The bowhead whale is no exception, and it adds to all of this charisma by also being the world’s oldest confirmed mammal.

The fact that the bowhead lives so long is extremely interesting, but even more intriguing is the way that scientists discovered this fact. From the 1700s through the late 1800s, whales were hunted for their blubber, which was refined into a flammable, smokeless oil used for burning in lamps, as well as for secondary use in soaps, margarine, and nitroglycerin explosives. The whales were hunted from ships using

weapons called harpoons, or long spears with a flexible shaft, fired from a gun or thrown by hand. They were quite effective, but sometimes, the whale would escape with its life.

Although whale oil isn’t really used anymore, whales are still hunted by Eskimo populations for food, and in some of the carcasses, hunters have found harpoon tips. While analyzing them, scientists found that one tip was at least 130 years old,

which meant that the whale had been carrying it around for all that time. It’s said that there are other such specimens that have been traced to 200 years old.

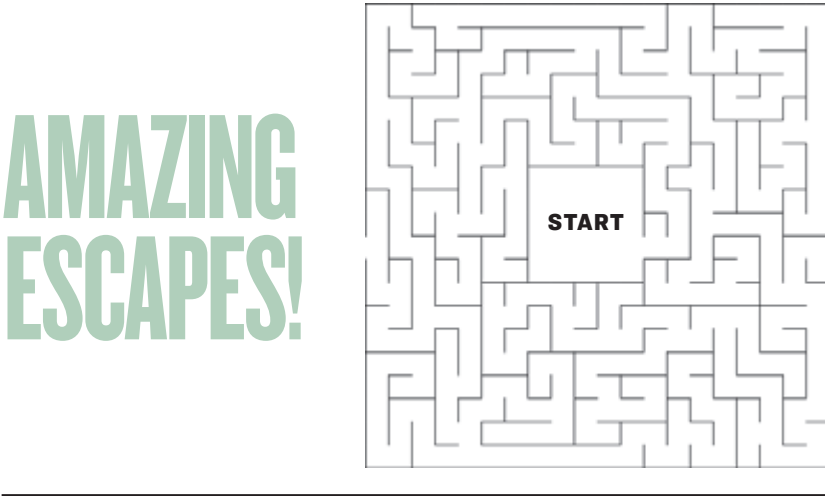
It’s quite difficult to know how long the bowhead whale lives, due to how remotely in the ocean it lives and the fact that its lifetime might cover two or three human lifetimes. Generally, it’s accepted by scientists that the whale lives for 200 years at least. The bowhead whale is an Arctic

species, living in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas in the Western Arctic. Though it’s enormous, most of its food is less than one inch long and is filtered through large strainers in the mouth called baleen. To get to its food, the bowhead whale swims at a leisurely pace, at about 2 to 4 miles per hour, while it can sprint up to around 13 miles per hour in a short burst, which is around running speed for a human as well.



“The Chase of the Bowhead Whale,” 1909, by Clifford Warren Ashley.

(WHALE) BY WILDEST ANIMAL/GETTY IMAGES; (PAINTING) PUBLIC DOMAIN



USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, - AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one “unique” solution but, there may also be “equivalent” solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) + 1 = 28 and 1 + (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

Easy puzzle 1

5	9
	71
2	9

+ - x ÷

Solution For Easy 1

2 × 9 = 6 × 6

Medium puzzle 1

18	20
	29
10	19

+ - x ÷

Solution For Medium 1

61 = 01 + 81 × 02

Hard puzzle 1

7	31
	11
3	7

+ - x ÷

Solution For Hard 1

12 = 6 × (2 + 2)



HIDDEN TREASURES by Liz Ball
www.HiddenPicturePuzzles.com

WORD SEARCH: Weather Words!

C S P L S X R A I N R I M E K
L L I F I L D O W N P O U R Y
F D O B H G E E T H U N D E R
S R S U R S H E F F A I R E A
T N E T D I Q T T A N C I S W
S W O E K Y S U N J I O Z M J
M H I Z I O K A I N L Z U B
O Z O S M E E O C L N D L G U
N T P W T H E R M A L G E G B
S E M I E E H F E M S S U Y R
O G H W T R R R R H B U P Q E
O W F S I D R O U G H T N J E
N H O O I N T N V T S Q A N Z
J R K B G S D T O R N A D O Y
F U N N E L C L O U D G A L E

Breezy	Gale	Thermal
Brisk	Hail	Thunder
Cloudy	Lightning	Tornado
Cold	Mist	Twister
Dew	Monsoon	Whiteout
Downpour	Muggy	Wind
Drizzle	Rain	
Drought	Rime	
Fair	Shower	
Fog	Sleet	
Freeze	Snow	
Front	Squalls	
Frost	Storm	
Funnel Cloud	Sunny	

EDUCATION

A Return to the Founders’ Education

James Madison’s success can be used as roadmap for a better approach to education

By Dustin Bass

The National Center for Education Statistics released its 2022 report, titled The Nation’s Report Card, indicating that eighth-grade student proficiency (12th isn’t yet available) in U.S. history and civics (among other subjects) continues to decline. Some defenders may excuse the decline because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the ongoing decline began in 2014.

In fact, students are back at 1994 levels; but then again, they didn’t have very far to fall.

The public school system continues to promote itself despite its failing methods, demand more administrative help despite administrative positions far outpacing the growth of students and teachers, and demand more money despite its extravagant expenditures per student.

Joe Wolverton, author, educator, and founder of Amargi Group, which specializes in online history course curriculum, suggests that one of the issues with the current education system, specifically concerning history and civics, is that educators aren’t looking back far enough. Wolverton, who earned his juris doctorate in 2001 and has practiced constitutional law, believes that the source of knowledge Americans should be pulling from can be found with the Founding Fathers, James Madison in particular.

Madison’s Early Education

Wolverton has written extensively on Madison, including a biography for the National Center for Constitutional Studies and a work entitled What Degree of Madness? that dissects the statesman’s Federalist Paper 46. He pinpointed Madison’s early education as a pivotal moment in his political career. It was an educational format that Wolverton has long performed: tutoring.

Madison’s childhood teacher was a man by the name of Donald Robertson. He had come to Virginia from Scotland, where he had received an excellent education. Noting the lack of opportunity for a classical liberal education in Virginia, Robertson opened his own school.

The Robertson School continued for 15 years, and during this time, he taught numerous future founders, including George Rogers Clark, a Revolutionary War hero; John Taylor of Caroline, a future U.S. Senator; James Innes, war hero and future attorney general of Virginia; Robert Brooke, future governor of Virginia; John Tyler, the future president; and, of course, Madison.

“We’re talking about this ‘coinciden-



▲ James Madison’s education prepared him for his roles as the “Father of the Constitution” and the fourth president of the United States. Portrait of James Madison, circa 1805–1807, by Gilbert Stuart.

tal’ collection of some of the greatest heroes that America would ever create. I teach people that’s not a coincidence,” Wolverton said during a conversation on The Sons of History podcast.

A Robertson-esque Education

Students of Robertson were given a classical liberal education, which included learning law, philosophy, chemistry, mathematics, Latin, and Greek. Wolverton suggests that there’s no reason why students today can’t receive the same education. He noted that receiving it is actually easier today than it was in the late 18th century.

“We can read the stuff that Donald Robertson taught these kids, and we can get a little closer to being like those kids ourselves,” he said.

Wolverton noted that Madison made the conscious effort to “read the best books.” These books, which Wolverton said have been practically removed from public view, if not public memory, gave Madison the intellectual capacity to impact the creation of the American republic. He said these “best books” aren’t elusive. Places such as the Liberty Fund and other organizations create book lists based on what the founders read. Wolverton has created his own and provides it to his Amargi Group students. He also wrote extensively on this list in his book “The Founders Recipe.”

“We shouldn’t be celebrating our Founding Fathers only; we should be emulating our Founding Fathers,” he said. “That includes putting the stuff in our heads that they put in their heads.”

Drink From the Source

Wolverton warns about what he calls “drinking downstream.” He recommends reading straight from the source rather than reading distilled versions of history. One of the worst culprits of distilled history is the history textbooks in schools, he said.

“I read some of these American history textbooks, and I’m like, ‘Whoa. There’s been some horses doing some stuff in that water,’” he said. “We are blessed enough to live in a time where you can get on Google and you can read from the source. Read the source material. You can read it for free ... in English. It’s not like you have to do what Madison did when he wanted to read a history of the world that happened to be written in Italian. He had to learn Italian.”

Regarding those textbooks, Wolverton decries the distorted and polluted versions of American and world history taught in schools. More than this, however, is his opinion of how citizens, conservatives specifically, are advocates for the free market, except in education.

“People complain that history teachers aren’t that good, and it’s true, but that’s because they don’t have to be. There’s no competition,” he said. “Whereas me, if I don’t teach in a way that people find useful and beneficial to their children, I don’t get hired. In everything else, conservatives believe that the free market makes for a better product. When it comes to education, we don’t get behind that. They think, ‘Hey, it’s okay to have a socialist education system.’

“I think if we applied our capitalist principles to education the way we apply it to technology and other things, we would see a real quick crescendo of understanding about history and other things.”

Historiographical Coroner

Wolverton alluded to Madison as a type of historiographical coroner, using source material to examine “the lifeless bodies of the former self-governing republics” and identify “what disease killed them so that he could inoculate the American republic from dying of those same diseases.”

Among Madison’s coroner reports were “Vices of the Political System of the United States” and “Notes on the Ancient and Modern Confederacies.” Wolverton is concerned that this method of study and application has been lost, especially in the school systems.

“Why can’t we teach that in school? Here’s what they did wrong. Here’s what ultimately killed them,” he said. “Instead of reading some rubbish textbook that was written by somebody who was taught to be a teacher rather than a historian, why don’t we just have a packet of these readings? That’s what I do with my students.”

Wolverton, through his personal tutoring and now online classes, has been striving to replicate a Robertson-esque educational format so that today’s students—youth and adult—can experience what he terms “a Founders’ education.”

“I don’t do homework. The founders didn’t do homework. I don’t do tests. The test is going to be, did we restore our liberty?” he said. “I’ll give you a test after you turn about 80, and we’ll see if we restored our liberty. If we did, you all get As. If not, you all get Fs.”

Dustin Bass is an author and co-host of The Sons of History podcast.

“
I think if we applied our capitalist principles to education the way we apply it to technology ... we would see a real quick crescendo of understanding about history and other things.

Joe Wolverton, founder, Amargi Group

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