

# *Possible Last Words & Epitaphs*



**MICHAEL J. HOLSHOUSER**

Possible Last Words & Epitaphs  
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Pronunciation: Holtzhowzer

All have the express written encouragement  
To distribute this creation freely to any and all  
Who have the eyes to see and the ears to hear  
The mystery in which each and every one  
Equally participates in so many ways.

# Preface

## Greetings,

The title says it all.

It is also blogged for online viewing:

Possible Last Words & Epitaphs

<https://possiblelastwordsandepitaphs.blogspot.com/>

Writing has been an enjoyable process ever since I first began toying with prose; scribbling poetry, keeping journals, corresponding with friends and acquaintances during the college daze. The philosophical/mystical/whatever-you-want-to-call-them thoughts, that have been popping into mind since 1989, have always been very out-of-the-blue spontaneous. Nothing planned or forced about them. They are being shared on the off chance that others may find them of interest, though, quite frankly, it really does not matter if no one else ever even reads them, for I am, first and foremost, my own audience. I got mine, so to speak. I played my little part. I had my share of fun. And it is, as it has ever been, up to each to discern their own, on their own. There are really no followers in this Don Quixote quest; only earnest seekers, who waylay their desires and fears and dreads, enough to discern that which is the end to doubt, the end to dueling with windmills. “Yay” if it is your fate to figure it out. “Oh well” if it is not. And “so it goes” either way, really. Ecclesiastes 1:2 is always a good reminder: “Vanity of vanities,” saith the Preacher, “Vanity of vanities. All is vanity.” Awareness can only, with great effort, regain control, regain sovereignty, from the usurper, imagination, creator of all that is time, creator of all that is space. Creator of all that is illusion, has never has been anything more than illusion, will never be anything more than illusion. Only as real as the given moment.

“The Stillness Before Time” is the original work that came together in 1992, including mostly aphorisms, an essay, a newspaper question-and-answer, ten reflections, and lists of both movies and books. Though an early self-published version, long since edited and expanded, can be purchased at major booksellers, a downloadable copy is available, no charge, at the link below. There are also links to a variety of blogs of other creations by me, along with links to many writings of a similar nature, by thinkers and seers from across all times, across all geographies.

“The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim” is the second published book, and is both blogged and available as a PDF download.

The “Breadcrumbs” titles, published annually since 2015, all include the core chapters: Leftovers, Soundbites, Breadcrumbs. In the Breadcrumbs chapters, I unleash thoughts of a more personal nature than in the other two. All just to show I was ensconced in a living, breathing, relativity mundane, oftentimes foolish, mortal mind-body. An actor playing the hand that was dealt; same as everyone else, vain as everyone else. No need to sculpt me into more than I was. No need for myths, nor legends, nor fables, nor miracles, nor cult followings, nor any other fictions, any other absurdities, over to which the human mind, and all its imaginary history, has so often given itself. The Breadcrumbs chapters prove me again and again to be yet another Shakespearian player, as full of the limited and arbitrary as anyone else born into

this dream of space and time. So please be sure not to shape me, or these many random thoughts, into some dogmatic absurdity. Use them as a launchpad, not an orbit.

“The Return to Wonder” blog is a compendium of aphorisms not included in the three other works: *The Stillness Before Time*, *The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim*, and *Breadcrumbs*. It originally totaled 3,000 pages formatted in 300 ten-page chapters written since 1990-ish. A gradual editing that will likely never be completed, is changing that dynamic into something of a mishmash.

Please note that this sort of wordplay is very haphazard, way too much work to put into any order. Probably best read it in bits and pieces in the here and there. One of those open-to-any-page works. Especially well-suited for coffee shops, coffee tables, and porcelain thrones.

Also note that all writings are always subject to updates and editing, so if you are interested in the most current version – before this house of cards comes tumbling down, and the world grows large again – downloading PDF copies every once and a while might be a reasonable discipline. This applies especially to the current year of *Breadcrumbs*, which could well be an annual project until the last wheezing breath, though frankly, the temptation to stop writing entirely is not off the table. It is a pleasant way to pass some of the countdown remaining, but it is unlikely there is much ground that has not been wandered by this frame of reference far more than enough already. No matter how many times Sisyphus rolls the boulder up the mountain, it is more than a little doubtful the seven blind men and their true-believer followers, will ever discern, ever realize, ever embrace, the elephant in the middle of the room, without fabricating some new form of absurdity. It is the way we roll, it is the way we have always rolled, it is the way we will, far more than probably, always roll. Every species has its limitations, and we have in this mind’s eye, far-exceeded ours.

That said, if you do find these many thoughts at all worth preserving, for whatever times are ahead for this world and all its life forms, please feel free to share them with others who might also appreciate them. Else they may well swiftly slip back into the timeless oblivion from whence they came.

So it goes, either way. Like I said, I had my fun.

All the best,

M

P.S. For best viewing online, using the largest screen you have available to explore my little theme park, is suggested. Scrolling down and down on a phone screen is just not going to give you the same entrée.

P.P.S. Regarding the name Yaj Ekim ... It is just a reverse spelling of the first and middle names ... Michael Jay Holshouser ... Mike Jay ... Yaj Ekim.

P.P.P.S. Coincidentally, make of it whatever you will, or will not, Yaj is an Indian boy’s name meaning worshipper, sacrifice, another name for Shiva, a sage. And Ekim is a Turkish name for October meaning “sowing” (of seeds). All kinds of absurdity can be read into that by the many, so-inclined – none of which was in mind when the idea came to reverse the letters to my name. See P.P.S. for details.

P.P.P.P.S. Yes, I am Shiva. And so are You.

## **The Stillness Before Time Website**

The Stillness Before Time  
Reflections From a Fellow Sojourner  
<http://www.thestillnessbeforetime.com/>

There is really only one Way.  
It is without division or boundary.  
It is without name or theology.  
Awareness is its scripture.  
Here now, its venue.  
You, its witness.  
Your life, the journey.

A PDF is available at:  
<http://www.thestillnessbeforetime.com/thestillnessbeforetime.pdf>

## **Main Blogs**

The Stillness Before Time  
Reflections From a Fellow Sojourner  
<http://thestillnessbeforetime.blogspot.com/>

The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim  
<http://theponderingsofyajekim.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2015  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2015.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2018  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2018.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2019  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2019.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2020  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2020yajekim.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2021  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2021.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2022  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2022.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2023  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2023.blogspot.com/>

The Return to Wonder  
Field Notes From the Unknown  
<http://thereturntowonder.blogspot.com/>

### **Breadcrumbs: The Original Blog**

Breadcrumbs: The Original Blog  
[https://michaelsbreadcrumbs.blogspot.com/2015/01/under-construction\\_28.html](https://michaelsbreadcrumbs.blogspot.com/2015/01/under-construction_28.html)

### **Other Blogs by Michael**

Standouts From the Return to Wonder Edit  
Selections From the First Sixteen Chapters  
<https://standoutsfromthereturntowonderedit.blogspot.com/>

Mystery, Mystery & More Mystery  
<https://mysterymysteryandmoremystery.blogspot.com/>

Doubt, Doubt & More Doubt  
<https://doubtdoubtandmoredoubt.blogspot.com/>

Science, Science & More Science  
<https://yajekimscienceandmorescience.blogspot.com/>

History, History & More History  
<https://historyhistoryandmorehistory.blogspot.com/>

Patterns, Patterns & More Patterns  
<https://evenmorepatterns.blogspot.com/>

Imagination, Imagination & More Imagination  
<https://imaginationandmoreimagination.blogspot.com/>

Reincarnation, Reincarnation & More Reincarnation  
<https://reincarnationandmorereincarnation.blogspot.com/>

Possible Last Words & Epitaphs  
<https://possiblelastwordsandepitaphs.blogspot.com/>

The Corollaries of Yaj Ekim  
<https://corollariesyajekim.blogspot.com/>

Titles, Titles & More Titles  
<https://evenmoretitles.blogspot.com/>

Imagination: The Great Usurper  
<https://imaginationthegreatusurper.blogspot.com/>

Michael's Rabbit Hole  
A Selection of Breadcrumbs & Other Aphorisms  
<https://michaelsrabbithole.blogspot.com/>

Of the Human Journey  
Along with Got God? And Ten Reflections  
<https://ofthehumanjourney.blogspot.com/>

Even More  
<https://theevenmoreseries.blogspot.com/>

To Be, or Not to Be  
<https://thetobeornottobeseries.blogspot.com/>

Who Was the First?  
<https://thewhowasthefirstseries.blogspot.com/>

The Real is Discovering  
<https://therealisdiscoveringseries.blogspot.com/>

The Mystery of the Mystery  
<https://themysteryofthemysteryseries.blogspot.com/>

59 Moments to The Way It Is (And Is Not)  
The Scribe's Guide to the Great Whatthe#\$\*!?  
<https://59momentstothewayitisandisnot.blogspot.com/>

A Short List of Books for the Up and Coming  
Some Written Works That May Help Get the Young up to Speed  
<https://listofbooksfortheupandcoming.blogspot.com/>

The Standard Ripostes  
The Scribe's Go-to Responses to This and That in the Day-To-Day  
<https://thestandardripostes.blogspot.com/>

Conversations  
A Variety of Letters, Emails, Texts, & Sundry Odd 'n Ends  
<https://conversationsyajekim.blogspot.com/>

## Definitions

An Incomplete Selection of Contemplative Definitions

<https://definitionsyajekim.blogspot.com/>

## Sketches of the Once Upon a Time

A Few Epiphanies and Other Hallmark Moments

<https://sketchesoftheonceuponatime.blogspot.com/>

## My (Not Quite) Haiku

<https://mynotquitehaiku.blogspot.com/>

## Once Upon a Christmas

<https://onceuponchristmas.blogspot.com/>

## Ditties for the Bluegrass Pyre

<https://dittiesforthebluegrasspyre.blogspot.com/>

## Spam Responses (a.k.a., WTF Is This Shit!?)

<https://spamresponsesakawtfisthisshit.blogspot.com/>



## Possible Last Words & Epitaphs

I came, I saw, I puttered

\* \* \* \*

Thank god it is over

\* \* \* \*

Finally, a good night's sleep

\* \* \* \*

Non fui non sum non curo  
(I was not, I am not, I care not)

\* \* \* \*

Didn't ask to be here, never prayed to be stayin'

\* \* \* \*

Well, that was harsh

\* \* \* \*

Pffft!

\* \* \* \*

A tolerably good show.  
Thanks for being in one here-now or another.  
Au revoir and bon voyage.

\* \* \* \*

I told you I didn't feel well

\* \* \* \*

Home, sweet home

\* \* \* \*

To the last dime

\* \* \* \*

Finally, some real rest

\* \* \* \*

Adios, amigos!

\* \* \* \*

So long, see you in your dreams

\* \* \* \*

Hooah!

\* \* \* \*

Like riding a bike

\* \* \* \*

We come, we go, but Earth abides

\* \* \* \*

Oblivion or bust!

\* \* \* \*

So it goes strikes again

\* \* \* \*

Th-th-th-that's all folks!

\* \* \* \*

It is done

\* \* \* \*

Never again

\* \* \* \*

Suffer me not another day

\* \* \* \*

Sum quod eris

(I am what you will be)

\* \* \* \*

Please, please, no, no! Don't send me back!

\* \* \* \*

It has to end someday, why not today?

\* \* \* \*

Power ... Fame ... Fortune ... Where art thou now?

\* \* \* \*

Just too fucking annoying anymore

\* \* \* \*

Don't know, don't care

\* \* \* \*

No more tomorrow, no more yesterday,

Naught but the unborn eternal.  
Yay oh yay oh yay.

\* \* \* \*

Resting in peace

\* \* \* \*

Vanity, Vanity ... Where art thou now?

\* \* \* \*

Home again, naturally

\* \* \* \*

I came, I saw, I died

\* \* \* \*

Lived and learned, died anyway

\* \* \* \*

See ya in hell, boys and girls.  
No, wait, aren't we already here?

\* \* \* \*

Bon voyage

\* \* \* \*

There is no fate which cannot be surmounted by scorn ~ Albert Camus

\* \* \* \*

Done, done, the damage done

\* \* \* \*

Goodbye, absurd world

\* \* \* \*

Legacy ... Posterity ... Pfft!

\* \* \* \*

Home at last

\* \* \* \*

Look, Mom, I'm a worm now!

\* \* \* \*

Finally!

\* \* \* \*

Ciao ciao

\* \* \* \*

There's no place like home

\* \* \* \*

Getting old was getting old

\* \* \* \*

Once was enough

\* \* \* \*

Go away kid, ya bother me

\* \* \* \*

One life was more than enough

\* \* \* \*

Now only worms and crawly things have to put up with me

\* \* \* \*

As if it all never happened

\* \* \* \*

Only too happy to let it all go

\* \* \* \*

More was no longer necessary anyway

\* \* \* \*

Neither alive nor dead, I Am

\* \* \* \*

So long ago, so far away

\* \* \* \*

I did it my way

\* \* \* \*

The Old Man and the Sea

\* \* \* \*

I was bored

\* \* \* \*

Was tired of being a cancer cell, anyway

\* \* \* \*

Camping out in oblivion

\* \* \* \*

A curious show, already forgotten

\* \* \* \*

Nope, still not missing it

\* \* \* \*

Peter Pan is dead, long live Peter Pan

\* \* \* \*

Got the gist,  
Good-bye, shalom,  
Cheerio, adios, ciao, aloha,  
Sayonara, bon voyage, adiós, adieu,  
Arrivederci, auf wiedersehen,  
Au revoir, ta-ta for now.

\* \* \* \*

Despite all the doors, there is only one exit

\* \* \* \*

It really does not matter

\* \* \* \*

Heaven is the absence of pain and remorse and guilt

\* \* \* \*

It is what it is

\* \* \* \*

Once upon a dream

\* \* \* \*

Why wait for the Fates to decide my end by some other foul hand?  
Whose hand was better suited for my own departure than my own?

\* \* \* \*

If I was a serial killer, I got away with it

\* \* \* \*

Peter Pan does not do old

\* \* \* \*

Feeding daisies

\* \* \* \*

Holding on to nothing

\* \* \* \*

It was time to join the Dead Poets Society

\* \* \* \*

Creepies and crawlies and dust am I

\* \* \* \*

Didn't feel like waiting

\* \* \* \*

This is what the AMA did for me

\* \* \* \*

Couldn't take it anymore

\* \* \* \*

Enough was enough

\* \* \* \*

The AMA can't get me now

\* \* \* \*

Sally on, Brave Knight

\* \* \* \*

Get out while the gettin's good

\* \* \* \*

It was a good day to die

\* \* \* \*

The fate of many an AMA lab rat

\* \* \* \*

My kind of heaven

\* \* \* \*

No, it was not COVID-19

\* \* \* \*

No worries, no bothers here

\* \* \* \*

Why wait?

\* \* \* \*

This is what happens when you trust the AMA

\* \* \* \*

This is what happens when you trust the government

\* \* \* \*

The world and me were both done with each other

\* \* \* \*

Being a human being wasn't all it was cracked up to be

\* \* \* \*

Meh

\* \* \* \*

I'm over it

\* \* \* \*

Try Not  
Do, or Do Not  
There is No Try

\* \* \* \*

Another fourth-quarter loss

\* \* \* \*

The seed is dead, long live the seed

\* \* \* \*

Finally, a good rest

\* \* \* \*

Toodle-oo

\* \* \* \*

About time

\* \* \* \*

Ta-ta for now

\* \* \* \*

I was tired of this world anyway

\* \* \* \*

Oblivion, my favorite

\* \* \* \*

This dream, this cosmos, no longer exists

\* \* \* \*

Gone, gone, the damage done

\* \* \* \*

Thank you, Mister Reaper, thank you

\* \* \* \*

Master of Nothing

\* \* \* \*

Cha-Ching!

\* \* \* \*

BZZZ bzzzz ZZ Z Z Z

\* \* \* \*

Peace at last

\* \* \* \*

Hasta luego, indifferent world  
TTFE: Ta-ta, forever

\* \* \* \*

I buried who, and who buried me

\* \* \* \*

Did not know, did not care

\* \* \* \*

Like it never happened

\* \* \* \*

Home, sweet home  
Peace, sweet peace  
Silence, sweet silence  
Solitude, sweet solitude  
Obscurity, sweet obscurity  
Awareness, sweet awareness  
Anonymity, sweet anonymity  
Realization, sweet realization  
Emptiness, sweet emptiness  
Rightness, sweet rightness  
Serenity, sweet serenity  
Home, sweet home

\* \* \* \*

God is dead  
Long live God



\* \* \* \*

Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds

\* \* \* \*

I am That

\* \* \* \*

I am This

\* \* \* \*

To be continued ... maybe

\* \* \* \*

The hero is dead  
Long live the hero

\* \* \* \*

Same you, no matter the mask

\* \* \* \*

Mystery, sweet mystery

\* \* \* \*

Where all stories end

\* \* \* \*

Maybe

\* \* \* \*

It was a good day to die; the day before would have been better.

\* \* \* \*

And some day it will be your turn

\* \* \* \*

And I never saw my face

\* \* \* \*

Innocence regained

\* \* \* \*

Caring less

\* \* \* \*

Lived, learned, died anyway

\* \* \* \*

The Rabbit Hole of Consequences

\* \* \* \*

ADUSA!

Assume Dead Until Seen Again

\* \* \* \*

Back in Never Never Land

\* \* \* \*

Better here than a lab rat for science

\* \* \* \*

Dead man reclining

\* \* \* \*

Very inconvenient being born

\* \* \* \*

Eternity or bust

\* \* \* \*

Earn it

\* \* \* \*

One book, many titles

\* \* \* \*

One life, many hats

\* \* \* \*

Day ain't over yet

\* \* \* \*

How's the world getting along without me?

\* \* \* \*

Gone like the wind

\* \* \* \*

Destiny is dust

\* \* \* \*

Yes

No

Maybe

\* \* \* \*

Enough already

\* \* \* \*

Can't get me here

\* \* \* \*

Oh well, so it went, dealt with it, got over it, moved on.

\* \* \* \*

Short no matter how long, long no matter how short.

\* \* \* \*

Dust to dust, unborn, undying

\* \* \* \*

Had enough

\* \* \* \*

The Unnatural Existence

\* \* \* \*

Destiny is all

\* \* \* \*

Death trumps destiny again

\* \* \* \*

Things You Might Have Done

\* \* \* \*

Sooner than later worked for me

\* \* \* \*

The price we pay

\* \* \* \*

Worm's meat

\* \* \* \*

Hadn't got time for the pain  
Hadn't the need for the pain

\* \* \* \*

Buh bye

\* \* \* \*

No more details here

\* \* \* \*

I quit

\* \* \* \*

Gone boy

\* \* \* \*

Why postpone the inevitable?

\* \* \* \*

Problem solved

\* \* \* \*

Oh well

\* \* \* \*

Win some, lose some, tie some, die anyway

\* \* \* \*

Live and learn, die anyway

\* \* \* \*

Just wasn't interested in being old and crippled

\* \* \* \*

No absurdity here

\* \* \* \*

Oh, ye of little doubt

\* \* \* \*

The Man  
The Myth  
The Legend

\* \* \* \*

Aloof and free

\* \* \* \*

Why would you praise any god that did this to you?

\* \* \* \*

Why wait to go out on a bad day?

\* \* \* \*

Older than the stars, younger than the moment

\* \* \* \*

Huck Finn  
Mowgli  
Peter Pan  
Jester Amok  
Johnny Appleseed  
The Joyful Curmudgeon  
Sisyphus

\* \* \* \*

The race against futility is finally over

\* \* \* \*

All is awareness, awareness is all

\* \* \* \*

How's my race with dirt doing this fine day?

\* \* \* \*

Where all futures end

\* \* \* \*

The AMA can't get me here

\* \* \* \*

There you are

\* \* \* \*

Those were the daze

\* \* \* \*

Needs research

\* \* \* \*

Observations from Hell

\* \* \* \*

You're on deck, hombre

\* \* \* \*

Got out with a few chips still on the table

\* \* \* \*

Life is a marathon, not a sprint

\* \* \* \*

Alone again, naturally

\* \* \* \*

Free at last

\* \* \* \*

Michael Jay Holshouser

Also known as:

Michael  
Mike  
Jay  
M  
007  
Ged  
Holtz  
Specs  
Mowgli  
Paladin  
Huck Finn  
Lone Ranger  
Joe Everyman  
Johnny Appleseed  
Andrew James Kurtz  
The Joyful Curmudgeon  
Sparrowhawk  
Jester Amok  
Muad'Dib  
Peter Pan  
Zen Mike  
Phaedrus  
Sisyphus  
Yaj Ekim

November 14, 1953  
to  
To Be Determined

Taxi driver  
Philosopher  
Photographer  
Forklift driver  
Jack of Many  
Hierophant  
Madman  
Sage  
Fool

**FIN**