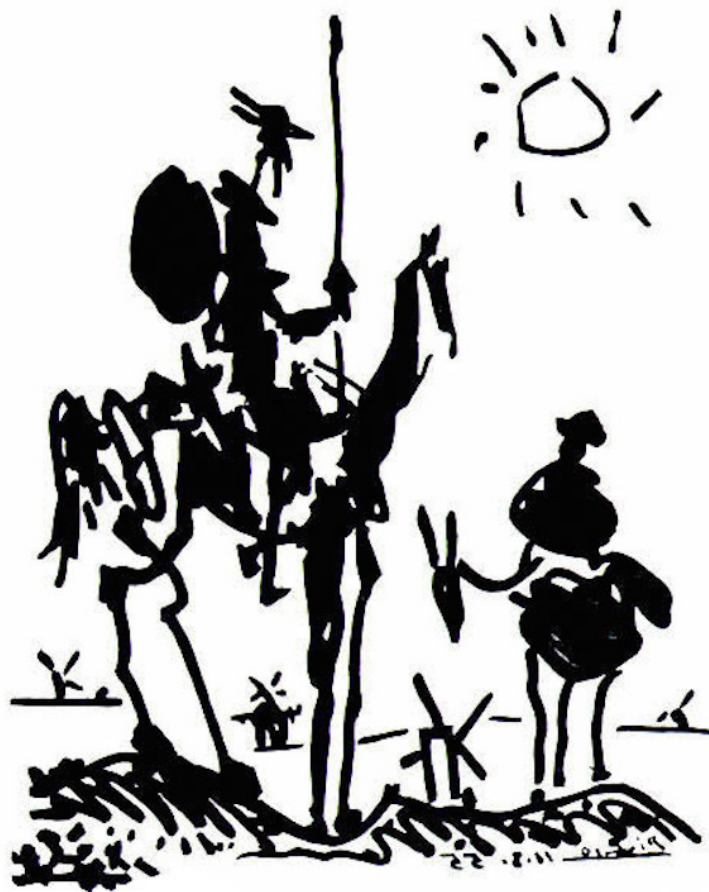


The Standard Ripostes

The Scribe's Go-to Responses to This and That in the Day-To-Day



MICHAEL J. HOLSHOUSER

The Standard Ripostes
The Scribe's Go-to Responses to This and That in the Day-To-Day
<https://thestandardripostes.blogspot.com/>
© Michael J. Holshouser 2019
World Rights Reserved

Michael J. Holshouser
1112 Cedar Creek Drive, Unit 4
Modesto, California 95355-5213
The United States of America
mjholshouser@gmail.com

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,

We are all patterns playing our recordings over and over to whatever audiences happen find themselves in earshot. These are some of this mind's pedestrian lines – the scribe's go-to responses to this and that in the day-to-day – to which anyone in my little realm can no doubt confirm with a sigh.

It is also blogged for online viewing:

The Standard Ripostes

The Scribe's Go-to Responses to This and That in the Day-To-Day

<https://thestandardripostes.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 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 that the 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. I played my part, I said my piece, 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 I came up with the idea 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. No, I am not Shiva. And neither are you. Irony and paradox rule.

The Stillness Before Time Website

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

Main Blogs

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

The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim
<https://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 & Beyond
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time
<https://breadcrumbs2023.blogspot.com/>

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

Breadcrumbs: The Original Blog

Breadcrumbs: The Original Blog
https://michaelsbreadcrumbs.blogspot.com/2015/01/under-construction_28.html

Other Blogs by Michael

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

The Call of the Eternal
A Conversation With My Self
<https://thecalloftheeternal.blogspot.com/>

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

Lost in Translation
The Human Paradigm's Linguistic Muddle
<https://lostintranslationyajekim.blogspot.com>

The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinking
<https://thegordianknotofethicalthinking.blogspot.com>

Jesus on Prophets
What Any Seer Likely Faces Returning to the Cave of Origin
<https://jesusonprophets.blogspot.com>

Aftershocks Autumn 2024
<https://aftershocksautumn2024.blogspot.com/>

Of Meaning & Purpose
Ponderings About the Futility of It All
<https://ofmeaningandpurpose.blogspot.com/>

Frames of Reference

Peering Through the Windows of Perception

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

Mystery, Mystery & More Mystery

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

Imagination, Imagination & More Imagination

<https://imaginationandmoreimagination.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/>

Reincarnation, Reincarnation & More Reincarnation

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

Standouts From “The Return to Wonder” Edit

Selections From the First Sixteen Chapters

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

Of the Human Journey

Along with Got God? And Ten Reflections

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

To Be, or Not to Be

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

The Mystery of the Mystery

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

Who Was the First?

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

The Real is Discovering

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

59 Moments to The Way It Is (And Is Not)

The Scribe's Guide to the Great Whatthe#*\$!?

<https://59momentstothewayitisandisnot.blogspot.com/>

Definitions

An Incomplete Selection of Contemplative Definitions

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

Conversations

A Variety of Letters, Emails, Texts, & Sundry Odd 'n Ends

<https://conversationsyajekim.blogspot.com/2021/>

Titles, Titles & More Titles

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

Even More

Titles, Titles & More Titles

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

Sketches of the Once Upon a Time

A Few Epiphanies and Other Hallmark Moments

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

The Corollaries of Yaj Ekim

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

Possible Last Words & Epitaphs

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

The Standard Ripostes

The Scribe's Go-to Responses to This and That in the Day-To-Day

<https://thestandardripostes.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/>

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/>

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

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

The Standard Ripostes

(The Scribe's Go-to Responses to This and That in the Day-To-Day)

Free will looking forward; fate looking back.

* * * *

Live and learn, die anyway.

* * * *

Didn't ask to be here; ain't prayin' to be staying.

* * * *

If I knew I wasn't going to wake up tomorrow morning, I'd go to bed early.

* * * *

A good idea belongs to everyone.

* * * *

It is much less about how you begin than how you end.

* * * *

Older than the stars; younger than the moment.

* * * *

Carbs in, carbs out.

* * * *

How am I doing? Well enough.

* * * *

Rich man's life on a dime.

* * * *

We are all walking the same stage in different universes.

* * * *

Might makes right.

* * * *

Woke up again this morning.

* * * *

You can do anything some of the time, but you can't do anything all of the time.

* * * *

The Dark Side ain't dark to me.

* * * *

Don't know, don't care.

* * * *

What am I doing? As little as possible as often as possible.

* * * *

Every rose fades.

* * * *

What doesn't kill you today will take another stab at it tomorrow.

* * * *

The Boy Scout who never was.

* * * *

Know Why and Who, but not What.

* * * *

Love my kids too much to bring them here.

* * * *

Five, ten, twenty, thirty years ... five, ten, twenty, thirty minutes ... who knows?

* * * *

Blood may be thicker than water, but it ain't that much thicker.

* * * *

The Golden Rule is all you need; everything else is redundant.

* * * *

Got a good statistical sample.

* * * *

Little dick, big truck.

* * * *

Was driving a tractor when I was eight years old.

* * * *

We are all cousins of the same puddle.

* * * *

"Well enough," the answer to the "How am I doing?" patter.

* * * *

Sally on, Brave Knight.

* * * *

All my dire predictions are usually punctuated by: "I'll be glad to be wrong."

* * * *

Anonymity is the first line of defense.

* * * *

The land of wishful thinking.

* * * *

No doubt about it.

* * * *

Win some, lose some, win more later.

* * * *

Some get a royal flush, some not even a high card.

* * * *

I am a human being who happened to be born in Amerika.

* * * *

Rent is freedom.

* * * *

Physical health is the only real wealth.

* * * *

Good luck with that.

* * * *

There are hotter places, there are colder places.

* * * *

It's your world now, I relinquish all command and control, good luck.

* * * *

It would be interesting to watch the autopsy.

* * * *

Ciao for now.

* * * *

It has been interesting, but I would never do this to my Self again.

* * * *

Oblivion, my favorite.

* * * *

You buy cheap, you buy two or three times.

* * * *

A leader can only lead where followers will follow.

* * * *

Pleasure is the absence of pain and bother.

* * * *

There is nothing that you are going to do that I have not done, seen done, or thought about doing.

* * * *

Life, it'll kill ya.

* * * *

You make me laugh plenty hah-hah hard, Pilgrim.

* * * *

Pay attention, you might live longer.

* * * *

Pity the young.

* * * *

I bask in envy.

* * * *

Another thing I desperately don't need.

* * * *

Always look back.

* * * *

I have worked very hard to be this lazy.

* * * *

Waiting for the Reaper.

* * * *

It is the same today as it was yesterday as it will be tomorrow

* * * *

A Christmas Tree is dying to come home with you.

* * * *

I brake for tailgaters.

* * * *

An empty bladder and a full mag.

* * * *

Yowza!

* * * *

Wallahoo!

* * * *

Ciao, ciao.

* * * *

Holy Schmoley, Batman.

* * * *

Sometimes you have to go through it to see through it.

* * * *

Cannot remember if it is yesterday or tomorrow.

* * * *

Enjoy that youth thing.

* * * *

You are not the first, and likely not the last, either.

* * * *

Always check your work.

* * * *

What am I up to? ... As little as possible as often as possible.

* * * *

Very inconvenient being born.

* * * *

Being crazy does not make me wrong.

* * * *

Giving to get is not giving.

* * * *

Arbitrary is as arbitrary does.

* * * *

Neither borrower nor lender be.

* * * *

Where the tire hits the road.

* * * *

What is your most priceless wealth? ... The next breath.

* * * *

A culture that does not invest in its young has no vision for its future.

* * * *

Experiences and things were always more interesting than counting piles of gold over and over.

* * * *

Truth needs no voice.

* * * *

Mother Nature is not waiting for us to figure it out.

* * * *

Idolatry: Don't do it.

* * * *

I long for oblivion.

* * * *

How many times has that been?

* * * *

Air that breaths.

* * * *

Pleasure, you enjoy; pain, you endure.

* * * *

Rest assured, if it does not matter to you, it does not matter to me.

* * * *

Got nothing better to do.

* * * *

The screen rules.

* * * *

What flower believes it will live forever?

* * * *

The void awaits.

* * * *

Oh boy, a new pile.

* * * *

Didn't see that one coming.

* * * *

Yet another collector's item.

* * * *

I have an affinity for oblivion.

* * * *

Lies, all lies.

* * * *

It is what it is.

* * * *

Before they were monkeys, your ancestors were slime.

* * * *

Far easier not to gain it than it is to lose it.

* * * *

Can't stay clean in a muddy stream.

* * * *

Oh well, so it goes, deal with it, get over it, move on.

* * * *

Life, short no matter how long, long no matter how short.

* * * *

Death is just a good night's sleep.

* * * *

Back to the present.

* * * *

Survive the day.

* * * *

To someone saying "I'm sorry" ... "Not sorry enough."

* * * *

Never let anything hit the bottom of the bucket.

* * * *

Look better than I feel.

* * * *

Just warm from the kill.

* * * *

Everything is nothing, nothing is everything.

* * * *

Awareness is the intelligence of eternity.

* * * *

Too many straws in the milkshake.

* * * *

No harm, no foul.

* * * *

Regarding blubber: Harder to lose it than it is not to gain it in the first place.

* * * *

While opening a door for someone: Your universe is working for you.

* * * *

All fates find the same grave

* * * *

Death is freedom

* * * *

No hoarding here

* * * *

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

* * * *

I came
I saw
I listened
I tasted
I smelled
I touched
I departed

* * * *

What flower believes it will live forever?

* * * *

An affinity for oblivion

* * * *

Love thy Self

* * * *

Tomorrow is already yesterday

* * * *

Didn't see that one coming

* * * *

What's another number?

* * * *

Drifting in bliss

* * * *

How lucky I am to finally be done

* * * *

Live, learn, die

* * * *

Yeesch and by golly, here I am again

* * * *

The void awaits

* * * *

The monkey is dead, long live the monkey

* * * *

The horror! The horror!

* * * *

All paths to glory find the same grave

* * * *

All that pride will not do much for you six feet under

* * * *

Pfft.

* * * *

Everything born dies; the only question is who buries who?

* * * *

Awareness trumps all idolatry.

* * * *

Good health is your only real wealth.

* * * *

Wisdom is the distillation of experience.

* * * *

Win some, lose some, win more later.

* * * *

Hear! Hear!

* * * *

Try not to wish your life away.

* * * *

Whac-a-mole.

* * * *

A collusion of imagination.

* * * *

Just do it.

* * * *

Don't ask, don't tell.

* * * *

I'm glad I'm old.

* * * *

Do not burn bridges if you do not need to.

* * * *

This ain't no melting pot, this is an uncooked stew.

* * * *

There are a lot worse places to live.

* * * *

Gotta be born somewhere.

* * * *

Assumptions can kill ya.

* * * *

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

* * * *

My real name is Peter Pan

* * * *

Worked harder, not smarter.

* * * *

Rich man's life on a dime.

* * * *

Every night's a new adventure.

* * * *

Oh, ye of little doubt

* * * *

Why wait to go out on a bad day?

* * * *

Your Mommy doesn't live here.

* * * *

Anything but a human being.

* * * *

The insanity of humanity.

* * * *

Mowgli in the forest out the back door,
Huck Finn in the Mississippi across the road,
Sisyphus daily pushing the boulder up the mountain,
Johnny Appleseed casting his ruminations across the world,
Sparrowhawk pursuing the shadow across the depths,
Phaedrus journeying down the asphalt pathways,
Paladin have-gun-will-traveling down the trails,
The Joyful Curmudgeon irreverently amused,
Jester Amok unleashing definitive cuisine,
Muad'Dib piercing the spice's secrets,
Bond sipping the shaken-not-stirred,
Joe Everyman wandering all camps,
And Peter Pan in the essence of all.

* * * *

It's a good day to die, tomorrow would be better.

* * * *

Once upon a time.

* * * *

Those were the daze.

* * * *

Needs research.

* * * *

Yes means yes, no means no, and maybe does not mean yes.

* * * *

Life is a marathon, not a sprint.

* * * *

The freezer door is open.

* * * *

If they were going to take my advice, they would not have needed it in the first place.

* * * *

Back to the moment.

* * *

Numbers don't lie.

* * * *

Wait, take that back.

* * * *

Every seed has its fate.

* * * *

Damned work ethic.

* * * *

Life is the muse.

* * * *

Live or let live, live or let die; I prefer the former, unless you choose the latter.

* * * *

Another day of anonymity.

* * * *

Try not. Do, or do not. There is no try.

* * * *

Ohhh-kayyy.

* * * *

Yesterday showed up again.

* * * *

See you yesterday.

* * * *

Another yesterday.

* * * *

Another yesterday underway.

* * * *

The worms do not care.

* * * *

We all gots our fate.

* * * *

So Goldilocks!

* * * *

Hard to argue with a dead man.

* * * *

No shit, Sherlock!

* * * *

Another slab of meat.

* * * *

Sorry you did it? Or sorry you got caught?

* * * *

I was born to be retired.

* * * *

The price of the ticket: Injury, illness, decline, death.

* * * *

Dead before my time.

* * * *

Maybe the Devil cares.

* * * *

Enough rarely is.

* * * *

It takes a matrix.

* * * *

Another day of pleasant boredom underway.

* * * *

Life, it'll kill ya.

* * * *

Are we there, yet?

* * * *

The great obscurity beckons all.

* * * *

The Dude abides.

* * * *

We all gotta die sometime, Red.

* * * *

The fountain of youth is within.

* * * *

Go away, Kid, ya bother me.

* * * *

Always question, always doubt.

* * * *

I am a human being who happened to be born in Amerika.

* * * *

The standard ripostes have pretty much become:

You can take the monkey out of the jungle,
But you cannot take the jungle out of the monkey.

Human history does not repeat itself; the patterns do.

The Axis of Evil is nepotism and cronyism and favoritism.

And ...

The great apes, and their geeks, have taken us down a dead-end road.

* * * *

With power comes responsibility, in a same world, in a sane species.

* * * *

Nothing to do, and all day to do it.

* * * *

You do not drown by falling in deep water; you drown by staying there.

* * * *

It's happening again.

* * * *

Truth is not a story.

* * * *

Vote NO on climate change!

* * * *

Embrace the futility.

* * * *

That will be for history to judge.

* * * *

Ta-da!

* * * *

It was a good dream.

* * * *

And some call it, evolution.

* * * *

I dodged, I hid, I ran.

* * * *

Time well-wasted.

* * * *

Details to follow.

* * * *

Pretty sure I am dead, and keep waking up in the same hell.

* * * *

What a mystery.

* * * *

I Speak From Ignorance

* * * *

Hurry up and wait.

* * * *

Well, I tried.

* * * *

Frodo: I wish the Ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened.

Gandalf: So do all who live to see such times, but that is not for them to decide.
All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*

* * * *

It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door.
You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet,
there's no knowing where you might be swept off to.

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*

* * * *

All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.

From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be king.

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

* * * *

Gandalf: A Wizard is Never Late, Frodo Baggins,
nor is he early, he arrives precisely when he means to.

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

* * * *

Life, it will kill you.

* * * *

The trick to staying out of trouble, is not getting caught.

* * * *

Regarding Masks: Not just for Covid; air quality, too.

* * * *

You know I'm thinking it.

* * * *

If I signed up for this, I was too drunk to remember.

* * * *

If not now, when?