THE

NEW CAVALIER READING SOCIETY

PRESENTS...

•SOLVM•SAPIENTEM•
•ESSE•LIBERVM•

THE following is a selection from the 2 volumes of THE COMMONPLACE BOOK OF JOSHVA HVMPHREYS.

600 pages of the best that has ever been written, said, or done—they together constitute 10 years of reading. Distilled and arranged into *The Enchiridion*, they are your textbooks for our upcoming Winter Semester and all 3 books are included in New Cavalier Reading Society membership.

This 15-page selection is a mere 0.001% of the exquisite reading that you'll do over your 12 weeks of the Winter Semester. It ranges from the 1st century BC to the 20th AD—2000 years of philosophy, literature, art, history, poetry, and music. It takes you from London to Oxford to Paris to Venice and Verona, from Russia to New York, to Thailand. It contains words from 43 different minds, again, a tiny fraction of all the Poets, Generals, Presidents, Saints, Emperors, Novelists, Historians, Philosophers, Composers, Painters, Sculptors, Comedians—that you'll read in the 12 weeks of The New Cavalier Reading Society's Winter Semester.

There are in all over 650 of them, discussing over 600 subjects.

Print the pages out; they fit perfectly side-by-side on A4. Think as you read. Write as you read. Come to The Reading Society with questions—BIG questions. The more inquisitive your mind, the greater the fruits of our Societal discussions.

The New Cavalier Reading Society's Winter Semester shows you just how glorious a thing culture can be; how it enhances all aspects of life—exalts your intellect, makes exuberant your conversation, beautifies your personage.

Above all, I hope to show how culture alone produces that delightful yet intangible feeling that comes from being a part of something greater and more excellent than oneself.

Happy reading, and I hope to see you in our Winter tutorials!

J.H.

The Commonplace Book of Joshva Hvmphreys.

being:

A modern Guide to right Feeling & audacious Thinking,
and a Noble Recorde for our Time of
the Loft Caufes & Forbidden Loyalties of Hiftorie

AND

a most noble guide to keeping one conversant with
all that is beautiful and sublime
in the intellectual and moral world.

I hope to show what culture is, and how utterly different from (and infinitely more precious than) science, archaeology, doctrines, erudition, and, of course, a system. You will see what culture was like before the professors crushed it.

PEGUY

One hour of life, crowded to the full with glorious action and filled with noble risks, is worth whole years of those mean observances of paltry decorum, in which men steal through existence, like sluggish waters through a marsh, without either honour or observation.

SCOTT

As poor as the man who has not enough is the man who cannot have enough.

EPICTETUS

Count it the greatest of all sins to prefer life to honour, and to lose, for the sake of living, all that makes life worth living.

JUVENAL

All are lunatics, but he who can analyse his delusions is called a philosopher.

BIERCE

In the course of history those who have not had their heads cut off and those who have not caused others' heads to fall leave no trace behind. You have a choice of being a victim, a tyrant, or a nobody.

VALÉRY

Without contraries is no progression. Attraction and repulsion, reason and energy, love and hate, are necessary to human existence.

BLAKE

Only those who remember the world before 1914 can adequately realize how much has already been lost.

RUSSELL [1956]

A woman unsatisfied must have luxuries. But a woman who loves a man would sleep on a board.

LAWRENCE

Wonder is the effect of ignorance.

JOHNSON

To wisdom belongs the intellectual apprehension of things eternal, to knowledge, the rational apprehension of things temporal.

AUGUSTINE

What we want art to do for us is to stay what is fleeting, and to enlighten what is incomprehensible, to incorporate the things that have no measure, and immortalize the things that have no duration. The dimly seen, momentary glance, the flitting shadow of faint emotion, the imperfect lines of fading thought, and all that in man's person and actions, and in the great natural world, is infinite and wonderful; having in it that spirit and power which man may witness, but not weigh; conceive, but not comprehend; love, but not limit; and imagine, but not define;—this, the beginning and the end of the aim of all noble art.

RUSKIN

Boredom as a factor in human behaviour has received, in my opinion, far less attention than it deserves.

RUSSELL

What role does silence have in all this noise?

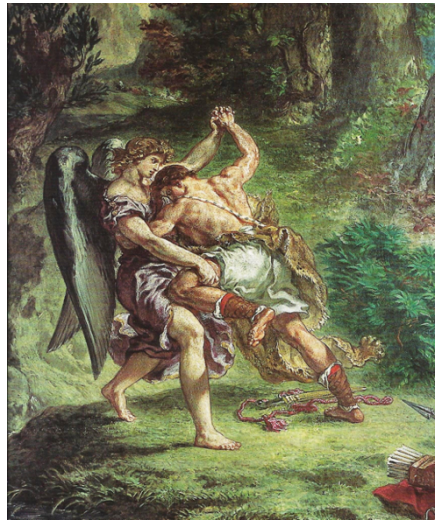
FELLINI

He that will not reason is a bigot, he that cannot reason is a fool, and he that dares not reason is a slave.

DRUMMOND

In Delacroix's *Jacob Wrestling with the Angel*, in the shadow of the great oaks, symbols of his primitive nature, Man has struggled all night to resist that gift of spiritual perception which will so greatly sadden and complicate his existence. He charges like a bull against the impassive angel, but in the end he must succumb to his destiny.

CLARK



Liberty is the soul's right to breathe, and when it cannot take a long breath laws are girded too tight.

BEECHER

On the first page of the file put down the outline of a novel of your times enormous in scale and work on the plan for two months. Take the central point of the file as your big climax and follow your plan backward and forward from that for another three months. Then draw up something as complicated as a continuity from what you have and set yourself a schedule.

FITZGERALD

Il est plus difficile d'aimer Dieu que de croire en lui. Au contraire, il est plus difficile pour les gens de ce siècle de croire au diable que de l'aimer. Tout le monde le sert et personne n'y croit. Sublime subtilité du Diable.

BAUDELAIRE

If you want to know what the Lord God thinks of money, just look at those to whom he gives it.

PARKER

DA TVA DVM TVA SVNT
POST MORTEM TVNC TVA NON SVNT•
VT FLOX ET VENTVS
SIC TRANSIT NOSTRA IVVENTVS

Give what you have while it is still yours;
after your death it is no longer yours.
Like a flower and the wind
Thus passes our youth.

From a tomb in Verona

A compleat Cavalier is a child of honour, a gentleman well born and bred, that loves his King for conscience sake, of a clearer countenance, and bolder look than other men, because of a more loyal heart.

SYMMONS

Who will deny that Oxford, by her ineffable charm, keeps ever calling us nearer to the true goal of all of us, to the ideal, to perfection,—to beauty, in a word, which is only truth seen from another side? Home of lost causes, and forsaken beliefs, and unpopular names, and impossible loyalties!

ARNOLD

I believe that what makes a good writer, as distinct from a clever and cultured man who can write, is an added energy and breadth of vision which enables him to complete a structure.

WAUGH

Hatred is the anger of the weak.

DAUDET

Trifles light as air are to the jealous confirmations strong as proofs of holy writ.

SHAKESPEARE

An intellectual is anybody who has found something more interesting than sex.

HUXLEY

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error or short-coming; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat.

ROOSEVELT

You can live to be a hundred if you give up all the things that make you want to live to be a hundred.

ALLEN

Tornate all'antico e sarà un progresso.
Let us return to the past and that will be progress.

VERDI

The restraint of a traditional culture tempers and directs creative impulses. Freedom produces sterility.

WAUGH

AND EACH WEEK
for our Tutorial Discussions
we have what we call our
QVADRIGA.

—

The 4 enormous questions
that lead us through both
our reading & our discussion,
they're followed by our weekly Bagatelles:
the smaller questions that often involve
cultural excursions, activities,
excitements, assignments,
and getting you well outside
your cultural comfort zone.

Here is a sample QUADRIGA,
so you can see just what measure of exuberance
is contained within one week of
THE
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THE QVADRIGA.

· In the history of humankind has there ever been a Golden Age? If so, when do you think it was? Will there ever be one, or another?

· Has the progress of the sciences and arts done more to corrupt morals or improve them? Will it and should it continue on the same path?

· How would you re-enchant the world?

· What's the one question you would have in this week's Quadriga? What was the greatest wonder, uncertainty, curiosity—that hit you in this week's reading?

THE BAGATELLES.

Memorising poetry prevents dementia & makes you seem at least 50% more intelligent. Memorise and recite from memory 14 lines of Shakespeare.

Does a firm persuasion that a thing is so, make it so?

Are we at the end of an era, or the beginning?

The Medievals celebrated the lives and deeds of three pagan, three Jewish, three Christian Worthies.

Who would you propose as the three Modern Worthies?

KING LEAR

Festinate.
Fustian caitiff. Affined. Alarum. Facinerious. Fettle. Maugre.
A-birding. Wrinkled apple. Contumely. Foppery. Fusty. Squiny.
Maltworm. Perstiferous. Thrasonical. Nuncle. Wall-newt.

Think'st thou that duty shall have dread to speak when power to flattery bows?
For wise men are grown foppish and know not how their wits to wear.
Wisdom and goodness to the vile seem vile.
Your disordered rabble make servants of their betters.
Thou shouldst not have been old till thou hadst been wise.
'Tis the time's plague when madmen lead the blind.
Striving to better, oft we mar what's well.
Where he arrives he moves all hearts against us.
Jesters do oft prove profits.
All friends shall taste the wages of their virtue, and all foes the cup of their deservings.
He hates him that would upon the rack of this tough world stretch him out longer.

Marriage is like a cage; one sees the birds outside desperate to get in, and those inside desperate to get out.

MONTAIGNE

The path of truth, whose mother is history: the imitator of time, the storehouse of actions, and the witness to the past, an example and a lesson to the present and a warning to the future.

CERVANTES

Though history were of no use to other men, it should be made the study of princes.

BOSSUET

A SOVIET STORY

My grandfather grew up in a village where he cultivated the land with his brother and their children. His neighbour, Petya, was a ne'er-do-well, who slept on the porch of his ramshackle hut and spent his evenings drinking and beating his miserable wife. He would watch in disdain as we sweated in the hot sun building a new barn or brought home a new cow. During hard times, Petya would appear at our door asking for a handout. In 1929, Petya appeared at my grandfather's door accompanied by a handful of thugs, sporting a military uniform and cap bearing a red star, and declared: "In the name of Soviet power, I order you to hand over all your property and land to the collective."

This is why my grandfather hated communism and Soviet power all his life.

Kingdoms fall through luxury (sin), cities rise through virtues. Behold the neck of pride severed by the hand of humility.

DONATELLO's statue of Judith

I played over the music of that scoundrel Brahms. What a giftless bastard! It annoys me that this self-inflated mediocrity is hailed as a genius.

TCHAIKOVSKY

The first condition under which education can be given usefully is, that it should be clearly understood to be no means of getting on in the world, but a means of staying pleasantly in your place there.

RUSKIN

You are about to embark on a course of studies which form a noble adventure. All that you will learn in the course of your studies will not be of the slightest possible use to you in later life—save only this—that if you work hard and intelligently you should be able to detect when a man is talking rot, and that, in my view, is the main, if not the sole, purpose of education.

SMITH

I wish the days to be as centuries, loaded, fragrant.

EMERSON

CLARK

The Young Michelangelo

The heroic in life or art is based on the consciousness that life is a struggle; and that in this struggle it is courage, strength of will, and determination which are decisive, not intelligence nor sensibility. The heroic involves a contempt for convenience and a sacrifice of all those pleasures which contribute to what we call civilised life. It is the enemy of happiness. And yet we recognise that to despise material obstacles and even to defy the blind forces of fate is man's supreme achievement. For the heroic is not merely a struggle with material obstacles; it is a struggle with Fate. Insofar as it magnifies the individual in his conflict with the blind forces of destiny it is the highest expression of a humanist ideal and was recognised as such in antiquity. But the heroic stands on the borders of humanism, and looks beyond it. For to struggle with Fate man must become more than man; he must aspire to be a god. Now apotheosis announced the end of humanist art. If there is a single point at which the art of classical antiquity turns towards the Middle Ages, it is when the emperor is accepted as a god. The first great medieval work of art is the statue of Constantine at Barletta: and like the David it is of heroic size. So on the perfectly antique body of the David is set a head which looks with proud and conscious heroism, away from the happy, concrete world of the quattrocento. Like other great revolutions in history, we may wish that it had never happened, but once it has taken place we must accept it with all its potency for good or evil.

Gorki once said of Tolstoy, "His relations with God are very uneasy: like two old bears in a den"; and such were Michelangelo's relations with God's vicar on earth.

CLARK

And now fair Italy! Thou art the garden of the world... thy wreck a glory, and thy ruin graced with an immaculate charm which cannot be defaced.

BYRON

Hamlet. Get thee to a nunnery: why wouldst thou be a breeder of sinners? I am myself indifferent honest; but yet I could accuse me of such things that it were better my mother had not borne me: I am very proud, revengeful, ambitious, with more offences at my beck than I have thoughts to put them in, imagination to give them shape, or time to act them in. What should such fellows as I do crawling between earth and heaven? We are arrant knaves, all; believe none of us. Go thy ways to a nunnery.

A Benedictine of the Normans

Specially marked by cunning, despising their own inheritance in the hope of winning a greater, eager after both gain and dominion, given to imitation of all kinds...

We will at least concede to the people of the Middle Ages that they were able to live without continual or continually threatening national wars, without forced mass industry with deadly competition, without credit and capitalism, without hatred of (albeit inevitable) poverty. If these people had mined hard coal, as is done now, where would we be? The Middle Ages had greatness and sorrows of a kind very different from what Renan is capable of conceiving.

BURCKHARDT

There is the moral of all human tales.
'Tis but the same rehearsal of the past,
First Freedom, and then Glory — when that fails,
Wealth, vice, corruption — barbarism at last
And History, with all her volumes vast,
Hath but one page.
Society is now one polished horde,
Form'd of two mighty tribes, the Bores and Bored.
The 'good old times' — all times when old are good —
Are gone; the present might be if they would.
Be slaves who will, the cynic shall be free.

BYRON

You cannot make war safely but no dead general has ever been criticised so you have that way out always. I am sure that if every leader who goes into battle will promise himself that he will come out either a conqueror or a corpse he is sure to win.

PATTON

Never reinforce failure.
NAPOLEON

Whether God ever gave the Venetians what they thought He had given, does not matter to us; He gave them at least joy and peace in their imagined treasure, more than we have in our real ones.
RUSKIN

NAGA is the Sanskrit word for a deity or being taking the form of a very great snake, found in Hinduism and Buddhism. They're considered nature spirits and the protectors of springs, wells, and rivers. They bring rain, and thus fertility, but also floods and droughts.

The Phaya Naga (พญานาค) are mythical serpent-like creatures, believed by locals to live in the Mekong river or estuaries. Thai folklore holds the Phaya Naga to be semi-divine, demi-creatures, which possess supernatural powers. Nagas decorated along the tiers of temple roofs represent the cosmic river of life source which springs from Mount Meru streaming down to the human world.

The secret to the great fruitfulness and the greatest enjoyment of existence is: to live dangerously! Build your cities under Vesuvius. Send your ships into uncharted seas! Live at war with your peers and yourselves! Be robbers and conquerors, as long as you cannot be rulers and owners, you lovers of knowledge! Soon the age will be past when you could be satisfied to live like shy deer, hidden in the woods!

NIETZSCHE

These studies sustain youth and entertain old age, they enhance prosperity, and offer a refuge and solace in adversity; they delight us when we are at home without hindering us in the wider world, and are with us at night and when we travel.

CICERO

Culture is then properly described not as having its origin in curiosity, but as having its origin in the love of perfection; it is a *study of perfection*. It moves by the force, not merely or primarily of the scientific passion for pure knowledge, but also of the moral and social passion for doing good. As, in the first view of it, we took for its worthy motto Montesquieu's words: 'To render an intelligent being yet more intelligent!'

ARNOLD

— Volumes I. & II. of —

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