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"In a Cloud of DUST with a Hearty Hi-Ho Silver!"

Thursday, June 04, 2015

Thank you to all who read and commented on my blog yesterday. 8 days on the road including 4 with MIL in a nursing home, put me in a very introspective mood.

Finally at home this morning, I find that Mr. Thompson's quote still suggests to me approval of an "anti-healthy" lifestyle. Perhaps it's that "in a cloud of smoke" phrase that gave me that impression. There were many "clouds of smoke" outside the doors of the nursing home and in the parking lot.

Perhaps it was seeing all those "thoroughly used up, totally worn out" people lying in beds and "dwindling" slowly to the grave that prevented me from any positive interpretation of his quote (which I repeated at the end of this blog).

Of course, I know nothing about his personal life choices beyond the fact that he ended his life with a gunshot to the head (info from a comment).

I believe in living life to the fullest and focusing on what you CAN do not what you can't. After all, I'm here every morning on Spark for my daily dose of motivation.

So here's MY rewrite of Mr. Thompson's philosophy.

Life should be a journey, always looking to improve ourselves, and arriving at the end in a cloud of dust with a hearty hi-ho Silver!

Mickey Mantle's observation from his hospital bed is good advice also.
"If I knew I was going to live so long, I would have taken better care of myself"

So much for deep thoughts. Now to focus on 8 days of laundry and a deep pile of mail.

Note:
Credit to Phebes for the "dwindling" term and to Striverone for the "always looking to improve ourselves" phrase.

Hunter S. Thompson said:
"Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out and loudly proclaiming "Wow, what a ride!""

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SWEETNEEY

I love the song "I did it my way" by Frank Sinatra. I chide myself that I'm always looking for a mountain to climb. I tend to shun the flat lands.

2195 days ago



LINDAKAY228

I went back and read yesterday's blog to get the picture of what you said then. I guess I just tend to think of being used up as being used up for my faith and not necessarily a bad thing. But I can also see your interpretation. In any case, I want to live my life as fully, healthy, and faithfully as I can and not just let time pass me by. I think that's what we both want.

Been having computer problems so haven't responded in a while. Read e-mails and did some sparking from my smartphone but typing on it is hard for me. Hopefully now that my computer is fixed I can stay up to date more. Sorry for so many blogs I've missed.

2196 days ago



ALICIA363

And, BTW, arriving in a pretty, well preserved body does not preclude being totally worn out and proclaiming "What a ride!"

2197 days ago



ALICIA363

I too have always disliked that quote.

These days, I am hopeful that a "well-preserved" body (which I interpret to be fit or healthy, which is inherently pretty or beautiful to me) will ease the transition to whatever's next when that time comes. Health has taken on a new importance to me as the years go by!

2197 days ago



KRISSEY82

"...always looking to improve ourselves"--I love this. I think it's important to be happy with each improvement as I tend to skip that step and move on to what else needs to be "fixed". I need to learn a more positive approach, and I'm hoping that Spark can help me get there.

2198 days ago



GINIEMIE

I'll go with your rewrite. I'm so tired of pessimist, negativity which leads to poor choices and round two of the same. Good luck with the laundry. I used to pray all the time for the person whose clothes I was folding-or diapers....that was a lot of praying with two in diapers at a time for a while.



2198 days ago



WATERMELLEN

When our parents come to the end, then we're the next. And it gives rise to sober reflection for sure.

Like your re-write: and your enactment of it.

2198 days ago



JANETRW50

Hunter Thompson was a 60's icon and all that it implies. Best not to take his advice your rewrite is much better.

Live life to the fullest but respect the vessel that contains us.

2198 days ago



MARYJEANSL

I am trying really hard to make good choices so I don't end up in a wheelchair or bedridden, but it is pretty discouraging right now, since I am sidelined with a bad ankle injury. I never fully appreciated the ability to walk without pain until now!

2198 days ago



WALLAHALLA

I'm sure it feels good to be home again. Hope you get some time to rest and relax, and maybe have a good cleansing run.

2198 days ago



LIVEDAILY

My take on the Hunter S. Thompson quote is that we should take advantage of everything that life has to offer us, and to live life fully.

2198 days ago





PHOENIX1949



2198 days ago



PHEBESS

I'll slide in with a cloud of dust (no smoke!) - but maybe with champagne in one hand.

2198 days ago



WUMPASTAR

Very well said, and I completely agree with you. For people my age especially, it seems like it's pretty hard to even think about the future or the consequences of our actions, and I'm glad I have this capacity, hahaha!

2198 days ago



CD4114015

Well Done! I much prefer your rewrite!



2198 days ago



JOYCRN

I prefer the philosophy of Louis Zamperini who lived until he died at the age of 94. Never Give Up, Never Give In, is a short read and worth it.

2198 days ago



WILSONWR

That was a great rewrite of the Thompson quote!

By the way, Mickey Mantle's quote was the truth. Many of his relatives, including his father, died of cancer before they were 40. Mickey told his friends that he would also die young. According to one biography, this belief haunted him throughout his life, and was among the many pressures that led to his self-destructive behavior. What a tragedy. We need to live the fullest, healthiest life we can so we can really enjoy whatever time we have here on earth.

2198 days ago



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