

APHORISMS AND OBSERVATIONS

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It's over two decades that Americans found a goal worth striving for: Peace of Mind. But it proved an elusive prize. So now we practice Peace of Mindlessness.

With all his sophistication, contemporary man has no compunctions to confessing his sins -- he is almost too ready to do so. We have all heard them: "I'm too kind for my own good." "I'm too vulnerable" -- and too shy, too forgiving, too generous, too soft, etc. The only sins he won't confess are those he truly cherishes...

Ethical dilemma: What do I say to a man who calls me at 11:45 P.M., about a subject that could easily bear postponement to the morrow, and begins *WITH* ~~THE~~ with a question, "I'm not disturbing you, Rabbi, am I?"

A gem from C.S. Lewis: "Men are not angered by mere misfortune, but by misfortune conceived as injury."

And one from John W. Gardner: "Don't let anyone tell you we're confused. We know the values to which we are being unfaithful. You may ask, 'What difference does it make that we agree on our values if we aren't faithful to them?' I would answer that from the standpoint of therapy it always makes a difference what the patient is suffering from. This patient is not suffering from confusion but from infidelity."

A teacher of Musar: "The beauty of a 'mentsch' is in his mind. The mind of a fool is on his beauty."

G.K. Chesterton: A key has no logic to its shape. Its only logic is, it turns the lock.

John Updike: Americans have been conditioned to respect newness, whatever it costs them.

Suspect each moment, for it is a thief, tiptoeing away with more than it brings.

Question all questions, doubt all doubts.

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