

# Psychic Deli

## Daily Life with a Psychic

My wife was getting ready to go to a Weight Watchers' meeting and I kidded with her that if I were in charge of one of the meetings I would use the famous Winston Churchill speech with the "never give up" line. The specific line is: "We shall meet them on the beach; we shall meet them in the air," etc. and it ends with "never, never, never give up." I suggested a version of "forget the tyranny of cookies and candy, cake and ice cream. No matter what: never give in."

She looked amused and set off for her meeting. A short time later she was back and told me about the meeting. "You know what you said you'd do if you were the leader of one of the meetings?" She said that the regular leader hadn't been there that day and she wasn't able to concentrate on the meeting at all because the substitute leader had begun by saying something like, "to paraphrase Churchill, 'never, never, never give up!'"

## That Inner Voice Again

Recently a client of mine (T.O.), like you, had a situation. This one was work related. Everyone at this company was "fine, okay, great". But this individual knew that despite all the appearances, something was not right. Animals in the forest can sense or smell danger and they move away. Most of us are so refined – so intellectual – that we disregard the bells going off. We say, "I must be wrong". This person, however, trusted the feelings and courageously left a terrible situation.

This person could have allowed someone to talk them out of it but instead risked everything to do the right thing. Spiritual wisdom is great when you have a full belly and can quote the great teachers and prophets. But to me spiritual wisdom is like a jack you have in your car. When you have a flat, you pull out the jack. This individual listened to that inner voice and today is better off because of listening to and "getting" the message, and acting upon it. May we all be this spiritual and courageous.

## And the Pitcher was ...

When one of my sons was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade he played baseball. His coach was an accomplished man who had three sons, one of whom was the primary pitcher for this team. John was a very good pitcher, a good all-round player who inspired his teammates every day. But as the years have passed one incident has stayed in my mind from that "baseball summer": this coach, as I've said, was a successful man in his personal life, and was a great coach from what we could see. He encouraged ... and played ... all the boys on the team. His son John was likewise an accomplished, though young, athlete ... liked by all the other boys. But the coach had one flaw. When it came to his own son he was overly critical. He expected so much from him, that he criticized him where he wouldn't have done that to the other boys on the team.

One day after a game, the coach came over to where I was talking with my son, and with his own sons standing right behind him, he said to my boy, "I wish I had a son like you." What a slap in the face for his own sons! My son was, and is, a wonderful person, but so were his three boys. This is the incident that haunts me still.

I write this because parents, me included, can sometimes be real jerks. That this coach liked my son was not a surprise, but that he had put him up as a standard for his own sons, whom I and others judged as really good kids, was nothing if not sad. Children are who they are and become who they are to be when led to develop their own strengths. Constantly comparing these boys created an unattainable standard because John was who he was – and there was nothing wrong with who he was. Each person is so different – so complex. Rejecting his son – as I'm sure it appeared to John – was just cruel. A parent has to be many, many things and most do their best. They need to be aware of trying for that best. It is vital that we do not hurt or undermine the very ones we love.

## Searching for Furniture

I was a volunteer with a senior citizen group. My assignment was simple enough ... to get new furniture donated to help set up a senior day care center.

I called many places and was yelled at, lectured to, and generally treated badly until I called a huge – big – giant furniture company and the very head of the company said, “Call back tomorrow at 11:00.” It was Monday. I thought this was going to be great and I called back the next day (Tuesday) at exactly 11:00. I had to have the man paged because he had also told me that if he wasn’t immediately available, to have him paged. When he came to the phone he said, “Look, I can’t talk right now. Can you call tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.? If I’m not available have me paged at exactly that time.”

So I called on Wednesday at the exact time and had to have him paged again. But the same thing happened and I had to call him again Thursday and yet again on Friday. On Friday I was told he was out of town and to “call next week”.

On Monday I called and he had returned, but told me to call Tuesday. On Tuesday he told me to call Wednesday. Each time he had to be paged. Each time he quickly said his name and told me he was in the middle of something and to call me either at 11:00 or 1:00, alternating those times. On Thursday of the second week, I interrupted him and said, “Sir, I’ve been calling two business weeks.” He paused. “I really want to help your group. Call me tomorrow and have me paged and we’ll get this over with.” I was very grateful. At last! “Thank you. Thank you so much.” “Oh, it’s nothing.” “But it’s just that you’re so hard to get hold of.” I went from feeling used, wasted and ignored to feeling triumphant. Tomorrow – at last!

When 11:00 a.m. Friday rolled around I called. Again he had to be paged, but I was very excited because I would finally be able to deliver on my pledge to help the senior center.

He came on the phone and before I could say a word, he blurted out, “I’m very busy. State your business.” I spoke quickly about his promise to give furniture to help the seniors. He chuckled, “Oh.” Then he delivered the line: “I have absolutely no interest in helping your cause.” “What?!?” “Should I repeat that?” he asked. I could hear the sneer over the phone line. “I have absolutely NO interest in helping you or your cause.”

I was stunned and angry. I didn’t expect this. I took a deep breath. “Sir, could you please tell me why you asked me to call and have you paged day after day when you had no interest in this project?” I didn’t think he would answer me, but he did, and I have never forgotten the answer. He said, “I wanted to feel important.” My mind reeled. HE wanted to feel important. Wow! After he said that I simply said, “Thank you”, and quietly hung up.

The next morning I called another giant furniture store. One call. They were thrilled to help if we could pick up the merchandise. So I was able to deliver on my pledge. This story ... a true experience ... reminds me that we are all insecure. Here he was ... the owner of one of the biggest furniture stores in Virginia ... and he was trying to look important to his employees. It seems to me that someone didn’t get his approval early in life. Just because someone appears successful doesn’t mean they aren’t just people subject to the same fears and concerns all of us have.

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If you’d like to send me your stories to include and share in these newsletters, please do so. Or if there are questions you’d like addressed, I’d also be happy to respond to them here.

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