

Children's Rhymes

and

Other Verses

Volume 1

About the Author



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Dedication

Lessons learned,
and lasting legacies.

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Introduction

This collection began long ago with incidental notations to myself. Having now lived for a period long enough to be grateful in reflection, I thought that it might be a useful indulgence to reduce them to an organized writing.

-- *Gregg Zegarelli*

Wisdom. Pass it Around.

One day, I startled a rabbit. I had no idea of its existence in the bush, but, in its fear, it ran out in front of me. Only then did it become a target of prey. It seemed to me that the fear of the rabbit placed it into harm's way. It should have just remained still. It ran into its fear.

1. Hold

A rabbit scared,
into a view to a kill;

it should have not dashed,
it should have held still.

One of my family members is a vegetarian. I respect that choice. It seemed to me, however, that a large proportion of the animal kingdom is carnivorous, by God's Will or evolution, such as one might believe. But, it seemed that, if the cause of vegetarianism is to save the life of the prey, it is not necessarily the intention of God or the evolution of things, since prey will be had, by one or the other. Moreover, as I am predator to some prey, I am also prey to some predators.

2. The Lovely Meat

She asked me not to eat that lovely meat.
The compassion of it, I don't know why.

For, if I don't get that lovely meat,
God's animals will pass me by.

But, either way, the meat is eaten,
it's only that I would be beaten!

So, now, I shall go catch that lovely meat,

Always looking back with one eye.

As an attorney, I observe how humans tend to place things into neat categories. This results in comfort, as it removes the very hard work of discerning the shades of gray. The vilification between political parties is an example. Polarized categories eliminates the need for the harder work—the thinking. But, the excellent judge views context, and does the hard work of separating shades of gray.

An excellent judge works, and thinks.

3. Judgment

Things black or white,
so easy to say;

but judgment rests,
in shades of the gray.

There are three points in time: past, present and future. It should not be overly existential to observe that the past no longer exists, the future does not yet exist, and the present is fleeting.

4. Undone

My past is gone,
my future to come,
my present is fleeting,

my existence undone.

Reducing something to its salient essence is sometimes the more difficult task. It requires prioritization and judgment on the core essence of something.

5. No Time

I would be brief, but I don't have time.
So my story continues, too long for one line.

We strive for so many things, always seemingly beyond our grasp. But, for those people who stay true to themselves, really true to themselves, they will magnetize the things that must attach to themselves by natural gravitation and attraction.

6. The Reach

So many things for which to reach,
the grasp so hard to do.

But, if you never let go of who you are,
the things will come to you.

The ability to take the hit is as important as the ability to give the hit. The ability to sustain through the receipt of adverse conditions. Simply, not going down.

7. Taking a Punch

Many fighters are great,
not because of the punches they threw,

but because of the
great punches they could take.

We pray for things, sometimes incessantly. But, what is in it for God? What does God get? What is the bargain that we offer to God in return for the things for which we ask?

8. Wages of Prayer

If you ask that you should receive,
the wages of prayer,
are to do good deeds.

When I had my first child, I wanted a simple prayer that might resonate, and be easy enough for a child. It was originally written for our family dinner prayer. Among the many available prayers, this prayer remains my favorite, and it is appropriate at almost any time. It requests nothing, abstractly appreciates all of our blessings, and specifically thanks God for the greatest gift of love.

9. Baby's First Prayer

Thank you,
Lord above.
For these [our] gifts,
Especially love.

My father was my Best Man at my wedding, I dedicated my first book to him, and I co-authored my second book with him. But, it was when I started to walk in his shoes as a father myself that I began to understand the importance of the relationship between a parent and child. This could be, for me, the “greatness of my parents,” but I wrote it from the perspective of being a father.

10. Greatness Unknown

The greatness of my father unknown,
until a child of my own.

To be polite is a social courtesy, it is respect for others and, at a fundamental level, demonstrates love.

11. Five Pillars of Politeness

There are five pillars of politeness,
who support me in all that I do.

I try to keep them busy,
so, each day, I say anew:

"Excuse me, I'm sorry,
may I please thank you?"

You see, it's very easy,
with support, from up above.
Just a little bit of courtesy,
five pillars, made with love.

I noted one day that the ears are underappreciated by many, but, unlike the eyes, are sometimes the more important sense, being always awake as a defense.

12. The Eyes and Ears

“Listen,” bragged the eyes.
“We tell of dangers far away.”

“That may be true,” said the ears.

“But we’ll see tonight while you’re asleep,
at the end of the day.”

Each day is an opportunity. Asking the question of ourselves creates a daily goal and an accounting.

13. Another Day

For Morning

Another day to live.

What will I do?

What will I give?

For Evening

Another day gone by.

What have I done,

and why?

To be able to enjoy the moment, without the burden of the past or the anxiety for the future, is to enjoy life as a child does: without a past or understanding of any future.

14. The Perfect Present

The gift of enjoying the moment
is our perfect present.

Those who humbly support others are without the fragile pride.

15. Support for All

Those who walk higher
than others,
shall fall.

And those who walk lower,
shall be the support of all.

Why we are naturally tempted to the bad and not the good has always perplexed me.

16. Will

It has always perplexed me,
why we need such strength of will.

That while good may be good,
bad seems to be all the better still.

We need each other, and ultimately succeed together.

17. Deeds

The farmer cries for the ground,
and the ground cries for the seed.

The seed cries for the weather,
and the hungry cry for the
food they need.

Apart, they cry wanting,
but, together, they succeed.

In deed.

Delusions might be comfortable, but the truth comes one way or another.

18. Reality

Fantasies abound,

but reality
always has a way

to let you know it's around.

Nothing is perfect, yet much is excellent.

19. Work of Art

A work of art,
but it needed correction.

Excellence, of course,
does not mean perfection.

Much of what we believe is random is the result of our own ignorance.

20. Chaos

We called her “Chaos.”
She called us “Fools.”

When we asked why, she said,
“You just don’t know the rules.”

This may be my all time favorite.

21. Benefit and Burden

Benefit and Burden,
sister and brother.

Where will you find them?
One with the other.

We can always find a soft repose in the deep self-reflection and comfort of accepting forgiveness.

22. Repose

Thank you, Lord,
for in my days of woes,
I find in you,
a soft repose.

Life continues.

23. Sunrise

In that coffin,
my love there lies,

and, yet, 'tis true,
the sun still doth rise.

There is a common and recurring argument that a mutually applicable law, rule or provision is, therefore, fair. But, not so. The application of a mutually stated rule may be manifestly unfair.

24. Fair

She said it was mutual,
and, thus, it must be fair.

Just as the hare may eat a lion,
and the lion may eat a hare.

For my wife, who sometimes asks me what I am doing.

[Blank]

25. Ideas

She asked me what I was doing,
but, I said, "You don't want to know.
For, if these things come straight at you,
they will hit you with a blow."

So, I keep these young things captive,
in this little mind of mine.
To form for society,
for release, in due time.

But, these things do run a bit wild,
though I try to get them straight,
and some get the better of me,
they break out and escape.

And, while I watch them run away,
with not too much a frown,
hoping that each of them meets someone,
marries and settles down.

NOTES

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