

Leadership: New Stuff

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

To express Torah through guitar is a wonderful thing. But don't tell anyone. It's a secret, a non-verbal communication.

Friday, October 6, 2023

Land of Tabula Rasa

Back to emptiness.

Clear the slate, wipe out the past, start over.

Play guitar softly. (But not necessarily slowly.)

Soft signifies secret, inward, hidden. The audience can't hear it unless they make an effort (and really want to). Soft means the mind is free, and the imagination can run wild-and does.

Soft playing leads to the Garden of Eden.

What will my post-implant life be like?

Can I see implant misery as the pain needed to cleanse my mind as well?

Today the pain is abating. Is this the fresh October start I've been looking for?

Happy Warrior

Since life is a battle between good and evil, why not wake up fighting, ready for it?

I have control of my attitude, so when I wake up I can choose up, down, happy, sad, resistant, or reluctant.

Monday, October 9, 2023

Why not choose happy? Then play guitar as a happy warrior

If I played as a happy warrior, I would fight evil by being a pro-good advocate. Then I would employ my special forces: I would put the fast, strong, and light

Special Finger Forces, and the Warrior Fiction Service, into action.

Normalizing the Special Forces.

Vladimir Horowitz was right: Repetition and neuro-plasticity: my physical structure through massive times and still counting. Tremolo and knee. Change repetitions.

Be Kind To Fingers (Fiction) Week

Maybe my journal will evolve into a fiction.

Soft guitar playing leads to the power of gentle. (Gentle makes others willing to give.) With soft equaling, or leading, to gentle, I play "Alhambra" on first shot! Soft equals gentle equals kind equals power.

Can I be gentle with myself? It all starts with me. Being kind to my fingers brings kindness to "Alhambra." Kindness paradoxically give me a great new kind of power. Note the etymology: Kind is related to kin, related to family, related to Latin gen, related to indigenous people, related to genus (birth), and thus family. I'm playing guitar with my finer family-and it is fun! I can even roughhouse with them (playfully, of course) which means, playing hard and loud with them. And this is even more fun!

I found this fun through fiction – the fiction of fingers and the finger family. And fiction is indigenous indirection.

Roger is Mr. A Finger (Mr. Ring Finger), and he needs special attention in the "Gavotte en Rondeau."

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Bored With Fear

Last night was the first time I taught folk dancing without fear. No pre-performance anxiety. Gone. Disappeared. (Will this overflow into guitar? I want that.

Am I getting bored with fear? Been there, done that. And for so many years. Maybe my time has come. Without fear, what will stimulate and motivate me now? Well, even this motivation question is becoming boring. And for so many years.

Even the desire to celebrate this fear*less idea (fact?) is over. It's just a fact.

Steady, even, calm. Getting ready to step into the land beyond bored.

All this happened after tooth-implant pain and new-computer confusion. Perhaps the whole process symbolizes implanting a new mode of existence.

Saturday, October 14, 2023

Re-entry.

Another new beginning on the horizon. It's bereshit time. But how? Is there a fresh way to enter? Re-enter?

What are the obstacles?

There's the embarrassment. Can I physically do it? Then comes the been there, done that, moment.

Building A Foundation

Maybe guitar and a strong "Alhambra tremolo are just the necessary groundwork for confidence and building a foundation – plus a strong body through yoga, exercise, weights, and dance.

Foundation for what?

Are folk dance and tours my only weapon? I doubt it.

What about the books I've written? Could I ever "unleash" them with a good show of promotion and sales might?

Are my books good for people? Will they help them? Should people spend time and thought with them? In other words, do I believe in them and their importance and power enough to put in the effort of promoting and selling them? An old question, sure, but one I am ready to return to.

Is the foundation I'm really talking about a confidence foundation? Confidence in what? My books? The inability to sell my books is the one frustration in my life. It is the one thing I want but have not done. I must say it, but hate admitting it. (In fact, I can feel my stomach turning as I do. I am afraid to push out my inner, deeper, creative, artistic self.

Guitar and Book Sales

"Pavane in C:" The slow, stately march of my books out of the closet through the court, and into the public square of my formerly medieval, but now renaissance village.

Yes, I have been hiding my book self behind the guitar partly because I had to make a living. But those days are over.

It will take an "elevated view" of myself to pull it off. Is this "elevated view"

the real one, the Moses view? Moses said he couldn't do it alone but needed God's help, so God made him His spokesman. No question I could use some help in this area, too.

Sunday, October 15, 2023

Making the Maximum Effort

Fun and Glory in a Nutshell

A bit at loose ends this morning. I HAVE Lost or forgotten my purpose. I know what's right and good for me. So I need to use my will, and force myself to follow my miracle schedule. Just shut up and do it.

They say meditation is good to do every day. Well, my schedule is my meditation practice, my personal way of worship. That's why I feel lost, abandoned, and upset without it. Truth is, most days I follow my practice. Today will be no exception.

My meditations are all alone things. My four forms – study, writing, guitar, and exercise, are all done alone. solo. Evidently, quiet and separate is the best way I can concentrate on, touch, connect, and remember my juice connection. It is also why business is never part of it

Break: Lots of crying over the death of Moses. Add me, my wife, all those around me. Crying, mourning, is the only way to get through the tunnel. Just do it. Maybe every morning. First you cry, then you laugh. To paraphrase Kahlil Gibran: Tears and laughter are twins in life.

I need business, too. It is really the fifth spoke of the schedule wheel. I apply the skills and talents I discover and develop during meditation, to work with, and affect others, and heal the world. (Meditation is half, business the other half: Combined they equal one whole.

Business connects me to people. Part of it is social and socializing.

Can I fulfill my purpose through "mere" socializing, by just being there, just showing up? Reason tells me yes; but upbringing and habits of thought say that socializing is frivolous, superficial, nice but not that important.

Business is about service to others; socializing is about living with others, (from Latin "socius": companionship.)

In my mind, the phrase "service to others" has the feeling of separation, of "I and them" performing something for them. Socializing, on the other hand, has

more of "me with them," all of us together, no individual performing a service. In a social situation, role and ego merge with others. There's a loss, giving up, of identity; ego is less important.

Seen in this light, the "Alhambra" adventure is a grand ego-proving trip. Not a bad thing, but still annoying. As a part of meditation, "Alhambra" is fine. But for business and others, it's pleasant, but not necessary.

My skills and talents are not needed to socialize. I can perform nothing, do nothing, be nothing, and still be with others. All I need is to show up.

Now on to the positive front: With all pressures gone, I can sit back, relax, appreciate, and love how much fun and glory there are in making the maximum effort!

Monday, October 16, 2023

The battle is ever between two worlds: light and dark, heaven and hell, good and evil, energy and inertia, flesh and spirit, audience and solo, public and private, community and individual. Give each on its due.

J. S. Bach said he composed music for the glory of God.

Why not play guitar for the same reason?

Go deep within to find the center. Play for the melt-down glory of Magnificence. The audience can sit in the circle of radiance and listen, if it likes.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

What has happened to my equanimity and peace of mind? Computer problems and more. A time of frustration, stopping, obstacles and impediments.

Focus: How to fix my comp start soft, uter problems.

Guitar: A three-finger finger. Start soft. Reach across the wide 3-finger expanse. Spread the hypothenar wide to touch the inside of the I (index) finger.

Permanent i and AI Solution

This permanently cements and solves the AI tremolo problem. Remember the feel, spread, and "i" of it.

Thursday, October 12, 2023

The past two weeks of tooth and computer problems have broken my upward momentum. Hard to get back on track. But what track? So far the only good thing coming out of this dark two-week tunnel is my guitar playing.

Is a new implant base being built starting with my guitar?

Note: No videos involved. Tours, folk dance, or sales, either. Have I been misled? Fooled? Are guitar and music my real foundation?

Implants will implant a new bite into my life! New seed creates a new root, and a new plant will flower. Base it not on videos but on guitar and music. Pulling away from computer, tours (business) and money to find my essence.

Can I live within my essence without them? Suppose I gave them up for a week and lived in guitar and music. The October surprise and change within the number 8 (Octo). I could chronicle the experiment in my journal.

Friday, October 13, 2023

Retreat from the world and into Myself. Do I need another monastery visit? A second retreat is the only thing that feels right today.

Saturday, October 14, 2023

Re-entry.

New beginning on the horizon. It's bereshit time. But how? Is there a new way to enter? Re-enter?

What are the obstacles?

1. Embarrassment
2. Can I physically do it? (Lead tours, folkdance bookings.)
3. Been there, done that.

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Foundation for what?

Are folk dance and tours my only weapon? I doubt it.

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“Pavane in C:” The slow, stately march of my books out of the closet through the king’s court, and into the public square of my, formerly medieval, but now renaissance village.

Yes, I been hiding my book self behind the guitar? Partly, and yes. (Sure, I had to make a living. But those days are over.)

It will take an “elevated view” of myself to pull this off. Is this “elevated view” the real view, the Moses view. Moses said he couldn’t do it alone but needed God’s help, so God made him His spokesman. No question I need and could use some help in this area, too.

I don’t have the courage to promote or sell my books, or to promote, or even mention my folk dance choreographies. And I never have. Why should this lifetime pattern change now? Seems only a miracle could change it. I need a miracle.

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They say meditation is good to do every day. Well, my miracle schedule is my meditation practice, my unique way of worship. That’s why I feel lost,

abandoned, and upset without it. Truth is that most days I follow my practice. Today will be no exception.

My meditations are all alone things. My four forms, study, writing, guitar, and exercise, are all done alone. Performed solo. Evidently, quiet and separate is the best way I can concentrate on touch, connect, and remember my Juice connection. It is also why business is never part of it

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On to business: I need business, too. It is really the fifth part of the miracle schedule wheel. It is where I use and apply the skills and talents I discover and develop during meditation, to work with, and effect (affect?) others, and heal the world. (Meditation equals half, business equals half, added together they equal one whole.)

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In my mind, the phrase "service to others" has the feeling of separation, of "I and them," performing something for them. Socializing, on the other hand, has more of "me with them," all of us together, no individual performing (a service). In a social situation, role and ego blend, mix, mingle and merge with others. Loss (giving up?) of identity, ego is less important.

Seen in this light, the "Alhambra" adventure is a grand ego-proving trip. Not a bad thing, but still annoying. As a part of meditation, "Alhambra" is fine. But for business and others, its merely pleasant, if possible, but really not necessary or needed.

These skills and talents are not needed to socialize. I can perform nothing, do nothing, be nothing, and still socialize. All I need is to show up.

And, on the positive (laughing) front, with all these pressures gone, I can sit

back, relax, appreciate, and love how much fun and glory there is in making the maximum effort!

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J. S. Bach said he composed his music for the glory of God.
Why not play guitar with the same idea in mind.
Go deep within to find the center. Play for the melt-down glory of Magnificence.

Audience can sit in the circle of radiance and listen, if it likes.

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Everyone should-and does-write their own bible.
I touched it for a quarter of a second, the strange and awesome place where I would not fear death because I am part of eternal life. That's what AI is all about: The quest for eternal life.

I can't believe I'm saying these things. What kind of kook am I? Reflecting a bit further: Is it kooky? Or am I just changing neighborhoods and not used to it?
Jim Gold is the disguise I'm wearing in this life.

A strange and awesome place.
The words that nobody knows but every scholar speculates upon.
Time to skip around the Torah.
Play guitar for AI and the Magnificence.
Yes, everyone should – and does – write their own bible.
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(I can't believe I'm saying these things. What kind of kook am I? Reflecting a bit further: Is it kooky? Or am I just changing neighborhoods? Not used to it?)

The Jim Gold character is the disguise I wear in this life.

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

My email isn't working this morning. I'm angry and frustrated. Why me? Why is this happening to me now?

A bigger question is: Why do I interpret frustration as a personal attack on me? Why do I consider frustration, stifled, stymied, and stopped as victimhood?

I would much rather see these obstacles as hidden opportunities for growth, development and expansion. But so far, I don't. My attitude is up to me. I do have a choice, at least in attitude. I could choose to reinterpret frustration. I could redefine it as today's battle, part of my daily struggle for survival, thus turning a negative twist into a positive view. No one is deciding I am a victim but me.

I shall start trying to do that. It's part of my post-monastery, post-Covid attitude change and re-entry into society.

The (Guitar) Finger Story

Or

The Handsome Hand

My ring finger is tonally tough – strong, hard, and naily. She reminds me of power.

Do not fight her nailiness. Dive into it. Naily is your friend.

She also teaches how to deal with stymie, stifle, and stop in her Frustration One class. "Use a combo of tough and hard, sprinkled with love," she says. "Fight frustration with nail power."

My index finger points the way. He's full of purpose

Middle finger mediates between index and ring. During the Grand Gender Compromise of 2017, middle finger traded "he" and "she" for "it." Today it remains sexless, gender-free, but quite smart.

When my ring finger is straightened, raised, or in use, she is powerful. I often use her strength to deal with frustration.

Then I consult with index for direction and purpose.

The obvious mediation between these two is performed by middle finger.

My right hand combination of purpose, power, and mediation is a handsome hand. Listeners love it.

Thumb watches me while all the fingers smile.

And the pinky? Where does she fit in?

Pinky is a stand-up comedian. She supplies humor and good laugh.

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Art (Can Heal) Heals the World

Why not play guitar to heal the world. And folk dance, too. This could be my contribution to politics. The artistic healing of the world through thought and art.

Fast, fun, joy, exhilaration – to heal the world. Dancing kopanitsa on the road to the healing life. Speed and excitement go together. Create the trance of folk dance.

Healing through exhilaration is what speed or fast really mean.

As for guitar, exhilaration is at your playing finger tips. Touch lightly and you can calmly, easily, step in. (Not even a big deal.)

Friday, October 20, 2023

Guitar Warm-Up

Focus opening first thought: I have exhilaration at my finger tips! (Not speed, not fast or slow, but exhilaration.)

Spread it through all my guitar pieces. This is my goal, the apotheosis of a different way thinking and practice.

First, get the Exhilaration Team in order. The A Team, Alhambra Tremolo Team, and it has to stay in order all day!

The Team, although universal in idea and scope, is ethnically Spanish, its members all from Spain.

Diego Annularis comes from Madrid; Madre Medius was born in Granada but now lives in Cadiz; Jimenez Indice, originally from Santiago de Compostela, moved to Malaga for its warm weather and beaches.

This E Team, organized and ruled by Rolando Thumb, aka The Supreme, always threatens: “Better work together, or else!” Along with consultant Alberto Rocco (Ein Stein), they discovered the success formula $E=MC^2$, always insisting on daily exhilaration practice.

Sunday, October 22, 2023

The New Nihilism

Old stuff in a new bottle.

Blurring distinctions leads to confused thinking, leads to destruction and nihilism. Good versus evil.

So what else is new? Not much.

Dealing with hassles, this time it's PayPal. How does this fucker work?

I can lose everything I own and love in one moment. Deal with it? How?

Once everything is destroyed – including me – what is left? Only the Vibration. Evidently, the Vibration can never be destroyed ($E = mc^2$). So how do I get in touch with, contact, feel, stay connected to it.

Through exhilaration! Thus the sanity and sanctity of the practice.

How do I deal with my fears today?

For PayPal rejection, confusion, and ignorance: Study and prepares my finances on a new post-trading level. Financial stability eliminates some, but not all, fears. But it's a good start.

The power in 2ND and 3RD beat emphasis and practice. It's a mere technical shift, but makes playing so much easier.

After one hour of warm-up, practice, and entrance, I've lost the Vibration among technical weeds. Let go for a while. It'll be back.

Monday, October 23, 2023

I feel this current cursing through me that I want to return to life, go out into the world again.

History Period

Can I combine history with guitar? How can I teach history through folk dancing? How to imbue my guitar playing with history, paste it into my guitar?

How would Ashurbanipal play Sor's "Etude Number 12"?

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

A dedication: To understand who I am on a deeper, historic, and connected

level, I'm becoming a biblical scholar. An emotional, artistic scholar, that's me. Is there such a thing? Where do I fit into history? Where does the I fit into them? How to I connect to them, and not be alone?

Back to college, back to school. Could I actually be a scholar? Yes, but I must be an emotional, artistic one. Not the dry, unfeeling, "intellectual" scholars I picture from the past.

My kind of scholarship must be exciting, adventurous, emotional, dynamic, and artistic.

Maybe it always was. I merely thought it was dry to protect myself from my love and emotions, and from the secret, and not so secret, inferiority complex blanketing my being – manifested so clearly in guitar, study, and intellect.

But through "Alhambra" salvation the guitar complex has dribbled away, being transformed and cured. Now it's time to apply the "Alhambra" cure to the intellect. Almost no sooner said, than done.

Just as Pavane Power is coursing through my veins via the wrist portal so I shall apply it to scholarship.

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Babylonian Guitar

The Amorites displaced the Sumerians, founded Babylonia, spoke Akkadian, and ruled from 2100 to 1700 BC. (As Hyksos, they invaded and ruled Egypt in the 18th century BC.)

Play guitar like a Babylonian Amorite. Speak and sing in Akkadian mode. Amorite children play on the grass-green lawn, shout, squeal and laugh, playing Sor "Etude Number 12": They run light and fast. Crack their code, swift, light, and silent.

Establish the right hand rule of Hammurabic law.

Play the Akkadian "Alhambra."

Establish Hammurabic thumb dominance. It works.

Thursday, October 26, 2023

After so much frustration trying to fix it, now, today, my PayPal account finally works! I won. I'm so happy! All my work with its frustration, anger, impotence, and impatience, paid off. I can't believe it. Deal with the feeling of

glorious happiness.

Guitar History

True guitar playing began during the stone age. Neolithic rock groups like “Nathan and the Stoned Sediments” and “Pete Paleolithic and his Peters” dominated the pre-Europe music scene. (They say Pleistocenomorphic Paul, Pete’s greatest of grandfathers, had been a Cenozoic rock star.)

Later, with the discovery of copper, “Carol’s Chalcolithic Kurls” took the Mount Carmel Tel scene by storm. Using a light copper touch, her musico-speleologic fame lasted well into the Bronze age.

Of course, Phil Philistine, aka Land-Phil. practicing for years on beaches of the Gaza coast before ploughing, sling shot and base guitar in hand, to wipe out “Goliath and the Punic,” aka Punies, above Tel Igneous.

Did Neolithic players have footstools hidden in their caves? Were they ever used? Or was their playing style merely phlamenco?

Recently, fragments of the Pulgaromics Scroll. With essays on the economic power of the stone age thumb, were discovered both in the Qumram caves as well as a neolithic suburb near Altimara in northern Spain. Sems Pleistocene teachers taught an ancient doctrine: Finger families cannot be separated. All digits stick together, no matter what. This iron clad rule, which knocked out Chalco and Bronze Age separatists, remained in tradition right up to the present.

How strange: I’m too happy to work.

It feels like things are falling into place for the first time in weeks. The Paypal success is lighting my day. Would even more financial stability make me even happier? To know every corner of my financial situation.

Friday, October 27, 2023

Slow Power

I love the stable, steady power of the slow, meaty, majestic, gorgeous tremolo. Can such a thing fit into the world?

The acceptance – even the glory – of slow power is worth considering.

Two styles of strength: fast as a rabbit: speed power, powerful as a bull: slow power. Both have their place. This end-of-the-road acceptance is wisdom at its

best.

How will slow power – and the glory of it – affect my email and Email Merge study? And editing, and the overwhelmed feeling?

Slow power dissolves impatience. It glorifies faith in commitment, perseverance, steady work and sticking to it. It expresses the faith that I can solve my problems.

Yes, there are very good things I can find in slowness.

Saturday, October 28, 2023

The Tyranny of Technique is Over

Talking about bible, music, and folk dancing, among other things, wipes away the magic and mystery. An ineffable treasure.

Acceptance of slow power completes the cycle.

I met with Al Michel for lunch yesterday afternoon. Note is first name. (Could he be a visit from Al Hambra in disguise?)

Post-Al: My fascination with Hebrew is broken and faded, Slow power is accepted. End of a cycle.

Results:

English and Hebrew will be equal. I've just read and spoken my last unequal Hebrew word. I'll read the Torah in both Hebrew and English. It's okay. And acceptance of English will bring me to an even deeper understanding.

The tyranny of Hebrew language technique is over. I am freer.

My First Audience

Ben and Paula – Adam and Eve – listen intently to my slow power guitar (and violin) playing in the Garden of Eden. They are my first audience listening with awe, wonder, innocence, and amazement, babies in adult clothing.

Love my new audience. Fast or slow, they don't care.

The laughing and laughable level of Sor's "Etude Number 12" played at super speed. Ridiculous, crazy, mucho fun!

Start "Alhambra" on that level.

What happens? Ridiculous and crazy become normal. Mucho fun is

normalized, and I move up.

It takes years for the gates to open. But once they do, the water flows through immediately and very fast!

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Strong and Comfortable is the New Normal

Annularus ("a") finger introduced its strength. My tremolo is all even now.

So, with all guitar barriers down, where do I go from here?

Once warmed-up, begin wild and crazy, loose and warm. Let this become the new normal.

"Alhambra" sails on at strong, comfortable pace.

Strong and comfortable is the new normal! And it starts with guitar but doesn't end there.

It's All So Clear

It's all so clear: Evil has to be defeated; good has to win. There can be no compromise. It's win or lose, period.

The battle takes place within each person, then moves from there into society, politics, diplomacy, and, if not dealt with and settled there, physical war.

The good has to be constantly maintained, the evil constantly beaten back. The battle between good and evil goes on forever.

So where do you start? In the only place you can, the only place you have control of: yourself. From there your results spread out to others.

When you feel helpless, there's nothing you can do about these grand world-wide situations and catastrophes, look within. Amazing what you will find.

Wild Sales Alhambra Campaign

Next challenge: Making emails fun!

I will learn EmailMerge, canva.com, making videos, using YouTube videos, all in the process of creating these email ads. I'll throw in writing, website, all my other skills: one grand smorgasbord of skills applied to sales. And I'll put these ads on Facebook, too.

"A" is the letter of the solidified, stable and strong, post-Covid, new normal

life. It stands for All, "Alhambra," Ads, A- team, and Amore. No more separation. All skills thrown into one grand (email) sales pot dancing together creating the Wild Sales/ Alhambra (All Is One) campaign.

Creating Fun

Attitude-wise, in order to do this, I have to put the desire to have fun, to create fun, above sales.

I like the phrase "create fun." In fact, like it better, much better than "having" fun. "Having fun" implies that fun is given to you from the outside, like a present. You have little to no control over it. "Creating fun" put it entirely in your hands. In addition you get "created in the image of God," Garden of Eden, Michelangelo, artistry.

I shall drop "having fun."

Parents tell their children "Go out and play. Have fun" Like you can have this apple, you can have fun. Permission and freedom comes from them as a reward, a gift. The freedom to have fun comes from them, not their kids.

Children have fun.

Adults create fun.

Monday, October 30, 2023

God bless clarity – and the sharp line between good and evil.

Inject creative fun into existential misery. Put humor and crazy fantasy into the clouds overhead, and watch them pass. Consciously, use will power to take the sores out of my (Fernando) Sor "Etude Number 12." Add the Pavane in Sea (C Pavane) fun-ny (knee) dance.

Ferdinand and the Light Touch

"I want to be big and strong," little Ferdinand complained on his sixth birthday as he stared across the Mediterranean from his family's Malaga apartment high on the hill. The sun burned the Spanish beaches on that cloudless July day.

His uncle, the great and wise Alberto Una Rocca, born in Arbeiter Auf Rhinestein, Bavaria, answered at the speed of light, "That's easy, Start off with a light touch."

“What?”

“A light touch, with both your right and left hand. That will create happiness quickly. In fact, with the light touch you can travel at the speed of light.”

“What? Slow down, Uncle. You talk so fast I can’t understand a word.”

Alberto slowed down, repeating his wisdom slowly. Freddie eye’s lit up. “Ah, now I see, ‘C,’ or ‘sea.’ But how will going faster make me taller?”

“Easy. Tall and fast are the same thing. It’s just a matter of seeing, C-ing, or seaing it that way.”

“I sea.”

“Indeed, you do. C-ing used to belong to a mere Pavane but now, using the light-touch method, everything that used to be two-or even three, or more, creating division, frustration, anger, misery, even hate – is now one. They and them become we and us. Energy equals Me and C squared.”

“Uncle Alberto, Mommy say that you are a genius.”

“It’s true. But so are you. You just have to see, C, sea it that way. But now, as your favorite uncle, I’m giving, it passing the genie of my genius, on to you. So from now on, it’s geni-Us.”

Then the two geniuses put on their bathing suits and walked down to the Malaga beach for a cool dip in the Mediterranean sea, C, sea.

Years later, when Freddie played guitar, he asked his uncle: “How can I have a sense of humor, have fun with the things I do, when I only see clouds of misery above?”

“Easy,” answered Uncle Alberto, “Force yourself. Use yur will power to focus. When those clouds pass, or the serpent of gloom, doom, and evil raises its head, spite it hard. In other words, kick the shit out of it. Don’t give an inch. As soon as its miserable, poisonous head pops up, crush and destroy it. Have no mercy. If you don’t kill it, it will kill you.”

“But dear uncle, isn’t that rather harsh? You know that, after growing up with Aunt Dolores, and other members or rather dismembers of my family, I can handle any snake.”

“Ah, but you must learn to distinguish one snake from another. Those snakes you’re thinking of love you and only want good things for you. They only look like snakes. The real ones often hide in your basement, and they slither away

and disappear as soon as you see them. They're smart, but don't be fooled."

"How can I learn to distinguish good from bad?"

"Easy. You're a guitar player. A clear tremolo is always on the side of goodness. Beware of the uneven tremolo. Keep practicing. Aim for clarity. An uneven tremolo is fickle and leans toward evil. It must be eradicated through deep finger and wrist relaxation, which leads to lightness, light, and infinite power. Keep practicing. Trading in evil for good is an unbeatable deal."

"You're right, Uncle. When my tremolo is even, it feels so pleasant and real."

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

The Creative Path

(The Garden Road Is Open)

Must I be creative every day?

Aside from rest and sleep, what else is there to do?

Basically, nothing. So there's no real choice; it's creative or else. So just shut up and do it. My path is right.

Even under the black cloud, create my way out of darkness. Between rounds lie fatigue, rest, and sleep. Not bad places to be. Plus, in those ki tov/hineh tov moments, I can relish the aaah of satisfaction after a job well done. If it's good enough for Him, it's good enough for me.

So roll on. Someday is today; the creative moment is now.

How will little Freddie Sor play his Number 12? Like a six year old? Older? So young is he, a mere child. What used to matter at six, at twelve doesn't matter any more. The biblical Lot veil has lifted, exposing childhood.

Freddie and friend Al (Hambra) sit on the living room floor playing with their blocks. And that's enough. Any other friends to invite? Maybe Jonny Bach from next door.

Very self-contained, Freddie feels liberated. How to fill the void of freedom? It's a giant hole, open space, before him.

Create a house, another note, a fresh song, plant flowers in the ditch. Make a ki tov moment. The garden road is open.

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Expressing and Expanding the Good

The pro-Hamas (so-called pro-Palestine) marches around the world and especially in this country totally disgust and enrage me. As we border on world war III, the final showdown between good and evil, between woke and the woken, is here.

What can, will, or must I do about it? If anything?

The only thing I can think of, something I might actually do, commit myself to, is keep studying. Torah and more.

Can I study harder, make a bigger commitment? Am I at maximum?

Here is my strange but astonishing conclusion: Retreat harder (into self) and study harder. That is my “method” of fighting the war.

Retreat hardens, toughens my inner core of resistance, rebellion, and creates explosives of dynamite and dynamism in its wake. I retreat through the tunnel to my cave in order to find and create new explosives and powers to fight. Mine is a quiet, persistent, unending resistance and rebellion against evil. I never give up, and I dive further within, creating more steel and iron, hardening my core, toughening the good, recognizing and rebelling against evil tendencies both within and without. Then someday, when and where the right time comes. I will use my skills and powers to fight the war.

How is this fighting self, hardened core of purpose, expressed? Through the arts. My guitar, writing, dancing, even tours and business, are about expressing and expanding the good. And this is something I can and will do.

First, I feel and know the good. Then work to express and expanding it.

Specifically, how is this done?

Guitar: With each note think: expressing and expanding the good. (Then add this idea to everything I do.)

Goodness has its own power and fire, fire power. To pulverize and burn away evil. Thus strong, powerful guitar playing pushes away – at least for awhile – the forces of evil.

Sor “Etude Number 12:” Shoot arrows of goodness across the bridge from inside (within) to outside (without, the public, audience). Connect two continents with a bridge of goodness.

The whole process is called “creating fun,” first by having it, then expressing and ex-panding it to the audience. It must be done on the spot, in the seize

the moment, right now, immediately. Everything else will take care of itself.

I have cleared the deck. New attitude is here. Annette asked me to lead singing at the New Year's party.

Group Singing and Comedy Routine.

Plus gaida, (Add folk dancing, writing as comedy routines.) This could be a whole new show. I can throw in anything, and everything I know and don't know. "The Group Singing Show: Anything goes, and comes."

Should I stand? for this show? (Stand-up comedy.) Bring a loousy guitar for the freedom and fun-ny of it. No classical guitar at all.)

(Now comes the backlash. Do I want to make this effort? We'll see. Only time will tell.)

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Is Group Singing and Comedy my new calling? Or is it a retreat into sleep, monastery, self, and preparation for the next world? Am I too "tired" to return to public life?

It's a big turning point question: Will I go forward by adding a group singing show? Or will I go backward, retreat into my fully utilized and employed present life?

Do I have the interest, energy, and power to ex-pand again? And am I really "fully employed?" Is there room? Is it too much to add a group singing show?

Could classical guitar playing ever be introduced as part of a group singing event? As part of its comedy?

A crack in the ice, a break.

My tremolo is a presentable tremolo now.

Friday, November 3, 2023

November Road

Guitar:

Play classical in the middle of Group Song Comedy Show.

The scale passage in "Pavane in A" is not "fast" but clear and strong.

A pavane is a dance. So is Sor's "Etude Number 12," in 3/4 time. Even "Alhambra" can be a dance. Play it as such.

The goal of "Etude Number 12" is to make Sor soar.

Dance, sway, and roll in my upper body. and even below, in the rocking Sor-Soar Waltz. Dance as I play.

First time "Alhambra" is slow, stately, meditative, sad, a river flowing waltz.

Sor's "Etude Number 12" is merry and soaring, Tarrega's "Alhambra" mystical and deep, with its never-ending question of "Why 2 and 3?" All-Is-One is the ultimate truth, and yet Al's accents are on 2 and 3. How wild and strange is that?

The ultimate rebellion against hate and depression is creating fun and joy. So, even though destruction is part of creation – and destruction isn't fun – both belong to the process path.

So take a good walk.

Fight or flight is a rule of life.

The root of hatred is fear.

Animals do not hate. But they do fear, flight, and fight.

When fear is not recognized and dealt with and is deflected, repressed, or forgotten, it can warp into hatred.