

Thoughts and Smiles – December 9, 2024

"Water does not resist. Water flows. When you plunge your hand into it, all you feel is a caress. Water is not a solid wall, it will not stop you. But water always goes where it wants to go, and nothing in the end can stand against it. Water is patient. Dripping water wears away a stone. Remember that, my child. Remember, you are half water. If you can't go through an obstacle, go around it. Water does."

- Margaret Atwood - *The Penelopiad*



Ivan Pili - She, the Power of Life, 2017.

If one day we swapped places -
I was you and you were me
I wonder what it is that both of us
Would actually see

I wonder if you'd notice
How your smile lights up your face
How when you walk into a room
You brighten up the place

I wonder if you'd see the way
You always make the time
For those who seek you out because
You're patient and you're kind

And maybe I would notice
How I always stand my ground
And how I lift up those I love
When they are lost or down

Perhaps I'd notice how
I'm quite content all by myself
And how I'm always there for others
When they ask for help

And if you felt your patience
And if you could see your smile
If I could help myself
And feel my kindness for a while

Then maybe we would understand
We cannot be defined
By all that we fixate on
In our mirrors and our minds



Yes, if we both swapped places
And had someone else to be
Perhaps we'd come to realise
There's so much we cannot see

And maybe in the moments
You were me and I was you
We would see why people love us
And we'd learn to love us too

Becky Hemsley 2023

- artwork by Katherine Quinn



"I had to post this moment I captured this afternoon; hope you enjoy it. I stopped by Dollar Tree off Lakeland this afternoon to pick up wrapping paper, and I couldn't help but be drawn to this. This older gentleman very softly said to the lady in the photo, "Mam, would you mind helping me out with something?" As she nodded, "Yes, of course. What do you need?" "I need help picking out a birthday card." "Who is it for?", she asked. This is where I started to sniffle.

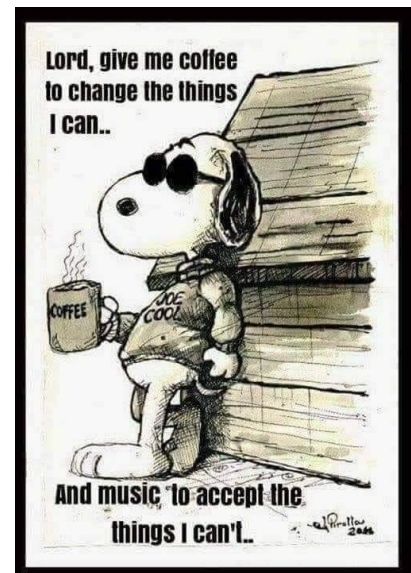
"It's for me, if I wake up tomorrow, I'll be 85." "My wife wanted to get me something, but she's very sick and cannot leave the house, and I want her to know I got a birthday card from her." He continued on to tell stories of how they've been married since they were teenagers, had children, and how she was there for him while he served in the military. It

was the picture of love you only read about. I felt so privileged to get to hear this conversation. Melted my heart. Hope you all enjoy."

Credit: Louisa Lenore McKinney

Have a terrific week!
 Blessings to you all!
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"Of course I try to communicate with him - I update my blog almost daily."



"If anyone here knows a reason why these two should not be wed, just add it to this massively long list I've already started."



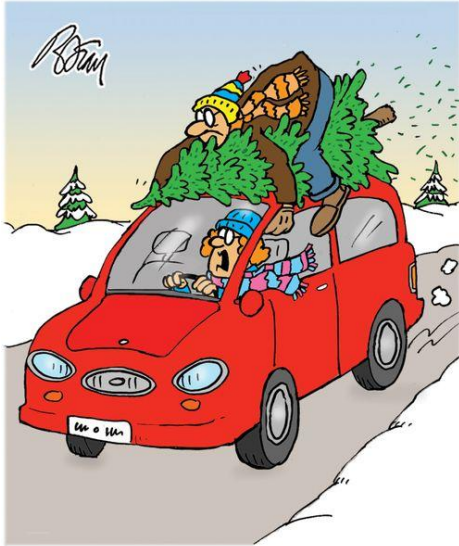
"Because, Madam, those paddles have a specific purpose, and waking your husband isn't one of them."



"Now I suppose you're going to complain that I slam the door too hard."

(Thanks, Gord W., for the comics above!)

(And thank you, Joan D., for the comics below!)



"WELL, MAYBE NEXT YEAR, YOU'LL REMEMBER THE ROPE!"



"WHEN YOU'RE DONE FOOLING AROUND WITH THOSE LIGHTS, COME AND EAT YOUR DINNER, IT'S GETTING COLD!"



"I THINK THIS PLACE HAS GONE A LITTLE OVERBOARD WITH THE HOMESTYLE COOKING THING!"



"OTHER THAN LEAVING THE LID OFF THE BLENDER, I THINK MY FIRST SMOOTHIE WENT RATHER WELL!"



"AND FOR YOUR DINING PLEASURE THIS EVENING WE ARE OFFERING TWO CHOICES: TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!"



"SO, I WENT INTO THIS FANCY NEW BUTCHER SHOP AND THEY WERE SELLING OSTRICH OF ALL THINGS!"