

A Short List of Books for the Up and Coming

Some Written Works That May Help Get the Young up to Speed



MICHAEL J. HOLSHOUSER

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Pronunciation: Holtzhowzer

*All have the express written encouragement
To distribute this creation freely to any and all
Who have the eyes to see and the ears to hear
The mystery in which each and every one
Equally participates in so many ways*

Preface

Greetings,

This is a short list of some of the insightful books that I have read through the years, that might be of interest to some of the young folks just getting started on their big adventure.

It is also blogged for online viewing:

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Writing has been an enjoyable process ever since I first began toying with prose; scribbling poetry, keeping journals, corresponding with friends and acquaintances during the college daze. The philosophical/mystical/whatever-you-want-to-call-them thoughts, that have been popping into mind since 1989, have always been very out-of-the-blue spontaneous. Nothing planned or forced about them. They are being shared on the off chance that others may find them of interest, though, quite frankly, it really does not matter if no one else ever even reads them, for I am, first and foremost, my own audience. I got mine, so to speak. I played my little part. I had my share of fun. And it is, as it has ever been, up to each to discern their own, on their own.

There are really no followers in this Don Quixote quest; only earnest seekers, who waylay their desires and fears and dreads, enough to discern that which is the end to doubt, the end to dueling with windmills. “Yay” if it is your fate to figure it out. “Oh well” if it is not. And “so it goes” either way, really. Ecclesiastes 1:2 is always a good reminder: “Vanity of vanities,” saith the Preacher, “Vanity of vanities. All is vanity.” Awareness can only, with great effort, regain control, regain sovereignty, from the usurper, imagination, creator of all that is time, creator of all that is space. Creator of all that is illusion, has never has been anything more than illusion, will never be anything more than illusion. Only as real as the given moment.

“The Stillness Before Time” is the original work that came together in 1992, including mostly aphorisms, an essay, a newspaper question-and-answer, ten reflections, and lists of both movies and books. Though an early self-published version, long since edited and expanded, can be purchased at major booksellers, a downloadable copy is available, no charge, at the link below. There are also links to a variety of blogs of other creations by me, along with links to many writings of a similar nature, by thinkers and seers from across all times, across all geographies. “The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim” is the second published book, and is both blogged and available as a PDF download.

The “Breadcrumbs” titles, published annually since 2015, all include the core chapters: Leftovers, Soundbites, Breadcrumbs. In the Breadcrumbs chapters, I unleash thoughts of a more personal nature than in the other two. All just to show I was ensconced in a living, breathing, relativity mundane, oftentimes foolish, mortal mind-body. An actor playing the hand that was dealt; same as everyone else, vain as everyone else. No need to sculpt me into more than I was. No need for myths, nor legends, nor fables, nor miracles, nor cult followings, nor any other fictions, any other absurdities, over to which the human mind, and all its imaginary history, has so often given itself. The Breadcrumbs chapters prove me again and again to be yet another Shakespearian player, as full of the limited and arbitrary as anyone else born into

this dream of space and time. So please be sure not to shape me, or these many random thoughts, into some dogmatic absurdity. Use them as a launchpad, not an orbit.

“The Return to Wonder” blog is a compendium of aphorisms not included in the three other works: *The Stillness Before Time*, *The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim*, and *Breadcrumbs*. It originally totaled 3,000 pages formatted in 300 ten-page chapters written since 1990-ish. A gradual editing that will likely never be completed, is changing that dynamic into something of a mishmash.

Please note that this sort of wordplay is very haphazard, way too much work to put into any order. Probably best read it in bits and pieces in the here and there. One of those open-to-any-page works. Especially well-suited for coffee shops, coffee tables, and porcelain thrones.

Also note that all writings are always subject to updates and editing, so if you are interested in the most current version – before this house of cards comes tumbling down, and the world grows large again – downloading PDF copies every once and a while might be a reasonable discipline. This applies especially to the current year of *Breadcrumbs*, which could well be an annual project until the last wheezing breath, though frankly, the temptation to stop writing entirely is not off the table. It is a pleasant way to pass some of the countdown remaining, but it is unlikely there is much ground that has not been wandered by this frame of reference far more than enough already. No matter how many times Sisyphus rolls the boulder up the mountain, it is more than a little doubtful that the blind men and their true-believer followers, will ever discern, ever realize, ever embrace, the elephant in the middle of the room, without fabricating some new form of absurdity. It is the way we roll, it is the way we have always rolled, it is the way we will, far more than probably, always roll. Every species has its limitations, and we have in this mind’s eye, far-exceeded ours.

That said, if you do find these many thoughts at all worth preserving, for whatever times are ahead for this world and all its life forms, please feel free to share them with others who might also appreciate them. Else they may well swiftly slip back into the timeless oblivion from whence they came.

So it goes, either way. I played my part, I said my piece, I had my fun.

All the best,

M

P.S. For best viewing online, using the largest screen you have available to explore my little theme park, is suggested. Scrolling down and down on a phone screen is just not going to give you the same entrée.

P.P.S. Regarding the name Yaj Ekim ... It is just a reverse spelling of the first and middle names ... Michael Jay Holshouser ... Mike Jay ... Yaj Ekim.

P.P.P.S. Coincidentally, make of it whatever you will, or will not, Yaj is an Indian boy’s name meaning worshipper, sacrifice, another name for Shiva, a sage. And Ekim is a Turkish name for October meaning “sowing” (of seeds). All kinds of absurdity can be read into that by the many so-inclined – none of which was in mind when I came up with the idea to reverse the letters to my name. See P.P.S. for details.

P.P.P.P.S. Yes, I am Shiva. And so are You. No, I am not Shiva. And neither are you. Irony and paradox rule.

The Stillness Before Time Website

The Stillness Before Time
Reflections From a Fellow Sojourner
<http://www.thestillnessbeforetime.com/>

There is really only one Way.
It is without division or boundary.
It is without name or theology.
Awareness is its scripture.
Here now, its venue.
You, its witness.
Your life, the journey.

A PDF is available at:
<http://www.thestillnessbeforetime.com/thestillnessbeforetime.pdf>

Main Blogs

The Stillness Before Time
Reflections From a Fellow Sojourner
<http://thestillnessbeforetime.blogspot.com/>

The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim
<http://theponderingsofyajekim.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2015
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time
<https://breadcrumbs2015.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2018
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time
<https://breadcrumbs2018.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2019
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time
<https://breadcrumbs2019.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2020
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time
<https://breadcrumbs2020yajekim.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2021
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time
<https://breadcrumbs2021.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2022
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time
<https://breadcrumbs2022.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2023 & Beyond
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time
<https://breadcrumbs2023.blogspot.com/>

The Return to Wonder
Field Notes From the Unknown
<http://thereturntowonder.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs: The Original Blog

Breadcrumbs: The Original Blog
https://michaelsbreadcrumbs.blogspot.com/2015/01/under-construction_28.html

Other Blogs by Michael

Michael's Rabbit Hole
A Selection of Breadcrumbs & Other Aphorisms
<https://michaelsrabbithole.blogspot.com/>

The Call of the Eternal
A Conversation With My Self
<https://thecalloftheeternal.blogspot.com/>

Imagination: The Great Usurper
<https://imaginationthegreatusurper.blogspot.com/>

Lost in Translation
The Human Paradigm's Linguistic Muddle
<https://lostintranslationyajekim.blogspot.com>

The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinking
<https://thegordianknotofethicalthinking.blogspot.com>

Mystery, Mystery & More Mystery
<https://mysterymysteryandmoremystery.blogspot.com/>

Imagination, Imagination & More Imagination
<https://imaginationandmoreimagination.blogspot.com/>

Doubt, Doubt & More Doubt
<https://doubtdoubtandmoredoubt.blogspot.com/>

Science, Science & More Science
<https://yajekimscienceandmorescience.blogspot.com>

History, History & More History
<https://historyhistoryandmorehistory.blogspot.com/>

Patterns, Patterns & More Patterns
<https://evenmorepatterns.blogspot.com/>

Reincarnation, Reincarnation & More Reincarnation
<https://reincarnationandmorereincarnation.blogspot.com/>

Standouts From “The Return to Wonder” Edit
Selections From the First Sixteen Chapters
<https://standoutsfromthereturntowonderedit.blogspot.com/>

Of the Human Journey
Along with Got God? And Ten Reflections
<https://ofthehumanjourney.blogspot.com/>

To Be, or Not to Be
<https://thetobeornottobeseries.blogspot.com/>

The Mystery of the Mystery
<https://themysteryofthemysteryseries.blogspot.com/>

Who Was the First?
<https://thewhowasthefirstseries.blogspot.com/>

The Real is Discovering
<https://therealisdiscoveringseries.blogspot.com/>

59 Moments to The Way It Is (And Is Not)
The Scribe's Guide to the Great Whatthe#*\$!?
<https://59momentstothewayitisandisnot.blogspot.com/>

Definitions
An Incomplete Selection of Contemplative Definitions
<https://definitionsyajekim.blogspot.com/>

Conversations
A Variety of Letters, Emails, Texts, & Sundry Odd 'n Ends
<https://conversationsyajekim.blogspot.com/2021/>

Titles, Titles & More Titles
<https://evenmoretitles.blogspot.com/>

Even More
<https://theevenmoreseries.blogspot.com/>

Sketches of the Once Upon a Time
A Few Epiphanies and Other Hallmark Moments
<https://sketchesoftheonceuponatime.blogspot.com/>

The Corollaries of Yaj Ekim
<https://corollariesyajekim.blogspot.com/>

Possible Last Words & Epitaphs
<https://possiblelastwordsandepitaphs.blogspot.com/>

The Standard Ripostes
The Scribe's Go-to Responses to This and That in the Day-To-Day
<https://thestandardripostes.blogspot.com/>

My (Not Quite) Haiku
<https://mynotquitehaiku.blogspot.com/>

Once Upon a Christmas
<https://onceuponchristmas.blogspot.com/>

Ditties for the Bluegrass Pyre
<https://dittiesforthebluegrasspyre.blogspot.com/>

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Spam Responses (a.k.a., WTF Is This Shit!?)
<https://spamresponsesakawtfisthisshit.blogspot.com/>

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The Prince by Machiavelli

The Art of War by Sun Tzu

Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell

Animal Farm by George Orwell

The True Believer by Eric Hoffer

How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie

Rules for Radicals by Saul D. Alinsky

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Earth Abides by George R. Stewart

The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz

Candide by Voltaire

Razor's Edge by Somerset Maugham

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert Pirsig

Zorba the Greek by Nikos Kazantzakis

Tom Jones by Henry Fielding

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand

Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz

50 Rules Kids Won't Learn in School by Charlie Sykes

Foundation Series by Isaac Asimov

Dune by Frank Herbert

Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

Watership Down by Richard Adams

The Lottery by Shirley Jackson

King Rat by James Clavell

Gormenghast by Mervyn Peake

The Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. Le Guin

The Godfather by Mario Puzo

Captains Courageous by Rudyard Kipling

Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury

Stranger in a Strange Land by Robert Heinlein

The Stranger by Albert Camus

The Myth of Sisyphus by Albert Camus

Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse

Demian by Hermann Hesse

Steppenwolf by Hermann Hesse

Narcissus and Goldmund by Hermann Hesse

Passages: Predictable Crises of Adult Life by Gail Sheehy