

Seeking Wosdom

by Robert Jameson



Why conform when it's so much more interesting not to?" Following on from "Here is Wosdom," Robert Jameson offers another selection of opinion pieces illustrating how intelligent thinking has almost nothing to do with political-correctness!

Warning: Contains material some may find offensive!

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Preface

In "Here is Wosdom," I described how intelligence is closely linked to a healthy disrespect for political-correctness.

In each chapter, I picked an interesting topic and demonstrated how intelligent thinking might require us to put aside the accepted opinions of the society we live in. I hoped to challenge the reader to question things they might never have questioned before.

In "Seeking Wosdom" I offer some more examples of politically-incorrec, intelligent thinking. Each chapter offers an opinion that challenges conventional thinking in one way or another.

There's no need to read either the books or the chapters in order. You can do if you want to, but you can equally well dip into any chapters that catch your eye, in any order you wish.

I ought to note that the opinions expressed in this book are not necessarily my own. That is, I did write them and I didn't copy them from anywhere else - but what I'm saying is that my chief concern in writing each chapter was to be thought-provoking, rather than to accurately portray my exact personal opinions or to convince anybody to share them.

This book is intended to interest and entertain you. Consequently, you will find some strong opinions and some strong language. I personally find this approach much more entertaining than wishy-washy don't-want-to-offend-anyone opinions - and I hope you will too!

Robert Jameson

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Intelligence is not Free

There seems to be a widespread assumption that everyone has a right to be just as intelligent as anyone else. It is a major social taboo to suggest otherwise - as shown by people's reactions when you do so!

As a general rule, however, being really good at something requires lots and lots of practice. And yet people frequently refuse to accept that practising thinking has any impact at all on how good you are likely to be at it.

People readily accept that to be, for example, a top tennis player, even the most naturally talented person needs to put in a huge amount of practice. People don't expect to be good at tennis when they've never practised. They accept that they will almost certainly be outplayed by someone who does practise tennis regularly.

Many people refuse, however, to accept that someone who has practised thinking is likely to be far better at it than they are - more intelligent because they've actually practised the skills of intelligent thinking!

I don't assume I can play the piano as well as the world's top pianists - I haven't practised! When it comes to intelligent thinking, however, many people expect to be magically good at it. Having never properly exercised their own minds, they refuse to accept that decades of practice might make me a more intelligent thinker than they are. They refuse to accept that their own lack of practice is any sort of handicap at all! Now, am I being arrogant, or is it them?

Having an intelligent opinion about something

requires you to question it. You have to think it through. You have to consider the possibilities. You have to look for flaws in your own arguments. You can't just accept the first thing that comes into your head or lazily go along with whatever ideas happen to be popular.

The price of intelligence is measured in hours and the willingness to open up your mind and question what most people do not. Being intelligent takes dedication. Intelligence is not free!

Balance

It's very PC, safe and conciliatory for politicians (and others), when faced with a dispute of some kind between two opposing sides with opposing arguments, to say, "Well, it's a question of finding a balance between the two."

Sometimes, it is reasonable to seek this "balance" between opposing concerns, but, very often, all this balance-seeking by politicians is just a bullshit smokescreen to cover up for their lack of principles and general gutlessness. It's simply a case of them resorting to expediency when they haven't been thoughtful or courageous enough to recognise and follow fundamental principles and decide upon clear priorities.

For example; "We've got to find a balance between allowing freedom of speech and preventing people being caused offence." Bollocks! No we don't! We just have to decide what is more important - Freedom of Speech or pandering to people who want to dictate to the rest of us what we are or aren't allowed to say. Principles, for fuck's sake! You allow freedom of speech and anyone who wants it to be abandoned in order to protect their precious sensitivities can take a running jump - there's no fucking balancing to be done!

Or, when religious people express "negative" views about homosexuals, "We've got to find a balance between people's religious freedoms and people's rights not to be discriminated against." Bollocks! No we don't! There are clear principles involved!

Homosexuals should have every right to engage in whatever sexual practices they like amongst consenting adults, and religious people should be

totally free to criticise them or deride such practices as sinful and abhorrent. And if a homosexual ridicules Islam or if a Muslim hotel owner refuses to give a room to a homosexual couple, what business is that of the state?

In such cases, the state only has a balancing dilemma because it has started down the slippery slope of interfering in people's private lives and seeking to dictatorially impose its own value systems on private individuals.

Our political leaders seek a "balance" because they've been pandering to disparate interest groups, offering them all sorts of "rights" they can never deliver (including the absurd idea that you can have a right not to be discriminated against by anyone, ever!) and now they're in a quandary because two or more of these ridiculous "rights" have been shown to conflict with each other. They're left having to find a "balance" that avoids any extreme backlash from either side, but resolves nothing.

Occasionally, on some more practical issues, an optimal solution can be found at some sort of midpoint. Often, however, this "middle way" is merely the result of dithering, cowardice and fruitless compromise that seeks to avoid serious debate or conflict rather than to find solutions that might actually work!

Very often, "balance" does not lead to an optimal, or even desirable, outcome. Indeed, it is often the case that decisive action in one direction or decisive action in the completely opposite direction can bring results - but 'umming and ahing' in between brings only disaster!

For example, it may be politically-incorrect, but if our schools reintroduced the cane and had old-

fashioned iron-fisted discipline, this could bring enormous dividends in terms of educational attainment. No longer would bright students be continually interrupted by the poor behaviour of others.

On the other hand, if we took completely the opposite approach and said that children didn't have to turn up to classes if they didn't want to and didn't even have to turn up to school, this would also bring enormous dividends because pupils who want to learn would no longer be hindered by the mindless yobs who messed around all the time because they didn't even want to be in school in the first place.

The middle way, however, is a disaster. Yes, yobbish children are forced to go to school, but they aren't interested in learning anything and the discipline is not sufficient to make them learn - so they spend their time in school disrupting the lessons of children who do want to learn.

Another problem is that "balance" often ends up splitting valuable resources between two (or more) divergent objectives, neither of which is ultimately achieved. It would have been better to have made a decisive decision about which objective to pursue and to have put all available effort and resources into that - and thus, perhaps, actually achieving something!

For example, we provide aid to dozens of countries around the world - but that aid is spread so thinly that it is doubtful whether it makes any lasting difference to any one of them. Wouldn't it be better to pick a single country - one that was actually grateful for our help and was willing to fully cooperate with us in order to make the most of our investment? Maybe then we could actually solve

some of that country's problems. Instead, the government spreads aid around so that it can make endless announcements, jump on every passing bandwagon for a short trip and claim to be everyone's friend whilst, ultimately, failing to actually solve any problems at all or achieve anything of lasting consequence.

The idea of "balance" has a place, but all too often it is the expedient resort of lily-livered, fudge-seeking, compromise fanatics, too afraid of upsetting people to express any clear values and principles and too indecisive even to decide upon priorities. The "midpoint solution" is reached for only because the people involved just don't have the balls to make clear, principled, decisive decisions that could actually make a positive and meaningful difference to our lives and the future wellbeing of our society or the world in general.

Inappropriate

It makes me sick when people bang on about this, that and the other being "inappropriate," and effect vociferous disapproval of such things without giving so much as a moment's thought as to what "inappropriate" actually means or whether there's actually anything wrong with being inappropriate.

Someone says, "Oh, you can't do that!"

"Why not?" you ask.

The reply comes back; "It's inappropriate!" - with an implicit full stop firmly attached!

At this point, try surprising them with this awkward and unexpected poser; "So?"

If something is genuinely wrong, you can just say, "It's wrong!" The term "inappropriate" is used when you want to stain a person's character without actually having any evidence of actual wrongdoing!

And now "inappropriate" has become a word with strong sexual connotations. "Inappropriate behaviour" could refer to a million different things, but now, thanks to consistent propaganda, the first thing that pops into your head when you hear these words is some kind of sordid sexual shenanigans or even abuse.

Some people in positions of authority are even using the "i" word in deliberately misleading ways - describing ludicrously minor incidents as "inappropriate," knowing full well that this will conjure up distasteful images about the accused in people's minds.

Inappropriate - in most cases, it's a word we shouldn't even be using. If something is wrong, say it is wrong! Show us your direct evidence and

argue your moral case!

People use "inappropriate" to describe behaviour that isn't actually wrong, but which, for some (often irrational) reason, they don't like or might associate with things they don't like. They may have irrational or speculative ideas about what such behaviour might lead to or what motivations might be behind it.

The word, "inappropriate" is then used to discourage what might be perfectly innocent behaviour and to punish the people who have engaged in it by stoking up totally unjustified suspicions of sexual misconduct.

Ludicrous examples are particularly rife in education. A teacher uses his arm to comfort a child whose favourite aunt has died - or he gives a book as a gift to a particularly bright pupil and is accused of "grooming" them. Instead of supporting the teacher and insisting on solid evidence of actual wrongdoing, many senior staff prefer to distance themselves from any hint of trouble and often exaggerate the seriousness of the incident so that they can rid themselves of any teacher who causes them aggravation by not adhering to the strict social guidelines on what is and isn't "appropriate."

Gutless, ignorant people use the "inappropriate" description to vindictively denounce people just because they are uncomfortable about something. They're not interested in considering the rights and wrongs of the issue using rational analysis and a principled approach - and they certainly don't want to be bothered with having to collect any real evidence of actual wrongdoing. Lazily waving an accusatory finger with a vague, though often totally unjustified hint of sexual misconduct is

perfectly good enough as far as they are concerned!

Women's Sports

Why do we have women's sports? Why can't women just compete with the men?

"But that would be unfair!" some might argue. They may say that, in many sports, especially the ones that require physical strength, women are genetically disadvantaged. So? Lots of people are genetically disadvantaged. You wouldn't expect a 5ft 2in man to win the men's 100m - but you don't get a special Olympic event for short people.

You might get a paralympics event for people with "dwarfism" - but then, if women need a special event because of the genetic disadvantages that handicap them, perhaps that should be in the paralympics too!

In the Olympics, the men's 100m and 200m track events are almost always won by black men of West African descent. They have a genetic advantage, so everyone else is at a genetic disadvantage, but you don't have a special 100m for white men or for Asian men, so why have a special race for women?

We even have separate women's events in many sports where there is no obvious physical disadvantage anyway.

Thinking about it rationally, most women's events don't make much sense in a world where we are supposed to have put patronising sexism behind us. I'm not suggesting they should be banned by law - but I think it's ridiculous to insist that such events should have equal prominence as the "men's" events.

Of course, in many sports, the women-only events aren't treated with the same respect as the open-

to-both-sexes main tours. For example, women are free to compete with the men at the top level of golf or snooker or motor racing if they can. There are women-only events, but these don't get anything like the news coverage, prestige or money that the "men's" events get.

In other sports, however, the story is different. Tennis is a good example. The women often seem to assume that they ought to get the same coverage, the same prestige and the same money as the men, even though they often play fewer sets - but why should they? They should have to compete directly with the men. "But women can't compete with Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal!" So? Neither can I - but I don't expect a special event to be invented just so I can win Wimbledon anyway!

Why shouldn't the best women just compete with the men? If they're not good enough to compete with the best men, then they can compete lower down the leagues like everyone else has to.

In an applaudably non-sexist way, spectators generally want to see the athletes with the highest levels of skill, the greatest speed and strength and the most cunning - regardless of whether they are male or female, black or white. We want to see the people with the skills to compete at the highest level. For the paying public, lower leagues or women-only events are of less interest and importance - and we ought to be allowed to treat them as such without being irrationally and unreasonably accused of being sexist.

Presumed Guilty

When a high-profile criminal court case comes to a conclusion, the news journalists like to interview the police for their reactions to the verdict.

When a guilty verdict is given, the police say how pleased they are with the "successful" prosecution. An understandable reaction, perhaps!

But when a defendant is found "not guilty," spokespeople for the police (and the Crown Prosecution Service) say how they feel they "put a very strong case" and that they're "naturally very disappointed with the verdict." Indeed, often, they can hardly hold back their utter contempt for the judge, the jury and the court system in general. We're used to this reaction and, usually, nobody bats an eyelid, but when you stop to think about it, it's a fucking disgrace!

Whatever happened to "innocent unless proven guilty"? When a man is found not guilty, he should have every right to be treated as if he is totally innocent, especially by the police.

What the police should say is; "Naturally we're delighted that this totally innocent man has been found not guilty and is free to carry on his life. We're not here to judge people. We don't take a position on the guilt or innocence of a defendant. Innocent unless proven guilty - that's our motto! Our job is simply to put the evidence we have before the court - it is the job of the jury to look at that evidence and decide if there is proof of guilt. In this case, the defendant was found not guilty. We're only sorry for the trouble this innocent man has been put through. We hope he understands that we were just doing our jobs and we wish him

all the best for the future."

When the police say how disappointed they are by a not guilty verdict, isn't that a grossly unprofessional, arrogant and frankly disgusting thing to say? Their private opinions are their own business, but to say something like that in their official capacity is something else. Why on Earth would they be disappointed that an innocent man won't be going to jail?

What they are effectively saying is, "We don't give a toss what the court says! We don't care about the due process of law! The court may have 'let them off,' but we know they did it," thus setting themselves up as the ultimate arbiters of guilt or innocence.

Their attitude is; "The bastard's guilty - and anyone who says otherwise is a fucking stupid wanker!" A minor inconvenience, such as not actually having the evidence to prove the defendant's guilt, is not going to affect their opinion in any way. They can barely contain their disgust. This is not just an obscenely arrogant position, but an extremely dangerous one too.

Our society is being steadily brainwashed into seeing *any* guilty verdict as a "success" and *any* not guilty verdict as a "failure." Many a despot dictator or repressive regime would be proud of such a "progressive" attitude!

Poppies

As Remembrance Day approaches in November each year, millions of people in the UK participate in the tradition of buying and displaying poppies - usually of the plastic variety.

Despite being politically-correct, it is still a perfectly fine tradition - in theory - except that there is now a major problem with it! It may be almost unthinkable to most people to criticise the wearing of poppies - but it needs to be done, and here's why:

The poppies are supposed to encourage us to remember the sacrifices of heroic soldiers (and others) who lost their lives in wartime to protect our freedoms. But how can you remember these sacrifices if you never knew, were never educated about our history?

It's become cringingly popular during remembrance events, services and television programmes to "roll out the kids" to spout some thoughtless bullshit about "I think it's important to remember..." - but remember *what* exactly? They know nothing! How can they remember what they never learnt in the first place?

The knowledge and understanding of history amongst our general population is appalling. A sizeable proportion of school-leavers wouldn't even be able to recognise a photograph of Winston Churchill. And Clement Attlee? "Who's he?" they'd almost certainly ask! In one survey, a sixth of the population, faced with a multiple-choice question about Hitler, opted for the answer that said he was a German football coach.

For millions of people, wearing a poppy has

become a substitute for remembering - a way they can pretend to care when they don't - and it's a fucking disgrace! People buy and display poppies precisely so they don't have to remember - and that defeats the object of having them.

I wouldn't dream of denigrating the veterans and others for whom wearing a poppy is a meaningful symbol of their genuine desire to mark the sacrifices of fallen heroes. For most people, however, the whole poppy-wearing culture is just a ritual that does little more than disguise our society's general ignorance and lack of understanding or genuine empathy.

Most people are not grateful for the sacrifices made on their behalf in wars. They do not appreciate that it is sometimes necessary to fight to protect freedoms. They do not understand the difficult decisions faced by leaders in wartime. Many of them unthinkingly oppose the use of force and would not support the lifting of a single finger to defend anyone's freedoms except their own!

If a Hitler figure arose today, I doubt if any sort of majority could be assembled to stand up for the lives or freedoms of people who cannot defend themselves.

The majority of people in this country neither know nor understand our history. They have little or no interest in history or the lessons of history. They simply do not care! The only really useful thing they could do with a poppy is to choke on one!

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End of sample!

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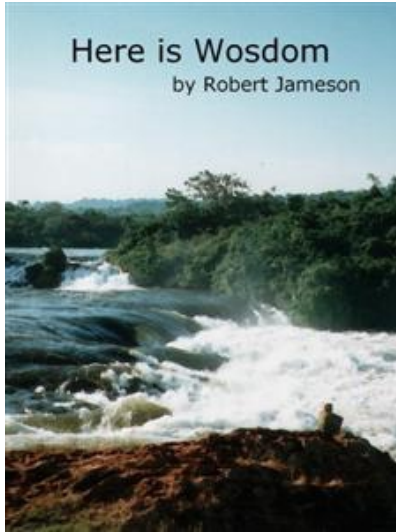
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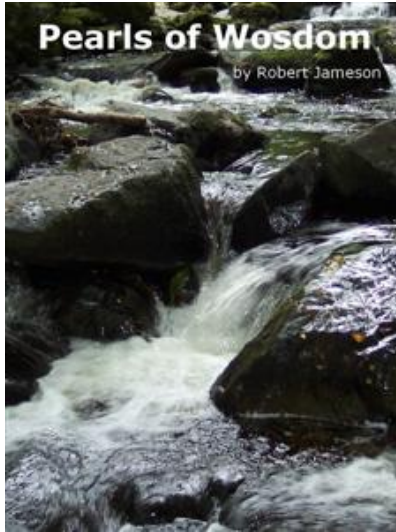


Intelligence is born out of the willingness to question what we are told - whatever it may be! Each chapter in this book asks us to do just that - question accepted ideas and popular opinions - and through questioning them, develop the ability to overcome the prejudices that stand between us and greater intelligence.

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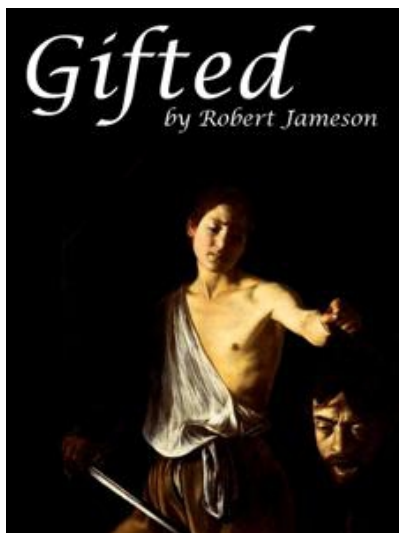


The key to intelligence is to be able to overcome the prejudices of the society we live in and thus free our minds to think beyond what society assumes to be correct and beyond what it deems to be 'acceptable.' Please note that the Wosdom books can be read in any order.

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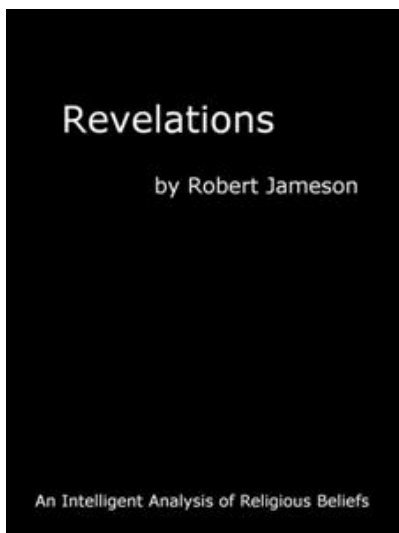


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