Beauty and the Beast

**The darkness shall not be dark to thee,**

**but the night shines as the day;**

**the darkness and the light are both alike to thee*.
(Psalm 139:12)***

**He who is among you without sin,**

**let him first throw a stone at her.**

***(St. John 8:7)***

**We all carry within us our ravages, our crimes, our places of exile. *(Albert Camus)***

**People aren't either wicked or noble. They're like chef's salads, with good things and bad things chopped and mixed together in a vinaigrette of confusion and conflict. *(Lemony Snicket)***

**Man: "I made you sugar-free cookies ... with raisins!" Garfield: "Have you always had this dark side?" (Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)**

**When Leonardo da Vinci was painting his masterpiece “The Last Supper”, he sought long for a model for his Christ. At last he located a chorister in one of the churches of Rome who was lovely in life and features, a young man named Pietro Bandinelli. Years passed, and the painting was still unfinished. All the disciples had been portrayed save one – Judas Iscariot. Now he started to find a man whose face was hardened and distorted by sin – and at last he found a beggar on the streets of Rome with a face so villainous; he shuttered when he looked at him. He hired the man to sit for him as he painted the face of Judas on his canvas. When he was about to dismiss the man, he said, “I have not yet found out your name.” “I am Pietro Bandinelli,” he replied. “I also sat for you as your model of Christ. *(Indian Christian, as it appeared in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, by Paul lee Tan, p. 1286)***

**When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but with creatures of emotion, creatures bristling with prejudice and motivated by pride and vanity. (Dale Carnegie)**

**Are we destined to forever experience such extremes of cruelty and kindness? In one of history's most remarkable correspondences, Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud asked the same question, and their answer is yes. Einstein's letter concluded that "man has in him the need to hate and destroy." In his reply, Freud agreed "unreservedly," adding that human instincts could be divided into two categories: "those which seek to preserve and unite, and those which seek to destroy and kill." He wrote that the phenomenon of life evolves from these two instincts (which we could call love and fear) working together and against each other. Gavin de Becker in Fearless, p. 179)**

**A native American parable expresses the truth about us in simpler terms: "Inside of me there are two dogs, one evil and one good. The evil dog and good dog fight all the time. Which dog wins? The one I feed the most." (Gavin de Becker in Fearless, p. 180)**

**My front is a happy front, but I couldn't write some of those songs without a dark side. (Dido, singer-songwriter)**

**An applicant for a job admitted to the personnel manager that he had both good and bad traits. “What are they?” he was asked. “Well,” the man said, “on the good side I can do the job better than any man in the world. Twenty of the country’s largest companies are bidding for my services. I could probably double your business within a month, if you hire me.” “That’s very impressive,” said the manager. “Now, what are your bad traits?” “Well,” replied the applicant, “there’s only one – I have been known to exaggerate now and then . . . .” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I have never seen a greater monster or miracle than myself. *(Montaigne)***

**The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart? *(Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, author)***

**History "is full of ugly people" who did things worthy of honor. "'All men are created equal' was a great ideal that came from the pen of someone who certainly failed to live the words in his own life," the slaveholder Thomas Jefferson. "But the phrase retains its power nonetheless." We like to think the world has obvious heroes and obvious villains, but "most of the good things we have now were the products of flawed people doing their best." Holding people from centuries past to modern moral standards will require taking down most statues and renaming most buildings. *(The Week magazine, December 4, 2015)***

**The ideal is in you and the impediment is in you too. *(Carlyle)***

**A key to understanding the Gospels lies in the awareness that the Christ, the spiritual man, spoke often through Jesus, the natural man; and that again at times the natural man, Jesus, spoke on his own account. Spiritual understanding must reveal to us when it was that Christ spoke and when it was that Jesus spoke. In such instances when Jesus spoke words out of anger or grief -- this was Jesus speaking from human consciousness. But when He spoke such words as: “He that believeth in me, the works that I do shall he do also,” He spoke from the Christ consciousness. (A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 18)**

**There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his. *(Helen Keller)***

**I am, in plainer words, a bundle of prejudices made up of likings and dislikings. *(Charles Lamb)***

**Part of me suspects that I’m a loser, and the other part of me thinks I’m God Almighty. *(John Lennon)***

**The Korean scientist who admitted to faking his cloning-research results is now saying that it wasn’t his fault. He blames his evil twin. *(Jay Leno, on The Tonight Show - NBC)***

**If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart. *Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, in The Gulag Archipelago)***

**Some of the most capable people in history have lost this sense of perspective and have been driven by their anxieties to act in ways which destroyed them. Stephen Foster, torn by inner conflicts, drank himself into the gutter; Edgar Allan Poe, stung by slander and neglect, antagonized the very people who most wanted to serve him; Benedict Arnold betrayed his country because of his bitter humiliation at lack of promotion. We could all lesson our anxieties greatly if we could lessen the sense our own importance. (Ardis Whitman, in Reader’s Digest)**

**The wise man and the foolish man, the kind man and the cruel man, the loving man and the hateful man, the stingy man and the generous man, the hungry man and the full man, the happy man and the troubled man, the weak man and the strong man, the good man and the bad man, the live man and the dead man, the poor man and the rich man, the timid man and the courageous man, the sick man and the healthy man, the old man and the young man, the erratic man and the sane man--these, and a thousand other types of man as active personalities, occupy the consciousness of every human being. *(Charles Fillmore, in The Twelve Powers of Man, p. 35)***

**The natures of dogs, swine, vipers, of Sodom and Egypt, Pharaoh, Cain, Ishmael, Esau, etc. The natures of these I saw within, though people had been looking without. *(George Fox, the spiritual-minded Quaker)***

**When I run from my failures and deny they exist, I remember the New Testament does not hide the dark patches and neither should I. Peter denied; Thomas doubted; Judas betrayed. Ananias and Sapphira cheated; Demas quit; Mark ran home to his mother. The Corinthians were stingy and the Galatians were taken for a ride by false teachers. (Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Seasonings , p. 66)**

**Those who have nothing but virtues are not much better than those who have nothing but faults. (Bits & Pieces)**

**In every calm and reasonable person, there is a hidden second person scared witless about death. *(Philip Roth)***

**When Pope John Paul II is beatified on May 1, it will mark a new “land-speed record for arrival at the final stage before sainthood,” said John Allen Jr. in Newsweek. It’s been only six years since crowds chanted “Santo subito!” – “Sainthood now” – at John Paul’s funeral. But the rush to make the widely respected, Polish-born pope a saint has raised questions for some Catholics, who contend John Paul failed to respond properly to the Catholic Church’s sex-abuse scandal. “How can you be a saint if you fail to protect innocent children?” asked Maureen Dowd in The New York Times. Despite repeated warnings from cardinals and bishops that the crisis was widespread, John Paul buried his head in the sand. He did nothing when informed of multiple sex-abuse allegations against one of his favorite clerics, the Rev. Marcial Maciel Degollado, the founder of the ultraorthodox Legion of Christ; indeed, he continued to let Maciel accompany him on foreign trips. “Hold the halo” – John Paul has a fatal flaw. What human being is not flawed? said George Weigel in National Review. John Paul had such innocent faith in Maciel and other priests that it took him time to believe the allegations, but once he did, “he took decisive action,” telling American cardinals that “there is no place in the priesthood for those who would harm the young.” Rather than focus on that one sad period, we should focus on John Paul’s life as a whole, said Vincent Carroll in The Denver Post. Growing up in Poland, he resisted the “exterminating jackals of Adolf Hitler” during World War II, helped trigger the peaceful uprising in Poland in the 1980s “that eventually dismantled the Soviet bloc,” and forged new links with other faiths. In his long lifetime and 27-year papacy, John Paul was “the most influential Christian of the past century.” He was also clearly “a man of contradictions,” said Bryan Cones of USCatholic,org. Warm and human in his public appearances, John Paul refused to tolerate dissent from his conservative rollback of the Vatican II reforms, and insisted that only Catholics had access to heaven. That’s not to say that he’s not worthy of sainthood, however, because “business is not the same as perfection.” We honor saints because of their “heroic response to God’s offer of grace, even if that grace” does not overcome the “fatal flaw every hero seems to have.” (The Week magazine, May 6, 2011)**

**Among the remote relatives of Prince Charles, according to those who check out blood lines, were Genghis Khan, George Washington and Count Dracula. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It is the weakness and danger of republics that the vices as well as virtues of the people are represented in their legislation. *(Helen Hunt Jackson, author)***

**Royal bloodline in doubt: It's the latest sex scandal to hit the royal family -- and it took place hundreds of years ago. DNA analysis on Richard III, the 15th-century king whose remains were discovered in 2012 under a parking lot in the English town of Leicester, has suggested that he or other members of his family were illegitimate, potentially casting doubt on his and subsequent monarchs' claim to the throne. That the remains are Richard's is not in question: Researchers confirmed his female bloodline last year by matching his DNA to that of two living descendents. But when they tried to do the same for the male bloodline, comparing Richard's Y chromosome with that of five living descendents of his great-great-great-grandfather Edward III, there was no match. This, researchers say, suggests that one of Richard's direct female relatives must have been unfaithful, resulting in the birth of an illegitimate child. If this break in the family lineage occurred before Richard took the throne in 1483, it undermines his claim to the throne through the royal bloodline. "We may have solved one historical puzzle," said genealogist Kevin Schurer, "but in so doing, we opened up a whole new one." *(The Week magazine, December 19, 2014)***

**I have seen the sea when it is stormy and wild; when it is quiet and serene; when it is dark and moody. And in all its moods, I see myself. (Martin Buxbaum, in Table Talk)**

**It is true that we are weak and sick and ugly and quarrelsome, but if that is all we ever were, we would, millenniums ago, have disappeared from the face of the Earth. (John Steinbeck)**

**When we suppress any feeling or impulse, we are also suppressing its polar opposite. If we deny our ugliness, we lessen our beauty. If we deny our fear we minimize our courage. If we deny our greed, we also reduce our generosity. *(Debbie Ford, in The Dark Side of the Light Chasers)***

**THE ENEMY WITHIN: Six-year-old Larry had gone to the dentist and was quite surprised to learn that he had several new cavities instead of just the one he knew about. “It must be because of your sweet tooth,” his mother commented after he came home. “Why don’t we have the dentist pull it the next time?” Larry suggested. “Then the others will be all right.” *(Roberta Rich, in Catholic Digest)***

**There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us. That it hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us. *(Edward Hoch)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*What did Mark Twain mean when he said everybody’s a moon? Everybody has a dark side that’s never shown. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Everyone is a moon, and has a dark side which he never shows to anybody. (Mark Twain, in Pudd'nhead Wilson)**

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**Though we live in space-age times, we still have stone-age minds. In addition to the qualities we can be proud of, we are competitive and territorial and greedy and domineering -- Americans and Middle Easterners alike. And we are violent. There are people who insist this isn't so, who insist they could never harm anyone, but they invariably add a telling caveat: "Unless, of course, a person tried to take my child." Then that peaceful soul would stab, shoot, bludgeon -- whatever it might take to protect her child. So the resource of violence is in everyone. All that changes is our view of the justification. *(Gavin de Becker, in Fearless, p. 180)***

**The otter is a weasel. It has a lovable disposition. The fisher is a weasel. It has a hateful disposition. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The saintly and the cynical, the divine and the diabolical, the courageous and the cowardly, all these aspects lie dormant in us and will act out if they are not the recognized and integrated into our psyches. Many of us are frightened of the light as well as the dark. Many of us are frightened to look within ourselves, and fear has us put up walls so thick we no longer remember who we really are. *(Debbie Ford, in The Dark Side of the Light Chasers)***

**You’re only given a little spark of madness. You mustn’t lose it. (Robin Williams)**

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