**Captivity**

**Which jazz legend first learned to play the trumpet while serving time in a reformatory? Louis Armstrong. *(Ed Lucaire, in Celebrity Setbacks)***

**You can cage the singer, but not the song. *(Harry Belafonte)***

**And to you taxpayers out there, let me say this: Make sure you file your tax return on time! And remember, that even though income taxes can be a “pain in the neck,” the folks at the IRS are regular people just like you, except they can destroy your life. Also, please send me food in prison. *(Dave Berry)***

**Did blacks in the colonial United States ever own white slaves? Yes. Until some of the colonial legislatures outlawed it. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Diggers have unearthed bones of slaves and masters from St. Mary’s, an early American colony on Chesapeake Bay. The slaves’ bones are straight, the masters distorted. All the diggers can figure out is: The slaves drank water from its source, but the masters drank water piped through lead. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A privately printed book on prison life was sent off to the bindery with orders to put it in “something appropriate.” The bookbinder bound it in zebra hide. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Most people in Brazil’s Brasilia – civil servants – are forbidden by law to live anywhere else. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**John Bunyan, author of Pilgrim’s Progress, wrote most of his famous book while in jail. He was imprisoned for twelve years for preaching without a license. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 88)***

**The frustrating thing about cages is that you're trapped but you can see exactly what you want. You can reach out from the cage, but only so far. *(Roxane Gay, memoirist)***

**The saga of a caterpillar becoming a butterfly has amazed and inspired countless generations. Here is a soft, wiggly worm who weaves around itself a cocoon. Over a period of time, great changes take place inside the cocoon. One day the cocoon begins to crack open and before long a bright, winged creature emerges into the light. *(Edie & Tom Skalitzky, Unity ministers)***

**A starfish devours a clam. The clam then seals shut its shell and marks time for about 14 days in the intestinal tract, until the starfish excretes it. The clam then goes off on its own again, unharmed. (L. M. Boyd)**

**A coyote raised by other coyotes will be forever fearful of people, but if captured early enough can be domesticated. When turned loose, she stays with the people who have reared her and romps with the children and responds to her name. (George Laycock, in Reader’s Digest)**

**You dream of escape; but do not run away in order to be free. If you fly from yourself, your prison will run with you. *(Gustave Thibon, French philosopher)***

**For generations the eagle was a familiar – and thrilling – sight. The great bird can weigh 15 pounds, have a wingspan of seven feet, and live up to 30 years in the wild and 50 years in captivity. *(Mark Walters, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Nobody knows what fireflies eat. In captivity, they all starve to death. (Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 185)**

**Goldfish will grow according to the size of the body of water that they are contained. *(Linda York)***

**Charles Goodyear, the originator of vulcanized rubber, was in jail for debt when he started his experiments. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 113)***

**In the wild, a groundhog lives an average of six years, while the age of those in captivity may reach double digits. *(Tidbits of Denver)***

**Stardom can be a gilded slavery. *(Helen Hayes)***

**O. Henry, the pseudonym of William Sidney Porter (1862-1910), was serving three years in prison for embezzlement when he began to write short stories. Upon his release, he gained national fame with 300 stories, most of which had a surprised ending. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 200)***

**A female hornbill lays her eggs in a tree hollow and seals herself up inside for the duration, relying on her mate to supply food through a small slit. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 159)***

**The Japanese kamikaze pilots of World War II were given privileged treatment and considered to be heroes. All volunteers, they underwent rigorous training that prepared them for their suicide missions. If they refused to stay in the corps, they were shot as traitors. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 258)***

**In a consumer society there are inevitably two kinds of slaves: the prisoners of addiction, and the prisoners of envy. *(Ivan Illich, philosopher)***

**Dr. Phil was on the show. He made me finally come to terms that I am trapped inside a man’s body. *(David Letterman)***

**Lions in captivity don’t have the strength to jump that far, but they live twice as long. *(Joe Policy)***

**Some 480,000 suspects are currently locked up in American jails awaiting trial. About 75 percent of them are low-level offenders accused of nonviolent infractions, and are in jail simply because they can't afford to post bail. *(WashingtonPost.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 26, 2015)***

**Indeed, 80 percent of all the mammals capable of breeding in captivity at this latter-day Noah’s Ark (The San Diego Zoo) have given birth. And the survival rate of the offspring for the first year is 75 percent, five times greater than in the wild. *(Richard Bode)***

**A man will be imprisoned in a room with a door that’s unlocked and opens inwards as long as it does not occur to him to pull rather than push. *(Ludwig Wittgenstein)***

**Moths go through four stages of development. First they are eggs. Then they are larvae or caterpillars. Next they are pupae or chrysalides. From this last stage they emerge as full-sized, four-winged, six-legged creatures. Safely hidden in a cocoon, nature turns them into an adult moth. *(Larry Masidlover)***

**Mountains, lakes – some more than a hundred miles long – and deep troughs have been found, by airborne radar, to be entombed under Antarctic ice. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 79)***

**All the people of St. Pierre were killed when a volcano erupted in May 1902 – except one Raoul Sarteret, a convicted murderer, watched the explosion from his dungeon cell and was blinded by volcanic gases. He was pardoned – and became a respected missionary! *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 136)***

**What you may not have realized is that obesity is a problem among caged parrots. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Though octopuses prefer solitude in the wilds, in captivity they become tame and affectionate. *(Betty Pratt-Johnson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Endolithic organisms, meaning those such as mollusks or coral that live within rocks, have been found in ancient frozen rocks dug out in Antarctica. The organisms are said to be as much alive as the petunia in the window of a florist shop. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 79)***

**A century or so age, a Lutheran congregation in Frederick, Maryland, signed up a German theological student to come to this country as their “redemptioner” – an immigrant who sold his servitude for years to pay his ship passage. It was a sort of slavery, with the congregation owning the pastor. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**If you see a semicircle of pelicans swimming on a lake you can be sure they’re herding fish toward shore. Corralling them, sort of, before scooping them up. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Driving back to Sacramento on a particularly hot day, my sister stopped to see the legendary state penitentiary at Folsom. Fleeing from the pounding heat of an unshaded parking lot into the fan-cooled comfort of the handicrafts store, she exclaimed to a startled inmate staff, “Boy, are you lucky to be in here!” *(Sharon Hatami, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Prisoner to cellmate: "I'm philosophical about living here. I just think of it as a condominium with bad management." *(Lichty & Wagner, Field Newspaper Syndicate)***

**After World War I broke out, animal performer Joseph Hubertus Pilates was interned for being a German national. He used the time to perfect an exercise routine he'd developed that involved rigging springs to hospital beds, according to the Pilates Foundation. Today millions of people practice Pilates in studios around the world. *(Jacopo della Quercia, in Reader's Digest)***

**Marco Polo (1215-1324) the Venetian explorer of China, taken prisoner when he went to war against Genoa in a ship fitted out at his own expense, while a captive wrote a book about his journeys that was so widely acclaimed, his captors gave him his freedom (1298). *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 325)***

**In 1920, Eugene Debs was nominated for President of the United States by the Socialist Party while he was serving a prison sentence for sedition during World War I. He has been the only man to run for President from prison. He received nearly a million votes, or 3.5% of the total. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 309)***

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**A U.S. prisoner who took an elementary course in engineering in jail invented a string of impressive qualifications for himself when he was freed – and landed a job designing the C5-A, the world’s largest transport plane. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 173)***

**Our prisons are at a crisis point right now because the state of California has not planned adequately. We are rapidly running out of space. (Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, of California, who summoned lawmakers into special session to decide whether to build two more prisons and adopt other relief measures. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in Rocky Mountain News, June 27, 2006)***

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**In captivity raccoons kept as pets often develop a humanlike fondness for such junk foods as potato chips, candy and ice cream. *(Ann Adams)***

**About two-thirds of the people who leave prison in the U.S. are rearrested within three years. *(The Atlantic, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 27, 2009)***

**We have a tendency to relive the past. It seems easy for us to remember a number of unhappy experiences. We often go through life resenting places, conditions, people. Perhaps we failed at some particular point, and we tend to carry the failure along with us day after day, year after year. Or perhaps we constantly relive some past glory. We bind ourselves to some past failure or attainment. Either way, it is an imprisonment. *(Carl Moran, in New Thought magazine)***

**It is the worst thing when men do not know how to escape from the old rut. It is dreadful when people approach new conditions with their old habits. Just as it is impossible to open a present-day lock with a medieval key, likewise it is impossible for men with old habits to unlock the door to the future. *(Agni Yoga Teachings)***

**A bird can be held by a chain or a thread: still it cannot fly. *(St. John of the Cross)***

**Samuel Bowen, a former British seaman, was the first to cultivate soybeans in North America. Imprisoned in China for four years, Bowen observed the many practical uses of the bean. In 1766 he planted some soybeans on his farm in Thunderbolt, Georgia, then processed them into soy sauce and thin noodles, which he successfully exported to England. (*Jack Denton Scott, in Reader’s Digest)***

**One of the Spanish explorer s who sailed to the New World in the wake of Columbus was Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca. De Vaca shipwrecked along the Texas coast, an area inhabited by fierce Indians. Fearing for his life, de Vaca hid by burying himself in the earth, where he remained for several days amid a cold Texas winter. In this condition, he literally could do nothing. When he dug himself out he discovered that something utterly miraculous had occurred: he now had the power to heal. De Vaca then began a trek westward. As he walked, word of his healing powers spread ahead of him. Native Indians would bring their sick to him for healing, and he was thus able to pass through hostile territory unharmed. De Vaca's new ability was ushered in by a physical--and, we can presume, an emotional and spiritual--crisis. Buried alive, he could not do, he could only be. And out of this extreme state he was transformed. (Dr. Larry Dossey, in Unity magazine)**

**Harry Truman said of the White House: "It's a nice prison." (L. M. Boyd)**

**A mind enclosed in language is in prison. *(Simone Weil)***

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