**Quality / Quantity**

**Better is a handful with quiet**

**than two handfuls with toil, and a chasing after wind.**

***(Ecclesiastes 4:5)***

**If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray,**

**will he not leave the 99 in the hills and go in search of the stray?**

**And if he finds it, amen, I say to you,**

**he rejoices more over it than over the 99 that did not stray.**

***(St. Matthew 18:12-13)***

**There are more than 8,000 different types of ants in the world. Most of them live in huge colonies in hot, tropical countries. One colony might have as many as 200,000 ants in it but only one egg-laying queen. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 56)**

**The actual playing time in a big league baseball game which lasts two and a half hours has been clocked at 9 minutes and 55 seconds. *(Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book, p. 17)*  
In a seven-year (1775-1781) war in which fewer than 4,500 American soldiers died in combat, George Washington lost more battles than he won. But he won the battle that mattered most -- the last one at Yorktown -- and adulation unlike any ever bestowed on an American. (*George Will, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but how many can get through to you. *(Mortimer J. Adler)***

**Nearly 80 percent of all businesses in the United States employ twenty   
people or less. *(Laurie Beth Jones, in Jesus CEO, p. XV)***

**When great changes occur in history, when great principles are involved, as a rule, the majority are wrong. The minority are right. *(Eugene Victor Debs)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**A mother cod can lay as many as five million eggs at a single spawning – of which only a half dozen usually survive. If all cod eggs produced live   
fish, there would be no room left in the ocean for water. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 123)***

**If the eggs spawned by all the female cod in one season survived, they would fill the oceans from seabed to surface. Cod lay between four and five million eggs at a time – but usually only about five survive. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 45)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Quantity is what you can count. Quality is what you can count on. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Nine of the 92 natural elements account for 99 percent of the earth’s crust. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Only one elephant in 50 lives more than 65 years. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**More than 90% of flowers have an unpleasant odor or no odor at all. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 105)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Timekeepers have clocked the action time in a 60 minute football game to be 14 minutes. *(Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book, p. 52)***

**In the 174 minutes of an average football telecast, viewers see about 60 minutes of commercials, 75 minutes of players huddling or milling about between snaps, 17 minutes of replays – and just 11 minutes of actual football. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 29, 2010)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The average three-hour baseball game contains 17 minutes and 58 seconds of action such as pitches, balls in play, running, and throws. That’s a bit better than the average football game, which contains only 11 minutes of action time. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 26, 2013)***

**A giraffe in the wild may go seven days without drinking. It is, after all, awkward for a giraffe to get into position to take a drink of water - straddle-legged and all that.  *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Patients with chronic heart failure don’t have many options. Although a fortunate few receive heart transplants, the rest typically live out their last days bedridden. For reasons that aren’t clear, the weakened heart thickens and grows larger, sometimes ballooning to twice its normal size. When it becomes too large, it can no longer pump effectively and eventually it fails completely. Last spring the widely viewed ABC News program 20/20 brought public notoriety to an obscure surgeon who has developed a novel way of treating an enlarged heart: he cuts a piece out of it. Randas Batista, a cardiac surgeon in a small rural clinic near Curitiba in southern Brazil, slices a triangular chunk of muscle from the heart’s left ventricle, the chamber that pumps oxygen-rich blood to the body. Reducing the size of this dilated chamber, he explains, allows the weakened heart to pump blood more effectively. “It’s the size of the heart, not the weakened muscle, that killing people,” Batista says. “When we bring the heart back to its normal size, it expends less energy and does a lot more work.” *(Jeff Goldberg, in Discover magazine)***

**Of the estimated 400,000 Christian hymns that have been published, fewer than 500 are in common use, and only 150 of them are well known by churchgoers. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 13)***

**Nine out of 10 baby iguanas don’t get to be a year old. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Capsule Course in Human Relations: Five most important words - I am proud of you. Four most important words - What is your opinion? Three most important words - If you please. Two most important words -- Thank you. Least important word - I. *(Forbes Magazine)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**A piece of land in the Amazon the size of a suburban lawn supports 300 species of trees. *(Biodiversity Online)***

**Scientists who inventoried Earth’s shrinking wilds have reached an astonishing conclusion: More than a third of the planet’s plant and animal species exist exclusively on a scant 1.4 percent of its land surface. The researchers said the findings show that saving a large share of the world’s species from extinction isn’t an overwhelming task. They believe conservationists should focus on safeguarding 25 species -- rich “hot spots” -- mostly tropical rain forests. *(Rick Callahan, in Rocky Mountain News)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Two old men are sitting on a park bench in the Danish countryside, when a car stops, and the driver politely asks, in German, for assistance. The men shrug and shake their heads. The driver asks again, this time in French. No answer. He asks a third time in English. Still no answer. Frustrated, the man drives away. After a while, one old-timer says to the other, “I wish I could speak a second language.” “What for?” asks his friend, “That guy spoke three languages, and it didn’t help him.” *(The Jokesmith)***

**It’s correct that one 75-watt bulb gives more light than three 25-watt bulbs. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The lobster’s life is a constant fight against all but impossible odds: he has about one hope in 10,000 of growing up, one in a million of lasting to middle age – good reason for its snappish disposition. At the very outset, when baby lobsters swim and eat plankton on top of the water, 99% fall victim to fish – or to bigger baby lobsters. *(David MacDonald, in The Living World of Nature, p. 69)***

**The mayfly’s eggs take 3 years to hatch. Lifespan: about 6 hours. *(Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 329)***

**Each full or part-time female oyster will release two million eggs in the   
summer -- of which only about 50 will survive. *(Richard B. Manchester, in Amazing Facts, p. 204)***

**At the end of a long day, during which 15 members of a panel had talked about every conceivable subject, the time for the final panelist to speak arrived. “It seems as though we’ve covered everything,” he said, “so if someone will tell me what they would like me to talk about, I would appreciate it.” From the back of the room a voice responded, “Talk about a minute!” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The old time pastor was galloping down the road, rushing to get to church on time. Suddenly his horse stumbled and pitched him to the ground. In the dirt with a broken leg, the pastor called out, “All you saints in Heaven, help me get up on my horse!” Then, with superhuman effort, he leaped onto the horse’s back and fell off the other side. Once again on the ground, he called to Heaven, “All right, just half of you this time!” *(The PassTime Paper)***

**Israel has eighteen plants that produce eighteen hundred tons of sesame paste annually for the candy industry. *(E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 110)***

**For years Colombia, South America, was believed to be the world’s only source of platinum. Its scarcity, plus expanding demand, caused its price to skyrocket. Then, in 1819, huge platinum deposits were discovered in the Russian Ural Mountains. Soon there was so much of it on the world market that it dropped in value to almost nothing, akin to lead and tin. *(Joe Gordon, in Catholic Digest)***

**Seventy percent of the population nationwide lives on 1 percent of the land. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 170)***

**Joe Evans, a cowboy, who is chairman of the Deacons of the First Baptist Church in El Paso said he went out to a church on the plains of Texas. The service had been announced but he was the only one that showed up. The Preacher preached an hour, then said to Mr. Evans—“Do you have anything to say?” Said he -- “Yes, if I go out to feed my cows and only one old steer shows up, I don’t put out the whole load of feed.” *(Rev. Leon Hill, in O for the Life of a Preacher, p. 60)***

**Henry Ford’s profit on his Model T was about $2 a car. He sold more than 15-million of them. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The most common and favored pumpkins weigh 10 to 20 pounds, but behemoths weighing more than 800 pounds can be found in most record books. Those in the 50-pound plus category, however, tend to have coarse, stringy flesh and are not really flavorful for either pies or canning. These giants are nevertheless good for feeding to stock and for entering into competitions for size. *(George S. Fichter, in Catholic Digest)***

**Franklin D. Roosevelt started his career as a lawyer in New York. One of the first cases he was retained to represent was a particularly difficult   
civil suit. The opposing lawyer, a notable orator, did well in his pleadings before the jury. However, he made one big mistake: he talked on and on for hours. Roosevelt, noticing the inattention of the jury, decided his strategy. When his turn came to sum up his client’s side of the case, he merely said: “Gentlemen, you have heard the evidence. You have also listened to my distinguished colleague, a brilliant orator. If you believe him and disbelieve the evidence, you will have to decide in his favor. That’s all I have to say.” Within five minutes the jury returned. It had ruled in favor of Roosevelt’s client. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Although a given adult plant may produce about 45 million seeds in its lifetime, few lodge in suitable growing places. Still fewer survive the desert. Scientists believe the average saguaro probably produces a single offspring during the 100 years it bears seeds. *(Vicky Hay, in Friendly Exchange magazine)***

**The female shrimp releases up to 600,000 eggs at a time. The odds of any one shrimp making it to maturity are much less than one percent. If the mortality rate was not so high, their sheer numbers would raise the tides and turn the oceans into a giant shrimp cocktail. The eggs are at the mercy of wind, current and hungry predators. *(Emily & Per Ola D-Aulaire, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Among insects, speed of wing does not indicate speed of flight. The dragonfly with a flap-flipping rate of about 35 per second can fly 30 mph. A midge with 1,000 wingbeats a second may go 1 mph. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The light given off by a piece of the Sun’s surface the size of a postage stamp is more than 500 60-watt light bulbs. It could light all the rooms in 48 average-sized homes. (The Usborne Book of Facts & Lists, p. 100)**

**During President Obama’s “Twitter town hall” last week, questions sent on the social-networking site were 140 characters or fewer. The president’s oral responses were, on average, 2,099 characters long – the equivalent of 15 twitter messages. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 22, 2011)**

**The Class of 1915 at West Point graduated 59 future generals. How many reached five-star rank? Nine, including Dwight Eisenhower and Omar Bradley. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Lord’s Prayer contains 66 words. The Gettysburg Address contains 286 words. There are 1,322 words in the Declaration of Independence. But government regulations on the sale of cabbage contain 26,911 words. *(Western States Public Lands Coalition)***

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