**Divine Surprises**

[**Such was the experience of Langdon Gilkey, a civilian reporter imprisoned during World War II in the China's Shantung Compound. Shortly after his release, Gilkey, reflected back on his stay and wrote: “One of the strangest lessons of our unstable life passage is that the unwanted is creative rather than destructive. No one wished to go to the Weihsien camp. Yet such an experience, resisted and abhorred, had within it the seeds of new insight and thus of a new life for many of us. This is a common mystery of life--an aspect, if you will--of common grace; out of apparent evil new creativity can arise if the meanings and possibilities latent within the new situation are grasped with courage and with faith." *(Douglas Bloch, in New Thought magazine)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

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[**Seventy-five years ago next month, Thomas Edison’s factory in West Orange, NJ was virtually destroyed by fire. Although the damage exceeded two million dollars, the buildings were only insured for $238,000 because they were made of concrete and were thought to be fireproof. Much of Edison’s life’s work went up in smoke and flames that December night. At the height of the fire, Edison’s 24-year-old son, Charles, searched frantically for his father. He finally found him, calmly watching the fire, his face glowing in the reflection, his white hair blowing in the wind. “My heart ached for him,” said Charles. “He was 67 – no longer a young man – and everything was going up in flames. When he saw me, he shouted, ‘Charles, where’s your mother? When I told him I didn’t know, he said, ‘Find her. Bring her here. She will never see anything like this as long as she lives.’” The next morning, Edison looked at the ruins and said, “There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew.” Three weeks after the fire, Edison managed to deliver the first phonograph. *(Bits & Pieces, November, 1989)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**John James Audubon (Derric Johnson, in The Wonder of America, p. 92)**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**Decemberf 20th, 2024 -**  [**rejection is protection**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**December 13th, 2024 - unemployed man *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 151) luck and unexpected good***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**December 6th, 2024 - dyslexia*. (The Week magazine, November 4, 2022)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**November 29th, 2024 – Walt Disney - (*Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 45)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**November 22nd, 2024 - Roger Bannister (*Victor Parachin, in Unity magazine)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**December 22nd, 2023 – The Song That Made Christmas**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**December 15th, 2023 - bless me *(Donald Grey Barnhouse, in Illustration Digest) christmas music***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

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[**December 8th, 2023 - ice trade *(Amy Brady, in Discover magazine, September/October, 2023, on page 49)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**December 1st, 2023 - symbol of hope *(The Week magazine, February 27, 2009) hope***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**November 24th, 2023 - I asked God *(Ken Magid) Thanksgiving***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**November 17th, 2023 *- Charles R. Walgreen (Reader's Digest, March, 2019, issue, page 82) non-resistance***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**November 10th, 2023 - hosting the Olympics *(The Week magazine)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**November 3rd, 2023 - medicine and therapy *(Dr. Charles Dickson, in New Realities magazine)* -  *good in every experience***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 27th, 2023 *- (Willard Scott, in Reader’s Digest) a higher approach***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 20th, 2023 - Survivor Tree *(Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson, in The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times) resiliency***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 13th, 2023 - Hindu legend *(Eric Butterworth, Unity Minister, in Discover the Power Within You)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 6th, 2023 Antidote for loneliness *(Arthur Gordon, in Reader's Digest)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 30th, 2023 - Michael Jordan *(Bob Greene, in Chicago Tribune) character***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 23rd, 2023 pine tree and a willow *(Judie Wilkinson, in Reflections) flexibility***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 16th, 2023 wooden plates *(A Palistani folktale) children’ world***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 9th, 2023 near the window *(Victor M. Parachin, in Unity magazine) imagination***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 2nd, 2023 Constitution *(Michael Carlton, in Denver Post) compromise***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 25th, 2023 parable *(Reader's Digest) education***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 18th, 2023 - Albert Schweitzer *(Dynamic Preaching) responsibility***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 11th, 2023 Mark Twain *(On Course magazine) heaven and hell***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 4th, 2023 snowflake *(Kurt Kauter, in New Fables, Thus Spoke The Carabou) little things add up***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 27th, 2023 Harvey Firestone *(Bits & Pieces) resiliency***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 20th, 2023 *(Mary Manin Morrissey, in Building Your Field of Dreams) limitations***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[***July 13th, 2023 Astronaut John Young (Hugh Park, in Atlanta Journal) acceptance***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 6th, 2023 Jacques Cousteau *(Ed Lucaire, in Celebrity Setbacks, p. 178) accidental accomplishments***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 30th, 2023 adopted *(Bits & Pieces) forgetting***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 23rd, 2023 Lewis and Clark Expedition *(Dayton Duncan, in The Old Farmer's Almanac-1994, p. 100) teamwork***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 16th, 2023 - give you 365 hours *(Moody Monthly) time***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 9th, 2023 Walt Disney *(Mike Vance & Diane Deacon, in Think Out of the Box) imagination***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 2nd, 2023 Jesus, it’s Jimmy *(Norman Neaves) friendship***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**May 26th, 2023 *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations) silence***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**May 19th, 2023 Winston Churchill *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 88) giving = receiving***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**May 12th, 2023 gladiola bulbs *(Bettie B. Youngs, in Taste Berries for Teens) mother's day***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**May 5th, 2023 Angel clothes *(Jan DeVries, in Unity magazine) angels***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**April 28th, 2023 Benjamin Franklin *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 58) light of the darkness***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**April 21st, 2023 Abraham Lincoln *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker's Sourcebook , p. 119) timing***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**April 14th, 2023 crossing of the Red Sea. *(Harold S. Kushner, in When Bad Things Happen)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**April 7th, 2023 Adventures of Superman *(Bits & Pieces) doing what’s right***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**March 31st, 2023 - artist *(Eugene A. Hessel) Jesus***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**March 24th, 2023 - building a highway all alone. *(On the Road With Charles Kuralt," in Reader's Digest) determination and effort***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**March 17th, 2023 St. Patrick *(The Old Farmer's 2019 Almanac)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**March 3, 2023 - Mother Teresa *(Hazel Brown, in Unity magazine) suffering***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**February 24th, 2023 - Dwight Eisenhower *(Mark R. Littleton, in Reader's Digest) honesty***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**February 17th, 2023 tribal language *(Dr. Eric Butterworth, in Spiritual Economics, p. 92) thanksgiving***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**February 10th, 2023 Bill Belichick *(Frank Litsky, in New York Times) free***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**February 3rd – 2023 - Harrison Ford. *(People magazine) humble beginnings***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**January 26th, 2023 strong friendship *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest , p. 127) silence***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**January 19th, 2023 elk *(Philip Yancey, in Christianity Today) silence***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**January 12th, 2023 - President and Mrs. John Adams *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 243) Presidential trivia***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**January 5th, 2023 – What I found out *(Helen Hayes, with Marion Glasserow Gladney, in Loving Life) home sweet home***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**December 30th, 2022 - Callery pear tree *(Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson, in The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times) resiliency***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**December 23rd, 2022 “man who saved Christmas.” *(Reminisce magazine) christmas trivia***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**December 16th, 2022 credited with inventing Christmas cards *Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 230) Christmas cards* First commercial Christmas cards *(L. M. Boyd)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**December 9th, 2022 outlawed *(Ernest O. Hauser, in Reader’s Digest) Christmas trivia***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**December 2, 2022 song temporarily halted a war *(Victor M. Parachin, in Unity magazine) Christmas trivia***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**November 24th, 2022tribal language *(Dr. Eric Butterworth, Unity Minister, in Spiritual Economics, p. 92) thanksgiving***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**November 17th, 2022 dyslexia *(The Week magazine, November 4, 2022) giee***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[***November 10th, 2022 -* cook *(Freda K. Routh, in Between Us) consistency***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**November 3rd, 2022 Leonardo da Vinci *(Bits & Pieces)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 18th, 2022 Jesus, it's Jimmy (*Norman Neaves) friendship***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 11th, 2022 G. K. Chesterton *(Brennan Manning, in Catholic Digest) omnipresence***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 4th, 2022 - cook *(Freda K. Routh, in Between Us) consistency***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 30th, 2022 too heavy a cross to bear *(Contact Magazine)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 23rd, 1011 Albert Schweitzer *(Dynamic Preaching) responsibility***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 16th, 2022 blankets *(Bits & Pieces, May, 1988) giving receiving***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 9th, 2022 farmer sat under a walnut tree *(Capper’s Weekly) farming***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 2nd, 2022 when God had it alone.” *(Frank Giudici, Unity teacher) teamwork***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 27th, 2022 Marian Anderson *(Bits & Pieces) grace***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 20th, 2022 - Different people develop at different rates *(Bits & Pieces) uniqueness***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 13th, 2022 Mary Martin *(Bits & Pieces) using what you have***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 6th, 2022 owner of a greenhouse *(Bits & Pieces) gardening***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 29th, 2022 Great Wall of China *(Bits & Pieces) character***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 22nd, 2022 Coleridge *(Martin Buxbaum) freedom***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 15th, 2022 roof trim *(James Alexander Thom, on the fear of responsibility, in Nuggets) responsibility***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 8, 2022 Mayberry *(The Week magazine, October 5, 2012) simplicity***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 1st, 2022 Constitution *(Michael Carlton, in Denver Post) compromise***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 24th, 2022 pastor of a rural Tennessee church *(Joe Prentis, in Reader’s Digest) Pastor’s world***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 17th, 2022 - Hitler. *(Barry Weinhold) father’s day***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

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[**P. S. I have placed this excerpt in the Christmas section of documents of the www.mondaymunchees.com website. For more quotes, stories, anecdotes, illustrations, trivia, and statistics on this theme, I invite you to scroll down the homepage of the website to the Christmas section of 28 documents, and click open the documents of your choice!**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

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[**P. S. I have placed this excerpt in the Good Friday document of the www.mondaymunchees.com website. For more quotes, stories, anecdotes, illustrations, trivia, and funnies on this topic, I invite you to scroll down the homepage of the website to the G-section of documents, click open the Good Friday document, and read all about them!**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

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[**One young man came to work at Unity about the time of World War I. Brilliant and restless, at first it did not seem that he would be able to find a place in Unity where he could use his talents. Myrtle Fillmore, however, recognized that he was a gifted person and encouraged him to stay and to have faith that he would find in Unity the right avenue for the expression of his gifts. In 1924 this young man, Frank B. Whitney, encouraged by Myrtle and Charles Fillmore, brought forth Unity Daily Word, which has since become the most popular of all the Unity publications. He became the first editor of this magazine and one of the best loved of Unity’s writers. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**“What do you think of the course?” is a question often put to golfers on the pro tour. “Some years ago I used to tell them what I thought of a course,” Gary Player said. “But not anymore. It got people very upset when I told them the truth. Now I tell them all they’ve got the greatest course in the world. And, you know something, this has helped me. If I think the course is lousy, I play lousy golf. But if I convince myself it’s great, I don’t spend my time out there thinking how bad it is.” *(Bits & Pieces)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**Sullivan and the student's name was Helen Keller. They were to develop one of the most admired friendships of the century. At seven, Helen Keller was a wild child who uttered unintelligible animal sounds. When in a rage, she would snatch dishes from the table and throw them and herself on the floor. More than one person had told Mrs. Keller that her child was mentally ill. For weeks Anne spelled words into Helen's small hand, but she could not break through to her consciousness. Then, on April 5, something wonderful happened. Here are Helen Keller's recollections of that day, written more than 60 years later: It happened at the well-house, where I was holding a mug under the spout. Annie pumped water into it, and when the water gushed out into my hand she kept spelling w-a-t-e-r into my other hand with her fingers. Suddenly I understood. Caught up in the first joy I had known since my illness, I reached out eagerly to Annie’s ever-ready hand, begging for new words to identify whatever objects I touched. Spark after spark of meaning flew from hand to hand and, miraculously, affection was born. From the well-house there walked two enraptured beings calling each other “Helen” and “Teacher.” Anne Sullivan gave most of her life to Helen Keller. When her famous pupil decided to go to college, she sat beside her in every class at Radcliffe, spelling out the lectures into Helen's hand and overusing her own defective eyes to spell out books that were not in Braille. Anne Sullivan recognized that Helen was a prodigy and had unlimited possibilities for thinking and feeling. There was no question as to which of the two had the higher IQ. By the time she was 10, Helen was writing to famous persons in Europe in French. She quickly mastered five languages and displayed gifts which her teacher never pretended to have. But did that change Anne Sullivan's devotion? Not so far as we know. She was satisfied to be Helen's companion and encourager, allowing her to be applauded by kings and presidents and to be her own unique personage. In short, she gave her friend room to grow. *(Bits & Pieces)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**There is a story told about the beginning of the Reformation. There was a man by the name of Martin of Basle. He came to a knowledge of the Truth, but he was very afraid to make a public confession. So he wrote on a leaf of parchment: “Oh merciful Christ, I know that I know the Truth, Oh Holy Jesus. I acknowledge Thy sufferings for me. I love Thee! I love Thee! I love Thee! Then, with this covenant he wrote in hand, he removed a stone from the wall of his chamber and hid it. It was not to be discovered for more than 200 years. About the same time, Martin Luther found the Truth as it is in Christ. He said out loud in a public area, “My Lord had shown mercy to me before men, and I will show mercy to men before kings.” The world knows what followed. We’ve all heard of Martin Luther but we have never heard of Martin of Basle. Why? They both wrote a covenant, but one put the covenant in a wall and the other lived it. *(Christopher Ian Chenoweth, Unity Minister)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**P. S. I have placed this excerpt in the Christmas Music *document of the www.mondaymunchees.com website. For more quotes, stories, funnies, anecdotes, illustrations, trivia, and statistics on this theme, I invite you to scroll down and click open the Christmas Music document, which is located in the Christmas-section of documents in the C-section of documents!***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)