

MIRRORS, A MONITOR, A WEDDING, AND A MARRIAGE

By John F. Hall

Some times, when I wake up in the morning, and wash my face in the bathroom, I look into the bathroom mirror, and wonder. Who is that person looking back at me? Dale



Wimbrow wrote a poem called, "The Man in the Glass." These are his words: "When you get what you want in your struggle for self, and the world makes you king for a day, just go look in the mirror and look at yourself, and see what that man has to say. For it isn't your father, or mother, or wife whose judgment you must pass. The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life, is the one Starring back from the glass. He's the fellow to please - never mind all the rest. For he's with you clear to the end. And you've passed the most difficult, dangerous task, if the man in the glass is your friend. You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years, and get pats on the back as you pass. But your final reward will be heartache and tears, if you cheated the man in the glass."

We adapt, when life throws us a curve. When I fractured my T12 vertebra, my surgeon told me that I had to wear a back brace for four months. This would help keep my spine straight, and help improve my posture. So I had to stop leaning over my computer keyboard. The only table high enough, to allow me to sit in my wheelchair, with my back brace on, is my kitchen table. I have a kitchen island with four stools, so I decided to move my desk top computer, monitor, printer, and keyboard, and put them on my kitchen table. In 1990, we had the kitchen porch and steps removed, and expanded the size of the kitchen. We had an oversize window installed. It allows me to look out and see the green wheat fields, and to see the cedar trees down Dyers Hill Road. In the kitchen, My wife, Paula purchased an interior design picture that shows a white wicker chair, and a round white table with flowers. On either side of the picture, she put a little heart shaped framed mirror with two small candle holders.

The inventor of the silver-mirror was the German chemist, Justus von Liebig in 1835. His wet deposition process involved the deposition of a thin layer of metallic silver onto glass through the chemical reduction of silver nitrate. Today, mirrors are everywhere. There may not be a place in this world that does not have a mirror, or some kind of reflective surface to see ourselves in.

Erin Hanson wrote a poem called, "Never Trust a Mirror." These are his words: "Never trust a mirror, for a mirror always lies." It makes you think that all you're worth, can be seen from the outside. Never trust a mirror, it only shows what is skin deep. You can't see how your eyelids flutter, when you drift off to sleep. It doesn't show you what the world sees, when you're only being you, or how your eyes light up, when you're loving what you do. It doesn't capture when you're smiling where no one else can see. And your reflections cannot tell you, everything you mean to me. Never trust a mirror, for it only shows your skin. And if you think that it dictates your worth, it's time you looked within." I'm loving what I do as a writer, when physically, there is little else that I can do. And if you put a mirror in front of me, it will reflect the joy inside of me.

I would venture a guess that most of us have watched the movie, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." In that fairy tale movie, the Evil Queen Grimhild asks the mirror this question: "Magic mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?" The Magic mirror always replied: "My Queen, you are the fairest in the land." The wicked queen's daily ritual of asking the Magic mirror, who is the fairest in the land, illustrates her obsession with physical beauty and her desire to be recognized as the most beautiful woman in the kingdom. Then one day, the Magic mirror said to the queen, "Snow White, O Queen, is the fairest of them all." Mirrors are not the only symbols of vanity in our world today. Smart phones can be made miniature mirrors of vanity.

Some of us were told the reason why a little dog will chase its tale. It's because one more turn deserves another. So here is another poem called, "The Mirror." It was written by Royston Nella. These are his words: "I looked into the mirror today and I just did not know what to say. For the person looking back at me was the man. I turned out to be. It was God's Word I had looked into and I was not sure what I should do. Then "Come to Me," I heard Jesus say so to the cross I went straight away. For sin had so disfigured my soul and I needed Him to make me whole. It required a miracle of grace to remove all my sinful disgrace. As I stood there feeling all my shame, I saw that He had taken all the blame. And His shed blood made me feel so clean. The cleanest that I have ever been. Yet I still sin in my stubborn pride. 'Though His arms are there so wide. I'm so reluctant and always delay to gaze into that mirror each day"

In the ancient East, mirrors were regarded as sacred objects having magical powers. They also symbolize water, in that they reflect the world and self, or the enlightened psyche. And, sometimes, they symbolize arrogance and vanity. In writing this story, I went to each room of my old house to see how many mirrors are in each room. I previously mentioned the two heart shaped small mirrors in the kitchen. In the dining room is a mirror curio cabinet, It is a gift from our daughter-in-law, Lori. In the living room is a six feet by three feet mirrored curio cabinet. Going into the foyer, is Paula's lighted mirror curio cabinet. The mirror in that cabinet is seven feet tall and four feet wide. She keeps her antique pink depression glass stored there. There is also a crystal pitcher from the 1905 World's Fair. By the front door is a five-foot tall, by two feet wide wall mirror. Paula's sister, Marsha Garner gave her that wall mirror, fifty years ago.

In the first floor bedroom is a large dresser with a large mirror. Across the bedroom is a vintage mantel. I salvaged it from Paula's grandmother's house in Golden Pond. It has a beveled mirror. The silver nitrate began flaking off the back of the mirror, so I had the four-foot wide by two feet high mirror replaced. In the first floor bathroom are two mirrors over the dual sinks, and a mirror door medicine cabinet. Paula has two handheld mirrors in the sink cabinet. On the foyer's first landing is a Queen Ann wash stand with a small oval mirror. In the second floor bedroom is a dresser with a tall mirror. My granddaughters Andrea's and Heather's make up table has a small oval mirror. In their half bath is a narrow wall mirror, and a medicine cabinet mirror.

Morgan Thompson wrote an article called, “Don’t Fear The Mirror.” These are some of her words: “We stare in the mirror like God is finished with us. We stare in the mirror, judging ourselves like this is as far as we go, this is the best we will ever be; God is done with us and our flaws need to be perfected. This is wrong! God is not finished with us yet. We are all a work in progress. We are becoming like Christ in our walk with God. We are imperfect, but God is not done with us yet. God is inviting us to look at mirrors differently. He invites us to stop looking at our reflections as imperfect, and start looking in the mirror as a reminder that God created us in His image and He is not done with us yet!...”.

My grandson, John-John’s former bedroom has no mirrors. I’m sure that the other fourteen mirrors, in my old house, show him the reflection, that he needed to see. He loves to call ahead and ask his grandmother to make him pancakes and cook thick bacon for breakfast. Paula will wrap the meal up in aluminum foil, so he can take it to his house in Clarksville, Tennessee. On March 23, 2024, my oldest granddaughter, Andrea married Andrew Jansen. The wedding reception venue was held in “The Barn at Spring Lake Farms,” in Portland, TN. The Barn itself contains over 14,000 square feet of roofed and climate-controlled space. There are large roll-up doors for combined festivities. These outdoor spaces offer seating for up to 225 guests. The Barn has a separate dance floor and stage, with on-site sound systems and lighting. I appreciated the wheelchair- accessible features, since I was in a wheelchair. The venue staff coordinated with approved vendors for the catering, photography, entertainment, and decor. The staff included packages to take care of the setup and tear down of all the elements. Along with a blessing, I wish Andrea and Andrew a long and happy marriage.

Today, Paula and I celebrated our 59 wedding anniversary. We started with just a hope and a prayer. We obtained our marriage license in Clarksville, Tennessee, and we were



married on the Montgomery County side of Fort Campbell, on April, 17, 1965, by Army Chaplain Frank Riley. I was 19 and Paula was 18. I tell people that we were just young and dumb, but we faced the good times and the hard times together. It takes a lot of faith to weather the storms of life. And, a little bit of luck helps. Fame and fortune can come and go, as does one’s health. Marriage is a commitment-for better or for worse. It’s nice if you can grow old with someone that you like, and that you love. Marriage is better if you have a strong faith, faithful family, and loyal friends. I will turn 79 on June 29th. I enjoy writing stories, and I enjoy gifting

them to family and friends. I thank Jesus Christ for giving me the grace upon grace upon grace, and inspiration to weave out my stories. I appreciate all of my readers for their calls, cards, prayers, texts, and words of encouragement.

*Read other stories by John F. Hall and others at:

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