



# Thoughts on Fire

*by:*

Leon Basin

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By Leon Basin

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## **Riding my Bike Around the City**

Riding my bike around the city was a wonderful experience. Flowers smelling sweet. Children playing outside, without much worries in the world. Wind continued to make noise in the back of my ears. A calming sensation of pure satisfaction. The wind gathered momentum and went through me as energy would. It was calm as I sat there, watching, observing, and studying how well the teenagers could play a game of soccer/football in a team environment. It was a treat that my eyes would miss, as I continued riding my bike around the city.

There was no sun, which was a problem at first because it was getting chilly. However, as I continued riding my bike around the city, the beauty that I saw, surpassed the necessity for warmth.

I got scared for a moment; a car rolled by me and shouted, "Hey!" I did not respond, as I was not sure what they wanted. I was definitely curious, so I pedaled as fast as I could after the car. I continued pedaling, but gave up after a few min because it seemed like the driver, pressed on the gas pedal with force. The car turned the corner and all there was left was beautiful trees, flowers and life force of energy.

As I rode my bike around the city, I was getting tired and anxious to sit on the bench and watch the birds sing me a song. I rode my bike to a bench I saw a few minutes away from me. I rode to it and got off. My legs felt a release of tension. There was no one around birds, but trees, bushes, and me, the wind blowing into my face. It felt like I was at the beach; tanning and relaxing with my beautiful woman.

The bike ride felt like pure unadulterated freedom of my soul. Nothing on the mind of a bike rider; but the road. It was not too hot, it was not too windy; birds chirped, world

moved in a rotation of routineness. Same old picture perfect world of pure release of calmness. Who could ask for anything more than that? I sure could not; I did not ask for anything more than a simple bike ride around my city.

## **Robotic Society of Copycats!**

Since when has *humanity* become accustomed to *robotic routineness*? When has it become O.K. not to think for themselves or have no originality? All I see around me, are *robots programmed* to feel, see and hear only what is being fed into their *consciousness*. It has become a billion dollar industry; fed on lies and propaganda.

We are living in a *society* where *fear*, has more *control* over people's *feelings* than *love*. That is fascinating; because wasn't this country built on *love* and *unity*? It is quite amazing to observe people around me because most of the people around me have no imagination. Most of them are *copycats* of *originality*. They strive to succeed by following rules outlined in their "*Bible*", called: *Television, Magazine, Internet*, and other media outlets.

Have you seen the "*bodybuilders*" in *gyms*? They focus their efforts on their upper body, but continue to ignore their chicken legs! Fascinating, isn't it? The reason I say this, that most of the people who workout their upper bodies, do not workout their chicken legs; is because they have been following a regimen, outlined in a man's muscle magazines.

Not only have men, followed what the *magazines* are portraying as "cool," but women have come under the same *programming* and mind control as men. *Vanity Fair* has become a staple in women's reading regimen *diet*.

Is it ever going to stop? My guess is it is only going to *accelerate*. Our *society* is under a *hypnotized* state of *control*. If someone provided a different way of looking at things; people are not used to thinking outside the *box*; so, they concentrate on attacking others, verbally or physically. I mean who can really take the "*truth*", when it is coming from a person, who is not on the same status level as you are.

Is what I am writing about, really the *reality* we are *living* in now? Well, take a look around you. What do you see? Do you see *violence, hate, racism, propaganda, lies by the government, no imaginations in the younger generation, kids having kids, destruction of middle class*, wars and other problems we are facing. I say, *observe* what is around you. *Observe* with your *eyes*. Think with your *mind*. Do not use *lies* that were *programmed* into you, when you were in the *concentration camps (Schools)*. Think critically and remember to *think* outside of the *box*. I usually use feelings in order to make a decision. Try it out for yourself and let me know how it works out for you.

## **Life's Observations Part 2**

When I look around me, I am amazed at how much beauty I see around me. I sit quietly and stare into outer space. I count how many stars there are in the sky and I think to myself how beautiful the stars are. One is bigger than another. We are living in an interesting universe. How many of you count how many stars we have in our sky? Do you question which of them could have intelligent life? I do! It is the most beautiful thing to think about.

Our universe has an energy flowing through it, at all times. The energy never stops moving and actually moves through our bodies as well. Can you picture that? Energy flowing through each of you on this planet. That means at any given moment, energy is inside you continuously flowing from the top of your head, to the bottom of your toes. That is truly a remarkable thought. Well, at least to me! I am not sure, how many of you question the possibility of being able to use energy that flows through us in a way that could possibly benefit us? I think about it all the time. It is one of many beauties in this world. Being able to imagine and question our beautiful planet and ourselves is truly amazing.

Energy is like a tool. Construction workers need needles, hammers, and other sources of necessary components to get their job done. Doctors need their own tools as well. What if we could take energy and use it in a way that would help understand why we are here? Do you think it could be used to help us live in harmony, happiness, and love? I know many people who throw out words like love around loosely. Everyone has the capability to love and share that love with others. I suppose not many people know what true love truly means.

It is difficult to understand why we are here on this planet. However, my belief is, enjoy what you have in front of you. I am not talking about the wars, poverty, racism, betrayal, violence and other things you see around you. I am speaking about natural beauty around

us. How many people stop to relax their mind for a bit and reconnect with Mother Nature? I know most of us do not have much time. Nevertheless, do you not think it is mostly excuses you are making for yourself? We all have time, it just depends how we use that time!

Focus your mind on something that is going to make you happy. We are here to enjoy the fruits of our hard working ancestors; as well as ourselves.

## **Do You Value Little Things?**

What do you value most in your life? How much do you like your possessions? Do you value love, nature, or your children more than your material possessions? What provides joy in your life? Are you sure that the answer you are thinking of right now is the right answer for you? Look around you, what do you have in your home; how is your relationship with your spouse, parents, relatives or your children? How much time do you spend enjoying nature, or loving nature? Do you ignore nature? Do you think it is not beautiful? Is it because you do not have time to observe it? Why do you not have time? Most of these questions can only be answered by questioning yourself. Are you willing to question what is valuable in your life, or to continue living in blindness?

## **Priceless Silence**

What price would you pay for a quiet morning? A silent morning where all you hear is nothing at all. Precious silence is a beauty disguised by no other name. This kind of gift only a few acquire. One can achieve euphoria through the control of one's mind and the silence where one's thoughts disappear. Many people overlook that if you are silent, it is possible to achieve enlightenment; I guess it is easier to disrupt the positive flow of thoughts and make them into negative instead. We are used to living like this. It is difficult to snap out of it. However, remember, that you cannot achieve enlightenment if you are not focused on silencing your thoughts in the present moment.

Make it a habit - Get up in the morning and instead of turning on your television, turn off your thoughts. Focus on the food that you have prepared in front of you. Chew slowly as if it was your last meal of the day. Remember to stay consistent with anything that makes you happy. If you are happy and the silent thoughts are improving and if you are living your life in happiness, why not make it a habit? Only you can change yourself. If life is important to you, why are you ignoring the most basic "laws of nature?" The law that states, "Silence is Golden." It is one of the few laws that I continuously use and abide by.

I am, currently, working on a book titled "*Preciousness of a Silent Thought*". Where I will outline what is silence, how can one achieve silence, what can one gain from silence and much more. Keep checking back, for updates on my Website.

## **Is Death Necessary for Humans?**

I was asked recently if I would write an article on death. Specifically, “Is Death Necessary for Humans.” If you asked for my opinion on this topic five years ago, I would have hesitated to answer. I would be lost in wonder to know, to be honest. As I continue stacking years I have been visiting planet earth, I have concluded that death is, most certainly, a way of life. It is a cycle; a law that needs to be in a consistent rotation. If you fast-forward to now, my beliefs have changed.

As one grows older, thoughts, emotions or feelings change, depending on the experience and knowledge one gains by living. The older and more experienced I have become, certain aspects of my body changed, due to the environment I lived in. The environment I grew up in has not always been the prettiest. Nor has it been the ugliest. It has been an experience that has led me to question: this planet, human beings, reality, dreams, logic, death, love and many other topics one asks during his or her lifetime.

We are afraid of death, because we do not know much about it. Amazing how much not knowing the unknown, can scare us into oblivion. Fear is a human trait, but fear and not questioning death, is ignorance in its own way.

So back to the question asked, “Is Death Necessary for Humans?” I believe death is necessary. However, not in a way many people would want to believe. Death is necessary because we are energy consistently moving around and throughout our planet. We take breaks by renting a body, in order to learn more about our surroundings and ourselves. It is a bit of a cycle; a law that we abide by.

Many people will have their own theories and philosophies on death. It really comes down to, what you believe in. My personal opinion is that, death is a way of life. You choose how you die, when you die and where you go after death.

I suppose death could be viewed as a miracle, because we all die. We have a chance to start over and redo our wrongs. We learn from our mistakes and hope next time we visit, we can do better; instead of blowing up the planet, we can spread love all around. Do not view death as a long dark cave; instead focuses on the positive. Death is simply a change of scenery. I know it will be hard for many people to agree with me, but when you think of death, make it a habit by thinking that death is simply a cycle, a simple rule that all of us have to follow.

## **Life's Observations Part 1**

As I watch life running away from me, I can only grasp the end of what is a new beginning. I observe life in little bursts, because if one watches life too closely, they lose sight of what is in front of them. What is in front of me is something that I pushed aside many times before. True beauty in life is to know how to overcome the anger you have for yourself.

My anger comes from not loving myself as much as I should. Disliking myself when I do not follow what my heart is telling me. It is a dangerous way to live and certainly has its consequences. How does one obtain pure love for themselves when you deny yourself of pure happiness? The joy comes from believing in yourself and your willingness to succeed. The hatred is a vicious cycle, mostly embedded to destroy your sense of purpose. The purpose in this life is to prosper in a way that will make you feel complete. The beautiful part of our purpose is that we cannot feel complete, because symbols are feelings.

Symbols are rules human beings follow in our society. This is how our society works. If one ignores the rules set out by the symbols you created, the punishments are awarded. If you put positive symbols into your mind, you will prosper greatly. On the other hand, if you continue putting negative symbols into your mind, the more negative your life becomes.

Symbols are thoughts or words. No matter how you to define it, it is nothing more than a way to control your freedom. One must attain desire to drop symbols from ones life in order to find happiness.

## **Confidence: The Key**

In this article I would like to cover an important topic that I struggled with when growing up. Confidence has always been an important trait to any individual's personality. If you do not have confidence in yourself, people will not have confidence in you. If one has confidence and one continues to give out that vibration of excitement and a desire to live, you gain not only physical rewards, but mental as well.

When growing up we all struggle to fit in. However, some struggle so extensively that they cannot communicate with people at all. At times looking at the ground is easier than looking at the person's face. If you continue to ignore your lack of confidence in yourself, you lead to distancing yourself from what life has to offer.

Focus on building confidence with daily visualization. For instance, thinking or picturing how your day will unfold before you begin your day could help you build your confidence. Writing down areas where you lack confidence or where you need to improve could also help.

Do not let confidence get in the way of your prosperity. Spend time on yourself and with time, your confidence will rise. It will be hard at first, but it is doable. I speak from much experience.

## **Self Image of Self**

When you walk down the street and people look at you, how do you think they perceive you? Do people stare at you in awe or do they stare in disgust because you lack an image that society is used to having for each individual? What impression do you want to give out to people when you walk down the street? Do you care what you look like? Do you think your image is poor, portrays you in a bad light? It does not have to be the way you dress. It could be as simple as your posture or the way you speak. The way you look is certainly important in a society like ours. What if some people do not care about what they look like? What if some ignore taking care of their basic grooming, do you think they will do better or worse in our society? I am wondering if our Self-Image is important to people. From what I have observed, it seems to be very important. It seems nowadays even if you have chest hairs that are visible on your body, it could make a woman feel like upchucking or worse pointing and laughing. It seems that our culture has changed dramatically in the last few decades. Things that were attractive decades ago seem to be unpalatable or just plain stomach churning. It seems that being a man is unattractive nowadays. Today we focus less on masculine men and more on how long a man's eyebrows are. Has the media become more powerful and more aggressive? I believe so.

Why is it that if a man has not taken care of his eyebrows he is less attractive in women's eyes? Are we moving to a society that uses aggressive marketing in order to make profit? How much longer can we take, before we start using our common sense? Why is it that women cannot choose who is attractive and who is not on their own? Why do they need Magazines, Televisions, Internet and other media outlets to make their decisions for them? It could be the comfort in everything being chosen for them and it is easier to follow along, than make their own decisions. The easier things are the more people want it and desire whatever is being offered. Will our society continue to disintegrate before it becomes noticeable, is a question I ask daily. I suppose most of us will continue observing and questioning; hopefully, the questions asked lead to answers somewhere

before our self-destruction.

## **Connection to Oneself**

How does one connect on a spiritual level with themselves? Personally, I believe Meditation is one way to achieve this. All of us go through life struggling to find ourselves. We always ignore the power our minds and bodies possess. We take advantage of them by: smoking, drinking, partying, eating junk food, drinking soda, using drugs and other unnecessary things. Why do we think, in the long run our bodies and minds will take care of us, if we are not taking care of them right now?

A body is like a flower: if not nurtured in particular way, it will continue to die. Our bodies are such works of Art; it is amazing when people ignore their own. Taking the body for granted is like taking love for granted. If you continue doing so, consequences will arise.

Mind is like a caterpillar, if not guided by nature it will cease to exist; nor will it become a butterfly. The mind is an array of spider webs all connected to one another. The mind and body are closely interconnected; some even wonder if mind and body are the same. I can see both sides of the spectrum, but I would say they could be both. They can interconnect and separate anytime they desire. It is like energy connecting with a human being, who is born, and then the energy flows like rhythm when a human passes on.

It is also important to understand that if you ignore yourself, by not developing oneself through meditation, reading, running and other activities, the mind cannot exist. The only reason you are here is because your higher self created the reality that you live in now. You chose to be here and continue wanting to stay here.

## **Happiness: The Only Way to Live**

How does one acquire a happy attitude, when their life becomes a dark and scary cave? For many it depends on what makes them happy, what satisfies their needs and what gets them to that happy state, where they feel relaxed and composed. For me it is spending time with my girlfriend, reading, writing, music, meditation, and running. Most of these activities are not cost worthy, nor are they difficult to start.

There are many things in life that will get you down. However, realizing that they are not permanent is important to understand. Choose one or two activities that satisfy you and do them, whenever you are feeling down. In addition, if you are having a difficult time at work, close your eyes for 3 minutes and visualize a place where you felt happy, maybe a vacation you took not long ago, where you spent time with your loved one or loved ones.

The importance of being happy is as important as breathing. Each individual deserves the right to be completely happy. However, in the society and the culture we live in today, it is difficult to obtain such a wonderful way of thinking. Please, do not let anyone stop you from thinking in such a delightful way. Remember to visualize a place where you felt pure joy and happiness.

## **Energy: We Are All and Nothing**

Energy connects all individuals on this planet. It never stops moving, as energy is all around us. We are uninterrupted through our thoughts and feelings. If one person goes through a difficult situation, we can all relate to it. It might take someone longer to relate to the situation than that person, but you still feel sympathy for the human being. A person might not have experienced what the other person has, but to be truthful, we are all connected and even thinking about it can be a connection of some sort. We are continuously connecting and evolving.

I am not sure if there is any other way to define energy other than, "it is everywhere and it is always moving." I do believe we can see it, however. If you find someone looking at you from a distance, you look back at him or her, and you get a feeling in your stomach, which feels like pain or discomfort, is actually energy flowing back and forth between the two bodies. Many people call it "butterflies." I call it energy, moving from your body and connecting with the other person. It does not necessarily have to be with the opposite sex; it could simply be a person you feel connected and comfortable with.

The reason the connection between the opposite sexes does not exist is that we are neither male nor female. The bodies we are occupying are borrowed, just like a rental car. When we pass on, our soul comes out of our bodies; therefore, our souls cannot be connected to our bodies. Energy is pure and energy can never be created or go away, it just transforms into different forms.

## **What if Heaven is Bad and Hell is Good?**

Many debate about the existence of Heaven and Hell. What if Hell is a place of amazement and Heaven is a place of daunting outcry? What if everything we thought about Heaven or Hell was misinformation, and our emotions were telling our brains to think and feel satisfaction. Does our brain break things down in a manner of good versus bad? How do we know if Hell is bad and Heaven is good? If the definition we are given is anything to go by, it is easy to assume, Hell is bad and Heaven is good. How do we know, we are making a right decision, by choosing to think that Heaven is good and Hell is bad? How do we know that the definition provided for us is a choice that is right for us? We do not; we are inclined to believe such fallacy, without any logical reasoning.

What makes us think, Hell is a place of torture and suffering? Does a book like the Bible provide enough evidence, to support these claims? Do we as human beings, settle for anything less than we pre-arranged with? On the other hand, do we continue questioning and perfecting our views as we go through life? I tend to lean in a direction towards improvement and growth. In addition, just because something says this, is how you are supposed to live, and this is how you are supposed to think, does not make it correct. Questioning everything and anything you see and hear is one way to improve your understanding about life and your reasons for living.

I have much more to say on this topic, but I'd prefer to write a more detailed essay instead. I hope before you believe something, you do extensive research. Using common sense on topics such as Religion is important and can be crucial in your development as a human being. I hope that you will return when my essay is complete. Thank you for reading.

## **Triumph: Of the Soul**

A soul is a projection of ancient history, embedded into our brains. Our desire to succeed goes far further than that. To come out victorious in our society, one must attain control, common sense, and love. A difficult task, but not cumbersome. Many of us struggle with desire to come out on top. However, many dismiss the most basic rule, which hinders them from being a creator of their own life.

You are the projection of your happiness. If you focus on the negative then, in return, you will receive negative. If for instance, you get a flat tire and you begin to react in a negative way. Cursing and yelling is not going to solve anything. Try to take something positive from it. An experience that you can share with family and friends. If next time they get a flat tire, you can keep them calm and composed. You can be a manual, who has all the answers they need.

Everything we go through in this lifetime is just another example of maturation. "One cannot run, if he cannot walk." The premise of this is: start from the basics, and build yourself up. When things happen to you, attain the composure to think outside of the box. Step outside of yourself, but use common sense and love in order to build a stronger you. Love is an ultimate key that will help you break even the greatest doors and fly over the highest mountains.

## **Death: The Showdown**

Death is an ultimate show down of wit and logic. It is somewhat of a movie that begins in the beginning, continues until the middle, and then ends abruptly, without asking you what you thought about it. Every single individual has thought about death, once or twice in his or her lifetime. What happens when we die? Do we just die? Does our soul leave our body, never to return? Do we go to Heaven? Do we go to Hell? Do we meet up with our relatives, girlfriends, wives, husbands', friends and other celebrities we idolized when they were visiting mother earth? You have all asked such wonderful questions. I consciously ask these questions myself, but hear no response. I bet you are wondering, "what is this guy getting at?" Let me share a little secret with you: I am not quite sure.

It is great to question things outside of our reality. It is healthy, actually. It might be a bit dangerous at times, because some not only ask these questions, but also want to experiment. This is where it gets scary. I suggest we continue asking, wondering, and begging answers to appear in front of us. I hope that one day, we will see them loud and clear. Maybe some things are better left alone.

## **Consumption Is Killing Us (What Are We Going To Do About It?)**

In the past three decades, our society has become an abuser of consuming material objects. We forgot that love is the most precious commodity we possess, and instead we began competing with our neighbors. We love shopping so much that we have a saying in our culture, "shop, until you drop". What has been a society content with being with their friends and loved ones has become a society full of zombies, who believe, that a discount of 10% off of \$5,000 is a great buy. The speed we consume food, clothes, friends, cars, computers and other, unnecessary objects, is atrocious. For instance, instead of making coffee at home, we go to a coffee shop. We don't realize that the lines at those coffee shops are astonishingly out the door and the time spent, arguing and yelling at a barista, can be ignored by preparing your pot of coffee at home, while reconnecting with your family.

The speed of our consumption is obnoxiously scary. We usually get tired of one thing we recently bought and move onto the next. It seems to be somewhat of a plague, which continues spreading widely. Who is to blame for our ways? I believe the answer lies in us. We are mind-controlled to believe that we must buy because we believe it is the last computer, car or other material object of its kind. We lack the logical skills our families had decades ago.

Our society revolves around consumption. What a scary way of looking at our culture. We feel so patriotic and so full of heart that we ignore the symptoms, which continue bleeding onto the oceans, rivers, mountains, and other parts of our planet earth. Ignoring these symptoms produces an effect of misery, begging, and poverty. Do we not desire love and happiness for the people on this planet? Why must we continue destroying and ignoring our children, who will continue living here, after we pass on? Do we not want to take care of the beauty so precious, so pure, and so full of light? I am sure you are thinking, "of course we do!" Then what the hell are you doing about it? How are you assisting Mother Nature? I am sure these questions are hard questions to answer, but they

are the questions, I ask myself when I fall a sleep at night.

As human species, we cannot continue growing, if we do not heal or help our “weakest links.” Asking for help should not have to be “pulling teeth.” Focusing on an individual group can be one way that could help. One way to do this is to start focus groups or an online magazine that would offer helpful advice for people who struggle with consumption. We must unite and guide the ones who are having trouble. We all struggle in some way or another.

## **Consistency Wins in the End!**

How important is it to you to be consistent with your endeavors in life? I would say, one of the most important aspects in human development is understanding that, without consistent struggle in life, we cannot grow as the human species. Sure, it might be hard at first, but through the mistakes made in the beginning, you can learn from them and continue striving to get better.

Since an early age, I wanted to be a writer. When I was growing up, that was the only way that I defined myself, if anyone asked. However, underneath all of this wanting, I was a huge procrastinator. After working 5 years in Marketing and Sales, I realized that writing was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Recently, I started to get more serious with my writing. I created a website and started to use the Marketing skills that I learned from my job at building my Freelance Writing business. It has been an up-hill battle, but it seems to be paying off.

After only a few months in the Freelance Writing business, I was fortunate to find three clients. I realized that if I continued staying consistent, I would be able to double my clientele and my writing income. In the year 2009, my goal is to make \$1,000 per a month. It will not be easy, but will surely be rewarding. If consistency is what I need in order to reach that goal, consistent I will be.

As you can see, if I can stay consistent with something I love, anyone can do it. Just remember, choose something you love, or have passion for, because if you choose something that gives no meaning to your existence, the motivation to keep going will die. When the motivation dies, you die.

## **Love Is an Ability and Not an Emotion**

Love is an ability not an emotion. A strong statement for me to make, but I believe it is the right statement. If you break down love into an aspect of levels, you can see that to love is to have an ability to do so. For instance, can a child love his or her parents? Most, I presume would answer a definite, "yes!" However, let us break things down a bit further. You cannot have an emotion floating without having the ability to do so. When a child comes into this world, he or she does not love; he or she does not know how. Throughout the years, the child learns how to have that ability. An ability to love and to care for the other person.

Now, let us ask another question. What is the difference between an emotion and an ability? An emotion is a feeling created using your brain. When you look at something, you give it value. For instance, when you look at a rose, some will agree there is beauty in it. However, if another person who has never seen a rose looks at it, the person may disagree that it has any significant beauty.

Let us focus now on the ability part. An ability is a feeling that could be considered an emotion, but you cannot compare apples and oranges, now can you? Having an ability is not as easy as it sounds, considering, in order to have any ability, you must develop it. For instance, when you work out a body part long enough, you will, in return, see it gradually developing from being flabby and skinny into a more defined body part. An ability is more like a muscle. The more you work on love, the easier it becomes in the long run.

I have outlined a few of my philosophies and hope to write many more. I will most likely expand this into more simpler language. For now, however, I hope that it gives everyone something to think about.

## 5 Ways to Find Ideas for Writing

You awoke at 10 o'clock figuring out where the next idea might strike its cord. You do not pay attention to the dead bolts of blocks in your head. You try to ignore the pain, and head out to your kitchen where you find a coffee mug with your name on it. Your wife has prepared it for you, because she knew you were going to have a hard day "working." You smile, and head back to your chair. Don't you feel cozy with that bathrobe on? Well, now that you got that smile out for "everyone to see" you can head back to work. The only question that arises now is what do I write about? Where do I find ideas? Your dog named Skippy isn't going to bark out the ideas for you. Your wife is at work and your kids are at school. You need to get to work, because sooner or later, you will be crying up a storm of frustration. Do not worry; I am here to share a few powerful tips that will prevent you from having writers' block ever again.

1. **Hobbies & Groups:** What interests do you have? What clubs or groups have you joined in the past 10 or 15 years? I am sure there are plenty of hobbies in your box of toys you have stacked away in your garage. Why not dig through them? What about joining an organization? I am sure in the area where you live there are plenty of clubs and organizations just willing to take you in. Why not take a Karate class, and then write about what it takes to get the white, yellow, and even brown belt. There are multiple things you can do with hobbies and groups. Just pay attention to outside of the spectrum and I am sure you could find multiple ideas, if you desire to do so.

2. **Magazines:** Why not look through a magazine as you always do during that boring evening alone? Read a few of those interesting articles you usually read. If you found an article that speaks to you, why not do a little research online, or phone that friend of yours who knows about the subject you found in the magazine?

3. **Travel:** Traveling is definitely one of the best ways to get multiple ideas at once. Choose a map of the area you live in. Take one of your index fingers and start pointing to

places that interest you. Get into any transportation that you can. Do not forget to bring that notepad and pen to write down what you see and dialogues you hear. You can write the information down. When you come home from the trip, take out that notepad you took with you when you traveled. It will give you multiple ideas about stories, short stories, poetry and much more.

4. **Television:** I do not suggest watching too much television. However, I do suggest watching something worthwhile. A few things I would suggest checking out include Discovery Channel, History Channel, National Geographic Channel, and the Home Channel. Many of these channels provide good and solid information about things around us. Why not include this in your articles, books, and even novels. All it takes is taking the time to figure out what you desire to watch. Have your notepad and a pen to note all of the necessary phrases, or ideas you may have. After all this, it simply takes execution to get it done.

5. **Friends, Family, and Neighbors:** Friends, Family, and Neighbors are one of the best sources for inspirational ideas. All it really takes is some observation and an ear to listen to your close ones. You usually talk about multiple topics on a variety of subjects. Why not next time you speak to them, take notes or ask them to tell you something interesting that has happened to them in their journey today or yesterday, or maybe even events or incidents they have experienced a few years ago. I am sure they would not mind all of the questions, nor would they mind shedding a few details about where they have been and where they are going.

**Conclusion:** Ideas are everywhere. All it takes is a notepad and a pen to jot them down. It will make you a better writer. Many people will recognize such a powerful voice in your writing because of such detail and explanation of any subject you write about.

## **Tips on Women (Just say “Hi”)**

Saying “Hi” seems as simple as breathing. Yet many men feel afraid when a beautiful woman walks by them; feeling that they cannot build up enough courage to say “Hi”. This simple technique can, if done in the right manner, guarantee success with the woman you are trying to pursue.

The way to say “Hi”: When a woman walks by, say "Hi" in an affirmative tone. Do not stop and try talking to her; just continue walking as if nothing happened. If you stop, you could risk giving away the element of mystery, which makes you more attractive to a woman. Giving away information about yourself will not benefit you in the end. Once you say “Hi” for the first time, continue walking as I mentioned before, and continue saying “Hi” every time you see her. Each time you say “Hi”, you make her put her thinking cap on. She will wonder why it is that you have not approached her yet. Once you have said “Hi” 5 times, switch to “Hello”. You should use this one more than 10 times. After a solid number of “Hello's” and “Hi's” she will approach you herself; women cannot take the element of mystery that you have built up.

Conclusion: You are not losing anything; you are simply being your happy-self, who is always happy. Once you get in the process of saying “Hi” to all of the beautiful women, you will realize that your confidence will improve dramatically. When women start talking to you, they will not look at you as some average guy; they will see you as a happy and outgoing guy who has not a problem in his life.

## **Sometimes Life Has Turns and Disappointments**

Sometimes life has many turns and disappointments. Occasionally, these difficulties are so perplexing that striving to focus on anything becomes a great challenge. Conversely, at times, such circumstances can actually lead to stunning realizations and growth, when a person helps another explore his/her circumstances in a new light. Thankfully, I experienced this satisfaction in a difficult time, when an assignment to write a poem was given in tenth grade.

Writing presented such a challenge for me that I felt somewhat annoyed that the assignment included reciting my work in front of the class. This, I felt, was one of the worst things a teacher could have done. I never was comfortable, nor confident in my writing, and now that I had to write a poem and share it with my peers, I truly felt backed up against the wall. My mind fought to come up with a way to escape this difficult situation, though I soon realized that I did not have such options, since I would have failed had I not attended that day. Having realized the inescapability of this dreadful situation, I resolved to apply myself as best as possible to completing the assignment.

The class was given merely a single week to write a poem, and I found myself awake for two consecutive nights simply strategizing about what I would write. Considerably perplexed at being unable to find a topic, I decided to explore the Internet for a while. I stumbled across a web site on metaphysics, and after reading through it, miraculously I found a topic for my poem: the future! Energized by my discovery, I enthusiastically began writing, and did not fall to sleep until two in the morning.

The following day I had to present my poem to the class. I was extremely nervous, and even shaking, but I maintained my resolve to complete the assignment. When it was my turn to present my poem, I walked to the front of the class carefully, trying not to make

eye contact with anyone. I stared at my paper for a few seconds, and then began to read slowly.

As I read, I found myself much more comfortable with what I had written than I had anticipated, and I started to read at a regular pace. When I finished, I returned to my seat a bit more confident than when I had left it. I looked around the classroom to see if there was someone else to read his or her poem now that I had finished, but no one followed. I was starting to sweat. As I looked towards my teacher, I realized that she was smiling at me, which only made me more nervous. Then to my surprise, the teacher began to clap, and the other students followed with much applause and compliments. All my fear left me at that instant, and I felt very relieved.

I'm not sure whether it was my poem that touched the teacher, or the fact of what I had accomplished in her class in such a short time. The poem went like this:

*"Captivated By Prophecy"*

*My mind is equipped with Electrical velocity,  
it's like a nuclear explosion that barriers are broken  
into tingling pieces of Almighty incisions.  
I am hoping for something greater now or later,  
but it's all in the human's experience  
through wisdom and hate,  
I am engaging into an overdrive  
to not complicate matter over longitude  
but to make known facts that are based  
into the future to accomplish things  
through time."*

Four years have passed since that experience in tenth grade, and in that time I have experienced many more achievements and further strengthened my confidence. This growth has also aided me in other aspects of my life. I am now able to face fear of

rejection from jobs that I have applied to, as well as having turned into one of the better sales representatives for companies such as MarketStar and BDSMarket Inc.

Additionally, I have learned that having more confidence helps other people relate to me better. They are strengthened through my confidence. Contrary to how I first perceived the situation I faced, retrospectively I am greatly thankful to my teacher for giving me that assignment and providing me with a completely new way of looking at life.

A few poems I wrote a few weeks/months later:

*I let out my sigh,  
Inside my head, I blame myself  
I torture my own desires  
In order to bring my own  
Torture on oneself*

*I begin to take form,  
In the morning of the dawn  
I redeem myself  
Of providing fortune  
In my own drawn river pawn*

*I kill to breathe, and deeply see,  
My own disgrace  
Beneath the grace,  
Of my own existence  
It's an acoustic resistance,  
That keeps on ticking  
Like a kicking screaming fetus  
It's a thesis  
That I staple in the gunning form*

*Stopped beneath my own stone*

*What sips into my veins?*

*Like electrical circuitry*

*I cannot combine my own combination*

*Of my own leakage*

*I plan to care, but in my doubtful mind*

*I am trapped so, I just look back up at you and reminisce of them*

*Times, I cared for life and for breathing to be alone,*

*Is my escape to something more*

*I sit here all alone,*

*Sipping water through my veins,*

*Is something I dread to morn for?*

*I sit here lonely feeling I can't relate,*

*Hoping for someone to catch me*

*Is something I longed to embrace?*

*I just know it won't happen, I know it won't come true*

*Therefore, I will sit here all alone for two.*

## **Our Society Is On a Decline**

Our society is on a decline. I know that this is a bold statement to make. However, I know it is the right statement. After consistent encounters with teenagers and young kids, I came to this conclusion solidly based on their actions, their views and the way they were able to communicate with me. I have not always felt this way. However, looking at our society today, and taking even a further look into the future, I can, without much thought, conclude our society is on a decline. Parents have not taken control of their young children. It has been proven repeatedly, parents are not as disciplinary as they were two decades ago. If there is no role model, who, or what other person in the child's life, will be left to mold the child's mind? The proof is everywhere. Most television shows you see on have only dumbed people down. There has been an array of reality shows which have popped up, which gets a big viewership. Networks like MTV and VH1 have been marketing to the younger generation for a few years now. The shows that are aired on these networks have D ratings at best. Schools have also played a pivotal role in our society. Schools have stopped giving our children the basic life skill tools that are necessary to succeed in America today. Today's youth does not know how to balance a checkbook, perform basic academic research, or embrace self-confidence. Everything seems to be surrounded by formulas and memorization techniques to merely pass standardized tests. Personally, I feel that instead of building a highly intelligent society, we are building drones, which will follow orders and do as they are told. There is no presence of analytical skills, nor is there a prevalence of vivid imagination anymore.

Everything seems to be on a decline, and we are hardly recognizing it. When will we as a human civilization wake up and do something about it? Why do we sit on the sidelines and let the drones control what we think and how we think? Things being shown on television screens do not improve our intelligence, it just continues killing our brain cells one by one. We are told what to think, how to think, and when to think each thought. We buy what the media tells us to buy, we eat what the media tells us to eat, and we listen to

the kind of music the media wants us to listen to. We live a life of convenience, because it is convenient. It is the easiest way to live, and we have been encouraged to find the shortest route to success. We live in an era where success is measured by our test scores, the size of our social network, and brand names we flaunt. Even still, the natural tendency is to find the quick answer, make shallow friendships, and buy counterfeits to give the illusion we have accomplished the illusion of success. We do not have our own views anymore. I beg someone to show me differently.

## **Is Radio an Exotic Tool for the People by the People?**

What kind of question is that, someone might say to a person who believes profoundly about this particular communicating tool. I for one believe strongly, that for a fact radio is an exotic tool. How could that be? Well, look at it this way, radio was used in the early 1950's to bring news, express opinions, advertise products, and capture people's imaginations. Not everyone had the luxury to sit by the fire with family, wrapped in blankets while looking at the radio, as if it was something God has sent. It was an exotic tool, because only a handful of people could afford the radio. It was something many people desired, but fell short from purchasing.

It was an exotic tool, because that is when the economy took a big slide forward. Marketing geniuses and advertisers used this particular tool to gather people's attention, which lead people to graciously buy things without thinking if it was a necessity or a burden. Many families realized that they could get installment plans, which would help them own what they always have dreamed of. They forgot to realize, they were not thinking for themselves. The marketing geniuses were telling them what to purchase. That is manipulation better produced than anything we have had in a long time.

Personally, people were just a little more greedy than today. I know, that might not be the case, because the human civilization have always been greedy and will always continue down that path, I just feel that there was much more emphasis on owning, needing and wanting. However, all of those three feelings were not things you wanted, but more solidly, what marketing geniuses told you to have.

I know that today, we have another exotic tool, that will surpass and actually produce higher results. The Internet was born a decade ago and is being compared to the radio constantly. I do agree that the Internet is an exotic tool, as well. I will also go along and say, the radio is going to be lost in translation, and the Internet will thrive. However, you

cannot deny the fact, that radio was and is a blueprint for exotic tools.

I cannot predict what the next hot new exotic tool will be, but I can promise it will produce better results in less time. All of these exotic tools mentioned, can and have been used in a bad way, but, you can also agree, they have been used in wonderful ways as well. I am watching and continuing using both exotic tools for the better.

## **Is College A Necessity?**

I continuously ask myself this question and I have not come to a conclusion as of yet. I feel that it is not... but, at the same time, my subconscious mind takes a deep breath and speaks for me.

*College is very important it speaks.*

I get tired of people telling me in order to achieve success; you need to go to College. I mean my goals are not the same as other peoples. It is so difficult to confront these people and let them know head on... I am not interested in what you have to say about College and you cannot make me do what you want me to do. Do not get me wrong, I love learning and growing. However, I feel that in order to learn and grow, you need “real life’s lessons”. People tell me... Oh, you can network, develop friendships, and learn very important new skills in College. Well, I am here to say, you can do all of those things without going to College.

You can network through volunteering; you can learn a new skill through reading a book and actually following directions. Friendships can be discovered through travel, you can also go to different countries, or even travel locally, which not only helps you meet new people, it helps you learn new things at the same time.

I feel that the school system is a joke. It does not challenge me as much as “real life” does. In addition, I feel that the system has not implemented 21st century learning; it is decades if not centuries old. It is a big business and the people who are CEOs are the only ones who are to benefit the most. A few decades ago, you could turn a television on and see all kinds of advertisements thrown at the kids. And from there, parents took notice, and put major pressure on the kids, telling them, maybe even threatening them, to go to High School. In addition, they not only make them go, but demand they play four sports and become valedictorian all at the same time. This has lead to a depressional childhood, which leads to Prozac and other unnecessary drugs, and continues to push kids into

suicide.

It seems that parents have not paid much attention to these kids, and are losing grips with reality. When they do catch their wrongful doings, they are a few seconds too late. I just wonder how many more kids need to cut their wrists before someone takes notice. How many more pills do youngsters have to pop, before parents stop putting so much pressure towards these wonderful kids, whose only wish is to just roam free, just how we were born to be: free.

### **Life's Observations Part 3**

Peace on earth is more beautiful than love. Truth is hard to find, but lies are spread out throughout our planet. Why is it difficult for us to be peaceful; but easier to be rude and obnoxious? Why do we put ourselves first and ignore the other people's feelings? You would think the word, "love", which we continuously toss around, as if it was keys, would instead be sprinkled onto our planet and into people's hearts that are around us.

We are a spoiled civilization full of fat cats, who sit around and continue to pet their fat bellies, while yelling, "I need more money in order to buy more shit I do not need!" Oh, how wonderful! Let us buy more things, so that we can stuff our damn garages so high that we cannot open the garage doors. You do realize most of these objects rot away, anyway. I know you know, but do you care? I bet you do not. Why care? I guess it is easier to let shit be, than care for something as simple as peace, love, and our community.

The choices you make today, will not necessarily determine the whole path in an instant. However, if you question the path you are on right now and you love this path, why not continue, but if you hate the path and the journey you are on now, why not change it?

Remember, Satan exists in our minds, but beauty exists on the outside.

# Thoughts on Fire

by: Leon Basin

“Thoughts on Fire” was originally published in 2008 as a series of articles by Leon Basin on his blog @ [www.leonbasin.net](http://www.leonbasin.net). You can contact Leon there or on his account at [www.scribd.com/LeonBasin](http://www.scribd.com/LeonBasin), where more of his works are published all the time. This work represents a miscellany of thoughts one might have while leaping over a backyard fire-pit, or parachuting out of an airplane, as easily as while calmly reading a soothing self-help book and meditating in the park. It covers a wide range of topics concisely, and encourages the reader to ask further questions and seek individual answers for themselves. From the deeply mystic to the socio-political, these essays provide hours of enjoyable, thought-provoking insights.

- Jon Gee

author of “the Metaphysician’s Desk Reference”