

Everyday Wisdom

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Charles M. Judd

We all know some old wives tales, we have heard folk tales, and we have read books of sayings and slogans; but what I like best of all, are those I call "wisdom in a phrase." So I tried to remember them, writing down all that I could, with an addition or two by Jean, my wife. Some of mine may differ from how you might remember them, but I trust they will bring back pleasant memories. I have had fun thinking of these and adding my comments.

After I had written many of them down I picked up a copy of the Yale Alumni Magazine, now several months old and waiting to be read, and I found an article by Carlo Rotello, entitled, "Ask The Man who Out-Bartletted Bartlett." If his comments on Quotations merit publishing, my few words within a phrase merit my reading them to you.

When in a game, and gaining on our opponents, I might yell, "ITS IN THE BAG," surely you know what I mean.

If I saw a buddy of ours and remarked to you that he was "DOWN AT THE HEELS," surely you would know what I meant.

If a friend of mine named Mike tells me about some great profitable deals he has made, and later if I see a mutual friend of ours, I might tell him about Mike saying, "HE'S IN CLOVER."

I'm sure that many of you know that Jean and I have been married for 66 years, but I should have told you, also, that it is because she is "ONE IN A MILLION."

I should know, but I don't, what the last word of this "phrase" means but that doesn't keep me from knowing what the meaning of the phrase is: "IT'S LIKE PICKING A PIG IN A POKE."

Occasionally someone at the Club will read a paper that I don't fully understand, but most of the time I am happy to say that the meaning of most papers is "CLEAR AS A BELL."

But even if most papers are clear, there is diversity in this Club and we may occasionally say that the writer of a paper was, "CRAZY AS A LOON."

And then again we might easily have a member who was so impressed with the caliber of the paper just read, and its content, that he would declare its writer must be as "BRIGHT AS A DOLLAR."

Cincinnati's weather isn't the reason people live in Cincinnati, all though membership in our club could be a reason. So when driving down to the Club on a Monday night and it is "RAINING CATS AND DOGS," we still consider ourselves fortunate.

I remember one Monday night years ago when I didn't come to the Club on a Monday night, not for a normal reason, such as having out of town house guests, but because all the street lights were out and it was "BLACK AS INK."

Writers come in all colors, sizes, and shapes. Some of our best writers have nothing to brag about as far as their appearance but they are nevertheless "SHARP AS A TACK."

Of course we have a few who entertain us, and we love it, in spite of the fact we think they may be, "NUTTY AS A FRUIT CAKE."

And I have a very few friends, as most of us have, who occasionally will be "HIGH AS A KITE."

A few of our friends have young children, not many, of whom I can say they are usually as "GOOD AS GOLD."

If you know Jean, my wife, you know why I say she is "PRETTY AS A PICTURE."

Once Jean and I took 'A POSTMAN'S HOLIDAY' in Scotland walking the moors and we were "HAPPY AS LARKS," meanwhile back in the states our children back at home, we were told, were as "HAPPY AS CLAMS."

I don't think this one is to be taken literally, but today if someone said he is a "A FLASH IN THE PAN," I would know immediately that he was referring to our president.

Unfortunately, I will occasionally get "MAD AS A BULL," usually about something of no consequence, but, also, fortunately I will soon see my stupidity and will, usually, become as "GENTLE AS A LAMB."

Remember when you were young/ not yet brave, and someone would call you a name, your reply was probably, "SO'S YOUR OLD MAN," or maybe it was "STICKS AND STONES WILL BREAK YOUR BONES BUT WORDS WILL NEVER HURT ME."

Back when I was in high school and talking about a girl to the "boys," I might have described her as "CUTE AS A BUTTON," or another I might describe as "QUIET AS A MOUSE."

And then one of the "boys," in turn, would describe a different girl, saying that she was "COOL AS A CUCUMBER," but I wondered since I thought he was usually "NUTTY AS A FRUITCAKE."

The description of one's girl that topped all of them was when she was described as "CUTE AS A BUG IN THE RUG."

Of course, my wife, Jean, can also be said to look "YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME."

Now the girls would use entirely different phrases in their descriptions of the local high school boys. For example one might say that her friend was "SHARP AS A TACK." Or maybe, on the other hand she could say, in describing him he was "DULL AS DISHWATER."

Of course there are the motherly type girls who are looking for a boy friend who is "NEAT AS A PIN," but she should know that she might as well "LOOK FOR CLOUD WITH A SILVER LINING" or a "NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK."

And now as "QUICK AS A WINK," I will let you think of all those phrases that I have missed.