

Decisive

by David W Brown on July 1, 2019. © All rights reserved

Somewhere in the vast cosmos *****

Intellect, a tier-two deity is in repose on a virtual, invisible banquette in a virtual, invisible room. Lower level divinities Curiosity, Logic and Imagination sit expectantly on the floor in front of the banquette.

Intellect is deep in thought. Logic deduced this because Intellect has their right hand nestled pensively beneath their chin as if posing for a sculptor. Curiosity wonders why Intellect must think for so long before speaking. Imagination is visualizing Intellect with a cat's nose and whiskers.

Finally, Intellect speaks. "People, it seems to me like we are losing the battle. It pains me to say that, but I fear it is true. We have been waging the good fight for lo, these many eons, but it may be time to call a truce".

Curiosity spoke first, as they are wont to do. "Boss, why do you call it the 'good fight'? I thought fighting was an unproductive and needlessly hostile and violent expression of conflict that we should leave to the lesser deities and humans?".

Logic raised their hand. "Can I take this one Boss?".

Intellect nodded.

Logic continued, "I don't believe Boss is speaking in the literal sense, Curiosity. They mean figuratively. As in we are expending our vital and finite energies on applying our reason and deductive powers to find a solution to the 'problem'".

Intellect nodded again.

Curiosity responded. "But there are so many problems; precisely which one are you referring to and how did we ever come to determine that it was the only 'good' fight? Weren't there other literal and figurative battles that warranted our vital and finite energies?".

Logic glanced towards Intellect and responded conclusively.

"All these questions are interesting and entertaining Curiosity, but deductive reasoning has led us to that conclusion by examining the most cogent aspects of each possibility and simple, well, logic instructs us to the correct choice based on the evidence, as it were".

Curiosity leaped to their feet. "Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. All those words, Logic. You have an answer for EVERYTHING, don't you? What about running a few more tests? What about some focus groups? How can you be so absolutely certain you're so conclusively right?".

Logic shook their head ruefully and looked towards Intellect, who was now picking at their big toe.

Logic sighed and continued. "I appreciate your concerns, Curiosity and I respectfully validate and accept them". Logic looked back towards Intellect who was absently nodding and continued. "But in every exigency, there is a time for questions and a time for decisions, otherwise we would simply keep asking questions and never take action. Does that not make sense?".

Curiosity erupted. "Oh, this is just so YOU! You have an answer for EVERYTHING, don't you? I can't even ask one simple question and then you shut me down! How can we ever learn if we don't ask questions? Answer me that Logic! Questions are how we GET TO the answers; we don't have the answers and THEN determine the questions!".

Logic exhaled loudly while Intellect continued to pick at their other big toe.

"Okay, okay, okay", Logic said calmly, "what is your question?".

"My QUESTION? As in singular?", Curiosity raged.

Intellect looked up sternly. "Not this again. How many times have I told you two - this doesn't require an answer Logic - how this works? Each of you has a unique and equally important capability that contributes to the decision-making process. Curiosity; you probe and peel and pare away at the situation to help uncover data. Logic; you methodically process all possible avenues and solutions in the context of risk and within the constraint of said data. But, neither of you have a critical ability that allows the coalescence of your contributions. Do you remember what it is?".

Imagination held up their hand. "Conceptualization, Boss?".

Intellect smiled broadly. "Precisely, Imagination, conceptualization. And that, people, is why

Imagination is here. Imagination is able to take the actual and theoretical data points and visualize them, thus facilitating effective decision making".

Intellect leaned back on the banquette with a satisfied smile.

"So, what are you seeing then?", Curiosity asked Imagination.

"Well, there are clearly 'pros and cons' as you like to say Logic. And there are also some remaining questions, Curiosity. But I see that if we continue to.....", Imagination began before the virtual door to the virtual room flew open and banged loudly on the virtual wall.

A loud, authoritative voice shouted, "for Christ's sake, make up our God Damned mind or I'm sending Frustration and Impatience in here to kick some ass!".

Intellect looked with relief to see the tier one deity, Impulse, standing in the doorway with hands on hips.

"Right away Boss, right away!".