

Memory, Festivity & Interior Fire

FURTHER EXPLORATIONS OF PRUDENCE AND EDUCATING BEINGS HUMAN



Samuel + Erasmus institute
ideas • conversation • friendship

A MEETING OF THE SEI EDUCATOR SOCIETY (D.C.)

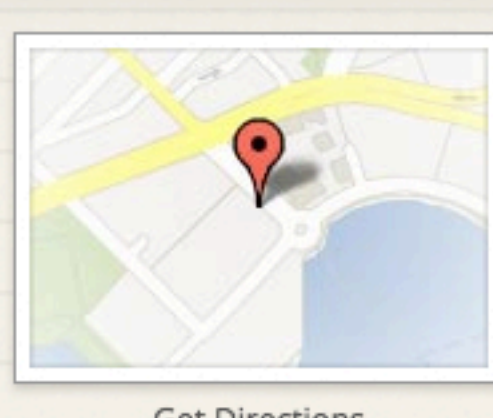
Our next meeting: Thursday April 7th!

We'll continue an exploration of prudence, with a particular focus on festivity, memory and the interior fires of life. The primary (and somewhat primal) elements of the evening will be a song by Peter Gabriel and a very short story by H.H. Munro, otherwise known as *Saki*. Both should provide for unexpected moments and connections, and we'll see... (Copies of the story and song will be provided).



Cheers!

MEMORY, FESTIVITY & INTERIOR FIRE: A SEI EDUCATOR SOCIETY MEETING (D.C.)



[Get Directions](#)

WHEN
THURSDAY, APRIL 7TH, 7-10PM

WHERE
OLD ANGLER'S INN, 10801 MACARTHUR BLVD, POTOMAC, MD 20854

*It started when I saw the ship go down
I saw them struggle in the sea
And suddenly the picture disappears
In front of me*

*Now we're busy making all our busy plans
On foundations built to last
But nothing fades as fast as the future
And nothing clings like the past, until we can see...*

~ from a song by Peter Gabriel



FURTHER PONDERINGS IN PRUDENCE AND FESTIVITY...

...truth of real things...is contained in the true-to-being memory...it "contains" in itself real things and events as they really are and were. The falsification of recollection by the assent or negation of the will is memory's worst foe...The peril is the greater for its being so imperceptible...There is no more insidious way for error to establish itself than by this falsification of the memory through slight retouches, displacements, discolorations, omissions, shifts of accent...memory can be ensured only by a rectitude of the whole human being which purifies the most hidden roots of volition...

...these false prudences arise from covetousness and are by nature akin to it...how impossible just estimate and decision is without a youthful spirit of brave trust and, as it were, a reckless tossing away of anxious self-preservation, a relinquishment of all egoistic bias toward mere confirmation of the self...

~ Josef Pieper, *A Brief Reader on the Virtues of the Human Heart and The Four Cardinal Virtues* (see links below)

THE WORLD REVEALS ITSELF TO THE SILENT LISTENER AND ONLY TO HIM; THE MORE SILENTLY HE LISTENS, THE MORE PURELY IS HE ABLE TO PERCEIVE REALITY ~ J. PIEPER



Dali ~ Ascension of Christ

...the invisible aspect of festivity, the praise of the world which lies at a festival's innermost core...can be made perceptible to the senses only through the medium of the arts...as soon as festiveness itself becomes unachievable, the arts are inevitably left without a home...

To celebrate a festival means: to live out, for some special occasion and in an uncommon manner, the universal assent to the world as a whole.

Festivity...is a liberation. Through it the celebrant becomes aware of, and may enter, the greater reality which gives a wider perspective on the world of everyday work, even as it supports it.

~ J. Pieper, *In Tune with the World: a Theory of Festivity*



SAMUEL & ERASMUS INSTITUTE

Give light, and the darkness will disappear of itself. ~ Erasmus

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