

CHASING EMPTY WHITE BALLOONS

"If only I had a brain," the fellow said. You did not hear him say that, you read it. The words sit in a white balloon floating on a string over his head. The balloon carries the words; it expresses silent thoughts within an isolated and insulated head room. Readers can only wonder what "@#\$\$%^&*& !" really expresses. Is it an explicative, exclamation, disappointment, or desire? The cartoon creator defies the censor while setting up the question, what does that mean? What is on that character's mind?

The white balloon is a method used to carry messages spoken by two dimensional line drawings and three dimensional persons in photographs. We all float white balloons. Ours carry the same range of thoughts as does the cartoon's "@#\$\$%^&*& !" Do our white balloons express reality? Are our thoughts logical, honest, charitable, moral, devious, vehement, or evil? Fortunately, when we float our balloons, only we know what is in them. That is, if we keep them unspoken - secret.

White balloon thoughts exist whether acted upon or not. We know the thoughts we would act upon or vocalize. We know when it is best to keep them locked up in our heads. That makes us thinking persons who contemplate the consequences of activating and vocalizing our thoughts. Let us hope we can leave the negative, poor judgment, bad thoughts alone, and keep them in a mental cul-de-sac.

Positive and neutral thoughts do float in our white balloons. Some take the expressway, others the side street. Some never leave their parking space. The best part is, we have them. Corporate management courses often teach the paradigm:

There are three types of leaders.
Those who make things happen.
Those who watch things happen.
Those who say, "what happened?"

The last seems to be the least desirable. Not everyone can be in the first, so that may be an improbable place for many of us. The middle can be a beneficial position. The middle is the observer. The scenario of life changes daily, hourly. Being able to alter and move quickly as scenarios change is a great talent. Cassius Clay - Mohammed Ali - is the classic poet: "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." Prepared for change, unstuck to one mode, that is a description for the middle person who watches what happens, thinks, and then acts. That is the person who assesses the reality of those thoughts and the fruits they will or will not bear. Too often the "think" happens after the "act." That person is the one who moves quickly to the third position, "What happened?!"
That's Chasing Empty White Balloons.