

Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday September 10 2023

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Dragon's child



By far the most unusual and enigmatic fish to live in the sea is the seahorse.

As the early morning light filters its way down into the shallow depths where this little creature lives amongst weeds and rocks, the male is on the lookout for its mate. Hidden from prying eyes, the enigmatic, almost shy seahorse looks out from its ocean hideaway assured that its cryptic camouflage will hide it from even the most determined predator.

<https://oceanographicmagazine.com/features/seahorse-conservation-dragons-child/>

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Crossing the Bar



By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Sunset and evening star,
 And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
 When I put out to sea,

 But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
 Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
 Turns again home.

 Twilight and evening bell,
 And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
 When I embark;

 For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
 The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
 When I have crost the bar.

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The Essential Guide to Visiting Ireland

Here's everything you need to know about exploring the Emerald Isle—when to go, where to stay, what to do, and how to get around.



Killarney the beautiful place to visit in Ireland.
Travelworlds

<https://bit.ly/45wOXE1>

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Visualizing the BRICS Expansion in 4 Charts



BRICS is an association of five major countries including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Distinguished by their emerging economies, the group has sought to improve diplomatic coordination, reform global financial institutions, and ultimately serve as a counterbalance to Western hegemony.

On Aug. 24, 2023, BRICS announced that it would formally accept six new members at the start of 2024: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

<https://bit.ly/3PjeaME>

These balloons may be filled with other than hot air.

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13 of the Most Venomous Sea Creatures Lurking in the Water

From blue-ringed octopuses to stonefish, here are some of the most venomous, deadly species in our planet's oceans.

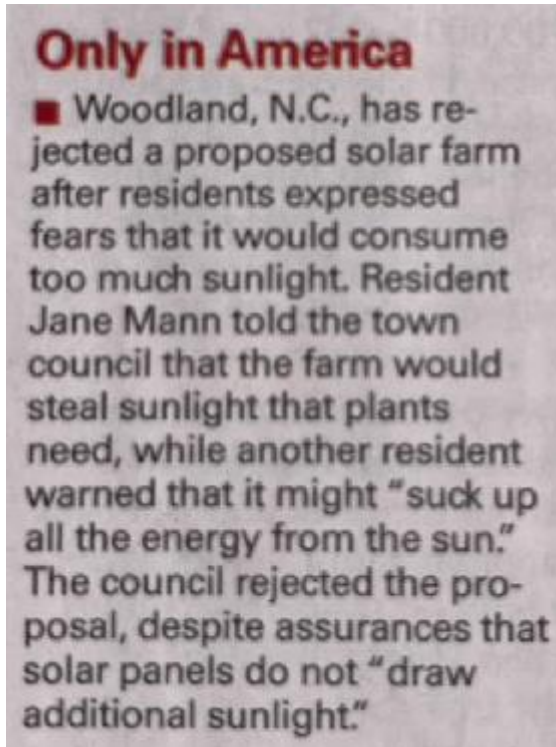


*The blue-ringed octopus is found mostly coral reefs around Southeast Asia and Australia.
(Image credit: Subaqueosshutterbug/Getty Images)*

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They've Been Elected So They Can't Be Wrong, Right?



Of course, there was Representative Hank Johnson's [concern for Guam](#)

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Some More Mature Thoughts

"I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me ... they're cramming for their final exam."

George Carlin

"Grandchildren don't make a man feel old, it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother that does."

J. Norman Collie

"To get back to my youth I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early, or be respectable."

Oscar Wilde

"The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for."

Will Rogers

"We must recognize that, as we grow older, we become like old cars ... more and more repairs and replacements are necessary."

C.S. Lewis

"Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened."

Jennifer Yanez

"I'm so old that my blood type is discontinued."

Bill Dana

"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened."

Mark Twain

"Old people shouldn't eat healthy foods. They need all the preservatives they can get."

Robert Orben

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The Most Artistic Cities in Europe



Rome (of course)

getty images

Looking for some city break inspiration? These are the best destinations for aesthetes in 2023.

<https://bit.ly/3P8JL3r>

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Walk This Way Master.... Young Frankenstein Revisited



Even in a catalog full of classics, Young Frankenstein stands out as one of Mel Brooks' most beloved flicks. And it's easy to understand why – the horror parody is hilarious! The comedy classic has built up a sizable following since its release in 1974.

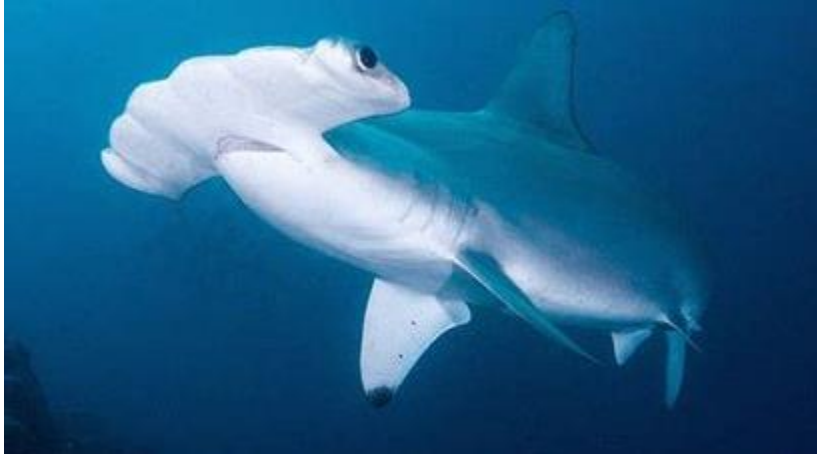
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Every Year, Dozens of Female Hammerhead Sharks Mysteriously Convene in French Polynesia Under the Full Moon



Every austral summer, Rangiroa and Tikehau atolls in French Polynesia host a mysterious assembly of female great hammerhead sharks — a critically endangered and typically solitary species.

<https://bit.ly/3Pmhoz2>

Also check out the video on the pair of megamouth sharks.

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The Good the Bad and the Ugly Music by Ennio Morricone



Sergio Leone hired Morricone, and together they created a distinctive score to accompany Leone's different version of the 1964 Western, A Fistful of Dollars. The composer subsequently scored Leone's other two Dollars Trilogy spaghetti westerns:

For a Few Dollars More (1965) and The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (1966). All three films starred the American actor Clint Eastwood as The Man With No Name and depicted Leone's own intense vision of the mythical West.

<https://youtu.be/tWGEveSseDg?t=19>

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Formal Portraits of 'Misunderstood' Pigeons



Crested Pigeon

Pigeons are everywhere in the world, but the common birds are often looked down upon and dubbed "flying rats." However, one photographer has sought to raise the profile of the lowly pigeon by taking a series of formal portraits in a studio setting.

Titled Fancy Pigeons, photographer Brendan Burden tells PetaPixel that the birds are misunderstood creatures and he has learned much about them.

<https://bit.ly/47FIc4i>

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Improved H₂ Production Efficiency with a Disruptive Tech.



The groundbreaking technology uses heat instead of electricity to generate hydrogen.

NewHydrogen, Inc. announced it has entered a research agreement with University of California, Santa Barbara and is working with a team of UC Santa Barbara experts to develop a more efficient way to split water into cheap green hydrogen using a thermochemical approach.

<https://bit.ly/3Pfvcbv>

Why not use waste heat from thorium reactor systems?

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What is aiEDU and How Can It Be Used for Teaching?



aiEDU is an artificially intelligent AI literacy program designed to help all teachers and students

<https://bit.ly/43YJeGq>

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Next Slide, Please: A Brief History of the Corporate Presentation

From million-dollar slide shows to Steve Jobs's introduction of the iPhone, a bit of show business never hurt plain old business.



It's 1948, and it isn't a great year for alcohol. Prohibition has come and gone, and booze is a buyer's market again. That much is obvious from Seagram's annual sales meeting, an 11-city traveling extravaganza designed to drum up nationwide sales. No expense has been spared: there's the two-hour, professionally acted stage play about the life of a whiskey salesman. The beautiful anteroom displays. The free drinks. But the real highlight is a slideshow.

To call the Seagram-Vitarama a slideshow is an understatement. It's an experience: hundreds of images of the distilling process, set to music, projected across five 40-by-15-foot screens. "It is composed of pictures, yet it is not static," comments one awed witness. "The overall effect is one of magnificence." Inspired by an Eastman Kodak exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair, the Seagram-Vitarama is the first A/V presentation ever given at a sales meeting. It will not be the last.

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Why Did India Land Near the Moon's South Pole?



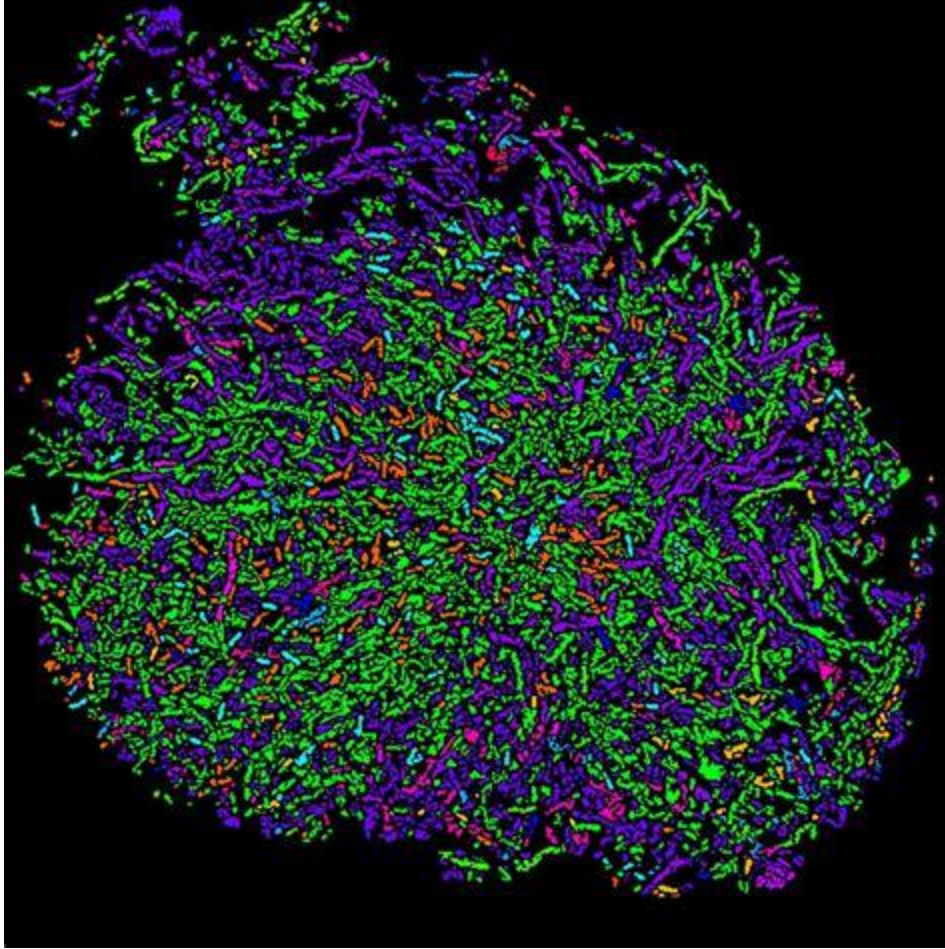
This unexplored area of the lunar surface has landscapes more ancient than any of the Apollo sites, and it may be rich in resources that could be useful to future human crews.

<https://bit.ly/45ypg68>

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Global Microbiome Study Gives New View of Shared Health Risks

The most comprehensive survey of how we share our microbiomes suggests a new way of thinking about the risks of developing some diseases that aren't usually considered contagious.



Cornell news

<https://bit.ly/3r1ZkAL>

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Thomas Dolby



Dolby came to prominence in the 1980s, releasing hit singles including "She Blinded Me with Science" (1982) and "Hyperactive!" (1984). He has also worked as a producer and as a session musician.

In the 1990s, Dolby founded Beatnik, a Silicon Valley software company whose technology was used to play internet audio and later ringtones, including the Nokia tune. He was also the music director for TED Conferences. On the faculty at the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University since 2014, Dolby leads Peabody's Music for New Media program, which enrolled its first students in the fall of 2018.

She Blinded Me with Science <https://youtu.be/V83JR2IoI8k>

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Flash Mob "Viva la Vida" con Alice Paba

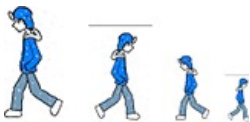


<https://youtu.be/Utexhp-xyOw>

One day soon I'm going to present an Ode of nothing but flash mobs.

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My Walking Thoughts



For Sunday September 10 2023

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Query Letter for My Memoir, Humility and How I Achieved It.

For years I've thought about writing this but I've never seemed to get around to it...too many conflicting calls on my precious energies. I think you'll agree, however, the time has come for me to get on with the project.

But first, maybe I should define humility and the context within which I mean to pursue it, otherwise I might just as well call my magnum opus something else.

The term "Humility" has its origins in Latin and is derived from the word "humilitas," related to "humus," meaning earth or ground, thus being down-to-earth or grounded. Its meaning and significance have evolved over time but generally revolves around the ideas of modesty, meekness, and a lack of arrogance or pride.

Over the centuries, philosophers--Aristotle and Confucius among them—have discussed the concept of humility in the context of ethics and human behavior, believing humility is essential for moral development and harmonious social relationships.

Both in art and literature, people who embody humility are generally portrayed as virtuous and admirable. Conversely, characters who display arrogance are likely to meet with downfall or tragedy.

Overall, humility has a rich and diverse background rooted in various cultural, religious, philosophical, and ethical traditions. It continues to be a concept valued for its positive impact on personal well-being and a realistic perspective on one's own abilities and importance in the world.

But wait a minute here, I don't recall finding any citations linking humility with fighter piloting...in fact with this 'down to earth' ethos, the characteristics seem quite the opposite. So, since AI is today's 'cat's meow,' perhaps it's time to query ChatGPT on the matter:

Me

Hey old buddy, what's your take on the relationship between fighter pilots and humility?

ChatGPT

Humility is not a trait often associated with fighter pilots, given their high-stakes, competitive, and often daring profession. However, humility can manifest in fighter pilots in several ways:

Continuous Learning: Fighter pilots undergo extensive training and must continually update their skills and knowledge. Humility is demonstrated when they acknowledge that they can always learn something new, even after years of experience. They are open to constructive feedback and are willing to adapt and improve.

Teamwork: Fighter pilots operate as part of a team, often in highly coordinated missions. Humility is evident when they recognize the importance of their fellow pilots, ground crew, and support staff. They understand that success depends on the collective effort of the entire team, not just individual skills.

Respect for Adversaries: While fighter pilots engage in combat and competitive scenarios, humility can be seen in their respect for their adversaries. They acknowledge the skills and capabilities of enemy pilots and do not underestimate them, which can lead to better decision-making and safer operations.

Embracing Vulnerability: Fighter pilots must confront danger and risk regularly. Humility is displayed when they acknowledge their vulnerability and the fact that they cannot control every aspect of a mission. This acknowledgment can lead to better decision-making and risk management.

Mistake Recognition: No one is infallible, and even experienced fighter pilots can make mistakes. Humility is demonstrated when they take responsibility for their errors, learn from them, and work to prevent similar mistakes in the future. This attitude contributes to a culture of safety and improvement.

Leadership: Fighter pilots often become leaders within their units. Humility in leadership means recognizing that leadership is a service to others, and it involves listening to and valuing the input of team members, even those with less experience.

Mission Focus: Humility can be seen in a pilot's ability to prioritize the mission over personal ego. They are willing to adjust their plans and strategies based on changing circumstances, rather than stubbornly sticking to their initial ideas.

It's important to note that humility in fighter pilots does not mean lack of confidence or a timid approach to their duties. Rather, it involves a balanced perspective that recognizes the limits of their abilities, values teamwork, respects the competition, and seeks continuous improvement. In the high-pressure and high-risk world of fighter aviation, humility can contribute to safety, mission success, and a positive team culture.

Huh. This doesn't seem all that encouraging. Maybe I need to do more walking and thinking...perhaps I should consider changing the focus of my memoir from Humility to something else...Perfection for instance.

Hmmm. Thinking of it in light of my AI's response, 'Perfection and How I Achieved It' does seem to make more sense.

Do you think I can find a publisher who will give me a large advance?