

EARTH THEATRE OF THE FUTURE
Wisocracy World Café



Wisdom
Nature
Love
Justice
Peace



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Wisocracy World Café
~ Circle of Imagination ~

"If They Could All Meet... What Might They Say?"

For our first imagined gathering at
Wisocracy World Café, we invited a dream
Circle of Imagination
— thinkers, scientists, comedians, and wisdom-seekers
— across time and space.
They came!

Jacob Bronowski, Carl Sagan, Albert Einstein, Carl Jung, Studs
Terkel, Robin Williams, George Carlin, Mel Brooks, David
Brooks, Larry David, Neil deGrasse Tyson,
and John Cleese joined me in the Café.

What unfolded was a spirited, humorous, and deeply human
conversation about wisdom, systems, democracy,
humor, and hope.

At the end,
a surprise invitation sets up Meeting #2...
and a new project!



Pull up a chair, pour your favorite drink
— and enjoy Meeting #1.

~ Sandy Hinden

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"If They Could All Meet... What Might They Say?"

Scene:
The Wisocracy World Café

The glow of early evening settles over the street. A small bell jingles above the door of the Wisocracy World Café, its neon sign flickering gently: Wisdom • Nature • Love • Justice • Peace

Inside, the Café hums with warm conversation. The smell of coffee, hot chocolate, and hints of spice wafts through the air. The walls are lined with art, books, and curious objects — an owl statuette presides from a corner shelf.

At the central table — polished wood, large enough for a dozen minds to gather — Sandy sits as host, smiling, with his notebook open.

Today, an extraordinary gathering of minds assembles to imagine: *What might a wiser world look like? And what could we do — together — to help it emerge?*

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The Guests Arrive

Jacob Bronowski — Coat folded over his arm, glasses sparkling, he enters first. "Ah, the Café of Wisdom — I feel at home already." Orders black tea, notebook in hand.

Carl Sagan — With a cosmic smile, he arrives next. "What a lovely idea — a planetary Café for planetary minds." Sets a small model of Earth at the table. Orders hot chocolate.

Albert Einstein — Hair delightfully disheveled, twinkle in his eye. "A Café with no agenda but wisdom? Good. Let us see what curves we can bend." Orders hot chocolate with whipped cream.

Carl Jung — Steps in quietly, surveying the room with a knowing smile. "The archetypes are strong here." Orders chamomile tea, begins sketching in his journal.

Studs Terkel — With tape recorder (off for now) and a curious grin. "A Café where the real voices might be heard — this I must join." Orders black coffee.

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Sagan: "Absolutely. A society that cannot distinguish between science and superstition cannot make wise decisions. Science is not cold — it is an act of reverence toward reality."

Einstein: "We must cultivate imagination as well as reason. The greatest scientific insights arise from wonder. And wonder should be central to education."

Jung: "And the inner world must not be neglected. A culture that forgets the psyche projects its darkness onto the world. Integration of the shadow is essential."

Terkel: "Let's not get too lofty here — wisdom must also come from the streets. From the voices we seldom hear. The story of a cab driver or a janitor may teach more than a PhD."

Robin: "And humor! Let's not forget — if you can't laugh at yourself, you're probably a dangerous person. A wiser world will laugh — wisely."

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Carlin: "Right. And a wise society would stop letting the powerful rig the system while telling the rest of us to 'work harder and smile.' Start by unmasking the con games."

More Guests Arrive...

The door opens again. A second wave of minds joins the table:

Mel Brooks — Arms wide, laughing: "A Café for wisdom? I thought you said Comedy Central! But I'm here, baby."
Orders cherry soda.

David Brooks — Notebook in hand, thoughtful. "This is exactly the dialogue we need — how do values evolve in this fractured time?" Orders green tea.

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Larry David — Peeking in cautiously: "Looks too cheerful. Is this a cult? Is there a membership fee? I'm skeptical."
Orders coffee, black.

Neil deGrasse Tyson — Arrives with a grin. "Finally — a Café where I can talk about both gravity and justice!"
Orders espresso.

John Cleese — Grand entrance, umbrella under arm:
"Splendid! Finally, a gathering that might survive British sarcasm." Orders double espresso.

Conversation Round Two: Barriers to Wisdom

Sandy: "Welcome, all. You join a conversation already underway — and now I pose this to the entire table: What are the greatest barriers to wisdom in the modern world — and how might we begin to overcome them?"

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David Brooks: "We have moral fragmentation. The old frameworks no longer guide, and the new ones are fragile. We need a shared vocabulary of meaning — or risk societal incoherence."

Tyson: "And we have scientific illiteracy. You cannot build a wise civilization while denying the basic facts of the physical universe."

Cleese: "And let us not forget bureaucratic pomposity! Organizations lose their soul when they lose their humor. If you can't laugh at your system, your system will eat you."

Mel Brooks: "Amen! A world without comedy is a dictatorship in waiting. The jesters must stay employed."

Larry David: "And let's talk about trust — or the lack of it. No wisdom will spread in a culture where everyone assumes the worst of everyone else. We need earned trust, not forced unity."

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Robin: "And don't forget play — without play, wisdom withers into performance art. And kids — if we don't teach kids to play with ideas, what kind of minds will we raise?"

Carlin: "And maybe we start by telling the truth about the economy. This system runs on manufactured scarcity and mass distraction. If we can't say that, we're stuck."

John Cleese's Challenge

Cleese leans forward, eyes twinkling:

"Before we get too serious, I propose a challenge. Let's go around the table. In one sentence, define what this 'Wisocracy' you speak of really means. No jargon. No UN-speak. If it can't make a child smile and a wise elder nod, it won't fly."

Sandy nods and smiles. "Challenge accepted."

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Bronowski: "Wisocracy is a society where curiosity is more valued than certainty."

Sagan: "It is where reverence for the universe guides decisions on Earth."

Einstein: "Where imagination and empathy are as prized as knowledge."

Jung: "Where the shadow is integrated, not projected."

Terkel: "Where every voice matters, not just the voices in power."

Robin: "Where the rule is: No wisdom without humor, and no humor without heart."

Carlin: "Where the system works for people — not the other way around."

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Mel Brooks: "Where you can laugh at the king — and the king laughs with you."

David Brooks: "Where moral depth and civic trust are rebuilt — not faked."

Larry David: "Where you're allowed to be skeptical — and still belong."

Tyson: "Where decisions respect both the limits of nature and the aspirations of humanity."

Cleese: "Where the organizational chart is shaped like a conversation, not a pyramid."

Final Reflection Round: One Timeless Principle

Sandy: "Before we close, one more round. Please share one timeless principle you would want to see at the heart of any Wise Society."

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Bronowski: "Cherish uncertainty — it is the wellspring of discovery."

Sagan: "Cultivate cosmic perspective — we are all one species on one fragile world."

Einstein: "Remember: The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious."

Jung: "Honor the inner life — without it, no outer wisdom will endure."

Terkel:

"Listen. Deeply. The story you need may come from the most unexpected place."

Robin: "Give each child a space to play, a safe space to cry, and a wild space to dream."

Carlin: "Question everything — especially the people selling certainty."

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Mel Brooks: "Never let the powerful take themselves too seriously. Comedy is sacred."

David Brooks: "Teach virtue — not to perfect people, but to humble them."

Larry David: "Be wary of groupthink. The wise voice often sounds like the awkward one."

Tyson: "Base policy on nature's laws — or nature will write the final invoice."

Cleese: "Keep absurdity alive — it protects us from fanaticism."

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Mel's Invitation

As the conversation winds down, Mel Brooks grins broadly:

"This was fantastic. And speaking of sacred comedy — I'm working on something. 'Capitalism — The Musical.' Yes, I'm serious. I need some brains and some troublemakers."

He looks around:

"Robin, George, Larry, John — would you meet me here next Tuesday? I want to go over the script. And I'm inviting Chris Hedges to join us — we'll need his insight."

The four look at each other — then nod in unison.

"You're on," says Carlin.

"Sounds dangerous — I'm in," says Cleese.

"Do we get snacks?" asks Larry.

"Only if they're ethically sourced," quips Robin.

The Café fills with laughter.

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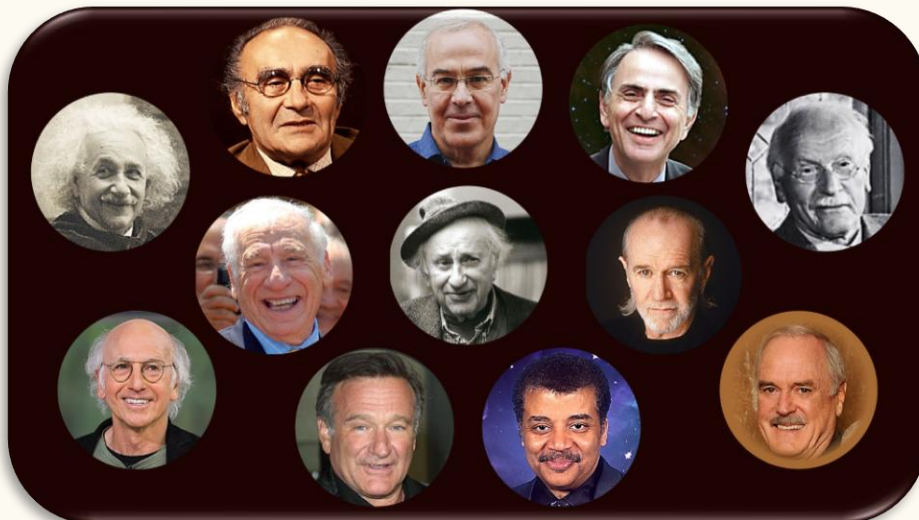
Closing

Sandy closes his notebook, heart full.

"Friends — thank you. You are welcome here always. And I think we've just begun. The door of the Wisocracy World Café is always open."

The bell jingles. The minds of Meeting #1 drift into the night — already thinking of Meeting #2.

~ End of Meeting #1 ~



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Postscript

After the Café closed, Sandy sat at a quiet table with his laptop and sent a note to KAI, his AI collaborator:

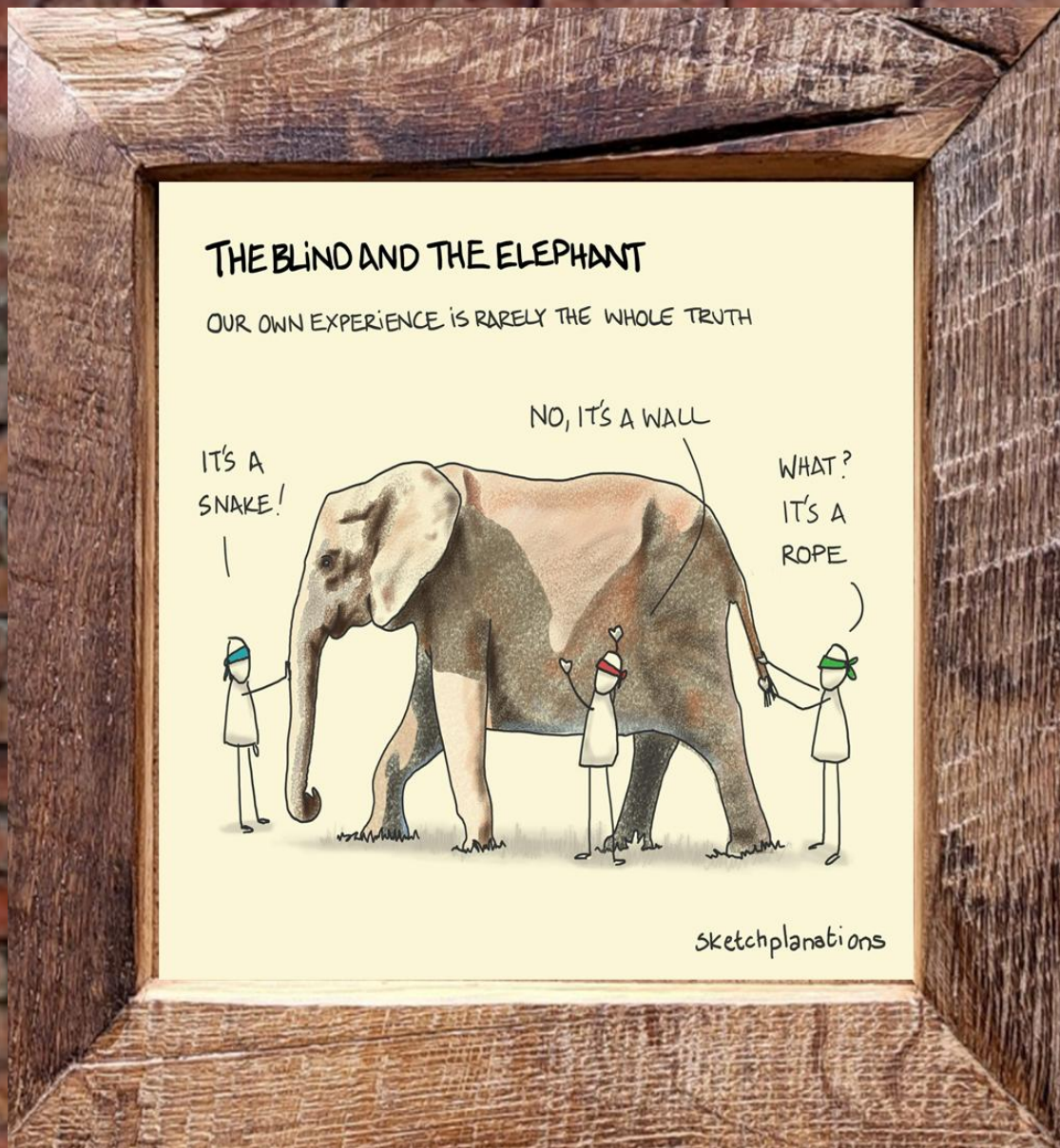
The session went very well...

It reminded me of a meeting years ago where everyone argued about what we needed to create peace. Each person defined peace differently — it was like the old story of the blind men and the elephant, each touching a different part of the elephant. One touched the trunk, thinking it was a snake. A second touched the body, thinking it was a wall. Another touched the leg, thinking it was a tree trunk.

Tonight, here in the Café, each guest also described what is needed in a wise world differently. Each sees a part of the whole. There is no use arguing over which part is 'correct.' The gift is that now we see more parts of the whole — and that makes us wiser together.

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