

## Nuggets of Fun and Nostalgia for Treasure Valley Golden-Agers

# The Three Kings

**By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Three Kings came riding from far away,  
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar;  
Three Wise Men out of the East were they,  
And they travelled by night and they slept by day,  
For their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star.



The star was so beautiful, large and clear,  
That all the other stars of the sky  
Became a white mist in the atmosphere,  
And by this they knew that the coming was near  
Of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.

Three caskets they bore on their saddle-bows,  
Three caskets of gold with golden keys;  
Their robes were of crimson silk with rows  
Of bells and pomegranates and furbelows,  
Their turbans like blossoming almond-trees.

And so the Three Kings rode into the West,  
Through the dusk of the night, over hill and dell,  
And sometimes they nodded with beard on breast,  
And sometimes talked, as they paused to rest,  
With the people they met at some wayside well.

“Of the child that is born,” said Baltasar,  
“Good people, I pray you, tell us the news;  
For we in the East have seen his star,  
And have ridden fast, and have ridden far,  
To find and worship the King of the Jews.”

And the people answered, “You ask in vain;  
We know of no King but Herod the Great!”  
They thought the Wise Men were men insane,  
As they spurred their horses across the plain,  
Like riders in haste, who cannot wait.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### What Accident?



A farm boy headed to town accidentally overturned his wagon-load of corn. The farmer who lived nearby heard the noise.

“Hey Willis!” the farmer yelled. “Forget your troubles. Come on in the house and have a bite to eat. Then I’ll help you get the wagon up.”

“That’s mighty nice of you,” Willis answered, “but I don’t think Pa would like me to.”

“Aw, come on,” the farmer insisted. “My wife will fix you a nice meatloaf sandwich.”

“Well okay,” the boy finally agreed, and added, “but Pa won’t like it.”

After a hearty meal, Willis thanked his host. “I feel a lot better now, but I know Pa is going to be real upset.”

“Don’t be foolish,” the neighbor said with a smile. “By the way, where is your Pa?”

“Under the wagon!”



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**Not-so-Common Sense**

- What do people do with all the extra time they save by writing "K" instead of "OKAY"?
- My dentist told me I need a crown. I was like, "I KNOW, RIGHT?"
- To be old and wise, you must first have been young and stupid.
- I do five sit-ups every morning. May not sound like a lot but there's only so many times you can hit the snooze button.
- When I was a kid, my parents moved around a lot. But I always found them.
- My boss told me to have a good day... so I went home.
- What did our poor parents do to kill boredom before the Internet? I asked my 26 brothers and sisters and they didn't know either.
- Never go to bed angry... Stay awake and figure out how to apologize in the morning.
- Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it never use it.

**The Three Kings** *(Continued from page 1)*

And when they came to Jerusalem, Herod the Great, who had heard this thing, Sent for the Wise Men and questioned them; And said, "Go down unto Bethlehem, And bring me tidings of this new king."

So they rode away; and the star stood still, The only one in the grey of morn; Yes, it stopped – it stood still of its own free will, Right over Bethlehem on the hill, The city of David, where Christ was born.

And the Three Kings rode through the gate and the guard, Through the silent street, till their horses turned And neighed as they entered the great inn-yard; But the windows were closed, and the doors were barred, And only a light in the stable burned.

And cradled there in the scented hay, In the air made sweet by the breath of kine, The little child in the manger lay, The child, that would be king one day Of a kingdom not human, but divine.

His mother Mary of Nazareth Sat watching beside his place of rest, Watching the even flow of his breath, For the joy of life and the terror of death Were mingled together in her breast.

They laid their offerings at his feet: The gold was their tribute to a King, The frankincense, with its odor sweet, Was for the Priest, the Paraclete, The myrrh for the body's burying.

And the mother wondered and bowed her head, And sat as still as a statue of stone; Her heart was troubled yet comforted, Remembering what the Angel had said Of an endless reign and of David's throne.

Then the Kings rode out of the city gate, With a clatter of hoofs in proud array; But they went not back to Herod the Great, For they knew his malice and feared his hate, And returned to their homes by another way.

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## Sleepover at Grandma's

"Mom, can I sleep at Grandma's tonight?"

When I heard my daughter in the car this morning it made me go back to the past, with just one sentence. When did time go by and make us adults full of boring priorities? We fight every day, for something we're not even sure we really want. When in fact, grandma's house is what everyone needs to be happy.

Grandma's house is where the hands of the clock take a vacation with us and the minutes unhurriedly arrive.

Grandma's house is where a simple pasta and homemade bread seem to have different flavors, delicious.

Grandma's house is where an innocent afternoon can last for an eternity of games and fantasies.

Grandma's house is where the cupboards hide old clothes and mysterious tools.

Grandma's house is where the closed boxes become chests of secret treasures, ready to be unveiled.

Grandma's house is where toys rarely come ready, they are invented on the spot.

Grandma's house is where everything is mysteriously possible, magic happens and without worries.

Grandma's house is where we find the remains of our parents' childhood and the beginning of our lives.

Grandma's house, on the inside, is the address of our deepest affection, where everything is allowed.

That luxury no longer belongs to me - unfortunately - it will live with me, only in memories. Even so, if I could place an order now... any order of all orders in the world, I would order the same thing...

"Can I sleep at Grandma's tonight?"



## Say What?

- When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
- Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
- It's the start of a brand-new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
- The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
- When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
- I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
- I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
- Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
- When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
- I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.

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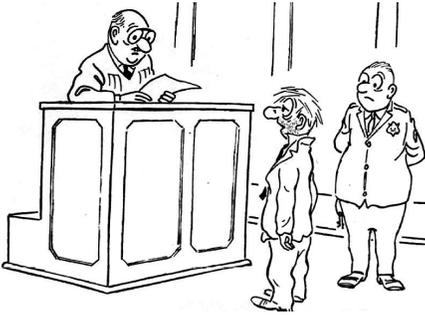
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I hate it when I see an old person,  
then realize we went  
to high school together!

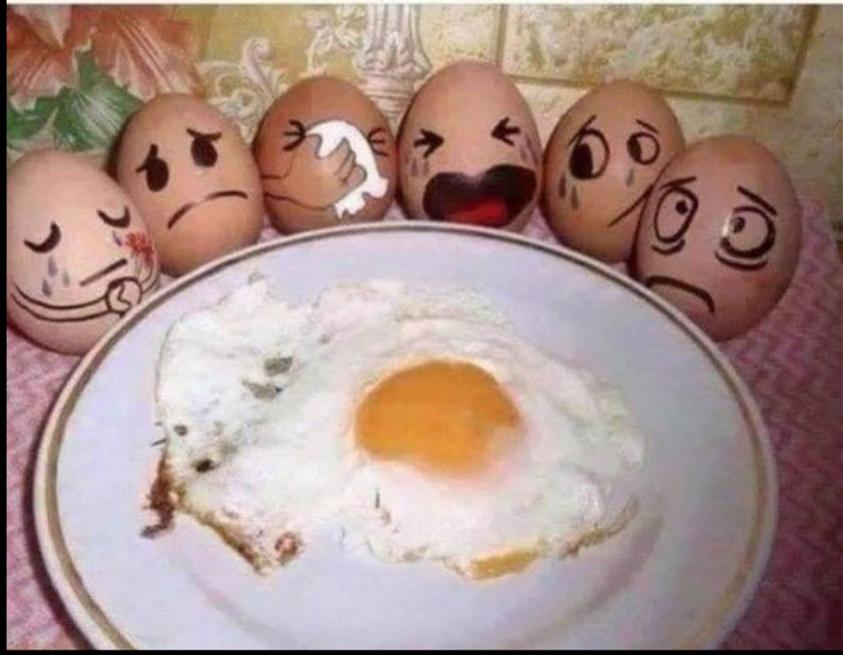
### His Day in Court



“Mr. Horner, I have reviewed this case very carefully,” the divorce court judge said. “I have decided to give your wife \$750 a week.”

“That’s very fair, your honor,” the husband said. “And every now and then I’ll try to send her a few bucks myself!”

She died last Fry Day. Thankfully, she wasn’t beaten!  
Don’t worry, she went over easy. She’s now on the sunny side. She’s definitely in a better plate.



### What is a Contronym?

Single words that have two contradictory meanings (they are their own opposites) are known as contronyms, and they are quite rare. Here are two of them:

1. **apology**: a statement of contrition for an action, or a defense of one
2. **bolt**: to secure, or to flee
3. **bound**: heading to a destination, or restrained from movement
4. **cleave**: to adhere, or to separate
5. **dust**: to add fine particles, or to remove them
6. **fast**: quick, or stuck or made stable
7. **left**: remained, or departed
8. **peer**: a person of nobility, or an equal
9. **sanction**: to approve, or to boycott



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## A Teaching Moment



A young man approached an older man and asked, "Do you remember me?"

"No," replied the old man.

"I was your student," said the young man.

"What do you do for a living?" he asked.

"Well, I became a teacher."

"Ah, like me?" asked the old man.

"Well, yes. In fact, I became a teacher because you inspired me to be like you."

The old man, curious, asked the young man when he decided to become a teacher.

So the young man told him the following story: "One day, a friend of mine, also a student, came to class with a nice new watch. I decided I wanted it and I stole it; I took it out of his pocket.

"Shortly, my friend noticed his watch was gone and immediately complained to our teacher, who was you. Then you told the class: 'This student's watch was stolen during classes today. Whoever stole it, please return it.'

"I didn't give it back because I didn't want to. Then you closed the door and told us all to get up and you were going to search our pockets one by one until the watch was found. But you told us to close our eyes, because you would only look for his watch if we all had our eyes closed.

"So we did, and you went from pocket to pocket, and when you went through my pocket, you found the watch and took it. You kept searching everyone's pockets, and when you were done you said, 'Open your eyes. We have the watch.'

"You didn't tell me and you never mentioned the episode. You never said who stole the watch either. That day you saved my dignity forever. It was the most shameful day of my life. But this was also the day my dignity was saved and I decided not to become a thief, or a bad person. You never said anything, or even scolded me or took me aside to give me a moral lesson, I received your message clearly.

"And thanks to you, I understood what a real educator needs to do. Do you remember this episode, professor?"

The teacher answered: "I remember the situation, the stolen watch, which I was looking for in everyone's pocket, but I didn't remember you, because I also closed my eyes while I was looking."

This is the essence of teaching:  
If to correct you must humiliate; you don't know how to teach.



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## SWIMMING FOR YOUR LIFE



A group of tourists was visiting a crocodile farm. To get a good look, they were taken out to a floating observation deck in the middle of a lake filled with crocodiles.

The owner of the farm announced, "Anyone care to take the Courage Challenge today? Whoever jumps into the water and swims safely to shore will receive 10 million dollars!" The silence was deafening.

Suddenly, a man jumped into the water. He was immediately chased by several hungry crocodiles, but he paddled furiously and with great luck he reached the shore unharmed.

The owner announced: "We have a winner!"

After receiving a check, the man and his wife returned to the hotel room. The man turned to his wife and said, "You know I didn't jump in myself, right? Someone pushed me!"

His wife smiled and said coldly: "It was me."

**Moral of the story:** "Behind every successful man, there is always a woman to give him a little push."



Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby,

We oldsters sure do get away with a lot just because we've managed to keep breathing longer than most folks.

I have just celebrated my 80th birthday and I've got it made.

If you forget someone's name or an appointment or what you said yesterday, just explain that you are 80, and you will be forgiven.

If you spill soup on your tie, or forget to shave half your face, or take another man's hat by mistake, or promise to mail a letter and carry it around in your pocket for two weeks, just say, "I'm 80, you know," and nobody will say a thing.

You have a perfect alibi for everything when you're 80. If you act silly, you're in your second childhood.

Being 80 is much better than being 70. At 70 people are mad at you for everything, but if you make it to 80, you can talk back, argue, disagree and insist on having your own way because everybody thinks you are getting a little soft in the head.

They say that life begins at 40. Not true. If you ask me, life begins at 80.

Signed—GOT IT MADE AT 80.

**I told Santa I had been good this year:  
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## Why Do You Like Retirement?

**Question:** How many days in a retiree's week?

**Answer:** 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday.

**Question:** When is a retiree's bedtime?

**Answer:** Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

**Question:** How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

**Answer:** Only one, but it may take all day.

**Question:** What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

**Answer:** There is not enough time to get everything done.

**Question:** Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

**Answer:** The term comes with a 10% discount.

**Question:** What is considered formal attire among retirees?

**Answer:** Socks and tied shoes.

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...



- Don't miss the boat.
- Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground
- For safety sake, travel in pairs.
- Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- When you're stressed, float a while.
- Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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### Buried Emotions



Clifford and Daisy May had been married for many years. Whenever there was a confrontation, yelling could be heard deep into the night.

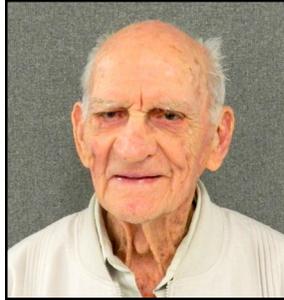
Clifford would shout, "When I die, I'll dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life, ol' woman!!"

Neighbors feared him. Old Clifford liked the fact that he was feared. He died at the ripe old age of 98.

After the burial, Daisy May's neighbors, concerned for her safety, asked, "Aren't you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way out of the grave and haunt you for the rest of your life?"

She replied, "Let him dig. I had him buried upside down, and I know he won't stop and ask for directions!"

### Milestones



Wilbur "Jonesy" Jones  
Dec 20, 1922—98 years  
Nampa Senior Center



Lucy Henzler  
Dec 20, 1927—93 years  
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Martha Sweet  
Dec 4, 1930—90 years  
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Shirley Hunsperger  
Dec 28, 1930—90 years  
Melba Senior Center



Robert Foreman  
Dec 7, 1940—80 years  
Nampa Park Place



Linda Holland  
Sept 23, 1945—75 years  
Nampa Senior Center

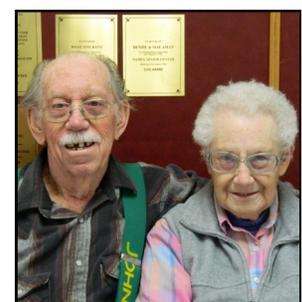


Bill & Connie Russell  
Dec 20, 1948—72 years  
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Gene & Helen Wade  
Dec 16, 1951—69 years  
Nampa Senior Center

Helped my wife remodel the kitchen. She was shocked to find out I wasn't a very good electrician.

Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust.  
We will all return to dust.  
That's why I don't dust -  
It might be someone I know!