

Ghost Stories!

Each weekly edition of GHOST STORIES is a short read beginning with a quote that inspires the ideas expressed in the column. Feel free to share our stories with friends and colleagues!

INSPIRATION FOR TODAY

"You can never get enough of what you don't need to make you happy."

~ Eric Hoffer

ARE YOU A BARGAIN HUNTER?

When's the last time you went to shop at a store because they were advertising a big sale? Or pulled over to check out the offerings at a weekend yard sale? Or spent an hour browsing through listings on eBay?

We all love to get a bargain when we shop, but remember that value is determined not by what you pay but by what you get. Even if it's a bargain, how ultimately satisfying is your purchase?

It seems to have become second nature to accumulate stuff – call it collecting, if you will. How many “treasured pieces” do you have stored away in your attic, basement or boxes in your closet? Sometimes what we can't seem to live without ends up becoming “treasure” for the next bargain-hunter who comes to OUR yard sale!

In our acts of acquisition, is it possible that we're actually looking for something more meaningful, more precious? Are we overlooking gifts of much greater value?

Albert Camus once wrote, “You will never be happy if you continue to search for what happiness consists of. You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life.” Happiness will find you if you simply stop trying to find (or buy) it.

Those who always want more (of anything) will never have enough of it. There is no end in sight once the search begins, until the search turns inward and we realize we can be happy with what we've already got. With so many people who are so much less fortunate than we, how could we possibly want more for ourselves, unless it is to help others?

The next time you reach for that irresistible bargain, reconsider its value in The Big Picture and the satisfaction it will offer over time. Maybe something of even greater value is already within your reach...

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