



Looking Without Seeing

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

I'm blind as a bat without my eyeglasses—well almost, if you count the number of times I've practically bumped into an acquaintance on the street and didn't even smile in recognition or wave back. Bats have it easier because they've got echolocation working for them. In my case, having to wear a headset and staring at the computer monitor for the greater part of the day while doing my online work have made me virtually blind and deaf. The good thing is, all my other senses have learned to work harder to make up for what I have practically lost.

Vision is probably the one thing that people normally have, but unfortunately do not have the gumption to use. Most people are gifted with hindsight, which is not really a gift at all because almost any one person can readily perceive and understand the significance of an event after it has happened. Even a child can do that with sufficient training. But foresight, well, that's totally different, and it is more a rare gift than a mere common trait. According to a particular website, there are people who are endowed with a "vision of the future" while there are others who do have the same ability, but to a lesser extent. In addition, there is a "third group", and they elect to stay in the here and now and not get hampered in any way by futuristic considerations. The same website proposes five levels of the pragmatic visionary index: Down-to-earth; Pragmatist; Moderately Visionary; Visionary; and Dreamer. See <http://www.humanmetrics.com/visionary/VisionaryPersonGuide.htm>.

Scientists like Albert Einstein, Nicola Tesla and Gregor Mendel, chief executives like Thomas Jefferson (US third president), Bill Gates and Buckminster Fuller (Mensa International's second president), philosophers/teachers like Jesus (!), Confucius, Karl Marx, and a good number of others rank high in the scale. The scale pegs really visionary individuals as having more than 85% visionary index value, while simple, practical individuals have values less than 35%.

Now, this is not to be misconstrued as an indication of reproof for people who have less index values. The crux of the matter is, people should use whatever gift of "sight" they have to look far beyond their own capabilities. The world is your universe, filled with endless possibilities. Do not look at yourself and conclude that others are infinitely better than you; rather, look at yourself and see that you are a great part of this planet, a special individual with special gifts. Look further, and you can definitely aim higher, do more, see more, hear more clearly. Develop whatever you see in yourself (in a good way, of course), but do not lose sight of the ground below you.

In the end, your eyes should remain focused ever upward, but should also remain humbly downward. For there will always be someone better than you or anyone else, and He is ever watchful.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Do some reading on the visionary people mentioned in the essay. What do you think makes them special?
2. Do you think that tests like the one cited in the article are accurate? Why or why not?
3. How do you see yourself in 5 years? 10? 20?
4. How can people "look without seeing"? Elaborate on your answer.
5. In what way/s can a person make his vision of the world better? Are you willing to go even further to achieve that?