



KNOWLEDGE IS NOT WISDOM

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Knowledge-intensive tasks require a certain degree and kind of uncommon expertise. Not everyone can be a teacher, a scientist, a mathematician. Each and every discipline has their own set of parameters that should be met by practitioners. We can not all be masters, some of us have to be servants, too. If we could all be masters, imagine the chaos there would be in this already-confused world. We may never get any work done because everyone would be too busy trying to get heard, admired or obeyed.

Knowledge-intensive tasks require dedication, both in small and big ways. If a scientist is not willing to explore tirelessly to prove knowledge, he can never hope to make truly scientific breakthroughs in his particular field. If the early mathematicians had not subjected their theories and theorems to endless tests, we in the present would not be enjoying (?!!) the world of math that we live in. If our teachers and professors from days past had not decided to explore learning with us by their side, we wouldn't have become what we have become now.

Even the great Albert Einstein once said: "The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity." This is why his theory of relativity stands to be the greatest transformational concept to ever rule physics and astronomy during the 20th century. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory_of_relativity) And yet, very humbly he has also declared thus: Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge of Truth and Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods.

Those latter words are a word of caution to the wise: they should never believe themselves to be totally infallible despite their profound learning and experience, for there will always be someone somewhere greater than they are. This does not discount the fact that people with advanced degrees are infinitely more qualified to handle knowledge-intensive tasks within their field. They have invested time, effort, resources, and yes, knowledge to get to where they are. But such people should never be smug in their ivory towers because even towers will fall. So will proud men who find that self-conceit covers up for their inadequacies.

Knowledge-intensive tasks require great, humble men to perform them. They do not thrive with pride in oneself and prejudice against many others.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why should intelligence be coupled with humility?
2. What makes absolute knowledge a source of pride for most people?
3. Is the kind of schooling a sufficient standard for one's status in life? Why or why not?
4. If you could specialize in one particular body of knowledge, what would it be and why?
5. Do you believe that all people are inherently intelligent? Inherently wise? Why or why not?