

## **A new phone. A full disc. A golden age. A heatwave**

Lilly Gundacker  
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The papers on my desk have not really been cleared. The lawn has turned brown. The zucchinis are coming. And so are the pumpkins and paprika.

Next week I host the hybrid event at the UN in Vienna.

The summer has seen record temperatures and another heatwave coming.

### **Introduction.**

I'm summoning my thoughts as AI takes over my new phone and more and more of my office processes. I'm age and attitude challenged.

### **New Phone.**

I've accepted most of the default settings and recommendations of my new phone, even dealing with my initial impulse to read all the conditions, instructions and terms. I adopt Steven Covey's mantra of trust. I want to build a world of trust, so I need to live in trust.

### **Challenge.**

Then at midday today a notification came up that Google has discovered 71 virus infections on my new phone! A full screen. Click here.

Only a few minutes before that, a warning that I have failed to update an app and an imposing command to click here. All this accompanied by a loud voice commanding urgency and immediate action.

### **Stop!**

Even the off button seems unreachable. It feels like a spiritual battle. None of my taps brings any response. The usual off button doesn't work on this new phone. What was the method again? Oh, yes, the audio down with the launch button. Yes!

I turn the phone off and go down to lunch.

### **Relationships**

I am lovingly tended by my courageous husband. We eat, discuss, share, listen and grow together.

After lunch I come back up to my office and want to watch something as I enjoy my ice cream and coffee. I can now do this without guilt after learning about my [below-the-line](#) characteristics from Lisa Mestars. This tells me that I am most receptive to absorbing information with sound.

### **The full disc.**

I'm working through my precious records of decades of meetings, activities, feelings, thoughts and accomplishments. Even the prized new solution embraced just so recently, is now suddenly full and overloaded. My integral wish for constant control and overview is again challenged. My conviction that I will share all my archives is regularly challenged by my lack of energy, my recognition of my age, my gratitude for all I have already managed.

### **The Golden Age.**

Then I watch Silke Schaefer's "[Wir sind viele](#)" as she talks about the golden age and Mama Gaja. I think of Lisa Mestars, looking for the leaders of the New Age.

I contemplate the words of Mother Moon, Hak Ja Han, [Holy Mother Han](#), as she tells us we are living in the golden age.

I marvel at the nature of my marriage relationship as we enjoy our early morning sleep together, we pray and read and reflect on what we are reading. We share a long breakfast and then a long lunchtime and each then separates into their own world of research, reading, archiving or whatever, to join together again for a closing prayer.

### **Eternity**

We think and talk about the spirit world. Some of our friends have already passed and we are so aware that this is just the beginning of an eternal relationship. Not knowing how long we still have, here on earth, we appreciate each other in all our differences and discuss the true meaning of unity and harmony.

### **Absolute Faith**

We contemplate the words of our founder demanding absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience and conclude that it is a misguided adage of the Confucianist ethic. How can you take responsibility when you are just waiting for the next commandment to fulfil in absolute obedience? Where is the honesty? The integrity? How can you have harmony without room for a response in the relationship? What is a relationship when there is no give and take action?

Yes, these are our questions. These are the thoughts that occupy us for hours at breakfast and lunch. We are products of the western world, our faith community originating in the east.

**1975**

Fifty-one years. We both joined this movement fifty-one years ago. Some of our kids are sceptical and don't want to have anything to do with it. We are not following blindly and would sorely like to share the values and the treasures with them, hoping they too can experience lasting and fulfilling relationships. What is the secret? Why do some relationships work and some fail and some have to keep trying over and over again?

### **Testimony**

As we are challenged by the reality of our fractured unification movement, and its tarnished public image, Josef asked me a question this morning. My answer was testimony. We need to tell our story. Neither of us sees ourselves as exemplary members yet we daily recite the family pledge, we continue to tithe, attend Sunday service and practice many other rituals we learned as young members. Perhaps it really was a type of brainwashing. Yet we are acutely aware of our discerning minds, of daily discrepancies and are grateful to recognize a type of heart-washing.

### **Matching**

Our story of engagement, meeting, and blessing, from opposite ends of the earth can only be called a miracle. We've both conceded we would not have even taken a second look at each other under "normal" circumstances. And I have to admit that so many characteristics of my now 46-year-long life-partner have challenged me to the core. Then I think of those who have lost their partners by choice or fate, and I thank God again, that I do not have to sleep alone. The wish, sometimes expressed, of wanting to get old together, well, yes, we have.

### **Aging**

I still can't fathom that I'm aging, but I can't deny that I'm showing all the symptoms of my former colleagues who used to come to [Toastmasters](#) meetings at the VIC, UN Vienna after retirement for a while, and then apologized, saying, it was too exhausting, they were getting slower at everything and would stop coming. I have slowly, quietly slipped away, still paying my half-yearly dues, still supporting in a hybrid meeting when they manage to have one, but rarely attending now in person. The trip to the VIC is just too exhausting for me.

### **Hybrid Meeting.**

That does not stop me from working on-line nor hosting events even if it means coming to the [VIC](#) in person. So, yes, another hot week coming up. I have my Nordic walking sticks. I have my laptop. I've set up the Zoom meeting. I'll be there.