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NOV. 9TH 2011

I AM READING A BOOK CALLED 4000 QUESTIONS FOR GETTING TO KNOW ANYONE & EVERYONE AND ALL IT CONTAINS IS QUESTIONS.

ONE QUESTION I SAW IS "WHY WERE YOU GIVEN YOUR NAME AND DOES IT HAVE A SPECIAL MEANING?"

MY NAME IS RAYMOND MICHAEL ALDERMAN.

MY ~~FATHER~~ MOTHER GAVE ME MY NAME. MY FIRST NAME IS THE MIDDLE NAME OF MY GRANDMOTHER'S EX-HUSBAND, MY GRANDFATHER. HIS NAME IS GERALD RAYMOND ALDERMAN. MY ~~FATHER~~ FATHER AND HIS FATHER'S MIDDLE NAME IS MICHAEL. NOW I DO NOT HAVE MY FATHERS LAST NAME, I WAS GIVEN MY MOMS MAIDEN NAME. SO YOU COULD SAY THAT MY NAME COMES FROM MY GRANDFATHERS, LIKE AN INHERITANCE.

THE SPECIAL MEANING FOR ME IS THAT IT HELPS ME TO LINK MYSELF, IDENTIFY WITH MY GRANDFATHERS. THAT WE SHARE SOMETHING SO SIMPLE AS A NAME ISN'T IT, ITS THAT THE NAME IS WHO THEY WERE/ARE IN LIFE. MY FATHERS FATHER PASSED AWAY 17 YEARS AGO, AND I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHO HE WAS BUT I KNOW MICHAEL WAS HIS MIDDLE NAME AND THAT HE WAS A HARD WORKER AND HE LOVED HIS CHILDREN. BEING A HARD WORKER IS SOMETHING I BELIEVE IN TO MAKE A PLACE IN THIS LIFE THAT IS WORTHWHILE. MY FAMILY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME. I LOVE THEM SO MUCH, THEY HAVE HELPED ME OUT TREMENDOUSLY WHILE I HAVE BEEN LOCKED-UP.

SO THATS WHERE I GET MY NAME AND WHY ITS SPECIAL TO ME.



Wow! IT HAS TAKEN ME MONTHS TO WRITE. I MEAN I WRITE BUT THAN I FORGET TO SEND IT OUT.

I THINK PART OF ITS OCCURANCE HAS TO DO WITH THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR. THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING AND I ALWAYS HEAR ABOUT WHAT MY FAMILY IS DOING, WHERE THEY'RE GOING, WHO'S COMING OVER, WHATS TO BE EATEN, AND WHAT GIFTS WERE BOUGHT. IT HAPPENS EVERY YEAR BUT ITS BECAUSE I ASK THEM ALL THESE QUESTIONS. BECAUSE THEY ARE MY FAMILY I WANT TO KNOW EVEN THOUGH ITS GOING TO DEPRESS ME SOMEWHAT.

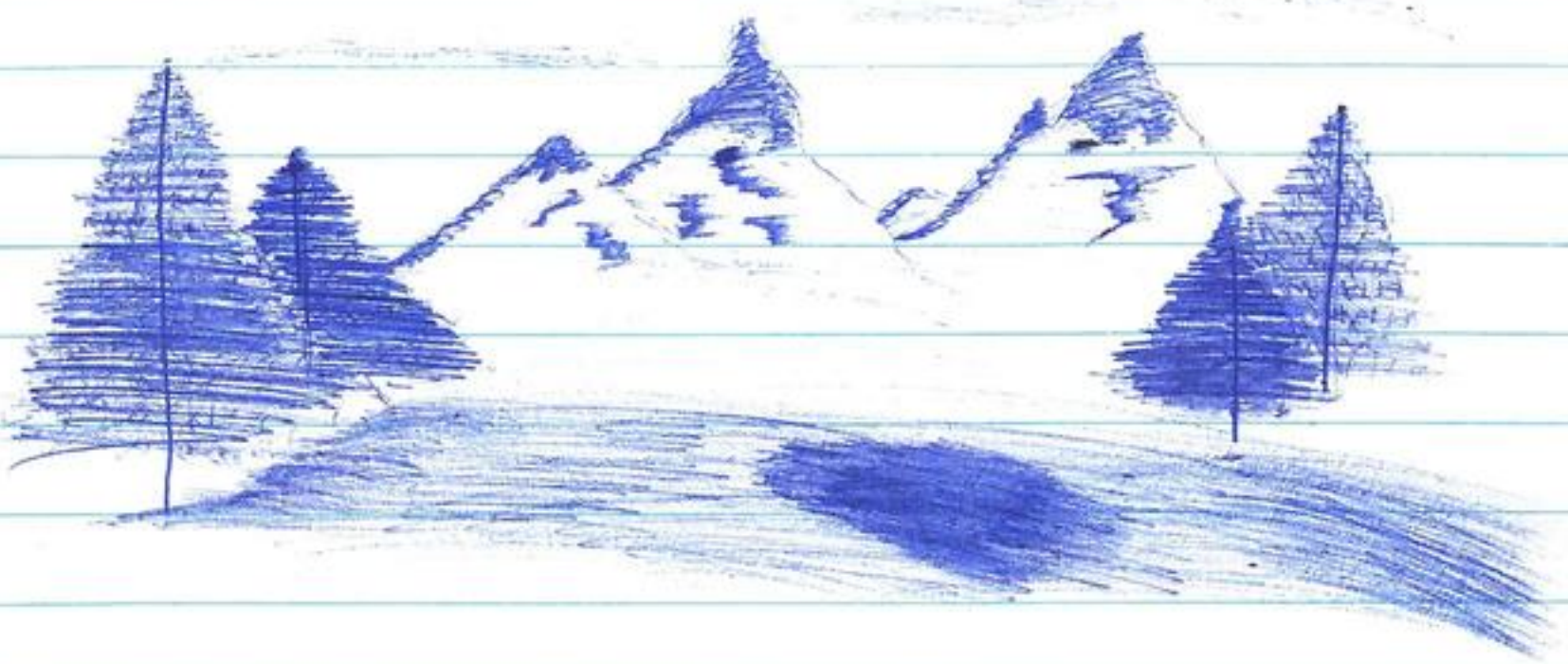
I KNOW THEY WISH I COULD BE THERE WITH THEM SHARING THIS TIME OF YEAR. I THINK THIS TIME OF YEAR IS GREAT WITH ALL THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF GOING OUT TO FIND JUST THE ~~FOR~~ RIGHT THINGS FOR SOMEONE, GETTING THE HOUSE IN ORDER AND DECORATED, AND ALSO THE TREE.

NOW I HAVE TO SAY I HATE A FAKE TREE. WHY EVEN CELEBRATE IF YOUR GOING TO PULL A "TREE" OUT OF A BOX THAT ALREADY HAS THE LIGHT BUILT INTO IT. I DON'T LIKE GOING TO A CHRISTMAS TREE LOT WHERE THE TREES ARE ALREADY CUT, WHO KNOWS HOW LONG AGO. I THINK TRADITIONALLY WHEN IT COMES TO A TREE. GET THE FAMILY TOGETHER AND GO OUT AND FIND ONE. WHEN YOU FIND ONE CUT IT DOWN. THERE ARE MORE MEMORIES ATTACHED TO THAT CHRISTMAS JUST BY DOING ~~TO~~ THIS ONE ACT.

FOR ME CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR TOGETHERNESS EVEN IF ITS NOT WITH FAMILY BUT WITH FRIENDS. BE TOGETHER, HAVE FUN AND MAKE A HAPPY, MERRY MEMORY.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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I LOVE THE OUTDOORS SO MUCH. I CAN SPEND EVERY DAY AT THE BEACH, ON A LAKE, OR AT THE RIVER. LAKE DETROIT HERE IN OREGON IS MY FAVORITE LAKE. DURING THE SUMMER YOU CAN SWIM, BOAT, FISH, CAMP. ON THE 4TH OF JULY, FIREWORKS ARE LAUNCHED OFF OF TURTLE ISLAND. IT IS SO AWESOME SEEING THE REFLECTIONS ON THE WATER. THEN DURING THE WINTER THEY DRAIN THE LAKE AND YOU CAN SEE WHATS LEFT OF THE OLD FOREST AND TOWN. YOU CAN WALK OUT TO THE ISLAND WHICH IS SO STRANGE TO DO SINCE THERES USUALLY WATER IN THE WAY.

I ALSO LOVE THE COLUMBIA GORGE THAT BORDERS OREGON AND WASHINGTON. THE BEAUTIFUL RIVER IS MAJESTIC AS IT MAKES ITS WAY TO THE OCEAN.

MY FAMILY HISTORY IS DEEP IN THE GORGE, SPECIFICALLY THE DALLES. IF YOU EVER GET THE CHANCE TO, START IN ASTORIA AND HEAD EAST ALONG THE RIVER. GARRENTHEED YOU WILL FALL IN LOVE. I PROMISE.