

Hello, Fr. John.

I got your comment today (roughly 3 weeks after you wrote it, which is about as fast as I'm ever likely to get them). Thank you. Just FYI, I wrote you a real letter, on paper, about a month ago, but it seems you never got it? Well, I'll write again soon.

Your explanation for how certain comments can be dangerous for bloggers in prison wasn't in vain, and apparently BTB took it seriously. I only took exception because, well, I am sort of an exception here. My situation is different from most who would seem to be identically situated. In short, I can (and do) speak more freely, and what I don't say is almost always ~~an act~~ <sup>an act</sup> of discretion I take for the privacy of my friends, not from fear on my part. When others make assaultive comments toward me, I'm very disinclined to censor them but rather embrace the opportunity to clarify things that would otherwise be doomed to languish in the murk of pig propaganda and popular prejudice.

That said, I don't think you're wrong at all to advocate fairness, and forgive me for saying so, but I was sort of appalled by your brother's ~~dismissal~~ <sup>dismissal</sup> of the "petulant child's" complaint of unfairness. "Fair is where you sell your pigs" sounds to me an awful lot like "In the Mommy, that's why," as a response for lazy and authoritarian parents, a comment that upset me greatly when as a young kid I realized some people actually ~~acted~~ <sup>acted</sup> that way toward their children. Before that, I'd thought it was just a cheeky little slogan that witty parents might have on a bumper sticker or refrigerator magnet but would never dream of saying in sincerity to a child demanding some accounting for seemingly arbitrary acts. Honestly, it was quite upsetting and disillusioning to realize many parents genuinely had such little regard for fairness or their children's feelings and right to understand. Myself, I tend more toward the Dickens quote: "In the little world in which children have their existence, there is nothing so finely perceived as injustice." ~~And what~~ <sup>And what</sup> is fairness but another word for justice? Sure, you must make your own judgements to find something unfair, but if we abandon that, what's left? I thank you for caring about what's fair. ☺

As for Mr. Goehler, aka "Whispers" ... well, I sure see your point there. I wrote that because I felt I had some amends to make to him, and also ~~because~~ <sup>to life itself</sup> in some sense.

My failure to give Whispers full credit for his complicated humanity struck me as a real indictment of my own character (one I'd like to think wouldn't have applied if I'd not been tormented so much myself).

But since then I also realized, ~~largely due to~~ to Tenzin's comment and now also yours, that maybe people out there (the real living, breathing, and sometimes loving people behind each entry of text) would appreciate learning a little more about Whispers from those who knew him here. So, I asked around and found 5 people who knew him well, fellow hostages, who said they'd write a few words I could post here on his behalf. I'll try to get those out this week.

One guy I asked first declined, saying "I don't like to write, and I wouldn't want to say something about Whispers that was just half-assed." I ~~reminded~~ reminded him this wasn't ABOUT him, it was about a man who died, and did he think Whispers would rather no one spoke of him at all after his death than to have ppl say "half-assed" things that at least show he was remembered?

It's very likely no one will say anything about me when I die someday (2 or 3 hundred years from now. "I wish they would. I want to be in any position to help that happen when the time comes, but I'm in one now to help it happen for Whispers, who as I said was not my favorite person, but... he was a person, and that's all that really matters. We all deserve to be remembered by the ppl who knew us and liked us at least a little, I think.

Hey, Fr. John, I'm surprised you didn't leave this comment under the actual post about W.G. (Whispers). It may not make much sense to anyone who sees it in this context. Oh well. "

Last... you wrote "when I declare myself to be non-judgmental (then point a finger and say 'That commenter is judgmental'), my very declaration of being non-judgmental was, in fact, judgmental." Lol, your way too hard on yourself! Like the old judge who said ~~about~~ about porno-graphy, "I may not be able to define it, but I know it when I see it, you can recognize judgment when you see it too, and it's no sin (I think - but your the expert here!) to point it out. Also, it reminds me of when someone says to me: "Your argumentative." "No I'm not." "See?"

Lol. "Well, take care of yourself, my friend. I'll try to write properly soon."

Sincerely,  
Dymity