## WITHOUT CLARITY OF THOUGHT,

 LOVE IS SENTIMENTAL, VIOLENT, OR BOTH309 L.Eliz.Dr., Craigville, MA 02636
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In a recent conversation, \& apropos of nothing I can remember, I tossed this off as what seemed to me a commonplace but to somebody else a profoundity. Often I've been on the other end, hearing as a profundity what the speaker meant as a commonplace. Both ends are fun, \& profit. But there's another motion in this dance: so to meditate on a commonplace that it becomes a profoundity, \& (the back of the forth-\&-back) the reverse--as the saint can find the holy in the common; \& the artist, the strange in the familiar....I might learn something were I to hear your exposition of my bromide, on which I'll do a one-page in hope you (\& especially I!) might learn something.
1 "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever" said a novel that became a film. The transpositon from space to time intrigues us, mixing reality $\varepsilon$ metaphor. The reality provides the first of the 74 (!) RHD ${ }^{2}$ meanings of "clear": "free from darkness, obscurity, or cloudiness; light: a clear day." The particular metaphor pertinent to this Thinksheet is 11: "free from confusion, uncertainty, or doubt: clear thinking." In the case of "clarity," reality/metaphor are reversed, as the noun is more frequently used metaphorically: "clearness or lucidity as to perception or understanding; freedom from indistinctness or ambiguity; 2. the state or quality of being clear or transparent to the eye...."....Since the meaning of "clear" is so clear $\varepsilon$ commonplace, why would I want to look it up? Because (1) I've had long experience of--surprise!--finding the strange in the familiar, the profound in the commonplace; $\varepsilon$ (2) the lexicographer's work on even the plainest words often stimulates journeys within me.
2 When you hit puberty, your genes don't give a damn about your thinking, clear or not. Indeed, they'd prefer thoughtlessness, ${ }^{\prime}$ lest your "native hue of resolution [to reproduce after your own kind] be sicklied or by the pale cast of thought." In Orwell's "I984," you were required to wear a big "NO SEX" button to keep you in mind, keep you thinking, not to accomodate your enthusiastic genes. (That's only one way Big Brother was a psychological dunce.).... Falling in love is, beyond all others, the experience most inimical to, almost the antonym of, clarity of thought. Of course all the passions, positive $\varepsilon$ negative, are enemies of thought-clarity; but what the French call "the grand passion" is the champ among them. Sexual "love is [indeed] sentimental," feeling predominant over reason.
3 Societies $\varepsilon$ cohorts valuing clear thinking protect this value with social controls, without which emotions swamp reason, which is the grammar of clear thought. If these social controls deteriorate, social reason, the inner-outer social order, weakens, causing psychosocial disorder that appears (1) as ir- $\varepsilon$ anti-rational semtimentality in the inner life of citizens $\mathcal{E}(2)$ as violence in social relations both private $\varepsilon$ public.
4 Here, in the 18 Dec 90 CCT, is an instance (titled "Unfair trap of ideology"):

## A spider's web is a masterpiece

 of linkages, the whole designed forcatching food by entrapment. It's catching food by entrapment. It's
food for thought that linkages trap. We use them for trapping others into our way of thinking, and often unwittingly fall into our own traps.
In my letter in the Nov. 23 Cape Cod Times I decried Saddam's linking of his confiscation of Kuwait with the Israeli occupation of
the West Bank and Gaza, and warned the dupes who had fallen into his web.
Richard Buguey's letter Dec. 13 confronts us with another dubious and euthanasia, sweeping both into the "murder" category. Michigan charged the euthanasist Dr. judge subsequently dismissed that charge). Mr. Buguey suggested that our local abortion-clinic's Dr. Silverman should be charged with murder, along with "his hired murMr. Buguey seems unconcerned "Kout clear thought and fair play. cally and fairly linking abortion and euthanasia. Roe vs. Wade specifically removed early and mid-
term abortions from the "murder" category, and almost everywhere in the United States opinion is moving toward removing euthanathe Kevorkian case was of historic

[^0]importance." is used, of course, in a
"Murder.
rhetorical-moral sense as well as in a legal sense. Your letter-writer would like to obscure the
difference.
But does he dogmatically identi-
fy "murder" and "killing"? If so,

 Gulf: He "just knows" we
 which provides guidelines for thought, but not in dogma and ide-
ology, which preclude thought.



[^0]:    importance.

