

My dearest Jeremiah,

Thank you for reaching out to me. I called and sent you a text earlier but haven't had a response, so I thought I'd shoot of a quick email tonight; I'd like to definitely connect via phone or Skype tomorrow.

I've read your "Letter to Reed," the "my conviction" doc, your article in the Quest, "She Fought the Law and the Law Won" and "An Exploration of Allegory"; I have yet to view all the YouTube videos you cited, but I will tomorrow after work. After reading everything so far, what I understand is that you might be finding the Golden Road of the Philosopher King's to be one that is **often walked alone**. I do believe your professor took the easy road, not the right road; but without hearing the other side of the situation it's impossible for me to know. I'm sorry you're suffering the consequences of his choices and hope this is quickly remedied.

That said, if your life's journey and convictions are leading you to bring about a media storm, the likes of which haven't been seen in over a decade, then stand on your principles and batten down the hatches! Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf a decade ago; her effects are still being felt today, and she changed our country (and the world) by exposing some shocking truths about our psyches, our technology, and our environment.

Your sisters love you; you may feel abandoned, but you are loved. They may not understand--I may not understand--no one may understand--this stance may be yours alone to take, but you are always and forever connected. Never forget that, as strong bridges are important on the King's Road.

Do I believe you're meant for great things? I believe your path is yours to choose and I'll embrace whichever path you take and the life you create for yourself whether simple or great (or gay or straight). I do know that, because of our unusual circumstances, you were the first male descendant of my father to carry his name, True. Because of that, and your importance in our family, I chose to name you after great leaders; the great prophet, Jeremiah, and the last good King of Judah, Josiah (albeit I intentionally changed the spelling); Luther of Reformation fame (and your grandfather's name), and George from our True/English ancestry and both ours and your dad's family names. No prophet before Jeremiah had been as daring or revolutionary. He was the bearer of bad news, and he suffered existential pain and loneliness because of it. His ministry started when Josiah was only 21, and Josiah, because of his goodness and wisdom, went on to make his kingdom a better place than it had been. Luther challenged religious authority in the 16th century and began Protestantism, and George was a leader-king over England and Ireland (happy St. Patty's Day!)

Don't forget, you're also related to the King of Sweden, Bjorn III "The Old" Eriksson from the 800s; he's your 38th great grandfather; and Ragnar Lodbrok "Hairy Breeches" the Viking King is your 44th great grandfather. You are descended from Visigoths, Vikings, Swedish Kings, English Nobles, and also related to the renowned Pike Family of colonial fame.

All great men. But sometimes great things come at great cost and sacrifice. Mother Theresa said there are no great things, only small things done with great love. So walk carefully the Golden Road of that Philosopher King with kindness and grace to everyone you encounter on your stormy adventure. And please forgive us who fall short time and time again; our weaknesses become our greatest strengths if we're willing to overcome them. I am. I believe you are too. Get some rest before you hit The Road, and wear good shoes.

Much love,
Mom