

tl;dr: There will be **no Oryx on Halloween Wednesday**. We'll reconvene on November 7th to take a break from talking about election results and instead talk about **permaculture**.

This week we discussed **pride/vainglory**. But first, some preliminaries:

- The [local Food Not Bombs chapter](#) held a planning meeting on Thursday evening. They're serving up meals in Mitchell Park on Sunday afternoons, and looking for volunteers to help prepare and serve food. You can also volunteer more informally by just showing up in the 2-5pm range with some food or just some appetite.
- Corey is off to spend some quality monastery time in New York for a couple weeks. They hold a "**Hungry Ghost**" ceremony in the cemetery on Halloween.
- Anyone remember [Falun Gong](#)? The Chinese government saw this independent religious movement as a threat and deployed a lot of propaganda weaponry against it, so it's difficult to separate the facts from the bullshit about them.

On to pride:

- "Pride" is a term with a split personality in modern English usage.
 - It's one of the [Seven Deadly Sins](#), and [portends destruction](#). Prideful people are puffed-up and full of themselves.
 - Yet we should take pride in our work, we signal approval by telling children how proud we are of them, and groups stand up for themselves by using pride (e.g. Gay Pride, Black & Proud, etc.)
- Pride can lead to feelings of separation and superiority.
- It is associated with **vanity**.
- It is sometimes accompanied by [narcissism](#) and can lock you into a pointless cycle of self-admiration.
- Braggarts on the one hand, and people who constantly need others to affirm their worth on the other, seem to be in pursuit of pride. Addiction to **praise** can be a problem.
- **Social media** "like"-mongering, and social-media posting strategy in general, seems to exacerbate vanity or to give a perhaps unfortunate impression of what people find worthy of pride.
- Being appreciated for your accomplishments rather than for accidents of birth can be important for pride/self-worth.
- Feeling **attractive** can be a component of pride.
 - There seem to be fiercer beauty standards, with more demands, for women than men. (Guys can get by with [Dad Bod](#) apparently. [Whew!](#))
- The more you **judge** others as worthy/unworthy of pride the more pride becomes important to your own self-evaluation.
- Why do we use the sort of strangely reflective phrase "I'm proud *of* you" rather than something of the form "I honor you" when we praise children?
- What's the connection between pride and **glory**?

- laurels, gold medals for the best & greatest, heroes of mythology, gods, people who have done something extraordinary (Helen Keller) or pioneers (Neil Armstrong), appreciation, kudos, honor
 - But God's supposed to get all the glory, right? If you are glorified, you're trying to steal thunder from the Thundermaker Himself.
 - Should glory go to the creator or the creation?
- How does one's **legacy** factor into this?
- A movie like *Life Aquatic* plays with how our heroes can be really sloppy under the surface of their heroic personae.
- Is **celebrity** a sort of glorification?
- Maybe pride is a sort of internal **metric** of how much honor you feel you are due. If your pride-meter is out of whack you can have poor self-esteem or delusions of grandeur.
- **Shame** is maybe the flipside of pride in this way. Maybe it's a continuum. If you think you're worthy of exceptional regard, your meter goes up into the pride territory; if you think you've really slipped up, it drops below zero into the shame zone.
- Some people have figured out that they can artificially pump up their pride meters by catching a ride on the accomplishments of others (e.g. by rooting for the winning sportsball team). "I'm proud to be an American" might be another example.
 - But what of "Gay Pride," "Black & Proud," etc. That seems like a different phenomenon. More of an antidote to feelings of shame or inferiority inflicted by the culture or the majority.
- Pride seems associated in some way with **confidence**.
- You can take pride in your own accomplishments, but also in your crew, your team, a group you have some involvement with or membership in.
- Some people take pride in what really amounts to their **unearned** privilege, position, or inheritance.
- Others look at human history and recoil in shame.
- Christianity urges **humility** in the face of an almighty God. A secular version of this is to look at how tiny we are, in such a vast universe and fathomless time, and realize how small even the proudest person is in the face of it all. [The lone and level sands stretch far away.](#)
 - On the other hand, a philosophy of radical subjectivity makes all of the known and knowable universe identical with the self, so maybe a little grandiosity is in order... or [ego death](#)... or each devouring the other in a life-long [ouroboros](#) as [Alan Watts](#) would have it.

Next week we'll be talking about and learning about **permaculture**. It's a buzzword I've heard again and again but I never felt that I really understood what it meant, so I'm eagerly awaiting our exploration.