tl;dr: next week we're "Considering the Oryx with a Service Component"—what if we took our activities out of the Oryx Cave and started doing projects in the outside world, in a similar way perhaps to how the original Junto established libraries and universities and volunteer fire departments and shit like that? Usual bat time (6:30pm) & channel.

Tonight we tried to figured out where to draw the line between sticktoitiveness and stubbornness. [Obligatory Aristotle (don't say you didn't know it was coming)]

But first, some preliminiaries:

- The Upham house is hosting a bike breakfast this year, on May 14th (Saturday).
- Gizmo gives Michael Moore's new movie, *Where to Invade Next*, a big thumbs-up. It's showing now at the Palm.
- A new rental housing inspection mandate has hit SLO, and controversy has resulted.
- Hiking in Lake County seems especially cool, though the trails are harder to find, after last Summer's fires.
  - It turns out that newts, like sirens, are aquatic salamanders
  - Salamanders are associated with fire in myth
- Obama's recent remarks as carried on C-SPAN impressed some of us.
- https://www.instagram.com/nakeduphigh/—Where you can see a photo that includes both the top of Sapitwa Peak and the bottom.
- McDonalds apparently pioneered the art of training customers to bus their own tables.
- Why do restaurants give away free bread/chips? (many theories here)
- *Shantaram*
- Isn't it nice to have conversations in this junto style where we don't feel pressure to *solve* the problem or come to a conclusion so much as to make sure we're being honest about it and discussing it *well* and in all of its nuance?

Stubbornness & perseverance... how do you know where to draw the line between them? Or is it maybe just in the eye of the beholder—are they really two different /things/ or two different evaluations of the same thing?

Gizmo remembers as a young boy he went through that phase of saying "I'll hold my breath until I die if I don't get my way"—and he really would hold his breath until he passed out. That's stubbornness, right? Or maybe it was a winning strategy for a four-year-old... so does that make it perseverance?

Does this map to "decisiveness" or is that something a little different? Are we looking for an Aristotelean sweet spot between a paralyzed indecisive ditherer like Hamlet ("To be or not to be... I can see good arguments for both...") and a stubborn, blundering "I'm the Decider" like Dubya?

When is losing a winnable battle the best course of action? When is it best to cut your losses? (See also our discussion of "quitting" back on 28 January 2014.)

Here's one possible way of drawing the line: Perhaps a persevering person keeps moving forward in spite of *difficulty* while the stubborn person keeps moving forward in spite of *new information*. Perhaps stubbornness is a sort of blindness: a failure to see or to evaluate new data that has bearing on your course of action.

There seem to be two components of stubbornness/perseverance: a choice or goal/process-vector, and the application of willpower. Maybe the difference between the two lies in one or the other of these areas?

Is "confirmation bias" a variety of epistemological stubbornness? It's a way of sticking to your beliefs by blocking out facts that challenge them, so it seems to have some resemblance to the blindedness-theory of stubbornness. Do you have any beliefs that you hold on to in spite of the evidence, or for which you are particularly reluctant to seek out or consider contrary evidence?

How do we know that our beliefs have really faced the best arguments against them? Where do we go to find the best arguments for beliefs we don't have much initial sympathy for? What are the best arguments for Donald Trump becoming the next president? against the minimum wage? for eating Irish children? against voting? How do we know when we've heard enough and can make up our minds wisely?

Are Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump "judas goats" who aren't themselves going anywhere but are being tolerated by their parties because they are luring disaffected voters back into electoral enthusiasm?

(I was gonna add voting/democracy to our topics list, but I see we already covered that back on 21 October 2014... do we want to go at it again?)

Is information paralysis / the paradox of choice something that encourages stubbornness as a sort of immune reaction? Are you a maximizer or a satisficer? Is the perfect the enemy of the good?

Can deliberation be its own reward? If you deliberate for a long time over a decision you're unlikely to make, have you necessarily wasted your time?

When we note that highly successful people are often very optimistic and very decisive, are we discovering characteristics of success, or are we noting the results of a selective process in which excessive optimism and decisiveness cause *lots* of likely failures and *a few* lucky successes, and we only really notice the successes?

What to do when you hit a bump in life? Gather more info? Get help? Or just lean into it and try harder? It depends in part on you and in part on the bump. Some people are more apt to find their way around obstacles and other people more apt to overcome them; some obstacles are more molehills than mountains, and others are terrible tarpits.

Speaking of stubbornness: Why are there so many goddamned açai bowl and froyo joints popping up all of a sudden... there's no way they'll all last with the market as saturated as it is.

Here's a possible angle: Stubbornness allows you to experience failing in a more complete beginning-to-end way, and this is conducive to learning in a way that giving up when you know you're screwed isn't.

Are some people ditherers and others decisive, or is it different in each person depending on the nature of the decision, or is it different from time to time in the person regardless of the particular decision?

Okay: that be that. Next week, we'll be imagining the Oryx with a service component... Myself, I'm gonna jump the gun and start imagining early.