

The Eagles' Greatest Song

Take It To The Limit



“... it’s so hard to change . . . show me a sign . . . You can spend all your time making money . . . You can spend all your love making time . . .”

And when you’re looking for your freedom
(nobody seems to care)
And you can’t find the door
(can’t find it anywhere)
When there’s nothing to believe in
Still you’re coming back, you’re running back
You’re coming back for more

So put me on a highway
And show me a sign
And take it to the limit one more time

Take it to the limit
Take it to the limit
Take it to the limit one more time

A life without any attempt to “take it to the limit” is one that is unappealing, drab and lifeless; a bare existence. “Take it to the limit” – a necessary ambition for a life with soul, purpose and energy! “Take it to the limit” – “the limit” being the one ambition and aspiration that drives, leads and focuses what we sense we lack and really need and want.

We tend to exalt or vilify those who take it to the limit – we praise those whom we admire the direction of their limit while we criticize those who take in to the limit in the wrong, or a distorted, way. Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods take their respective sports to the limit while OJ Simpson, drug users, thieves . . . take it to the limit in a mistaken way, to their and others’ destruction. “Take it to the limit . . .” is an important lesson to teach children so they can have a happy and satisfied life – that said, teaching them the right directions is even more important; the direction of the “limit” defines the meaningfulness of a life.

Nursing homes are not depressing primarily because they smell bad or the people are old, but there seems to be no purpose other than a group of people simply waiting to die! However, is there much difference between the “average” nursing home patient and others, much younger and “vibrant,” seeing their purpose, the limits they push, as simply making money, chasing physical pleasures, comforts, security . . . like the *average* college student, the *average* worker, the *average* whoever; those who, in the use of their greatest gift, at their best are only average, because they are too lazy, unfocused or scared to take anything to the limit?

“If only I had more money . . .” so they “work like the devil” or “borrow to the hilt” – “Take it to the limit one more time,” but the direction is wrong, arriving finally, to a mirage and finding it is not

fulfilling. Or worse yet, the pursuit may end in financial disaster or a realization after many wasted years, during which other, far more important, possibilities have been forfeited.

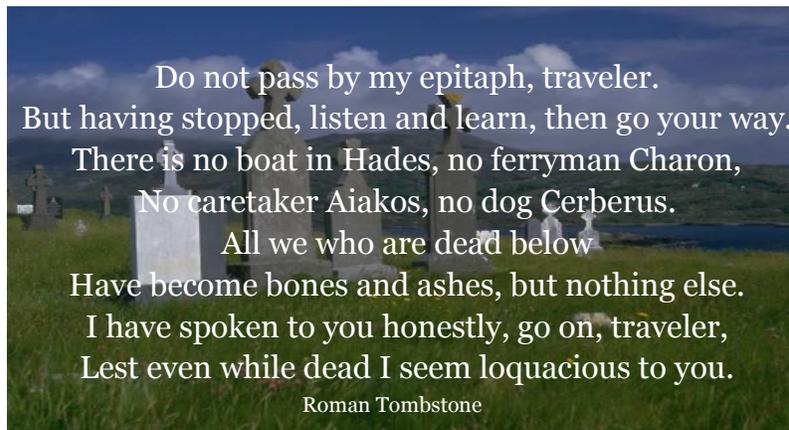


The black cloud that threatens to suck all meaning from life, unless dealt with somehow, is death. How or why get too excited, strive to take anything to the limit, when everything simply ends in death? And that is logical, unless there is a

reasonable expectation that the black cloud over life will end in a promised rainbow? Only then can we hope to see, beyond ourselves and our few years of life here, on earth; then we can really take it to the limit!



Neither cheap nor poor philosophy and futility help in the least in making sense of life:



The irony of man's condition is that the deepest need is to be free of the anxiety of death and annihilation; but it is life itself which awakens it, and so we must shrink from being fully alive.

Ernest Becker

Thus that which is the most awful of evils, death, is nothing to us, since when we exist there is no death, and when there is death we do not exist. Epicurus

Others seem, however, to “get it:”

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
and things are not what they seem.
Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art; to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

In the world to come, I shall not be asked, "Why were you not Moses?" I shall be asked, "Why were you not Zusya?" Rabbi Zusya

Or might we hear: "Did you hear the Eagles' *Take it to the Limit*? What did you take to the limit?" For which, hopefully, we will have a reasonable reply . . .

The Eagles' Greatest Song

Take It To The Limit

All alone at the end of the of the evening
And the bright lights have faded to blue
I was thinking 'bout a woman who might have
Loved me and I never knew
You know I've always been a dreamer
(spent my life running 'round)
And it's so hard to change
(can't seem to settle down)
But the dreams I've seen lately
Keep on turning out and burning out
And turning out the same

So put me on a highway
And show me a sign
And take it to the limit one more time

You can spend all your time making money
You can spend all your love making time
If it all fell to pieces tomorrow
Would you still be mine?

And when you're looking for your freedom
(nobody seems to care)
And you can't find the door
(can't find it anywhere)
When there's nothing to believe in
Still you're coming back, you're running back
You're coming back for more

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