

How to Stay in Hell

Inspiring Instructions for Daily Living



Y. O. U.

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gnOme

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I know not where I was born, save that the castle was infinitely old and infinitely horrible, full of dark passages and having high ceilings where the eye could find only cobwebs and shadows. The stones in the crumbling corridors seemed always hideously damp, and there was an accursed smell everywhere, as of the piled-up corpses of dead generations. It was never light, so that I used sometimes to light candles and gaze steadily at them for relief, nor was there any sun outdoors, since the terrible trees grew high above the topmost accessible tower. There was one black tower which reached above the trees into the unknown outer sky, but that was partly ruined and could not be ascended save by a well-nigh impossible climb up the sheer wall, stone by stone.

– H. P. Lovecraft, *The Outsider*

1

As you wake up in the morning, do not miss the chance to start thinking immediately of everything you have to do today. Do not notice the ghostly feeling of your limbs as they move out of bed and touch the dark floor. Do not remember the impossible half-thought that passed through your mind in the imperceptible moments before coming back to consciousness. Suppress all intuitions and nonsense that does not concern things that you are presently looking and not looking forward to. If you find yourself getting distracted, for example, by the eerie accelerating hum of the city or the pigeon that flew too close to your kitchen window, think of the *simple pleasures* that await you, and how many more there will be after those that you now have no idea of. After all, they are the BEST.

2

Make of point of always considering suffering as something that comes to you from *outside*. Anytime you find yourself in pain, see that something else is doing it, that suffering is never caused by the one suffering from it. You can encourage this healthy and self-caring attitude by always consoling others when they complain and by expressing your pain so that others can derive the same benefit from consoling you. This reinforces the beautiful shared feeling that no one

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is ever to blame, that all pain comes from *out there*. When you suffer, never suspect that you brought it upon yourself. Or, if that is not possible in the given situation, at least see that you are being punished, *for your own good*. After all, we all make mistakes and occasionally need a little correction to keep us on the right path and remind us of all that we have to be thankful for. Never forget that deep down inside you are really an innocent little child, like a small boy or girl who simply lost their way in the shopping center, or dropped their ice-cream cone in the playground dirt. The sooner you cry, the quicker someone will always come along to make it ALL BETTER.

3

As you go about your daily activities, always have a clear and effective explanation for what you are doing, and why. There is no sense in ever doing anything that you cannot explain to yourself—only insane people and criminals do that—and we all have a right to know why everyone does what they do, especially when *it affects us*. Do not be shy about asking strangers or casual acquaintances why they are engaged in a particular activity, especially when the activity appears to conflict with your plans or *the way things should be*. The more everyone sees why everyone is doing what they are doing, the more transparent and light-filled our world will become,

like a large crystal palace with stunning views in all directions. Only people who have something to hide keep secrets. And when you hang out with your friends, be sure to ask, ‘what are you up to?’ or ‘what have you been doing with yourself?’ and ‘why did you do that?’ Not doing so would not only be rude, but if they happen to be shy about explaining themselves or not very good at it, not prompting them might rob you of the chance to learn from their example. Alternately, you can break the ice by simply offering an explanation for your activities, so everyone else can more effortlessly follow suit. Luckily we are blessed to live in a world where most people love to explain themselves, which makes life easy. Of course there are moments in life when it will be difficult to explain to others or even to yourself why you are doing what you are doing. In these situations it is especially important to have a clear explanation and legitimate justification for your actions. For the more you emphasize and focus upon *the reasons* you are doing something, the more you will see that you really do know what you are doing. Insight into personal motivations is a treasure that deserves to be SHARED.

4

People appreciate ‘the personal touch’. That is why, whether attending to practical or impractical matters, you must always include a little of

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yourself in your thoughts, words, and deeds. Strive to do this in manner that also shows that you care about how the other person feels personally about the matter. That way you can kill two birds with one stone, showing in each expression that you do indeed care as much for the other person as yourself, which is true. For example, if someone asks for a cigarette, don't just say, 'no,' but 'sorry man, I don't have one, but would give you one if I did,' or 'sure, you can have the whole pack since I am trying to quit and you should too.' If, as it sometimes happens, you find yourself accidentally daydreaming about yourself, blabbing for too long about your own interests, or doing something that might seem selfish, simply apologize and take the back seat for a while so others can catch up to your level of self-absorption. The benefits of personalizing everything are incalculable. The more we do this in daily life, the more we see that our reality is indeed full of *real human beings*, complex personal selves each of whom has special needs and desires which deserve to be satisfied precisely because they are so special. No one is an abstract entity or 'just another person.' Everyone is uniquely themselves. Understanding this will not only make you a *pleasant person*, but ensure that you always know whom to praise and whom to blame. We all have a story to tell and no stories

are more worth telling than those ABOUT OURSELVES.

5

It is crucial that you continually compare yourself to other people. Only constant, rigorous, and self-referential comparison will ensure that you stay *on top of your game*, and that is paramount. No one can understand themselves directly. All knowledge about ourselves, and thus our capacity for self-appreciation and happiness, comes from self-comparison, from you comparing yourself to other people and from other people comparing themselves to you. Everyone is a mirror for everyone else and it is only by paying attention to what we see about each other in those mirrors that we learn and grow. But mirrors are tricky and sometimes distort as much as they reveal. Therefore you must be very selective and discerning and careful and shrewd when comparing yourself to your 'reflection.' If you happen to notice a strength in another person, see how you either possess that strength or how you have excellent reasons for not possessing that strength, reasons that are inherently more real and substantial than the strength itself. And if you happen to notice a weakness in another person, see how you either do not possess that weakness or how you have excellent reasons for possessing that weakness, reasons that are inherently more

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real and substantial than the weakness itself. However your self-comparison proceeds, the essential thing is to perceive that you are always *either superior or inferior* to the other person with respect to the term of comparison. This will allow you to understand, with a clarity rarely enjoyed by most human beings, how your particular weaknesses and strengths are forever balancing themselves out in the most fascinating and self-fulfilling way. No one is ever really the best or worst at anything in this world—those are illusions. We are all better and worse than everyone else in one way or another—that is what makes us unique individuals. But in every daily situation, in each moment that weaves itself into the fabric of our lives, everyone is the best and the worst at something. Develop your ability to continually discover that, and you will always BE THE BEST.

6

Nothing is more valuable than your own personal opinion. Keep it, cherish it, and fight for it wherever and whenever you can. In fact, the more you fight for your opinion, the stronger and more correct it will become. This may sound silly, but it really is true. Why? Because we live in a universe where not only anything is possible—the sky's the limit—but where the possible itself takes secret direction from the force of our conviction and

belief in personal opinion. Opinion is not only the way you think and feel about something, it is the very means of creating the reality you want. As the Buddha said: “what you think, you become.” Some people like to criticize the natural human preference for personal opinion, claiming that keeping to one’s opinion is somehow inherently self-centered and/or close-minded. What such critics do not see is how their very critique proves the awesome power and perennial truth of opinion—because that is their opinion! Opinion is *always right* and everyone has *a right to their opinion*. In fact, your rights—and the rights of all other living beings—actually depend upon your opinions. For only people with strong personal opinions are capable of respecting the opinions of others. So never hesitate to express your opinion, never be shy about convincing others that you are right. You are. You know it. And the world needs to HEAR YOUR VOICE.

7

There may come a time when you begin to doubt everything, to question the meaning of existence, and to suspect that you have been wrong your entire life. Existential crisis is something we all experience now and then. These are the times when you start to seriously entertain questions like: What am I doing here? Why is anything happening at all? Where is the universe? Is life

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really worth living? What is Truth, God, Reality? Who am I? Is the whole world insane? Why am I me? These are profound and deep questions. And it is important and only natural that you pose them. “All men by nature desire to know,” said Aristotle. At the same time, it is equally important and natural that you do not investigate these problems in a too literal or practical way or to any degree of intensity that might interfere with your identity or social life. Should you find yourself obsessively thinking and/or having strong feelings about such questions, remind yourself that they are inherently *theoretical* questions. And this means that they only have theoretical answers. When you see this, such questions will become your true friends. Far from being the impossible terms of tormenting personal crisis, they will lead into the most thrilling speculations, creative ideas, and especially, *interesting conversations*. So go ahead, knock yourself out, be a philosopher and ponder the imponderables! Preferably over a bottle of good wine (or two or three) shared with dear friends. Just remember to KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE.

8

Thank God for distractions. Distractions are all around us, both within and without. And without them, hardly anything would be possible. Imagine a world without distractions—as if you can!

Living in such a world is unthinkable. Not only would everyone be totally and constantly bored, but nothing would ever get done. Obviously there would still be all kinds of things to do, but all the things that make things reasonably and tolerably doable would be absent. What would you think without all those distracting thoughts? What would you feel without all those distracting feelings? What would you see without all those distracting sights? Exactly. Without the thrill of something to distract you from *what* you are experiencing, from the fact *that* you are experiencing it, and above all from yourself or the *being* who is doing the experiencing, agency itself becomes stalled and inactive. Your inability to imagine a world without distraction only proves that you are not a robot, tool, or machine, but a real human being, a person, and an individual, that is, a special kind of being who is incapable of being *divided*. Still, boredom does creep up upon us now and then. This is never your fault. Nor is it ever due to a lack of distractions, as there is *always* a way to distract yourself, internally and/or externally. Rather, boredom arises from a certain natural lull in our ability to be distracted, a lull that is paradoxically produced in paying attention to things. This lull is not really a deficiency, but is simply an *accidental distraction from distraction*, the temporary retreat of your attention from its capacity to be given to something else. The very

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act of focusing on something, by auto-suspending distraction, accidentally causes boredom, the state of lacking distractions other than the state itself. Understand this, and you need never be bored (or boring!) again. Since boredom is the space between two thrills, a space opened up by our inadvertently forgetting to not stay focused on something, it may always be easily eliminated or minimized to zero *by simply turning attention away from boredom*. Never focus on boredom! As soon as you become bored, force your mind onto something else. Never think ‘I am bored’ more than once and never try to figure out why you are bored, because there is no reason for it other than boredom itself, other than your being distracted by boredom in the midst of inordinate attention. Contrary to the drift of popular complaints about Attention Deficit Disorder, our capacity for distraction is a positive and essential power, a fundamental virtue of human nature. That this power can get out of control is not grounds for diminishing and restricting it, but for maximizing and developing it. Think of a well-respected news source. Does it maintain its status and influence by not publishing itself as frequently as possible, by not continually updating its headlines, by not filling up its pages with all manner of content at once about the world and about itself? Of course not. Never cease to diurnally conduct yourself in similar fashion as an important, interesting, and

indeed indispensable source of active information. Realize your true nature as a poly-focused multi-tasking being who is bubbling over and bristling to the brim with mutable vectors of impulses that are always relevant and ever new. Deliberately accelerate day by day your personal rate of spontaneous, rhizomatic disattention from immediately present things. Do this to the point of never again needing to remember to do it . . . and your whole life will flourish, perpetually fed from the marvelous POWER OF DISTRACTION.

9

A little complaining goes a long way. Perfecting your ability to complain is all about knowing how to modulate the frequency and intensity complaint. If you complain too much, people will start to think of you as a complainer and stop paying attention to the actual content of your complaints. Excessive complaint not only reflects negatively on you, but also works to corrupt the entire discursive system of complaining, to ruin it for everyone, with potentially tragic consequences. Remember the little boy who cried wolf. A social world in which everyone is always complaining is not only annoying, but thereby hampered from properly attending to the critical issues that people need to complain about for the benefit of everyone. Excessive complaint diminishes by dilution the effective quantity of

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complaint, paradoxically sapping its authentic power. On the other hand, too little complaint, or God forbid, not complaining at all, makes for a fundamentally deceptive and self-deceptive social situation in which problems are problematically swept under the rug and where the forces of good are improperly cut off from knowledge of their natural object, from seeing *what's wrong*. Located more towards the latter than the former, the *golden mean of complaint* is a powerful combined minimum of strategic overt critique and shrewd subtle grumpiness that maintains life on the unstoppable path to progress. Sure, it would be wonderful if there really were nothing to complain about, but that is obviously not the case. Meanwhile, the world simply cannot be improved without the aid of effective tips and pointers as to how *things are not as they should be*. So, complain wisely and with targeted precision, projecting complaints as from a diurnally replenished but limited supply of arrows or bullets, always keeping in mind that, as with so much else, less is more, zero is nothing, too much is not enough, and THE RIGHT AMOUNT IS EVERYTHING.

10

The essence of honesty consists in seeing that you more sincere than you think you are. When you do something good, honesty means seeing that a higher power is calling you to do good and that a

higher part of yourself is heeding the call. When you do something bad, honesty means seeing that you didn't really mean it, that you were deceived by ignorant or selfish forces external to your true self and that a lower part of yourself followed suit. To be honest with oneself is to see that, rather than being either wholly good or wholly bad, one is always a complicated and all-too-human mixture of good and bad, a creature who is simply living through the real drama of *trying to be good*. And the harder you try to be good, the more honest you will be. Deep down inside, every individual is inherently truthful and non-deceptive. No one sincerely wants to be insincere and when people are, they are only fooling themselves. After all, it is impossible to be honest with oneself about one's own insincerity, for to do so is only to prove one's essential honesty. So, knowing that your intentions, however twisted they may appear, always rest on a secure and unshakable foundation of goodness, strive to be good as good as you can. The more you do so, the more you will prove to both yourself and others beyond a shadow of doubt that you truly are good. And the more realize your essential goodness, the easier it will be to be totally honest. To be truly honest, to never lie about anything, all you have to do is always do your best and NEVER DOUBT YOURSELF.

11

A good life consists in continual appreciation of everything that you have acquired and accomplished. Always take the time to soak in the satisfaction of your efforts, to bask in the fulfillment of seeing that you really have succeeded in making life into exactly what you want it to be. The way you have always wanted it. You are who are, you do what you want, and you wouldn't want it any other way. Work hard to realize your dreams, but don't forget to sit back and enjoy them when they come true. You've earned it. And because you've earned, you really do deserve it. And if by chance you start to feel unsatisfied with what you already have, never hesitate to start thinking about the *next* accomplishment and how cool things will be when you have accomplished it. Soon you will be sitting there like you are now, but with a little more to show for yourself. Soon the guests will again be at the door. Part of you can already hear the compliments and glimpse the smiles as they walk in, the friendly mood of slightly jealous excitement to share in what you 'couldn't have done without them'. No need to rush. Once again you (will have) arrived, once again you (will have) MADE IT.

12

Pay close and continual attention to what people say and think about you. When someone expresses an opinion towards you or does anything that even slightly suggests to you that they are having an opinion about you, of any kind, immediately latch onto it and store the faithful impression of the opinion within yourself for safe keeping. If it is a positive opinion, you may store it in your heart, to be treasured in future time. Just be sure to first inspect the opinion, including how and when and why it was expressed, for any subtle or superficial negative aspects, such as sarcasm, pretense, envy, etc. Like little cuts or bruises on a good piece of fruit, these can often be removed without ruining the whole, so that you may enjoy the true wholesome taste of the positive opinion about yourself without any distracting overtones or aftertastes. If it is a negative opinion that someone expresses towards you, make a perfect impression of it in your mind, so that you can play it over and over again until you come to an unshakeable positive conclusion about it, such as, that the person is a total idiot, or that their opinion was really motivated by some false purpose, or that, armed with this knowledge of the way they feel, you will absolutely succeed next time in GETTING THEM TO LIKE YOU.

13

No one asks to be born. And nothing is really essentially wrong with human beings. The myriad problems of the world are caused by a mysterious combination of circumstantial ignorance and historically-generated systemic flaws. Most people try their best and only lie or cheat when forced to by external conditions. All difficult issues can be resolved by increasing concern about them. Deep down, every individual simply wants what is best for themselves and their loved ones. One day everything will be ok if we all pull together. The important thing is to get out there and live your life. The sky used to be the limit, but not anymore. Everyone can be a success if only given the chance. Rules are meant to be broken. Look at how far we have come in just the last ten years! Rome was not built in a day, but this is not Rome, so go for it. The children are our future. Your friends are depending on you. Just be sure to give back and never, ever FORGET WHERE YOU CAME FROM.

14

Never lose faith in yourself. Believe in yourself, and you can believe, and therefore accomplish, anything. Dreams only come true to those who dream. These are the core principles around which a successful and happy life are built. The only reason people fail in things is because they

lack faith in themselves, because they are afraid to take the leap into the electric ocean of *total self-confidence*. Take the leap. Do it now. Do not hesitate for one second longer to seize this opportunity for being all you can be, for being yourself. Now is your time. It was meant to be. They don't call it the opportunity of a *lifetime* for nothing. Life is a gift, and the sooner you start accepting that and having faith in the gift that it is, the sooner it will be all that you want it be. [If you are unsure about this, quickly consult the philosophers and other experts—they *know*]. Faith in oneself is not like believing in God or trusting in some set of immutable values. It is not an abstraction, but a concrete living certainty that *you* are the source and creator of your own self-fulfillment. Successful people don't merely have confidence in themselves; they *are* confidence itself and thus exude it in every situation. Choose your own path. Do it *your* way. Stupid cowardly people used to call it hell, but we will show them. IT IS HEAVEN

15

One of the greatest secrets of total contentment is to never miss an opportunity to express your approval or disapproval in all matters, great and small. Nothing maintains deep inner well-being and keeps it floating way up high on cloud nine better than continuous natural spontaneous

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communication of your likes and dislikes, excitements and disappointments, elations and depressions. The constantly oscillating flow of praise and blame is like the movement of a steady spiritual wind, which, now bending this way and now that, keeps the kite of your life soaring into the sunny august blue. Volare! But you need to maintain an attentive relationship to this multidirectional force in order for your kite to fly high. Failing to express approval and disapproval is like forgetting to tug on the kite and keep it afloat. And if you do not keep the string taught by tugging on it, the kite will surely take a spill into a lake or get tangled in the trees or telephone wires. Or it might get away from you completely. Then you would be left like a child to cry forever in the middle of the big park of the world, abandoned like a total no one without the strength to say *yes* or *no*, like a mute ghost WITH NO LIFE OF ITS OWN.

16

The rules apply to everyone, but they may always be laid aside now and again for those who *mean well*. As it says in the Holy Bible somewhere, “the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers.” If you are a good person—which you

are, otherwise you would not be reading this book—it is not right for you to be punished, reprimanded, or inconvenienced if you happen to do something that is technically illegal, unethical, or merely annoying. For example, parking/speeding tickets, lower than expected grades, enforcement of work project deadlines, late fees or extra charges of any kind, negative reviews—none of these should ever be imposed on any person who is trying their best, who has a demonstrated record of important contribution to society, and who generally *has their shit together*. People who insist on strictly enforcing rules of any kind upon people who are obviously essentially and actively good are simply total assholes, maybe even fascists. Such people need to be reminded that although rules are not meant to be broken, the strict enforcement of rules *is*, especially when such enforcement does not really help anyone, but only negatively impacts the natural creative flow of life and **HAMPERS YOUR ABILITY TO GET THE JOB DONE.**

17

Backbiting is not speaking critically or negatively about other people behind their back. Backbiting is not a crime. Backbiting is not gossiping. Backbiting is not incompatible with vegetarianism or veganism. Backbiting is not a way of making you feel better about yourself by putting other

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people down. Backbiting is not a form of blabbermouthery. Backbiting does not invalidate philosophical disposition or ideological commitment of any kind. Backbiting is not irrational. Backbiting is not a pastime of lost human beings. Backbiting is not an expression of ignorance or insecurity. Backbiting is not a mode of enmity. Backbiting does not contradict friendship with the backbitten. Backbiting is not against charity. Backbiting is not a form of deception. Backbiting is not a vice or even a weakness. Backbiting is in no way counter to the highest values of knowledge, love, and community. Backbiting is NOT A PROBLEM.

18

Entertainment is your best friend. It is always there for you. Entertainment comes in many flavors, suited to many different kinds of needs and desires. Entertainment is here and there and everywhere to entertain you, in whatever way you want and need to be entertained. Entertainment is one of the highest goods of our civilized, humanitarian world. The worth of a civilization is measurable not by the quality of its entertainment, but by its *quantity*. Entertainment knows that you have worked hard, how you suffer, and how you need a break. Entertainment is a loving expression of the world in the mode of ‘me-time,’ a reminder that when all is said and done, what really counts

is how we feel about things, about the special informed perspectives we take. Entertainment is above all for *you*. It is unhealthy to refuse entertainment. It is wrong to struggle against the temporary utopia of enjoying whatever kind of entertainment entertains you. Entertainment does not put you to sleep, unless you want it to. Entertainment knows how to keep pace with the times, to speak to the issues that rightly concern you, to be *relevant*. Entertainment may not be the most important thing in life, but it definitely SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

19

Deep down inside, does anyone really know what they are doing with their lives? Seriously, do *you* know what you are doing here? We are not talking about the vast complex of necessary and interesting things we have and want to do. Nor are we talking about all the banal and noble purposes those activities serve. We are talking about something more profound, a less articulable level of understanding of the cosmic forces that bring you into being in the first place, that make you *you*—as opposed to something else, as if that were possible. We are talking about all the terrible and beneficent forces of mysterious Nature whose dark secret powers keep your life dynamically in place each moment of your life, waking you up in the morning and putting you to sleep at night, filling

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our bodies with pleasure and pain, our imaginations with fantasies and nightmare, our minds with ideas and anxieties. We are talking about the impossible *everything* that holds the whole universe in place around the single finite pole of *you*. Have you ever thought about that? Of course you have. Only an infinite total idiot would dumbly assume that he is simply here on his own two feet and no one is *that* stupid. After all, what taught him to walk? There is a silent albeit sleepy part in all of us which is in touch with these mysteries. Where people go wrong is to assume that the Mystery can be explained, that there is a solution to the ultimate Problem, that there is an answer to the bottomless Question. Or worse, people go way wronger in believing that they have explained the Mystery, solved the Problem, answered the Question. Believe you me, you know and I know that there is no way of knowing why we are here, no possibility of understanding what we are really doing with our lives. So whatever you do, never go looking for answers where there are none. The only secret to life is to know that there is no secret to life. Knowing that, we are free to get down to the nitty-gritty business and pleasure of being alive, of *leading fulfilling lives* (as opposed to sadly following in the footsteps of some self-deluding ‘Truth’). Wonder is fun, and part of what makes us human, but skepticism is *healthy*, and GOES A LONG WAY.

20

Just an unexamined life is not worth living, life is wasted on those who fail to *insist on their rights*. Insisting on one's rights in this world is not only one of the noblest and most virtuous things a person may do with his time and energy, it is absolutely *necessary* to do so, both for his own welfare and for the good of his fellow man. Insisting on our rights is the *only chance we have* of making the world all that it could be. To insist on one's rights is not at all selfish. Far from it. It is the number-one way of *standing up* for the rights of all humanity, of making sure that the powers that be see and know that *we are here*, and that they do not and will never possess the power to *go too far*. Only by insisting on our rights will the *world listen*, only by insisting on our rights will we *make a difference*, only by insisting on our rights will we prove ourselves worthy of the brief portion of history BEQUEATHED TO US.

21

We have now covered quite a few handy and essential tips for staying in Hell. A quick recap is in order, just to make sure no one gets lost or misses something. Some of the points may not seem significant to you now, but that does not mean they will not prove invaluable *later*, when you are trying to live your life and things like that.

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1) When you wake up, think immediately about *what you have to do* and the *little pleasures* that will help you get through the day.

2) See pain as originating from *outside you*, always caused by *external forces*.

3) Always have a *plan* and always *explain your motives* to others.

4) Practice ‘the personal touch’—*personalize everything*.

5) Continually *compare* yourself to other people.

6) Cherish and defend your *personal opinion*.
Let your voice be heard!

7) Ponder the imponderables, but don’t go too far. Keep it intellectual, theoretical. Keep it real.

8) In all you do, deploy the endless *power of distraction*.

9) Hold yourself to the *golden mean* of complaining, neither too much, nor too little.

10) See how *sincere* you really are and *never doubt yourself*.

11) Always *appreciate* everything you *have* and all that you have *accomplished*.

12) Attend closely to what others say and think about you.

13) No human being asks to be born and there is nothing *essentially* wrong with anyone.

14) Believe in yourself.

15) Never miss a chance to express your approval/disapproval.

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16) Bend the rules to suit your *good intentions*.

17) Backbiting is not a problem.

18) Entertainment is awesome.

19) Don't try to solve the universal MYSTERY.
Be healthy, be skeptical.

20) Whatever you do, *insist on your rights*.

21) Never lose sight of these 20 principles.
Read them daily and let their power echo deeply
in your soul.

22

Hell is a special place. Some people say that God created Hell, but Hell is more special than that. Not that you should or should not believe that God created Hell. An essential part of Hell's specialness is that you can and should believe whatever you want. Now what does this word 'special' really mean? And how does it apply to Hell? What makes Hell so *special*? Webster's Dictionary—the go-to dictionary of Hell itself—defines 'special' as "1) distinguished by some unusual quality; 2) held in particular esteem." First, Hell is distinguished by its unusual terminality, the fixity of its place. No one leaves Hell, which is why people each tell each other to 'go to Hell,' because they never want to see them again. Of course the person saying 'go to Hell' usually doesn't realize that both they and the person they are talking to are already in Hell. Still,

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it makes sense for them to say ‘go to Hell’ to each other, both because that is the only place they *can* go and because Hell is so spacious that there is room for *everyone*. Similarly, people who say ‘see you in Hell’ are both stating an already obvious fact, namely that they are now doing so already, and expressing a weird kind of attachment to each other, as if looking forward to the day when they will get to hang out in Hell *together forever*, even though it may unfortunately turn out that they will never see each other again. Hell is uniquely spacious and absolutely enclosed. Once you are there, you are *always there and nowhere else*. Second, Hell is held in very high esteem. Hell is the *most famous place* in the universe and is the *most esteemed to itself*. Everyone in Hell knows all about Hell and is never confused about where they are, even when they forget all about it! On the one hand, when you are in Hell, you are definitely *in Hell*, and nowhere else. On the other hand, being in Hell is full of activities that never let you focus too clearly on the fact that you are in Hell. That is what makes it so fun! Hell is the NUMBER ONE place for thrills, excitements, pastimes, pursuits, goings-on, projects, business, enterprises, operations, intercourses, exercises, processes of all and any kind, exertions, efforts, behaviours, employment, occupation, news, recreation, industry, exchanges, retailing, arbitrage, movements, contrivances, schemes,

visualizations, ventures, escapades, endeavors, arrivals and departures, proposals, designs, undertakings, covenants, warranties, expeditions, attacks and defenses, tasks, and above all *plans and purposes* of all kinds. Basically, Hell in this sense is like a vast theatre complex with no outside and offering *every kind* of show. Being there, you always know, even when you forget all about it, that you are in the theatre. And yet the theatre is so vast and full of places to go and sights to see, that you always remain unaware of where you really are because the place seems too spacious to even be considered a place and because the idea of being anywhere else *makes no sense at all*.

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“I am halfway between these appearances and that which invalidates them, *that* which has neither name nor content, *that* which is nothing and everything” (Michel).

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"Hell is a special place. Some people say that God
created Hell, but Hell is more special than that"
-- Y. O. U.

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