

FEAR-MONGERING & OVER-RESPECT

It's a strong line, isn't it? Filled with righteousness
Controlled anger and passion. I can imagine
A character on stage, mentally preparing themselves
To deliver this line, injecting enough poison, enough contempt

“YOU are fear-mongering the future, and over-respecting the past!”
What could one say, what can one say? “That's not true!” We all do it
At times. Fear and take a pessimistic view of the future. Most probably
the result of our past experience. The future is a set of probabilities

peppered with possibilities; a set of unknowns. The past is our only reference
To which we can turn to find the tools to make choices. Yes? No? Maybe?
I put it to you if a single individual is deemed guilty of the charge, we are all
Guilty. To ‘fear-monger’, the future”, is to approach it with care and caution

To “over-respect” the past is surely a journey to determine the best and the worst
Of our experience. We are presented with an equation, I suggest: on one side
The past, which in some way = the future; that we cannot escape. Can we?
Let us examine the terms, “fear-mongering” has a negative tone to it, a criticism

Is it the case of purposely and purposefully seeking the negative elements and
Focussing on them, to the detriment of the optimistic? In such a case, the charge becomes less
an insult, and more a gentle comment; an acknowledgement of human frailty
Equally, the over respect” for the past. The future and the past exist on a continuum

Between extremes. Our job is to find our way within those extremes. So, yes
We can “over respect” the past; give events that have been and gone, an undue
Regard; a measure of self-confidence, or the lack of? Paints a different picture
Doesn't it? Our actor on the stage is not differently dressed for the part

Instead of battle attire, they wear something less threatening
When confronted with, “YOU are fear-mongering the future,
and over-respecting the past!”, they can reply, “Possibly, yes
That could be true. Thank you for your observation.

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