

One-liners Down the Ages

I Think, Therefore I Think I Am!

[Introduction by Ronen Grunberg]

Opening Statement

- *Thanks Ronen*
- *The title of the talk is:*
One-liners Down the Ages *with subtitle*
I think, Therefore I Think I am.
- *What is it about one-liners – we all seem to love them*
Parents, Grandparents, Teachers use them to Instruct their charges
- *They are good teaching tools.*
- *One-liners are prevalent in The Religious Scriptures; they pop up in day-to-day life and in history.*
Think of the French Revolution and the events leading up to it.
 - *A King lost his head. His Queen followed suit shortly thereafter*
 - *Executioners execute and are in turn then executed*
 - *Yet a One-liner more than anything captures the sentiments of the times*
Leading up to these events: ‘Let Them Eat Cake’.
- *The purpose of this presentation is to share thoughts. Comments are more than welcome afterwards*
- *I have selected 12 to share with you. Some I will go through fairly quickly. Others I will dwell on a bit longer*

[The List of 12 One-liners

1. *All is Relative*
2. *For a Cat may Look at a King*
3. *In the Beginning God Created*
4. *Man Shall not Live by Bread Alone*
5. *I think, therefore I think I am*
6. *From the Whole to the Part*
7. *The Vanishing Point and the Horizon will always be there*
8. *Balance, Balance, Balance*
9. *It's Not the Peak, Its Just Another Ridge*
10. *The Equation of a Straight Line*
11. *Let Us Pray!*
12. *In My Humble Opinion]*

One-liners Down the Ages

1. *All is Relative*

- *To locate any object physically it has to be related to something else.
To position any thought in our mind – the same applies,
It has to be compared with some other object
We seem to exist in a non-absolute sphere*
- *But the statement 'All Is Relative' claims absolute certainty.
Let's Modify:
Let's rewrite more correctly: 'It is Assumed That All Is Relative.'*

Chances are we will return to this.

We move on to One-liner No. 2.

2. *For a Cat May Look at a King*

- *This in my view is the mighty leveller.
Under certain circumstances there is equal standing despite an apparent disparity in status*
- *The layman may question the learned, the apprentice – his master.
A client at times is on equal footing with the hired professional. For example, while technical matters are the business of the housebuilder, the owner and client's word may take precedence in choice of room sizes and colour scheme.*
- *A Cat May Look A King*

3. In the Beginning God Created

- *It appears as though Someone is saying: 'Start here'*
Don't Concern yourself with what took place before.
- *These are the very first words of the Christian Bible*
- *This is in stark contrast to trying to figure out the Origin of the Universe and the Beginning of Time*
- *Learned scientists will explain the Big Bang Theory and Time Zero.*
But the layman will forever ask: 'And before Time Zero?'

4. Man Shall Not Live by Bread Alone

- *This One-liner also comes from the Christian Bible*
- *The observation by the sages of long ago is that:*
Man needs more than material for his well-being.
He needs spiritual fulfilment also.
He is restless until he finds both.
- *Man Shall Not Live by Bread Alone*

5. I think, therefore I think I am!!

- *This is clearly a deliberate play on Descartes 'I think, Therefore I Am'*
- *Let's pause for a moment and look at Descartes statement:*
The term: 'I Am' suggests absolute certainty.
Whereas 'All Is Relative' - recall one-liner No. 1.
- *We may want to Say: 'I Think, Therefore I Think I Am'.*
- *'I Think, Therefore I Think I Am!'*

6. From the Whole to The Part

- *I first came across this saying many years ago on a course in land surveying.*
- *The Lecturer would keep repeating 'From the Whole to the Part, From the Whole to the Part.'*
It's a practice in Land Surveying whereby the boundary lines are set out first, then the details within the boundary. These details may be trees, ponds, footpaths, large rocks – anything that matters.
- *From the Whole to the Part.*
- *This One-liner turns out to be useful in planning a daily routine, writing a report, managing a project*
- *The complete picture then on to the details*
The Global to the Local
The General to the Specific
From the Whole to the Part.

7. *The Vanishing Point and the Horizon Will Always Be There.*

- *In our travels, the Vanishing Point and the Horizon will always be with us*
- *Mountains we may climb, oceans we may sail,
whatever our achievements - it does appear as though
certain matters will forever remain beyond our grasp.*
- *The Vanishing Point and the Horizon will always be with us.*
- *The Horizon, promising good things beyond our gaze -Saying, 'Come Hither'
The Vanishing Point – visible yet unreachable*
- *Encouragement and challenge
The Horizon spurs us along
The Vanishing Point teases us forever*
- *The Vanishing Point and the Horizon Will Always Be There.*

8. *Balance, Balance, Balance*

- *The 8th one-liner is simply: 'Balance, Balance, Balance'*
- *The words of the teacher to his charges are: 'Balance is Nature's answer to everything'
We've Touched on before – recall: 'Man Shall Not live By Bread Alone'.*
- *Again, from the teacher:
Every action demands an equal and opposite reaction
Otherwise, we accelerate away into a spin*
- *Look around – Balance is everywhere
Land and Sea
Storm and Calm
Waves are everywhere – they indicate the evitable rise and fall*
- *Balance – in my view, a most beautiful word in the English Language -
And Nature's Answer to Everything*

9. *Oh, it's Not the Peak it's Just Another Ridge.*

- *This One-liner is borne out of personal experience*
- *Many years ago, I went hill climbing with my family. It was a pleasant day with many other families milling around at the bottom of the mountain. We briskly and joyfully set out for the top. After a while, getting a little tired we looked up to check our progress. To our surprise what we thought earlier was the mountain peak was not a peak at all – it was just a ridge.*

We continued our climb. After a while we checked our progress, we looked up, we burst out almost in unison: 'Oh, it's Not the Peak it's Just Another Ridge!'

The experience was to repeat itself a few more times. We got to the top eventually; the view was wonderful; we felt a great sense of achievement

- *The lesson to us is that in our many tasks in life we often underestimate what's ahead. There may be many false dawns but if we persevere, we will conquer peaks*
- *One Note on perspective:
If I was a taller person the false peaks would have been fewer.
If I was shorter peaks would have been more
Tall here, of course, equates to knowledge.*
- *We always remember: 'Oh, it's Not the Peak it's Just Another Ridge!'*

10. *The Equation of a Straight Line*

- *My 10th One-liner is the teenage student's favourite.
It's the Equation of a Straight Line
Recall ($Y = mX + C$) from days long past for most of us*
- *We are talking about one-liners after all*
- *Teachers would advise:
Transform any curvy chaotic relationship to look like the streamlined Equation of a Straight Line
and you are well on your way to a solution.*

All becomes Predictable.

- *The Equation of a Straight Line is a metaphor for many of life experiences*
- *There is usually a way from twisting unpredictability to the straight and narrow.
Success lies in finding that way.*

11. **Let Us Pray!**

- *One-liner No. 11 is: 'Let us pray!'*
- *I'm Not Suggesting penitence on bended knees*
- *We have planned
We have executed
Boundaries are reached
We probably stand exhausted*
- *Our position may be temporary or it may be permanent
It's time to reflect, plan ahead, or hand over the baton*
- *Time to say: 'Let Us Pray!'*

12. **In My Humble Opinion**

- *The 12th and final one-liner is: In My Humble Opinion*
- *This to me is a most beautiful phrase.
The more one speaks on any matter
The more of an authority one becomes on any subject
The more pertinent these words become*

[I will carefully say this]
- *In My Humble Opinion the conceiving of the whole universe
in all its vastness lies within the five to six Inches between our ears*
- *In My Humble Opinion, All is Subjective*
- *These are my 12 Chosen One-liners for Today.*

They will probably open up little windows for discussion in a few minutes
- **Finally:**
*As Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow
I will use one-liners to make this closing easier*
- *Thanks
Vaya Con Dios
God Be with You*
- *And bear in mind that:
'All is Relative', and
'I Think, Therefore I Think I Am'*
- *THANKS!*