

1. There are those who says that
 - a. because of our advances in astronomy ang geology
 - b. Because of our advances in philosophy
 - c. Because of our advances in psychology and in the sciences in general
2. The modern world no longer has need of myths.
 - a. And therefore we no longer have them.
 - b. But they would be wrong.
 - i. They are just not found in churches or temples anymore.
 - c. They are found in novels and movies and TV programs
 - i. For if a myth is simply a story which goes beyond what historically may have happened
 - ii. To communicate a truth which is timeless,
 - iii. Well then we have lots of myths. Just take your pick.
3. One of my favorites is that series of novels,
 - a. Which spawned a series of Oscar winning movies,
 - b. “The Lord of the Rings”
 - c. For the few people where who may not know (and who obviously have been living on Mars most of their lives)
 - d. The Lord of the Rings deals with a ring, which when worn, gives incredible power, and is the story of the attempt to destroy it before it falls into evil hands.
 - e. The problem is that the ring falls first into the hands of a little man, a hobbit named Frodo Baggins, who at first sees it as a curiosity, until his wizard friend Gandalf the Grey discovers the true power of the ring, and the danger it poses.
 - f. And it appears that Frodo is the only one who can destroy it.
4. There is a scene in the movie where Frodo says to Gandalf “I wish the ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened.”
5. To which Gandalf replies: “So do all who live in such times. But that is not ours to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time we are given.”
6. I doubt that the story of Frodo and Gandalf is historically true. But for those of us living now through a time of economic collapse
7. political incompetence, ecological change and national decline That conversation contains a truth that transcends history and touches us all.
8. For who here does not wish we could go back to another time:
9. For then we would be able to avoid the present, with its dangers and fears
10. We would be able to avoid the hard political choices we have to make in the coming weeks, and the frightening consequences of those choices.
 - a. We wish we could to a time before this current administration
 - b. To a time before 9/11
 - c. To a time when we were young
 - d. To a time maybe when we were children
 - e. When we were cared for and protected
 - f. When we did not have to choose.

11. We wish we knew that there was someone watching over us, who would care for us no matter what.
12. We wish for the security of childhood rather than to face the reality of being adults.
13. So did the people of Judah who heard the words of the prophet Isaiah today.
14. For they had been living in exile in Babylon for over a generation;
 - a. They had been stripped of their nationhood
 - b. Stripped of their power
 - c. Stripped of their culture
 - d. And increasingly even of their religion.
15. They yearned to return to the past; to a time when they were protected and cared for by God.
16. They must of yearned for it all the more when their Babylonian captors were defeated by the Persian Empire.
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