**Not Knowing**

**Johnny Appleseed didn’t know a whole lot about apples, must say. He thought it wicked to prune trees. Grafting never even occurred to him. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**For the past hundred years archaeologists have been positive that civilization began in the Middle East around 10,000 years ago. Now they aren’t so sure. It begins to appear that metallurgy and settled farming, the two most important human activities in the march toward civilization, may have begun in Asia earlier than that. Bronze objects have been found in Thailand that apparently predate other bronze objects by a thousand years. Ah yes! The more we know, the less we know. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 255)***

**When Columbus started out he didn't know where he was going, when he got there he didn't know where he was; and when he got back he didn't know where he had been. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**G. Robert Evans of Arcata National Corporation describes the Christopher Columbus Better Management Award: “It’s in honor of old Chris, the greatest manager of all time. He started out not knowing where he was going; upon arriving, he didn’t know where he was; and upon returning, he didn’t know where he had been.” *(Forbes Magazine)***

**A computer is called smart. But it’s not. Each computer does what it does in a most remarkable manner, but not one knows what it’s doing or even knows that it’s doing what it’s doing. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Not knowing when the dawn will come, I open every door. *(Emily Dickinson)***

**Recent college graduate: “I was on the dean’s list, but nobody in the employment office seems to know the dean.” *(Bill Vaughan, NANA)***

**Where will I be five years from now? I delight in not knowing. That’s one of the greatest things about life – its wonderful surprises. *(Marlo Thomas)***

**If all difficulties were known at the outset of a long journey, most of us would never start out at all. *(Dan Rather)***

**Edison was once asked what electricity is. He replied that he didn’t know what it is, that all he knew was what it does, and that he didn’t worry so much about definitions as long as he could work with it. *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 9)***

**You never know what is enough until you know what is more than enough. *(William Blake)***

**When I was a teenager visiting Leipzig, Germany, before we had the ability to know anything whenever we wanted to know it, I ate a jam-filled cake topped with ground poppy seeds, some variant of the Berliner. I don't know what it was called. I don't want to. I miss these kinds of mysteries. We used to go about life seldom knowing what would happen or even what had happened. If I'd needed to name that pastry, I could have read cookbooks, asked chefs, written to the Leipzing Chamber of Commerce -- but I didn't. That was a once-in-a-lifetime bite. These days, we can find out in mere moments what thresher sharks eat and whether ladybugs are nocturnal. We're exempt from waiting, denied the chance of surprise. And I'm convinced we are missing out on an essential human experience: not knowing. *(Sarah Manguso, in O magazine)***

**Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious ambiguity. *(Gilda Radner)***

**Only when he no longer knows what he is doing does the painter do good things. *(Edgar Degas)***

**We all know what to do, but we don’t know how to get re-elected once we have done it. *(Jean-Claude Juncker, Luxembourg Prime Minister)***

**If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it? *(Albert Einstein)***

**I don't know that there are any short cuts to doing a good job. *(Sandra Day O'Connor)***

**When George Washington threw that dollar across the Rappahannock River, he didn't realize he was establishing a precedent for government spending. *(Harold Coffin, in San Francisco Examiner)***

**Mechanic: “What do you think you’re doing?” Geech: “What’s it look like I’m doing?” Mechanic: “It looks like you don’t have the slightest idea what you’re doing.” Geech: “Exactly.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

**When I say I know women, I mean I know that I don’t know them. *(William Makepeace Thackeray)***

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