Security

**He made my feet like the feet of deer,**

**and set me secure on the heights.**

***(2 Samuel 22:34)***

**And you shall be secure, because there is hope;**

**you shall look round you and lie down in safety,**

**and you shall take your rest with none to disturb.**

***(Job 11:18-19)***

**Trust in the Lord, and do good;**

**so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.**

***(Psalm 37:3)***

**Sixteen years after the cataclysmic events of 9/11, it's time to "take stock of where we stand," said Tom Nichols in TheHill.com. Have we "faced down the threat" from Islamist terrorism? Or have we "surrendered to it, perhaps in ways we don't even understand?" Osama bin Laden knew in 2001 he could never "defeat us by force." The al Qaida leader wanted to "bait us into defeating ourselves" -- to make us "abandon our values and lash out in ways that would make the resist of the world turn against us." Well, mission accomplished. More than a decade and a half later, Americans remain irrationally "obsessed" with terrorism, despite our success in limiting its toll. We've spent tens of billions building "a new national security state," accepted massive infringements on our privacy and civil rights, and compromised many of the country's defining principles -- all in the quest for an "absolute security" that isn't possible. *(The Week magazine, September 22, 2017)***

**A friend and I stayed at a Chicago hotel while attending a convention. Since we weren't used to the big city, we were overly concerned about security. The first night we placed a chair against the door and stacked our luggage on it. To complete the barricade, we put the trash can on top. If an intruder tried to break in, we'd be sure to hear him. Around 1 a.m. there was a knock on the door. “Who is it?" my friend asked nervously. “Honey," the woman on the other side yelled, “you left your key in the door." *(Berniece B. Phillips, in Reader's Digest)***

**Elon Musk’s bodyguard platoon: The personal security team for the world’s richest man now operates “like a mini-Secret Service,” said Kristen Grind andJack Ewing in The New York Times. Elon Musk “travels with as many as 20 security professionals who show up to research escape routes or to clear a room before he enters.” Tesla paid $2.4 million last year for “a portion of Musk’s protection.” For comparison, Warren Buffett has “employed just one personal bodyguard for many years,” while Amazon “shells out $1.6 million a year to guard its founder, Jeff Bezos.” But the outspoken Musk “regularly deals with stalkers and death threats.” Since 2023, there have been eight “terroristic threat” incidents at Tesla’s Austin, Texas factory, “with at least two aimed directly at Musk,” according to the Travis County Sheriff’s Office. *(The Week magazine, September 27, 2024)***

**If a safe is unlocked, is it still a safe? *(George Carlin, in When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?, p. 54)***

**No one can build his security upon the nobleness of another person. *(Willa Cather)***

**Wayne LaPierre, the chief executive of the National Rifle Association, tried unsuccessfully to get the nonprofit organization to buy him a $6 million lakefront mansion last year. LaPierre and his wife said they needed the 10,000 -square-foot, French-style estate in a gated community near Dallas for security reasons, after the backlash over the Parkland, Florida, school shootings. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 23, 2019)***

**American allies in fact make large contributions to collective security. Total assistance to Ukraine from the European Union nearly matches that of the United States. South Korea payas for the construction and maintenance of U.S. facilities in Korea – and for the salaries of Koreans who support U.S. forces.(David Frum, in The Atlantic magazine)**

**It has been said that the only truly secure person is a convict in a penitentiary. He has no worries over a place to live, food to eat, clothes to wear. He has true security, but how great is the cost? *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover The Power Within You, p. 123)***

**No nation ever had an army large enough to guarantee it against attack in time of peace or ensure it victory in time of war*. (Calvin Coolidge)***

**$1.6 billion: Revised estimate of the cost of security at the 2012 London Olympic Games, which includes funding to protect different venues. *(Time magazine, December 19, 2011)***

**People are never more insecure than when they become obsessed with their fears at the expense of their dreams. *(Norman Cousins)***

**Insurer AIG is expanding into rural India and will soon offer a policy on the life of a cow for a $10 annual premium. For many rural Indians, cows are their most valuable asset. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 23, 2007)***

**Open international trade is nearly always mutually beneficial. Yet there is more to the case than economics. Trade, mutual-protection pacts, and cooperation against corruption and terrorism also make democracies more secure against totalitarian adversaries. Other great powers – China, India, Russia – face suspicious and even hostile coalitions of powerful enemies. The United States is backed by powerful friends. These friendships reinforce U.S. power. By working with the European Central Bank, for instance, the U.S. was able to freeze hundreds of billions of dollars of Russian assets after the attack on Kyiv in 2022. Russia imagined those assets beyond American reach; they were not demiciled in the United States. Yet when necessary, the U.S. could reach them thanks to its friends.(David Frum, in The Atlantic magazine)**

**Security depends not so much upon how much you have as upon how much you can do without. *(Joseph Wood Krutch)***

**It's not very encouraging to know your bank deposits are protected by an agency of a federal government that is $1.6 trillion in debt. *(Wendell Trogdon, in Indianapolis News)***

**A man grumbled to a friend: "I can't help being depressed. I just realized it's costing me more to insure my car than my life." *(Orben's Current Comedy)***

**When God made the oyster, he guaranteed his absolute economic and social security. He built the oyster a house, his shell, to shelter and protect him from his enemies. When hungry, the oyster simply opens his shell and food rushes in for him. He has freedom from want. But when God made the eagle he declared: "The blue sky is the limit -- build your own house!" So the eagle built on the highest mountain. Storms threaten him every day. For food he flies through miles of rain and snow and wind. But think of it, the eagle, not the oyster, is the emblem of America.(*Morris Mandel, in The Jewish Press)***

**Banks and safe deposits are unknown in most eastern countries. Coins of silver and gold and other valuable articles are buried in the ground to keep them safe from bandits and robbers. *(George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 47)***

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**The less secure a man is, the more likely he is to have extreme prejudices. *(Clint Eastwood)***

**If you want a guarantee, buy a toaster. *(Clint Eastwood, in The Rookie)***

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**Security exists only in your mind. Security is not the dollars you have in the bank or invest in business or rental properties. Security is the thoughts you have in your mind. Security is a self-generated inside job, created inside your mind. In this incarnation, you exist behind the only eyeballs you have. Choose to be secure. As you increase your security of mind, you will choose work you love rather than work you do only for money. And the truth is that doing work you love will facilitate rapid self-achievement and probably higher earnings, too. All the wealth in the world will not buy, nor be a sufficient substitute for love, family spiritual fulfillment and the real satisfaction of having a meaningful purpose in life. Prosperity is! If it's not for you, who is it for? *(Mark Victor Hansen, in How To Achieve Total Prosperity)***

**As one worker looks at the overhead security cameras, the other mentions to him: "They're fake. Part of the new false sense of security system." *(Mike Baldwin, in Cornered comic strip)***

**American Dream?: 77% of workers said they're concerned about their long-term financial future, according to a survey of employees at small to medium-sized businesses. 22% said they're happy with their current financial situation in the poll conducted for the Des Moines, Iowa-based Principal Financial Group, Inc. *(Rocky Mountain News, September 16, 2005)***

**The psychic task that a person can and must set for himself is not to feel secure but to be able to tolerate insecurity. *(Erich Fromm)***

**A bank is a place where they lend you an umbrella, in fair weather and ask for it back when it begins to rain. *(Robert Frost)***

**The most expensive gated community in the U.S. is the Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club in Boca Raton, Florida. House prices in the subdivision range from $920,000 to $29.2 million. *(Forbes.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 10, 2005***

**Men who get on well with women are usually those who know how to get on without them. *(Lord Mancroft, in Booking the Cooks)***

**“Your government failed ou, those entrusted with protecting you failed you and I failed you." So said former counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke on March 24 while testifying before the 9-11 commission. Finally, after waiting 2 1/2 years, the 9-11 families received an apology for the failure to prevent the attacks on 9-11. Of the few legitimate functions that the federal government is supposed to perform, national defense ranks near the top. Our federal government officials have not been held to account for the tragedy that occurred on 9-11. With an annual federal budget over $2 trillion and a defense budget over $400 billion, our massive government did not protect us. *(James Frye, in Rocky Mountain News, April 8, 2004)***

**The only thing anyone is really guaranteed in this world is a ticket out of it. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**The massive new headquarters of the Department of Homeland Security, scheduled to be completed in 2023, will cost $3.9 billion and house 17,000 employees. *(Bloomberg Businessweek, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 26, 2013)***

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**U.S. companies have hiked their employees' annual contributions for family health coverage by 68 percent over the past five years. *(BusinessWeek, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 30, 2005)***

**The percentage of U.S. companies paying for their workers' health insurance is falling sharply, according to the Hay Group, a benefits consulting firm. In 2000, 29 percent of large- and mid-size employers paid 100 percent of premiums for health coverage; by 2004, that figure had fallen to 17 percent. Companies blame rising health costs and tight business competition. “If you want a Cadillac plan," said one consultant, "go work for the government." *(The Week magazine, April 1, 2005)***

**Insurance Facts: 55% of individual health insurance policies are kept for less than two years. 40% of buyers of individual health policies have a deductible of at least $2,000. 16% of applicants are turned down for health reasons when they apply for an individual policy. *(Kiplinger's magazine, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 26, 2004)***

**Forty-one percent of working adults with annual incomes of $20,000 to $40,000 lacked health insurance for part of the past year, according to a survey by the research group Commonwealth Fund. That's up from 28 percent in 2001 *(Marketwatch.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 12, 2006)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Nearly 60 percent of U.S. homeowners don’t have enough insurance to rebuild if their home is destroyed in a hurricane or other natural disaster. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 30, 2006)***

**Houses are but badly built boats so firmly aground that you cannot think of moving them. They are definitely inferior things, belonging to the vegetable not the animal world, rooted and stationary, incapable of transition. The desire to build a house is the tired wish of a man content thenceforward with a single anchorage. The desire to build a boat is the desire of youth, unwilling yet to accept the idea of a final resting place. *(Arthur Ransome, in “Racundra's" First Cruise)***

**Having paid out billions for hurricane relief, insurance companies are now refusing to write any homeowner policies in Louisiana, Florida, and coastal Texas. In Florida alone, 500,000 homeowner policies have been canceled. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 12, 2006)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**What did the insurance agent tell Adam and Eve? I can see you're not covered. *(Ronald Lawrence, in Reader's Digest)***

**A year after Florida was hit with a record four major hurricanes, insurance companies have raised homeowner premiums by 28 percent. Coverage for mobile homes has jumped as much as 100 percent. *(The Miami Herald, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 15, 2005)***

**When the farmer's barn burnt down, the insurance company refused to pay him for the loss, offering instead to build him a new barn. He immediately cancelled the policy on his wife. That's said to be the oldest insurance joke of record. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Fewer Americans uninsured: The number of Americans without health insurance declined modestly from 2006 to 2007, Census Bureau officials said. Thanks to increased participation in governme t health insurance programs, especially those aimed at children, the number of Americans without insurance fell from 47 million at the end of 2006 to 45.7 million at the end of 2007. Texas had the highest percentage of uninsured citizens – 24.4 percent of the state’s population. *(The Week magazine, September 5, 2008)***

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**On the day Thomas Jefferson died, friends were soliciting money for his relief at a ceremony in the House of Representatives marking the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The former President's assets had dwindled considerably and he desperately needed cash. Had he lived, however, he would not have been able to depend on this solicitation. According to John Quincy Adams, only four or five people at the ceremony contributed to Jefferson's relief. *(Richard Shenkman & Kurt Reiger)***

**Security is mostly superstition. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. *(Helen Keller)***

**Twenty-seven keys are quite a few, but that's said to be how many the average family keeps around the house. The lock makers compile those statistics. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Fred Astaire had his legs insured for a mere hundred thousand dollars while his dancing partner, Cyd Charise, had hers covered for almost seven million dollars. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 23)***

**Only in growth, reform and change, paradoxically enough, is true security to be found. *(Anne Morrow Lindbergh)***

**Waiter says to Ziggy: “The lobster will be $19.95, Monsieur. Now will you be wanting the lobster insurance?” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**The Los Angeles wildfires are an unfolding catastrophe for the home insurance market, said Laurence Darmiento and Summer Lin in the Los Angeles Times. The situation in California was already dire. Many homeowners “struggled to maintain their insurance amid sharply rising costs and the decision by many companies” to stop renewing policies after previous disasters. Some, like Pacific Palisades resident Francis Bischetti, 55, had no choice but to drop coverage – Californians call it “going bare” – after being told last year that “the annual cost of the policy he buys from Farmers Insurance was going to soar from $4,500 to $18,000.” (The Week magazine, January 24, 2025)**

**One financial action more than any other leads to the loss of homes. Name it. Taking out a second mortgage. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**There is no security in this life, only opportunity. *(Gen. Douglas MacArthur)***

**It is difficult to give children a sense of security unless you have it yourself. If you have it, they catch it from you. *(William C. Menninger, American scientist, physician, engineer)***

**The man who looks for security, even in the mind, is like a man who would chop off his limbs in order to have artificial ones which give him no pain or trouble. *(Henry Miller)***

**The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous. *(Frederick Douglass)***

**He that's secure is not safe. *(Poor Richard's Almanac)***

**Pope John XXIII was a jovial, hard-working man who often made fun of himself. Once, when crowds pushed forward to see him at the Vatican, he asked the police, who were forcing them back, "Why do you do that?" "For security reasons, Your Holiness," he was told. "Security?" said the Pope. "But I wasn't going to hurt them!" *(Seek, South Africa)***

**Woman says to man: “Well, it was possessed, but you missed a payment. It’s been repossessed.” *(Mike Baldwin, in Cornered comic strip)***

**There's something to be said for people who put their money in mattresses. They have something to fall back on. *(Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**We are at war, and our security as a nation depends on winning that war. *(Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. Secretary of State)***

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**I've read that among criminals now there aren't any real safecrackers left. Why not? Isn't much cash in safes anymore. Since payroll checks became acceptable. That, and the fact that electronic security systems make safes too tough. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**With faith in the financial system cratering, Home Depot reports that sales of safes have seen double-digit growth in the last few weeks. Safe-maker Honeywell says safe sales are 50 percent higher now than they were just four weeks ago. *(The Boston Globe, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 24, 2008)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Sheik Shakhbut, ruler of the tiny sheikdom of Abu Dhabi has finally made up his mind to put his oil revenue ($1,000,000 per week) in Lebanese banks. Previously the Sheik had shown no confidence in the bank vaults. He kept his banknotes in big empty oil cans, which he stored away under his bed. He turned to the banks only when he noticed that insects were beginning to nibble away at his hoard. *(Jeune Afrique, in Atlas)***

**Silver and gold looked like safe havens no more last week. Amid a grim market week that saw the Dow drop more than 6 percent, silver fell 26 percent, with Friday ringing in as the worst dollar-loss day since 1980. Over the week gold lost 10 percent of its value, it's steepest drop since 1983. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 7, 2011)***

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**To counter the effects of a civilization inclined “more and more to make life insecure," President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act August 14, 1935. Its retiree benefits and unemployment compensation make it the first major federal program to provide directly for the economic security of individual Americans. Opponents decry the “government invasion of the private sphere." Today trustees estimate that the program will pay out more than it takes in by 2007, and debate rages over the best way to save the system. *(Smithsonian magazine)***

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**We spend our time searching for security and hate it when we get it. *(John Steinbeck)***

**The reason we struggle with insecurity is because we compare our behind-the-scenes with everyone else's highlight reel. *(Pastor Steven Furtick)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Porous ports: Security systems at U.S. ports are still fraught with problems, despite expensive post-9/11 upgrades. Bethann Rooney, security manager for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, said the 22 radiation monitors in the area register roughly 150 false alarms a day, 10 times the number originally expected. And federal agents manage to check just 45 percent of arriving containers for radiation signaling the present of nuclear material. *(The Week magazine, July 1, 2005)***

**Willy asks his wife: “Did you read this? They have the technology where someday we’ll have home radar security systems just like the army. How would you like to dispatch a 20-million-dollar cruise missile and find out later it was just the cat?” (*Joe Martin, in Willy ‘n’ Ethel comic strip)***

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**My ultimate security is calm acceptance of the fact that there is no ultimate security. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Uninsured Americans will spend about $30 billion out of pocket this year on health care, says a new Urban Institute study. An additional $56 billion in costs will be covered by other sources, primarily the federal government and state agencies. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 5, 2008)***

**At the Vatican Museums, the nightly ritual of the keys begins in Room 49A, a tight, windowless chamber, generally referred to as il bunker, which I entered one evening last November from a grassy courtyard as rain began to fall. The keeper of the keys – the clavigero – is a former member of the carabinieri named Gianni Crea. He has a staff of about a dozen, and keeps nearly 3,000 keys in the bunker. Can he match each one to a lock? At the Vatican, yes, he said; he has trouble at home. Some keys, like No. 401, which weighs a pound and opens the main interior door to the oldest of the museum buildings, were forged centuries ago; others resemble keys you'd find in a hardware store or a kitchen drawer. Many have plastic tags with handwritten labels. They open every utility box, every window, every gate and portal. *(Cullen Murphy, in The Atlantic magazine, June, 2023, on page 58)***

**52% of Americans now say the war in Iraq has not contributed to the long-term security of the U.S. -- the first time a majority has held that view. Nearly three-quarters say the number of casualties in Iraq is unacceptable, while two-thirds say the U.S. military there is bogged down. In late 2003, 62% thought the Iraq war would aid U.S. security. *(The Washington Post/ABC News, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 17, 2005)***

**The past at least is secure. *(Daniel Webster)***

**Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom aired on NBC each Sunday night from 1963 until 1971. Afterward, the show went into primetime syndication, where it gained even more popularity. Many of the episodes shown after 1971 were repeats, though new installments were produced through 1988. In each episode, Perkins would find a way to refer the unpredictable nature of wild animals and contrast that with the secure feeling one would have by owning an insurance policy from Mutual of Omaha. *(D. L. Nashton, in Tidbits)***

**Grimm: "Here's your new wireless security alarm." Mother Goose: "Grimm, that's a dog whistle." Grimm: "Just blow it and one of our home security professionals will come to protect your property. Unless we're outside digging in your garden." *(Mike Peters, in Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip)***

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