

George Jeremy Stephen Yates
1956 - 2008

I share with you some of Jeremy's words about who he was. I have used Jeremy's writings and letters as a source.

1991: Wondrous advisor, Prince of Peace with a sense of humor and a noble spirit (charitable, compassionate, honest, faithful, sensitive. Quote Isaiah 53:10 'Though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.' Appreciate classical music, jazz, rock and new wave. Tolerant of all religions - Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and pagan. Vintage 60's and 70's, meaning Viet Nam, peace rallies, grass, acid and sexual liberation, but no head trips please.

2002 Personal in French: I am a 45 year old New Yorker. I weigh 100 kgs and am 170 cm tall. Tastefully stylish but non-conformist, appreciate a sense of humor, art, culture, good cuisine, swimming, skiing, horseback riding and life.

"I went to the Lycée Français de New York, a French school run by the French Government for the sons and daughters of Ambassadors and Consuls. My favorite book series growing up was Asterix and Obelix. After attending this school for so many years, I went to high school in Switzerland."

He cherished his international schooling at the Lycée and in Gstaad, felt he would have been better off in France and wore a beret to make this statement (as well as to hide his thinning hair).

But, an inveterate walker and observer of urban life, he was happiest in Manhattan. "[What type of New York do I like? I like New York when I live in Gracie Mansion.] My New York is the New York of O. Henry at the turn of the Century. The Herald Tribune of the same era. The Art Deco that produced the Rockefeller Center, the Church of the Heavenly Rest and the architecture of the San Remo, the Beresford and the EL Dorado. My New York is City Hall and the Woolworth Building, not the World Trade Center.

The UN is not architecturally part of my New York – but the concept of Woodrow Wilson is!

The Empire State Building is part of my New York along with the Chrysler Building because of the genius (in the Roman sense) of their creator! Grand Central is part of my New York, not Met Life.

I love New York. I also love Paris, but New York is No. 1."

He majored in comparative religion in college at Hunter College. He warned, "Please do not engage me in such discussions as I am from the school of biblical criticism leaning toward Hermeneutics and Paganism. You may not like my religious opinions..."

On the other hand, if you would like to discuss which period in recent history was the most fashionable, I would have to say either the Woodstock era or the Indiana Jones era. Without a doubt!"

Gifted for languages, he learned Greek from sponge fishermen in Tarpon Springs, FL, mastered various dialects of Berner Swiss German, and could chat in Bruxellois and Flemish after just 36 hours in the Belgian capital. He had a real interest in words, etymology and accents.

Jeremy found meaning in music. He would hit on a sequence he liked and play it over and over again. A good bass accompaniment. A neat resolution. A hidden inner message. Listening to “Dar Star” made him remember his [acid filled] adolescence. “You really have to appreciate, then cook on that tune and a tune called The Eleven”. I didn’t get into Jazz until I had a really cool case manager, [Peter Feuer] who played the saxophone and turned me onto Charlie Parker and Dave Brubeck.” His eclectic taste included Edith Piaf, Maurane (a Belgian singer), Michel Jonasz, other French singers, early and late as well as Algerian Rai.

He listed his interests as:

- Career opportunities
- Consulting offers
- New ventures
- Expertise requests
- Reference requests
- Getting back in touch

He was always coming up with a new and novel scheme to make money - Oil wells in Saudi Arabia, Real estate in Florida.

“American entrepreneur with restaurant experience seeks entrepreneur with French business experience and capital to launch an American restaurant in Paris.”

“Marguey, We could work on a book together on investments and securities which, if we sell 50 000 at 50 FF, you will get back the \$50 000 I owe you with interest for Lady Liberty’s Coffee House in Nashua.”

He reminisced of Lady Liberty’s “A cup of coffee and a slice of culture”. “I really miss my coffeehouse on Main Street in Nashua where we played Jazz from time to time. I’d love to do it again, but some place like Greenwich Village or Paris. Or Burlington VT or Portsmouth NH, because they have a good coffeehouse scene and a good student/Bohemian population.”

However, most recently, he no longer inflated his scattered, sparse work experience. Rather, he showed his reconciliation with reality by summarizing his experience as:

“Membership at Fountain House August 1985 – Present (23 years)

Fountain House is a rehabilitation center based on the club house model for anyone who is neither a danger to himself or others run by the members for the members. Although there is some staff, the staff client differentiability is deliberately kept to a minimum. When properly done this truly reflects the glory of the Club House model of which Fountain House is preeminent: All are equal.”

Exasperatingly slow; still he had some surprising skills:

In fact, during the negotiations and planning phase to set up Lady Liberty’s Coffee House he was remarkably clear headed.

Despite his physical clumsiness, he was an excellent pool player who beat everyone hands down at his 50th birthday party in the pool hall in Chinatown although very ill at the time. As a cashier, he was very careful and never had an error in his till.

A competent skier, he wished he had been able to keep the sport up.

Ever since Jeremy was very little, he would assume various identities. For example, after we went to Mystic Seaport as children, he showed us how every figurehead stood at the bow of

the ship. Some of his pen names were Etienne Count St Germain, Pugsley Addams, Coolbreeze, Jacques L'Emraude, often plays on word like Je-Remy Martin XO, a French spirit with a secret meaning. As he said, "many personalities in one body."

His role playing could seem sacrilegious.

"So if you ever meet the son of widow who has peculiar circumstances surrounding his birth such as he was born blue, clear your mind of all preconceived notions of Messiah/Avatar, and get to know him. You may be in the presence of the LORD."

He was on a quest to understand and explain what made him different. He was blond with blue eyes, the exception from his sibling who did not have to set the table, to put away the dishes, to complete his homework assignments.

He was a ham and loved an audience. But, in the mental health system, this approach did not work; he became frustrated and angry. He expressed this anger through occasional political activism and in poems:

The Thorazine Shuffle.

Psychobabble and psychohumiliation

Lonely in Nashua

I wish my handicap was 97, not paranoid schiz

Even in his darkest moments, he had considerable lucidity. Despite his impulsiveness, he recognized his self-destructiveness.

June 1995: "You think I don't know I am a "disappointment"? [From the time I realized that my penis was different from my brothers, I've know I was a "disappointment". I had to go to the hospital to be fixed because I'm physically "wrong". How do you think this made me feel?

Every time I was sent to a different school, I've known that I'm a "disappointment".

When I was grounded at 17 for not doing my homework, I knew I was a "disappointment".] Jeremy recounted his failings and shortcomings."

He lived with horrific, free-floating associations. The deaths of JFK and Princess Diana haunted him. Even worse was the loss of his father. On Jan 2, 2001, his kid sister Bumps's 40th birthday, he cried, "I didn't kill Daddy. I was on my way to Fountain House when he died of natural causes. But I did have premonitions. I am sensitive and psychic." He did not overcome the tremendous sense of loss at becoming "orphaned".

He had been many places never experienced by most of us.

[Zoo]

Nobody's seen what I have seen

Nobody knows what I know

Nobody's been where I've been

Black eyed faces and

Black eyed peas

Blacked out stupor

With blacked out teeth

Welfare smiles
And welfare trials,
Black leather styles
And lawyer files.

Still, he tried to understand the meaning of his place in the universe. “We are interdependent in an interdependent world.”

In The Book of Freedom, an Arthurian romance for deadheads and Druids, he wrote,

“Don’t be afraid of Death. You only rest from your labors. Then you come back, as I have. In previous religions that I have founded I have called this ‘Resurrection, Reincarnation and Transmigration’. In this one I call it “Recycling”. I can’t impress upon you the need to recycle. The alternative is to aim our trash at the Sun and let it be incinerated.”

Jeremy’s birthday fell in late October; so Halloween always had a special significance for him.

In Honor of Hollowe’en

Finally the world is starting to understand
That Death is not something to be feared,
But something to be celebrated and enjoyed
As part of Life!....
Yes, this is part of the Divine Plan

For Christmas, Jeremy gave Simon and Edward a Swiss Army knife; for himself he asked for a Swiss Army Wife.

While the rest of us work toward our vacations and plan our celebrations, Jeremy believed in living on the spur of the moment. One day per month a king and 29 days a pauper.

In fact, he dreamed of normalcy and “a first class quality of life”. Indigent and homeless, he wanted to believe in his own worth and urbanity.

His 51st birthday party last October at Petrossian’s surrounded by his mother and her immediate family met his approval. Continuing to live with infirmities did not.

Last December he wrote, “I would like to become a knight of the Venerable Order of the Knights of St John under the direct auspices of the Defender of the Faith of the Anglican Communion, Her Royal Majesty Elizabeth II, by the grace of God, to be initiated into the ancient order of the Knights Templar and the everlasting fellowship of Isis.”

May he now be a Knight of the Finest Order, First Class.