SELF-DOUBTS: A PATH TO MATURITY


OPENERS:
A. "Who teaches birds to fly?" (Hal David)
B. "One must not tie a ship to a single anchor, nor life to a single hope." (Epictetus)
C. Every once in a while I awaken to the reality that I’m all I’ve got.
D. "Work as if everything depended on oneself, and pray as if everything depended on God." (Anon)
E. "Conscience doth make cowards of us all." (Hamlet)
F. "I suspect people of plotting to make me happy." (Argus)

DISCUSSION PROBES:
A. How many times lately have you said, "I doubt It."? Are you happy or sorry now that you doubted when you did?
B. Who is the person you trust the most? Why?
C. Clarifying doubts is part of human experience. What doubts have you clarified recently?
D. Teachers expect students to question, doubt, and seek explanations. Can this questioning attitude carry over into other aspects of a student’s life? Is anything really safe from a scholar’s doubt?
E. List some doubts: (1) teenage doubts, (2) self-doubts, (3) religious doubts, (4) political doubts. How would you describe a "reasonable doubt"?
F. A commander weighs every contingency. Do his self-doubts also play a part? How?
G. Have you ever trusted someone’s judgment only to discover you had been made a fool? How did you feel? What did you do about It?
H. What are three things you believe in with absolute faith, even though they may never be tested or proved?

CONCLUSIONS:
A. "He who asks the question puts the world in danger." (Anon). As when Jonathan Livingston Seagull asked, "Does a bird fly only to eat?"
B. Not every problem has a solution. "Can you by thinking about it add one cubit to your stature?" (Matt. 6:27)
C. You must love your neighbor as yourself. Can you love self, really and truly, and at the same time still doubt self?
D. A leader must be able to disagree agreeably. Can such an agreeable disagreement be a cause for self-doubt.

BRINGING IT HOME:
A. My daily question; "What did I learn about myself today?"
B. Our loves determine our choices, and our choices are what we are.
C. "Don’t walk in front of me -- I may not follow. Don’t walk behind me -- I may not lead. Walk beside me -- just be my friend." (Camus)

D. Doubts about the world being flat made Christopher Columbus famous.

E. Doubts about false claims in advertising keep Ralph Nader and the federal agencies busy with consumer protection laws and demands for proof in advertising.