

311 words, column #52
Java Talk
(for April 24 to April 30, 2008)

Every Age Is The Best Age

A New Look

This is my last article in a year's collection of connected short pieces now completed. Much of what I explored in this column echoed the themes in my collection of short literary fiction—an ongoing work in progress and lesson in patience and perseverance—seemingly inspired by a need for a long and ideally-lived life!

Mary Baker Eddy, a nineteenth century writer, once wrote, “The time for thinkers has come.” She claimed that “[e]xcept for the error of measuring and limiting all that is good and beautiful, man would enjoy more than threescore years and ten and still maintain his vigor, freshness, and promise.... Each succeeding year unfolds wisdom, beauty, and holiness.... Men and women of riper years and larger lessons ought to ripen into health and immortality, instead of lapsing into darkness or gloom.”

All of this is why I have been collecting and recording inspiring stories about real people, past and present, as well as ones from the oral and literary traditions, in these mini-essays. An up-to-date and growing list of “Validated Living Supercentenarians” (people who are 110 years old or older) is maintained at <http://www.grg.org/Adams/E.HTM>.

The article, “Dissolving the Boundaries of Age,” on the *United Nations Programme on Ageing: towards a society for all ages* site at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/challenges.html>, examines the “significant crossroads” we have reached—that this is a “new era” and a “momentous occasion”—and how we are undergoing a “demographic revolution.” It discusses how “imperative” it is that we all “seize the opportunity to rethink our notion of limits and recognize the far-reaching benefits societies stand to gain from the continuing contributions of their older citizens.... Old age policies were designed, for most of the 20th century, with a youthful society in mind.”

Now, with a new look in mind, because we are always progressing, contemporary policies should be suited for the best age: every age!

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