

315 words, column #14
Java Talk
(for July 26 to August 1, 2007)

Every Age Is The Best Age

Off to See the Wizard

Living any length of time is an adventure that, inevitably, takes a lot of help and courage. Invoking a higher power always seems effective. Even Homer called on his Muse, before embarking on his still widely read epic poems, such as *The Odyssey*, which were composed around the eighth century BC. In this story, Mentor, (often actually Athena in disguise!), was a friend of the Greek hero, Odysseus, and an adviser, teacher, and protector of his son, Telemachus. Where can we find our own Mentor, especially when we become so old, it is hard to find someone else who knows what is on the road ahead?

I found a couple of Web sites, for readers who are interested, with tips on how to live a long life and how to grow old without feeling old. However, before anyone checks them out, please remember that survival always requires being alert and cautious. For example, never take health advice from someone who is sick! Don't believe everything you hear! Don't give advice, in case it is wrong! Remember that even the Wizard of Oz turned out to be a fraud. The wonder of that story was how Dorothy discovered she had what she needed all along; Tinman found out he already had a heart; Scarecrow learned he had all the brain he needed; and most importantly, Cowardly Lion, while braving his worst fears, encountered all the courage he needed that he had been so afraid he didn't have.

Here are the sites: <http://www.wikihow.com/Live-a-Long-Life> and <http://www.wikihow.com/Grow-Old-Without-Feeling-Old>.

From one who knows, so far, a little bit of what I am talking about, just sharing our own experiences seems safest. If you are one who knows more about living a long life, or of anyone else who would like to share some of their own story for this short column, please give me a shout, or e-mail me at DeidreHill@telus.net.

Deidre Hill