



The Problems  
of  
Separation

essays  
& diatribes

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## A REPLY TO PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS.

I've been asked, why do I not write more like a journalist? That is, as a fair and unbiased professional; why don't I just put forth the facts of a question, an issue, a subject, and use links to professional agencies, organisations etc to support my writing? It's a fair enough question. But, would that make me a professional journalist? If society says that I must be a professional, must hold a piece of paper, in order to express my opinion, then not only is our history guided by unprofessional opinions but without them we would have very little worthwhile literature available to us to build upon. If this is now how we wish to build our future societies, where only those with the right credentials are permitted to participate; then this is precisely the sort of society that I wish to do away with.

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I suppose, firstly, I am not an unbiased professional. I try to be fair and I try to put the facts forward on any issue I may feel I need to write on - but I am not unbiased.

A professional journalist on the ABC is always harping on that she is a 'professional', unbiased and fair & that is the job - her job! - she also likes to continually repeat that that being her job, and being professional, unbiased and fair means that she gets to ask the hard questions and to demand the answers! This is no different than Peter Dutton's assertion that "only those voted into parliament have a right to an opinion." Do you mean to say that only those with professional qualifications have a right to ask hard questions? Or, perhaps, that without these qualifications it is not necessary for the questions to be answered? Either way, I disagree. I must also say, that when this professional journalist is talking about her beautiful daughters and her rabid right wing feminism she shows extreme prejudice and shuts down anyone with whom she disagrees. This, apart from betraying her belief in political correctness, and therefore, her assertion that free speech is okay for some but not for others, it says to me that *I must assume that there is some journalism, some stories, some news, some causes, that its okay to be biased about and some that bias is not fair in ... ?*

On the surface of it it doesn't appear that its therefore necessary to be professional at all times She is also the journalist who posed the question, or is it used the phrase, that "its certainly frightening to be challenged on what you preach" to which this website, and everything else I write, asks ... Why?

So while I try to give an answer to my opening paragraph - asked me of a professional journalist, which shows me that, at least at times, they are prepared to listen to biased passion - whether they should or not is another question - and it shows me too, that my time is not completely wasted. Not completely. Not yet.

Its been said to me, that if I was to write more like a professional journalist and to be less biased and fairer, and to cite professional references, then perhaps, possibly, I could earn a living from my writing - that is, take cash for my thoughts; now wouldn't that be a wonderful thing! However, since I have 'obvious passion' which taints my ability and my desire to be fair, and having an upbringing and a faith - call it a religion if you like - that is directly opposed to such statements as ' that one's moral compass must point to the economy and not to humanity' and to such notions that it should be 'frightening to be challenged on what one preaches', that not only should it be obvious that I am not a professional journalist, but that since I have a passionate belief that it is a duty to wrench the moral compasses out of the hands of those who would force it to point in the direction of economy at the expense of humanity ... That I am also unable to make my living from doing what is after all, only, as I see it, my moral duty to my community.

Not much of an apology to professional journos, is it? But to be fair, I'd rather be in possession of a moral compass like William Hone, George Steer or Osmar White's than Andrew Bolt's or Alan Jones' *and have the freedom to exercise it in accordance with my social conscience.*

The website's called 'Principle Imposture, or, The Principles of Imposture' - as you like it. I tried to get 'Tar and Feathers', but that is of course, a name that is up for perpetual sale and as such is of no use whatsoever to anyone for whom humanity must override economy, and whose main purpose is to lay tar and feathers across those for whom hypocrisy can be a guiding light of fairness, and therefore also a

supposedly good quality with which to level free speech. If I could believe that, then perhaps I could become a professional journalist.

I'm of course tied here, in that what I should do is to link this diatribe to the professional journalist who has posed the questions that I am seeking to answer. I believe it would be both fairer, and more proper, if I did so - though as the email was headed 'In Confidence', and that in itself shows a willingness to put trust in me, I suppose that could be considered to be unprofessional thing to do. For me however, it would merely be unconscionable, and my conscience far outweighs any pretence I may have to the appearance of professionalism. Though I must be fair and thank you professionals in feeding me so much ammo, & because I do assume that you are professional, I must also assume that *you check your facts* - after all, as you say, you make your livings from it. I, am more than content just to provide obviously biased passionate observation and commentary.

Offence is something more easily taken than given, and as a professional journalist I would have thought that that was as plain to you as it is to me. I don't believe that the taking or giving of offence has any bearing on professionalism and nor do I believe that I have a responsibility not to offend. I have a responsibility to ensure that I am not a hypocrite. My only profession these days is that of an observer and I have no restrictions on commenting on my observations. Should I?

The rules that you say you are obliged to adhere to are perhaps due to the fact that you make your living from your journalism and may therefore feel bound to the guidelines set by your editor or employer. My employer is my conscience and I'm bound by the guidelines it sets ... Where is the difference? I'd much prefer to be writing beautiful things that make people laugh than 'attempting - as you say - to be the social conscience of Australia' but my biased passionate conscience tells me that the last thing Australia needs in the present politico-moral environment is more nonsense i.e, beautiful stories that make others laugh falsely in order to deflect realities. Australia is not a place conducive to laughter at the present time.

If this complacently frightened and politically confused society of ours hadn't seen fit to unleash Fascism through the petty bigotry of the LNP -

who as you admit have 'severed the brake cables and enabled it [fascism] to careen full tilt into our [my] country' then perhaps I would be making a mint out of beautiful nonsense that makes people laugh, instead of asking irreverent hard questions like, Why is it so? I don't by the way, see why professional journos need to hide their values and their principles and their passions 'to be fair', anymore than the ordinary man in the street needs to. If that is so, then I am doing a good job at whatever it is that I am doing! And as I said before, I think that it would be fairer to both you, as a professional journalist, and me, as a conscionable Australian, if this was a more open discourse and that I wasn't restrained by an old fashioned sense of honour. We are after all engaged on the same side, in a war.

I'll continue to read your articles and to take any ammunition you provide, and to use it as I will - saying that, no matter how professional you maintain that you are, you are neither unbiased nor dispassionate, far from it in fact, but I do think that you are fair. At least fair enough ... But, isn't this the problem that we of the 'left' have, that instead of recognising the individual strengths that each of us can bring to bear on a mutually dangerous enemy we spend all this time and energy in collusion with the Right in drilling holes in our own boat.

Thank you for admitting to reading my website and I really do appreciate the feedback and your true thoughts. And as you rightly say, "criticism is at least better than silence."

*"And even if you offered me a place in the great ediface of the system, I would rather be the kind of thinker who just sits on a branch." - Soren Kierkegaard.* Though I reserve my right to poke at things with my old wooden stick.

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\*In reply to an email I received from a professional journalist regarding my essay 'Little Gnomes Stay in Their Homes'.