

Back Story

Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* popularized the eternal hero journey: hearing a call; rejecting/answering it; suffering/venturing forth; returning from the quest fulfilled, victorious.

In *As You Like It*, Shakespeare's stages of life – infant, schoolboy, lover, soldier, justice, elder, second childhood – works in the play and is a basic model.

Eric Hoffer's view of life's passing in stages of thirteen years or so fits my life – childhood, (13), adolescence, (26), sales, (39), product management, (49), professional speaking, (63), volunteerism, (77), a speaker and writer... with more to come.

...and for you?

If you have read this far, thank you for your time. As I enter Stage Seven, *Enthusiast*, my wish for you is that this tiny book encourages you in your quest.

"Being alive is enough. What now?"

Gordon G Hill
A Motivated Speaker & Writer
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Our Heroic Adventure

Premise:

Every human life unfolds in stages divided by segues. Each thirteen year(?) stage a new act in this play of life, a mini-quest in our journey.

an imagining with

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Our Heroic Adventure

The Segues and Stages of Living

- Segue 0 (Conception): With a unique DNA helix in a single cell, we begin. Thank you, Mom and Dad.
- Stage 0 (Embryonic): A biological becoming from one cell, a zygote, to 26,000,000,000 at birth. Wow!
- Segue 1 (Birth=0): "Hello family, culture, universe. I'm here! Ready or not, it's me!" What now?
- Stage 1 (Childhood): Living in an Australian mode, "No worries." Following where led... most times.
- Segue 2 (Puberty≈13): Biological maturity which brings a desire to choose with the requirements of responsibility and accountability... Enter chaos!
- Stage 2 (Adolescence): Becoming one's truest self through socialization, education, vocationalization by engaging the endowments and potential given
- Segue 3 (Mental Maturity≈26): Time to live freely. Ready to succeed within the available opportunities as motivation and talented... What now? Onward!
- Stage 3 (Independence): On a path, living in a cycle without end: paying attention, assessing situations, considering options, choosing, paying attention...

Our Heroic Adventure

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- Segue 4 (A Chosen Path≈39): Seeing a better way to live. Focusing on what one is really good at.
- Stage 4 (Professional): Functioning toward specific goals – personal, professional, social... and more.
- Segue 5 (A Narrowing of the Way≈52): Seeing one's most authentic life more clearly, more certainly.
- Stage 5 (Mastery): Full immersion in one's latest quest for authentic living. Refining one's expertise.
- Segue 6 (The Wider Path≈65): From expertise into philosophical participation. Retired, not retiring.
- Stage 6 (Elder): Participating beyond the crush of should/must/ought-to. Intellectual independence.
- Segue 7 (Seeing Wisely≈78): With life's primary work complete, time to pursue an advisory role.
- Stage 7 (Enthusiast): Life has been great! Taking the time, committing oneself to encourage others.
- Segue 8 (Exemplar≈91): According to my fuzzy crystal ball, moving into positive reflection.
- Stage 8 (Exemplar): Positivity in seeing one's life as having sacred and unimagined values and rewards.
- Segue N (Departure≈??): The final exit, leaving an enduring legacy known far beyond one's name.

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