

Hope by Rich Norman

Hope was considered by the ancient Greeks, and perhaps rightly so, to be a daemon. This most insidious vice was seen as keeping us from the truth of the matter, always offering up a false vision of something better, sustaining an illusion which separates us from our real world, and keeps us from appreciating and being rightly involved with what life has truly bestowed upon us. No wonder we were all *saved* to have the worst of life's daemons, Hope, blessedly remain in Pandora's box! Whew! At least the race of man was spared this! Well, Hope does not appear quite so dastardly to me, and although she is clearly a "liar," a seductress and a poet, we may consider ourselves grateful for the fact of her imagination, and indeed, I believe we all know her more closely than we might like to admit. Here, this will bring the notion into focus:

- a. All which is not beauty has been misunderstood.—So speaks Hope.
- b. Hope is a liar who spills the world out from her imagining. We are but the music to fill her empty heart.
- c. Everything is re-understood each moment, a melody unknowing of the tune or the reason. Oh, how much health is there in forgetting! Oh, how bashful is the soul of Man before the fact!
- d. Only one who can remember without his blush, is worthy of forgetting. Only the worthy find truth light enough to remember.
- e. We never forget, and so, may find life lightest to remember: it is *we* who have wished it so!
- f. Only one comfortable with the past finds the future inviting.
- g. Knowledge is horror, or, the birthplace of childish laughter, and so, becomes wise.
- h. "I have created everything!" Only one willing to admit this, can claim rights to his pain, or, his happiness.
- i. Those who are less than "gods," shall always imagine themselves in service beneath them.
- j. To know what you are, is to stop hoping for happiness, and to begin creating it.

Oregon resident Rich Norman, is a writer and musician with degrees in philosophy and music. Known as "The Laughing Recluse," he is the author of books spanning philosophy, psychology, and novels, with topics ranging from psychoanalytic theory to existential philosophy, verse and fiction. All text in this column is printed with the permission of, and remains the sole property of, the author, Rich Norman. Contact: rich@richnorman.com

