

## PANIC-SPIRIT, OR HOLY SPIRIT?

This excellent short think-piece came to my email in-box a few days ago. It could apply to my grandfather, who was born in 1893:

*Maybe we don't have it that bad? Excellent perspective. My Father was born in 1900!  
It's a mess out there now.*



Hard to discern between what's a real threat and what is just simple panic and hysteria. For a small amount of perspective at this moment, imagine you were born in 1900.

On your 14th birthday, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. 50 million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million.

On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy.

When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. And don't try to catch your breath. On your 41st birthday, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between

your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war.

Smallpox was epidemic until you were in your 40's, as it killed 300 million people during your lifetime.

At 50, the Korean War starts. 5 million perish. From your birth, until you are 55 you dealt with the fear of Polio epidemics each summer. You experience friends and family contracting polio and being paralyzed and/or die.

At 55 the Vietnam War begins and doesn't end for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict. During the Cold War, you lived each day with the fear of nuclear annihilation.

On your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our

planet, as we know it, almost ended. When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends.

Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How did they endure all of that? When you were a kid in 1985 and didn't think your 85 year old



grandparent understood how hard school was. And how mean that kid in your class was. Yet they survived through everything listed above. Perspective is an amazing art. Refined and enlightening as time goes

on. Let's try and keep things in perspective. Your parents and/or grandparents were called to endure all of the above – you are called to stay home and sit on your couch.

Is it not amazing to realize what our grandparents and parents lived through? And those of us who are older now lived through some of that with them. But only some.

Younger people now have experienced very little of such challenge to their feelings of security, including economic security and physical deprivation, such as there was during the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Now all of a sudden this Panic-demic hits them (and us) like a brick, and they hopefully realize that all that they thought was theirs for the taking is something of a mirage, which disappears as you think you're going to reach it, staying in the distance, tantalizing, beckoning, but unreachable.

There are many lessons we should all learn from this Panic-demic. One is that all true reality is based in spirit, and we are watching a sudden tidal wave of (evil) panic spirit change people's lives in concrete ways, overnight!

Another is that the only Spirit on which we can rely for our own spirit's health and our own well-being for the eternal future, is God's Holy Spirit. He will guard us from such evil as this panic-demic.

May we use this time wisely, and turn to Him, as He revealed Himself to us through Jesus of Nazareth, and sent His Holy Spirit to us as Teacher, Guide, Counsellor, Comforter!

Linda Gammel

## ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

On Friday, May 8, Robert Lovingood, First District Supervisor of San Bernardino County, emailed out one of his frequent update letters. I found this amazing little piece down in the middle, and while it specifically refers to Victory in Europe Day that ended the European segment of World War II, it also relates to Memorial Day coming up this Monday. I especially love the poem at the end.



These fellows in the parade in Paris were the lucky ones, who got to return home.

**May 8, 1945:**

**Remembering V-E Day**  
Seventy-five years ago today, Allied forces declared victory in Europe, bringing an end to World War II in Europe, but Japan didn't surrender until August. The United States lost 400,000, Great Britain lost 330,000, and Free China lost 2.2 million. The Soviet Union lost 7.5 million sol-

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diers, the most of any country involved in the war. In the U.S., President Harry Truman was celebrating his birthday on V-E Day. He dedicated the victory to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died one month before the end of the war. Each of us owes so much to those who sacrificed, fought and died so that we might enjoy the blessings of liberty.

Throughout World War II, Eleanor Roosevelt kept in her purse a simple prayer that still rings true today:

Dear Lord,  
Lest I continue  
My complacent way,  
Help me to remember  
that somewhere,  
Somehow out there  
A man died for me today.  
As long as there be war,  
I then must  
Ask and answer  
Am I worth dying for?



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