

# To My Grandson Zachary

from

## Grandfather Brooks

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### Welcome to the World!

You are born of Love. Let that be the nature and nurture of your growth. You bring newness to the world. May it ever be with you. You are special.

Know you are important. Know therefore that everyone else is important also.

The times have changed enormously during the brief stay of my life. They will for you as well. Yet you will find after many years that people change not so much. Thus, I feel free to provide some advice. This advice was not freely acquired and much of it learned late. I paid for it the hard way and hope you will do the better for it.

First, be yourself. Be true to yourself. Follow your dreams. You will find that what you love you have a talent for and what you have a talent for you love. So, pursue and embrace those things. Doing what you love is the key to happiness. Should you follow your heart you will never have to toil a day in your life as your labors will be the labors of love. They will be what you would do happily for nothing.

Do not chase the money. Money is elusive and often the price you pay for it turns out to be much more than the value received. Success without happiness is failure. Let the money chase you and it will. Your talents will be the magnet. Money always desires what cannot be bought.

Be honest. Be truthful. Fear nothing.

Always say please and thank you. You make the climate that embraces your life. Greet others warmly and you will always encounter a warm reception; be cold and you will find the doors frozen shut. When you are the sunshine, it does not rain.

Always be appreciative, it will endear you to everyone.

Be kind. You will discover that it is its own reward many fold.

Be generous. Give to the person on the street who is without an arm or a leg, or both. Give to the guitar player who stands in the windy cold or searing heat doing what little they can do, but doing it. A shallow pocket betrays a shallow heart.

Do not give to the beggar who only begs, you only lead him on with his own selfdestruction. Give to what you can see accomplished. Do not give to large organizations, the money loses its way and purpose and your generosity is wasted.

Never take advantage of the weak. It will corrode you to be less than they, or your true self. Never strike from the back, or from the dark; **this is evil**, and will stain you forever.

Always pay your gambling debts. For the very reason they are hardest to collect they are debts of honor. You only dishonor yourself, to yourself, not to honor them.

The spirit of your heart, what ever it is, let it be what you determine for yourself.

Remember blood is most everything and love is everything else. Do not waste your time with those you do not like. There is a reason you do not like them.

Do not waste any part of your life on hate. Hate will eat up everything good within you and it has an endless appetite. Forgiveness is the greatest virtue, but if you cannot be saintly, and few can, just walk away.

Prejudice is the tool of the small person who uses it to look down on others, rather than elevate themselves. Remember, we are all born not knowing whether our parents are rich, poor, black, white, brown, Christian, Jewish or whatever. Yet, we come to love them.

Never be a snob. There is no summit high enough to look down on others.

May good fortune shine on you all the days of your life.

May it be Happy.

With Love,

Grandfather Brooks