

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Mortimer Jerome Adler December 28, 1902

Birthday salutations from members of the Center for the Study of The Great Ideas

Dear Mortimer,

It is with overflowing love, affection and gratitude that I send you my best wishes for a Happy Birthday. I wish I could be there with you but since I can't I will save my hug and kisses for our spring reunion in San Mateo.

Fondly,

Nina Houghton

Dear Max,

You have my admiration and respect for all you have done to further Mortimer's work.

I congratulate you on a most successful ten years!

With all best wishes,

Nina Houghton

This is my first opportunity to greet Mortimer as my co-religionist. In retrospect things look inevitable but the long trek of Mortimer Adler from Columbia to the Catholic Church has a unity and continuity to it that seems undeniable to me. Vexilla regis prodeunt... but this is no time to be triumphalist—one of the new sins of the postchristian era—but to thank God for the long and productive and edifying—oh yes—life of Mortimer Adler.

Ad multos annos. Ralph McInerny Congratulations to both the Center and to the Master, himself. Long may your lives remain, for which the world gives its undying thanks. Roland Caldwell, Venice, FL Dr. Adler: Congratulations on birthday number 98 from a long time disciple of your philosophy of refining the truths known by common sense in the light of common human experience. For me, all of your many books are best sellers. Richard J. Strunk - Oceanside, CA Dr. Adler, Very best wishes on your 98th birthday. Gary Schoepfel, The Great Books Foundation Dr. Adler once said that he thought he became a generally educated person when he turned 60. Now he's more than half-way through his second 60 years. What do we suppose he will be at 120, the biblical lifespan of Moses?

Dr. Adler, congratulations on your 98th birthday. Thank you for all your insights. We will each have to live twice as long as you to begin to plumb the depths of what you have

given us. Peace be with you.

Mark Brumley

Happy Birthday, Dr. Adler.

I am stunned when I consider the quality of work you have produced in your productive 98 years of life. I have described the *Syntopicon* alone as one of the literary wonders of the world to my students—not to mention your other fine works. Of course, I am not aware of all the accolades you have received for your work, but I'm sure they haven't been sufficient.

Steven Lloyd

Dear Dr. Mortimer Adler,

Happy Birthday

Your life, thoughts, works, and writings greatly manifest an inspiration and education for countless students.

While learning how to read one of your books a thought came into my mind that might described your way of thinking as well as express my gratitude:

"The deeper the Memory -- the further the Vision."

Your work is certainly memorable and your writing is broadly visionary. Thank you for your genuine and original contributions to our Western Culture and World Civilization.

Prof. Jonathan Paul De Vierville, Ph.D.,

M.S.S.W. San Antonio, Texas

Dear Dr. Adler,

I have wished for an opportunity to express my gratitude to you for the concepts you have put in your many books.

I am sincere when I state that reading these books have made a significant difference in my life. I wish you "good health" and the ability to continue to contribute to this world's knowledge. Many thanks

Alan B. Mac Farlane

Dear Dr. Adler:

Warmest congratulations on your birthday. Your work is an inspiration to me and so many others, thank you for all of it!

Irene Crowe

We have hung a photograph of Mortimer Adler in the hallway here at the Great Books Foundation, showing him bent over a set of papers, flanked by younger colleagues obviously intent on what he must be thinking. In our work at the foundation, set in motion quite directly, some would say entirely, by Dr. Adler, we now reach 1,000,000 students in American schools with anthologies of great literature; we train 15,000 of their teachers a year; and we continue to support community-based Great Books groups around the country. We are now beginning projects in South Korea, the Czech

Republic, Germany and Switzerland. All of our work is a tribute to Dr. Adler. My 70 colleagues here at the foundation and I wish Dr. Adler many years more of good health and penetrating thought.

Peter Temes, President

Dear Max:

Pass my congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Adler. My birthday is December 8 when I will be 93. Try as hard as I might I can never catch anyone who is 98. No doubt the Father Above, has endowed Dr. Adler with a cognizant sharpness on which the rest of us draw!

Karl Krudop

Dear Dr. Adler,

Congratulations on leading the charge of educational reform into the 21st century. Your work continues to inspire and guide our efforts. Happy 98th birthday.

The Directors and Faculty of the Great Books Academy

A Birthday Toast

People often wish that they could meet Some famous person from antiquity Like Aristotle or the Stratford bard But to my thinking, their assumption's flawed.

For I believe that men are greater now Than in the days of Plato, Kant, or Mao.

And to support this proposition I Would utter but one name to justify:

Dr. Mortimer J. Adler

I'm proud to say that I have known this man Who sought to raise us from our ignorance To heights unmatched in any other time By tempting us to open up our minds.

He placed the classics well within our reach. Through his inspired words he deftly preached The legacy that we on earth all share The common wisdom to which we are heir.

Ideas once remote, abstract, obscure Were made accessible to us by your Involvement in each field of human thought To which exquisite clarity you brought.

You organized ideas into tomes While working brain and fingers to the bone That we might, with less pain, enjoy the fruits Of all the great ideas in dispute.

Correcting authors when they went astray. Rephrasing them to how we think today. Expanding on them when they could not see How life would be to their posterity.

So, God bless authors of antiquity
But not more so than those who live and breath
Among us on this tiny, spinning sphere.
Three cheers, for Dr. Adler's with us here.

Hip hip hurray. Hip hip hurray. Hip hip hurray.

My thought was put into poetry by my friend

and student Don Barsell.

Wishing you both a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Swami Gurupremananda

Dear Max,

I would like to wish Dr. Adler a very happy birthday! As a man who has devoted his life to trying to help others acquire, understand and appreciate a virtuous life he is entitled to a very happy 98th. May he see many more.

Regards,

Lyle Sykora

Hearty congratulations on the Center's tenth anniversary. We'll lift a glass on December 28th!

Greg Givan

Dear Professor Adler,

God Bless you and your family on your birthday. I am very happy that you have been received into the Church. Your life has been greatly used by God. Your dedication to the truth has benefited many, and has lead you into the fullness of the truth which is and who is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sincerely,

Tom Kennane

Dr. Adler - I wish you all the best on your 98th. Your words continue to be a repository of insight and truth. Jay Gold Dear Doctor Adler. May God bless you in every way on the occasion of your 98th birthday. Please know that you and your good family remain in our prayers. Happy birthday and -- God's grace to you, Sheila and Bill Hansen Dear Dr. Weismann, Let me express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Adler for the outstanding work he has done in order to serve his fellow men in their search for deeper understanding of themselves, their society and the world we all live in. Yours sincerely, Antti Malmivaara, MD, PhD Helsinki, Finland Congratulations, Dr. Adler, on your 98th birthday. Thank you for being the incarnation of liberal education for those of us who have chosen to pursue it throughout our lives.

Best wishes,

Graves Enck

Happy Birthday, Dr. Adler.

I am indebted to you for helping me to become a better master of my mind. I was educated in psychology, and like many (too many?) of that persuasion, I could ready an opinion about almost any subject without the benefit of either perspective or thoughtfulness. Your books, especially How To Think About God and the intellectually assaultive (to me) Angels And Us, happily intruded on the easy self-certainty which accompanied my graduate school experience. Thanks for the provocation, and happy birthday.

George W. Dudley Behavioral Sciences Research Press

Dear Mr. Adler,

For some time I have considered it beautifully appropriate that you were born on the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents. There is a quality in you, dramatized during the first moment of our first meeting in Chicago in 1989 ("You're wrong about Bloom"), that echoes qualities found in poems that are very dear to me, and that I have taught Socratically for many years: Blake's Songs of Innocence. When I was trying unsuccessfully to establish Paideia in Australia by teaching children aged 5 to 17 in the company of teachers who wanted to attend our lessons, I taught some of these songs in three States. The video made on one of these occasions by a school in East Ringwood, Victoria, doesn't compare with Britannica's 5 videos of you in North Carolina,

but I like to think that it honours you.

The psalm read each year in the Catholic Church on 28 December strikes me as particularly appropriate to the author of "God and The Professors." I shall now quote the liturgy in full for friends of the Center for the Study of Great Ideas who might not be familiar with it:

If the Lord had not been on our side when men rose against us, then would have they swallowed us alive when their anger was kindled.

Then would the water have engulfed us, The torrent gone over us; over our head would have swept the raging waters.

Indeed the snare has been broken and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

It is, I think, no accident that 98 years is equivalent to 14 times 7. Fourteen is of course the sum of generations -- fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonina deportation to Christ--commemorated in Matthew's Gospel, 1: 1-17, during Advent on 17 December. Seven is so rich in association--the days of the week, the last words of Our Lord--that I barely know where to begin in commenting on its significance. Let me, instead, send you Birthday Greetings with every blessing, and with gratitude too deep for tears for the role you have played in my life --

Dr. Susan Moore, Sydney, Australia

Dear Dr. Adler,

To express a mere "congratulations" upon your 98th birthday seems too small a sentiment, for your contributions to humanity over the course of your lifetime are so great. It was only in the last year, however, that I stumbled upon your works, and I am so grateful! How To Read a Book is a life-changing book for me, for through it you showed me what it is to read, to seek understanding of another's mind, and to learn. I hope to pass this book and many of your other thoughts and recommendations to my four daughters as I educate them at home. Many happy returns!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cynthia K. Shelden Wichita, Kansas

Dear Dr. Adler,

Maligayang bati sa iyong kaarawan, Dr. Adler. Happy birthday to you Dr. Adler.

I am so glad I had the good fortune of "stumbling" into you 8 years ago in Six Great Ideas. My only regret is it did not happen earlier.

Victor Abello

The book of Dr. Adler's that has meant the most to me is What Man Has Made of Man. Just for

this book alone Dr. Adler should be given
Lifetime Achievement Awards from the
American Psychiatric Association, the American

Psychological Association, and the American Psychoanalytic Association. What Man Has Made of Man is the greatest book of the twentieth century.

I thank you, Dr. Adler, for daring to speak out against the medicalization and professionalization of every human problem.

With much love and admiration,

David Herman

Dear Dr. Adler,

Again it is our privilege to wish you a Happy Birthday. And the 98th one at that! We hope this means that being a philosopher is good for one's health and longevity.

Our thoughts are with you at this time and we thank you again for all the contributions you have made to the study of The Great Ideas and our western heritage.

Best regards and many more birthday celebrations,

Jonathan Dolhenty, Ph.D. Executive Director

Priscilla F. Harris President

The Center for Applied Philosophy
The Radical Academy, Port Orford, Oregon

Thanks, Max, for the opportunity to expresses our congratulations to one of the true greats of our age. -----

Dr. Adler,

I congratulate you on your 98th birthday, and hope you have many Happy returns! You must be one of, if not, the longest living Eminent thinkers in Western Philosophical thought?!

Your Sincerely,

Jerry Devoe - Halifax, NS

Dr. Adler,

Have a wonderful birthday. Thank you for all you have done for the love of learning in America.

John Boleyn

Dr. Adler,

Hearty best wishes for a happy birthday on December 28th. We who have profited so greatly from your work and wisdom over the years wish you all the best.

Regards,

Greg Givan

Your 98th birthday on December 28 has special significance for me. It is also my 29th wedding anniversary, the birth of one of the best happenings in my life, the marriage to my wonderful wife; and as I just found out a very special day also because of your birth, a birth which blossomed into wonderful writings that I

have been reading for quite a few years. Thank you for your legacy.

Sincerely,

Dale H. Feik, Ed.D.

Dear Mortimer,

For about 15 years you WERE very special to Al Hathcock! He read every book you wrote or suggested and had a running debate at the margins, which I shall always treasure! You and his friend Paul Tillich were his mentors in life!

Mortimer, I remember the first seminar in Aspen. Al had studied a lot of philosophy, and while he was an orthopaedic surgeon, his avocation was philosophy. He went with a lot of reluctance, attended the first session and you said, "no, no, no!!!!!" and everyone remembers that, and Deal felt so badly because he DID understand where Al was coming from and maybe going, but....we got to the room and Al said, "we need to leave...he is crazy and does NOT understand." I encouraged him to stay; we paid our way and he DID read the material. It was a battle each day, but Mortimer...we returned! In fact, we did three that summer!

Happy Birthday, Mortimer! You have influenced many lives and that IS good! I have always said IF you can influence one life you ARE doing well. And, this will continue for decades as you ARE "the philosopher of our time" and I am VERY proud to have known you and learned a "doable formula for life...love." Al's mantra was that life is a trial and how we live in love Is what matters and I think you may agree!!!!

I have loved the "table people". Caroline, Philip and the good times at Wye, and Aspen. I have missed the Calif. times, but I ran for the school board here, won and had to miss due to meetings. You work in education really influenced me to run!

I send my love this 98th birthday, and want you to know the memories of a lot of experiences are very secure in many hearts. That IS what really sustains us in life, and dear Mortimer, you will be remembered with Aristotle.

Love,	
Barbara Ha	thcock
Dear Max &	z Center Members,
Pass along i Dr. Adler.	my wishes for a "Happy Birthday!" to

Tim Lacy
-----Happy Birthday, Dr. Adler.

Thank you for teaching us through all the good work you continue to do. I could never fully express how much your work means to so many of us.

I will never forget those days in 1971 when another young Naval officer loaned me copies of several of your books, including The Common Sense of Politics and The Difference of Man and The Difference It Makes. He told me that he maintained his intellectual equilibrium while studying at the Naval Academy by visiting St.

John's in Annapolis as often as possible, and that he spoke to you personally on at least one occasion. I regret that I have forgotten his name and so cannot thank him again. But I never forgot the name of the author of the books he loaned to me. I devoured those books. They were a ray of light for me during some dark days while on active duty during the South Vietnam War years and became the anchor from which I later navigated through the polluted waters of current thought. I never imagined that I would learn to find solid ground by consistently steering toward the thoughts of writers living so long ago.

Your books, and the books to which they point, were always on my mind and always the subject of discussion in my home. My father, a Lutheran minister, taught all of his children the importance of family devotions and meditation. When I became a father, I added books by you, C.S. Lewis, and others to those evening devotions to provide a little of the spiritual and intellectual growth my children were not getting from the public school system. I know that such books are on my children's shelves and that they will be increasingly grateful to you for them and to me for introducing them.

Have a happy birthday and know that the best wishes for this holiday season are with you.

"What you have inherited from your fathers, earn over again for yourselves, or it will never be yours." —Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Regards,
Ron Frerking

Dear Dr. Adler,

Would that you receive all that you deserve—great good fortune and a full measure of happiness, throughout your 98th year.

May God bless you.

Helen Simmons, Alberta

Dear Friends Max Weismann and Mortimer Adler:

It is with pleasure and satisfaction that I associate myself with Adler's friends that shall honor him by the occasion of his 98th birthday. Adler is one of the few men who had the humility to recognize the original contribution of all philosophers to the accumulated wisdom of western society and built his own original contribution honoring their accomplishment. In the XXth century that is characterized by novelty at all costs in art and in which pseudo novelty characterized even philosophy Adler stands as a monument respecting their original contribution and making the difference that makes a difference in his writings, lectures and positions. God save Adler and friends that had the opportunity to meet him, understand and value his immense effort to save the valuable thought of western thinkers almost drowned in the sea of irrationality, fragmentation and subjectivity of the Age of Ego without losing perspective for what is really new in the century that will end 3 days after his 98th birthday.

Luiz Felippe Penna - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Happy 98th Birthday, Dr. Adler!

As a new member of the Center for the Study of The Great Ideas, I would like to wish you a wonderful birthday with great health and much happiness for many more years to come. I would also like to thank Max Weismann for reintroducing me to the Great Books, and for providing me with reading homework everyday.

Sincerely,

Lucie Boyadjian, Principal Glen Oaks School Hickory Hills, IL

Dear Dr. Adler--

Thank you for your many years of service in the proper development of the mind and the character. You have borne much fruit, of which I am happy to be part, and you are much loved. Thank you, Max, as well, for your absolute dedication to propagate the treasured words of Dr. Adler. Have a beautiful holiday season, and new year!

Gratefully,

Mickey Constam

Dear Max.

Have a great holiday.

Please extend my birthday wishes to Dr. Adler. Let him know that the members of the American Maritain Association and the newly formed Gilson Society wish him a Happy Birthday and a Blessed Christmas. His long defense of

philosophical realism has been one of the hallmarks of serious philosophical scholarship during the 20th century. We greatly appreciate his efforts.

Best wishes,

Peter A. Redpath, Philosophy Department, St. John's University

I want to wish M. J. Adler and Max Weismann best wishes and happy holidays. I hope Max enjoys his well deserved break. Leisure is the proper use of most but not all free time. Aristotle was correct in seeking wisdom in balance (in what Buddha called the middle path). Occasionally, just having a clean good time with friends and family is advised!

Happy Birthday Mr. Adler! As a young man, several pretenders proposed to be my teachers. With few exceptions they merely lead me astray. Despite their academic stature, their tutorage of me was a case of blind leading the blind. (I may have been able to see a little, since I had discovered and read your How To Read a Book in a used book store before I went off to college).

I have never met you, but off and on, since 1973, you have been my real teacher, my educational guide. I learned from my mistakes and for the past three years it is you I have followed into the light of education, hoping that one day I may consider myself a truly educated man!

Happy Holidays,

Tim Bandy

Dr. Adler,

I wish you a wonderful birthday and more to come. Your efforts through the years to keep us properly educated have made a great difference in my life, and, I think, those around me.

Happy Birthday!!

Janet Miller

Dear Dr. Adler:

From a lowly audience member who sat in rapt attention one day when you spoke at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D. C., I want to wish you the happiest of birthdays—ever! It does get better, doesn't it?

From an assignment by Walter Kerr (drama critic for the New York times for something like 22 years) our graduate class in drama at Catholic University had just outlined your new book Art And Prudence and I have been involved in these subjects—and still am involved in the great ideas—all my life. Thank you for your expression of what you believed and thought, and for your wisdom.

Teddy Handfield

Mr. Adler:

Happy Birthday.

Thank you so much for all of your work. You are a great Teacher.

Happy Birthday, Dr. Adler!
May your birthday be a day of joy for you. I will personally celebrate the occasion because I am truly thankful that you were born! Have a happy and blessed 98th.
Lewis Greer
Mortimer has my best wishes and appreciation for his work and its influence on my own intellectual orientation beginning sixty-two years ago. May he be with us for many more.
Journet Kahn
Happy birthday to one of the world's greatest minds!
I teach a high school philosophy class; and after we study the great ideas of freedom, truth, perception, goodness, and justice, we pull everything together by looking at what you had to say in your Six Great Ideas.
Thanks for helping us all thing more clearly.
Sincerely,
Jane V. Fraser Elk Grove High School Elk Grove Village, Illinois
Dear Dr. Adler,

Sarah Barrett - Ajax, Canada

Many of us may consider ourselves limited in our individual ability, but we nonetheless deeply appreciate your contributions to clear and correct thought, and your incisive analysis of the writings of other philosophers on the great ideas.

I hope you will continue to name, analyze and suggest corrections for the great problems of our age, such as the errors of relativism, and the faults in our educational system, perhaps some comment on the great social evils resulting from Greed. I have enjoyed your essays on the most basic actions of communication... how to read, how to converse, how to teach, how to define terms, how to think logically, etc.

My youngest son brought your writings to my attention years ago, and I've since bought your Great Ideas reference books for his siblings, and continually reference Online essays to them. They are good people, now middle-aged, but in spite of their upbringing nearly all were unbelievably influenced by relativism in their (parochial) high school and (state) university years. Prior to 'Adler' I had only Aquinas' Summa, Bittle's Domain of Being, and my brother's high school text on Logic (Campion HS). Now we have a reference book to help guide the misled back to the truth.

As our wonderful society begins to weaken ethically under the corrupting influence of massive greed evidenced by an enlarging gap between those who make the wealth and those who take it, by near-monopolistic ownership of the Fourth Estate by the excessively wealthy, wielding tools of hidden censorship and misinformation, and the purchase of legislative influence which has now dangerously perverted

our laws to enforce distributive injustice, as well as social evils that were practically unknown 50 years ago like public gambling (the state's tax on stupidity), pornography and smut heaped on our children, horrendous proliferation of drugs, it is only your philosophy that reminds us that only holding to truth, and mental discipline for logical thought, can safely guide us in evaluating correctly the honesty of our 'no news' news via the media. Your recent sobering reminder—that teaching ethics cannot effect moral virtue, because we have free will. Conversely, we therefore are responsible for the results of our chosen actions.

With the November/December elective debacle, and the faith-shattering failure of our most trusted Justices to state that an election is, in essence and first priority, counting all the legal votes, and that therefore correct legalistic maneuvering is of secondary importance.

Effectively thwarting the Florida provision for close-election recount, no matter how long it might take, and no matter who would have won, the Court erred. We, the People, will be looking for guidance in philosophy and ethics (which is the source of law principle) to remedy as soon as possible the problem of irrational and/or incorrect judicial action. Does it appear that the Court needs to somehow answer to it's government's rulers, We, the People?

As one of more than 200 million 'rulers' of our nation, I am most grateful for your writings on the nature of our government. And I hope our recent election experience will interest you in producing some additional enjoyable essays on the same.

Hoping for another 98 years of clear-minded

sharing of your thoughts on philosophy, my family wishes you a Happy Birthday.

Terrence (D'Neill
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Best wishes to Dr. Adler on his 98th Birthday.

Dr. Adler's has defined happiness as reaching old age and looking back on one's life with an appreciation for God's gifts of virtues and a modicum of financial peace. I wish this for you, Dr. Adler. You have helped so many others achieve this same happiness. Happy Birthday.

Tom Carstens

Happy 98th to you, Dr. Adler!

Wishing you Peace,

Stephen Bertucci

Birthday greetings to him that saved me from the errors of post modernism, moral relativism and logical positivism--to that champion of freedom moderated by Aristotelian community-to that wise man whose words may some day persuade even me that Adam Smith's individualism can be excessively honored.

Truly, a lighthouse beacon bedazzling those of us accustomed to the glow of fireflies. Many happy returns, your continued light is sorely needed.

Tom Murray

Max,

Rarely a day goes by when I don't read Dr. Adler's words or listen to one of his tapes. I am always amazed at how relevant and instructive his teachings are even though many were published prior to my birth.

Please pass along to Dr. Adler my gratitude for his works and my best wishes on his 98th birthday. Thanks

Allan Friesen, Alberta

D. . . D. A.II.

Dear Dr. Adler,

We wish you a happy birthday and a healthy and prosperous new year. Thanks to your life's work we have been able to help ourselves as well as help others through our profession as actors and acting coaches. The study of the great ideas has enriched our lives, introducing us to the great thinkers of more than two thousand years. You have been our tutor to the treasures of western civilization, a wonderful voyage, which may never have been embarked on without your guidance.

Thank You Again,

Lisa Merrriam and Michael E. Ryan

P.S. A big thanks to Max, who makes all of this possible.

Dear Dr. Adler,

I have benefited from your work since high school, when some of my teachers introduced me to Great Books discussion groups. Later I read many of your books, beginning with "How to Read a Book", the EB, and the Great Books while I was in college. I've participated in great books discussion groups, both live and on-line, with both youngsters and adults, for almost twenty years.

You've taken advantage of the twentieth century's advances in communication, including radio, television, and the internet, while remaining steadfast to the ideals of truth and wisdom. Your life and work inspire me to cultivate a love of learning and wisdom, towards the end of better lives for my fellow human beings and myself.

Many thanks and happy birthday.

Greg Shubert
To Mortimer,
You're my hero.
Happy Birthday,
Michael Martinez, Chicago

Yes, please give the good Dr. my very best wishes for a wonderful 98th birthday. This has been a most momentous year for him religiously and philosophically. I have a very difficult time separating the two as they seem to come together in Theology.

Thank you again for this wonderful site and the good Dr's thoughts.

Kelly A Gertino
Hi Max:
Please convey my sincerest best wishes and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Adler for his work and its effect upon me and my family we will only know in eternity the wondrous blessings that have been wrought through him.
Thanks,
Tom Orr
I, too, would like to send my birthday wishes to Dr. Adler. And I would like to thank the Center and Dr. Adler for recommending the Jowett translation of Plato. I read 4 of the Dialogues on my last business trip to China.
Again, have a very happy birthday.
Very best regards,
Steve Mangelsen