

15th August 2021

Sure

**“Oh! let us never, never doubt
What nobody is sure about.”**

Hillaire Belloc, More Beasts for Worse Children (1897)

Having pondered what's countless and immeasurable over the past two days, what meaning am I left with as I enter the seventy-third year of my life? One thing I'm sure of is that I've appreciated all the kindness my birthday has brought my way. Thank you, everyone.

But what else am I sure of today? Two things are uppermost in my mind. I have been blessed with the ability to love, and to appreciate what it means. And I understand what it's like to be loved, and I know what that means too. These are the things of which I am absolutely sure.

What am I *not* sure of? Everything else. I have ideas, clues, suggestions, attempts in my mind for lots of things. But I remain unsure of so much. And how do I live with that as I begin the adventure of another year of my existence? Because in that vast world of not being sure, I have glimpses that strengthen what I'm sure of. It's enough. I'm sure of that.

Christiaan Huygens was a Dutch mathematician, astronomer, physicist and horologist. In a letter to Pierre Perrault in 1763, he wrote:

*I believe that we do not know anything for certain,
but everything probably.*

With all the advancement in knowledge in the past three hundred years, has anything changed? I honestly don't think so. We're still in a world of "probably" and have to learn to live with it more than we've been prepared to. I'm comfortable with that. But where I take issue with an 18th century scientist is in his assertion that "we do not know anything for certain". I'm sorry, Christiaan Huygens. But I do. I know what love means, in its receiving and in its giving. I'm sure of that.

Sometime today, tell someone you love them. Sometime today, pause and appreciate what it feels like to be loved. It will make such a difference to your day, I'm absolutely sure of that.

A prayer for today

Lord, do I know you and love you? Probably I do.

Am I absolutely sure? Almost!

Is it enough for today? Yes, indeed, it is. Amen