

23rd January 2022

Print

“Though an angel should write, still ‘till devils that print.”

Thomas Moore, The Fudges in England

I’ve been wrestling with my printer. Not literally, of course. But I’d been struggling to get a new printer connected. I needed my laptop and my printer to “speak to each other”. Since there’s no connecting cable, they have to communicate by Wi-Fi. But they *wouldn’t* – not till I gave them a right good talking to. I don’t know if I’m an angel when I write, but there was certainly a devil in a black cloak sitting beside me that *wasn’t* printing.

The quote above – about angels, and devils, and printers – comes from the pen of Thomas Moore, a nineteenth century Irish writer, poet and lyricist. *The Fudges in England* was an 1835 sequel to his earlier satirical work, *The Fudge Family in Paris*. Moore had intended to go on to writing *The Fudge Family in Italy*, but either the Fudges didn’t make it that far or Moore lost interest in their travels. We can’t go on and on being satirical about the political situations of our age, can we? Discuss ...

In any event, Thomas Moore’s quote, and my recalcitrant printer, got me thinking. I don’t know what Moore had against printers or printing. After all, I’m not writing this by hand and sending it to you by courier or pigeon-post. I need my keystrokes to enter my thoughts into my word processor, the gubbins inside (that I don’t understand) to turn this into words on the screen, the computer to save what I’ve written in the format I choose, and the wonders of electronic communication to send them to you. And even as I click a mouse and send this to be printed for my archives, there’s not a devil to be seen anywhere.

There’s a mixture of angels and devils in all of us. Sometimes the devil wins – as my printer’s been doing – and it gets me down. Sometimes the angel wins – and I feel uplifted. The deal is to keep communications open between them, to have the different sides of our nature speaking to each other, so that the angel can give the devil in us a good talking to.

That’s what my laptop seems to have done with my devilish printer. *Now* it’s behaving, and isn’t being a devil any more.

A prayer for today

Let the angels speak for me. Let them have their way, to do good, to banish evil, to draw me back in love to what I was made to be – a wholesome child of God. Amen

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