

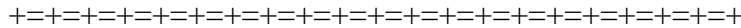
**Leaning on the Highest Judge**  
(General Thoughts)



Herein, are some possible thoughts, as one stands before the Congress of the United States, in the matter of confirmation for Supreme Court judicial service.

Among the things that are often discussed, and that will, no doubt, be explored, are the matters of conflict of interest, and predisposition to an opinion. These are matters that I thought about during the time when the news of a certain recent candidate's (the female one, not the male that preceded her) appointment to the highest court, in the United States of America was broadcast. I will share those thoughts.

The tone of the narrative will be, substantially, role playing. However, there may be times of divergence from the role play. This may take the form of a spectator providing commentary. Then again, there may not be any diversion; the intent is to make this flow as a narrative, as much as possible. So, bypassing the cordialities, let us jump to a point after that. As we continue from that point, we share thoughts on the matter of conflict of interest.



## Leaning on the Highest Judge

### Conflict of Interest

In regard to conflict of interest, I am reminded of [the challenge that was directed at Jesus of Nazareth; either to serve God, or to serve Caesar. The response that Jesus gave to his interrogators was very edifying for me as I looked on, in the mindset of a judge of the people of the United States of America. To use the word, interrogators, does not imply that you, the members of the confirmation panel, are disposed to be as aggressive as they were; it is just an actual part of the environment of that time. Jesus' response is this:

*Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's*  
(Matthew 22:21)

This response indicates that there need be no conflict between ones moral principles, and ones service to ones government. This is what I, too, believe. This is what I, too, have attempted to retain in all my prior rendering of judgments. However, Jesus was not really a judge, so I needed to go further in my evaluation of this matter of conflict of interest. Please do not think that I am being disrespectful of a very important historical personality. The basis for my statement is the words of Jesus himself, in answer to a challenge to assert his self beyond the capabilities that his Father had instilled in him by.

*And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.*  
*And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?*  
(Luke 12:13-14)

The Judge that presented Himself to me, as I continued my search for a role model, is the Divine One that we refer to as, The Highest Judge. In fact, this Divine model is very appropriate,

when one considers the level of the court that is the subject of this confirmation exercise. The Supreme Court is the highest court of the land, and the collected panel of judges of this court is the highest judge (collectively) of the land. Therefore, it seems only fitting to evaluate the behavior of the Judge that has no possibility of conflict of interest. With that in mind, I studied some of the recorded episodes of history pertaining to the Highest Judge.

As I read about the activities of the Highest Judge, I came across an image of Him sitting in judgment. The image was generated as I read this portion of the Bible's book of Revelation.

*And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the*

*dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*  
(Revelation 20:11-12)

The thought that struck me, forcefully, is that the Highest Judge renders a verdict based on evidence. Considering the word, omniscient, which is an attribute of the Highest Judge; surely, this is evidence of which the Highest Judge is fully aware. Nonetheless, the Highest Judge takes the time to have the evidence presented to Him, before He renders the judgment. This seems to be a powerful endorsement of our system of jurisprudence.

The candidate that is selected to the Supreme Court of the United States of America will have evidence that they can rely upon--as do all judges, in all courts of the United States of America. However, unlike God, we judges can only know the body of evidence that witnesses present before us, in the court of law. We cannot depend on anything that we may read in the newspapers or any other media, or any other extensions of evidence that does not come from witnesses in the court. This includes the written testimonies that serve as the voices of various kinds of witnesses. We must set external sources aside, depending only on the evidence that we receive. This is a noble model, and one that will bring us closest to the Ideal Model of the Highest Judge.

In a similar fashion as the books that were opened in the Revelation Judgment, there will be certain books that are set before us, too, as portions of the evidence. These books will take the form of transcripts, and other written documentation of the completed proceedings; such as are presented to a jury for review, to assist them in reaching a verdict.

In light of this comparability, we must acknowledge and honor the judges' great obligation to seek out the truth, as best we can. The sum total of the evidence is the means by which judges reduce the possibility of a conflict arising from our desire for a certain outcome, as based on our prior preferences or experiences. Such a conflict might arise from heritage, or, even, from the places that we have lived, or the conferences we have attended, either as a speaker or as one of the observers.

In the matter of conflict of interest, the duality of Jesus of Nazareth made an impression on me. The stated purpose of his life is contained in the following statement that he made.

*Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.*

*But he answered her not a word.  
And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.*

*But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house*

*of Israel.*  
*(Matthew 15:21-24)*

The reason that the words, *I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel*, caught my attention, is because of another statement that Jesus made.

*For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

*I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.*  
*(John 5:26-31)*

The statement, *because I seek not mine own will*, expresses the ideal attitude for any judge. When we are in our position, as an individual justice, we have an obligation to take a similar position.

In a sort of nod to the human portion of his being, Jesus of Nazareth let us peek into the duality of his position in life. In doing so, Jesus gave us some insight into the duality of being a judge of the people of the land. In the first part, Jesus of Nazareth is **a** son of man, born of woman. In the second part, Jesus Christ is the Son of God, operating as **the Son** of man. In the first part, Jesus of Nazareth did not perform any judgment. This is the position in which a judge stands when a matter is not under her or his jurisdiction.

*And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.*

*And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?  
And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*  
*(Luke 12:13-15)*

On the other hand, as **the** Son of man, Jesus Christ was custodian of the affairs of man, as commissioned by the Father God. In this role, all things were under his jurisdiction, as pertains to the kingdom of man. In a sense, one might say, this is the time when Jesus of Nazareth put on the robe of Jesus Christ. Then, as Jesus Christ, he fulfilled the role of judge of the hearts of humankind. An element of this type of judgment will enter into the requirements for us, too, as the judges of the nation.

*Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

*The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy*

record is not true.

*Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*

*Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father?*

*Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.*

*These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.*

*(John 8:12-20)*

In the case of the Supreme Court; in the final analysis, the judgment belongs to the Supreme Court's collective response of all the judges, as based on the interpretation of the rule of law. In that respect, when the judge interprets the law under the rules of law, it is the law that judges. This position is similar to one that Jesus held.

*Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.*

*(John 5:19-20)*

It is my intention to keep the law in the forefront, as the instrument of judgment; setting the testimony that is put before me in the light of the law, to find the place where they match. When I behave prudently in this fashion as a judge, then the judgment will emerge on its own, regardless of any interests I may have. Consequently, when my interests are not a part of the court's equation, there can be no conflict of them.

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**--- Next, in Leaning on the Highest Judge --**  
**Predisposition to an opinion**

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