

## EXPRESSION

©C. S. Craig 1999 Revised 2005

### ***WORDS – WONDER – IMAGINATION – DUPERSTITIONS***

Behind most every myth is an element of truth. In front of most every myth lays – a beginning; a story; a reason; a meaning; perhaps even a lesson or two worth learning. Myths, fables, folktales and legends somehow beckon, attracting us like magnetic particles, captivating our imagination and stirring from slumber the child tucked deeply inside.

Short stories can spark the imagination and lead us on wild wonderful adventures. Magically they can stir our emotions and lead us to the other side of reality. A short story can allow us to share the memory or the imagination of the writer. For example:

#### **SOMEWHERE IN THE NIGHT**

Often, I recall the distant, sad and lonely sound of the night trains whistle - a mysterious sound that put me to sleep many nights as a child in Claycomo, Missouri. My earliest memories are those when I lay quietly nestled in my bed, listening for the little train crying out to me from somewhere in the night. I seemed to understand its sad voice louder at first then fading until I could no longer hear it. Then, I too drifted away just like the little train. Even today, some fifty years later, from my bed in Charles Town, West Virginia, I oftentimes here the saddest sound I've ever known – the whistle of a lonely little train calling to me from somewhere in the night. The End.

This short story expresses the memory and thoughts that only the writer could know and share with the world. All of us have memories, good and bad, happy and sad. But, words tell more than a story – they are the way we communicate and think. Without words we could not be civilized.

Down through the centuries especially during medieval times, myths and fables were prevalent in a time that seemed suspended for centuries. Education was available only to the fortunate few. In its place the less fortunate relied on fables, fairytales and legends to understand the unexplained – the mysteries of the time. Ironically, it was in part, these very fables, myths and superstitions, which kept people in the darkness of the dark ages. Civilization seems to have stood still for many centuries because the people of those days were not only illiterate but, duped by their educated leaders, even their churches. So, I call these fables, legends and superstitions - “duperstitions.”

Ignorance and illiteracy leads to fear of the unknown. Without the ability to read, education and the Bible were not available to the masses. ***It is the Word of God in the hands of an educated society that keeps the world from plundering back into the ages of darkness.*** The Bible brings enlightenment into the world. Its laws and truth are a timeless

Absolute - An Absolute Necessity to a civilized and dying world.  
In today's enlightened society, fairytales, fables, legends, folklore, myth and wise-tales challenge the imagination and wonder in us all. So, read, write and enjoy the wonder of fantasy.