Splintered Pearls: Volume 1. 128 thoughts. © 2013, 2014 Rich Norman

- 1. It seems a pity that one must use a common language, and that one's thoughts should be expressed using the same words as other men. It then becomes a comfort to realize that most had no idea what they were talking about.
- 2. Most men possess a keen sense of the depths of the human mind, as can be demonstrated in their nimble and highly adept efforts at avoiding the same.
- 3. Kindness and good taste are often demonstrated through "ignorance."
- 4. It is what we do not discuss, which determines what we do.
- 5. Aged bliss is a returning: All of myself which I had spilled out into the world of man returns to me—gracious supple and complete.
- 6. Old age is but puberty rediscovered in the world...at last, a worthy bride!
- 7. Eternity embraces those who become her.
- 8. Aged youth: All the world winks at me, sultry and warm she teases me, with her pouting lips and promises of new enchantments...So have the old been wed to Life, with young eyes now too wise to refuse her.
- 9. The closer the end, the younger we become.
- 10. It is the old who must become the most supple flexible and daring—the most seductive to life.
- 11. A day lived without a new idea has been insulted.
- 12. Each day will whisper her new and perfect name into the ear of a child, however aged, only a child is able to hear a new word.
- 13. When knowledge becomes preconception, it has been fooled.
- 14. Certainty fools knowledge.
- 15. One who knows before they look, knows only that they do not wish to.
- 16. It is with people as it is with all forms of fiction: We must suspend disbelief if we are to gain entry into this world.
- 17. If they are any good—psychologists are rarely welcome at parties.

- 18. A pretty face— Often we are seduced here, so as not to be repelled there...we are attracted toward the future so as to flee the past, "How pretty it would be never to see you again!"
- 19. We seek beauty on the heels of our ugliness.
- 20. Only one who has charmed all that is ugly within them, knows true beauty.
- 21. Beauty is the province of those who understand: ugliness is but beauty preserved...waiting to be known.
- 22. Value judgements betray ignorance.
- 23. Morality is the crutch of a crippled intellect.
- 24. A value judgement is a judgement of little value.
- 25. That which is subjective is necessarily that which is most keenly felt, and unimportant.
- 26. My fellow man is repulsive only in so much as I accept the proposition of our fellowship.
- 27. Here is the hope of Man: Let us try something new!
- 28. I have not abandoned the hope of mankind—I believe he can still be replaced.
- 29. The hope of Man: That Mankind can be replaced from within his own ranks, surpassed from within, his past swallowed into an unknown...only a new path might find worth in this old name.
- 30. The hope of Man is an unknown: an anti-tradition.
- 31. Mankind is a teeming disease, sustained in the dank shrine of cultural memory.
- 32. Every hopeful new thought for mankind is but a wound to tradition.
- 33. Tradition is error deified.
- 34. Tradition: As pride is erroneous, so are we most proud of our errors.
- 35. Tradition: Hubris found after the fact.
- 36. The most valuable connection one can have to mankind, is to point out something new.

- 37. The community of man has provided us with one thing—a point of departure, a starting place, an anti-example, a source point for a reaction, a bent compass needle which can be uniformly disregarded, and so, reliably points to something better.
- 38. All the highest cultural and artistic achievements of Man are the result of a singular superior vision, an overcoming of human mediocrity.
- 39. Excellence is undemocratic.
- 40. Excellence compromises nothing save compromise itself.
- 41. Excellence is unforgiving, compromise is unforgivable.
- 42. True love of mankind is not expressed as love of man, or kindness toward him, but rather, as the will to overcome both.
- 43. An honest appraisal: He who no longer conceals his hate, his lust and his love, has become moral.
- 44. Morality, in so much as the concept is still useful, should be indistinguishable from nakedness.
- 45. Most men believe it is their morality which "contains" their hate, and so must admit, morality is a hateful thing.
- 46. It is in Man's disgrace with his own appetites that his morality is born, the devil himself summoned up in the mistaken wish to purify our soul...
- 47. One who loves himself no longer summons the devil to speak the name of Man.
- 48. It is in the judgement of shame, that our appetites become eternally seductive.
- 49. To deny a truth, is to grant it eternal province over your soul.
- 50. That there is still nothing up above Man—that alone is sin.
- 51. Mankind always waits, waits for itself to catch up to itself...waits to be affirmed by the very community his better spirit is to overcome.
- 52. Of companionship: Iconoclasts look backwards—new seas have no idols...for there is no land upon which they might be built.
- 53. A truly new idea insults all of history by having no relation to it...or at least not one which can be comfortably acknowledged.
- 54. Tradition and intelligence are inversely proportional.

- 55. Often, survival is a wise fool...How wise is one who is content not to know!
- 56. Why we write: One whose views are in advance of his cultures ideas, is wisest to remain concealed in the ignorance of his time. Posterity might acknowledge what humanity as of yet can not.
- 57. A wise man's soul is best sung as posthumous verse... Now perhaps, you are ready?
- 58. The note of an honest Man's soul sounds sour to the age in which he lives.
- 59. Self belief: The belief in an illusion is the foundation of all human achievement.
- 60. The potential of humanity is either a self fulfilling paradox, or a disappointment with which we are most familiar.
- 61. Only one who is intimately familiar with what is most detestable in himself, can become truly elevated...Never trust any angel who does not know where the devil lives.
- 62. Only those whose heels are long flat from stepping through valleys, have strength or virtue enough to sustain the heights.
- 63. It is the fallen angel who knows the true path to mountain tops.
- 64. Heaven is but hell, better understood.
- 65. Reflections on childhood and maturity: My life has been a complex mistake born of a simple misunderstanding.
- 66. Insight—to rearrange a simple thing has an overarching effect which appears as complexity.
- 67. When a complex problem synchronously unfolds, we have uncovered the simplicity at its root.
- 68. Observe what reoccurs as a consequence of one's failures, and uncover the reason for them.
- 69. Observe the effects of Chance, and spot the intentions which precede her.
- 70. When error follows us, it is error we desire.
- 71. When we revisit a pain, we must wonder, what strength, what reason provokes us to seek such company?
- 72. To have met the same ruinous result throughout life, is to have met your desires.

- 73. An aged virtue: It is only late in life that a strong man becomes weak and wise enough to see the virtue of happiness.
- 74. On mental determinism: In affairs of the mind we are all unknown Gods. See the consequences of our actions and understand what this god has designed.
- 75. All effects are causes, all outcomes are intentions—in a godly world.
- 76. When we see the effects of our problems—the causes lie here.
- 77. It is in the effect that the cause is made plain.
- 78. One is either honest, or reasonable.
- 79. Truth is most seductive to the very strong and the very ill...one can afford her, the other can not afford to be without her.
- 80. Conscience is an order of masochism. Once embedded in one's own arm, we question the need for teeth—and find virtue.
- 81. Strength may be an inconvenient instinct.
- 82. A formula for mischief: It seems as if when we feel sufficiently guilty about our instincts, they will disappear...and they do!—but then where are they?
- 83. The guilt which follows a man is but dread of self knowledge.
- 84. Anyone possessed of empathy, has earned a-moral right.
- 85. In dealing with our fellow man, a moral code is the greatest hinderance to moral behavior. What better place to hide!
- 86. Of the wound: Fear not thine wrath ... the fury which we spend in a just day, may then, find harvest in forgetting.
- 87. All instincts have a purpose. One must wonder that they chafe...and why?
- 88. To whose ends do we find ourselves detestable...have you herd?
- 89. We may accept or reject an instinct—but let us first ask who is offended.
- 89. Of man: How much have I spent to tolerate you?—how much self-love?
- 90. Every instinct can be brought to serve the nobility of creation.

- 91. Man should be disgusted with his lack of ascending characteristics...the absence of cheerful inventiveness and intellectual curiosity, rather than reserving his shame for his strength.
- 92. Morality lies in our inability to understand the question. Both aspects: moral and immoral—coincide to form the molecule...a necessary hypocrisy.
- 93. Morality is often rationalization for immoral behavior, sometimes to others, sometimes to ourselves under the virtuous name of sacrifice. That guilt which morality creates, she might best quench.
- 94. Empathy is morality unsullied.
- 95. That which is truly contemptible is untouched by empathy, and leaves her unsoiled.
- 96. Truth dwells in the case, and not the code.
- 97. The rule is the common yardstick, and is better for slapping the truth than measuring her
- 98. It seems only conscience can take the sweetness from victory, and we might remember that in primitive times it was even more so, an external impingement, a matter of taboo, of "superstition"—and so what of conscience?
- 99. It is through conscience, that the herd, is heard within.
- 100. Society is based on mutually insured emasculation.
- 101. It is in common fear that the common good is asserted.
- 102. We are protected from a menace by society...Society!
- 103. Society is a protection racket.
- 104. "That which has not been spilt, can not be spoilt."—a fools comfort.
- 105. Let time hold what the day can not—so do we create.
- 106. On reclaiming the past: To breathe into a knotted ghost, a corpse flowering and bruised, and find it rise into warmth and a living golden sun.
- 107. The future is a voluptuous fantom alluring and imploring, calling ever forward with damp eyes of mad hope, for even...the future.
- 108. The future is hopeful for those who need it and create it within themselves. Those who are able—deserve her.

- 109. Tis not the pain in my breast that finds sorrow, but the joy it holds unspent.
- 110. The spirit released rains gladly unknowing.
- 111. Doubt is the comfort of memory brought to rule.
- 112. Wisdom hobbles those it does not unfetter.
- 113. To live by rule, is to imagine the blame lies elsewhere.
- 114. It is we who rule, whatever the rule may be.
- 115. Permission comes without shame: First we understand, "Everything is yours"—only then can we begin to choose.
- 116. The blow be doubly sharp, when the hand be thine own.
- 117. With freedom comes little question of the cause, and less the consequence.
- 118. All fate does shape the affairs of Man, as the affairs of man unto himself.
- 119. Wisdom finds place in strength for all things—even aberrance.
- 120. Aberrance uncoiled is strength revealed.
- 121. Within sickness is still health's germ...and twice its purpose often found.
- 122. The sun spilt fresh across heaven's cheek, a blossoming tear, painful and ecstatic, beauty's fresh wound—so does Life unfold herself to those who find her most precious.
- 123. To understand one's self, fully, from moment to moment, to know your own blessed and obscene poetry in daylight, and baptize it shameless, is a bliss and a curse—The former as a promise kept unto one's self, the latter of the sure knowledge that you will be misunderstood; as it is through that certain error—those who"understand" you survive.
- 124. The heart unfolds everything for those willing to look: Poetic license is a merciful blindness, a lie placed before an obscene truth.
- 125. Faulty eyesight: Poetry is a sort of knowledge which demonstrates its prowess by avoiding those topics it has sense enough not to know aloud, and to obscure the rest. Poetry's appeal lies in her poor vision.
- 126. When one uses the tug of poetry's heartstrings for focused ends, the effect is a wicked disregard for the expectations of the reader, and offers up to them, either an assault, or the highest compliment.

- 127. Poetry with purpose of meaning made doubly plain—a violation and a treasure.
- 128. Every tooth is but a tear drop mirrored.