

# THE STATESMAN

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## On Campus Seminars:

Mar 25	<a href="#">Thomas Jefferson Education Forum</a>
Apr 14-15	<a href="#">Current Events</a>
Apr 17-21	<a href="#">Foreign Language</a>
	<a href="#">Thomas Jefferson Style</a>
Apr 24-28	<a href="#">Special Week-long Intensive For Ph.D. Candidates</a>
Apr 24-29	<a href="#">Statesmanship Invitational 2006</a>
May 1-27	<a href="#">Biology and Physical Science</a>
May 5-6	<a href="#">Thomas Jefferson Education Convention</a>
May 22-23	<a href="#">Blackstone &amp; America</a>
May 25-Jun 3	<a href="#">Youth for America! Conferences</a>
May 30-31	<a href="#">Mastering The Art of Mentoring</a>
Jun 2-3	<a href="#">Mentoring The Hero Generation</a>
Jun 5-30	<a href="#">Freshman Prep Class</a>
Jun 8-10	<a href="#">Statesman Retreat</a>
Jun 19-21	<a href="#">CEO Retreat 2006</a>
Jun 22-24	<a href="#">Statesman Retreat</a>
Jul 10-11	<a href="#">Third Annual Liber League Summit</a>
Jul 10-29	<a href="#">The Mountain Seminar</a>
Jul 13-15	<a href="#">Statesman Retreat</a>
Jul 31-Aug 25	<a href="#">Freshman Prep Class</a>
Aug 1-25 2007	<a href="#">Mathematics</a>
Jun	<a href="#">European Field Experience</a>

For the complete list of all GWC on campus Seminars [click here](#).

For a Face to Face with Greatness seminar  
in your area, [click here](#).

For a Statesmanship Seminar in your area,  
[click here](#).

The George Wythe College  
Alumni and Friends Gala

October 19-20, 2006  
[click here for information](#)

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For more newsletters, [click here](#).

## “Asleep with Eyes Wide Open:” Living an Awakened Life

Lessons from *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare

by Michele Smith

“This is a strange repose, to be asleep with eyes wide open; standing, speaking, moving, and yet so fast asleep (II.I. 216-218)” speaks a character in *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. Each character in this play experiences a dramatic awakening that first upsets, then tries, then transforms them to a higher state of being and living. Looking back with new vision, the person they were in the past and the lack of enlightenment that kept them in their previous state seem amazing and impossible. To truly live, we must experience such personal transformations that “as the morning steals upon the night, melting the darkness, so [our] rising senses begin to chase the ignorant fumes that mantle [our] clearer reason (V.1.65-68).”

In *The Tempest*, Prospero, the rightful Duke of Milan, and his young daughter, Miranda, live on a remote island where they have been fifteen years since being cast into the ocean by Prospero’s usurpers. Using magic powers and with the help of the fairy sprite Ariel, Prospero creates a Tempest that causes the boat of his enemies to shipwreck near the island. He enacts his grand plan to revenge the wrongs committed against him and provide a royal marriage for his daughter. After much drama, sub-plot, magical intervention, suffering and entertainment, the characters are revealed to one another. Each has had experiences resulting in a wiser and more enlightened state. These awakenings allow them to resolve their issues at a higher level and manner than would have

been possible had they remained in the blinded state they were when the tale commenced.

Prospero is awakened to taking responsibility and control and expanding his influence to cause dramatic change in his own and other's lives. He discards his irresponsibility, misplaced faith in others, magical powers and victim-hood. He is also awakened to the superiority of love and mercy over hate and revenge. Murderous and conniving power-hungry courtesans and scoundrels are awakened to repentance and change. Caliban, the misshapen evil ogre who lives on the island, is awakened to seeking after wisdom and grace and appreciation of character in those whom he follows. Miranda and Frederick awaken to virtuous love, sacrifice and principle and the existence and support of inspiring noble friends. Ariel awakens from frustrated servitude to freedom following fulfilled duty and service born of care not compulsion.

If we desire to live a life more than as an "ebbing man...[who] so near the bottom run[s] by [his] own fear or sloth (II.1. 229-231)," we would do well to abide counsel proclaimed by Ariel: "While you here do snoring lie, Open-eyed conspiracy His time doth take. If of life you keep a care, Shake off slumber and beware. Awake, Awake (II.1. 302-308)." How often we "walk in darkness at noon-day" through our own complacency and lack of willingness to "wake up" to life. We often overlook the earth-shattering power we have within ourselves to incite awakenings that will transform our lives. It is our opportunity and privilege to choose an awakened life of capacity, vision and purpose over a mundane life of stupor and non-enlightenment.

As Thoreau described in *Walden*, "The millions are awake enough for physical labor; but only one in a million is awake enough for effective intellectual exertion, only one in a hundred millions to a poetic or divine life. To be awake is to be alive. I have never yet met a man who was quite awake. How could I have looked him in the face? We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn, which does not forsake us in our soundest sleep. I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by a

conscious endeavor (p.59)."

In our busy, overwhelmed, twenty-first century lives, we are quick to discard substance for expediency and lose both! We must make time to examine our souls as well as our day planners. An awakened life is one that grows out of a whole soul—fed with contemplation, reflection, inspiration, quiet, nature, truth and meditation and resulting in renewed heart, mind and body. Prospero realized this truth when he explained that much that appears to be of substance "shall dissolve, and like this insubstantial pageant faded, leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep (IV.1.150-159)." He concludes "...my ending is despair Unless I be relieved by prayer, Which pierces so that it assaults Mercy itself and frees all faults (V.1.15-18)." Awakenings have the impact of elevating vision and relieving delusion. These awakenings change our lives and empower our actions in ways we cannot foresee because they are only seen through the elevated vision that results after we awaken. Awakenings such as these that create souls and lives of enduring value are worth whatever sacrifice they require—nothing less is of any eternal substance.

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