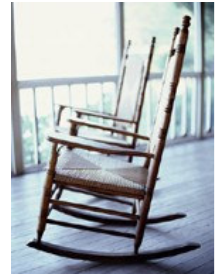




From the Back Porch

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See Better, Lear! (as in Shakespeare's "King Lear")

Being an "elder" has its own charms. I have recently had cataract surgery and now have two plastic lenses replacing the foggy old natural ones.

The world is new and vibrant, with brilliant colors seen without the yellow scrim I had before. I am delighted with every view.

For me, questions arise: Where are my other cataracts? Where is my view tarnished, scrimmed by lazy habits of thought, or prejudice, or easy stereotypes?

I have the opportunity today to do the necessary personal surgery to replace such flax and feeble habits with the rigorous, sharp perceptions based on researched facts and honest admissions of my own ignorance.



Jesus taught us: "Don't judge and you won't be judged" - not because judging is bad but because it can be lazy, and therefore incomplete at best, dead wrong at worst.

Please join me in celebrating this new sight and this challenging insight. Don't wait until *you* are 78 to sharpen the shapes and colors you see.

