

**Once there was no Jordan Peterson...  
or so the legends go.**



By

**Gary Heartsill, PhD**

January 6, 2023



### Vocabulary – a partial list.

Maps, Myths, 12 Rules, 12 more Rules, Cheat Sheet, Canadian, Tammy, Mikhaila, Julian, Elizabeth, Edmonton, Alberta (BA), McGill University (PhD), Harvard University, University of Toronto, psychopharmacology, neuro, religious, ideological, and political psychology, YouTube, Peterson Podcast, The Daily Wire, intrapsychic degeneration, narcissistic.

Jung, Freud, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Solzhenitsyn, Eliade, Neumann, Piaget, Frye, Frankl, Holocaust, Nazism, Mengele, Gilgamesh, Enma elish, Buddha, nihilism, despair, relativism, ideology, Aristotle, yang and yin, Being, lobsters, neurochemistry, Mark Twain, primordial calculator, dominance hierarchy, agoraphobia, Genesis, Francis Bacon, René Descartes, Isaac Newton, God, Chaos, Order, Christ, Matthew, Adam, Eve, Thomas, narcissist.

*Pinocchio, Sleeping Beauty, The Lion King, The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast.* YHWH, Good and Evil, The Naked Ape, T.S. Eliot, Carl Rogers, serotonin-fuelled [sic], aphorism, idiosyncratic, Gospel of Thomas, Raskolnikov, atheist, Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Geppetto, Yitta Schwartz, ideological shibboleth, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, archetypal, Golding, Jane Goodall, ris Chang, B.F. Skinner, Maleficent, Memoricide, genocidal machine, narcissism<sup>1</sup>.

Columbine, Sandy Hook, Goethe, Mephistopheles, Tolstoy, effective existential protest, atheistic, Panzram, *The Gulag Archipelago*, suffering, meaningful, Paradise, Michelangelo, Mary, *Pietà*, Abraham, Hobbes, Devil, Auschwitz, Tao te Ching, Christianity, Ivan, Alyosha, freedom, Buchenwald, Dachau, totalitarianism, *Teppichresser*, narcissistically<sup>2</sup>.

[This partial vocabulary list is from the first half of his 12 Rules book. They all will show up again.](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Peterson likes this “n” word – perhaps as much as “bloody.”

<sup>2</sup> I am not kidding.



“Prozac even cheers up lobsters” (*12 Rules*, p. 7).

Just above “The Neurochemistry of Defeat and Victory” he writes “Anyone who has experienced a painful transformation after a serious defeat in romance or career may feel some sense of kinship with the once successful crustacean” (p. 7).

And so people started calling him the “lobster man” with their pointed and sometimes seeking less than constructive compliments on his writings.

“...we know that lobsters have been around, in one form or another, for more than 350 million years...” and then he ends his first chapter with “Look for your inspiration to the victorious lobster, with its 350 million years of practical wisdom. **Stand up straight, with your shoulders back**” (p. 28).



### TITLES (truncated list)

Professor, psychologist, clinical psychologist, author, PhD, father, husband, Internet personality, classic British liberal, traditionalist, conservative, public intellectual, lecturer, new YouTube star, humanist, a cultural icon, The Omega Man, counter-revolutionary, Papa Peterson, religious prophet, polemicist, Pod Caster, film maker, debater, theologian, Bible scholar, philosopher, historian, statistician, company owner of “The Self-Authoring Suite,” critiquer of political correctness, postmodernism, identity politics, gender, gender expression and climate change.



And some say: *High Priest*

My guess is some folks will want to put Jordan Peterson in some kind of a frame. Actually, he has more than one frame that will fit him. His esoteric nature will cause or suggest he be put in a frame and the type of frame will depend on how you read him. The task of this paper is to expose Peterson for the priest he is – or maybe the teacher, pedagogue, professor, psychologist, or polemicist. The exposure finding will determine, or should determine, what you think he is – or what he is to you.

I have ontologically (metaphysically) been trying to frame him since I first heard what he is all about. I am working on this. Today he is one thing and after watching two more YouTubes he is something else. Today, however, he sits high on the sovereign throne of being an “End of the Times Saviour of the World.” This quite catchy phrase is given to show he is on a courageous and resolute mission and this seems to be working with sell out crowds buying seats for his big city performances – eight scheduled in the next 30 days (He will be in Fort Worth in Feb).

He strikes me as one of the most intellectual persons I have seen or heard in my ‘goings and comings.’  
He strikes me as being very sincere, truthful, interesting, believable, honest, and forthright.  
He strikes me as being engrossed, dedicated, pointed, set, and on task for the mission he is on.  
He strikes me as one to listen to, watch, think, pray, and respond to.  
He strikes me as one who needs a frame – and that is what this paper is partially about.

What is Jordan Peterson’s mission?

What is Jordan Peterson’s act?

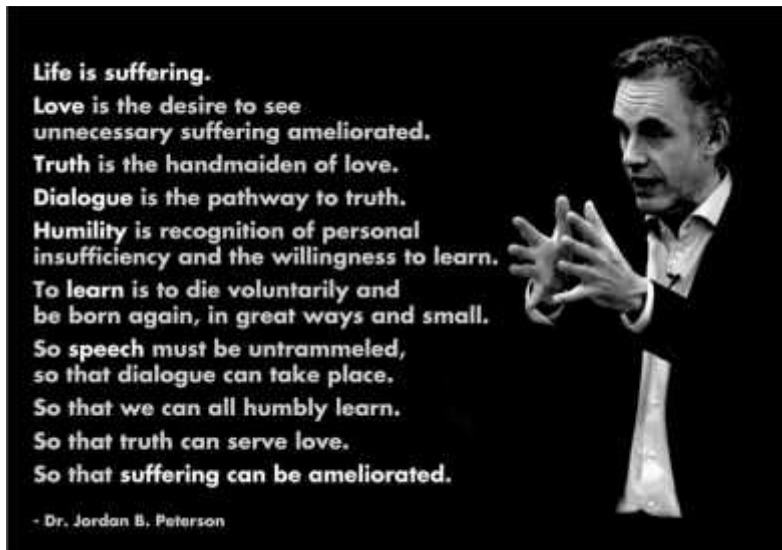
What is Jordan Peterson’s frame?

What is Jordan Peterson’s fame?

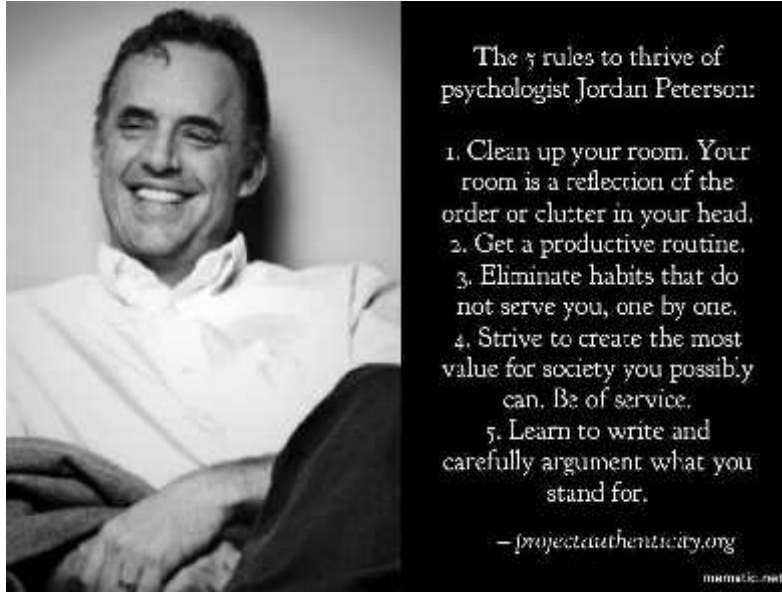




Here is Jordan Peterson's cue card.



Here are Jordan Peterson's notes.



Here are his Rules.

## Book List

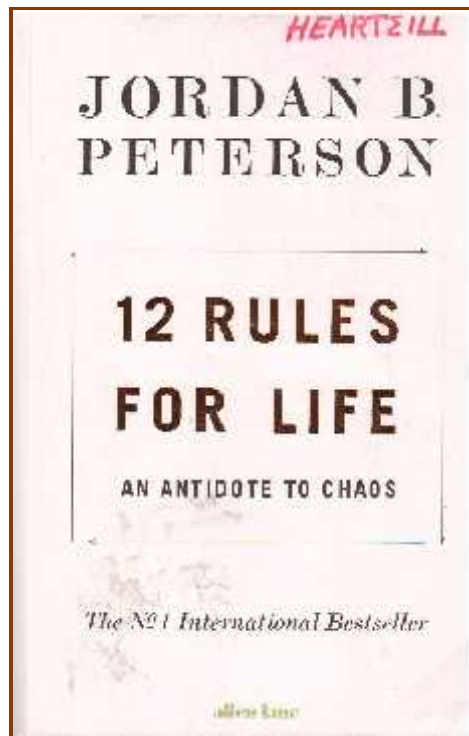
Many people have written to me asking what they should read to properly educate themselves. Here is a list of books that I found particularly influential in my intellectual development. I wrote number thirteen, *Maps of Meaning: The Architecture of Belief*. It was published in 1999. It was heavily influenced by the authors of all the books listed below.

**Trigger warning:** These are the most terrifying books I have encountered.

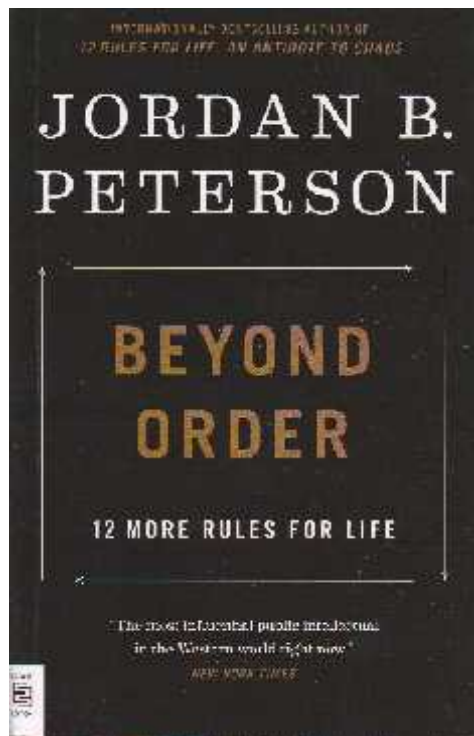
In the lecture I included with this post (see below) I discuss the suffering inextricably associated with life, attributing some of it to tragedy, a necessary consequence of human limitation, and the remainder to evil, the conscious and malevolent attempt to worsen Being. I suggest that human beings can tolerate tragedy – even triumph over it, if they are guided by truth – but that evil is a far more insidious, subtle and damaging force.

- 1. [Brave New World](#) – Aldous Huxley
- 2. [1984](#) – George Orwell
- 3. [Road To Wigan Pier](#) – George Orwell
- 4. [Crime And Punishment](#) – Fyodor Dostoevsky
- 5. [Demons](#) – Fyodor Dostoevsky
- 6. [Beyond Good And Evil](#) – Friedrich Nietzsche
- 7. [Ordinary Men](#) – Christopher Browning
- 8. [The Painted Bird](#) – Jerzy Kosinski
- 9. [The Rape of Nanking](#) – Iris Chang
- 10. [Gulag Archipelago \(Vol. 1, Vol. 2, & Vol. 3\)](#) – Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
- 11. [Man's Search for Meaning](#) – Viktor Frankl
- 12. [Modern Man in Search of A Soul](#) – Carl Jung
- 13. [Maps Of Meaning: The Architecture of Belief](#) – Jordan B. Peterson
- 14. [A History of Religious Ideas \(Vol. 1, Vol. 2, Vol. 3\)](#) – Mircea Eliade
- 15. [Affective Neuroscience](#) – Jaak Panksepp

**BOOKS**

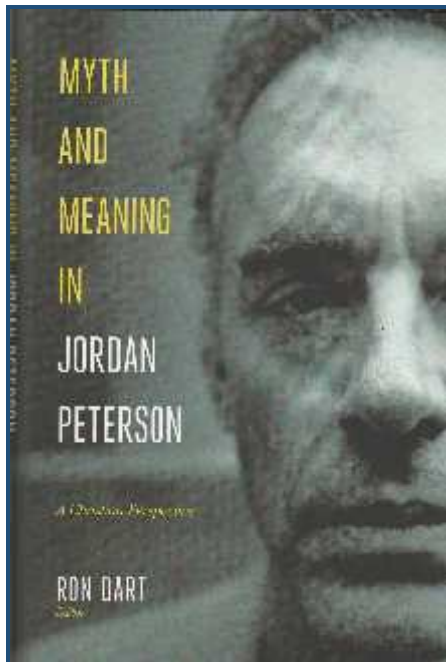


Your first book...his best seller.



12 more rules





Ten chapters from different authors that was published in 2020 showing insight on who Jordan Peterson is. This book is “in the weeds” showing the Chaos, Myth, Memoricide, Archetypes, Allegorical Exegesis, and, Being and Meaning. The authors show Peterson as a Counter-Revolutionary, Champion of the Free, giving his Genesis Lectures, a Kierkegaardian Reading, and his Antidote to Evil.

\*Esgrid Sikahall, authoring chapter eight gave me the idea of a title when he started his article titled “What is Your View on...Science and Religion” with:

**“Once there was no Jordan Peterson...or so the legends go”** (p. 149).

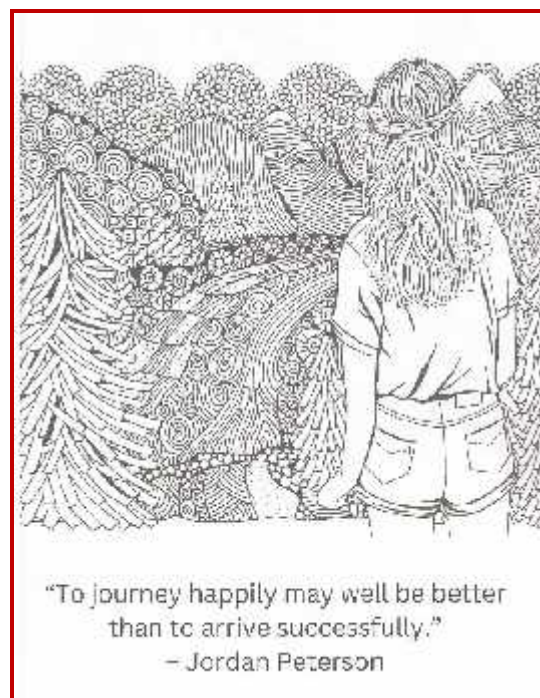
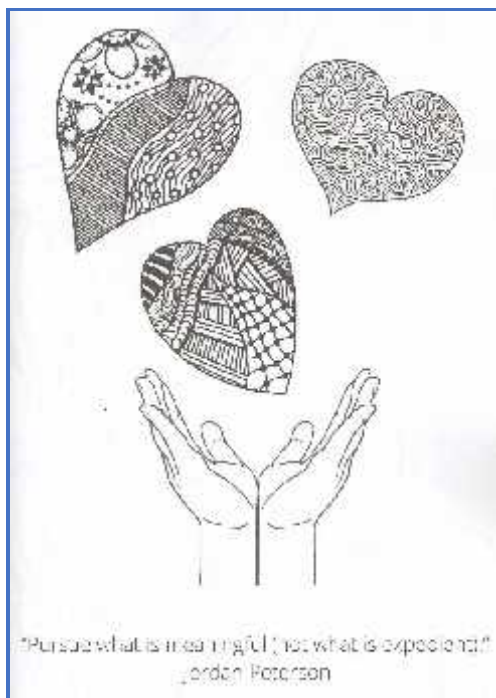
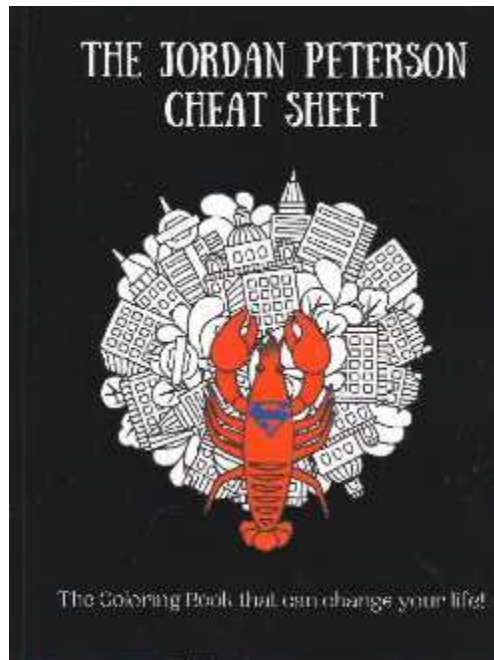
Ester O’Reilly in her “The Image of Christ: Jordan Peterson as Humanist” declares“...he famously invites us to consider the lobster...Unless we understand the lobster, we cannot understand ourselves” (p. 130).

\*O’Reilly says “Peterson stands in awe of the work that is man” and quoting from Peterson’s first book *Maps of Meaning*“...every individual is unique – is a new set of experiences, a new universe...It is an expression of this capacity for creative action that makes the tragic condition of life tolerable, bearable – remarkable, miraculous” (p. 131).

\*Ron Dart in his chapter “Myth, Memoricide, and Jordan Peterson” says “...in this essay I will deal specifically with his interest in the perennial wisdom and insights of myth and fairy tales, and what such narratives reveal (or unconceal) about our all-too-human journey”

Dart ends with “Rather than critiquing him I think if we can see Peterson as an agent of *praeparatio evangelica* we will not go too far amiss. Peterson himself is still feeling and thinking his way forward, and time will reveal the path he finally sets his feet on” (p. 84).

Note: This book is an excellent academic choice to help find out where/who Jordan Peterson is.

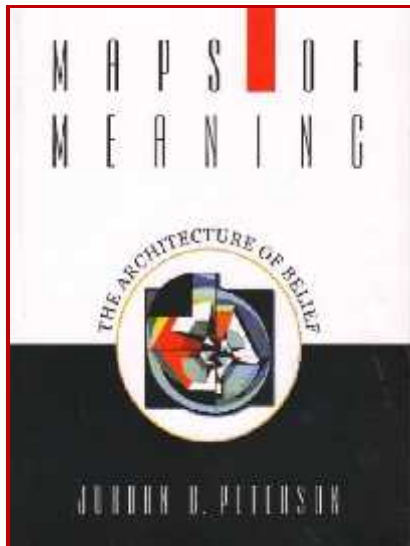


“Welcome to the coloring book for ‘lobsters’...”

“...coloring has therapeutic effects...coloring books can teach...important lessons about self, life, identity, and more.”

“Visual images give us another way of unpacking the ideas.”

## HIS FIRST BOOK



Cover design by author...

Peterson took ten years to write this book. It would take us 20 years to cover its contents – unless you are a post graduate student of his, working on some advanced degree with a proclivity toward behavioral psychology, humanities, Russian history - and advanced statistics.

This is just my kind of a book!

It is a must book for a career student in the discipline of psychology or continuing education. It also helps learning about where Jordan Peterson is coming from. However, he talks about parts of this book in all his books. All his books crisscross back and forth...he says in *12 Rules* he would write a sentence 150 times to get it right – so that it could not be misinterpreted by any reader. This dedication to his work is just inspiring to the rest of us.

If I had another life to live – and another class to teach – this book would be in the syllabus. The problem would be getting it taught in one semester...and finding a good university to let it be available in the book store.

Esgrid Sikahall is helpful for leading into what this book is all about.

According to Peterson, what is religious is “What you act out.” This shorthand connects *meaning*, one of the most, if not the most, important aspects of his thought (perhaps alongside responsibility), with that which allows us to mediate out being-in-the -world. “Everything is something, and *means* something – and the distinction between essence and significance is not necessarily drawn,” to use Peterson’s words. (p. 158).

It is important to notice that there is an asymmetric relationship between “a forum for action” and “a place of things”...The idea that being in the world as actors, as if in a drama, is more primordial and *precedes* thinking about the world as a place of things.

The “natural,” pre-experimental, or mythical mind is in fact *primarily* concerned with meaning – which is essentially implication for action – and not with “objective” nature. The formal object, as conceptualized by modern scientifically oriented consciousness, might appear to those still possessed by the mythic imagination – if they could “see” it at all – as an irrelevant shell, as all that was left after everything intrinsically intriguing had been stripped away. For the pre-experimentalist, the thing is most truly the significance of its sensory properties, as they are experienced in subjective experience – in affect, or emotion. And, in truth – in real life- to know what something is still means to know two things about it: its *motivational relevance*, and the specific nature of its sensory qualities...Something must have emotional impact before it will attract enough attention to be explored and mapped in accordance with its sensory properties...We need to know what things *are* not to know what they are but to *keep track of what they mean* – to understand what they signify for our behavior. (Maps, p. 3)

“In other words, Peterson adds, ‘it might be suggested that all the myth has not yet vanished from science, devoted as it is to human progress, and that it is this nontrivial remainder that enables the scientist to retain undimmed enthusiasm while endlessly studying his fruit flies’ (p. 160).

As difficult or seemingly troublesome as this introduction to his first book is, to his credit he says there are summaries which precede each chapter and they should be read as a unit as they “comprise a complete but compressed picture of the book. These should be read first” (p. xxii). I promise you they will certainly help but I want to come back to *Maps and Meaning* – “This massive tome on psychotherapy.”

A couple of the authors of *Myth and Meaning* began their articles on Peterson’s stand against Canada’s Bill C-16 which is what put Peterson on the front pages and launched his career on the Internet. The C-16 bill was to “compel citizens to use the preferred gender pronouns of transgendered persons.” Peterson said he would not fall for this trap as it was changing the way we have communicated for a thousand years. He was against the government of Canada telling its people that they had to use these pronouns. You will see in some of his YouTubes his successful war/fight on this ruling.

His stand to say no, is what got my attention – and the first reason for believing in him.

## Let me tell you a story.

Actually, you will read this in your copy of *12 Rules*, but let me give you a quick look at what makes Peterson the man, the father, the teacher, that he is...course, this story has helped him sell FIVE MILLION copies (he tells his students a million is a BIG number!).

Anyway, in Rule 5 he is discussing how “particularly ornery” his son was when he was a toddler. “We didn’t want to feed him one more minute than necessary [Oops, Biscuit just got my attention (he clucked once behind me) and I looked at the wall clock. The little snit is 70 seconds early wanting his 10:30 greenie snack...got to handle this.] Tammy had been frustrated with him as “the little blighter would only eat three or four mouthfuls. Then he would play. No problem. He is was exploring. But he was not eating enough...so, we sat down, face to face, bowl in front of him. It was *High Noon*. He knew it, and I knew it...a patient adult can defeat a two-year old, hard as that is to believe.

“But I had more tricks up my sleeve. I poked him in the chest, with my free hand, in a manner calculated to annoy. He didn’t budge. I did it again. And again. And again. Not hard – but not in a manner to be ignored, either. Ten or so pokes later, he opened his mouth, planning to emit a sound of outrage. Hah! His mistake. I deftly inserted the spoon. He tried, gamely, to force out the offending food with his tongue. But I know how to deal with that, too. I just placed my forefinger horizontally across his lips. Some came out. But some was swallowed, too. Score one for Dad. I gave him a pat on the head, and told him that he was a good boy. And I meant it. When someone does something you are trying to get him to do, reward them. No grudge after victory. An hour later, it was all over. There was outrage. There was some wailing. My wife had to leave the room. The stress was too much. But food was eaten by child. My son collapsed, exhausted, on my chest. We had a nap together. And he liked me a lot better when he woke up than he had before he was disciplined” (p. 127).

“Specify your damn goals  
because how are you going to hit something  
if you don’t know what it is?”  
Jordan Peterson

## EVIL, & THE GULAG

Peterson's biggest section in his *Maps of Meaning* book is chapter five titled "The Hostile Brothers." One of these "hostile brothers" or "eternal sons of God" is the mythological hero. The other "son of God" is the eternal adversary that has a personality in two forms that are inseparably linked. The fascist sacrifices his soul while the decadent wants to crush everything different. "The culture of the concentration camp stands as testimony to the desires of the adversary and as monument to his power."

"The pitfalls of fascism and decadence may be avoided through identification with the hero, the true individual...The hero rejects identification with the group as the ideal of life, preferring to follow the dictates of his conscience and his heart. His identification with meaning – and his refusal to sacrifice meaning for security – renders existence acceptable, despite its tragedy" (pp. 307-308).

Key to this chapter:

Eliade	Nietzsche	Milton	Goethe	Tolstoy
Shakespeare	Solzhenitsyn	Joyce	Frankl	Lao Tzu
Arendt	Frye	Jaeger	Exodus	Luke
Jung	Piaget	Socrates	Gospel of Thomas	

In the middle of chapter five is a section of interest titled "The Adversary In Action: A Twentieth-Century Allegory."

"Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn describes how 'order and predictability' were thereby established in the Soviet Union, during Stalin's extensive reign of terror...The invention, establishment and perfection of the concentration camp, the efficient genocidal machine, might be regarded as the crowing achievement of human technological and cultural endeavor, motivated by resentment and loathing for life. Invented by the English, rendered efficient by the Germans, applied on a massive scale by the Soviets and the Chinese, revived by the Balkan conflict...Tens of million of innocent people have be dehumanized, enslaved and sacrificed in these efficient disassembly lines...the very name *Camp, death camp, concentration camp...*(p. 343).

Solzhenitsyn, quoted more in this chapter than anyone else, talks about "The day of our future *release*? It shines like a rising sun!

And the conclusion is: Survive to reach it! Survive! At any price!...

And whoever takes that vow, whoever does not blink before its crimson burst-allows his own misfortune to overshadow both the entire common misfortune and the whole world.

This is the great fork of camp life. From this point the roads go to the right and to the left. One of them will rise, and the other will descend. If you go to the right you lose your life, and if you go to the left – you lose your conscience" (p. 346).

“Man is not merely innately aggressive...it is in fact slavish adherence to the forces of socialization...that enables him to participate in production of the most truly efficient and organized of human evils. It was the discipline of the Germans, not their criminality, that made the Nazis fearsome. It was the loyalty, patriotism and commitment of the Soviet and Chinese communists that enabled the mass persecution and destructive-labor camp elimination of their countrymen...Man created society...Man chooses evil...Man despises life, his own life, his own weak life, and the vulnerability of others, and constantly works to lay waste, to undermine, to destroy, to torment, to abuse and devour” (p. 347).

Which way I fly is Hell: myself am Hell;  
And in the lowest deep a lower deep  
Still threatening to devour me opens wide.  
To which the Hell I suffer seems a Heaven.

Milton (p. 363).

“The great dragon of chaos limits the pursuit of individual interest. The struggle with the dragon – against the forces that devour will and hope – constitutes the heroic battles in the mythological world...

“Interest is meaning. Meaning is manifestation of the divine individual adaptive path. The lie is abandonment of individual interest – hence meaning, hence divinity – for safety and security; is sacrifice of the individual to appease the Great Mother and Great Father” (p. 467).

“The human purpose, if such a thing can be considered, is to pursue meaning – to extend the domain of light, of consciousness – despite limitation.

“Meaning is the most profound manifestation of instinct. Man is a creature attracted by the unknown; a creature adapted for its conquest” (p. 468).

“Meaning is the instinct that makes life possible. When it is abandoned, individuality loses its redeeming power. The great lie is that meaning does not exist, or that it is not important. When meaning is denied, hatred for life and the wish for its destruction inevitably rules:

If you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth will save you.

If you do not bring forth what is within you, what you do not bring forth will destroy you.

Gospel of Thomas, saying 70.





**USEFUL URLs – (This is another very small sample but you will have a handle if you see these.)**

[Watch The Rise Of Jordan Peterson | Prime Video \(amazon.com\)](#) (1:30)

[Viral: The Origin of Covid 19 | Matt Ridley | EP 310 - YouTube](#) (1:52:35)

[Jordan Peterson's INCREDIBLE Journey To GOD | Heartbreaking Moments on His FAITH - YouTube](#)(18:06)

[50 Greatest Jordan Peterson YouTube Videos On The Internet | HighExistence](#)

[Jordan Peterson - Deep Knowledge Of Evil Will Straighten You Out - YouTube](#) (5:52)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w84uRYg0Uc8> (1:41:04)

2017 Personality 13: Existentialism via Solzhenitsyn and the Gulag March 11, 2017

<https://merionwest.com/2020/11/25/jordan-peterson-biographer-on-why-people-hate-him-so-much/>



[iGen: Narcissism and Neuroticism | Dr. Jean Twenge | #303 - Bing video](#) (1:16:28)

[Jordan Peterson - How Narcissistic Psychopaths Fool You - Bing video](#) (5:19)

[Jordan Peterson ~ What Is Evil? - Bing video](#) (6:23)

[Jordan Peterson: Why I Married My Wife - Bing video](#) (4:12)

[How Hitler was Even More Evil Than You Think - Prof. Jordan Peterson - Bing video](#) (4:23)

[Dr. Jordan Peterson - How to read and understand anything - Bing video](#) (2:23) read, write, and think.

[Jordan Peterson debate on the gender pay gap, campus protests and postmodernism - Bing video](#) (29:56)

[The Greatest Advice You Will Ever Receive | Jordan Peterson Motivation - Bing video](#) (10:30)

[Jordan Peterson Wife: The Truth About Tammy Peterson | WHO Magazine](#)

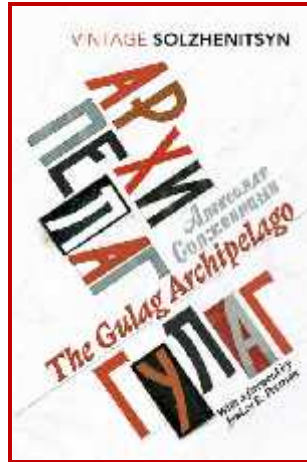
[Mikhaila Peterson - YouTube](#) - TEDx Wouldn't Post This...(10:46)

[Dr. Jordan Peterson | PRETTY INTENSE PODCAST | Ep. 104 - PART 1 - YouTube](#) (48:09)

[Lecture: 2017 Maps of Meaning 01: Context and Background - YouTube](#) (2:31:26)

[2017 Maps of Meaning 02: Marionettes & Individuals \(Part 1\) - YouTube](#) – last 30 mins Pinocchio

[2017 Maps of Meaning 03: Marionettes and Individuals \(Part 2\) - YouTube](#) – at end of 1<sup>st</sup> hr. Pinocchio



Forward by Peterson

## EXISTENTIAL CODA

[Jordan Peterson | Great Books \(jordanbpeterson.com\)](http://jordanbpeterson.com)

This paper will never be finished – but that’s OK! – we must just keep adding to our notes and URLs.

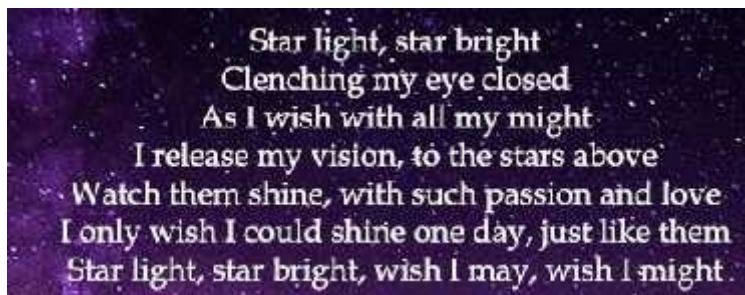
**Classical liberalism** is a [political tradition](#) and a [branch](#) of [liberalism](#) that advocates [free market](#) and [laissez-faire](#) economics; [civil liberties](#) under the [rule of law](#) with emphasis on individual autonomy, [limited government](#), [economic freedom](#), [political freedom](#) and [freedom of speech](#).

Time to end this paper and move on with the research but having just gotten a handle on “intrapyschic degeneration and decadence” (you did just see this...) there are still a couple of items.

Having covered Peterson with a wide brush, you may (like me) be in awe, be ready to read some more, or ready to let it pass by. You may be ready (like me) to stand back and reflect, as I have been moved to another level with my life and perhaps for the possibility of my life being more authentic. And this is where (very briefly) I want to go.

First, his class room lectures are just really tough to sit through. I would hate to take the quiz after each lesson in any of the three 2017 Maps of Meaning (see above). He is piercing! I would have to record all he said and take notes later, as my attention is not only on what he is saying but on his antics, pacing, and arm waving - with his no notes lecture...this means he is good - he is really good.

I will tell you how good and save you some more time. His hour or so (in two lessons) on Pinocchio will water your eyes. See where he ends with 30 mins on Part 1 and starts Part 1 with his story.



*He will have you wishing upon a star...*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w84uRYq0Uc8> (1:41:04)

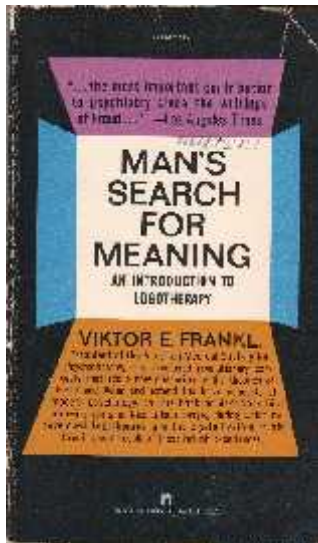
2017 Personality 13: Existentialism via Solzhenitsyn and the Gulag. March 11, 2017

Let me also save you some more time with this lecture – go to end to around 1:25 – where he finishes with comments on suffering and existentialism. These last 15 minutes hold the case for why he is admired so much. Noting he and I are both proud existentialists.

*Life is suffering. Arbitrary of the life span and the suffering is a consequence, like the death of family for instance, The existential case on that includes those people like Solzhenitsyn, Frankl, Dostoyevsky, and Nietzsche. **The proper pathway through that is to adopt the mode of authentic being, something like refusing to participate in the lie, in the deception of the lie, to orientate your speech as much as you can towards the truth - and take responsibility for your own life - and perhaps for the lives of other people.***

*Abstract* – for Dr. Peterson’s PSY 434 class at U. of Toronto:

This course is based on the book [Maps of Meaning: The Architecture of Belief](#). Maps of Meaning lays bare the grammar of mythology, and describes the relevance of that grammar for interpretation of narrative and religion, comprehension of ideological identification, and understanding of the role that individual choice plays in the maintenance, transformation and destiny of social systems.



This book was bought in 1970 from the book list with the Ecumenical Institute where I was studying in Dallas. This was a church renewal program. Their ideas were a whole lot like Peterson’s – and the Fourth Gospel.

### **LAST STORY**

The theme of Peterson’s 25 pages in Chapter 5 of his ‘Text book’ fits in line with some of what Frankl talks about in his book. They go hand in hand. It is noted that Peterson will point out that Hitler, Stalin, and Mao killed somewhere close to 100 million people – or they were responsible for those people being killed. This means their troops, people, or followers did the actual shooting, burning, and killing. Peterson makes it clear that we all have the same evil in us – which took me back when I first heard it.

What he was leading to, and for sure comes out in Frankl's book, was the treatment of the prisoners who were helping, for instance, the Nazi prison staff – the ones that were treating the Jews/prisoners so horribly. How could a person sent to a concentration camp become one who is helping the guards do the work of a guard? Who's side were they on? What kind of evil is this? One point here is to say this was not Hitler doing this but it was his Germans doing it. Someone else was pulling the triggers, pushing live children into furnaces, herding the people into the gassing rooms and dropping cans of Zyklon B.

There are at least two answers. One is the will to survive. They were given a choice to take it or to give it out. By taking the job they got some privileges and to stay alive they took the job. Other folks had the choice of "take the job" or "take a Luger shot in your head." (p. 14 "You go right, or go to the left...)

Some of these stories played out in the TV series of "War and Remembrance" with Robert Mitchum and Jane Seymour. Once you have seen the horrors of the death camp at Auschwitz it is difficult to watch them again...Oswiecim, Poland was not a good destination in a train car.<sup>3</sup>

One of the reasons I like Peterson is that he has probably already published a YouTube documentary on anything you want to know – especially in these days and times of our Socialist driven world. I like him because he is doing more work of the Lord than anybody else I know – especially with his "Daily Wire" programs and his podcasts...He is getting the Word, the Being, the Way, out to the world. I like Peterson because we have some of the same books in our Book Lists – especially books on existentialism.

Speaking of books, Hitler, and the Germans, Peterson and I share the author William L. Shirer. We have listed different books by Shirer (both on my Book List) but I want to tell a story about Shirer's book *Berlin Diary*. (Peterson would lecture "You must read this book!"). It seems fitting to end here as he has motivated and inspired me to think about choices differently.

Shirer was a War Correspondent in Europe from 1934 to 1941 working with Ed Murrow and reporting from all the big cities as Germany was taking over Europe. His job was to follow the German progress, report the hot spots, and had some opportunity to be in and around Hitler on about five occasions. This "being around Hitler" is a troubling point for me.

One of these 'opportunities' was on September 22, 1938 (what a great year that was) and in the small Wagnerian town of Godesberg – "this lovely Rhine town." Shirer says "This morning I noticed something very interesting. I was having breakfast in the garden of the Dreesen Hotel, where Hitler is stopping, when the great man suddenly appeared, strode past me, and went down to the edge of the Rhine to inspect his river yacht." He then discusses the nervous tic in Hitler as every few steps he would cock his right shoulder nervously, his left leg snapping up as he did so...He had ugly black patches under his eyes." People the night before called him the "*Teppichfresser*" the "carpet-eater"..."when he goes on a rampage he flings himself to the floor and he chews the edges of the carpet, hence the *Teppichresser* (p. 137).

This has troubled me since the first time I read it. Here is history in the making reported by someone who was there. Surely, he knew how bad this "great man" was and what he was doing to the world.

He missed it. Shirer had the chance – He should have seen the golden chance to save the world from war.

When Hitler "strode past me" he should have done a Jack Ruby.

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<sup>3</sup> See "Musings – War Movie" in my *Komm und nimm es!* folder on my Web site: [www.gheart.net](http://www.gheart.net)