

Humility vs. Magnanimity

Humility and magnanimity:
both deal with greatness;
but humility excludes
the wrong reason,
whereas magnanimity supplies
the proper dimensions.

Humility digs deeper
to enable magnanimity
to build higher.

Humility localizes
our position;
magnanimity increases
our capacity;
Humility corrects
our vision;
magnanimity enlarges
our scope.
Humility checks
our reach;
magnanimity expands
our embrace.

Humility prevents us
from transgressing
the other's territory;
magnanimity invites us
to push back
our personal boundaries.

The big shot
lacks humility;
the big-hearted
live magnanimously.

Lacking humility,
we are puffed up
with pride;
lacking magnanimity,
we dwindle down
to stinginess.

Without humility
the high opinion
of ourselves
is matched by
the low esteem
of our acquaintances.
Without magnanimity
the cell of our souls
has no room for
numerous relationships.

Lacking humility,
we think we deserve
a palace;
lacking magnanimity,
we abide in
a dungeon.
Lacking humility,
we put on airs;
lacking magnanimity,
we are nothing
but air.

In the larger scheme of things,
therefore,
the answer to where
we fit in
is hidden in humility,
but the key to how much
can fit in us
is manifest in magnanimity.

© Msgr. Walter Niebrzydowski
April 2, 2000
Fr-Walter@nyc.rr.com
www.fatherwaltersparish.org