

## JUDGE A MAN

Wes was looking over the packages of processed meat. He seemed to appreciate some salami and cheese. He would pick up some rolls for sandwiches. His food seemed very dynamic.

“I eat food that gives us energy. Medical science has been trying to delude us about what is good for our bodies. All this nonsense about cholesterol. Those early studies were all flawed.”

He wanted to eliminate the causes of infection. He wanted to liberate the hidden power in the body. There was something almost authoritarian in his view. This was all part of his seduction. He was convincing others to follow his way of life. And food could be an important part of this indoctrination.

“I want you to feel like I do.”

That could be the start. If he could control diet, his method could be more convincing. It only needed a spark to get things in gear, It was almost like hypnosis. He worked that way. He could easily convince others.

Indeed, there was supreme method to his madness. He seemed to be preparing for his own version of battle. He needed to fortify the animal.

This was no just a philosophy. He needed to apply himself to the moment.

“Eat your way to liberation.”

“Are you mocking me?”

“Wes, I am trying to give credence to your ideas.”

“It still sounds cynical on your part.”

“You are asking people to make radical changes. What would you expect?”

***“Have you ever thought that you were disrupting human consciousness? People need to think about their lives. They can’t get caught up in bull shit. You are laying it on thick.”***

***“What is your criticism?”***

***“You live life as it happens. You cannot impose this complex theory.”***

Wes loved to share. It gave him a sense of authority. He wanted to be a health guru. That would only be the first step. He would get other people to follow his tutelage. They could do this on their own. When they came back to him, they would be ever more devoted. That added to his reputation.

If a person could ground self-help in diet, that could be fundamental to the program. Some dietary choices could be challenging. People were going against years of conditioning. But in some cases, it only took a few bites to start the change. And this was the foundation to the technique.

***“You can eat your way to progress. You are changing the world one bite at a time.”***

***“Are you mocking me again?”***

***“I am giving you credibility for the simplicity of your philosophy.”***

A chunk of cheese would be enough to affirm this perspective. I felt as if I was a suitable observer for these effects.

***“What would happen to the rat if he broke into a cheese factory? The initial benefits might be amazing. But he could only exercise so much. The blessings would be short-termed. Then he would face threats to the circulatory system.”***

***“That is hardly fair.”***

*"I am only being honest about the actual effects."*

*"The real effects are excitatory. You are promoting human desire. The stimulation of the libido leads to greater development for the individual."*

*"I am not comfortable talking about things that way."*

*"This is supposed to lead to excitatory states."*

*"If she eats the sandwich, will she find you irresistible?"*

I could only hope that We was offering more. I wanted to be more sympathetic. He wasn't just teaching how to control people with diet.

*"Diet can be the first step to a complete transformation."*

*"Does diet cause a person to be more empathetic?"*

*"You eat what makes you feel good."*

*"Does it make you more caring?"*

*"Is this a caring universe?"*

*"What is a key feature of this overall concern?"*

*"Did you eat everything on your plate?"*

*"The plate is a work of art."*

*"Why damage it with food?"*

*"I am at my wit's end."*

*"Is food too remote a resource?"*

*"You can eat better."*

*"What should I add to the meal?"*

*"I like to be watched."*

*"What if there was a pill that I could take?"*

*"It would encourage you not to eat."*

*"That could be step toward devolution."*

*"Where are you headed?"*

*"I am too locked into my way of being."*

*"Eat all of this."*

*"There is a variety of fortifying foods on the plate."*

*"What would you add?"*

*"Less vegetables. More meat. You are training to become a lion."*

*"How long does that take?"*

*"Any transformation takes time."*

*"We have given too much time to actions that produce no lasting changes."*

*"This will make you feel great."*

*"What is it? What is in it?"*

*"There are alternatives."*

*"Why are you not looking?"*

*"Read the book first. It offers tips."*

*"Where should I start?"*

*"Eliminate seeds. You are not going to plant yourself."*

*"Could social change result no matter what dietary choice that you followed?"*

*"Eat this idea!"*

*"What about bones?"*

*"Are the bones blessed?"*

*“Is any of this sacred?”*  
*“Do sacred food accelerate the process?”*  
*“Where did you come in?”*  
*“You could start small.”*  
*“I feel as if I am dying.”*  
*“I left a treat for the rat.”*  
*“That project takes a while.”*  
*“I once had a parrot who could recite poems. The performances often seemed inappropriate.”*  
*“This is a sad poem.”*  
*“Eat your sandwich, honey.”*  
*“I am in the process of complete transformation.”*  
*“What is the voice?”*  
*“That is a fortifying meal.”*  
*“That is the basis for a more prolonged change.”*  
*“Many of my questions have vanished.”*  
*“Give me another sandwich.”*  
*“This is a long process.”*  
*“You only need to admit your errors.”*  
*“How can the ingestion of a sandwich lead to a deep social transformation?”*  
*“Are you mocking me?”*  
*“Are you mocking my political outlook?”*  
*“You are not the first personal who believed that you can change the world by legislating diet.”*  
*“I never said that.”*  
*“What would you put it in the bowl?”*  
*“This is a food that could feed a continent.”*  
*“That should be a noble goal.”*  
*“Where will this end up?”*  
*“What has been added, and what has been left out?”*  
*“History could be a menu.”*  
*“What is left out?”*  
*“Add the seasoning.”*  
*“Is that radical?”*  
*“Again, you are mocking me.”*  
*“I hate the fact that I am only thinking about sleeping.”*  
*“That is the basis for two opposing philosophies. One believes that the basis of social change is diet. The other is convinced that a good meal can change everything.”*  
*“Food insecurity is a serious issue.”*  
*“I am not talking about that.”*  
*“You are pursuing the full lion diet.”*  
*“You seek your prey.”*  
*“You need to be hungry to satisfy your diet.”*  
*“You eat like a bird.”*  
*“What are you eating?”*

“I like the mac n’ cheese.”

This was supposed to be fortifying.

“We are seeing this in very different ways.”

“I don’t think that you know what I am really saying.”

Was I losing my critical eye. I was granting Wes too much independence in developing his idea.

“You can’t stay the way that you are.”

“What would be a suitable basis for personal transformation?”

“We each have a personal method.”

“Where did this end up?”

“You need to take a risk for what you believe.”

“Maybe, you believe in nothing.”

This was where Wes would jump in. He had been planning his development. What was the cue?

“All that matters is the process.”

“Do you want to learn about something new?”

“There is nothing new under the sun.”

“It might be new for you. You could benefit from a new idea.”

“I have a lot to talk about.”

“The transformative power of meat.”

“All animal products.”

“I am going to eat the spinach.”

“You are satisfied.”

***“This is code, and you need to understand how to interpret these words.”***

***“Are you trying to escape something?”***

***“Bad vibes.”***

***“My body is not working with itself.”***

***“Nothing is as it seems.”***

***“I am looking for a new kind of seeming.”***

***“We are matching images.”***

***“You would be so much happier somewhere else.”***

***“Wes, what do you want from me.”***

***“You tell everyone what she wants to hear.”***

***“I have nothing to say.”***

***“Make yourself a meal.”***

***“Your grocery bill is quite high. How long will that last?”***

***“I want to see something that I don’t see.”***

***“Have another bite.”***

***“This is easier than you think.”***

***“Do you want to be like this forever?”***

***“I WILL FEEL MUCH BETTER TOMORROW.”***

***“Have another sandwich.”***

***“Are you making contact?”***

***“There is a lot to think about.”***

***“I have it boiled down to simple terms.”***

*“This is going to be lovely.”*

*“Don’t ask.”*

*“DO YOU HAVE SOME MUSTARD?”*

*“What else is there?”*

*“Something dainty.”*

*“Someone who really care.”*

*“I AM NOT THAT DEEP!”*

*“This talk about food can substitute for more complex discussions about social behavior.”*

*“Change how you want to act.”*

*“Change one little thing.”*

*“Eat the seed.”*

*“Do I look like a tree?”*

*“Someone chopped down th tree.”*

*“This is where you want to be.”*

*“Chop down the tree.”*

*“Eat the sandwich, or I will.”*

*“Everyone knows.”*

*“I AM FALLING.”*

There was really not that kind of drama in his life. He learned how to cast off the confusions.

*“I am working.”*

*“You do not need to be like this. You do not have to work all the time.”*

*“Life does not force you to do things that you do not want to do.”*

*“Who is telling you this?”*

*“Wes, continue your lesson.”*

*“I am running out of ideas.”*

*“Who brought you here?”*

*“Be more specific.”*

*“How did you reach that point?”*

*“I do not have to love it.”*

*“There are some people who make a career out of getting others to love them. But there is no love directed in the other direction.”*

*“That is all a matter of balance of payments.”*

*“What flows in the easterly direction?”*

*“What do you need that no one else has?”*

*“There are no risks.”*

*“You work in a sandwich shop.”*

*“You alter the menu.”*

*“I go to sleep and think about food.”*

*“Can I have all of that?”*

*“You are the fortunate one.”*

*“What do you really want to be doing?”*

*“Making smaller portions.”*

*“Are you satisfying me?”*

**“ARE YOU SATISFYING ME?”**  
**“Are these behaviors comparable for different souls?”**  
**“There are other ways to learn.”**  
**“Turn me on.”**  
**“I need someone to take a bite.”**  
**“Take a chance.”**  
**“Take two!”**  
**“I know what all that means.”**  
**“What does it mean?”**  
**“YOU DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOR BREAKFAST..”**  
**“When you say that you can please other people, what does that mean?”**  
**“Give more of the soul.”**  
**“Describe these employees.”**  
**“I am not working. I find ways to get money.”**  
**“What do you call your money?”**  
**“I was right about one thing.”**  
**“I am favored. But I am not doing favors for anyone.”**  
**“How does that work?”**  
**“You are going to have to make choices.”**  
**“That is an important first step.”**  
**“I do not want to see it like that.”**  
**“Do you like it like that?”**  
**“I wished that I livee like that.”**  
**“Make one step.”**  
**“Have a bite.”**  
**“Remodel the living room.”**  
**“I have a closet.”**  
**“This is a mess.”**  
**“I cannot be responsible.”**  
**“The closet opens up other possibilities.”**  
**“Do you want to know?”**  
**“Where do you work?”**  
**“I work for myself.”**  
**“Are you freelance?”**  
**“I AM THE SHOW.”**  
**“Are people observing everything that you do.”**  
**“Some things are private.”**  
**“The private is a less public.”**  
**“You would know. You put on shows.”**  
**“I need you to show me.”**  
**“You will not be able to say no.”**  
**“Wes, what does she mean by that?”**  
**“She understands things.”**  
**“Share the understanding.”**  
**“I SAW ENOUGH.”**

“It is all about your bank account.”  
 “You clear out yourself.”  
 “I thought that you would teach me.”  
 “It never works like that.”  
 “Add to the account.”  
 “The account could be compromised.”  
 “I saw what I needed to see.”  
 “I saw more.”  
 “Has the account changed?”  
 “You are still around.”  
 “That is a good place to start.”  
 “That is a good place to change.”  
 “What skills can you offer?”  
 “You tell me,”  
 “I am going to clean you out.”  
 “Clean me out.”  
 “Money to burn.”  
 “That cannot be.”  
 “Who is in control?”  
 “NO ONE!”  
 “The sandwich. That is why you have to change you diet.”  
 “This is a syndrome. You think that people are watching.”  
 “People are watching.”  
 “IS THAT ALL?”  
 “She got a plane.”  
 “She is not part of the story.”  
 “Someone needs to make a move.”  
 “Put your cards on the table.”  
 “I was loved. I loved. I hurt. I tried to forget.”  
 “That is not part of the program. Do not be possessive.”  
 “I want to know.”  
 “Eat! Find something that will satisfy you.”  
 “It is a flesh-consuming bacteria.”  
 “You need to observe the food supply”  
 “I want immortality.”  
 “Eat the salami.”  
 “Why are you playing with your fan?”  
 “*You are hot.*”  
 “*I am going to get what I want.*”  
 “*They offer me houses. They offer me cars They offer me planes. Take it all.*”  
 “*You need to learn how to do it.*”  
 “*What is your competition, Wes?*”  
 “*I an break it all down. I have skills. I am good at this.*”  
 “*Can I join in?*”  
 “*I need to forget about it all.*”

***“WOW!”***

***“This is amazing.”***

***“The sandwich speaks.”***

***“Someone has an audience.”***

***“This is odd.”***

***“What do I get?”***

***“It is nothing like that.”***

***“Keep a food diet.”***

***“I found this.”***

***“Do you want to do it?”***

***“What are you really doing?”***

***“Signing checks.”***

***“Giving a performance.”***

***“Will someone say no?”***

***“We all say no.”***

***“I am working as an agent. I can get you gigs. You can give beauty tips. You can sell shit.”***

***“What team are you on?”***

***“I am on your team.”***

***“You could market your product better.”***

***“I am the product.”***

***“I am looking for intersecting markets.”***

***“Cross-product elasticities.”***

***“I am bending and turning.”***

***“Do you have what you need?”***

***“What is the only way out?”***

***“We need the now.”***

***“What are our liquid assets?”***

***“Everyone undersells.”***

***“What is there here.”***

***“We have almost found the link.”***

***“There are three.”***

***“The story needs to be completed.”***

***“That is one part.”***

***“What is the product?”***

***“I am the product.”***

***“Give me the salami.”***

***“Just the bologna.”***

***“How does that work?”***

***“You ask for something that you cannot have.”***

***“You need more hardware.”***

***“Just give me the chance to get close to you.”***

***“How are you going to close?”***

***“I have a purpose. That is all that matter.”***

***“There are liquid assets. That is all that matters.”***



**“Hardware.”**

**“There is going to be a markdown.”**

**“You amortize the cost.”**

**“That is how I feel.”**

**“Who really knows?”**

**“Things are moving too quickly.”**

**“This is what I’ve got. It is more than I know.”**

**“These are plans.”**

**“I hated engineering.”**

**“You can build things.”**

**“I am in human engineering.”**

**“Add more parts.”**

Wes wanted to describe the hot girl syndrome. The woman recognized how she could manipulate men. This became a simple exchange. So guys felt that they could name the price. They would pay to send the girl to college. They would be willing to send gifts. In return, she only had a smile. There was this expectation that she might offer more. However, there were always these expectations. Everything was based on belief. And the girl could continue to embellish this offer. She could always raise the ante. It might start with a simple pledge.

Maybe she wanted to necklace. That wouldn’t be enough. She was looking for a more expensive return. Something that moved fast in the night. She could be looking for a BMW convertible. If she was lucky, she could score a private plane. There were a numerous options. She only had to push her plan. If he wasn’t willing to play along, she could find someone else. She would let every guy know this. The relationship was always tenuous. That only meant that the woman could get more.

Five years ago, she kept asking for more. Nothing was permanent. The economic challenges became came more intense. Any hot girl could easily be replaced by another. She tried to enhance her image. This was an unstable relationship.

It was confusing. Where was this headed? A guy might put a woman in a house. She thought that this was paradise. That wouldn’t last. She knew how this relationship was contingent. She could satisfy her desire. She sought a greater benefit.

He might believe that he could offer love. Or he could offer a stronger pledge. He would give her the world.

Wes loved this regime. He thought that he could do one better. He would be the proof against the hot girl syndrome. He could always find the way to convince anyone. That would add credibility to his method. He only went one on one with locals. So he had no evidence that he could take on a formidable opponent. It wasn’t as if he had that much to offer beyond his tap dance routine. But he was working on total devotion to his method, and he was sure that he could make it through,

The more that he talked about the syndrome, the more he added to its mystique. There was no deeper social awareness. Everything was on the table. That only added to Wes’s belief. He was going to provide a new way to look at the world. This was part of his mastery. He wanted to win under any circumstances.

He was creating a suitable opponent for these efforts. He believe that he could succeed every time. That added to his belief. If he could win a hot girl, he could accomplish anything. He was dealing with locals. And they had few resources to counteract his advances. This was

only the beginning. No matter what, he was depending on this belief. It could sustain him over time. In his own mind, he had created the perfect monster.

What could she do if she couldn't keep cashing in? She could always sell out for affection. She wasn't the first to make a life out of love. Whatever she held back, she could apply later in life. If she kept her wits about her, she could trade up.

She believed that no pledge was great enough. Wes was no different. He felt that he could command attention. He loved to participate. That only made him more skillful. It might be worth a song.

Wes continued to add to this fiction. And I wanted to be sympathetic. I had heard all of this before. Wes was only slicing off his version of the American Dream. I would gladly hear his version to help fill in for the full story. He was playing catch up from the start. So I wanted to offer him credibility.

Since he lacked self-consciousness, Wes was trapped between his voyeur and his exhibitionist natures. He believed that he was creating his own view of the world.

Wes didn't offer a profound observation of society. There were people making bank off the system, and they were willing to gamble away their excess. There was nothing permanent. No caring. No personal growth. The economic model was simple. It was only one part of a system of exploitation.

Deep in the shit, anything was willing to go one deeper. And Wes thought that he was chronicling this story. That only added to his voyeuristic nature. He believed that he was depicting more desperate people. But he was only provoking their desperation.

Ultimately, he thought that he was the bearer of bad news. He could wreak enough havoc anyone's bad dream. The nightmare would only become worse. That might not have been his starting point. But it drifted in that direction.

Wes was adding new strategies. That only made him more attuned to the bizarre. He was studying a world that was descending into depravity. It could be even worse than imagined. That hardly stopped him. He realized that he was prepping himself for his future.

How did that matter? He was supposed to be an artist. But his art was becoming more compromised. Wes could have used this as his cue. However, he didn't want to ruin his vibe. For what it was worth, he wanted to stay in control. That still made him the guru to these young men. They enjoyed his bravado, so he needed to make sure that he did not come apart. His stability was his main appeal.

He couldn't promise success if he failed himself. Success meant that he needed to keep moving. He didn't want to become too vulnerable.

Wes was not trying to get over lost love. He wasn't willing to give that much of himself. He made sure that no one was going to ask him questions that he couldn't answer. That became part of his method. This was the right moment to play another song on his guitar. If others could be this nonchalant, they would be adept at applying his technique.

Wes didn't want anyone to think that he was shallow. He added philosophy to common sense. He believed that he had discovered something important. It was all about giving pleasure. He was looking for this harmony in all his interactions.

I didn't want to give up on Wes. But I needed more than entertainment. I wanted him to be more informative. I couldn't really ask him to be something that he wasn't. I could use another break.

***“What does it matter if we are all looking for fun?”***

*“How much are you paying in rent?”*

*“I make just enough for expenses.”*

*“What are you eating?”*

*“This is not what I expect.”*

*“Who brought you here?”*

*“I am the Messiah.”*

**“The human being has only one goal.”**

**“You are ruining it for the world.”**

**“People have to admit what is bothering them.”**

**“We need to make a deal.”**

**“You need to get rid of your inhibitions.”**