



With apologies to all ornithologists

A large black bird perched on the balcony of the Australian beachfront condominium rented for me while giving lectures there. The bird was large, its eyes a scorching yellow. I could not help but observe its activity.

Its eyes were posited on either side of its head. It seemed unable to look forward, but only to its surroundings. The bird would cock its head in such a way that it looked at both floor and ceiling at the same time, looking for insect snacks. It would flutter to ceiling or drop to floor, turning its head at the last minute to grab the insect. The bird was all peripheral vision. It survived by learning to cope with its limitations and capitalizing on its assets.

There is a lesson here for the visionary person. We are equipped to make sense of the periphery, while the rest of the world seems rather monocular. While both forms of sight are a mix of opportunity and challenge, the truly visionary person is in the minority. Thus they have a two-fold challenge.

- a.) to find a way to be true to their visionary ability, even when misunderstood.
- b.) to bring their ability to make correlations from the periphery into the line of sight that others enjoy.

Visionaries who accept these challenges are the ones who realize how badly they need those whose line of sight is straight ahead. They need them for the detailed tasks required by the vision. They need them because they are vastly outnumbered. Visionaries who accept these challenges are those who stand at the end of life and celebrate a body of work completed and a contribution made rather than a dashed dream.

"The truly visionary person is in the minority."

-mark