



DIVISION OF
Arts and Sciences

Arts and Sciences Division
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Dear Arts & Sciences Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Hello, I am Jason Stone, the Division Head of Arts & Sciences at OSU-OKC. Let's continue our conversation about your future. I am delighted that you chose to invest in yourself and attend to the next video in our series about the Habits of the Mind. The Habit that we are stressing in this video is Responding with Wonderment and Awe.

To me, this mental habit is about being excited about learning new things and allowing yourself to be impressed by natural phenomena and by the beauty of the world around you. Children are naturally hard-wired to find wonderment and awe. The often heard popular expression uses the phrase, "looking with child's eyes" because looking at something with the eyes of a child is to open up to new ways of experiencing familiar phenomena and to looking at something with a fresh perspective. People who look at the world with wonderment and awe understand how little they know and are constantly excited about learning more about how the world works.

Remember, ignorance is not bliss, but rather pain. Socrates once famously said, "Wisdom begins with wonderment." A character from popular culture who personifies that love of wisdom stemming from wonderment is Dr. Sheldon Cooper of the Big Bang Theory. Dr. Cooper's catch phrases adorn t-shirts all over the world. In fact, my daughter recently purchased a "Bazinga" shirt. One of the reasons that we find Dr. Cooper so endearing is because he shares both his knowledge and his wonderment and awe at the things that he does not yet fully grasp. Despite his patented arrogance, we are endeared to his quirky honesty and his deep appreciate and wonderment for a world that is wired differently than he is.

A mid-evil incarnation of Sheldon Cooper was Leonardo da Vinci. Da Vinci was fascinated by the natural world. He allowed his wonderment and awe to fill the pages of his sketch books. Some of which have sold for millions of dollars. Prints of others adorn my office. Da Vinci conducted extensive investigations of birds in flight, cats at play, and horses galloping. Da Vinci's wonderment at the natural word was not just limited to birds. By da Vinci's own account, he dissected over 30 human corpses during a time when such inquiry was illegal. Da Vinci indulged his wonderment and awe and advanced the knowledge of humanity as a result.

In closing, I would like to leave you with a quotation that I enjoyed while researching about this habit, E. Merrill Root, the college professor and poet and activist said, "We need a renaissance of wonder. We need to renew, in our hearts and in our souls, the deathless dream, the eternal poetry, the perennial sense that life is miracle and magic."



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Pease join me and attend to the other videos in this series. Invest in yourself and your future. Attend to your thinking habits. Your mental habits will determine how far you go. Thank you for your time and attention.

Have a great day and "Go Pokes!"

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