

MY QUEST as an artist is to document my world and to comment on life. I began writing my essays in 1987. From the start I have worked on them every day and night; in fact, all but every minute of every day and every night. **T**he book is not finished - it never will be, "*an essay (a poem) is never finished, only abandoned*" (Paul Valéry); "*has anybody ever finished anything?*"* (Leonardo da Vinci). Yet, I herewith hand my life's work over to you, dear reader. **T**his is my response to the likely criticism of my writings: (other than photography) I have formally studied nothing; I am a follower of nothing and I know nothing - except the fact of my frivolity. My writings are frivolous by design; **I** prefer flippant succinctness over learned elaboration, controversy over predictability, the wicked over the banal. I copy and acquire with abandon, see ECLECTICISM, hence my book is 'open source' (conditions apply, see below**). **I** quote selectively - often out of context; I may give a quote or a phrase a new meaning - to create a new reality. I may challenge, contradict or distort truths - to make a point ... while always bearing in mind the principle of uncertainty. **O**ne of Bertrand Russell's commandments (p. 110) is most pertinent in the context of my writings: "*Do not fear to be eccentric with your opinions.*" I cherish that idea of '*no fear*'; this saying epitomises the spirit of my work. **M**ission statement: I like to think things through thoroughly (see p. 48); I wish to inspire readers to think about things as they never thought about them before. I trust my writings are thought provoking and a conversation starter (see p. 76). **M**y essays stand independently ... while they are nevertheless interconnected. The book is designed for them to be read one by one, with the bonus that there are links to related essays; open it at random and allow yourself to be surprised. **Y**es, do contact me - cb@carstenburmeister.com - with corrections of errors, they will be evaluated for the next edition; but please: Factual errors - yes; opinions - no. (Go ahead - write your own book!) **Carsten Burmeister**

**This is the reason why you are reading the 51st edition (a new edition every month or two). If you are keen you can trace the revisions on my website, go to ABOUT, then to BOOK REVISIONS.*

***While I reserve all rights as per relevant legislation, you may use any part of my writings as reference for your own work, but please mention this book and my blog / website as your source.*



en.light.en.ment
all rights reserved
© Carsten Burmeister
carstenburmeister.com
edition 51 ... May 2019
ISBN 978-0-9872977-1-6
first published 2012 Lulu.com