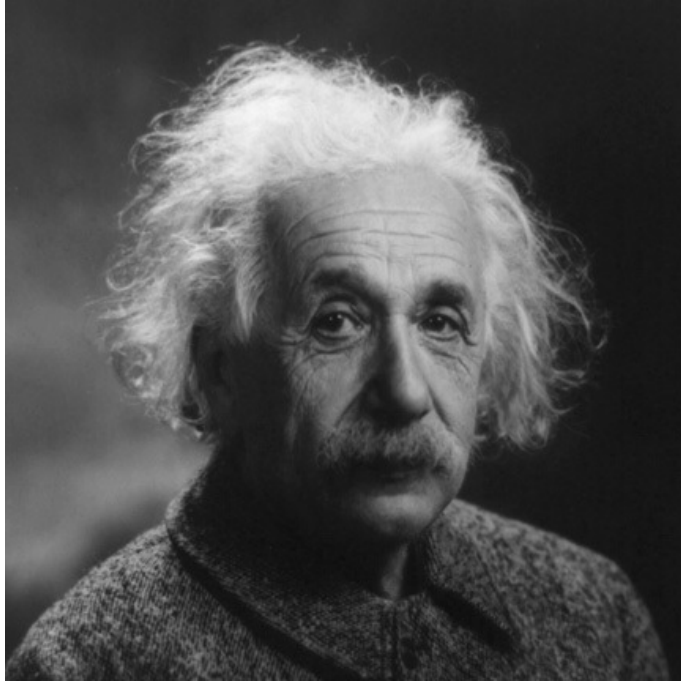


## Think, Think, Think

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So, I am a big fan of Albert Einstein. I enjoy learning all I can about him. I love his spirit, his sarcasm and his non-conforming attitude. Albert Einstein wasn't anything special when starting out in life. Certainly, he was intelligent but he came from a humble beginning and had all the same struggles everyone else does. He was a patent clerk with a failed marriage. BUT, Somewhere along the way, Albert allowed his mind to travel outside the box. He broke from traditional thinking and when he did, he changed the world. Perhaps that's why he is one of my heros.

Too often we look past the obvious or, even worse, we just live in our own mediocrity and we don't use our brains! We want the world to think for us. We start young when we adopt beliefs simply because our parents have them. Or we look at the religion of our childhood and never explore why we believe what we claim to believe. Maybe we allow teachers or friends to influence our minds yet we fail to ask questions, we just accept what they say as our own truth. Too often, we as humans, just go with the flow instead of using our God given gifts to think for ourselves.

Ask yourself these questions:

Why do you believe, spiritually speaking, the way you do?

What is it you love about the God you worship?

When did you take on the political stand you have?

Do you know why you vote the way you do?

What do you do to challenge your mind?

Do you shy away from thinking for yourself because you fear you may be wrong?

Are you a follower?

Take some time to explore your life and ask yourself how you became the person you are.

When my children were young, I encouraged them to ask questions and I discouraged them from believing everything I believed without knowing why. I wanted them to know why they believed so that they would never be afraid to take a stand for something. I love that my children are individuals and able to think for themselves. Certainly, that means that they don't always agree with me but you know, I even love that about them. I want them to THINK!

Here is a simple test. It's called Einstein's Riddle. It is said that Einstein came up with it early in the 19th century though there is no known proof he actually did. It is said that he believed 98% of people couldn't solve it even though it is simple. If that is true, why would only 2% of the people who attempt to solve it, actually complete it? Is that because of IQ? Is that because of right or left brain thinking? Or is it because they give up when they have to actually THINK about it.

Below you will find the riddle. If you want the answer, send me an email and I'll send it to you but better yet, think it out and work at solving it. I'd like to hear from you if you try to solve it too. Remember it's better to try and fail than not to try at all! Are you afraid to step out of the box?

**There are 5 houses in 5 different colors. In each house lives a person with a different nationality. The 5 owners drink a certain type of beverage, smoke a certain brand of cigar, and keep a certain pet. No owners have the same pet, smoke the same brand of cigar, or drink the same beverage. The question is: Who owns the fish?**

**Hints:**

- The Brit lives in the red house.
- The Swede keeps dogs as pets.
- The Dane drinks tea.
- The green house is on the left of the white house.
- The green homeowner drinks coffee.

- The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds.
- The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill.
- The man living in the center house drinks milk.
- The Norwegian lives in the first house.
- The man who smokes Blend lives next to the one who keeps cats.
- The man who keeps the horse lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill.
- The owner who smokes Bluemaster drinks beer.
- The German smokes prince.
- The Norwegian lives next to the blue house.
- The man who smokes Blend has a neighbor who drinks water.