

10 Cents

Foreword note: It just might be worth every cent.

On a sunny bright day with a warm breeze, a man sat at an elongated table that was covered with a nice light plastic table cloth taped down at the sides. A huge white poster sign of his business for the day taped down from the top of the table hung in front of the table with a nice beige canopy overhead was anchored with thin steel poles lightly shaded the man and the table. A summer's day awaited for all.

"One answer per one question!" "Ten cents!" "Get the answer of a life time today," the man called from his table out to the crowd that walked the town's streets to shop.

"Ten cents!" the man yelled while he sat at his table of business for the day. "One answer per one question!" "Get the answer of a life time today." "Ten cents!" "One answer per one question!" "Get the answer of a life time today." "Ten cents!"

"Dad, you got ten cents?" a boy asked his father as they walked the sidewalks of the downtown area and heard the man calling from his table. His dad reached into his jean pocket of his pants and pulled out a hand full of coins. "Here," his father said as he held the coin out and dropped the coin into his son's outstretched open palm.

"Thanks." "I'll be right back," the boy said. His father watched from a slight distance as his son approached the man that sat at an elongated table with the poster sign that said what he was yelling out to the crowd of shoppers on the street '*Ten Cents.*' '*One Answer Per One Question!*' '*Get The Answer Of A Life Time Today.*'

"Hi," the boy said to the man.

"Ten cents," the man said.

"Here's ten cents." And he handed the ten cents to the man at the table.

"One answer to one question." "The question," the man commented and he pointed to a large clear plastic jar filled with folded papers. "One question per one answer." "Read the question out loud so I can give you the answer." The man again pointed towards the large clear plastic jar filled with folded papers and smiled at the boy.

"Ok," the boy reached over and pulled out a piece of folded paper and unfolded it and read out loud, "What do I get on this day only that will last me a life time but for this day only?"

"Close your eyes," the man said, "And hold out your hand." The boy closed his eyes and the man reached under his table then placed something in the boy's hand. The boy felt something cool and wet in his hand.

"Ok," the man said, "Open your eyes and you've got your answer for this day only."

"It's a slice of lemon," the boy remarked looking at what was in his hand.

"Ten cents," the man smiled and started to call out again to the crowd in the streets. "Ten cents." "One answer per one question." "Get the answer of a life time today."

Written by Carol Lee Brunk

Date: July 14, 2021

The boy laughed. "Mister," the boy requested the man's attention. "Are all the questions the same in the jar?"

The man smiled and pointed to the jar. "One answer to one question," the man said. "Ten cents." "Get the answer of a life time today."

Smiling the boy's father approached from behind the boy and handed the man ten cents. The man smiled at the boy's father and pointed to the clear plastic jar filled with folded paper and requested the man to read the question out loud and he would supply an answer to the question.

The boy's father pulled out a piece of folded paper and unfolded it and read out loud, "What do I get on this day only that will last me a life time but for this day only?"

The man smiled and asked the boy's father to close his eyes and hold out his hand. The boy's father closed his eyes and the man reached under his table then place something in the boy's father's hand.

"Ok," the man said, "Open your eyes and you've got your answer for this day only."

The boy's father felt the wet cool in his hand and opened his eyes. The boy's father laughed and said to the man at the table, "Are all the questions the same in the jar?" the boy's father questioned as he looked a slice of lemon that was placed in his hand.

The man smiled and pointed to the clear plastic jar and said, "Ten cents." "One answer to one question." "Get the answer of a life time today."

The boy's father laughed and he ate the slice of lemon and watched his boy placed his lemon slice inside his mouth bit down on the inside of the slice of lemon while the outside rind of the lemon created the look of lemon lips. The boy's father gave the man another ten cents, grabbed a folded paper, unfolded the paper and read out loud, "What do I get on this day only that will last me a life time but for this day only?"

Again, the man smiled and asked the boy's father to close his eyes and hold out his hand. The boy's father closed his eyes and the man reached under his table then place something in the boy's father's hand.

"Ok," the man said, "Open your eyes and you've got your answer for this day only."

The boy's father felt the wet cool in his hand and opened his eyes to see a slice of lemon. The boy's father laughed and said to the man at the table, "Are all the questions the same in the jar?"

The man smiled and pointed to the clear plastic jar and said, "Ten cents." "One answer to one question." "Get the answer of a life time today."

"One more time," the boy's father said and handed the man ten cents, reached for a folded paper, unfolded the paper and read out loud "What do I get on this day only that will last me a life time but for this day only?"

The man smiled as he watched the boy's father close his eyes and hold out his hand. "Close your eyes," the man smiled as he commented- though he knew the boy's father closed his eyes. "Hold out your hand," the man requested as the man reached under his table then place something in the boy's father's hand that was wet and cool.

Written by Carol Lee Brunk

Date: July 14, 2021

“Ok,” the man said, “Open your eyes and you’ve got your answer for this day only.”

The boy’s father laughed as he looked into his own hand and saw a slice of lemon. The boy smiled at the man at the table and laughed.

“One more time.” “I’ve got to ask.” “Are all the questions the same?” the boy’s father smiled.

The man smiled and pointed to the clear plastic jar and said, “Ten cents.” “One answer to one question.” “Get the answer of a life time today.”

The boy grabbed his father’s hand and pulled him away from the man’s table while the man happily announced through the air “Ten cents.” “One answer to one question.” “Get the answer of a life time today.” “Ten cents.” “One answer to one question.” “Get the answer of a life time today.”

As the boy and his father stepped away to proceed down the side walk with the crowd, they glanced back and stopped. A crowd in a line formed in front of the man’s table that announced through the air “Ten cents.” “One answer to one question.” “Get the answer of a life time today.”

“Let’s go back and watch,” the boy requested. So, the boy’s father and the boy took paces back towards the table and watched and listened to the man that announced upon the air “Ten cents.” “One answer to one question.” “Get the answer of a life time today.”

They watched as the man pointed to the jar after taking ten cents, ask the customer to read the question out loud, close their eyes and watch the man reach down under the table put something in the customer’s hand and say “Ok,” the man said, “Open your eyes and you’ve got your answer for this day only.”

As the customer walked to pass them by, the father of the boy asked, “What was the question you pulled?”

“Ten cents.” “One answer to one question.” “Get the answer of a life time today,” the customer said and place a slice of lemon inside his mouth bit down on the inside of the slice of lemon while the outside rind of the lemon created the look of lemon lips. Started to mumble something to both the boy and his father, the customer then removed the slice of lemon and in a light laugh while the customer started to walk the side walk said “Got an answer for this day only for a life time.” “A slice of lemon.”

The boy and his father laughed as the boy’s father commented on a customer that left the man’s table with a handful of sliced lemons.

“Curious?” the boy’s father asked and pulled the boy by his hand towards the table. “Let’s see if we can empty the question jar.”

Thrilled the boy laughed as he was given a handful of ten cent coins. They both lined up behind several that waited in front of the table of the man that had an answer of a life time.

On the way home, a man stopped the father and his boy on the side walk going away from downtown “How was the answer for a life time on this day only?” the man asked.

“A hand full of lemons today,” the boy laughed.