

HOW DARE YOU CALL ME “A KENNY LOGGINS HERO WORSHIPER”

Shortly after my recent *post* on kennyloggins.com, someone wrote to me anonymously (at an address used for fan projects) to *inform* me that they thought I was “A *Kenny Loggins Hero Worshiper*.” A WHAT?? “I don’t even know what that is”—I *reasoned* with myself.

Initially, it seemed like a really appalling thing to be called, but things aren’t *always* as bad as they seem. Many years ago, one of my favorite teachers admonished: “*Don’t dismiss something just because you don’t understand it. Just set it aside until understanding comes.*” This advice has served me well over the years.

After a brief period of indulging in righteous indignation—followed by much reflection— I embraced the *accusation* and began to view it as an opportunity to explore the anomaly of *hero worship*—this unfamiliar and unlikely territory in which I now find myself.

In order to form the framework for my response, I have summarized *that* email with the following questions:

1. Does the *Hero* deserve to be recognized for the gifts he so magnificently displays?
2. Is the *Hero* devalued should he be visited upon by the harsh reality of the human condition?
3. Is it not only the *Hero’s* right—but obligation to himself—to draw from those to whom he has imparted decades’ worth of his own heroism?

*The “hero” in question—Kenny Loggins—readily admits that he, too, is somewhat perplexed by this phenomenon. Perhaps, it is his own humility which prevents him from fully realizing the extent of his vast appeal. Yet, I suspect he knows that the secret to his longevity is his ability to consistently tap into this powerful source which **he** has created—his fan base.*

For well over three (3) decades, *Kenny’s* allegiance to his fans has been extraordinary—and unwavering. Accordingly, the *Law of Reciprocity—the law of giving and receiving—allows that he may receive in kind—that which he gives.*

Consequently, when faced with life’s eventual challenges, he returns to drink from this fountain of inspiration which continues to rejuvenate and reinvigorate him—song after song—year after year. He *must* do this if he is to remain in harmony with the law.

By contrast, the *desolate hero* has not learned the secret of extracting—from others—the treasures which he has deposited into them. *That* hero does not know this simple truth: *Those gifts would gladly be returned to him ten-fold, if only he would seek them.* Therefore, with all his material trappings, the *desolate hero* lives—and dies—in utter despair and isolation.

Kenny has genuinely—and often—shared his wisdom, knowledge, and experiences through his words—spoken, written, and in song. Those who are inclined to do so, will extrapolate from these messages—*information* which they find to be useful in their own lives. Simply stated, we can take it—or leave it. It is strictly our choice. Or, there is another alternative, *“If we don’t understand it, we can set it aside until understanding comes.”*

The release of the book, **“*The Unimaginable Life*”** was met with great anticipation. Everyone was excited to be privy to all the *juicy tidbits* of *this hero’s* personal life. And—depending on your perspective—there were some.

After reading the book, many readers came away with a favorable impression. They had only rave reviews about what they perceived as—“a beautiful love story.”

Still, there were others who experienced *great* anxiety. Over the following months after the book’s release, a *backlash* ensued and remained unabated for sometime. Even the accompanying *same titled music CD* was rejected by some as well. A few diehard fans completely *jumped ship*—at least temporarily.

Why was there such ambivalence toward the book?

Well, that depends on whom you ask. I *would* offer, however, that the majority of readers of **“*The Unimaginable Life*”** were expecting *only* to inquisitively delve into *this hero’s* life. Instead (surprisingly) the book was sort of a *microcosm* which allowed us to occasionally “see” vignettes of our own lives—the good—and the not so good.

Once our “*not so good*” was *exposed*, there was no putting the proverbial genie back in the bottle.

Notwithstanding the extraneous details, the book was a mirror and the reflection staring back was very disconcerting to many—thus, decreasing its “*entertainment*” value. Despite intense inward protests, it was undeniable at the deepest levels—that someday—at some point—the reader would have to come to terms with his or her own—*unimaginable life*.”

The Kenny Loggins Forums attract people from all religions, ages, races, nationalities, educational backgrounds, and income levels. There is even one from another—*planet*. And yes, they are fiercely protective of *Kenny*, but these independent thinkers also possess a healthy level of objectivity as well. They regularly congregate for the purpose of interacting with each other—whether *this hero* is there—or not.

As for me personally, while I proudly pay respectful homage to *his* incredible talents, *I am inferior to no one*. Nor, am I bound by labels that others may attempt to place on me. My loyalty need not be justified, for I fully recognize that paying tribute to someone else does not diminish my individual power.

The collective relationship between *Kenny* and his fans is symbiotic in nature—mutually beneficial to all concerned. This association has enhanced our abilities and strengthened our resolve to do things that we might not have otherwise had the courage to do.

We have been inspired to overcome adversities that seemed insurmountable, *to learn* new computer skills, *to teach* computer skills, write a poem, drive across a *scary* bridge to get to a concert, make new friends, develop a web site, make a video, courageously face serious illness and personal loss, enthusiastically begin a promising new relationship, end an unhealthy relationship, write a song, pursue a music career, learn to play a musical instrument, enroll in a philosophy course, conquer fears and publically post a comment or write a concert review, take on the ultra political *Rock & Roll Hall of Fame*, develop and moderate a fan forum with the utmost professionalism and respect for its participants—and the list goes on and on.

This place—where the *Spirit of giving and receiving* is personified—is *not* a place of “*hero worship*”. It does, however, command a more appropriate description.

kennyloggins.com - A wellspring of friendship and support in which *Kenny AND his fans* may partake whenever—and as often—as they desire.

Debra J.C.
September 2008