

Shared by **Tom Asacker: author, innovator, change agent, provocateur**

You are your warden.

Young Galileo Galilei wanted to be a priest.
His musician father pushed him to study medicine.
But at University Galileo was turned on by mathematics and physics.
Particularly ideas about objects in motion.
Five decades later Galileo's desire-driven thinking rocked people's world.
He wrote, "Thought is the most pleasing ability granted to humankind."
And for bringing the gifts of his passionate inner world to the external world?
Galileo was imprisoned.
Because his dynamic thinking challenged the static thinking of the established order.
A world that saw itself as the center of the universe.
It was heresy to advocate Copernican heliocentrism.
The idea that the Earth travels around the Sun.
And to suggest that Aristotle's perfect Sun had spots?
The Roman Catholic Church would have none of it!
So Galileo was forced to "abjure, curse and detest" his beliefs.
And spend the final nine years of his life under house arrest.
Mathematician, physicist, astronomer, inventor, and philosopher.
Einstein called Galileo the father of modern science.
But he was much more than that.
Galileo was the passionate and courageous father of freethinking.
A fountainhead whose spirited story awakened the earth.
And inspired the masses to think as well.
But here's the thing.
Galileo's passionate ordeal made something quite clear.
Thinking is not an objective, open-minded process.
Like discerning the movement of planets.
If it were we'd simply evaluate data, weigh the evidence, and make rational decisions.
Ones based on the "facts."
But life is not a fact-based, objective reality.
It's a truth-based, subjective construct.
One colored by an aggregation of personal experiences.
And interpreted through an ever shifting perceptual lens.
Your mind, my mind, everyone's mind is like the Catholic Church.
It's steeped in history and resistant to change.
Especially change that threatens its established order.
Its story!
The unique perceptions, beliefs and identity formed over a lifetime of devotion.
This established order acts like a director working behind the scenes.
To keep us at the center of things.
To make sure that our world remains consistent and coherent.
And to guarantee that we follow our "script."
So yes, Galileo helped us see that humans aren't the center of the physical universe.
But make no mistake.
You are the center of your *personal* universe.
Whether you're conscious of it or not.
And, like the church with Galileo, that self-involved and self-protective view of your world is what's keeping you
and your future under house arrest.
You are your warden.

Catalyst for change, Tom Asacker has written several books including *The Business of Belief* and *Opportunity Screams*. He views today's world of complexity and change as a large-scale manifestation of many emergent events and behaviors that require a new, coherent viewpoint to guide one's actions.