

# PARAPROSDOKIANS

Recently, a friend introduced me to a new word – Paraproisdokians.

A paraproisdokian is an expression that starts off making you think in a certain direction, but then it changes direction suddenly to give an unexpected ending that makes you ponder about the message (usually with anti-climax).

For example, I start off telling you:

*There lived a bookworm who enjoyed his huge collection of books ...*

You would expect the sentence to continue telling something about the person and his books. However, my sentence continues with an unexpected humorous twist that makes you stop and think:

*... but bookworms are now enjoying a great time feeding on the books left behind.*

There are people who enjoy word puzzles, fun games with numbers, etc. These are healthy forms of recreation that help to keep the brain active. If you enjoy fun with words and sentences, you may appreciate paraproisdokians as another entertainment choice. At moments when you have nothing to do, instead of twiddling your thumb, you can exercise your brain to create new paraproisdokians, or meditate on good messages contained in paraproisdokians you already know.

Here I have created a few paraproisdokians for you to stop and think:

- We encourage Christians to attend church faithfully, but advise that church attendance does not make anyone a Christian.
- Adam's and Eve's eyes were opened to the knowledge of good and evil; their lack of wisdom got all the good and evil mixed up.
- Knowledge is power, information is liberating; we see in the world the destructiveness of power without wisdom, the liberating of oppression by pervasive misinformation.

Do you know that there are also paraproisdokians in the Bible?

*“However many years anyone may live, let them enjoy them all. But let them remember the days of darkness, for there will be many.” – Ecc. 11:8  
(The hope to enjoy the years of life in the first part is counteracted by the despair “to expect” in the second part.)*

The appropriate thought-provoking parapsydokians can be a great motivation to us as we stop for a moment in our tracks to assess the worldly values floating by that we ourselves are also immersed in. How often are we immersed in the pleasures of the “first thought that comes to our mind” and then get startled by the unexpected diverging truth that comes next?

The curveballs thrown at us in life may startle us in a positive way in that they force us to contemplate the realities against the dreams.



Similarly, the first part of a spiritually inspiring parapsydokian (like the “first part” of any episode of our life experiences) leads us up the garden path; then the next part astutely straightens its direction to bring us an important truth to stop and think about in contrasting (anti-climax to) our expectations.

Hope you have a great time with parapsydokians.

*John Lee*