

Luiz, you are to be congratulated for your many achievements - but I will focus on just 4. I will focus on these particular ones because your work and intelligence left me far behind decades ago. I think I speak for many many people when I say that I really do not understand your work, but I appreciate your work. They are different things. You are brilliant and always have been. It is obvious to anyone who has had the pleasure of knowing you and spending any time with you. But, there are many brilliant people. What sets Luis Velho apart from the only regular brilliant people.... is how he views the world.

Allow me a short story which I hope you will remember and explains his unique view of the world.

On one of my trips to Rio a very long time ago, I went on a ride in Luiz's car, and of course he was driving. As we got out of town he did not stop the car at the red traffic signals. Being from New York this got me very very very nervous. I was holding onto my seat and expecting death any moment. I could not speak I was so scared. After this happened a few times I got the courage to ask Luis what he was doing.

I said "Velho - what are you doing? You are going through all the red lights!!!!!" I thought maybe he was deep in thought - which if you know Luiz you will understand. Luiz replied - "Jim this is a very dangerous area. You do not stop here". So I accepted his explanation and eventually relaxed about it as much as I could. We continued to drive for maybe 1/2 hour more, and we were in a deserted area compared to before. I did not see any cars. No people. Nothing. No houses - just plants and dirt. There in the middle of nowhere was a traffic light. There was no traffic light for miles before. Then the traffic light changed to red, and Luiz stopped the car and we sat there as if it were normal. We were nowhere. There were NO cars around. Nobody. I was confused. I said to Luiz - "how come you stopped the car - you told me that we should not stop because it was dangerous to stop" and he replied... "oh this is a very dangerous intersection - EVERYBODY stops here!" I think I laughed for about 5 minutes. He just looked at me. He did not understand why I was laughing.

This is Luiz Velho - he sees things and has insights that other people do not have, To him it is perfectly clear and obvious. To the rest of us - well we just look and are amazed.

Luis Congratulations. Here are only 4 of your many accomplishments.

First on getting to be 60 years old. You survived! Considering your driving it is a miracle. You now have creativity, intelligence, AND the perspective of time. Your best work is in front of you not behind you!

Second on staying focused in your career. You have always known what you wanted to do and have not gotten distracted. This is very important because this focus has allowed you to do more important work. You continue to build.

Third, you share your expertise and knowledge in an unselfish way. I have never seen you be boastful, you are very modest and always share the credit for your work with others. You are extremely generous with your creativity and being a team player.

And finally on having a good sense of humor. This is very important because you can not succeed on items #1 and #2 and #3 unless you can laugh.

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