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Sharing Post 2
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Sharing Post 2: Banned Books

It's been a cherished dream of mine to write a book that'll be banned somewhere. For a while, I'd imagined the socialist government in China or the People's Action Party in Singapore would do it, considering how low-key, anti-free speech they are. There's probably one in the five I've finished that could do it for the Singaporean government, but the Chinese one might take some more specific barbs.

The ALA has a hand-clappingly delightful section of their Office for Intellectual Freedom website dedicated to 'Banned and Challenged Books', with annual top 10 lists stretching back to the year 2000 and titles categorized by under 'Children's Books', 'Young Adult Books', 'Classics', and 'Books with Diverse Content'. There's even a page for 'Infographics', just to give users that many more perspectives to consider. I scrolled through the 'Classics' –because I'd like for what I write to gain as much enduring meaning as notoriety- and realized that many places at some point did *not* like Hemingway, books discussing sexuality, or criticisms of an Abrahamic religion. This is best to hear, because I strive to write simply like Papa, create characters of many orientations, and have the best time poking holes into anything considered 'organized', not only religions.

Let's not forget, too, one of the granddaddies of book bannings, the Council of Nicea...

And a quick Wikipedia search corrected me in 'learning' that the 325 AD convocation of bishops to codify definitions of Christianity had *no* part in consigning certain gospels to the

apocrypha pile/leaving them out of the Bible. That was an apocryphal ‘fact’ presumably started by the *Synodicon Vetus*, an early Christian, pseudo-historical record of ecumenical councils through 887 AD, then made fun of by Voltaire, who asserted the canon was compiled by putting copies of all the available books on the altar then praying to God to gravitize the ones He wouldn’t prefer to the ground.

The deep dives we allow ourselves to follow, often over a single idea/search term. Imagine being the reference librarian becoming renowned –or notorious; more on that later- for teaching users to enjoy the ride linking through varying resources.

A few days ago I was giving a friend a run-down, just things I knew off the top of my head, on a pretty morbid subject –kind of remembered animal taxidermy was part of it- and he said he would finally get a SFPL card if I became a librarian there, because he could imagine my reference desk surrounded by dozens of children listening to me candidly discuss subjects their other knowledge brokers might just tell them were ‘too adult’. The faith he, and others, have in me to that end.

And of course my inconspicuous promotion of banned books that visitors might be interested in will be part of the conversation.