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Java Talk

(for September 27, 2007 to October 3, 2007)

## **Every Age Is The Best Age**

### *International Day for the Elderly*

I am thinking about how, at one time, a long time ago, I had the idea that most cultures revered their elders, but not so much around here. The order was to respect your elders, but it was as if it didn't come easily or naturally or that something about it just wasn't a remarkable quality in this society. The mantra was "never trust anyone over the age of thirty." Perhaps there is some resistance, still. What is the image that comes to mind when someone is referred to as elderly? I have read news reports stating how an elderly man or woman was hit by a car or whatever, and then been shocked to find out how old they were, thinking they weren't "elderly", as if the reporter had added an insult to their injuries! I think the word has become erroneously loaded. Perhaps this is why International Day for the Elderly was renamed International Day of Older Persons:

*"In 1990, the General Assembly designated 1 October as the International Day for the Elderly, later renamed the International Day of Older Persons, which was celebrated for the first time the following year. The Day has become an annual event in most countries, with varied activities organized in conjunction with the official commemoration.*

*The General Assembly adopted the United Nations Principles for Older Persons in 1991. The 18 Principles provide a broad framework for action on ageing. They are organized into five clusters: independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity of older persons."* ([www.un.org/News/Press/docs/1998/19980928.soc4473.html](http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/1998/19980928.soc4473.html)).

Anyway, the purpose of the day, according to another source, is about "giving recognition to the contributions of seniors to development and also drawing attention to a demographic phenomenon: the greying of the population, the 'age of aging'."

Greying? I don't think so. These days, I prefer multi-colours in my hair, too.

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