

## Thurl Arthur (Pappy) Ravenscroft

The name Thurl Arthur Ravenscroft may be meaningless to you. However, he has been a background hidden feature in the lives of many of America's children at breakfast time, and at the Christmas Holiday season for many years. I speak of the picture of "Tony the Tiger" on the box of Kellogg's Sugar Frosted Flakes, which many of America's children and children world wide consume daily.

Thurl Arthur Ravenscroft is the voice of Tony the Tiger on the animated cartoon commercials. Mr. Ravenscroft has said that he built an entire career on one word.... "Grrrreeaaate"[1]. As a result of the one word, his vocal acumen was capitalized upon to lend itself to the singing of the song in Charles M. Shultz's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". His resonant vocalization of the words "You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch", help provide a sonorous substance to the theme of the program which ultimately culminates in the transformation of the Grinch, whose heart was purportedly two sizes too small, into one whose heart grows three sizes because of the Christmas music melodiously traveling up the ravine even after the Grinch stole the presents, trees, decorations and feast in an overnight raid on the "Who's" village[2].

Often times, people tend to categorize other people by their gifts, talents, abilities, and outwardly expressed parts of their personas. When we do this, we overlook the very essences or quiddities of what makes that person truly a human being. We thus dwell on the outside of the person and become ignorant of those inner parts which make a person valuable.

Case in point: When the Israelites were crying and moaning to God for a King to lead them, they blatantly ignored all the warnings Samuel, the Prophet of God had told them about how the king would be not what God wished for His Children.[3]

Seemingly oblivious to the Lord's desires, the Israelites kept asking, so Samuel went before God Who acquiesced, and told Samuel to give them a king. Looking totally at the outside of Saul, son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin, the Israelites chose Saul as their king after he heroically rescued the city of Jabesh Gilead from the Ammonites.[4] It was not long before the Israelites found out that there is more to a man than what is on the outside, no matter how big a hero he may or may not be. Saul was ultimately rejected by God as the Israeli King because of disobedience causing God to grieve over making Saul king[5].

God then told Samuel to travel to Bethlehem to anoint David the son of Jesse, He was cautioned by God not to look merely on the exterior of His choice as king, but like God, Samuel was to look at David's heart.

Jesse's sons all paraded by Samuel who was falling into the trap of looking at the outside of all of Jesse's sons, but not hearing from God that he had found God's choice. We are told that God looks not at the outward appearance, but at the heart of the man[6]. David turned out to be, arguably, the best king Israel ever had. In spite of his sin with Bathsheba[7], God still created in David a reign through which Jesus came to earth[8].

Just as we know the resonant vocalizations of Thurl Arthur Ravenscroft, but know nothing about his persona or his essence, so we must be cautioned not to fall into the predicament the Israelites did in choosing their king. They looked on the outside of Saul and rejected God as their Righteous King[9].

As humans, we have a tendency to look upon the tinsel, ribbons, and fluff of the package without realizing that god Knows what is inside. We know the voice of Thurl Arthur Ravenscroft, but God Knows the man. He also knows our own sorrows and joys. He lifts us up out of the quagmire of discouragement, possibly using a brother or sister in Him to accomplish this. He will also rejoice with us as we Praise His Holy Name for our lives....Because He knows our Hearts.

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[1] Internet information on Thurl Arthur Ravenscroft

[2] Cartoon presentation of “How the Grinch stole Christmas” by Charles M. Shultz

[3] 1 Samuel 8: 1-22

[4] 1 Samuel 9:1-11:14

[5] 1 Samuel 15:1-35

[6] 1 Samuel 6:1-13

[7] 2 Samuel 11:1-27

[8] Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38

[9] 1 Samuel 8: 6-8