

## Ask the Question

Napoleon was a genius in sparking patriotism in the common man. He often told this story: Once, while visiting a province, he came upon an old soldier in full uniform but with one sleeve hanging empty. He proudly wore the coveted Legion of Honor.

Napoleon asked, "Where did you lose your arm?" The soldier answered, "At Austerlitz, sire."

Napoleon countered, "And for that you received the Legion of Honor?" The man said, "Yes, sire. It is but a small token to pay for the decoration."

Napoleon continued, "You must be the kind of man who regrets he did not lose both arms for his country."

The one-armed man inquired, "What then would have been my reward?" Napoleon answered, "I would have awarded you a *double* Legion of Honor."

And with that, the proud old fighter drew his sword and immediately cut off his other arm.

Napoleon told the story for years before someone asked him, "How?"

A similar story is related of the man who collected thousands of dollars for the grieving mother of the "unknown soldier."

It is not wrong to question what you think you know. Sometimes it's wrong not to.

The recipe for perpetual ignorance is: Be satisfied with your opinions and content with your knowledge.

--Beecher Hunter