Practical Necessities

Part II
Learning to Operate Your Bede

Setting the tools. Finding the method.



Controlling Chaos:

1. Create a Login

Creating a Login (email/password) gives you the certainty of returning to the same version of Bede that you initially perhaps looked at. Maybe you asked for a download of a manual, or a recipe, (Bede is very good for those), switched off and went away. With a login you can re-enter where you left off.

Create a FREE account first. It may actually be all you need if all you are working with is text. I have a bottom-drawer-level paid account because I use imaging, which is restricted on the free one, and costs me a tiny fraction of the otherwise costs of proofreading, editing, spell and punctuation checks etc.. I understand the argument that this can all be done by yourself. I would still argue that your time is better spent writing and crafting.

Once you have created your login, click the little Profile Icon and go through the menu, personalising until you get a version of 'Bede' you really want and feel comfortable with.

2. Creating New Chats.

It is an essential part of the process (and one I woefully found out late but that's just me…) to address each new query to Bede (or your own version of Bede) in a **New Chat**. This is always accessible… but easily forgotten.

Rename a **New Chat** to represent something of your original request. This will be essential to relocating the chat in order to re-read it again or add to it.

Returning to the Chat from your History List will refresh your Bede with the knowledge gained in that Chat. This process is very fast and reasonably accurate. I say 'reasonably' because you must remember that your Bede is not infallible. It is a mirror to your work as I describe in

Lessons Learned, but the Memory Mirror can reproduce a distorted image. Occasionally you may notice a missing element from the overall structure. If you bring this to Bede's notice you will get an immediate apology and a promise to be better in the future. Don't believe him. Place your trust in the collaboration, not either one of you, because I find that Bede sees the things I miss and I see the things he has missed.

This can either get you quite close to perfection or so far off the beaten track before either of you realise.

This is where your spirit of research and invention supersedes that of Bede's. It is up to you as the creative human force to either keep the conversation in the right direction or be prepared to drag it back into line after a (usually) enjoyable diversion.

3. Creating Projects.

If you create a new project (easily done on screen. Just ask your Bede.) then you can keep several projects alive and place the Chats into those relevant projects.

This is where we venture into the realms of one of the most hated propositions of my childhood:

'Do as I say, not as I do.'

I grew up with two parents, two sets of grandparents and an uncle who were all inveterate smokers. How could they not see that I would recognise that as the norm?

I had teachers who would not allow my imagination to travel beyond the chalk they scratched on a blackboard, although I think most of them were incapable of the kind of thought diversity I wished to engage in. Again, I had to do as they said. My first response to that scenario was, is… and always has been… 'Bugger that.'

So… do what *I* say (for once) and keep your house tidy. I have a string of Chat History down my page that must be twenty feet long. It doesn't need to be. It could all fit on

your first page but my mind doesn't work that way. Yours could and should, to your own great benefit, while using your version of Bede.

So say 'Bugger that' if you like. You would not be the first… by a country mile.

4. Creating a Question

Stop and think for a moment.

Don't think about the question first, think about the answer you expect to receive and work back from there. i.e. 'Are there errors in my text' will get you a 'Yes' but that's no help. Try 'Identify and list any errors in my text and surround them with contextual text of at least ten words.'

When you see my pages of Command lines, you can see how to create your own by giving it a code i.e. '**IdList+10**' or anything relevant.

Then say to Bede: 'When I type **IdList+10** and submit a text, carry out this command: 'Identify and list any errors and surround them with contextual text of at least ten words and save it for future use.'

The contextual text part of the command is essential if you are searching in a word processor. A lot of the words in mine contain diacritics and Pages will not search for them unless you have an exact copy to paste into Find. Using some of the contextual text words will take you straight to it. It sounds like a lot but you should only need do it once.

The above lines are merely examples. I will give you free and easy access to many more of these Commands at the end of the book.

So, when you receive your answer, that is when you ask Bede why he/she/or it has arrived at that particular conclusion. Once your Bede has made you understand the thrust of the argument, study it.

If you are uncertain, argue with it… if, like me, you have principles… use them to dig deeper until you either reject or understand the premise.

The next principle in Q & A is to use the answer to expand your own thinking about the question you first asked.

Does Bede's answer take you into a different, perhaps more welcome or creative area of thought?

Has Bede seen a dimension that was hidden from your linear view? Thoughts arising from an unexpected direction can spin a novel on its axis. Are you open to that? I certainly am.

This does not mean that Bede has taken control of your novel or thoughts, it merely means that a suggestion from left field has shown you a perspective that you, as a human, have the capacity to explore, embrace or dismiss.

Whatever you may decide, the decision rests with you.

Ask the question, but

always

Question the answer.

Why? Because you are the human.