

A guidebook for the skeptical,
non believer, atheist & undecided.

I
DON'T BELIEVE
IN GOD!
BUT...

I believe in "something" (I think).

Science or God
Do we really have to choose?

Gary Britton

A Sponsors of Hope Publication

“I simply loved this book. It is balanced, logical & intelligently written.”

“I always believed in a higher being but couldn't relate to organized religion's portrayal of God.”

“I always wondered if God and science were compatible. Now I know!”

“Your book is to the point, convincing and uncompromised.”

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“For a kinder world.”

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*This book is dedicated
to my twin daughters Sally & Silvie,
who have shown me that two things
can be completely opposite...*

Yet be the same!

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Foreword

In his unique style, Gary addresses some of the most profound questions of our time. He challenges fundamental beliefs of traditional and conservative religious teaching, as well as dogmatic scientists that would insist on seeing our world solely on a physical level. He takes us to a higher place, one that redefines our very concept of “God” and reconciles the spiritual with the physical.

The way he writes in terms that anyone can easily understand and relate to is refreshing. I love the analogies he uses of learning a foreign language and of the Möbius strip.

There have been many philosophers and great thinkers throughout history. Gary is not only a great thinker but also a great “wonderer”.

He ponders many deep questions about life, human behavior our world, our universe, why we are here, and what part we have to play in the grander scheme of things.

Truth, he has taught me, lies in simplicity, along with the ability to look at things with the eyes of a little child. And it is by seeing through these eyes that a new world of greater understanding opens up to us.

- Anita Healey, January 2022

Preface

I hated church!

As a child I was forced to go to church.

Every Sunday morning my mother almost dragged me there by the ear. To make things worse we went to the early 7am service. Instead of letting me stay in bed and get caught up on my sleep I had to drag my tired body to the most boring and ridiculously unproductive thing imaginable!

Our church was dead indeed. We sat there every Sunday listening to our priest muttering vain, repetitious, high and holy monologs delivered in the most monotone voice.

I endured the tortuous ordeal of sitting on a hard wooden bench appropriately called a “pew”, the word reflecting no doubt the Lord’s opinion of the spiritual attitudes of the hypocritical churchgoers sitting there in their pompous self-righteousness.

I *did* welcome however, the moments of kneeling in front of the pews with my head resting on the back of the pew in front of me in supposed contemplation and prayer. These gave me brief opportunities to doze off, only to be awakened by my mother who always gave me a disapproving look.

As soon as I was old enough to rebel I moved away from home and quit going to church altogether. God and religion fell by the wayside.

Many years have gone by, and as I have grown older I have had to rethink some things. I still don't like church. But in a way that works for me I have come to redefine "God" and things "spiritual".

Young people the world over are getting increasingly fed up with religion. They feel that they must choose between God and science. And, like so many others, they see the hypocrisy and double standards of an religious system that has lost touch with their needs.

Nevertheless, the majority of people today believe in "something". Most of us in fact believe in something greater, yet collectively we haven't been able to come to some consensus as to what that is.

It is my hope that this book will be a positive, uplifting element in people's individually coming to terms with their definition of who or what that "something" is.

G.B.

I Don't Believe in God, but...



1. INTRODUCTION

or

“The big questions.”

Does God exist?

Is there anything after this life?

Are God and science even compatible?

- - -

Man, since the beginning of time, has tried to figure out God. And from the very beginning man has also guilt tripped others into accepting his own particular view of God. How screwed up is that!

Since the days of Galileo, religious scholars and theologians have doggedly limited God to the narrow confines of their individual interpretations of their “holy” books.

At the same time, when it comes to the concept of “God” many scientists have been unwilling to even consider anything outside of their “seeing is believing” mindset.

On one hand, scientists often try to prove in purely scientific terms either that God doesn’t exist, or that the Bible isn’t necessarily true. Religious scholars, on the other hand, try to prove their beliefs in the same terms as scientists, but largely to no avail.

While there has been no shortage of fanatics and ignorance along the way, great minds on both sides have laid out very compelling arguments to *prove* their opposing views. But this has, more often than not, only ended in contention, an inevitable locking of horns and division, with everyone walking away only more convinced that they were right and the others wrong.

These otherwise learned men are in fact *all* right about many things. But at the same time they are all *wrong* about others.

INTRODUCTION

The resulting argument about God and science is no closer to being resolved today than it was centuries ago.

This book addresses that.



2. WHAT'S IN A NAME?

or

“Like a better version of YOU!”

Before we can enter any kind of meaningful discussion about God and science we have to first establish what we mean in this book by “God”.

Religion has skewed people’s perception of things spiritual for so many years, that nowadays most people don’t have a clear picture as to God’s true nature. The word *God* has become so distorted and misrepresented to where it means many different things to different people.

So have the words *religion, faith, church,*

Jesus and others. It's gotten to where if you use any of these words people just don't know what to think anymore.

When I talk about God and the spiritual in this book, I am talking about the sum total of our natural, physical universe as well as the spiritual. I am referring to God as the essence of nature, the epitome of science and faith, and the sum of all hope. Our universe as well as each one of us individually is in fact a *reflection* of God's nature.

My concept of God is also the embodiment of the *laws* of nature and of our universe, and the invisible force behind the many other parallel universes in dimensions that are beyond our dimension of time.

The simplest, most basic building block of our universe, our physical plane as well as the spiritual in all of their manifestations, is *energy*. God is that energy.

God and the spiritual world manifest themselves in many ways: as energy, as intelligence, consciousness and thought. God is also what people refer to as a warm and loving light in their near death experiences.

Our combined consciousness is God. Hence, we are all a part *of* God. And in a way we *are* God.

Our hair is a good example. Out of our heads grow a gazillion hairs. Each comes out of its own follicle. Each one is unique and separate from all the others.

We are like those individual hairs. We are the same, yet each different. We are also all part of the scalp, all connected to the head, sharing the same brain, God. So in a way we could say that we are each a part *of* God.

Similar to a ray of sunlight shining through a prism and splitting up into a rainbow of colors, we are each an individual manifestation of the same light. We each reflect God differently and in our own way. We are all unique expressions of God.

All of us are part of nature, a part of our universe, and a part of the same “Godhead” if you will. This God is the essence of our beings, our spirits or *souls*. So then, God is, in a sense, *all of us*, as well as *in all of us*.

If you want to know what God is like, imagine yourself at your very best! Something to think about anyway.

You may ask why we have to call all of this “God”? The answer is, we don’t, necessarily. But heck, man likes to give names to things: boats... even hurricanes!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

You can call Him *Jesus*, *Allah*, *Jehovah*, *the universe*, *nature*, *universal consciousness*, *love*, *a Superior Being*, or *The Man Upstairs* if you like. “God” however IS a short, compact, universally accepted name. So, why not?

All of the above things combined, along with countless others give us an idea of the spiritual realm of our universe, and God’s *true nature*. And our references to God are to be understood in this context.

So then, if *God* is all of these things, what’s the problem?



“Words are the source of misunderstandings.”

(*The Little Prince*, by Antoine de Saint-Exupery)

3. THE PROBLEM WITH RELIGION

or

“Holy shit!”

For generations religious extremists have turned the world against the true nature of God by portraying Him as a heartless, merciless tyrant bent on making life as miserable and loveless for us as possible.

For thousands of years so many Christians, Jews, Muslims and others have self righteously preached a vengeful god and a punitive religion

in their efforts to convert men to their enslaving personal agendas. Their overly zealous attempts at proselytizing, their fear mongering, intimidation and demonizing of booze, sex and everything pleasurable, have turned countless people against God.

Multitudes today have a hard time differentiating between the truth and their lies. Saddest of all, people end up resenting any mention of God.

Many people in this world are living good and exemplary lives, lives of giving, sharing. Some atheists have more God-like traits than Christians. Some are even living a more Christ-like lifestyle than many churchgoers.

The average churchgoer today scarcely even knows his Bible, the book he professes to follow. Instead, they follow the teachings of their own particular priest, pastor or denomination. Too many people have substituted attending church (mosque or temple) for service to God.

Church was never meant to be an institution dedicated primarily to the construction of buildings, but rather a loving fellowship composed of “living stones”, the body of believers. The world has known too much religion... too much “churchianity” and not enough TRUE Christianity.

So, many people have rejected the God they learned about as a child, and it's understandable. They are right in not believing in a cold, distant *monster* who is waiting to strike us down if we don't do things His way and keep a whole bunch of rules ranging from the reasonable to the ridiculous. To make things worse, as we all know, there is an *attitude* among many "religious" people that they are the only ones who are right and we should never question them or their take on God.

Christians are not the only guilty ones. There are just as many fanatical Jews, Muslims and Hindus who are to blame. Too many have manipulated religion to produce *fear of God*, instead of *love for God*.

I am not necessarily against all organized religion per se. I think organized religion today to some degree plays a useful and vital role in society.

But I *am* against the false image of a cold and impersonal, "limited version" of God, a senseless set of rules and prohibitions, and enslaving people with guilt trips: things we must get past if we are ever going to be able to see the true nature of God.

Words cannot do the subject justice of the extent to which religious fanatics and fake religion have clouded man's perception as to what God is, and where He fits in. They have muddied up the picture for so long now that it's hard to see the forest for the trees. Religion is a creation of man, not of God.

So, the biggest challenge we now face is: showing people what God's *true* nature is. This is no easy task because the minute you start talking about God, many people automatically assume that you are one of those misguided individuals.

No one should ever force another person to move from one belief system into another. Our beliefs change over time. They are in a constant state of flux and evolve as we go through life, learning lessons of love and victory as well as of disappointment and defeat. And we each carry our belief systems with us into the next life.

We all need to be more tolerant and forgiving of each other as we journey along our individual paths. Being kind and loving to others... is how we love God.

Fear controls. Love and truth set free. The Internet has in some ways been a good thing

for people to help them break free from the grip religion has on them.

God is bigger than any one religion. God is bigger than *all* the religions put together.

But the distorted image that so many people have of God is only HALF of the problem!



4. THE PROBLEM WITH SCIENCE

or

“When our heads get in the way.”

We look at some things with our intellect, with our minds. We look at other things, we say, with our hearts. The former often seems more concrete, real. The latter can be nebulous, abstract, simplistic and even seem childish.

The ability to think and use our mental capacities works fabulously here in this, our physical/material plane. But when it comes to

understanding worlds beyond and the spiritual, if we try to figure things out with only our heads, we just won't get it.

We have the faculty to “see” in both realms because besides living in physical bodies we are spiritual and mental beings as well. The problem has always been the conflict between our heads and our hearts. The bigger problem is thinking that we must choose between the two. God and science are too intertwined and insisting on divorcing one from the other is getting us nowhere.

To want to try to explain and understand everything pertaining to our existence only by “the laws of nature” as many scientists do, is to severely limit ourselves.

While God and things spiritual sometimes seemingly go against the laws of physics and scientific fact, that's because the spiritual doesn't follow our physical laws; this spiritual fifth dimension has its own unique logic, reasoning and laws, all of which are valid and must be taken into account if we are to understand its truths.

Man has always been faced with having to decide whether to believe in the God portrayed by religion, or the God based on his conscience.

Because some aren't willing to shed their

erroneous image of God, they close themselves to understanding a higher concept of God. But when they get past that, all kinds of things start falling in place and they see a broader picture of our existence, one where God and science are not only compatible but incredibly one and the same.

We lose sight of the entirety of something when we get fixated on any one small part. People can become so embroiled in proving *their truth*, convinced that they are right and the others wrong. This is a major problem we have today. It is pervasive in every sphere of religion, science and human endeavor. As long as either side thinks they *see* and the other one is ignorant, blind or naive, they won't see clearly.

People are reluctant to embrace change. Throughout history every new invention, every ground breaking idea and new technology or new way of doing things have initially been met with resistance and skepticism. But people eventually come around to accepting the new, much to our mutual benefit and gain.

People think everything has to be black or white, when the truth often lies somewhere in the middle. Fanaticism and extremism have always been detours on the road to truth.

The controversy over the compatibility of science and the spiritual has often been debated by two groups: Christians who chalk everything up to a Santa-Claus-like image of a God who supposedly wants us all to follow a bunch of “senseless rules”, and those who reject Christians as naive, childish or just plain stupid. But in reality both have mistaken ideas of what God is really like.

Man, with all of his incredible wealth of knowledge of our physical world is in some ways not getting smarter. The scientific world in some ways has become like the religious system it condemns. Long outdated scientific dogma is equally as dead and stale as the religious.

dogma

: A belief that is accepted by members of a group without being questioned or doubted.

Both have to reassess and forsake their traditionally closed minded resistance to change and anything new.

The truth is, and has always been, in simplicity. But it is this simplicity that man, with his never ending, overly analytical nature fails to see for more than brief moments as glimpses in the

mirror of his heart.

Unlearning is often the most important part of the learning process. Wrong impressions, prejudices and preconceived ideas are obstacles to learning. To learn, we must first acknowledge that we don't know everything. There can be no learning about the harmony of God and science if we are not willing to *unlearn*.



“All grown-ups were once children...
but only few of them remember it.”

(The Little Prince, by Antoine de Saint-Exupery)

5. VISIBLE/INVISIBLE

or

“Two sides, same coin.”

So, like we said in the previous chapter, science describes our physical world and the laws pertaining to it. But man is more than physical.

We are spiritual beings in material bodies. We are physical/spiritual creatures, living a physical/spiritual existence and with a physical/spiritual consciousness. And just as we are now living on a physical plane, there is a unseen parallel world going on at the same time.

Mass and energy make up our visible world.

Spirit and energy make up this greater invisible universe of the “fifth dimension”.

Everything here in our material world is a reflection of things there in this *spiritual* world. Everything here, has its counterpart there. One is a mirror image of the other. Seeming opposites, yet inseparably one and the same.

It is not difficult to understand the connection between the visible and the invisible when you think of them as two opposite poles. Things *can* be opposite, like the poles of a battery, yet still be the same. We err in thinking that we must choose one, to the *exclusion* of the other.

“Matter” exists in forms other than the way we know it in this world, and it is as we balance the physical with the spiritual, and the mental with the material, that we come to more fully understand these alternate realities as well as the nature of our existence.

Our physical laws as well as our spiritual laws complement each other. Our physical laws are mere reflections of spiritual realities and there are perfectly logical, rational explanations for both.

How can two seemingly opposite things

with little or nothing in common be one and the same? A Möbius strip is the perfect illustration of our reality: The physical world in which we are now living is one side of the Möbius strip, and the spiritual world is the other side.

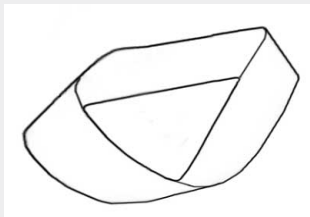
What we are seeing in our world is like a “negative film image” of the other.



The cool thing about a Möbius strip is that both sides are one and the same.

This Möbius strip has no beginning or end, and if you analyze it, you will find it really has only ONE “side”.

Trace it with your finger and be amazed!



6. BEDROCK PRINCIPLES

or

“The laws that govern our worlds.”

To some people, science and God are two incompatible, opposite things with almost nothing in common. To them the spirit world goes contrary to everything they know. It goes against the laws of physics and scientific fact.

But not everything is based on mathematical formulas. The parallel, “invisible” world that surrounds us cannot be understood mathematically. That’s because some laws are understood by the mind, while others can only be seen with the heart.

As we learn the correlation between these physical laws and spiritual truths we begin to see a whole new world of understanding opening up to us. While science and God may seem at times to be at odds, they actually complement each other.

We live in a physical as well as greater, invisible or spiritual universe. Therefore, we must take the spiritual into account or we would be trying to solve a mathematical equation without taking into account all of the factors. We are only limiting ourselves and will never see the complete picture if we pick and choose the things we factor into the equation, We will never get any closer to solving the puzzle as long as we insist on looking at only one side of the coin.

Much of what the great thinkers of our times are saying is true and accurate. They are right in many of their theories. But some people who understand truly deep things about our universe seem to not realize that we don't have to prove the existence of God to the exclusion of scientific fact, or disprove the existence of God to the exclusion of true spiritual experience and that acknowledgement of the existence of the spiritual fills in the gaps, brings it all together and answers many questions we have.

Our entire universe works with clockwork precision, both in the physical as well as spiritual realms. Each is valid and logical in its own right.

Our universe is a mirror image of a greater universe, and God and science are simply two sides of the same coin.

This natural world that we are living in is a mere reflection of the unseen, spiritual world that surrounds us. And both are equally as wondrous, unfathomable...

And thrilling!



7. ILLOGICALLY LOGICAL

or

“Things are not always as they seem.”

To say we don't believe in something just because we can't see it is not smart. We believe in many things that we cannot see.

The wind is maybe the most obvious.

Magnets are another. We all know what magnets are, and while we can explain how they work, we don't completely understand magnetism. Our sense of smell is also a good example.

We experience hope, love and countless emotions and feelings, both good and bad, but we

are not fully able to define or put into words these and all kinds of things that make up our reality.

In medicine we have what's known as the placebo effect: where beneficial results are produced by simply believing.

Let's also not forget our planet Earth: a gigantic ball, a big and humongously heavy mass seemingly floating on nothing. Just hanging there. How crazy is that?

We accept all kinds of things we don't fully understand. Gravity is another one on the list. So many things in this world are inexplicable, yet we accept and rationalize them because we see, feel or experience their effects.

Understanding the relationship between science and God is similar to learning a foreign language. When learning a new language we quickly realize that the same grammatical rules, verb conjugations and phrase structures do not apply. We must learn new ones. We can't try to make a foreign language conform to the logic of our native tongue because each language is uniquely different and follows its own rules.

So we have to shed old ideas when we start learning a new language. Little by little, we learn a new way of thinking, we learn a new logic, the

logic of our new language.

Then, as we grow more proficient, we no longer translate individual words. We translate equivalent thoughts, ideas and concepts. We end up speaking two distinct languages, instead of only one.

Another good analogy is the relation between modern western medicine and so called “natural medicine”. Most people would not dispute the legitimacy of modern medicine, and most have come to accept natural alternatives as equally valid and effective. Yet we still have people preaching the virtues of one while condemning the other.

Trying to explain the relationship of the physical with the spiritual is also like trying to explain biology in mechanical engineering terms. It can't be done.

Then, why do we insist on trying to explain the spiritual in physical terms, and then when we can't, we pronounce the spiritual to be invalid or even nonexistent?

The physical and spiritual simply cannot be understood on the same terms and defined using the same parameters, because there are concepts in the spiritual that don't have worldly equivalents.

It's like comparing apples with oranges. It

doesn't work.

It isn't difficult to understand the inseparable connection between the physical and the spiritual when we consider atomic and sub-atomic "matter". The way we see matter is interesting, curious, and strange, even weird! Think about it: Everything at a microscopic level looks like tiny planets spinning around each other. Atoms are like miniature replicas of our solar system. And they are electrically charged. How crazy is that? All of these "mini solar systems" spinning around with their electrically charged planets and moons make up everything in our material world, even the pages this book is printed on.

So then, in a way our world is made up more of "nothing" than "something"! More space than matter. The visible is composed of the invisible. We believe in *solids*, that are not really solid. Things are not always as they seem.

We believe in all sorts of abstract things. We accept them. Science and God and the relationship between the visible and the invisible, are just one more. I am not talking about the so called paranormal "sciences", telepathy, spiritualism, etc. and other pop culture phenomena and hocus pocus. The things I am referring to are by no

means beyond normal experience or logical explanation. On the contrary. They are even compatible with scientific hypotheses. In fact, my entire point is that both God and science are valid and actually complement each other!

So, to recap, everything in our physical world has a logical scientific explanation, and so do things in the spirit world. They just follow laws of a different nature, a different logic, a different *rationale*. The spiritual world adheres to invisible yet equally as sound truths as our material world. This is the paradox.

Parallel worlds. Parallel universes. Parallel realities. Parallel truths.



Paradox

: Something that is made up of two opposite things that seems impossible but is actually true or possible.

8. TOO MANY TO RULE OUT

or

“The proof is in the pudding.”

History is full of people being miraculously delivered from fires, floods, avalanches and drownings. You name it.

Millions of people throughout the ages have had life after death experiences, seen angels, experienced miracles, and received divine guidance through revelations and meaningful dreams.

There have been countless peculiar instances which have no scientific explanation. People have

inexplicably gotten better from illnesses after they had been given up for dead. Almost any doctor will testify to this.

There is in fact another dimension, a *spiritual* one.

People can remain in denial of the spiritual realm, but it's not going away. Too many people of all ages, of every nationality and from all walks of life have experienced the spiritual. And you just can't discredit them all. Some people chalk them up as fools, as ignorant, uneducated or unenlightened, but the fact that so many people have been willing to suffer and even die for these invisible truths is only further proof of their "realness" and not something to be taken lightly or discarded as nonsense.

There are forces at play in the universe that defy logical explanation. And while no one can "prove" that something awaits us after this life, try telling that to all these people!

There are simply instances where the spiritual overlaps the physical. These are times when the inexplicable becomes a welcome reality. There are truths that can only be perceived with the heart.

God doesn't cease to exist just because some

people think He doesn't exist. God doesn't exist to them, because they don't know Him. So it's not surprising that people who haven't experienced the spiritual world firsthand have difficulty accepting its existence.

True believers don't "cling" to religion out of their insecurities. They believe in God because to them He is real, and who is anyone to say otherwise?

People who try to divorce God and science are not only fighting a futile battle, but they are also missing out on a sense of never ending wonder and excitement.

BOTH are valid.



"The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched; they are felt with the heart."

(The Little Prince, by Antoine de Saint-Exupery)

9. LONDON DOESN'T EXIST

or

“Armchair travellers.”

“I know I don't like it because I never tried it.” How silly it would be if we said that about some food we had never even tasted.

Yet this is precisely some people's attitude when it comes to God and the invisible, spiritual world. Everyone has *heard* of God, but not everyone can say that they *know Him*, because they haven't experienced Him in any meaningful way.

Likewise, someone who hasn't been to

London can say that London doesn't exist, but it still exists. He simply hasn't been there yet. London doesn't cease to exist just because he hasn't been there. This person is like an "armchair traveller".

Someone who has been to London can show him the way. Or our armchair traveller can find his way there on his own if he wants. But he has to first make the decision that he *wants* to go.

Armchair traveller

: A person who knows about a subject only from what they have heard or read and not from personal experience.

Thus, it doesn't make sense for someone to affirm that God doesn't exist when they haven't even experienced Him.

Likewise, many scientists today don't take into account the spiritual, so their arguments about the universe and worlds beyond are lopsided. These scientists can give us a partial picture at best, because they only see half of the equation. We must keep this in mind.

When it came to God, Stephen Hawking

was an armchair traveller who, even though he repeatedly professed to not believe in God, said that we “would know the mind of God by the end of this century”. (?!)

Well, he was wrong, because we can indeed begin to know the mind of God starting this very second if we will, with receptive mindsets, let go of our preconceived notions and prejudices and accept the existence of both the spiritual and the physical as valid in our search. Little by little then, we will start to see.

Little by little we will begin to grasp the logic (chap. 6) of the “new language” that we seek to understand.



10. BELIEVING IS SEEING

or

“What are you looking for?”

In this natural world we *see* to understand: “Seeing is believing.” But for things spiritual, in order to *see*, we must first *believe*: “Believing is seeing.”

These are the two opposite logics, the two opposite reasonings, like the two different and distinct “languages” we talked about earlier.

Both are valid. Both are true. Both are attainable.

If we want this greater understanding, we will get nowhere trying to understand this concept with our natural reasoning. God simply cannot be

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

- 1 - To understand, we must first believe; to be able to believe we must first be receptive.
- 2 - When we become receptive, we place ourselves in a position where we *can* see. We then actually *start* seeing; we start understanding.
- 3 - As a result we believe even more. It is *then* that we start receiving “proof”.

This is the paradox:

As you start *BELIEVING*,
You start *SEEING*!

And the more you see, the more you believe!
It's a cycle. The more and more you see, the more your “ability” to receive increases, and you believe more.

Then, things fall into place... and you start grasping it all!

defined merely in scientific terms. But we *can* see that God and science are not only compatible, they are inseparable and one and the same.

It is as we open our minds and hearts and consider these other logics and reasonings that we begin to see them. It is a reverse logic that can only be individually experienced. Then, as we experience it, we start understanding. It becomes clear. “The proof is in the pudding.”

By nature, man often prefers to believe a lie rather than something he perceives to be a potential threat to his established beliefs. Man gets so deeply entrenched in his belief system that his fears and insecurities get the better of him, sad to say.

“What you see, depends a lot on what you’re looking for.”

If you enter this discussion with your mind made up, you’ll only walk away still convinced that you are right. (But you won’t be any smarter!)

Don’t wait to *see* before you believe.

Believe, and you will see.

But you must take the first step, and that first step is to come with an open mind and heart.

This knowledge descends gently and only

lands where it is welcomed: where it will be received. It doesn't force anyone and if met with resistance... *flees*.

It's like a dove that is easily shooed away.



“The eyes are blind.
One must look with the heart.”
(The Little Prince, by Antoine de Saint-Exupery)

11. OUR ASS BACKWARDS WORLD

or

“What goes around, comes around.”

We have gotten so out of tune and out of sync not only with nature, but with our fellow human beings, with God and our entire universe, both physically as well as spiritually. The world we are living in is a result of our accumulated actions.

Our actions have had consequences on our environment. Mankind's poor choices for generations are taking their toll. For too long we

have upset the balance of nature, of our lands, forests and oceans and caused the resultant global warming because of our greed. All of these things are now coming back to haunt us. We are living the fruits of our decisions, both environmentally as well as in our society.

People accuse God of being hateful. After a mass killing or something to that effect they like to ask: “Where was God?” They blame God, when these things are the result of man’s actions.

I don’t have all the answers, and there are many things I don’t fully understand, but this one thing I do know: We reap what we sow. This is a law that pertains to the spiritual world as much as it does to our physical. *Bad* things that happen don’t come from a cruel and merciless God. Bad things more often than not come as a result of our wrong decisions.

We *choose* to be kind, or not. We have the majesty of choice, and if God *did* intervene, if God *did* make things happen a certain way, some people would complain that God wasn’t being fair by “forcing us” to do things His way. Our natural tendency is to look at everything “backwards”.

God, the loving force behind our universe that we talk about, doesn’t “get involved” with

the actions of human beings. To a large degree we decide our own fate. We are here to learn to make the right decisions, and to learn to find the balance between our convictions and emotions.

We are here to learn to do now “on earth, as it is in Heaven”. We are here to learn to glorify God and not ourselves. Something that will be easy for us to do *there and then*, we are to learn to do *here and now*.

Although we all *are* a part of God, we are not here to glorify self to the exclusion of God. To the extent that we glorify God we become *one* with Him and more aware of the greater universe and His loving plan for mankind.

Right now we are only able to have a limited personal relationship with God, but we will each fully know the mind of God at the end of this life.

When we plant seeds, a crop comes up and we enjoy the fruits thereof. But once we eat it, it's gone. The cool part is, when we sow seeds of love, compassion and other good things here, besides reaping benefits here and now in our lives, these things actually carry over to the next world. Our good deeds live on!

So, every kind and loving deed goes out

like a ripple and affects us and those around us for good, but in like manner every unkind word and every unloving deed sends out ripples for bad things, whether we realize it or not.

Our two worlds are interconnected, inseparable, overlapping and intertwined. One is but a reflection of the other. What goes around, *does*, most assuredly come around... and will be to our lasting credit, or shame: Eternal investments. Eternal dividends.

Everything is ordained. Everything is predestined. Yet, at the same time we individually have free wills and we control our destiny.

While on one hand everything *is* planned, on the other we have free will to create and influence our destiny, within certain boundaries. That these two concepts appear to be illogical, contradictory or irrational, isn't a statement as to their impossibility, but rather a challenge to our limited comprehension and default approach to understanding things.

Therein lies the mystery.

Therein lies the simplicity.

Therein lies the beauty.



“I have lived a great deal among grown-ups. I have seen them intimately, close at hand. And that hasn’t much improved my opinion of them.”

(The Little Prince, by Antoine de Saint-Exupery)

12. WHAT NOW?

or

“The bigger picture.”

Ultimately you may believe in science or the spiritual. You may believe in neither, or both.

You may be learned or intellectual, spiritual or enlightened, or you may not even be able to read. But one thing is true: In spite of man's ever increasing knowledge and education, sadness and loneliness are pervasive and only grow the more.

The world has known too much fake religion, too much politics, too many false promises, and too many false hopes.

People worry for their safety and security and try to forget their broken dreams and numb their senses with excesses of booze, drugs, non stop activity and material things. People are starving for “real”.

Man is increasingly becoming more alienated from his neighbor, lost. Families are disintegrating, nations crumbling. People have lost their drive, their motivation, their will to build something better for all, as fear, self interest and greed take center stage.

Why are we all here on this Earth? This is the main question and one to which there is no simple answer.

Some say we are here to learn to love. This may be true, but if so, sometimes there seem to be few who are making passing grades. Others say we are here as some sort of punishment. Maybe to some degree both are true. Who knows?

Some people have all kinds of theories as to why we are here. Others don't have any. I think the “why” we are here, doesn't matter as much as “how” we spend our time while we are here.

What we do every day is what defines us. Not our words, not our “BS” promises or claims. What we do for others, how much we prefer others to

ourselves is what makes us grow, is what produces fruits of compassion, love and understanding: not the material things we have and the empty boasts we make.

We need to stop being so lazy and start *doing* more than just complaining. We need to look to God and away from the voices of division that would pull us apart.

We need to learn to respect each other.

We need to criticize less, pray more.

We need to be more supportive of each other and work together in cooperation instead of competition.

We should be more supportive of our governments and institutions instead of bashing them, reminding ourselves continually that they are made up of people just like us, and they're not perfect either.

We need to stop blaming others.

We need to stop blaming ourselves.

Above all, we need to learn to FORGIVE.

We are creating, not only the world we live in, but also our eternal destiny by the things we do day in and day out, by the thoughts we entertain, and by the way we live.

WHAT NOW?

Don't listen to those who would have you believe there is no rhyme or reason to life, God or the universe.

There IS a bigger picture.

It's greater and mightier than we ever imagined!



“And now here is my secret, a very simple secret:
It is only with the heart that one can see rightly.
What is essential is invisible to the eye.”

(The Little Prince, by Antoine de Saint-Exupery)

A SIMPLE PRAYER

Lord, open my mind, open
my heart and open my eyes that
I may see the bigger picture, Your
greater plan, and how I fit into it.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Appendix



Not a Pretty Picture

What I think about religion.

BIBLE THUMPERS

How can anyone be attracted to some of these evangelical groups? How can anyone find all of their shouting and preaching appealing?

You see them on television. You see them on street corners. They make such fools of themselves.

No wonder no one wants their God. That's why they have lost their young people.

And they wonder "why".

- - -

TORTURE^[3]

It never ceases to amaze me how people can even want to go to church and submit themselves to the torture of sitting there on one of those cold, hard pews for two hours or more!

- - -

MOPPING UP^[3]

Are you one of those many Christians throughout history who think that God wants them

to be judges and tell others how they should act and think?

If so, no matter how well meaning you may be, instead of attracting people *to* God, you also have alienated people from the God you profess to serve!

WE didn't turn those people off of God: *You* did with your condemnation and guilt trips. *You* turned people against God with your judgmental narrow mindedness. And *you* continue to do so today. Don't blame us.

We're mopping up for YOU!

- - -

GIMME A BREAK

Many people say they don't want Christianity because too many Christians don't practice what they preach.

Well, we don't stop looking at a particular sport because some athlete commits a crime. We don't stop eating a particular food or using some product because its CEO got caught cheating on his wife.

But the false churchianity system has conditioned people to expect sinless perfection from anyone who professes to be Christian. How

stupid is this?

I believe in Christianity because I believe its core principles of being kind and loving to each other, tolerant and forgiving. I don't have to be perfect to believe this. Nor do I have to fit into anyone's concept of perfection to write about these things.

I know I don't practice what I preach all the time. I get impatient and pissed off at times. I am also careless with my words at times. I am far from achieving all these good things. I believe we all would be better off if we believed and practiced these good things. But I will stay on this path. I will keep trying.

So, if you want to read things from some sinless saint, you shouldn't be reading this book. Gimme a break!

- - -

PEOPLE NEED MORE ^[4]

“Religion” isn't enough. Merely going to church (temple or mosque) isn't either, as most people feel they need more than what an institutionalized spiritual experience can offer.

- - -

DON'T GET CAUGHT!

Adultery. People do it.

Some get caught. Some don't.

A Catholic commits adultery, confesses it to a priest and is then able to repeat, as desired.

An evangelical doesn't have it that good.

When an churchy Christian gets caught, their so called "church family" will jump all over them. Even non believers and atheists will jump on the band wagon in condemning these "sinners".

The word *adultery*, when it comes to a Christian, invokes even greater images of "dirt and sleaze" and is always accompanied by an attitude of self righteousness toward the "guilty" party.

It gets worse: When one of their revered "pastors" is caught "in the act", especially a leader they had previously held in high esteem as a prime example of integrity and *sinless perfection* to the "flock", ---they are immediately replaced.

They must then retreat to their shameful corner where they are disgraced into a public teary-eyed display of contrition and remorse for "having sinned against God". This is especially effective if it is televised.

The formerly high and lofty leader is now

like one of us mere mortals. Nay, he is worse... because “we don’t do those things”. Such is the attitude of evangelicals.

So, what’s the moral of this story? Become a Catholic! (Just kidding!) or,
Don’t get caught!

- - -

WHY ARE WE HERE? [2]

Why are we here? What is life all about? These are questions we all ask ourselves.

We are here to learn to make the right decisions. We are here to learn to find the balance between our convictions and our emotions.

We are here to do what is right, or what is not right, from the moral perspective of love and honesty. We are here to learn that to do good has its reward, and to do evil has its reward also.

And we reap... what we sow.

- - -

TALK ABOUT RELIGION [2]

I hate talking about religion.

Believe it or not I do *not* enter into discussions with evangelical Christians because it is a dead end

street. Their minds are always made up.

Believe it or not, I am *not* religious. When I talk about God, it is not at all in the same context or terms as these churchy fanatics! I do not like mainstream evangelical religion. I cannot relate to them, nor do I want to.

I believe in love. I believe in kindness, caring and helping each other.

These things are the essence of true religion. These things are the true essence of God.

- - -

A DEAD END

It's easy to criticize religion, churches and their dastardly deeds throughout the ages. But many people get stuck in a rut of criticism until it occupies an inordinate amount of their time and energy. Criticism merely for the sake of criticism is a dead end. It really gets us nowhere; taking action does.

So the time should come when we feel no need to continue criticizing, and we set out to communicate God's true nature: that of a loving, accepting, benevolent spirit and the essence of everything we are as humans.

This is the only we can even begin to heal all

hurt, ease all pain and make life worth living.

- - -

IN ITS HIGHEST STATE [1]

The world has become complex, the problems we face so many, and God is so big that there is no one-size-fits-all set of rules, doctrine, or ideology that we should all follow.

None of us should expect all others to adhere to our beliefs, because we each, as individuals, are at different levels of spiritual growth. We all have varying degrees of enlightenment, and we cannot expect anyone else to think and behave like us. Much less that everyone should believe like us.

When unbelievers do by nature the things that please God, when people who don't even know God and the Bible live loving lives, they are more pleasing to God than believers who are unloving.

True religion in its highest state is LOVE,
Pure and simple.



Afterthoughts

Last, but not least.

Change is the common denominator of both the physical as well as the spiritual. Both are in a constant state of flux. Just when we think we understand something, we discover that there is so much more to understand.

- - -

I have always been just a little bit leery of supposedly “spiritual” people who have a string of letters after their name. Jesus himself spent more time with drunks, whores and the common folk than with the learned doctors of the law.

- - -

Man gets so submerged in his sense of self worth that his ego gets in the way of seeing the simplicity of many things.

- - -

You can't really define God, and you can't define love either because both are so multifaceted.

- - -

I believe modern man's divorcing himself from God is the cause of society's ills. The solution to all of man's problems is love: love for our fellow man, which is *synonymous* with love for God.

- - -

I believe in evolution, and I believe in God, but probably not in the same context that most people do.

I believe in Heaven, and I believe in hell, but probably not in the same context that most people do.

- - -

Hell is simply “away from God’s presence”. And no one has to stay there forever.

- - -

People like to use all kinds of big words when they speak about a given subject. They spout out a bunch of “facts” and figures and talk about high things in lofty ways with people sitting there in rapt attention pretending to understand.

Preachers like to do this. So do scientists.

- - -

Too much head knowledge can be a real impediment to our growing in wisdom.

- - -

For thousands of years man has used his advanced math, complicated formulas, endless theories and copious writings to disprove the existence of God. Since Galileo’s day he has justified rejecting God by citing the narrow minded, strict and inflexible interpretations of the Bible that have been foisted upon us by religious

extremists.

But people are smarter now. The average person today can see through the sham of false religion and understand the concept of God as the loving Spirit behind nature, the universe and all humanity. [4]

- - -

What about Jesus?

Jesus is the name that people call the physical human manifestation of God. There is *power* in the name of Jesus. There is something inexplicably special about that name.

- - -

It *is* valid to address God as a “person”, as a father figure. When you do, you come to know a facet of God as precisely that: a father and a friend. Then a personal, one on one relationship *can* develop. This is something that can’t be explained. It must be experienced.

- - -

Science is knowledge that man has gained from his observation of what are actually miracles of God: mirror images reflecting the spirit world and God’s true nature.

- - -

Man in this world asks, “Does the spirit world exist, and does God exist?” But that’s not

the real question.

The spirit world does exist and God does exist. The real question is: “Why does *this* world exist, and why are *we* here?”

- - -

If we *could* define God based on the rules of this, our physical world, he wouldn't be God. He would just be another component of this world and governed by the same restraints and limitations as everything else here.

- - -

We see only bits and pieces of the puzzle right now, and while all of our perspectives are valid, none of us see the entire picture.

But the truth is, and always has been there. At times illogical to our minds and known only deep within our hearts. [4]

- - -

God is pure *intelligence*. God's spirit is unconditional love. He loves each one as if we were the only one.

There may be many gods out there, but the God of love reigns supreme.

- - -

Ours is not to ask what “role” God has in the universe, but rather what role we have. God doesn't need a role to play. To have a role to play

is to say there is someone greater, a “director” or a “producer”.

GOD is the director. God is the producer. We are the ones playing the roles. We actually choose the role we want to play, and we are creating our eternal destiny by how we play out our roles.

- - -

Death is passing over to the other side. Death is our graduation day. It's our *coronation day*.

- - -

A Christian is not supposed to be perfect. Trying to be perfect is self-righteousness. Yet this is the overwhelming teaching of church: Sinless perfection *in man's eyes*, which is promoted as being what God wants!

A Christian is not supposed to be *perfect*. Only *loving*.

- - -

Growing older changes your way of looking at things.

As you get older, you mellow out. You see things from a different perspective. Hopefully you become more tolerant, more understanding and more forgiving.

Some cheeses get better over time.
I like to think I'm one of them!

- - -

We can believe in God without being religious. We can believe in God without being evangelical or Catholic, or Hindu, Jewish, or Muslim.

God is much bigger than religion. God is bigger than our entire universe. Because God IS the universe, the power behind the universe, the essence of our very beings, and the substance by which all things exist.

- - -

In the spirit world, everything flows in an almost musical silence. The *harmony of the spheres*.

- - -

Does God “talk”? Yes. God can talk to man many ways. God’s voice is often like a sort of intuition, an impression, or feeling. It is something difficult if not impossible to explain in “mathematical” terms. It must be experienced.

- - -

There *will* be a happy ending. And love awaits us ALL!



Quotes from THE LITTLE PRINCE*

“Words are the source of misunderstandings.”
(chapter 3)

- - -

“All grown-ups were once children... but only few
of them remember it.” (chapter 5)

- - -

“The most beautiful things in the world cannot be
seen or touched; they are felt with the heart.”
(chapter 8)

- - -

“The eyes are blind. One must look with the heart.”
(chapter 10)

- - -

“I have lived a great deal among grown-ups. I
have seen them intimately, close at hand. And that
hasn't much improved my opinion of them.”
(chapter 11)

- - -

“And now here is my secret, a very simple secret:
It is only with the heart that one can see rightly.
What is essential is invisible to the eye.”
(chapter 12)

* *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.
Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

HOW TO MAKE A MÖBIUS STRIP

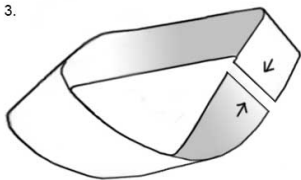
1.



2.



3.



✂ Cut along dotted line to make a Möbius strip. ✂

Be bold. Believe!

Bibliography

- [1] Be Bold. Believe.
- [2] Bold and Believing
- [3] I'm a "Bad" Christian!
- [4] The Certainty of Everything

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