

Quran: The Book of Lights

Book One
High Lights
Surahs 1-114



Quran: The Book of Lights

Book Two
LAND
How to Become a Genius and Save the Planet
Surah 1-13

Quran: The Book of Lights

Book Three
SEA:
How to Love Life
Surahs 14-25

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Book Four
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Book Seven
Flames
How to Circumcise Your Own Soul
Surahs 70-114

Copyright Page

I dedicate Book Two to:

Marian Anderson

Born February 27, 1897

Died April 8, 1993 ¹

&

And people in prisons everywhere,

Those with mental illnesses

And those with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

¹ Marian Anderson: "African-American contralto and one of the most celebrated singers of the 20th Century. Anderson became an important figure in the struggle for black artists to overcome racial prejudice in the United States." She embodied my mother's struggle with dementia and she embodies the struggle of the young, black girl in us all. [Wikipedia]

Quran: The Book of Lights
 Book Two
 LAND
 How to Become a Genius and Save the Planet
 Surah 1-13

(The word “surah” in Arabic means “chapter.”)

Orthographic Key

	Hyper-Religious Believers:			Spiritualists:		
	JEWS	CHRISTIANS	<i>Muslims</i>	Jews	Christians	Muslims
Lord:	GOD	GOD	<i>God</i>	GOD	GOD	GOD

Some of the hyper-religious JEWS are afraid that they’re smaller than other people, even though they’re only small in number. Some of the hyper-religious Christians think they’re bigger than everyone else because their GOD came to Earth as a man and spoke about HIS love for everyone. And some of the hyper-religious *Muslims* think they’re different and special because their revelations came last.

For this reason, I’ve assigned separate fonts to each of them because they all think **GOD**’s Scriptures are theirs alone to interpret as literally or figuratively as they choose.

Lord of the hyper-religious JEWS	GOD ADONAI		
Lord of the hyper-religious CHRISTIANS	GOD the FATHER	GOD {Jesus} HIS SON	Holy Spirit
Lord of the hyper-religious <i>Muslims</i>	<i>God</i> {Allah}		
GOD, GOD and <i>God</i>	GOD		

The WORD of GOD	Tanach: the Hebrew (Old) Testament
The WORD of GOD	The New Testament includes the four Gospels which describe the life of Jesus.
The <i>Word</i> of <i>God</i>	The Quran
The wORDS of GOD	The combination of all three

Book Two is a soup made of all the scraps from the first 13 surahs of the Quran that the Archangel Gabriel uttered to the Prophet Muhammad who wrote down his message from *God*.

When you pour milk into a glass, the milk takes the shape of the glass. When you pour milk into a cup, can, bottle, dish, bowl, shoe or pocketbook, you not only change the shape of the milk. You may also have an effect on how milk is perceived generally.

Written words are containers filled with meanings. If you change the shape of the container {FONT/FONT/*Font*}, you don't change the meaning of the word, but you may have an effect on how that WORD/WORD/*Word* is perceived.

And if you can change perceptions, you may change minds. And if you can change minds, you may even be able to change hearts and souls.

Book Two is the soup of my meal.

When you complete this book,
you will have confirmed yourself as a spiritual being
and will be a genius who can save the planet.

Cheeseburger

There once was a hyper-religious JEW who you might describe as more than cynical and skeptical. You might say he leaned so far into the nature of reality that he became somewhat like a questioning, spiritual Jew. And that made him aware of possibilities his cronies couldn't see.

One day he went to a restaurant where he saw another fellow from his synagogue sitting alone eating a cheeseburger. (It's not kosher to mix the milk of the calf with the meat of the mother cow because it's shameful to exact cruelty on any living thing. So a cheeseburger is strictly forbidden to religious JEWS. Spiritual Jews may agree to the principle, but they don't live by that dictate literally.)

The religious JEW confronted his friend, demanding to know why he was secretly eating non-kosher food. But the fellow said he wasn't doing anything wrong. He was eating a chicken cheeseburger. (As you know, mixing poultry with dairy isn't non-kosher because chickens don't produce milk.)

The religious JEW was lost for words. So he went to his RABBI and asked him whether a chicken cheeseburger is kosher, or not. And his RABBI told him a chicken cheeseburger *is* kosher because it doesn't literally break GOD's laws.

But because the religious JEW was also spiritual and wished to question reality more than swallow it whole without chewing on it first, he had his doubts. So he went to a spiritual, Jewish friend of his who also happened to be a rabbi, and that rabbi told him that a chicken cheeseburger is absolutely not kosher because if something doesn't even look kosher, it can't be kosher.

I leave it to you to decide whether this book on the Quran is kosher or not. And I leave it to you to decide whether it's also halal. ²

² There seem to be many in politics and religion nowadays who go out of their way of late to serve us chicken cheeseburgers. You should know from the start that I believe such dishes are not kosher. But it takes a well-developed conscience and an honest judicial system to see to it that people aren't being served anything that's morally unclean.

Assimilation

When I was a high school kid in the 1960's African-Americans were bussed to my school in an effort to assimilate my generation after two centuries of separating the races. That didn't go well for me at first. I wasn't raised in a racist household, but I have a particularly sensitive nose, and some of those African-Americans smelled bad. I didn't say anything to anyone about it at the time, but years later I learned that people who don't share the same diet are going to smell differently to one another. It wasn't an issue of cleanliness or hygiene. I'm sure I smelled just as bad to some of them, and they may not have said anything either.

Society simply tried to assimilate us at a time in American history when there were very few fast food restaurants. Most of us ate every meal at home in those days. And many African-Americans probably ate a diet then that was very different from what I was raised on in my immigrant mother's, working class, Jewish kitchen in Los Angeles. Her idea of gourmet cooking for my little sister and me after a hard day of work as a secretary in an accounting firm was cutting up hot dogs into a Kraft macaroni-and-cheese dinner.

Today, in America, we're dealing with Muslims who've come to this country from the Middle East. They've been raised on a spiritual diet that's more than a thousand years old. And it's very different from the symbols drained of meaning that what we were religiously raised on in the 1960's. It's not to say that Muslim-Americans smell bad in the literal sense of the word. It's that my nose tells me that there's something very different about their interpretation of *God*. It's for that reason that I wrote these books on the Quran, the spiritual diet of Muslims worldwide that's now being assimilated into American society and modernity worldwide.

My Little Secret

When I used to read, I heard the words on the page in my mind. I didn't see them in my mind. I didn't visualize words when I read, and I didn't visualize words when thought. I rarely even listened to what I was saying to myself when I was thinking. My mind was like elevator music I didn't pay much attention to. My thoughts were going on in the background as I went up and down the roller coaster of life.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but that's simply not true. If properly depicted, a word can convey a message more powerful than a thousand pictures. For that reason, I've invented a visual system of writing that has enlarged my imagination so that I can now think visually as well as aurally.

This system has allowed my subconscious and unconscious minds to grab ahold of words in a new and creative way that makes it easier for me to bring deep-seated thoughts to my conscious mind in picture form. This has contributed enormously to my strength of character, which has, in turn, made me a much happier person.

You'll find that as you read this book that this book may also be figuratively reading you. Like a spectrometer, the scientific instrument used to split light into an array of separate colors called a "spectrum," your nature can be analyzed. In the same way that the chemical composition of the stars millions of light-years away can be determined, your nature can be portrayed to you by you once you have an internal spectrometer in place. By the time you reach the end of these seven books, you'll be able to see for yourself what you're made of. And you'll discover that, like stars, everybody is similar, but somewhat different.

{MOHEL}:

{A Jew trained in the practice of BRIT MILAH: the covenant of circumcision.}

According to tradition,
Moses was one of seven holy people in Tanach born circumcised:
Adam, Seth, Noah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Job.

According to Torah,
Abraham was circumcised at the age of 99
And Ishmael was circumcised at the age of 13
[Genesis 17:26]

According to an Islamic tradition,
Abraham circumcised himself at the age 80 with an axe.

According to an Islamic tradition,
The Prophet Muhammad was either born circumcised
or he was circumcised by his grandfather when Muhammad was 13.

The Christian idea of circumcision of the heart is found in Romans 2:29.
It refers to the creation of a pure heart.

I am a spiritual mohel.
I circumcise souls,
not penises.

Those who've lost a limb
speak about a haunting phantom sensation.
Even people who've lost a tooth can experience
the phantom limb syndrome.
The loss of your foreskin creates a similar loss
which can be poetically perceived and described
as a lifelong process called
"Spirituality."

Reality

Reality is given to us in seven forms of spirituality,
much like DNA is a code for biological construction.
Call these seven codes.

If you want to break the Abrahamic code of Western Civilization
you need
the hyper-religious JEWISH code
the hyper-religious CHRISTIAN code
and the hyper-religious *Muslim* code

None of the religious extremists in the Abrahamic faiths
can live together in peace with one another these days.
They never could
because gay-Jews, gay-Christians and gay-Muslims
have broken their codes.

The religious extremists are afraid that if they follow our direction
they're going to physically betray their nature sexually.
I assure them that that won't be necessary.
They're already as screwed up as they're ever going to need to be...

These books will teach you the Abrahamic code of the Western world
as well as the universal code
that will not only unite the East and West.
It will help you break your own code.

These books will take you all the way around your soul
much like a horse pulls a plow through a field.
When you finish all seven,
the foreskin of your soul will simply fall off naturally.
You'll have plowed your way all the way around it.

It's a painless process
that won't change your sexuality or belief system in the least.
(The **philosophic** codes of the Far East will be cracked, like code, in my next book.)

But if you're hoping not to pay a price
beyond the price of these books
for this knowledge,
you're still living in a fantasy.
These books will cost you plenty.
You're going to pay through your proboscis!

Circumcision

When I was a child in the '50's
my father related a story about when he was in Dachau Concentration Camp.
Another slave laborer seriously burned his hand
when a fire got out of control.
My father prided himself in saving the day
by telling everyone to take out his penis
and urinate on the man's hand.
I Googled it,
and apparently it's a thing.

But
what I remember most about how I felt
at the time he told me this story
was that my imagination lengthened, widened and deepened as he was talking.
I couldn't imagine at the time that offering my little penis
could be like offering a helping hand.

As I grew older
and learned more about the Holocaust,
I began to think about the circumcised penises
that urinated on that poor man's hand
while all those uncircumcised penises
were systematically killing Jewish men, women and children.

And I wondered
if I'd been given the chance to choose for myself in infancy
whether I'd have chosen to be circumcised.

In The Beginning

Genesis

(Torah: Hebrew Testament – 1:1-5)

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH. NOW THE EARTH WAS FORMLESS AND EMPTY. DARKNESS WAS OVER THE SURFACE OF THE DEEP, AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS HOVERING OVER THE WATERS. AND GOD SAID, “LET THERE BE LIGHT,” AND THERE WAS LIGHT. GOD SAW THAT THE LIGHT WAS GOOD, AND HE SEPARATED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS. GOD CALLED THE LIGHT “DAY,” AND THE DARKNESS HE CALLED “NIGHT.” AND THERE WAS EVENING, AND THERE WAS MORNING – THE FIRST DAY.

John

Gospel (Christian Bible – 1:1-5)

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE WAS WITH GOD IN THE BEGINNING. THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE; WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT HAS BEEN MADE. IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL MANKIND. THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.

Quran

(Islamic Holy Text – Surah 1:1-7)

In the name of God the compassionate and merciful:

Praise be to God,

Lord of the Creation,

the compassionate and merciful,

sovereign of the Day of Judgment.

You alone we worship,

and You alone we turn for help.

Guide us to the path,

the path of those on whom You have bestowed Your grace,

not of those who have incurred Your anger,

nor of those who have gone astray.

Sex and GOD

Sometime in the late 70's, when I was in my late twenties, a married, Jewish friend of mine set me up on a date with a Jewish ex-boyfriend of hers. The first thing I noticed about him was that he was very handsome and that he looked a lot like me... That surprised me because I didn't think I was good looking, and I was only attracted to men who looked exotic (i.e. dark-skinned, brown-eyed and without that cockeyed Jewish look that was still so common when I was a kid).

But that date with him was only a one-night fling. It didn't mean much to me then, now almost 40 years ago, until I'd completed my spiritual journey through the Quran.

That fellow I had sex with that night was a paraplegic. He'd dropped acid one stormy night and then decided to go out for a ride on his motorcycle in the pouring rain. He had an accident and lost a leg below the knee. The night we spent together occurred a couple of years after his accident/incident.

After dinner with our mutual friends, we went back to his place, took off our clothes, got into bed and started to fool around. And although it began pleasantly and casually enough, I suddenly felt compelled to touch his stump. I thought it would be rude not to. (What does it mean to be intimate with another person if you can have oral and/or anal sex with him, but you can't touch his stump?) So my hand made its way down past his waist, past his thigh, to his knee... Where I was going was actually pretty scary since I'd never done anything like that before.

But I felt like a fool when I reached his shin, only to discover I'd been exploring the wrong leg and had to start all over again on the other side. So I pretended I was passionately engaged in kissing him while I made my way down the other leg, even more creeped out than before.

What happened then I wasn't able to put into words until now. And I guess I couldn't express the experience until now because I didn't know where **GOD** had been taking me until now (age 67). I didn't know then how deeply I'd confounded my feelings with my sensations.

When I finally reached his stump I felt a combination of relief and curiosity. I was relieved that I'd reached my destination, and I was curious about what it felt like to touch such a massive, physical scar that signified a huge, emotional wound that would surely never completely heal. But now I can say that that was the one and only time in my life when I'd literally held the greatest loss in another man's life in the palm of my hand.

That event turned out to be the figurative circumcision of my heart. It moved me out of apathy to sympathy. That fellow's loss became a symbol of my loss, a loss I couldn't literally hold in my hands. Later, life would move me out of sympathy to empathy. But when I look back now, I can see that that night taught me to cry 10,000 tears for what it took for me to learn about myself.

I don't know where that fellow is today. I don't know what it's been like for him to get up every morning wishing he could have his leg back. I only know that I lost my mind and twice had to be involuntarily committed to mental institutions to help me look for it. But I can honestly say that I don't wish for the mind I had then anymore. Going crazy turned out to be the greatest learning experience of my life, albeit a painful one.

These seven books are a modern interpretation of the Quran, which will allow you to figuratively hold your losses in life in the palm of your hands. These books will show you

how, through the Quran, you can come to see your losses as your greatest gains. JEWISH, CHRISTIAN and *Muslim* obsessions with Israel is just such a loss. These books will give you the spiritual strength to circumnavigate your soul in order for it to be circumcised, whether you're male or female, straight or gay, Jewish, Christian or Muslim.

Bon Voyage!
Barry Emanuel Zeve

My Bad!

I moved from L.A. to Israel in my late teens, where I lived for a couple of years in Tel Aviv. I've been back a few times. At the age of 56 on one of my trips back to Israel, I married myself at the Wailing Wall. The night of my wedding was Friday, April 11th, 2008, I took myself {my body and soul} for better or worse, in sickness and in health, till death when I'd leave this physical vehicle I've been given for the journey of life.

I've been married to me for over ten years now, and I couldn't be happier. In 2010 I met my boyfriend (Catholic). We been together for over nine years. So I'm married to the greatest guy in the whole world and have a gorgeous boyfriend on the side... It doesn't get any better than this!

In the spring of 2011, I went again to Israel. And when I was again at the Wailing Wall, I prayed to GOD for inspiration on what HE wanted me to do next. And at that moment I experienced being ordained by HIM as a rabbi. And in the very next moment, I experienced those huge rocks that make up the Wailing Wall open up before me, revealing a tunnel that went right to the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. I had no idea at the time what that vision meant. But I do now.

For the last ten years, I've been spiritually excavating under the Temple Mount in my imagination, making my way to the Dome of the Rock, the rock on which Abraham planned to sacrifice Isaac; the rock where Jesus prayed at the Second Temple; and the Rock from which the Prophet Muhammad flew up to "heaven" to convene with Moses, Jesus and **GOD**.

These books are an inspired look at Islam from the perspective of the underside of that rock, never before seen from such depth or introspection. But I must warn you. Although many people are afraid of heights, few realize how terrifying it can be to plunge into the depths of their inner world where their beliefs reside. This place is called your "soul." This place in inner space may even be more terrifying than the enormous expanse of outer space.

I was the perfect candidate to make my way down that hidden passage because I was born caesarian. Never having been born by going down the tunnel normal people descend from, this tunnel to the Dome of the Rock has been the most enticing adventure of my life. I can't say that I've been "reborn" in the Christian sense of the WORD. But I can say that I've finally been borne into the mystery of life in the Muslim sense of the *word*.

These books may change the way you see yourself if, like a tree, your roots are wrapped around GOD/GOD/*God* as though HE/HE/*He* were your rock. Your effort to put up with my idiosyncratic style will end with an incredible and miraculous awakening to yourself {body and soul}. It'll change the way you perceive you, not just how you look at Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Who This Book Is For

This book is very, very long. Therefore just by having read the High Lights you were taking a risk in getting caught up in something big.

1. This book is intended for people who love to read for the sheer pleasure of reading.
2. It's intended for people who are ready to learn how to get past the hypocrites found in all three of the Abrahamic faiths.
3. And it's for people who aren't afraid to question all that they think, feel, want and believe.

You can't wisely endorse or oppose JEWISH beliefs, CHRISTIAN beliefs or *Muslim* beliefs if you haven't consciously perceived their effect on you personally.

These seven books will teach you about the separate interpretations of the GOD/GOD/*God* of Abraham that you may, or may not, hold dear, and how you can come to believe in the one **GOD** the three institutions of religion haven't yet been able to fathom. When you come to understand how your wants influence your behavior, you'll discover why **GOD** made you uniquely in **HIS** image with a special, moral purpose in mind. You'll discover how wisdom, love and devotion are gifts given to you through the Abrahamic faiths to raise the Earth up to "heaven," not to drag us all down into "hell." These seven books will teach you how to perceive yourself as a good book in the making.

Why This Book Is For Both Women And Men

Men determine the sex of the babies they sire. They contribute the “x” factor that produces a female or the “y” factor that produces a male. Women contribute the other “x” factor.

In this book I’m going to account for the differences between these two “x” factors. The “x” factor contributed by the man I’m going to call “x¹”. The “x” factor contributed by women I’m going to call “x²”.

The Quran solves for the meaning of x². In mathematical terms, here is an argument on this topic:

$$x^1 + x^2 = 1$$

$$y + x^2 = 1$$

$$x^1 + x^2 \pm y + x^2$$

women are equivalent {more or less equal} to men

$$y + x^2 = 1$$

The traditional man puts his father before his mother.

$$x^2 + y = 1$$

The modern man puts his mother before his father.

$$x^1 + x^2 = 1$$

The traditional woman puts her father before her mother.

$$x^2 + x^1 = 1$$

The modern woman puts her mother before her father.

This book will solve for x and y
And this book will also solve for z
(all those who are terrible at math...)

Preface

These books total more than 2,500 pages.
If you're in a rush to get through them,
you're going to arrive late to the last page.
Read each word slowly,
including every single footnote on the page! ³
Think of this endeavor as the equivalent to Lasik surgery.
But in this case,
it's going to improve your hindsight, insight and foresight.
You only need to focus on what you're reading to get the most beneficial results.
But you're not going to succeed at doing so if you're in a hurry.
There's no need for you to memorize or try to remember a thing.
This isn't a test.
You don't have to parrot back anything you learn.
Just pay attention to yourself as you read.
That's all you ought to do.
(The expression "to pay attention" in Hebrew is
LASIM LEV which literally translates as:
"to put your heart into it.")

The military solutions to the problems in the Middle East aren't going so well, so the pundits are crying out for political solutions. The pundits believe guns *and* negotiation might succeed where guns *or* negotiation didn't. But the problems in the Abrahamic faiths will only be solved with faith healers from all three faiths along with soldiers and/or politicians.

But to do that, our religious leaders will need to be healed themselves. We can't presume they're able to help the rest of us if they can't prove that they can help themselves. Big guns and big talk alone won't get us where we all want to go: peace and prosperity. We need men and women of faith to solve these problems. The problem of what to do with Israel is only the tip of a huge, spiritual iceberg that's going to affect all of humanity.

Most people in the West insist that the wars we're waging in the Middle East aren't really wars on Islam. But nobody called the Second World War a war on Judaism, either. As the Jewish child of Holocaust survivors, I was raised to conclude that all wars are based on differences of belief. As an American, gay man, I think the culture war in this country is a religious war waged by JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY and *Islam* on the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.

³ Moses said that man was made of clay. Jesus said HE wanted to be remembered through bread and wine, thus inferring that we're all made of spiritual bread and spiritual wine. But the Prophet Muhammad said that man is made of impatience; the more you cut through him, the more impatience you find. If you read this book slowly, including all the footnotes, you may not become less impatient with others. But I promise you'll develop the composure you need to achieve patience with yourself.

community.⁴ But I also think all wars are about beliefs people hold about others that emanate out from erroneous beliefs they hold about themselves.

As a survivor of the generation of the AIDS crisis, I wish to begin by acknowledging The 700,000 fallen heroes in the gay community in America who died in the name of “the love that dared not speak its name.”⁵ And in honoring them, I’m reminded of the wonderful lesbians who stood by the side of our gay brothers through their silent struggle to find a way to help our boys die peacefully (in the arms of GOD/GOD/*God*), unashamed of their sexual identity. Only now, long after those gay men have perished, are extremist JEWS, Christians and *Muslims* beginning to suspect that we all pray to the same **CREATOR**, which I refer to as **GOD**.

The ultra-orthodox JEWS oppose gays on religious grounds found in Torah, the Book of Wisdom. Rightwing CHRISTIANS are antagonistic toward both gays and Muslims despite Christ’s teachings of love found in the New Testament, the Book of Love. And radicalized *Islamists* are determined to kill Jews, gays and everyone who befriends us, while justifying their actions with the Quran, the Book of Light, a religious work that upholds peace and unity between all believers.

The Western world has turned into a “hate-triangle.” And the only thing the extremists can agree on is the impurity of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community and the right of men to lord over women (surely because these men believe that GOD/GOD/*God* is male). And while most people are curious to explore all matters of faith and how to live together in peace in a modern world with various beliefs, corporate thieves are out there stealing us all blind.

If you’ve managed to read this far, you’ve learned a great deal about us both.

1. You’ve learned that I make a great distinction between Jews and JEWS based on my sexual orientation.
2. You’ve learned that I’ve dumped the orthodox JEWS, rightwing CHRISTIANS and *Muslim* extremists into the same dirty pot.
3. You’ve learned all this from the first few steps you’ve taken through the Wailing Wall down the corridor to the Dome of the Rock.
4. And you’ve learned something else. You should be able to deduce that you’re exceptionally intelligent and open-minded just for having read this far because all those people who weren’t smart enough or patient enough to keep up have already

⁴ “L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.” stands for: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual. You don’t have to be gay to be “gay” and carefree. We are the enemies of extremist JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims*. We are the friends of the Jews, Christians and Muslims.

⁵ “The love that dare not speak its name” is a phrase from the poem “Two Loves” by Lord Alfred Douglas; published in 1894. The phrase was mentioned at Oscar Wilde’s trial and is usually interpreted as a euphemism for homosexuality. (Although Wilde was gay, he denied that his use of this phrase had gay intent.” [Wikipedia] He didn’t dare admit he was gay. The love that dare not speak its name in today’s modern world is your love for yourself.

shut this book and walked away from it. And that couldn't be because of who I am. They don't know me.

In continuing my introductory discussion of Scripture, I must tell you that I was twice involuntarily committed to mental institutions 40 years ago. I not only took drugs and drank to excess. I twice tried to kill myself. I was first diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenic and later as manic-depressive. I was on psychiatric medication for 25 years but have been off them since June 21st, 2000. (The first day of summer in the new century.)

If you're looking for ammunition for an *ad hominem* attack against this work, you need look no further. I'm probably the craziest gay-Jew on Earth. But if you make the claim that you hate gays and/or Jews more than me, you're up against stiff competition... I'm a world-class expert on hatred of gays and Jews because of all the self-hate I've worked my way through. As someone who believes in **GOD**, I can tell you that all hate is based on ignorance of **GOD's** universal plans for man. Whether you'd like to admit it or not, **HE** made me in **HIS** image, too.

I know about the hate-triangle that began in my JEWISH head, worked its way into my CHRISTIAN heart and lodged in my *Muslim* soul. I also know a lot about matters below my waist where my wants and desires lie.

This book is predicated on evidence I've gathered that has led me to believe that men know very little about their penis, {the symbolic center of their wants}; their testicles {the symbolic center of their power}; or their anus, {the symbolic center of their desires - humiliation they've been through that they're often too ashamed to show us or talk about}.

I also know about the fear of going crazy; being crazy; and turning yourself around after you've had to admit that you've been crazy. I can't say I've returned to sanity because I'm still discovering what it means to sanely engage with myself one day at a time. Every day, with **GOD's** help, I get a little saner, and, therefore, my life becomes a little more exciting and rewarding than it was the day before. Sanity has taught me to love myself a little more day-by-day for having been created by **GOD** as a lovable, but crazy, gay-Jew.

In this book, I'm going to discuss the messages of Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Muhammad in ways you surely haven't considered before. I'm also going to compare and contrast these three religious leaders in ways that will, hopefully, open windows in your head, heart and soul to let in the light of intellectual illumination and the fresh, cool air of awareness of your love for you. The only thing that's ever inhibited you from using **GOD's** designs to express your devotion to **HIM** and your love for everyone else figuratively lies in your penis or clitoris, the root of your wants. You can't love you if you can't love "it."

There's a common expression in Judeo-Christian society. "If Muhammad won't go to the mountain, the mountain must come to Muhammad." The mountain that's come to Muhammadans is made of **GOD's** designs. That mountain has a Jewish base and a Christian summit. Sometimes we climb it. Sometimes we avoid it. But sometimes you can climb on board a new idea as though on a magic carpet and fly to places more exquisite and intense than any orgasm you could conceive of in your wildest dreams.

God brought a figurative mountain to the Prophet Muhammad to reveal something *He* hadn't expressed in the Old and New Testaments. And that perspective on the Quran is available to you from a new place in inner space, a place I described externally as a tunnel under the Temple mount that leads to the underside of the rock under a Muslim Dome.

I'm not going to tell you how to fix yourself. I'm not going to tell you where to go or what to do in the world we share. I hate being given advice, so I sure as "hell" am not going to give you any, even though I'm going to share with you a lot of my opinions.

I'm going to relay to you through metaphors, symbols and similes how you can use the world around you to improve awareness of your world within. Once you can improve, repair and fix yourself, I suspect the world around you may change a lot more easily and quickly for the better.

Introduction to LAND

The question of the meaning of life posed by Judaism and elucidated by Christianity was answered in Islam. But the solution to what's happening to the Abrahamic faiths today, clearly, can't be solved by Islam alone. We must work together to answer the questions and solve the problems given to each of us, individually and collectively.

The most groundbreaking idea in this whole series is that circumcision of the soul is the process by which you'll remove self-hate and replace it with the self-love you need to behave in more morally righteous ways. But to do so, you're going to want to break through all the conscious and unconscious ways you were taught to project your self-hate onto others.

"GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE." [GENESIS 1:27] and yet every person on earth looks a little different from all others. (I suppose you could also say that **GOD** created snowflakes, but no two snowflakes look quite alike, even though they're all made from the same substance in similar ways.)

The above passage from Torah is the first of many, seeming contradictions that I'm going to address.⁶ If you're not comfortable with contradictions, puns, ironies, paradoxes and poetic license, you may not find my ideas illuminating at first, but try to continue. Things are often not what they appear to be in life. Moses may have claimed in Torah that GOD made man like HIM, but most people don't see the resemblance.

GOD made man in HIS image, but **GOD** gave every one of us two worlds, the world around us that we should learn to share with everyone else, and the world within that's utterly private. These books will show you new ways to share the world within you with your "selves" {head, heart and soul contained in a body}.

Since you may already believe **GOD** is in both your worlds, perhaps you should therefore presume **HE**, too, has two worlds, a world around **HIM** that **HE** shares with us and a world within **HIMSELF** that's also private. We can't know about the world within **GOD** any more than we can know about the world inside anyone else. But we might certainly imagine **GOD's** image more accurately if we could look more deeply into our own.

Imagine for a moment that the wisdom of GOD first brought to humanity by the Jews; the love of GOD first brought to humanity by the Christians; and the devotion of *God* first brought to humanity by the Muslims bring us a mirror image of what **GOD** thinks, feels and believes about **HIMSELF**. This would be a big picture that was bigger than what we can plummet through any one of the Abrahamic faiths. But the only way to explore this big

⁶ Genesis is the first of The Five Book of Moses. The other four books are Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These five books are called "TORAH" in Hebrew. Torah is a word derived from a Hebrew root that comes from archery: to shoot an arrow in order to hit the mark. The target of Torah is the truth about how to think wisely about GOD. "Torah" means "direction," "teaching," "instruction" or "doctrine." Torah deals with the essence of learning through matters of the mind.

picture would be to discover ever-greater truths about our world within before we attempted to change other people's opinions in the world we share.

This is the spiritual message unconsciously being brought into the world today by the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community even though we don't discuss this topic as our "gay agenda" because most of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community aren't yet consciously aware of it. Most simply model it without being able to talk about it.

In the early 1960's, when I was just a boy, the Civil Rights Movement came up with an expression I found curious at the time: "Black is Beautiful." I was a little shocked when I first heard it because I'd previously concluded that black was ugly.

After pondering the expression for a while, I finally came to understand the message of the Civil Rights Movement in my own way. What "black is beautiful" means to me is that when I close my eyes and look inside, my inner world is black; and that's frightening and ugly. But when I open my eyes, any fear I may have had of that darkness within shouldn't be triggered by the color of another person's skin. Such a negative reaction would only be a projection of my fear and disdain of me.

You can't really know what's in anyone's heart until he figuratively opens it to you. His heart could be black {guilt-ridden} in places and white {pure} elsewhere. You can't really perceive the shades of a man's grey {confused/doubtful/uncertain} heart until you compare his words to his deeds. The more you determine he's a hypocrite, the blacker you may envision his heart to be. The more honest, sincere and authentic you perceive him to be, the whiter you may envision his heart.

This inner darkness and light doesn't literally correspond to the myriad shades of man's skin. This is easily demonstrated by Jesus who was Jewish and whose heart was surely pure white even though HIS skin was brown.

You can't understand the wars in the Middle East without looking more closely at the culture wars in America. The culture wars are wars over whether to take Torah literally or figuratively. The big loss for the hyper-religious literalists was in freeing the black slaves in the 19th Century. White Americans had taken Torah literally with respect to slavery since the early 17th Century until they broke away from Torah in that respect during the Civil War. Those who took Torah figuratively won the war. Those who took Torah literally are refusing to capitulate still.

The culture war today over marriage equality is an example of a break away from a literal interpretation of another part of Torah. And until JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* learn how to remember Jerusalem in their heart of hearts {soul}, with conscious awareness of what they're really here to accomplish, these wars will rage on.

I believe the GOD of the Hebrew Testament brought the Jewish people GOD's wisdom through Moses. I believe the GOD of the Christian Testament {Jesus} brought us HIS {GOD's} love in human form. And I believe the *God* of the Muslims {*Allah*} brought us *His* opportunity for redemption through the Prophet Muhammad via the Archangel Gabriel.

The Quran includes aspects of GOD's wisdom and GOD's love combined with *God's* devotion to redemption (even if you wouldn't draw that conclusion just from watching the nightly news). I'm going to call the study of these universal designs as revealed through Scripture: Spiritual Linguistics.

The WORDS/WORDS/*Words* of each of these holy books must be combined to impress you with what each word in your own, unconscious vocabulary might mean to you personally. This 3-PLY meaning to each and every word you know will have a huge effect on your ability to communicate with yourself, with others and in your ability to pray to **GOD**.⁷

GOD created us with the potential for three images of ourselves, generally speaking {wise, loving and devoted}. These attributes are revealed to us through the body we were given, a body that includes a head, heart and breastplate {soul}. We must figuratively learn how to operate all three.

But everything people do also depends on the knowledge they figuratively have of their penis or clitoris {wants}. The genitals **HE** gave us are the figurative delivery system for the rapture that comes in getting to know **HIM**. In these ways, your body is the key to your being.

Sex, therefore, should only be for practice. Sex should always lead to prayer. And the better the sex you're having, the more prayerful it should make you!...⁸

Coming to believe that faith can help in the understanding of every form of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual illness is an awesome, awakening experience. That's when you discover that everyone is striving to discover that little piece of **GOD**'s soul he's been given. And this soulful regard for **GOD** is what the Quran is really all about.

Jews offer the world the wisdom of their thinking. Christians offer the world the love in their heart. And Muslims offer the world the devotion that comes from the beliefs they hold dear in their soul. But because most believers don't pray together, they don't often share themselves intimately with one another. Therefore they don't consciously learn new ways in how to operate themselves thoughtfully, lovingly and soulfully from within, i.e. with themselves.

Gay men and women don't suffer as much from this spiritual malaise. We're religiously inclusive because we're sexually and spiritually inclusive. We wouldn't think of not going to bed with someone because of his/her religion. That would be absurd for us, given how we've been historically treated by all three of the religious institutions in the Abrahamic faiths.⁹

⁷ Spiritual Linguistics will also have an effect on your ability to communicate with yourself. Your relationship to your body is just the tip of the spiritual iceberg. I'm not suggesting that you should give up on the medical model. I'm hoping that you may end up better able to understand the underlying, spiritual causes of your illnesses.

⁸ I'm not suggesting you become self-indulgent or sexually indiscriminate. What I'm referring to is an experience of bodily sensations that will become magnified as your understanding of you intensifies. Fear of your own desires, when projected out onto others, produces homophobia and racism, not religious sacrilege. This is what fuels the religious extremists to hold hatred so passionately. This is why they claim that sex and prayer is a taboo never to be mixed together.

⁹ My mother was thrilled when I finally settled down with a Jewish boyfriend. So was his mother. In fact, I have a picture of our mothers dancing arm in arm the day they met.

Most people want to give GOD/GOD/*God* all their wisdom, love and devotion. They just don't realize they may be concealing some of their cravings, impulses, needs, passions urges and wants from themselves, as well as from one another. Their attraction may not be to sleep with members of their own gender, but rather a sincere desire to sleep more peacefully with themselves. But without greater awareness of the intrinsic, spiritual power of their penis or clitoris, they're going to make serious mistakes of judgment, such as conclusions about the perversity of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community and the erroneous right of some men to enslave other men and repress women.

The man who can understand just one man (himself) will be able to strive to get along with all men. The man who knows more about how he operates from the inside out will treat women and children far better than the man who knows less, or nothing at all, about his inner world. The enlightened man will come to know the symbolic, spiritual power of his testicles {the secret of life} and how to avoid the horrendous issues of his unexplored, figurative anus {the figurative sight in his body of humiliation}.

Most people, gay or straight, suffer from some degree of low self-esteem, which is usually the result of not loving themselves enough, a self-hate they may unknowingly project onto others. They may think, feel or believe that their wants and desires are in everyone's best interests, but that's often not the case.

Extremist JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* don't behave as though our **CREATOR** is one **GOD**.¹⁰ I write about HIM/HIM/*Hím* using the male pronoun in these three, distinct visual ways because religious men (in particular, but not exclusively) have such difficulty in understanding the universality of **GOD**, **HIS** gender(s) and **HIS** designs.

I'm solving for the x^2 factor in us all because this is the mysterious genetic and spiritual link that connects all men to all women. The x^2 factor is the modern term for the figurative bone out of which GOD created Eve in the Creation story in Genesis. But men have always projected that part of themselves onto women, and then they've spent a lifetime lusty for something mysterious they can't reclaim from those in the world around them. Ultimately, the essence of men's x^2 factor lies within.

Despite the fact that Adam and Eve were both reprimanded for eating the fruits of good and evil from the Tree of knowledge, it doesn't take a rocket scientist of either gender to realize that all goodness leads to love, and all evil, in the direction of wisdom {mistakes made and, with more experience, corrected and atoned for}. This is hardly a minor philosophic idea, but it's a simple one.

The Hebrew Testament is like the ground floor of the Abrahamic faiths. The Christian Bible is like the second story, and the Quran is like third story, an open-air penthouse with gardens, restaurants and theaters. This is my image of **GOD's** spiritual edifice on Earth. But without repairs to the foundation of this spiritual edifice of the Western world, cracks will appear in the walls of all three stories. We all need to address these cracks and fix them for the wellbeing of all believers. Removing the ground floor {Judaism}, as CHRISTIANS tried to do in the past century (and many *Muslims* still want to do today), isn't going to

¹⁰ When you use words like ADONAI, Jesus or *Allāh*, you ought to imagine that **GOD** is greater than **HIS** names. Is everything about you contained in your names?

secure their own story. It's only going to drive more people out of our Abrahamic house of **GOD** in fear of a crumbling edifice that no legitimate, faith-based institution would want to be associated with.

The Hebrew Testament is the book of wisdom. Jews figuratively come to **GOD** from our head. It states in the Quran that the Jewish people are "the people of the book."¹¹ The Hebrew Testament is the book of good and evil. The wiser a Jew becomes, the wiser everyone else on earth becomes. Such is the path of wisdom.

The Christian Testament is the book of love. Christians figuratively come to **GOD** from their heart. The Christian Testament is the book of right and wrong in which they're taught to love **GOD** {Jesus}. The more loving a Christian become, the more loving the rest of the world becomes. Such is the path of wisdom of the heart.

The Quran is the book of devotion. Muslims figuratively come to *God* from their soul. The Quran is the book of better and worse. The more soulful a Muslim becomes, the more soulful the rest of the world becomes. Such is the path of wisdom of the soul.

As Muslims modernize, they discover their deeper connection to Jews and Christians. They come to see that the more devotion they hold for the Judeo-Christian achievements of morality, politics, science, culture and the arts, the more the whole world will become unified with devotion to all righteous, human endeavors. Muslim devotion to *God* will then become more obvious to all, which, in turn, will lay the groundwork for a better tomorrow for everyone's children.

The Quran reveals how important it is for man to believe in all of **GOD**/**GOD**/*God* before he comes to believe in one **GOD**. It's not possible to trust a table that has only one leg. A stool is much more secure. To come to believe in one **GOD**, you should believe in (1) **GOD**, (2) **GOD** and (3) *God*.

The real problem for the modern thinker lies in acknowledging that his wants, not his thoughts, feelings or beliefs, may sometimes be in control of his actions. There isn't a man on Earth who figuratively doesn't have a difficult time controlling his penis. Men in all three of the Abrahamic faiths have cruelly intimidated women by controlling their clitorises for them.

If you don't look at the three Abrahamic faiths as successive revelations of **GOD's** designs for man, you're going to conclude that they all say the same thing; that they're all wrong; or that only one of them is right. In truth, they build upon one another. That's the beauty of **GOD's** designs. **THEY** {**GOD** - **HE** and **SHE**} made us responsible for discovering that we're all in this together.

If this book is going to be in any way meaningful to everyone, it's going to have to answer the question, why **GOD** allowed there to be a Holocaust. But to find a suitable answer to that, the answer is going to have to be personally meaningful. It's going to have

¹¹ The people of the book are those Jews who figuratively live in their head. The people of the book are those Christians who figuratively live in their heart. And the people of the book are those Muslims who figuratively live in their soul. You have the capacity to learn from all three because it's all one book.

to answer the question why **GOD** may have allowed a “holocaust” to occur in your life or in the life of someone you love. The personal answer to that question must lead us all to ask how we can avoid the next Holocaust this world is moving toward, a destruction that may be so devastating that some people today (like gay adolescents) are circumventing with suicide to get out of here as soon as they can.

Gay men and gay adolescents are figuratively killing themselves in unprecedented numbers with drugs, alcohol and unprotected sex. And *Islamic* terrorists who are literally killing themselves are committing murder while committing suicide.

The gays only want to kill *themselves*. The *Islamic* terrorists believe the more people they kill when they kill themselves, the greater their reward in the afterlife. This brings up the question whether there’s ever a good reason for murder or suicide.

If you look at all suicides and murders as principled acts that involve profound expressions of thought, feelings and soul searching, you’re going to understand the motives of those who feel this world is too harsh and hopeless for them to want to remain here a minute longer without doing something drastic about it. Every act, but especially suicide and murder, are principled acts that reflect thoughts, feelings and beliefs held very dear. Calling murderers or suicide victims “insane” or “impassioned” is too easy an answer. They’re merely spiritually uninformed. In psychological terminology, we’d call them “ill.”

When you see whales washing up on beaches in large numbers and numerous other animal species that are extremely compromised by the external world we find ourselves in today, it’s really a wonder more human beings aren’t so discouraged that they consider committing suicide. As someone who twice tried to do so, I think I have something valuable to add to this moral inquiry. And I wish to do so through all three of the Abrahamic, belief systems. I have a good mind. I have a pure heart. And I have a blessed soul. There’s no reason why I shouldn’t be allowed at the discussion table just because I’m gay, Jewish or psychologically healed after having been very, very sick.

To begin my opinion on killing, I’m going to give you a brief history of how we all got here in the spiritual sense of the **WORD**. You can’t kill a child of **GOD** if you don’t know something about all of **GOD’s** children and how we became like **HIS** children when each of us received the **WORD** of **GOD** in childhood from our parents.

Torah {the core of Tanach} is written on parchment {sheep skin}. But because it takes more than 80 sheep to write out all of Torah, it was once written on parchment scrolls without any spaces between the words to save cost. It was called the **WORD** of **GOD** because it was literally all one word. It looked in translation something like this:

INTHEBEGINNINGGODCREATEDTHEHEAVENSANDTHEEARTHNOWTHEEARTHWASFORMLESSA
NDEMPYDARKNESSWASOVERTHESURFACEOFTHEDEEPANDTHESPIRITOFGODWASHOVERING
OVERTHEWATERSANDGODSAIDLETTHEREBELIGHTANDTHEREWASLIGHTGODSAWTHATTHELI
GHTWASGOODANDHESEPARATEDTHELIGHTFROMTHEDARKNESSGODCALLEDTHELIGHTDAYA
NDTHEDARKNESSHECALLEDNIGHTANDTHEREWASEVENINGANTHEREWASMORNINGTHEFIRST
DAY

The ancient Greek scholars (circa 400 B.C.E.) were curious about the Jewish **GOD**, so they commissioned rabbis to translate Torah into ancient Greek. But the ancient Greeks

insisted Torah be formatted in the Greek style of putting spaces between the words. And the reason that was then possible was because the ancient Greeks used paper made from papyrus, an invention they picked up from the ancient Egyptians, which was far less costly than parchment.

The rabbis hired by the ancient Greeks went a little crazy in their enthusiasm in getting to spread out on the page because they not only added spaces between the words. They further divided Torah into paragraphs, chapters and even into five books. The result was a best seller in ancient Greece. And the rabbis wasted no time by using the new format to write Torah on papyrus in Hebrew for reading in Israel.

What had been the one WORD of GOD written on parchment in Hebrew became the WORDS from GOD we have since translated into every language, written on paper and even electronically disseminated nowadays through thin air. (And I can write my book on the Quran as long as I want knowing that not a single sheep will be killed in the publication of my ideas...)

About 1,400 years after GOD gave Torah to the ancient Jews (and 400 years after HE gave it indirectly to the ancient Greeks), Jesus found scribes to write down HIS WORDS. Those scribes were Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And thanks to the Prophet Muhammad the *Muslims* were given the final *words* from GOD/GOD/*God* 700 years after that.

What I'm advocating for in this book is an acceptance of the validity of all three: the WORDS of **GOD**. And I maintain that the only thing standing in your way to agreeing with this perspective on Scripture is your penis or clitoris, your urge to have history unfold otherwise, your impulse to oppose some aspects of reality as it's been brought to us historically.

We all resist embracing reality as it is in unique ways. We only want to embrace those portions of reality we've been pre-conditioned to agree with. Therefore, we all have penis problems or clitoris conflicts. Our unstated or unconscious impulses keep us from perceiving reality as it truly is.¹²

When we look back at history to observe all the ways our ancestors related to one another through war, trade and intermarriage, we can imagine how they combined **GOD's** WORDS to create the myriad ways religious thought was intermixed with feelings and beliefs to eventually form today's modern ruminations about **GOD** and **HIS** overarching plans for man. This is my brief historical view of religion through the art of spiritual linguistics.

Suicide and murder are so easy for some to commit because the words they use when speaking to themselves lack the combined, 3-PLY depth of all three of the Abrahamic faiths. What people have been fighting over for millennia has been the WORD/WORD/*Word* of GOD/GOD/*God*. They've refused to look for the combined truths never before depicted in writing as the WORDS of **GOD**. And the losses that can come of that ignorance could make anyone sick about the way this world looks today.

¹² A penis problem boils down to the conclusion that the delivery system of your desires isn't long and wide enough. Therefore, it isn't hard enough and won't go in deeply enough. I leave it to women to tell us what a clitoris conflict amounts to.

Today, you'd either have to be blind not to see what our ancestors couldn't see, or you'd have to be extremely, religiously myopic because of the dogma of the particular faith in which you were raised. In either case, it won't be your head, heart or soul that isn't capable of getting on board this spiritual hypothesis. It's your you-know-what...

Without understanding the importance of your passions when committing to any goal in life, you aren't going to be able to unite the forces within you through a comprehensive understanding of the particular Abrahamic faith you were born into and unconsciously influenced by. Without knowing how your penis or clitoris get your urges met, you may actually be contributing more to the destruction of this world than the construction of a world where we might all live together in peace.

Without wisdom, there's no way to know when to use tough or tender love. Without wisdom and love, there's no way to know and feel expressions of devotion to your beliefs and when to express defiance at beliefs that no longer serve your greater interest. Therefore, **GOD** presented the Abrahamic faiths in the order **HE** did with good reason.

Torah is like the first step up to **GOD's** throne. Torah gives us the intellectual grounding we need for all our faith-based practices. Defiance of wisdom with foolish behavior is something every good parent tries to teach his child to avoid. But many have grown up to become defiant of their upbringing. They throw the baby out with the bathwater without realizing that they're the baby that's landed on its behind because of their inadequate, early childhood upbringing.

The New Testament is like the second step up to **GOD's** throne. It teaches us the emotional containment we need to believe in our feelings. Feelings are fluid, like water. Feelings conform to the container in which they're poured. Defiance of your emotions comes from a heart that hasn't been fully informed by matters of love. Good parents make a valiant effort to promote love in their household, but they may, inadvertently, become purveyors of hatred, prejudice or apathy instead. If your heart is still childishly shaped, the feelings others pour into you will have no option but to take that shape. Figuratively transforming the container of your feelings will make it possible for you to fill yourself with more mature expressions of love.

Modern man is now working on constructing the third step up to **GOD's** throne thanks to Islam, the sleeping giant that was awakened after the recreation of the State of Israel in 1948. Beliefs about the spiritual realm are like thin air. And those who yearn to believe in *God* are like birds learning to fly through the awesome, spiritual realm of currents, clouds and airflows. You can't crawl intellectually if you can't swim emotionally. And you can't swim emotionally if you can't fly spiritually. Thoughts depend on feelings, and feelings depend on beliefs couched in devotion.

If you're a very spiritual and hopeful person, you believe these ideas of collaboration and cooperation will be accomplished in time to save the world from destruction. But if you should find your heart in your throat when I dip and soar with these philosophic observations, know that you're not the only one who's afraid of spiritual heights. Soaring about above this spiritual mountain isn't easy for me, either. It takes practice to work with

my wants in ways that won't lead to lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy or pride.¹³ It takes guidance from others who are skilled at achieving inclusion.

In Torah, it states several things that most of us in the modern era have put aside or found ways of adapting with figurative interpretations instead of literal obedience to biblical laws. Although fundamentalists in all three of the Abrahamic faiths subscribe to some, or all, of these ideas, modern men and women have taken these ideas out of their ancient religious context to couch them in psychological terminology instead. They no longer hold literal importance in the 21st Century. Here are some examples:

1. ~~"THOU BUY A HEBREW SERVANT, SIX YEARS he SHALL SERVE: AND IN THE SEVENTH HE SHALL GO OUT FREE FOR NOTHING."~~ [Exodus 21:2]
2. ~~"DO NOT WEAR CLOTHES OF WOOL AND LINEN."~~ [Deuteronomy 22:11]
3. ~~"IF SOMEONE HAS A STUBBORN AND REBELLIOUS SON WHO DOES NOT OBEY HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND WILL NOT LISTEN TO THEM WHEN THEY DISCIPLINE HIM; HIS FATHER AND MOTHER SHALL TAKE HOLD OF HIM AND BRING HIM TO THE ELDERS AT THE GATE OF HIS TOWN. THEY SHALL SAY TO THE ELDERS, 'THIS SON OF OURS IS STUBBORN AND REBELLIOUS. HE WILL NOT OBEY US. HE IS A GLUTTON AND A DRUNKARD.' THEN ALL THE MEN OF HIS TOWN ARE TO STONE HIM TO DEATH. YOU MUST PURGE THE EVIL FROM AMONG YOU. ALL ISRAEL WILL HEAR OF IT AND BE AFRAID."~~ [Deuteronomy 21:18-21]
4. ~~"DO NOT HAVE SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH A MAN AS ONE DOES WITH A WOMAN; THAT IS ABOMINABLE."~~ [Leviticus 18:22]

1. Instructions on how to deal with your slaves should be abhorrent to every modern person.
2. Mixing wool and linen makes no literal sense whatsoever nowadays, if it ever did. Even if you interpret this commandment racially, we've been mixing the races for thousands of years and now celebrate the beauty and talent that comes of having interwoven ethnicities.
3. We've outlawed most aspects of corporal punishment today in favor of teaching children using psychology to positively affect their behavior. Stoning children in today's terminology could only be interpreted as using tough love verses tender love. We can't take this law literally.
4. Sleeping with a member of your own gender rarely raises an eyebrow in civilized societies anymore. It's time to find a way to sleep more soundly with yourself.

You sleep with yourself. You touch yourself. You enjoy orgasms with yourself. Any man who can't yet close an eye to men sleeping with other men has issues within himself he ought to question for greater edification of how he feels about himself. His unconscious

¹³ "Christian hermits who lived in Egypt in the 3rd Century A.D first described these vices as 'The Seven Deadly Sins.' Their classification of negative behaviors has since become fundamental to Catholic, confessional practices and much of what we believe about the 'golden mean.'" [Wikipedia] If you think of your head, heart and soul as influenced by your penis or clitoris, you can see how difficult it is for any human being to learn to operate himself.

impulse to hate his penis, testicles and anus is getting in the way of his ability to cooperate and collaborate with others. He's so unconsciously uptight about self-intimacy that he doesn't see how "it" is getting in the way of so many of his dogmas about the meaning of his life.

Using Torah, the Gospels or the Quran to validate your opinions about GOD/GOD/*God* will create slippery slopes if you try to climb this spiritual mountain without guidance. It makes sense to use all of Scripture since all three Scriptures were given to us from the same source: **GOD**.

It makes good sense to listen to the advice of those who've been rejected by the Abrahamic faiths. Our gay and lesbian perspectives on who we are; how we operate; and what we're doing to ourselves as a species – could be invaluable if you really want your grandchildren to inherit a world they won't curse you for. What your grandparents may have done to the Jews in Europe; what your parents may have done to African-Americans in America; and what you're presently teaching your children to do for or against Muslims and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community – will have a great effect on future generations.

Excluding others only creates witnesses who'll see your hypocrisy and have no moral choice but to call you out for what you're doing to yourself. There are a whole host of peoples who are presently accusing one another of being Nazis, racists, Anti-Semites, Anti-Zionists, xenophobes, homophobes and misogynists. Imagine what their children and grandchildren are going to think of all of them.

When **GOD's** warnings are heeded, we're rewarded with wisdom and a greater devotion to ourselves, others and **HIM**. And when **HIS** warnings aren't heeded, we're also "rewarded," but more slowly over time with experiences that make us feel guilty (if you're spiritual) and "punished" you're hyper-religious. Therefore it can be said that **GOD's** lessons are often misunderstood.

Nazis, racists, anti-Semites, Anti-Zions, homophobes, xenophobes, and misogynists have no sense of guilt. They're psychopaths and sociopaths who express self-hatred externally, rather than internally. It's only those who think about their guilt who increase their wisdom simply by changing their mind about themselves. It's only those who feel guilty who increase their love simply by transforming their feelings for themselves. And it's only those who believe they're guilty who transcend themselves with greater self-devotion. But any and all of these efforts must include a desire to do so. If you don't want to change, transform and transcend the way you are now, I can guarantee you, you won't.

No one can force you to experience guilt. Those with an inflated ego will only point fingers at others. Those with an understated ego will only point fingers at themselves. You decide whether you're willing to figuratively point your index finger appropriately.

In the modern era, religious institutions are having an especially hard time making people feel guilty. Religious people either want to follow those who promise them outcomes that will make them feel guilt free. They want their religious leaders to decide good from evil, right from wrong and better from worse for them. They want to lay blame at others, not feel guilty about themselves. (These leaders know that making their congregants feel guilty is bad for business. Teaching them to lay blame is so much more affective...)

In psychological terms, we're learning how to use our head and heart to help us weigh our thoughts and feelings in our conscience, whether or not we determine we have reason to feel guilty. We determine for ourselves what we believe, so we can then take responsibility for our actions.

Whether you're secular, religious or spiritual, good and evil actions begin within and then emanate out to where they then affect others. This spreading in of inner forces, and then out is what defines the moral journey of life. Whether you have a religious sense of the destination of your journey in relation to an afterlife or no ideas about that at all won't affect where you're going after you leave here. Your conscience will determine that, not how conscious you are of your choices.

I can't imagine **GOD** loves true believers any more than **HE** loves atheists or agnostics.

¹⁴I can't believe **HE** helps straight people more than gays. The outcomes of the journey of your life hinge on what you want, not on what anyone wants from you. What **GOD** asks of you is restated every moment of every day of your life. But how you respond to these requests is entirely up to you. Lay blame around or lay guilt within. It's your choice. Your conscience is your guide, not mine.

Not everyone thinks the same; feels the same; or draws the same conclusions about what he believes to be true. ¹⁵ You develop a conscience that's unique to your experiences. But if your thoughts, feelings, and beliefs are congruous with your best intentions for you, **GOD** may slowly turn your conscience into a soul. A soul is a conscience that's become aware of **GOD's** presence. Someone with a soul can perceive and correlate the congruity of his inner and outer worlds.

Not everyone has a conscience. Not everyone has a soul. Every Jew prays to **GOD** from his soul. Every Christian prays to **GOD** from his soul. Every Muslim prays to *God* from his soul. From these seven books, some of you will discover that you, too, have a soul. Obviously, I'll only succeed in circumcising your soul if you believe you have one. (But if you also have a conscience, you know that you've behaved far from perfect.)

Those with a soul have been awakened with awareness that we're not alone even if we feel terribly "only." Those with a soul don't necessarily have **GOD/GOD/God-**consciousness. They may already have **GOD**-consciousness.

A soulful person is someone who's learned to discern up from down as he makes his moral way up the mountain in youth, across the plain in middle age, and down the other

¹⁴ Life is a mystery. An atheist is someone who doesn't yet see **GOD's** constant and continuous participation in life. He still thinks he's separate and special and that if there were a **GOD**, he wouldn't have to suffer the way he does. An agnostic understands that on some level he's in a school with everyone else. He just hasn't yet been able to achieve contact with the **TEACHER**.

¹⁵ The difference between what we believe to be true comes from our explorations of our inner and outer worlds. Truth in the outer world is objective. Truth in the inner world is subjective. Arguing about subjective truths is a waste of time. It's only by using figurative speech that we can talk about subjective truths objectively.

side in old age. A soulful person is someone who turns around frequently to view the increasingly greater panorama on the way up; who looks around frequently as he trudges across the plateau; and who looks out with awe as he makes his way down the other side. A soulful person is someone who's becoming aware of how his desires affect his head, heart and urges.

The religious extremists all claim to be soulful because they have **GOD/GOD/God**-consciousness. They also all agree that gays are perverts without souls and women have to be kept in their place because their Scripture implies that the souls of women are less soulful than men's souls.

But the religious extremists can't seem to get along with one another. In truth, they can't get along with themselves. There's a moral argument going on inside them that they can't take personally, and so they have no choice but to project it out onto others.

Not all those who are soulful are smart enough to make a killing in the stock market. Not all those who are soulful have been able to avoid emotional problems. And even though those who consider themselves soulful may say they believe in one universal **GOD**, they may not have been in a synagogue, church or mosque in years.

We all have problems keeping our penis or clitoris from whispering self-indulgent urges in our ear. We all have a past we may not be particularly proud of. We all have reason for pointing our index finger at ourselves. Soulful people, just like everyone else, are usually better at pointing their index finger at others than at themselves.

The part you play in the mysterious unfolding of **GOD's** designs will evolve within you before it shows results in the world around you because you're always the first beneficiary of your actions. Even if you can't consciously perceive what's happening as it happens, you can always look back to perceive the truth.

You could even argue that Hitler did to the Jews what he was doing to himself. He was a tortured individual who had no idea how deeply he hated himself. He, too, was created in **GOD's** image, but he had no idea what that meant to him personally. Nor did he have any trepidation about what the consequences of his actions might be after his lifetime. There's a lot we can learn from Hitler about what not to do to ourselves. Don't treat yourself like he treated the Jews and gays.

Some people are inspired by their relationship to **GOD**, just as students who are particularly interested in a subject might become inspired by their teacher. If you feel inspired by **GOD**, it's understandable that you might want to advertise your feelings for **HIM** to the whole world. What you should do, as well, however, is develop conscious awareness of the intersections between the two of You.¹⁶ This is the cross {"+"} or plus sign that describes how your path overlaps at certain times and places with **HIS**.

You're relationship with **GOD**, our **TEACHER**, might have a profound effect on others who aren't as enamored by the subject of spirituality as you and I are. **HIS** story is a Jewish concept; **HIS** story is a Christian concept; *His* story is a Muslim concept; and **HER** story is a modern, feminine concept. The intersection between history, herstory and mystery {my

¹⁶ The word "You" has been capitalized because it includes **GOD**.

story} describes your cross {+} to bear. But if you're only using one portion of your cross {-}, you're behaving exclusively, not inclusively. To describe yourself as having a cross to bear infers that you're morally adding {+}, morally subtracting {-} and morally dividing {}.

The spiritually freest people on Earth are the Jews. When you look at the Jewish community, whether in Israel or elsewhere in the world, you see a people who determine for themselves what they think and how they wish to use their thoughts to live in a righteous manner. The synagogue has an influence on their life, but they decide for themselves, individually and collectively, what they think of life. When they don't agree with one another, they debate. They vote. They argue. Only very, very rarely do they kill one another. Their successes in their inner world have reaped great rewards in their outer world, arguably modeling to the whole world what wisdom looks like.

The most spiritually liberated people on Earth are the Christians. When you look at Christian communities and nations, you see a people who determine for themselves what they feel and how they wish to use their feelings to live in a righteous manner. The church has an influence on their life, but they decide for themselves, individually and collectively, what they feel about life. When Christians don't agree with one another, they debate, vote, argue, fight and kill one another. But, thanks to 2,000 years of working out their issues between their head and heart, they've done an excellent job of developing democratic governance in Christian countries to limit their bloodshed. And as they've come to make peace within their own head and heart, they've also made peace with the Jews. Their successes in their inner world have reaped great rewards in their outer world, arguably modeling to the whole world what love looks like.

The most spiritually emancipated people on Earth are the Muslims. When you look at Muslim communities, you see a people who determine for themselves what they believe and how they wish to use their beliefs to live in a righteous manner. The mosque has an influence on their lives, but they decide for themselves, individually and collectively, what they wish to believe about life. When Muslims don't agree with one another they debate, vote, argue, fight, kill one another and others. Although *Muslims* are having trouble making peace with their head and heart in their soul, they're modeling to the whole world what devotion to *Allāh* looks like.

Those whose conscience hasn't been illuminated with righteous behavior can't yet unite their outer experiences with the concept of a soul, even if they claim otherwise. Even Jews, Christians and Muslims who strive to live a righteous life are unconsciously struggling to unify their head, heart and soul. It's the religious fanatics whose conscience hasn't been illuminated with GOD/GOD/*God*-consciousness who give Jews, Christians and Muslims a bad name. As Jews, Christians and Muslims learn to work individually and collectively for greater **GOD**-consciousness, a greater sense hope will come into the world.

JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* haven't been taught modern Judeo-Christian-Muslim values long enough to fully perceive what we've accomplished within ourselves. Even though everyone's problems are universal, passions can be our own worst enemy. In short, everyone needs to be helped to grow up as quickly as possible or face the consequences of their urges later in life and/or in the "afterlife."

It's nice to have a head that's free enough to think well of others. It's nice to have a heart that's liberated enough to feel good about everyone. And it's nice to have a soul that's emancipated enough to believe in the designs GOD/GOD/*God* has made to reveal **HIMSELF**. That's far better than walking around thinking this world is utter pandemonium with occasional, unexpected acts of kindness that can't be accounted for from within.

If you don't achieve a stronger connection to your thoughts {head}, feelings {heart} and beliefs {soul}, your inner world is going to look a lot like the world we share with one another today: bleak and dismal. You're going to see exclusivity and conspiracy, but little in the way of collaboration and cooperation. You're going to see people marginalized, and you're going to be attracted or repelled by them. You're going to conclude that black is ugly. You're going to see a distorted reflection of your inner world in the world we share. And occasionally, you're going to perceive life as though looking in a funhouse mirror: a view that may frighten, anger or sadden you.

House Keeping

These seven books are an interpretation of selected passages from the Quran written for Muslims to help modernize their faith and for everyone (straight and gay, Jew or Christian, and others) to modernize their faith in themselves. Over time, you'll turn the Quran for the Muslim soul into an aspect of your own.

I'm going to speak to you in seven "languages" by using a variety of fonts. These figurative languages are:

1. Secular Words

I'll use "Times" font, size 12, to express universal concepts with secular intentions and interpretations. I'll be referring to **GOD** as a universal concept, not just as religious concepts. These ideas will come from my anus. They're ideas I bit into, chewed, swallowed, digested and eliminated from my system through my writings. They represent the consequences of all the mortification, dishonor, degradation and disgrace I've been through in life. This is all the wisdom that came out my anal issues once I broke their projection on the outside world with all that had previously been inside me. You shouldn't assume this font speaks for any individual or group of people in the modern era other than me. You should just visualize these words as figuratively coming directly out of my rectum and into you. If you think some of my opinions are full of shit, I suggest you shut this book and move on to others who are making sense of this world in a way that's more to your liking. I'm not going to try to please you. The truth digested isn't always appreciated as is.

2. JEWISH WORDS

I'll use TIMES SMALL CAP font to express hyper-religious JEWISH concepts brought into the world through Tanach {the Hebrew Testament}. I'll be referring to their GOD with an understanding of our **DEITY** that the Jews refer to as Y.H.V.H. or ADONAI. These are my interpretations of their beliefs. You should envision these WORDS as figuratively coming out of my head.

3. CHRISTIAN WORDS

I'll use TIMES ALL CAPS font to express hyper-religious CHRISTIAN concepts brought into the world through the Bible. I'll be referring to their GOD {the FATHER}; GOD, HIS SON {Jesus}; and the Holy Spirit – with an understanding of our **DEITY** through the three parts of the Christian **GOD**. These ideas are my interpretations of their beliefs. You should envision these WORDS as figuratively coming out of my heart.

4. Muslim Words

I'll use "*Apple Chancery*" font to express hyper-religious *Muslim* concepts brought into the world through the Quran. I'll be referring to their *God* through Islam's understanding of our **DEITY** commonly called *Allāh*. These ideas are my

interpretations of their beliefs. You should envision these *words* as figuratively coming out of my breastplate {soul}.

5. **Philosophic Words**

There will be a small number of words I'll add to your spiritual vocabulary to infer Eastern **philosophic** concepts that have become universalized. These words will be written in "**Apple Casual Bold**" font. The combination of the "Times" and "**Apple Casual Bold**" fonts is intended to imply the **philosophic** concept of yin and **yang**. These ideas are my interpretations of their beliefs. These words figuratively come out of my navel.

6. **GOD's WORDS**

I'll be using **3-PLY WORDS** in **bold** to refer to ideas that describe the combination of the beliefs of the hyper-religious in all three of the Abrahamic faiths. These **WORDS** about **GOD** imply that they're combinations of thoughts, feelings, beliefs and wants attributed to **GOD** that have become intensified in me through my achievement of **GOD**-consciousness. **GOD** {Y.H.V.H.} came to me through **HIS** mind. **GOD** {Jesus} came to me through **HIS** heart. And *God* {*Allāh*} came to me through **HIS** soul. Some examples of **3-PLY WORDS** are nouns for **GOD** such as **COACH**, **CREATOR**, **FATHER**, **GUARDIAN**, **GUIDE**, **JUDGE**, **MAKER**, **TEACHER** and **WITNESS**. The nominative case pronouns for **GOD** are: **HI**, **YOU**, **HE**, **SHE** and **WE**. I doubt you'll find these **WORDS** blasphemous unless you only believe in your **GOD**, **GOD** or *God* to the exclusion of the other names for **HIM**.

7. **Universal Words**

In Book Seven I'll introduce you to a new system for keeping track of **God**₁ {**GOD**}; **God**₂ {**GOD**}; and **God**₃ {*God*} – that uses subscripts. By then you'll be ready to admit that the Holy Spirit in Christianity is the third, unnamed aspect of **GOD** that the Muslims call *Allāh*.

I'll teach you to apply Spiritual Linguistics to yourself, which will give you a more personal understanding of **GOD's** universal designs for man. These designs include the combined forces of your head, heart and soul, as well as the cravings, hungers, impulses, needs, urges and wants that are figuratively seated in your penis or clitoris. (We'll deal with the desires that come from your anal issues later.) These designs aren't limited to those in the Abrahamic faiths. They're universal.

Spiritual Linguistics will hopefully help you feel it's no longer necessary to figuratively leave your genitals at the door when you enter a synagogue, church or mosque. All of you will be with you when you pray publicly. You won't fear including or not including those parts of you below your waist. If you disagree with any aspect of faith in **GOD**, you'll be

able to look into your head, heart and soul for the influence your wants are having on your thoughts, feelings and beliefs. The more conscious the connection between your wants and your head, heart and soul, the more successfully you'll be able to monitor your wants by yourself with yourself. That doesn't require any public display of sexual arousal.

As we mature, we come to realize that the power of words goes much deeper than we may have previously imagined. In infancy, we learned the literal meaning of words. In childhood, we expanded our vocabulary to learn how to use words more specifically to get what we wanted. In adolescence, we learned about the subtle, emotional impressions words have on our heart (and the sensations words can produce on our body). In early adulthood, we learned how words create subtle, spiritual impressions that affect our relationships with everyone in society. And by late adulthood, we're expected to know about the spiritual meanings hidden deep within WORDS that hold personal messages about who we are; what we've become; and where we're headed. We're all headed towards death.

Spiritual Linguistics is the study of the WORD of GOD, the WORD of GOD and the *Word* of *God* as tools of hope from **GOD** that will allow each of us to rest in peace in secular societies and rest in peace in religious societies as well.

The depth of words is so great that when we explore how words make us think, feel, believe and want, we discover that religion is only a thin veneer that conceals our indigenist roots, roots that can't be put into WORDS at all because they're so deeply buried in our individual, habitual lifestyle. The feelings of today's indigenous peoples worldwide are being undermined and ignored because we don't have a way of discussing the untapped power and validity of their roots, which are the seeds of our beliefs. And that's a spiritual loss, not an achievement.

For the most part, I assume young people will be more interested in these books than old people. Those who've done the most talking are, generally speaking, the least interested in listening or in discovering the unspoken, inherent meaning of their faith. I hope older people don't come to this work with crusty, old opinions about the Quran. But they probably will. So I'm depending on young people to educate them. My scars have scars. I'm going to stay out of that fight.

Think of me as the Albert Einstein of the world within you.¹⁷ Think of Spiritual Linguistics as the physics of your inner world, a world you can learn to appreciate using these new, linguistic symbols I've invented to communicate with you intimately.

Einstein said that GOD doesn't play dice with the universe, and I agree. (Numbers rules the outer world. Words rule the world within.) But I say, **GOD** does play with your head. And if you look closely enough at yourself, you'll see **HE** also plays with your heart and soul to deepen your appreciation of words using something akin to poetic license in a world of terribly prosaic people.

¹⁷ Albert Einstein was a Jew. I'm going to point out if any of the people I mention are gay and/or Jewish. As a gay-Jew, I believe minorities and combinations of minority groups ought to be acknowledged for their unique contributions to society. But I'm only going to point out those who are in my identity groups.

In these seven books:

1. I'll increase the vocabulary of your inner world.
2. I'll provide you with the intellectual, emotional and spiritual tools you'll need to recognize and control the forces within you, so you can then manage the forces that come at you from the world around you.
3. I'll describe these tools using historical and cultural references that have always been in play and are still well known today, thus providing you with grounding from real-life examples that will help make my theories concrete.
4. I'll answer philosophic questions like "Why good things happen to bad people."¹⁸
5. I'll teach you how to use your penis or clitoris in wonderfully new and creative ways that have nothing (and everything) to do with sex.
6. I'll show you how to recognize those anal issues that are causing you to feel humiliated, mortified, dishonored, degraded and disgraced.
7. I'll help you understand that I'm circumcising your soul of foolishness, self-hate and mean-spiritedness so that you'll be left with nothing but wisdom, love and devotion to life when you meet your **MAKER**.

The name of the **DEITY** who made **HIMSELF** known to Moses was GOD {Y.H.V.H.}. The name for the **DEITY** who made **HIMSELF** known to some Jews in Israel just before the destruction of the second Temple in 70 C.E. was Jesus, who the Christians call GOD. And the name of the **DEITY** who made **HIMSELF** known through the Archangel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad was *Allāh* {*God*}.

Although these three words {GOD/GOD/*God*} are spelled identically and sound identical when uttered orally, my changes in font identify these three messages from **GOD** visually differently because they're being lived out differently.

You should notice a building of intensity and awe when reading the *words* of the Prophet Muhammad in this modern interpretation of the Quran. Although the JEWS and CHRISTIANS disagreed for 2,000 years over HIS/HIS design for man, you'll be able to see elements of both of GOD's/GOD's two previous designs through the revelation **Hẖ**'s given me by viewing the Quran in this unique way. They say, "A picture paints a thousand words." But I say a **WORD** paints a thousand pictures.

When you become tolerant of the message from GOD, you become tolerant of Jews and Judaism. When you become accepting of the message from GOD, you become tolerant and accepting of Christians and Christianity. And when you come to admire the message from *God*, you become tolerant, accepting and admiring of Muslims and Islam.

When you're first introduced to someone, you generally speak to him using the salutation of his family name. When speaking to a stranger, you use his surname as a sign of your respect for him.

¹⁸ "When good things happen to bad people" is a take-off on the 1981 book by Rabbi Harold Kushner, When Bad Things Happen To Good People.

The first name of **GOD** is Y.H.V.H. {GOD}. Y.H.V.H. can't be uttered aloud because it's an acronym. Y.H.V.H. is figuratively **GOD's** surname.¹⁹ **GOD's** first name {GOD} figuratively came to the ancient Jews from **HIS** head.

GOD later came to some later, ancient Jews through **HIS** middle name {Jesus}. Think of Jesus {GOD} as **GOD's** middle name, a name **HE** offered those who came to know **HIM** through a second place in inner space. **GOD's** second name came from **HIS** heart.

Lastly, **HE** introduced **HIMSELF** to the Prophet Muhammad through the Archangel Gabriel using **HIS** third name. Think of *Allāh* as **HIS** given name, **HIS** most personal salutation, given to Muslims at yet a third place in inner space – **HIS** soul.

The fact that each of the Abrahamic faiths knows **GOD** by different names {GOD/GOD/*God*} is an important part of **HIS** designs. We can't come to know **HIM** without coming to know all three aspects of HIM/HIM/*Him*. And our proximity to **HIM** differs in accordance with our faith in ourselves. The more faith you have in yourself, the more you can see the immensity of **GOD's** head, heart and soul regardless of your religious heritage.

Religious JEWS may be, in a paradoxical way, the furthest from **HIM**, in their head where they address **HIM** only by **HIS** surname. Religious *Muslims* may be the closest to **HIM**, in their soul where they address **HIM** only by **HIS** first name. But religious CHRISTIANS stand on the fence without looking at both sides when they only address **HIM** by **HIS** middle name.

These three singular viewpoints from which the hyper-religious in each of the Abrahamic faiths stands can illuminate us to personal variations in perspective on **GOD** that we ought to share with one another if we want to succeed in actualizing **HIS** universal designs for us all.

If you're female, you're surely already able to see the great struggle men have, and have always had, with our **MAKER**. Many hyper-religious men still believe GOD/GOD/*God* is male and that **HE** created humanity in **HIS** image (an idea that originates in the Creation story in Torah).²⁰ When males and females realize they've both been made in **GOD's** image, their perception of **GOD** grows. But at this time in history, the concept of **GOD** is a frame that's much too big for most people's big picture. (That, of course, will change rapidly as you read further.)

¹⁹ "Y.H.V.H." is the unspeakable or unpronounceable acronym for GOD in Hebrew. It means "will be riches will be," which was GOD's account of HIMSELF to Moses at the Burning Bush. In other words: I wouldn't trust you any further than I can throw you, Moses! You're a murderer! Do as I say, and you'll see by the effort you put into your mission what will come out of it.

²⁰ "GOD CREATED MANKIND IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED THEM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM." [Genesis 1:27]

There's no such thing as "satan" in Judaism. satan is seen by Jews as a fabrication ancient CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* needed in order to explain outcomes they couldn't express using the scant knowledge they had of themselves at the time. The concept of evil incarnate began as the serpent in the Creation story. Christians later personified evil as SATAN. And *Muslims* then adopted that into the *Satan* they still believe exists today.

In psychological terms, the serpent/satan are all symbolic representations of our genitals. "Evil in the flesh" is the ancient Abrahamic ways of describing carnal urges. We can overcome our evil inclinations by asking ourselves which part of our flesh has been historically associated with evil. The answer is, obviously, the penis, vagina and anus, those parts of the body located below our waist that are used during sex to achieve orgasm.²¹

These books should give you revelatory ideas that may change the way you think; transform the way you feel; and help you transcend the beliefs you now hold. By comparing and contrasting the messages of the three Abrahamic faiths, your most passionate impulses (such as domination, control or the destruction of Israel) may surface. The next time you're figuratively listening to your talking serpent (or the worm in your apple, if you're a woman), you may be more consciously aware of what it's figuratively saying to you.

"House Keeping," the title of this section, isn't just a way of linguistically washing your mouth out with soap. It signals an internal notion that infers cleaning up of your inner abode. If your inner house isn't in order, the world around you will also be in disarray. You can't create an Arab Spring without doing spring-cleaning within. Those who don't do things in a timely manner in the springtime of life progress to a very hot summer from which they harvest experiences in the autumn of their days that will be shriveled up and inedible.

The word "*quran*" means "recital" in Arabic. It was the Prophet Muhammad's habit to retire to a cave to give himself up to prayer and meditation. One night, the Archangel Gabriel came to him and said, "Recite!" Because the Prophet didn't know what to recite, the Archangel told him to recite, "*Your Lord is the most beautiful one, who by the pen taught man what he did not know.*" When he awoke, these words were inscribed upon his heart. This brought forth Islam, absolute submission and resignation to the will of *God*, a belief system that isn't predicated on the written word of man or the oral words of men, but on the spoken *Word* of *God* as recited to the Prophet Muhammad by the Archangel Gabriel.²²

Torah is an account of **GOD's** relationship with one man's head {Moses}. The Gospels are four accounts of **GOD's** relationship with a second man's heart {Jesus}. And the Quran is an account of **GOD's** relationship with a third man's soul {the Prophet Muhammad} through an angelic interpreter found in all three Scriptures: the Archangel Gabriel.

²¹ If you look at old movies that depict the devil, you'll see that he's often gay in appearance and mannerisms, and there's often an innuendo that he enters his hosts through their anus, the dirtiest part of the human body. This is one reason why sodomy is associated with the devil and evil.

²² The word "*islam*" means "submission."

So far, it doesn't appear that **HE** has chosen to reveal **HIMSELF** through women in the same ways. But if, as the JEWS claim, a MESSIAH is coming; and if, as the CHRISTIANS claim, there was once a Messiah on Earth who's going to return – then it would make a lot more sense to me if the messiah were a woman when s/he shows up. (If it offends your sensibilities that **GOD** might use a woman or a “he/she” {transgendered} individual to express **THEIR** designs, this book may be more emotionally challenging for you than it may even visually challenge you.)²³

The name “GABRIEL” means “manliness of GOD.” When I think of the attributes of justice, I think of GOD's manliness. But when I think of mercy, I tend to think about GOD's femininity. Men are predominantly the ones who are guilty of treating blacks, women, gays, Jews and strangers without mercy (perhaps because men don't want to appear girly or gay). I find that paradoxical since the man who most personified mercy was Jesus, who, by today's standards, would probably be considered girly or gay. Men who associate themselves with love aren't generally considered “real” men by men who think with their penis.

The Archangel Gabriel came to Abraham when he attempted to sacrifice Isaac; then the Archangel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her of her impending immaculate conception of Jesus; and the Archangel Gabriel made a third visit to Prophet Muhammad in his cave. These three visits led me to contemplate the masculine nature of **GOD**.

Granted, women are strong, too. But **GOD** sent the same angel three times to man to impress **HIS** masculinity and strength on him. Men knew little then about masculinity and strength. Clearly, they know little still. The messages of the Archangel Gabriel have yet to be applied universally.

When considering the spiritual contributions of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community in Western societies, think of our message as one of equality, the sweet spot we've constructing between justice, which comes from the right, and mercy, which comes from the left. Muslims promote fairness, which they precariously balance between the political right and left. We, in the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community, promote equality, which we ostentatiously hold over those religious extremists who only promote justice, mercy or fairness.

GOD first spoke to Moses, who then described what HE told him in Torah through that curious form of storytelling called “metaphor.”²⁴ The rabbis have been deciphering the metaphors and linguistic nature of Torah for three millennia. In Genesis, GOD referred to

²³ I previously told you that you might find this journey through this figurative tunnel from the Wailing Wall to the Dome of the Rock frightening because of your fear of spiritual depths. But it may be even more challenging to your penis, clitoris or anus than your head, heart or soul. I'm not averse to hitting below the belt.

²⁴ “Metaphor” is a form of figure of speech that describes something unknown through something known, thereby highlighting similarities between the two. I predict that only those who are gifted in appreciating metaphor are going to appreciate this book.

HIMSELF in the first-person singular {I} and in the first-person plural {WE}.²⁵ In Exodus, HE referred to HIMSELF in the third-person singular {HE}.²⁶

In the Gospels, GOD's message of mercy came through the voice of Jesus, and GOD was referred to as HIS FATHER. The Holy Spirit is the aspect of their Deity that moves through us all, like the wind whistles through the branches of trees, a wind that can only be figuratively detected by the fluttering and whispering of the tree's leaves.

When we explore **GOD**'s revelation to man from the heart through Christianity, we're given three separate, spiritual vehicles for perceiving Him: (1) FATHER, (2) SON and (3) Holy Spirit. These three aspects of their **DEITY** create a personal experience of a feeling that figuratively emanates out of our heart called "love." The relationship of Jesus as a part of **GOD** is symbolic rather than metaphoric. (More about spiritual symbolism later.)

You can arithmetically describe GOD the FATHER, HIS SON and the Holy Spirit using the equation:

$$1 + 1 + 1 = 1$$

The Christian belief system is a religious concept that comes from the heart and holds love as the supreme attribute of **GOD**, greater, in their dogma, than wisdom or devotion. The Christians say, "THE GOD WITHIN DOETH THE WORK."²⁷ But what they're referring to is the spiritual work of learning to love, a feeling so profoundly different from the other two attributes of **GOD** that love cannot be fully explained in words. To know **GOD**'s love, according to Christians, requires knowing three aspects of **GOD** in ONE.

The Christian belief system holds three descriptions of **GOD**:

1. GOD {the FATHER} corresponds to the Hebrew GOD {Y.H.V.H.}.
2. God {the SON} is Jesus who brought the love of HIS FATHER into the world.
3. And the "Holy Spirit" corresponds to the Islamic idea of *God*, called *Allāh*, through whom the Muslims have been given their aspect of *God* by name.

God is the speaker throughout most of the Quran. Every word of the Quran is believed to be the *Word* of *God* as recited to the Prophet Muhammad through *His* emissary the Archangel Gabriel. The Quran illuminates *God*'s message through the first-person singular

²⁵ "THE MAN HAS NOW BECOME LIKE ONE OF US, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL." {US/first-person} [Genesis 3:22]

²⁶ "THOU SHALT NOT USE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN" is said by GOD in the third-person {HE}. [Exodus 20:7]

²⁷ "THE GOD WITHIN DOETH THE WORK" is a quote from Jesus that might help you experience **GOD** with what Christians call "wisdom of the heart." That work is something you do for you, not **GOD**. "DO YOU NOT BELIEVE THAT I AM IN THE FATHER, AND THAT THE FATHER IS IN ME? THE WORDS I SAY TO YOU I DO NOT SPEAK ON MY OWN AUTHORITY. RATHER, IT IS THE FATHER LIVING IN ME WHO IS DOING HIS WORK." [John 14:10]

{I}; first-person plural {We}; and third-person singular {He}. The Quran holds our **CREATOR** in three linguistic ways: through metaphor, symbolism and similes, making it possible for Islam to address *God's* design by comparing and contrasting it to Torah and the Gospels, the two religious Scriptures that came before it.

When you compare and contrast GOD's/GOD's/*God's* messages to ascertain HIS/HIS/*His* designs for man – as well as ask women for elucidation of their designs for man – you may only come up with a personal message of value for you, alone. You may not be able to fully understand how the forces within you operate until you unite all three of **HIS** holy works in you as the forces of your head, heart and soul {which may manifest itself as external problems with others}.

You won't be able to fully appreciate **GOD's** designs unless you can take all of them personally. And to get through all this, you're definitely going to want to solve for the x factor in the equation $x^2 + y = x^1 + x^2$. You're going to want to solve for a mystery that both unites and divides men and women.

But if your head doesn't have the ability to separate the voices of "I," "we" and "he" when referring to yourself honestly; if your heart doesn't have the ability to unite these voices into one loving voice that speaks for all your feelings sincerely; and if your penis doesn't have an urge to embrace all the voices within you genuinely, your conscience won't have the ability to meld the forces of your head, heart and penis into a belief system that will speak to all your actions with soulful and authentic self-regard.

You'll feel like a cheap imitation. And then you may resist your "selves" by acting in ways that are irrational, hurtful or immoral. That would be an offence to **GOD**, to say nothing of the fact that it would lower your self-esteem and cause problems for others.

No one has a monopoly on the feelings of victimization. We're all victims of ourselves that we should learn to perceive of as a part of **GOD's** designs. Feelings of victimization are given to teach us to learn how to operate ourselves better than those who came before us and better than we did before. Working out our problems within ourselves will help us find better ways of working out our problems with one another.

The WORD "Israel" means "struggle with GOD." It doesn't mean crusade or jihad in HIS/*His* names in order to steal Israel out from under the Jews. If you want to struggle with the **GOD** within you, you're going to want to discover why Jews, Christians and Muslims have no problem with the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community while JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* do.

That problem isn't *literary*. That problem is *literal*. The problem lies in the meaning of the words of Scripture, and whether those words were intended to be taken literally or figuratively. The words of Scripture were intended to be taken literally until we became wise, loving and devoted enough to ourselves to take these words figuratively instead.

Jews take our struggle with **GOD** very personally, but this struggle is now moving Christians out of the external world and into their world within as a personal struggle with **GOD**. They're no longer as willing to go on crusades worldwide for HIS middle name. They're more interested in working out their struggle with **GOD** internally. The WORD

“Israel” is becoming personalized for Jews and Christians as a struggle for self-understanding with HIS/HIS help. Over time, the struggle with *God* will become internalized psychologically for modern Muslims, just as it has become for us.

But for JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* the struggle is still a literal struggle for control of Israel. Those who oppose the inner struggle with **GOD** have no other way to express that struggle except externally. They’re psychologically impaired. The concept of Israel for them is political, not personal. They can’t yet internalize their struggle with **GOD**.

We’re all struggling to take control over Israel and claim that struggle with **HIM** for ourselves. We all want to inhabit Israel our own way. The moral journey in how we figuratively get to our destination after life, not just our goals in life, will determine how each of us will be rewarded and/or punished. For some, their struggle with GOD/GOD/*God* must be externalized. They’ll *fight* for their religious cause. For others, their struggle with **GOD** will be personal. They’ll *struggle* with their spiritual cause.

So long as you project your moral standards onto others, you’re going to tell others what to do and where to go. And you know where you can go... No one was given this journey to Israel to be told how to take it. Live your life and let me live mine!

Now I want to address up front the question whether I believe Jesus is GOD. I do not. But I do believe HE was created in **GOD’s** image with an important task to perform that HE didn’t shirk from doing every moment of HIS life. When I pray in church at Easter with my Catholic boyfriend, I’m always overcome with sadness at how HE died, despite HIS glorious effort to help the ancient Jews perceive that GOD could break the mold HE had previously made to remake man in a greater image.

As a gay-Jew, and because my devotion to my mother borders on the cliché, I tend to think of Jesus as a gay-Jew. He seemed so well understood by HIS mother, and so misunderstood by so many others, including, it seems upon death, by HIS FATHER. I really get that. If it offends you that I don’t think of HIM as GOD or that I do think of HIM as gay, I wonder what it is that offends you more; that he might have been a Jewish GOD or a gay GOD? And is the offence you’ve taken really mine, or is it something you need to deal with by yourself? Maybe this is an ego issue {penis problem} that will elucidate you to your primary anal issue. Maybe you’re unconsciously afraid that some of your beliefs may be disgraceful. Maybe you’re humiliating yourself with your faith.

The faster you read this book, the faster you’ll think. The faster you’ll think, the more you’ll miss the feelings you’re figuratively writing between my lines. The more you miss the love you wish to lavish on yourself, the more frustrated you may become with some individuals or groups of people. And the more you may then create victims, martyrs, scapegoats and underdogs to deal with disappointments that have little to do with anyone else.

If you’ve given too much too others, you’re going to feel that they owe you. And if they don’t reciprocate, you’re going to swallow more and more resentment that you know you have no social wiggle room to express aloud.

You may be making yourself the perpetrator of crimes against your own humanity without even realizing it just by living at the speed you live. You may be so habituated to treating yourself like a scapegoat for negative thoughts you have about others that you can’t

verbalize those thoughts yet to you. If so, your addictions, cravings, compulsions and obsessions may be masking a breach in your relationship with you that you may not even be aware of.

Acting out your disappointment with yourself on yourself is an immoral act toward a human being who deserves to be treated much better. These seven books will hopefully teach you how to slowly learn to love the one you're with.

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Reverse Glossary of Sacred Quotations

A

Number of quotations from the Hebrew Testament in Book Two	49
Number of quotations from the Hebrew Testament thus far	49
Number of quotations from the Christian Testament in Book Two	8
Number of quotations from the Christian Testament thus far	8
Number of quotations from the Quran in Book Two	294
Number of quotations from the Quran thus far	294
Total number of Quotation from Scripture thus far	351

Surah 1
In The Name of GOD

*“In the name of God the compassionate and merciful:
Praise be to God,
Lord of The Creation,
The compassionate and merciful,
Sovereign of The Day of Judgment.
You alone we worship,
and You alone we turn for help.
Guide us to the path,
The path of those on whom You have bestowed Your grace,
Not of those who have incurred Your anger,
Nor of those who have gone astray.”*
[1:1-9]

“In the name of **GOD** the compassionate and merciful:
Praise be to **GOD**,
Lord of the creation,
The compassionate and merciful,
Sovereign of the day of judgment.
YOU alone we worship,
and **YOU** alone we turn for help.
Guide us to the path,
The path of those on whom **YOU** have bestowed **YOUR** grace,
Not of those who have incurred **YOUR** anger,
Nor of those who have gone astray.”

The Lord of the creation is the same Lord referred to in the Creation story in Torah who made man in HIS image. It's the same Lord referred to in the Gospels who brought HIS love into the world through the Lord, Jesus Christ. And it's the same Lord who revealed *His* devotion to the Prophet Muhammad. But it's only when you begin by combining the characters of the Creation story {Adam, Eve, Serpent, fruit and GOD} into one metaphor that you can understand how GOD gave Moses (the author of Torah) the first clue to **HIS** designs.

Man is a tree of knowledge. This is the main metaphor of Moses, and it comes from the first story in Genesis, the first book of Torah. Adam is the personification of man's

mind, not a real man. Eve is the personification of his heart, not a real woman.²⁸ The serpent is the animalification of his penis, which was given to man to figuratively deliver his wants into this world. And the fruits of good and evil are metaphoric interpretations of man's testicles, out of which emanates the secret to life.

Semen is the juice of man's fruits. You never know what comes out of the mouth of your serpent, good or evil. Only with experience do you learn how to figuratively squeeze one of these fruits or the other to produce specific results.

In the Creation story the serpent beguiled Eve to eat from the Tree of knowledge, which was forbidden. Then Eve tempted Adam to eat a portion of what she'd eaten. And then GOD banished them from HIS garden for disobeying HIM. The moral of the metaphor of the Creation story is that when a man's wants {serpent/penis} conspire with his feelings {heart}, his head {thoughts} get him in trouble with his conscience {GOD/breastplate}.

In modern, psychological terminology, we'd call man's prostate gland his ego, the mechanism that makes it figuratively possible for his serpent to stand up and "talk." And when a man inflicts evil on others, he figuratively sodomizes himself. He screws himself over.

In this story, **GOD** metaphorically created man as a moral expression of **HIMSELF**. But whether a man wants to help in the revelation of **HIS** designs depends on whether he wishes to grow with understanding, love and devotion to redemption or whether he wishes to figuratively eat from his left {evil} fruit.

Every man has the potential to grow like a tree of knowledge that was planted in a garden; a garden once called Eden. His head {Adam}, heart {Eve} and wants {serpent} are parts of his metaphoric tree. His conscience {GOD} is the godly, moral part of himself figuratively located at his breastplate.

A person can't claim to have a conscience that believes in a moral purpose in being alive unless s/he has finely honed thoughts and feelings. But s/he can't weigh those thoughts and feelings unless s/he has a separate place within to do so. Call that scale the "conscience." And call a conscience awakened to **GOD** a "soul."

Until you learn how to use all four of these forces within you {thoughts, feelings, beliefs and wants}, you may make serious, moral mistakes that may cause you (and/or others) pain and suffering. You may even go so far as to jeopardize your standing in the "world to come."

Think of this world as a garden of moral experiences. Everyone is a tree that you pick fruits of knowledge from. But that infers that the one tree you're forbidden from picking the fruits from is your own. To do what you've been forbidden from doing {getting to know

²⁸ After creating Eve out of one of Adam's ribs, Adam proclaims, "THIS IS NOW BONE OF MY BONES AND FLESH OF MY FLESH; SHE SHALL BE CALLED 'WOMAN' FOR SHE WAS TAKEN OUT OF MAN." But the spiritual reason why most men leave their mother and father to be united with a woman in matrimony is to discover the differences between the woman within themselves {their mysterious x^2 factor} and the women around them that they're attracted to { x^1 }. In other words, men project their self-love onto women. By saying that Eve was taken out of Adam, Torah is primitively describing the psychological behavior called "projection."

yourself}, you must earn permission to do so from **GOD**. That permission comes in the way of experiences that teach you good from bad, right from wrong and better from worse.

To know, love and believe in yourself then becomes the supreme gift from **GOD** that every Abrahamic believer unconsciously wishes for, whether or not he states it in words, deeds or with expressions of emotion and beliefs. All self-knowledge depends on awakening your desire to do good rather than evil. The more good you do, the more awakened you become.

This is the main metaphor of Moses on which the rest of the Hebrew Testament is spiritually constructed. You should find your own way of asking **GOD** for permission to become your best self. You can't be fully you without questioning your cause/effect relationship with your **CREATOR**. The more permission you give yourself to question your hidden intentions, the more you'll advance through data, information and knowledge to become blessed with the awe and inspiration of being allowed to fill yourself with wisdom.

"Anything worth having is worth working for."²⁹ You should be willing to work for your achievements in life. Your head is like a muscle. You should develop intellectual strength to have the strength to learn about the spiritual importance of your feelings, beliefs and sensations. You should be willing to work very hard if you want to become rich in both your inner world and external world. Too many people choose to focus on one of their two worlds, usually the world around them.

Some say the Jews are the smartest people on Earth because we're known to strive to be outwardly rich. But the rich Jews are just good thinkers who've learned how to use the secrets of Torah materially. While some Jews prefer to use their knowledge to make a lot of money, others choose to use that knowledge to make a lot of "honey" {wisdom}. One is wealth without; the other is wealth within.

In which of your two worlds you choose to become rich is a personal choice. Comparing or contrasting what you do with your intelligence to what others do with theirs is a waste of your valuable time. Decide what you want in life and go for it. Just know that you could work at having money *and* honey if you wanted both.

When you extend the main metaphor of Moses, every man becomes a tree of knowledge planted in this earthly "paradise" to grow. He branches out with intellectual learning while also learning to wrap his familial, linguistic, cultural and religious roots around his conscience for spiritual grounding. His roots may not be visible to others, but they're there, hidden beneath the ground of his being, supporting him whether he's consciously aware of it, or not. And **GOD** is like our rock that we all wrap our roots around, whether we're consciously aware of it, or not.

Women in the Creation story are referred to metaphorically as trees of life, not trees of knowledge. The internal forces in both males and females are the same. The only difference is that trees of life bear literal fruits {babies}, while trees of knowledge only bear figurative fruits.

The word "paradise" comes from the WORD "PARDES," which means "orchard." This world is an orchard of experiences in which you pick fruits of knowledge through

²⁹ "Anything worth having is worth working for" was said by Andrew Carnegie.

experiences. The only thing that prevents your spiritual growth are your wants, which I refer to as your penis problem {serpent} or your clitoris conflict {worm}.

The mind of the modern man {Adam} tends to blame his heart {Eve} for what's gotten him into trouble. He doesn't usually blame his penis {serpent/satan}.³⁰ He doesn't always see the connection between his feelings and wants. And even if his conscience {GOD} accepts responsibility for his actions, he rarely comes away consciously understanding the forces within him any more deeply than he did before.

Man doesn't want to blame "it" for the misfortune that occurs around him. He just wants to blame the other people and circumstances involved. He doesn't want to literally slap "it" angrily and vindictively if things go awry. That would be a sign of madness.

Consequently, he sometimes grows to feel like a spiritual bonsai, a dwarf tree or, worse, feels cut down like a stump. He may even use all the forces within to psychologically prune himself in horrible and humiliating ways. But he doesn't see what he's doing if he doesn't have a metaphor to visualize the workings of his inner forces. The Creation story is the metaphor that unites those forces.

My ancestors learned many aspects of wisdom through millennia of hard-won experiences that taught them to use knowledge in more and more rarified ways, whether or not they credited other Jews for their wisdom. What you know now about yourself as a metaphoric tree of knowledge are mere twigs in comparison to the enormous trunk, boughs, branches and roots you have that you may be as yet unaware of.

There was a time when people were vehemently opposed to any departure from Scripture if it required them to adopt new ways of behaving and believing. Nowadays, however, we prune our tree without the religious tenacity our ancestors clung to. We live in a time when we have the opportunity to decide for ourselves what actions we're going to take, and whether or not we find support for our actions in the Scripture our ancestors followed.

This actually makes modern morality a greater challenge than it was in the distant past. GOD/GOD/*God* will never be obsolete. But we must come to know HIM/HIM/*Him* in today's world to understand **HIS** designs for us all. We must learn how to unify ourselves if we wish to approach **GOD**.

What's happening today is caused by misunderstandings of the forces **GOD** instilled in humanity. Hyper-religious JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* are projecting their penis problems onto one another. They're unconsciously using their testicles to speak for the moral choices they make, the figurative source of all the power within them.

Nazi CHRISTIANS once thought with their penises and followed their Führer {Hitler} in his attempt to screw the Jews and take over the world. Today's extremist *Muslims* are trees that are thinking with their nuts... But these hyper-religious CHRISTIANS and

³⁰ The inclination to want what isn't wise, loving or self-loyal is lived out by projecting that urge onto something or someone else. Then you can blame others for unwanted things that happen around you that emanated out of challenges you were too unschooled to face within.

Muslims all agree with the hyper-religious JEWS that it's the gays who are the source of all the evil inclinations in man.

What's happening to Islam today isn't caused by the animalification of good and evil by a snake that takes the shape of men like Hitler. Muslims aren't personifying their penis problem through any one man. Today, they're unconsciously using their testicles to speak for the moral choices they make, the figurative source of all the power within them. Nazi CHRISTIANS once thought with their penises. Today's extremist *Muslims* are trees that are thinking with their nuts... ³¹

We think we live in a very advanced time, but we're really living at the very beginning of the modern era. People are only beginning to understand how to operate themselves from within. There's a great deal of angst and anxiety in the world today despite the tremendous physical comforts we enjoy. This emotional dis-ease will change as we further transform and transcend who we were before. Paradoxically, the closer we get to understanding the source of evil in the way we operate ourselves, the closer we'll get to the source of our goodness, too. The two hang, like two fruits, one beside the other. And the delivery device of both is the same in men and women.

Stealing forbidden fruit is a euphemism for acting immorally toward yourself. After stealing forbidden fruit from your tree, the next step is to recreate that crime externally in an effort to reveal to yourself what you've done internally. Ignorance, stupidity and denial are the only things that stop you from stopping yourself from stealing.

All negative, external misbehaviors actually begin as unconscious, inner acts committed against ourselves in ignorance that we then unknowingly duplicate in the world we share. Then stupidity and denial kick in to cement bad habits in place. Bad luck, misfortune, disappointments and fatalistic beliefs make a lot more moral sense after you use your inner eye to perceive your standing with yourself using **GOD** as your **WITNESS**. That turns life into a spiritual process and challenge.

The Holocaust had to have been something **GOD** allowed. **HE** had to teach us to see what happens when we allow a few perpetrators to victimize the rest of us with their penis problems. We have yet to learn what great spiritual power modern man now figuratively holds in his own hands.

The guilt of the Christians in 1948 forced them to acquiesce to the 2,000-year old, Jewish need to recreate the State of Israel to protect us from religious extremism. But the *Muslims* in the 20th Century refused to agree to that decision despite the international rule of law. Seventy years later, Muslim guilt is beginning to motivate them to face the moral consequences of having created millions of victims in the Middle East and elsewhere because of a metaphor in Torah they weren't willing or able to explore personally.

The *Muslim* view of themselves as martyrs to Jewish perpetrators is no longer viable. And the CHRISTIAN concept of themselves as victims of Jewish perpetrators who killed their GOD 2,000 years ago isn't improving religious relations between the faiths, and it certainly isn't making anyone's life any safer.

³¹ And, as you well know, a "nut" is a kind of fruit from a tree...

Fortunately, questioning minds are always looking for more of the truth. The lessons from **GOD** are coming to us all to challenge us to perceive the truth about our relationship with ourselves. Some are curious enough to go back to the basics internally to make more sense of what's occurring to us all externally. Doing so only requires a modicum of modesty, humility and grace.

Moving more gracefully through the view of the GOD/GOD/*God* you were brought up with can only be achieved by combining the wisdom, love and devotion you've directly or indirectly picked up from your Scripture. For those in this country who were raised in a Judeo-Christian setting, bringing **GOD** to consciousness requires a much closer look at the Quran.

The Judeo-Christian cultures in the Americas and Western Europe have already been well explored and reasonably unified since the end of the Second World War. Jews and Christians respect one another's faiths. But devotees of Islam know little about our faiths, and we know little about theirs.

The secret to understanding the universal, spiritual process given to us by **GOD** figuratively lies in your testicles {the right fruit being metaphorically good and the left fruit, metaphorically evil}. You never know what's going to figuratively come out of the mouth of your serpent until you listen to what you tell yourself you want.

What I'm talking about is a lot like losing your virginity, although I'm not speaking sexually, per se. Your penis can metaphorically spew forth wondrous, life-affirming secrets or pure poison. It can release desires that are figuratively creative or destructive. But it's only with experience that you learn about the power you have within you to figuratively help or hinder yourself. This is the source of what it means to be genuine throughout all your affairs. This is what it means to be human while striving to be angelic, whether you're straight or gay.

After Eve ate from the Tree of knowledge and gave some of the fruit to Adam, GOD made HIS approach audible to them, and in HIS infinite wisdom said out loud to no one in particular, "THE MAN HAS NOW BECOME LIKE ONE OF US, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL. HE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO REACH OUT HIS HAND AND TAKE ALSO FROM THE TREE OF LIFE AND EAT, AND LIVE FOREVER." In other words, **GOD** let us know that he'd help women protect themselves from men if they helped men understand themselves.

Adam becomes the personification of the human mind and Eve, the personification of human emotions. This stereotypically turned every ancient man into a tree that produces knowledge and every ancient woman into a tree that produces life, which, in turn, makes the Creation story an early, psychological interpretation of our inner forces expressed through metaphor.

Once knowledge awakened Adam, GOD had to protect women from men because HE knew some men would project their emotions onto women and blame women for their own negativity. HE has since taught us to protect all the trees of life from the trees of knowledge. This turns the banishment from Eden into a psychological descriptor of man's denial of responsibility for his actions, an inner turmoil he ought to work out through his external circumstances.

The man who thinks he knows more about himself than his **CREATOR** ends up intentionally or inadvertently persecuting women, beginning with his mother, the first

projection of his inner Eve. GOD anticipated that psychological affect in the Creation story by stationing “CHERUBIM AND A FLAMING SWORD FLASHING BACK AND FORTH TO GUARD THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE.” [Genesis 3:24]

Externally, many of today’s trees of knowledge {men} believe they have the right to overshadow trees of life {women}. But internally, it would be more astute to say that many men get psychologically stuck in their head and can’t find their way out of it to get into their heart where something else entirely is going on.

The more today’s women identify as trees of knowledge in addition to trees of life (with wisdom, not just with worldly knowledge and/or the capacity to give birth), the more men and women are going to learn about the depth of **GOD’s** designs for them individually. In other words, the more men discover the mystery in their feelings, the more they’ll admire women for the mystery of their ways of thinking.

Those men who attempt to cut down, dwarf or stump women intellectually, emotionally and/or spiritually are going to feel the cut and the burn from the figurative sword GOD stationed around every tree of life. To get close to a woman, a man must ask permission. To get closer to himself, he must do the same. There’s no way he’s going to trust women any more than he can trust himself. And his success in both realms will determine his success in getting closer to **GOD**.

The symbolism of Jesus as bread and wine supplements the pastoral metaphor of man as a tree of knowledge as the story was told to Moses. GOD’s love, unlike GOD’s wisdom, figuratively grows as wheat from fields and grapes from vineyards, not as fruits from the trees found in orchards.

The perception of man as made of a bread-like substance {flesh} filled with a wine-like substance {blood} is a symbol, not a metaphor. Ancient man knew nothing about biology or figurative speech. He saw his body as something that was a lot like bread that had absorbed a substance called blood that gave him strength, like wine. In terms of spiritual symbolism, Jesus bestowed on HIS followers the concept of the human body as a physical container with a potential to be filled with the emotional power of love. These two symbols were given to man by **GOD** through Jesus on the night before HE was murdered, 1,400 years after **HE** gave man the main metaphor of Moses.

Modern man in Judeo-Christian societies lives out his life metaphorically as a tree of knowledge and symbolically as a combination of bread {container} and wine {contents}. When these symbols were new, they made it possible for ancient Jews to psychologically fill themselves like a container with Christ’s contents: love. This symbolic process of consuming HIS flesh {host} and drinking HIS blood {wine} [holy communion] was a self-awakening that overflowed out of the ancient Jewish head into their heart, creating a new place in inner space for them to come to know themselves through GOD/GOD consciousness.

The wiser a man is, the more loving he becomes. The more the honey {wisdom} and the more the milk {love}, the more he can fill himself with self-regard and the grounding of GOD/GOD-consciousness.

“THE LAND FLOWING WITH MILK AND HONEY” [Exodus 3:17, Deuteronomy 31:20] isn’t just a topographical description of Israel where plants and animals abound. It began as an internal place where the ancient Jews who believed in Jesus combined the attributes of

wisdom and love in themselves to become conscious of their feelings thorough, meticulous hard-work and diligence before GOD/GOD.

Those who are wise and loving today will be able to unlock the mystery of the “scented herbs” spoken about in the Quran. This third book from **GOD** describes the potential for the devotion to life a man holds in his soul. You could even say that, like a three-tier, pyramid fountain made of champagne glasses, the contents of man’s head {GOD} poured over into his heart {GOD}, and from his heart his contents poured over into the bottom third tier of glasses where *God*-consciousness filled his soul with even greater understanding of his **CREATOR**.

You can’t give **GOD** an intellectually, emotionally or spiritually empty glass as a gift. First you ought to fill it, taste it and know what it is you’re offering. You can’t treat GOD wisely; you can’t treat HIM lovingly; and you can’t treat *Him* devotedly – until you’ve developed these virtues for yourself. Nor can you give these gifts directly to others and claim that they were always intended as indirect gifts for **GOD**.

People are just for practice. You help them to teach you how to help yourself. You learn what works on them to apply those virtues and vices to you. You are, after all, a person, too. The methods you use on others will work on you, too. But if you try to punish people without adding sweetener {tender love} to your tough love, expect to get the kind of reaction from them that you’d give others if they tried to punish you.

To earn permission to eat fruit from your own tree, you only need to wander out in the world seeking to do good for others. If you consistently treat others with respect, you’ll learn how to better respect yourself. But your reasons to behave badly will reduce your opinion of you. Blaming others will reduce your opinion of you. Even if you’re forced to defend yourself, excessive harshness will reduce your opinion of you. Saltwater {explanations} only makes you thirstier {more hateful}. To quench your thirst, you’re going to need more than love. You’re going to need the nectar of the gods: devotion.

You may need to be given experiences by **GOD** that will change your mind about what you think of you. This will force you, in turn, to transform your heart about how you feel about you, which will, over time, cause you to transcend the way in which you believe your life must be lived. That will bring you a sense of soulfulness.³²

*“You alone we worship,
And You alone we turn for help.
Guide us to the path.”
[1:5]*

³² What soulful people do with the spiritual process depends on what it is their desire to accomplish. The Israelis, for instance, want peace with the Palestinians. The Palestinians only want Israel. Who do you think will succeed in life, the student who wishes to learn or the student who wishes to take?

“**YOU** alone we worship,
And **YOU** alone we turn for help.
Guide us to the path.”

GOD is not the only **ONE** who is alone. You’re alone, too. You were born “only.”³³ But with all the losses you’ve sustained in life, you’ve surely become “lonely” over time. The very young and old are especially lonely. But many, today, feel a deep sense of onliness whether or not there are others in their life.

Few have many friends. Most have many acquaintances, but they don’t usually dare share themselves deeply with them. They’re usually afraid of being ridiculed, scorned or derided for their onliness. So they keep it hidden deep, down within. Sadly, they don’t even share their onliness with **GOD/GOD/God**. Who, though, would be better able to understand their onliness than **GOD**?³⁴

Clearly, what you may know about prayer isn’t nearly enough to connect meaningfully with **GOD** if you’re only giving **HIM** the scant bounty of your harvest of knowledge, regard or obligation. If you’ve never thought to share your onliness with **GOD**, how high will your prayers ascend? You may go to **HIM/HIM/Him** when you’re feeling desperate, defiant or depressed. You may go to **HIM/HIM/Him** when you want something to go your way and you’re feeling particularly hopeless or defeated. But how can you pray with any realistic expectation of having your prayers heard and answered if you can’t share all of yourself with **GOD**? This is what causes anal issues. Your desire to be meticulously clean turns you into one huge anal issue who hates his own rectum. That’s what causes people to turn into a donkey sphincter {asshole}.

In order to worship *God*, I first had to practice worshipping people and things in the world around me. I had to get through obsessive/compulsive behaviors that magnified my devotion to the world around me, not my world within. I couldn’t give *Him* something {faith} I hadn’t given and received for myself. I even had to worship my body with inebriants and other excess, carnal delights. I had to make mistakes and correct mistakes of misplaced loyalty in order to come to *God* with hindsight and foresight. I had to achieve sight about how people operate in the external world before I could claim to need insight.

³³ “only”: the quality or state of being the only one of an indicated or implied kind or category.” [Wikipedia] In 1913 the word “onliness” was used for the last time in print. It’s no longer used in spoken English. But “onliness” is as real today as it ever was.

³⁴ Onliness is exposed through humiliation. **GOD** allows you to go through humiliation to wake you up to your anal issues. Humiliating experiences are deeply disturbing, but sometimes necessary. Humiliation feels like a violation of the worst order. But mortification, dishonor, degradation and disgrace may be intellectually, emotionally and spiritually necessary to teach you to help yourself.

It was only with the wisdom gleaned from errors of judgment around me that I could submit to *God*. It was only in making mistakes that I could learn to correct them. Only then was *God* willing to bestow upon me self-devotion in addition to wisdom and self-love.

With a conscience more informed by *God*-consciousness, I was able to gift *Him* with all I had in my head and heart, which was the little devotion to myself I'd gleaned from countless mistakes corrected. Only then could I devote my life to the principles of hospitality from the inside out.

Once I could use the names of GOD/GOD/*God* to create an inner atmosphere primed for the big picture, I was ready to try to pray to **GOD** for conscious regard to my spiritual education. Once I could use the separate names Y.H.V.H., Jesus and *Allah* like steps up the porch to the front door, I could enter the spiritual edifice of **GOD** that would take me through all **HIS** stories. Once I could believe that there's only one **GOD**, I could look out the window of any of the three stories to appreciate HIS/HIS/*His* magnificent views.

You might say I overcame my fear of intimacy with myself through prayer. *I* would say that I overcame my onliness from the inside in. I couldn't believe in **GOD** until I understood me. Any other order of priorities would be hypocritical. I had to be the baton twirler at the front of my own parade. I had to make my moral education my number one priority. I didn't want to turn into a JEW, CHRISTIAN or *Muslim*. I didn't want to make other people suffer just because I believed in **GOD**.

The Quran is the most spiritually sophisticated of Scripture because it relies on the reader being completely versed in the previous two. Most Muslims living in the Western world have only indirectly and superficially immersed themselves in the Judeo-Christian culture. Muslims in the Middle East are at an even graver disadvantage from their brothers in the West because they can only learn about Torah and the Gospels through electronic mediums. Ethnic cleansing has purged them of their greatest tutors.

Because *Muslims* forced all the Jews and most of the Christians out of Muslim countries, Muslim can only immerse themselves in the intellectual rewards of the Judeo-Christian world {science, technology, medicine and military arms}. They don't have the opportunity to discover the artistic, creative, emotional and spiritual rewards of the Western blessings from GOD/GOD. Consequently their relationship to *God* may leave much to be desired from our perspective. If you add to that the enormous exodus to Europe by Muslims who have been demonized and victimized in their home countries, you can watch as the soul of the Middle East dries up. The desertification of the planet is mirrored in the desiccation of the Muslim soul in the modern era.

The spiritual problems of this world should be broached by rabbis, priests, pastors, ministers, imams and clerics. But most of them are so submerged in their own Scripture that they don't know how to come together within themselves to make peace with their own penis problem, let alone how to help other men get a grip on theirs. And when you combine that with man's utter aversion to discussing his guilt in having been given an anus {a physical reflection of humiliation for his moral transgressions}, you see why humanity is moving forward so slowly.

A hypocrite isn't just someone who doesn't appreciate other people's losses and onliness. A hypocrite is someone who's so intertwined loss and onliness into loneliness that he can't imagine what he knows and what he doesn't know. He can't solve the most basic of his spiritual problems because he insists on solving them from the outside out instead of the inside in.

Pointing fingers in blame at others for not cooperating with you won't accomplish a thing. Calling someone a hypocrite won't teach him what he doesn't know. You may not think you're a hypocrite, but there's no doubt in my mind that we're all hypocrites one way or another. "Sorry seems to be the hardest word."³⁵ Wouldn't it help much more to feel sorry for everyone whenever humanly possible? People mirror everything we don't yet know about ourselves, especially our foolishness, hatred and disloyalty to the one we're always with.

The main metaphor of Moses {man as a tree of knowledge} combined with the Christian symbols from Jesus {man as a spiritual container} create the spiritual and linguistic preparations needed for delving into the spiritual similes of the Quran that were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

Without bringing together what you've learned about the head of **GOD**, the heart of **GOD** and the soul of **GOD**, you'll remain an unfathomable mystery to yourself that you'll project out onto Mother Nature without the ability to fully share with **HIM**. You won't be able to reveal to **HIM** who you are. And if that psycho/spiritual problem continues to the degree that we see it spreading sociologically around the world, man will torture and kill the animal kingdom and environment until he loses all respect for himself.

Politicians and generals can solve few of the problems of the modern era. The problems of today are the same problems men have had for millennia. All problems figuratively originate in man's genitals and anus. The problems are all about the spiritual purpose of man's penis and testicles, and how **GOD** could have made man in **HIS** image unless **HE** had complete understanding at all times of what's happening below his belt.

The serpent in every tree of knowledge is a universal problem, not a problem with a metaphoric serpent in a tree or satan. Until every man learns to separate that voice from the rest of the chatter going on inside him, he ought not be too confident about where he's going when he leaves here for "eternal rest, reward and relaxation."

Man's desire to avoid humiliation at all cost turns some men into homophobes. They become terrified that the only way to penetrate the mystery of their anus is with a penis. And so they screw others over to find out indirectly how that feels. Some discover that it makes them feel bad about themselves. Others are motivated by the experience with glee in being hurtful to others rather than joyous about being good to themselves.

³⁵ "“Sorry seems to be the hardest word” is a song written by Elton John (gay) and Bernie Taupin. It was released in 1976.” [Wikipedia]

Surah 2

The Cow

The second surah of the Quran goes well beyond the general, prayerful quotation presented in Surah One. That surah was merely a **Mantra** intended to get you in the right mood to pray. This surah is intended to sharpen your wits while you're praying.

The cow represents the concept of **GOD** worship. The Hebrews' worship of the Golden Calf in the second book of Torah {Exodus} was an abomination. But beginners at anything are always going to make mistakes.

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 400 years. Once GOD sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt to the Promised Land, they rejected GOD and danced around an idol in the shape of a calf they created out of their own gold. Moses admonished them for their mistake when he came back down from Mt. Sinai and told them to melt down the idol and eat their gold, thereby internalizing the precious attributes of GOD they couldn't perceive within themselves. [Exodus 32]

Learning how to worship may require you to worship yourself before coming before **GOD** humbled after having worshipped external, self-made objects or obsessions. You can't give **HIM** empty promises from your head that aren't grounded in your heart and soul. You may first like to admit to yourself that you got it wrong doing things your way. Once you've decided to stop worshipping food, drugs, alcohol, sex, sports, social distractions, power grabs and violence, you'll be better prepared to learn how to listen within for **GOD's** personal designs created just for you.³⁶

You might think that taking the paths of collective worship by copying other people's actions would make so much more sense than making your own mistakes in discovering your unique way to pray. But you only need to look at your fanatical relationship to sports teams; your bad attitude about being told what to do by bosses; or your desire for excesses in money, property and prestige – to see the golden calves you dance around.

Your desire to conform sociologically may be both a curse and a blessing. Individuality from within is harder than it looks, but reinventing the wheel isn't useful either. Spiritual Linguistics {learning to talk to yourself about yourself} will lead to Spiritual Psychology {learning how to train yourself by yourself}.

We all dance around golden calves because we all want to fit in. We were all taught to take life literally before we were taught to take it personally. We can all make peace with ourselves by figuratively eating our own gold. We can all learn how to shine from within. If we don't teach our children to use their head before they indulged their heart and genitals, they aren't going to weigh their thoughts against their cravings, feelings, impulses, urges, wants and yearnings. They're going to try to escape bondage from the law, financial institutions that bind them or addictions that cripple them before they'll be able to take the story from Exodus about the Golden Calf to heart.

³⁶ You won't have to give up your love of food, drugs, alcohol, sex, sports, social distractions, power grabs and violence. You'll only need to become aware of how they indirectly feed you what you're lacking. Guilt will do the rest.

Sometimes **GOD's** carrots {luck} don't teach us a thing. Sometimes **HIS** sticks {pain and suffering} are the only lessons that get our attention. This is why being physically hurt and feeling emotionally hurt are helpful to our spiritual education if we ponder what we're having to go through. On occasion, we even feel banished, as Adam and Eve did, before we can make sense of the fruits we're picking without permission.

To begin Islamic studies by comparing and contrasting the prophetic meaning of the cow will instill in you the essence of the wisdom and love you need before you can develop the loyalty to live an evolved life in a modern world. You can't worship **GOD** if you can't admit you make mistakes. The dogmas we see in all three of the Abrahamic faiths only express a divided devotion to GOD/GOD/*God*. This division of faith in GOD/GOD/*God* can be seen in the quirky divisions of our thoughts, feelings and beliefs, as well.

Those who've achieved a simple, straightforward way of expressing loyalty to themselves without devotion to GOD/GOD/*God* are often in a place of greater peace with their conscience. For them, becoming soulful becomes a lifelong commitment that may or may not slowly open their conscience to **GOD**-consciousness. Coming to know **GOD** becomes the indirect consequence of knowing something else. Such people are often not as impatient as many religious people who seem to be able to recite the proscribed answer given by their faith before a religious question has even been fully uttered.

Each of us began life metaphorically as a tree planted here as a seed that grew up through the rock of infancy into the light of childlike interactions. In puberty, our understanding of ourselves expanded sexually to include a container {bread} that changed dramatically to include a focus on new contents {wine} that coursed through our veins. Some drank this new wine {lust} just after it was bottled. Others waited for a special occasion to pop the cork. Such are the myriad personal stories of first love.

As we moved out of puberty and the new, physical sensations of having a body that yearned for sex in addition to milk and cookies, we experienced ourselves as a spiritual container slowly being filled with an inebriating feeling called "lust." We became aware of the Biblical pun on the word "love" that brought up orgiastic sensations that resisted any connection to traditional religious contexts.

A person's struggle with religion doesn't mean he's a nonbeliever. Atheists and agnostics are merely taking their time to explore the spiritual process that brings **GOD**-consciousness to personal awakening. When the Prophet spoke about nonbelievers, he was referring to ancient indigenists. Jews and Christians weren't pagans then, and Muslims aren't the only true believers today. Personal awakening is happening within every religion and outside every religion. **GOD's** designs can't be monopolized, although that's exactly what JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* are trying to do by taking **GOD's** Scriptural poetry and turning it into dogmatic prose.

The first simile of the Quran is that man is like a scented herb. It takes eyes to see a tree. It takes eyes and ears to bake bread and make wine. But it only takes a nose to appreciate a scented herb. The mystery of this unobservable path to **GOD** lies in the Quran.

The second simile of the Quran is that man is like a cow. A cow gives it's milk, meat, hide, horns and hooves. It gives all of itself for the betterment of man. Men were once like the Golden Calf, a self-made figurine forged from shiny mettle. They were hollow inside.

They danced around themselves. They were absorbed with their passions and physical strengths, blind to **GOD's** deeper participation in their life. They filled themselves with experiences that triggered all the more of their wants to be pursued.

Man grew up like a golden calf that turned into a cow to then understand himself symbolically as a spiritual container being filled with spiritual contents. Only then did he figuratively realize he'd become capable of giving all of himself into making a contribution to the lives of others.

Grown men either take their body too seriously, like the Israelites who projected their self-worth onto the Golden Calf. Or they take their body for granted by abusing or ignoring it, thinking it isn't an important aspect of **GOD's** designs for them.

Man was made in **GOD's** image: a tree in a garden; a field of wheat and vineyard of grapes on a farm; and a scented herb in a pot. If you start with these ideas about **GOD's** image, your imagination has somewhere to go when you contemplate who you are. If you don't see yourself as a spiritual mystery unfolding, you're not going to question the outcomes of your life. If sacred metaphors, symbols and similes don't bring up questions about your self-worth, your imagination has already died. You exist, but you aren't truly alive.

If you can perceive yourself in each of these abstract ways, you have the potential of feeling that your fortunes and misfortunes are deserved as an opportunity for greater understanding of **GOD's** designs. You can grow and change. You can teach yourself how to become who you were always meant to be.

To break the projection of spiritual wealth onto the external world where you pursue only monetary wealth requires an internalization of the attributes of gold: preciousness, shine and malleability. Western man has been fashioned by his ancestors over millennia without giving much conscious attention to the spiritual process. He dances around those he sees as valuable to him. He dances around money, sex and inebriants. Even food can become like a toy he plays with. His hunger for **GOD**-consciousness is often the last appetite he's interested in satisfying before death overtakes him.

Modern man thinks of himself as a consumer of Hollywood milk {romantic love}, Hollywood meat {artistic fashion} and Hollywood desserts {promises of financially good things to come}. But it's unlikely that most living in the "city of the angels" {Los Angeles} would compare themselves to the Islamic cow the Prophet subtly describes in this second surah of Scripture.

For the Quran to begin the study of **GOD** with the simile of the scented herbs and cow is nothing less than inspired. But, remember, Muslims believe the Quran was recited to the Prophet Muhammad by an angel of the Lord, not written by a man. The Quran is considered to be the final, written message from *God* in *His own words*, and a culmination of previous Scriptures.

To fathom the meaning of the Quran, we need only build upon the wisdom given by **GOD** to the Jews through Moses and the love HE gave to the Christians through Jesus. Then the mountain with the Jewish base and Christian summit becomes visible to the well-schooled Islamic mind's eye. Then a man's own words can open the cave door in that mountain to reveal the hidden treasure in his imagination. Then he can say "Open! Says-a-

me!” to himself and perceive the spiritual secret of his being.³⁷ Only then does the mountain eagerly make its way to Muhammad. Combine the three, and the designs from **GOD** become inspiring in the magnificence of its daily unfolding.

“Say:
*‘If God’s abode of the hereafter
is for yourselves alone,
to the exclusion of all others,
then wish for death if your claim be true.’”*
[2:95]

“Say:
‘If **GOD**’s abode of the hereafter
is for yourselves alone,
to the exclusion of all others,
then wish for death if your claim be true.’”

The modern man is looking for inclusion. He’s looking for respect. He’s looking for dignity, wishing to be treated as an equal in society, with fairness. He wishes for wisdom, love and generosity of spirit for everyone, but especially for himself from himself. He sees himself as a person, no less deserving than all others.

Therefore, the modern man isn’t willing to exclude any of **GOD**’s other faiths in his effort to know, love and believe in himself. He believes that in order to have faith in himself he must learn to perceive the goodness he sees in others as a gift that also emanates out from within him. What good are other people’s attributes and virtues if you can’t at least credit yourself for appreciating the attributes and virtues you see in them?

When good fortune favors good people, and you can see their good fortune with an open heart, you should conclude you deserve their good fortune, too. Anyone who can see **GOD**’s goodness in others should strive to see that particular blessing as a sign of what might come to him if he grows like a tree fruiting with wisdom, fills his cup with love, and perceives himself with devotion to a life given to him by **GOD**.

Jealousy is a very human fallacy. But if you don’t see jealousy {desire for another container} and envy {desire for others’ contents} as a sign that you’re struggling with **GOD**/**GOD**/*God*, you aren’t going to learn to control these feelings.

³⁷ “Open! Says-a-me!” is a phrase from the story of “Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves” in the book, One Thousand and One Nights. The magical words “Open! Ses-a-me!” opened the mouth of a cave in which 40 thieves had hidden a great treasure. Today, you are the mountain. In you there is a cave. You are the thief with 40 faces. And you have the power to move the rock that blocks the entrance because you are like a rock. And you have the power to do so because you have the power of **WORDS**/**WORDS**/*Words*.

*“They say:
‘God has begotten a son.’
Glory be to Him!
His is what the heavens and earth contain;
all is obedient to Him.
Creator of the heavens and the earth!
When He decrees a thing,
He need only say ‘Be’ and it is.”
[2:116-118]*

*“They say:
‘GOD has begotten a SON.’
Glory be to HIM!
HIS is what the ‘heavens’ and Earth contain;
all is obedient to **HIM**.
CREATOR of the heavens and the Earth!
When **HE** decrees a thing,
HE need only say ‘be’ and it is.”*

The idea that GOD wanted to create one, special container to hold a very special aspect of the contents of HIS heart is not dissimilar to what every man does when he produces a child. A son looks similar to his father on the outside and will carry many of his father's attributes within. Men in the past wanted sons because they wanted a container that physically mirrored their own shape and sexually reflected their own sexual urges. They didn't want daughters. (And they certainly didn't want boys who turned out gay...)

In the case of Jesus, **GOD** created **HIM** to hold one special attribute: **HIS** love. Man's feelings were in projection in those ancient days. He thought of his feelings as something that came from the outside in, like the infant that confuses its own feelings with those of its mother's. Ancient Jews generalized upon that infantile conclusion that comes from the Creation story in which Adam concluded Eve emerged out of him, and not the other way around. (I've got news for you. Females don't literally come out of males! The Creation story is a metaphor for perception of the relationship of an infant to its mother! It doesn't hold up to scientific scrutiny.)

Ancient, Jewish, straight males believed their feelings were stirred up by women. In truth, it was their wants that were stirred up by women. Their feelings were hardly ever stirred up in those days at all. Love had hardly anything to do with the behaviors of the ancient Jews. Jewish history before the coming of Jesus was one failed war after another; one corrupt king after another - with more and more evidence then to conclude that GOD hated the Jews for the ways in which things were turning out at their hands. And animal sacrifices given at the Temple didn't seem to improve their luck one bit.

Today we know that love emanates out from within us all. We can therefore interpret the character of Eve as that psychological aspect of every modern man that was once projected onto his mother, but which every mature man can embrace as shining out from his heart, within himself.

A modern man doesn't fear becoming gay to feel love for himself. He realizes the universality of his x^2 factor.

$$y + x^2 = 1$$

Adam + Eve = two aspects of you

Your head and heart give you a sense of being 1 with yourself.

Jesus was a male replacement for Eve in the psychological advancement and awakening of self-awareness. Jesus was the "new bone" {love} removed from man's chest 2,000 years ago that our religious forefathers had been previously searching for only in the external world. Love became personified in man thanks to Jesus, and love was thereafter projected out onto the external world from within and crudely carried throughout the world unconsciously by Christians through their container/contents symbols.

Today, Jesus signifies that point in our past in the consciousness-raising of humanity when ancient men realized love could be a masculine as well as a feminine trait. It isn't girly to love. And it doesn't make a man less of a man to love **GOD**. Love emanates out from within everyone nowadays.

Love didn't just pour out of your mother onto you when you were a babe in her arms. You didn't just suck up liquid love from her breasts. Love is a feeling every individual should develop for himself. Love is the Eve or x^2 factor a man can share with anyone in infancy. Only over time, does a boy become selective in whom he's willing to share his love with. And that selectivity becomes all the more pronounced by the time he reaches puberty when matters below the belt transform the meaning of love into lust.

GOD wishes everyone would experience HIS mercy and forgiveness from the inside out as love, but it's often very difficult to convince some men that love is a manly thing to express to another man. Until an individual can perceive this about love for himself, it could be argued that the concept of love can't yet be contained in him; he's still stuck in his head. In other words, without spiritual symbolism, there's no way for a man to come to know more of himself than by what he thinks. In psychological terms, that's called "repressed."

But it can be argued that without similes, there would be no way for man to compare and contrast himself to others. He can't compare and contrast himself to others if he can't compare and contrast himself today to how he was earlier in his life. He can't see the development of his head and heart if he can't get out of his thoughts and feelings to observe himself from a third place in inner space. In religious terms, he can't express devotion to his redemption before *God* if he can't love GOD. And he can't love GOD if he doesn't have the wisdom to know GOD.

Feelings figuratively emanate out of their source in a man's heart. Feelings aren't just perceived of as something given by others that we know about and learn to receive from them intellectually. A love that originates from the outside and flows in becomes insufficient and intolerable for those who've grown beyond the emotional level of a child. For the spiritual adolescent, love becomes a hole in his inner wall out onto the world. Love

becomes something that moves through both his worlds, the external and the internal, like an open window.

Without this complex understanding of how love transforms our perception of reality, we might not be able to believe that love is real in the Christian sense of **GOD**-given. Without understand how love opens us to our internal worlds (the inner world of our head and heart, as well as the inner world of our penis or clitoris) we might never discover the wisdom in **GOD** having given us the external world to discover how we were made. We might never discover what it means to earn a soul.

We perceive the light of **GOD**'s illumination {wisdom}, but we feel **HIS** warmth {love}. Until you learn to do both through conscious awareness of your own perceived wisdom and love, you won't be able to consciously burn with third attribute of *His* flame {purification}. The devotion *God* has for *Himself* is difficult to talk about without understanding the illumination and warmth **HE** gave to **HIS** designs. Therefore, to become devoted to **GOD**, you must be purified. You must, at times, experience the burn of **HIS** awesome flame.

GOD is most like that mysterious substance we can't really contain or understand called "fire." **GOD** figuratively illuminates, warms and burns. **GOD** blessed the ancient Jews with illumination of this inner fire in the form of wisdom, and we, Jews, have been searching for the source of that brightness in ourselves to find our way back to **HIM**.

HE gave the rainbow of hope to the Christians in the form of **HIS** promise of **HIS** eternal love for all mankind, and the Christians have searched for the source of the warmth of that fire in themselves in the form of love.

HE blessed the Jews with the illumination of fire; the Christians with the warmth of fire; and **HE** blessed the Muslims with its burn. Illumination, love and devotion are the first three figurative attributes of fire. (There are four more for a total of seven.)

When I look at a world that has obviously gone crazy (and that's the conclusion of someone who was twice involuntarily committed to mental institutions), I confess to live in a time when people really know very little about how they operate. Scientific progress has surpassed spiritual progress. When I think of myself as a Newton who's had many an apple fall on his head, I can, at last, deduce the gravity of the situation I face in explaining sanity to others in this nut house we've all been committed to...

There are a total of seven gifts from **GOD** given to the world that are concealed in the attributes of "fire." But, if you think you can simply go around setting people aflame with hatred, burning down civilization with injustice or spreading a conflagration of fear with corporate greed that torches the natural world for quick profits, you don't yet know much about the immenseness of **GOD**'s designs.

Here are the seven spiritual attributes of fire:

<u>Attribute</u>	<u>Equivalence</u>	<u>Faith/Philosophy</u>
1. Illumination	wisdom	Judaism
2. Heat	love	Christianity
3. Burn	purification	Islam
4. Mystery	Personal Secret	Hinduism
5. Smoke	Prayer/Communication	Buddhism
6. Sound	Calling/Mission	Taoism
7. Smell	Intuition/evidence	Indigenism

“Ice” is the antithesis of “fire.” Ice exhibits the opposite properties of **GOD**-consciousness. Here are the spiritual attributes of ice:

1. Cold rather than heat; hate rather than love.
2. The burn of spiritual frostbite {hopelessness/onliness/emptiness/apathy} rather than the burn of spiritual purification {healing}.³⁸
3. An ominous silence in place of the sound of being spiritually called to a mission. Death rather than life.

After 5,780 years of wisdom and 2,020 years of love, religious people today take it for granted that they’re wise and loving, when that’s hardly the case. Because of their disloyalty to themselves, they have a long way to go in figuring themselves out. In the past, men ridiculed women for their vanity – their tendency to love themselves to excess. Today you can’t find a modern man who thinks he loves himself enough...

*“You will please neither the Jews nor the Christians
unless you follow their faith.”
[2:120]*

“You will please neither the Jews nor the Christians
unless you follow their faith.”

If you’re Muslim, don’t submit to the knowledge of either the Jews or the Christians. Receive it gratefully because they are your older, spiritual brothers. Submit to the wisdom of the Jews and the love of the Christians even though they don’t hold a full understanding of the third piece of **GOD**’s magnificent puzzle. From each of them, receive the gift they have for you. But say: “**GOD**’s guidance is the only guidance.” [6:71]

Your Muslim brothers’ gifts aren’t intended to be used against other Muslims. They’re intended to be used to help us all. If you use our Jewish and Christian gifts to try to overthrow us, you’re standing on the third step to **GOD**’s throne with your back to **HIM** as

³⁸ “Onliness” is a 19th Century word that hasn’t been in use since the early 20th Century. It refers to the feeling of existential loneliness without literal loss. It’s a sense of being alone without even **GOD** as a **WITNESS**. More importantly, we need to witness ourselves.

you try to destroy the two steps below you that got you into the trouble you're in today.
Never turn your back on **GOD**!

“Say;
‘We believe in God
and that which has been revealed to us;
in what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and his tribes;
to Moses and Jesus
and the other prophets by their Lord.
We make no distinction among any of them,
and to Him we submit.’”
[2:136-138]

“Say;
‘We believe in **GOD**
and that which has been revealed to us;
in what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and his tribes;
to Moses and Jesus
and the other prophets by their Lord.
We make no distinction among any of them,
and to **HIM** we submit.’”

GOD's WORDS are too great to be simply spelled out for you without self-study. You ought to dedicate your life to studying yourself. You should emulate the people of the scroll {Jews}. You ought to learn about **HIS** love through the people of the book {New Testament}. And you should refine your head and polish your heart so that you can fully receive the Quran in your soul. A conscience that can't weigh thoughts against feelings can't balance new beliefs. When challenged, most people draw conclusions about external reality that are dead wrong. Peace between the nations will coincide with peace being achieved within each one of us.

When your conscience weighs your thoughts and feelings (comparing and contrasting one another to derive righteous conclusions about how to act), your beliefs come to rest like a balanced scale. Without a good conscience, you can't become soulful even if you were figuratively weaned onto the Quran. You revert to becoming a tyrant like men from the past and many world leaders today.

To become truly, morally deep, every man must turn this spiritual “scale” in his chest into a moral “compass.” He must make his conscience his guide. A conscience will only point you toward good and away from evil if you can determine right from wrong. With a conscience that's been turned into a soul it's then possible to discern better from worse. Is the Muslim world going in a direction today that's better or worse? The answer to that question lies within each one of us.

The problem in the world today is that there are many who are conscientious, but too few who are truly soulful. To become soulful, you must awaken to the presence of the Lord. To awaken, you must become more conscientious about what you think, feel and believe. Your inner forces were given to you all at once when the Lord made you, but you're becoming aware of their presence in stages that are deeply personal and may take a lifetime to procure. It's too much to learn to be you all at once. And it's much too late for your religion to continue to declare its monopoly on how this internal process is achieved.

Tribal nations (such as Muslim countries), tribal faiths (such as Catholicism) and tribal parties such as the Republican Party are sociologically constructed like a pyramid. There's one man at the top and everyone falls in line beneath him. Modern nations and peoples, such as Israel, Northern European, Protestant countries and the Democratic Party are based on the cube model of power. In theory, everyone has equal access to the top. In the cube model, there are many leaders in collaboration with one another; not a conglomeration of subordinates conspiring to control those below them while vowing complete allegiance to the one at the top.

The reason the cube model works for democracies and the pyramid model doesn't is that the cube model is based on independent thinkers who add cubes to all sides of the cube, turning it into a multi-sided rectangle that resembles the rooms of a house or an apartment building. The pyramid model only attempts to recreate the Egyptian mausoleum with a mummy buried deep down inside it.

Tribal nations are socially rigid, but stable, like pyramids. But when there's a coup by the middle class or a revolution from those at the bottom, the system remains the same. The only thing that changes is that the people in control make a new pyramid around a new mummy.

Modern, democratic nations are built to be socially fluid, allowing people from the bottom to rise to the top as though in a skyscraper. The cube model relies on the rule of manmade laws. The pyramid model relies on GOD's/GOD's/*God's* laws. The separation of church and state is, therefore, crucial for the advancement of democracy.

When you develop a personal relationship with **GOD**, your head becomes like a pyramid and your heart becomes like a cube. You develop a tension that will want to square the circle in your soul. This makes moral decisions difficult and even lugubrious at times.

The pyramidal shape of social construction comes out of Judaism. This is the original, figurative shape of Jewish society, the laws and governance that may have been inspired in the ancient Jews by the pyramids the Israelites constructed for the pharaohs. This is figuratively how the ancient Jews maintained their political and personal strength in the face of indigenism once they were given their own country to govern 3,000 years ago. This political shape for nations was repeated in Christianity until the 16th Century, when the Protestant Reformation brought the cube shape in defiance of the pyramid shape {Catholicism} of social construction into being.

A pyramid {patriarchal} model is still commonly used today in the military, schools, families with young children and in small businesses. The cube model is now the norm for modern governments, international corporations and individuals who govern themselves. What people call the "collapse of the American family" is really the transition from the pyramid to cube model of relating to family members that will prove to be far more egalitarian than the patriarchal model of the past. The collapse of the American family is really a description of the movement out of our father's head through our mother's heart to

an independent place in our chest where we can determine how we wish to behave individually.

In this century and the last, many Arabs have been sent on a diaspora into Europe and elsewhere in the world where they've learned about Western, social construction (which some of them will eventually take back to their countries in the Middle East). **GOD** is teaching them about the strangers' ways, in part, to turn strangers into potential friends, but also to teach them how to govern themselves better from within.

Jews had to go on our Diaspora over the course of 2,000 years with only hope to guide us back to Israel from all the nations on Earth where we'd resided. Muslims can do something similar now knowing they have many national identities and a patriotic fervor to make greater sense of **GOD's** designs for them for the modern era.

For Muslims to collectively learn how to govern themselves in the Middle East, each of them should learn how to govern himself individually. And obviously they aren't doing a very good job of that now, or we'd see greater progress for peace between Arabs and Arabs, Arabs and Persians, and Arabs, Persians and Israelis.

When Muslims learn how to contain the fire that illuminates their head and warms their heart, the fire in their soul won't burn them as it purifies their intentions. They'll come to appreciate that 100,000 gay men in America died so that men could learn to use the fire between their legs more wisely. (Ignorance of the purification process can burn anyone.)

My whole generation of gay brothers was wiped out because we didn't fully understand **GOD's** designs for us or how we were brought into this world to help in healing the world. We didn't fully understand how to operate ourselves from the inside out. Coming out of the closet was like coming out of a very small and confined space that opened us up on the inside. That, in turn, made it possible for us to serve **GOD** with greater conscious understanding of the importance of our contribution to **HIS** designs.

“Say:

*‘Would you dispute with us about God,
who is our Lord and your Lord?
We shall both be judged by our works.
To Him alone we are devoted.’”*

[2:139-140]

“Say:

*‘Would you dispute with us about **GOD**,
who is our Lord and your Lord?
We shall both be judged by our works.
To **HIM** alone we are devoted.’”*

It's very difficult to trust human beings when your eyes depend on appearances and your ears can't believe what they're hearing through the darkness and din going on inside you. Trust figuratively comes from your nose. It's something you sniff out. Just as the night

jasmine can lead you along a path you can't see, intuition can guide you when your eyes and ears can't manage the job at hand. Din and darkness will never dispel your nose.

Many have received the call of GOD/GOD/Gođ, but few have received the call of **GOD**. They hear the sound of the fire that draws them to act in their own selfish, lustful, greedy interests or they hear the sound of the flame that calls them to sacrifice themselves for the provincial beliefs handed down to them by their father and father's father.

But what happens when there's no knowledge of the fire within to guide you? Then the smell of **GOD's** presence becomes like a fire that's been extinguished. It becomes an acrid smell that leads you to **HIM** without having to use your eyes or ears. **GOD** has paths designed for everyone. These paths lie in the darkness and din within where you may not be able to see the path or hear the alarms that warn you when you're going astray. But you can make your way through that darkness with your nose. Your nose knows.

Trust begins within.³⁹ Your mother and father tried to teach you to trust them, but you may not have succeeded in fully trusting anybody in your family. You may have wanted to do things your way. Your religious leaders tried to take over where your family failed, but they, too, may have somewhat failed you. Because family and religious life can be very lonely, even your ability to trust **GOD** may be harder to achieve than you may have first presumed it would be.

In truth, we first ought to learn to trust ourselves before everyone else. Then we must learn to give **GOD** some of that hard-earned trust rather than beg **HIM** to trust us even more. Until you learn to use the Quran to learn to trust yourself, it won't reveal its mysteries to you. And if that doesn't happen, mysteries not yet revealed in the Hebrew and Christian Testaments will be lost to you, too. It's all an inside job. It's all an inner triangle brought together by three inner faiths, not the three segments of faith you see in the outer world. They're but a projection of something you have the ability to unite with inner understanding.

*“Thus have We sent forth to you
an Apostle of your own
who will recite to you Our revelations and purify you of sin,
who will instruct you in the book
and in wisdom
and teach you that of which you had no knowledge.
Remember Me, then, and I will remember you.
Give thanks to Me and never deny Me.”*

³⁹ Trust is a desire you may have been waiting all your life to find a way of putting in words. If you can trust yourself, you can then give some of your trust to **GOD**, even if you're so old or frail that you can't trust anyone else. But you can't give anything you don't have. You can't profess if you aren't a professor. And you can't become a professor of wisdom, love and devotion until you've completed your basic education in the school of life.

“Thus have **WE** sent forth to you
An apostle of your own
who will recite to you **OUR** revelations and purify you of sin,
who will instruct you in the book
and in wisdom
and teach you that of which you had no knowledge.
Remember **ME**, then, and **HI** will remember you.
Give thanks to **ME** and never deny **ME**.”

The mystery of **GOD**'s designs can only be described using the metaphor of life as a school. **GOD** is our one and only **TEACHER** in elementary and secondary spiritual school. The Earth is **HIS** one-room schoolhouse. Our daily affairs are our lessons. But our ultimate goal should be to go to **HIS** college to earn a Ph.D. in me. ⁴¹

Before you graduate from this school, you're probably going to have to pass a final exam, which may be very difficult if you don't know yourself thoroughly. You are your major. And the degree you'll receive when you leave this academy on Earth will surely determine what will happen to you afterwards.

Don't think of this school as a place you pass {"heaven"} or fail {"hell"}. That's far too simplistic for the mind of modern thinkers. Think of your transcript as being made up of multiple grades in multiple subjects. Think of your grades here as the determining factors in what you'll be given as a reward in the "world to come."

Don't think of life everlasting as a sexless place like CHRISTIAN "heaven" or a place for horny heterosexuals like *Muslim* "heaven." Think of the life to come as something beyond anything anyone can imagine. If you like how and where you were planted in this world, you may be confident about your ability to grow even better in the next world. But if you can see room for improvement in the body you were given; the family you were born into; the religious training you got; the linguistic abilities you have with which you communicate with you; the national origins you come from; the talents you're applying out in the world; or your ability to problem solve – think of all the work there is ahead of you in this school. The time of your graduation is not in your hands. Bless our **TEACHER** for every day of class. We only have the precious moments called "heres" {space} filled with "nows" {time}.

Everything you learn in life is like leaves on the branches of a tree; twigs with buds that will blossom and then flower; and lastly forbidden fruit you may pick and enjoy eating

⁴⁰ The more you can thank yourself, the more you'll be able to thank **GOD**.

⁴¹ I hope you understand that the Ph.D. you strive for will be in you not me. Nobody can achieve my Ph.D. in me for me. Not even Jesus graduated this school with a major in guaranteeing you a Ph.D. in you. You have to become your own apostle by using the apostles **GOD** has brought you who were once students who sat in **HIS** front row.

without a second thought. It may take many years for you to develop the courage to tempt yourself with greater self-knowledge than you may be able to claim to have now.

You may believe that the other fruits in this orchard of experiences are much more tempting than your own. Or you may make do with your own fruits and have no interest in any other tree around. But you're worth the wait to give in to the temptation to learn more about your two worlds. The more you love your life, the more you'll learn about your life.

Those who are the most powerful, charismatic and optimistic are the students of life figuratively sitting in the front rows near the **TEACHER** and the board who are able to discuss their challenges without pointing fingers at the classmates behind them for what they don't yet know. Those who are the most fascinated by life use their experiences to reveal secrets to themselves that they're then willing to share with those classmates around them who are interested in advancing their own education.

Here are some of the common mistakes made by students in the school of life:

1. Don't expel another student from class {murder} because you don't like their answers to the questions the **TEACHER** poses you.
2. Don't cheat on your tests by conspiring with your classmates to force others out of their seat. You're only creating social unrest that you intuitively know is your fault. You can't hide from the **TEACHER** by sitting in some seat you stole out from under someone else.
3. Don't copy your classmates' answers without giving them credit for what you've learned from them. That shows that you may not have picked forbidden fruit yourself, but, like Adam, you simply accepted it, while assuming you could always shift the blame to Eve if need be.
4. Don't withhold information passed down to you from the front of the room by the **TEACHER** and other classmates. That's a sign of poor classroom decorum. You're expected to do everything you can to make sure those students seated behind you have all the information that's been passed down to you.
5. Don't come late to class; don't come to school without having done your homework; don't miss test days. Bad work habits will result in reduced grades in the subject matter. It will cause "bad luck." And that will reduce your options when it comes to choosing electives. That will narrow your options, which will, in turn make you cynical, sarcastic and pessimistic about what others are learning from life that you don't know.

Man has been blessed with the ability to create machines that mirror the magnificent machine **GOD** has given him. Until you learn how to operate yourself as you would a cell phone or computer, you're going to crash and lose valuable information. You're going to freeze. You're going to download viruses that will slow you down and corrupt you. Until you learn how to save your experiences on the clouds that are given to you in your inner

sky, you're going to sacrifice valuable wisdom, love and opportunities for loyalty, devotion and hospitality that you may never be able to retrieve.

Many people are uncomfortable thinking about **GOD** in human terms {thoughts, feelings, wants and beliefs}. They prefer to speak about **HIM** using the nebulous term "the universe." They also dislike having to consider **GOD** in terms of gender. They only want to think of **HIM** from the waist up.⁴²

Therefore, learning to operate yourself like a sophisticated, electronic device may actually help you discover how **IT** made you in **ITS** image. If you're afraid of your feelings, or are, as yet, unable to express your loyalty to life, the metaphor of **GOD** as a universal main frame computer may be more agreeable to you at this time. Everything you download from the world around you will someday become an awesome clue to the mystery of having been made uniquely using the same universal assembly line procedures as everybody else. There's nothing wrong with you if you see yourself as an amazing machine. You just may not know how to fully operate you. Bugs can all be fixed and viruses can all be eradicated in due time. Worry and depression are common symptoms of operating issues that can be repaired with a little medication and a lot of insight.

GOD is **IT**. **IT** is like a machine that makes machines in **ITS** image. Some of these machines have receptacles {female genitalia} and some of them have plugs {male genitalia}. But all of them can connect to the big iron {main frame} if they wish. Our **CREATOR** even has adaptors figuratively made for transgender people. There's nothing about the way you think, feel, believe or want that can't be upgraded from one generation to another if you think of yourself as a machine you're learning how to operate.

Life is a technical school, and you have the opportunity to graduate with highest honors if you don't worry about whether other people's grades are going on your report card. Learn from everyone how to operate you. Don't worry about who they pray to or how. Don't worry about the names your classmates use to describe our **TEACHER**. Worry about your assignments, lessons and tests. If you like machines, you'll love you. If you study yourself without a sense of competition or angst at how different your lessons are to your neighbors', you won't end up feeling like scrap in a junk pile.

When you move to the metaphor of life as a sport, you may realize that you're only trying to win (whether you're trying to get your trophy with or without the help of a team). If you love sports, you can learn good sportsmanship from playing and cheering for your favorite team. You can learn not to cheat under any circumstances, and you can learn to cooperate with all your teammates. Only then will you graduate that metaphor to discover that life wasn't only about winning and losing.

⁴² When Moses asked **GOD** to show him **HIS** glory, **GOD** told him he couldn't see **HIM** and live. But **HE** offered to allow him to see a part of **HIM**. "THERE IS A PLACE NEAR ME WHERE YOU MAY STAND ON A ROCK. WHEN MY GLORY PASSES BY, I WILL PUT YOU IN A CLEFT IN THE ROCK AND COVER YOU WITH MY HAND UNTIL I HAVE PASSED BY. THEN I WILL REMOVE MY HAND AND YOU WILL SEE MY BACK; BUT MY FACE MUST NOT BE SEEN." [Exodus 33:21-23] You have the opportunity to imagine what **GOD** looks like from the back. But you know you aren't going to want to stop there... You, too, are probably curious to see **HIS** "glory..."

Today, it may look like Muslims are living the metaphor of life as a sport, but that's not so. The teams in the Middle East are certainly losing the games they're playing against one another. They can't see that the problem lies in the underlying metaphor by which they're living their lives. There are no winners in the Muslim countries of the Middle East because they're not learning about themselves because of the games they're playing. They're repeating the same mistakes again and again and wondering why they're getting similar results.

Clearly the **TEACHER** is telling them that they're employing the wrong metaphor. But there are many Muslims elsewhere in the world who are learning from their brothers' mistakes. They're trying to teach other Muslims how to appreciate the wisdom of the Quran. And they need our help to do so. They don't need our guns and curses.

Every student of life who cheats on his tests knows in his heart that the **TEACHER** is watching. And every spiritual sportsman who cheats in competition knows the **COACH** and the fans are watching. Those who love only their container may see life as a sport. Those who love their container along with the miraculous emotional contents they're filling themselves with will surely come to see life as a school, not just a sport they're playing to win. Love isn't a game. Love is a skill everyone can learn.

For wise Jews and loving Christians, the metaphor of forbidden fruit holds the key to self-understanding. You have to have bitten into your life deeper than the peel. You have to have made it down to the meat. You should stop debating whether or not to pick yourself first.

At the core of you, there are secrets to your nature you'll have no clue to until you ask **GOD** for permission to bite into your peel to enjoy the meat as **HE** made you. Be prepared for many lessons in wisdom and love before you're going to achieve a modicum of self-loyalty and devotion. To prove your worthiness in your own eyes, you must figuratively eat through to the core of you with conscious awareness of what you're doing. There, in your soul, you'll find you have seeds that are well protected from others' prying eyes. Therein lies the mystery of your being.

*"Your God is one God.
There is no god but Him.
He is the compassionate, the merciful."
[2:163]*

*"Your God is one **GOD**.
There is no GOD/GOD/God but **HIM**.
HE is the compassionate, the merciful."*

In this quote, the Quran is figuratively referring to our **CREATOR** as the one **TEACHER** in the school of life who holds everyone's curriculum. There are many operating systems, many teams, many games, many tournaments and many winners and

losers – but there’s only one **GOD**. There are many classrooms; many classes; many study groups; many lecturers, mentors and tutors. But there’s only one **TEACHER**. When you’re ready to learn, the **TEACHER** will slowly appear.

When you interact with people of other faiths {Judaism, Christianity and Islam} and **philosophies** {**Hinduism**, **Buddhism** and **Taoism**} as well as modern-day indigenists, keep in mind that we’re all students brought together by our **TEACHER** to learn about the metaphors, symbols and similes that take us in very personal and individual ways.

You can be coaxed out of your head and into your heart with the rewards of greater self-devotion. You can even come to discover your soul if you’re curious enough to want to more fully appreciate life. There are many roads to Rome.⁴³

When *Muslim* terrorists cut off the head of a nonbeliever, they’re really trying to figuratively get their victim out of his own head by literally stopping his heart to keep him from getting into his soul. But that abominable shortcut will never enhance their moral standing within themselves or with **GOD**.

You can be taught how to use metaphor, symbolism and simile to open your head, heart and soul to the Lord without having to become a perpetrator, victim or martyr. You can even take righteous actions based on wisdom, love and devotion without having to acknowledge **GOD**’s presence. This is what the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community is advancing at this time in history. Promoting GOD/GOD/*God* only drives most people further out. It doesn’t entice them to come further in.

“You people:
*Eat of what is lawful and wholesome on the earth
and do not walk in Satan’s footsteps,
for he is your incorrigible foe.
He enjoins on you evil and lewdness,
and bids you assert about God what you know not.”*
[2:168-9]

“You people:
Eat of what is lawful and wholesome on the Earth
and do not walk in satan’s footsteps,
for he is your incorrigible foe.

⁴³ I’m not inferring that anyone needs to convert to Christianity to know **GOD**’s love. I’m merely suggesting that all the roads to Rome {self-love} would be better described as spiritual waterways you must swim across in your heart. All the roads to Mecca {self-devotion} are actually flight paths you must soar through in your soul. And all the roads to Jerusalem {self-wisdom} are thoughts you must traverse in your mind as though you were a modern-day Israelite on a pilgrimage across a desert. Going around in circles is a common conundrum whether you’re led by your head, heart or soul.

he enjoins on you evil and lewdness,
and bids you assert about **GOD** what you know not.”

The animalification {serpent} and personification {satan} of man’s desires was turned into an evil and emptiness described as conflicting with GOD’s/GOD’s/*God*’s designs. The Temptation of Christ by the devil was a rumination described in the Gospels that all men have with their penis. And the adaptation of that discussion by the Prophet to frighten goodness into *Muslims* was a strategy that may have worked on indigenists at the time, but it won’t work on modern thinkers anymore. All men have penis problems. All women have clitoris conflicts. And whoever doesn’t get a handle on his unconscious or immoral desires will surely find himself humiliated by his own anal issues.

Because psychology speaks more accurately about the inclination to do evil than faith, we should search for faith in our faiths. Modern man knows he’s responsible for all his lessons in the school of life, but it’s still so much more tempting for him to blame others when things go wrong rather than look for his part in the problem.

Your penis is the metaphoric devil that gives you cravings, desires, impulses, urges, and wants that will tempt you to discover the good and evil in the ways you behave. You may not like what you literally learn about you after you indulge yourself in self-scrutiny {masturbation}. Nevertheless, self-knowledge is the most valuable knowledge there is; even if it may leave you distressed or lonely.

If you don’t question whether your thoughts and feelings are guiding you toward your best intentions, you’re going to make serious mistakes on your classwork, homework and in preparation for your final exam. You may even relinquish your responsibility for your actions and blame others for your poor grades. Or worse, you’ll blame the devil for having tempted you. (Some even blame our **TEACHER** for not having stopped others from hurting them.) And those who are really out of their mind may even blame their penis for filling them with cravings, desires, impulses, urges, and wants they couldn’t resist. (Such people unconsciously distance themselves from sex in an attempt to purify themselves of these unwanted forces.)

Don’t become a victim of your body. Don’t become a perpetrator of vindictive feelings against others or a martyr to some outlandish cause like the destruction of Israel. Don’t deny reality. Your two worlds {inner and outer world} will always mirror one another whether you’re consciously aware of it or not.

They say that ignorance is bliss, but ignorance of yourself doesn’t remain blissful for very long. When you wake up to what you’re doing or have done to yourself, you should feel enraged that you didn’t do more to stop yourself. You should ask yourself why you spent so much time trying to master one of your worlds {external} and so little time trying to master the other {internal}.

You can’t know you anymore than you figuratively consume yourself with self-knowledge. You can’t improve your esteem any more than you allow you to feel good about you. Your smugness at thinking you can do it all alone is the height of blasphemy. **GOD** made you the way you are to see if you’d use the audacious autonomy you may boast having to achieve the spiritual freedom, liberty and emancipation that will teach you more

about you. Learn about you the hard way or learn about you with conscious awareness of **HIS** help. The choice is yours.

Some men walk around as though they were blessed with the biggest and best penis **GOD** ever created. They strut about as though their testicles were filled with a life-producing substance that's greater than the sperm in any other man. They see their penis as the delivery system of a special semen **GOD** gave to them alone. And their arrogant attitude toward others and smugness about themselves is augmented when they have money. (Some are blessed without enough money to allow that to happen...)

Some fear their penis and testicles. They're afraid of the delivery system of their life-giving seeds. They need help to look below their waist to come to understand the power within them. To be "FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY" [Genesis 1:28] really means to figuratively plant your seeds in yourself. You can't give anything to others you haven't reaped the rewards of from within. (Making babies or making money certainly doesn't say a thing about your goodness or intrinsic ability to be spiritually powerful.)⁴⁴

Immature men screw themselves over instead of penetrating themselves deeply. If you condone making love *to* yourself, but don't make love *with* yourself, you're in bad company. You'll need to question how you can come to learn to operate yourself more humanely.

The spiritual person who isn't upset by the creation of gay people is way ahead of others in the school of life. S/he's free, liberated and emancipated from the institutions of dogmatic faith. S/he's on a constant precipice of discovering more about themselves from within. Those who aren't threatened by alternate expressions of masculinity are blessed by **GOD**.

The Prophet was just such a man because he wasn't intimidated by the Archangel Gabriel who personified the masculinity of *God*. Our **TEACHER** advanced him in the school of life as though from high school to college. He was a student in the university of life with our **PROFESSOR**. He was an honored member of what we would call today a "think tank."

1. **GOD** instructs us through the spiritual Jews on how to achieve wisdom.
2. **GOD** teaches us through the spiritual Christians on how to achieve love.
3. *God* educates us through the spiritual Muslims on how to achieve devotion.
4. **GOD** professes to each one of us how to achieve the combination of all three: redemption.

This means that if the JEWS worked together with the Jews, they'd have the potential of instructing the whole world on wisdom. If the CHRISTIANS worked together with the

⁴⁴ Those with the largest families (such as orthodox JEWS) may suffer from parents who gave them the impression they weren't ever going to be smart enough. Consequently, they produce one kid after another like fruit on a tree. They only know how to be fruitful and multiply sexually. That's not smart anymore. That's a penis problem and a clitoris conflict that reveals a huge anal issue.

Christians, they'd have the potential of teaching the whole world about love. And if the *Muslims* worked together with the Muslims, they'd have the potential of educating the whole world about devotion.

Every individual on Earth must suffer to achieve a personal and spiritual understanding of **GOD's** designs. If you had the potential to profess your understanding of the meaning of life through personal revelations brought to light through prayer and meditation, imagine what you could do to better this world for everyone.

But try looking at your crotch and asking yourself whether your methods are moral or offensive to you. Try asking your anus whether you're behaving like a donkey-sphincter {asshole}. If you don't unify the forces within you, you'll surely go crazy. But that won't keep you out of "hell" because insanity is all you need to get in...

The headdress *Muslim* women wear should address their devotion to **GOD**, not their devotion to the *Muslim* men who insist they wear it. These women should be able to choose to wear it or not wear it without interference by the civil laws of their society. Those countries where men still make demands on how women dress to express devotion to *God* are like the ancient, Chinese indigenists who insisted the feet of women be bound so they couldn't run away. *Muslims* men today who insist on traditional forms of devotion aren't really interested in Islam {submission to *God*}. If they were, they'd realize that no one's submission to **GOD** is any of their business. They should learn to submit to their own head, heart and soul, not their penis.

The x^1/x^2 factor is a clue to the psychological projections we all make onto one another and then ought to break in order to discover our true self. Just because you may hear a deep-sounding voice in your head doesn't mean that that voice identifies itself as being male {y}. You must decide whether you see yourself internally as y or x^1 . No one can make that determination by looking at your genitals; listening to the sound of your voice; or observing your gestures. You're as male or female as you wish to be before **GOD**. Who's to say how you should express yourself before **HIM**?

I know from my own experience that I identified more with women than men until puberty. Then I realized I'd need to become more male {y} if I were going to fit in to society. I feared I'd have to join the army to protect my country and defend myself if I were physically assaulted. As the y factor became more apparent in my conscious mind, I began to appreciate the struggle between my x^2 and y internally. And I began to worry about how I was going to make my way from childhood through puberty to become an adult in a "man's" world.

The Arabs have spent the last 70 years trying to destroy the State of Israel, and in the process, have only succeeded in destroying most of their own societies. But the sexuality of many Arab men has come into question in the process. Many are discovering that their sexual attractions aren't as purely heterosexual as they profess. They've discovered that their own x^2 and x^1/y factors aren't as rigid as they previously believed. Pointing fingers at the Judeo-Christian world for being lewd and lascivious is hypocritical. It only indicates that some of your own desires, needs and wants may not be met.

Women who have sex with women is considered kinky. Men who have sex with men is just considered abominable. But fat people who love themselves is the ultimate obscenity in the Western world. Cellulite is perceived of as the greatest of all sins...

Open yourself up to **GOD's** designs (not man's) with better questions and fewer presumptions. **HE** might want you to look between your own legs before you point fingers at those devilish Jews and Christians who enjoy copious amounts of food and sex. **HE** might want you to reconsider the depth of your devotion to how **HE** created you. If you're complex, it's because **HE's** complex. Why would you want it any other way?

Those *Muslims* who are extremely, dominantly y oriented aren't better or worse than those whose x² factor is more evident. Devotion to **GOD** is an experiential attribute you develop. You can't declare you're wise, loving and devoted, and insist there's only one path to achieving these attributes. If **GOD** could create three Abrahamic paths to **HIS** throne, clearly you're free to use all three of them to find your own unique way to **HIM**.

Calling Jews "pigs," "snakes" and "devils," and calling gays "perverts" "blasphemers" and "dirty beasts" isn't wise or loving. If extremist *Muslims* believers learn to question their desires more candidly, they'll use their desires to better themselves rather than put others down.

The recent exodus to Europe for the charity and brotherhood Arabs aren't able to give one another at home is a great lesson from **GOD**. Brotherhood is a form of wise, loving and loyal intercourse between men that may or may not include physical or sexual expression. It's all an individual matter. You can't dictate what your penis thinks or says. (When it spits, it talks... And when you're even thinking about spitting, you're saying a mouthful, too.) Your sexual desires have nothing to do with your ability to devote yourself to **GOD**. Your sexual desires will only assist or hinder your effort to make peace with yourself by yourself.

To be so spiritually poor that you refuse to figuratively plant your seeds of wisdom, love and devotion in yourself for yourself will take its toll on families, tribes and nations alike. To be so afraid of homosexuality and Zionism that you refuse to touch yourself or acknowledge the divine relationship you have with the forces within you will only leave you spiritually destitute. If you could just love one member of your gender, it would open you up to liking the rest of your gender.

GOD created Adam in **HIS** image, but he refused to question himself below the waist. He covered that part of himself with a leaf and then ran away from **GOD**. It should be no surprise to you that so many of the plans of Abrahamic man have gone astray. If you don't know what you want, or you only want that which is forbidden, you're going to face a terrible struggle in one form or another.

Men who force themselves sexually on anyone have serious penis problems. These men were physically or emotionally abused as children, and then decided it would be morally better to recreate their hurt to magnify it by abusing kids rather than heal that hurt within themselves. You never know whether what your penis is telling you is morally right or

wrong unless you question what it says. There are no easy answers to penis problems. You should use all the forces within you to stop yourself from behaving abominably.⁴⁵

Those who haven't used Torah wisely have become cheaters, liars and thieves, or they've become anti-Semitic, anti-Zionistic, homophobic, misogynistic or xenophobic. Those who haven't used the Gospels wisely have become hateful power mongers as well as cheaters, liars and thieves along with all the rest. And those who haven't used the Quran wisely have become all the above as well as utterly treacherous and an abomination to their faith before *God*.

There are lessons in this school for everyone. Study yourself by yourself but compare your grades to others. If you do, our **TEACHER** will give you signs that will help you heal.

Man prays to his GOD/GOD/*God* of choice from the waist up. He comes before his **CREATOR** in synagogue, church or mosque religiously divided before he even opens his mouth. He's half a man who stands, kneels or prostrates before his **MAKER**. But if he can't include his junk in with his prayers, he's treating himself like junk. If he can't question his desires in the presence of **GOD**, how's he going to learn about himself? Hide nothing from the **ONE** who made you, or **HE** may not choose to show you who you are and where you're going. And leaving it all up to you may not look too good.

The meaning of *God's* devotion must be fathomed with devotion to all of humanity to be taken personally. To be devoted to yourself means to be generous with yourself (although not necessarily in sexual or material ways). It's not enough to be kind-hearted to others. It's not enough to be loving and wise in the ways you treat strangers. A man must be devoted to himself as though he were travelling with a stranger on a long journey, a stranger with whom he wishes to become a great friend by the time they reach their destination. This devotion has everything to do with his sexuality and sensuality. But it's a devotion to self that can't be literally seized with his hands or literally penetrated with his penis.

Anyone who threatens to kill himself, or others, in order to get GOD/GOD/*God* to give him what he wants is blackmailing the Lord. And that's not uncommon. You don't have to be a *Muslim* terrorist to blackmail GOD/GOD/*God* into trying to make this world turn out your way. There are many unrealistic people in all three of the Abrahamic faiths who have an agenda. The only agenda is **GOD's** agenda. And it would behoove all of us to learn more about it day-by-day.

The self-devotion inherent in the message of the Quran is the essence of Islam, but it's also the essence of *God's* devotion to man. It has nothing to do with whether you prefer sex

⁴⁵ I've specifically chosen to use the word "abominably" because it's a reminder that it says in Leviticus 18 and 20 that it's an abomination for a man to sleep with another man. I think it's far more abominable that men sleep with boys and girls; perpetrate violence against women and children; victimize Jews; and denounce the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community. Use your conscience to pick your poison. I prefer to go before my **CREATOR** having slept with men I liked and loved.

with males or females. It's about a loyalty to yourself that you must discover in yourself and then give to **GOD** out of the generosity of your spirit. You can't give **HIM** a loyalty you haven't first given you. You can't introduce **HIM** to a stranger you don't know. You should prove to **HIM** you're your own best friend. This is the only way you can behave in ways that demonstrate you're learning how and why **HE** specifically made you in **HIS** image to do a job no one else could do.

When you can say that your male {y} and female {x} sides are attracted to one another, you may feel comfortable in your own skin with regard to your gender or sexuality. But opposites {male/female} don't always attract externally. And opposites {y/x} don't always attract internally, either. This isn't a problem. This isn't an indictment against any of the Abrahamic faiths. This is a challenge to discover how and why **HE** specifically made you in **HIS** image the way you are.

*“If My servants question you about Me,
tell them that I am near.”*
[2:186]

“If **MY** servants question you about **ME**,
tell them that **I** am near.”

There are three words for the word “here” in Hebrew, {PO}, {KAN} and {HINENI}. The word “PO” means “here” in the sense of pointing to one spot. “KAN” means “here” in the sense of pointing all around you. And “HINENI” means “present” in the sense of being conscious of your standing before **GOD**, just as a student would utter “here” when the teacher is taking role.

Jews claim to be “here” in the sense of “present” {HINENI} before GOD. Abraham always answered GOD in Torah by first saying HINENI. But *God* responded in the Quran by claimed that *He* is near, not here. For any of us to get *Him* to make us feel that *He* is near to us, we should perform deeds that draw *Him* near. (Killing gays and Jews isn't going to achieve that.) This sort of martyrdom is what's causing a distancing of *God* from Islam. This goes against **GOD's** designs. And the evidence of that lies in these words from the Quran and the way things look in the Middle East today.

Good deeds must come from our head, heart and soul, not just our head where manipulative thoughts may generate our worst intentions or from our heart where emotions often know no bounds. Good deeds must come from a combination of all three because if our thoughts, feelings and beliefs are wrong, not only can we not do any better in life at that time. We won't achieve a place of honor in the “world to come” unless we change drastically.

In the sense of drawing GOD nearer to thee, all good feelings are soulful in nature.⁴⁶ They draw a Christian nearer to GOD. The Christians use the term Holy Spirit to describe the mysterious way **GOD** works from the inside and outside to shape us all.

Feeling beloved by others begins by practicing loving deeds for others in youth to prove that a Christian is loving enough to deserve conscious awareness of the Holy Spirit's visitations upon him. Inspiration from the Holy Spirit gives Christians the feeling of HINENI. When we are here and present before GOD, GOD is here with us and *God* then draws us nearer to *Him*.

There's no word for "soul" in Hebrew because Jews believe that the whole body is the soul. We believe every part of us should be in soulful communion with GOD. When we learn how to live in a life affirming way from the inside in, and then express that from the inside out, we prove to ourselves that we have a soul. In that sense, our thoughts can't literally be designated a distinct location in our body. It's as if our whole body thinks, feels believes and wants because our whole body has to suffer the consequences if we don't. Such is the essence of Jewish wisdom.

And yet, everyone nowadays refers to these inner forces using locations in the body to communicate to others that our inner forces are at work. Expressions like "use your head," "open your heart" and "make your conscience your guide" {pointing to your breastplate} are bodily attributes that signal inner forces we all recognize and utilize.

But the disdain you may hold for your genitals, hips, buttocks and anus has a counter effect on the inner forces associated with the best aspects of the Abrahamic faiths. The ambivalent relationship you hold for any part of your body you don't like is unkind, unhelpful and counter intuitive. It's a sign that you haven't learned to devote yourself to all of you. The essence of self-betrayal (which is the opposite of self-devotion) figuratively is found below your waist. Granted, there are those who hate the color of their skin, the size of their nose or the attributes of their hair. But, ideally, they should learn how to like every part of their self. If you can't like you as you were created, you should ask *God* for help in managing those beliefs you hold about you that are negative. If you believe *He* made you in *His* image, and you have questions about that image, answers to those questions will draw you nearer to *Him*. In that way self-devotion becomes a vital aspect of self-knowledge.

Negative beliefs will bring up guilt, but it's still better to feel realistically guilty about the way you look on the outside than live in denial of your beliefs about yourself within. This struggle isn't just Islamic. It's human and universal.

You're not alone in feeling embarrassed or proud about the way you look on the outside. When you meet people who are modest about their body, you'll have a lot more admiration for them knowing how humbling it is to achieve modesty, given how much we find to disapprove of in the way that we were physically made by GOD.

To tempt *God* to come nearer, weigh each one of your thoughts against the feeling it brings up to determine the most righteous belief possible that you believe you should hold

⁴⁶ "Nearer to Thee" is a 19th Century Christian hymn by Sarah Flower Adams that's loosely based on the story of Jacob's dream. [Genesis 28:11–19]

about yourself. Then take moral action to make manifest that belief. If you try to improve the look of your body, you'll soon discover that **GOD** will help you in loving ways by improving the relationships between your inner forces. Since *Hē* allowed you to believe you were made inferior to others for some inexplicable, moral reason, only *Hē* can allow you to change that negative opinion you hold over yourself. But you need to be willing to let down your defense mechanism to allow *Him* to draw nearer.

In this effort, humor sometimes should be employed like sugar to help the medicine go down. This is the sort of clever thinking that draws *God* nearer and makes you feel more powerful and effective for having questioned your beliefs lightly. This is also how we're judged (in part, by others) for our efforts to help ourselves as gently as possible under internally and externally trying circumstances.⁴⁷

Increasing your devotion to yourself with humor figuratively raises your standing in the school of life. This gets your seat moved closer to the front of the room, away from the bozos and closer to the **TEACHER**. This is what gets you the changes in your class schedule that advance you from an elementary and secondary school student into a university level student in your studies in knowing, loving and appreciating {increasing the value of} yourself.⁴⁸

Wisdom, love and devotion are important tools for those who wish to graduate with honors. But you must have all three, and **GOD**, in **HIS** infinite wisdom, only gave you one or two of these attributes and asked you to complete yourself here to achieve your reward "there."

Whether you like or love others before you're willing to lift a finger to do a good deed for them shouldn't matter to you in the least. If we all waited until we loved other people before we helped them, nothing charitable would ever get done. In Judaism, we're obliged to do "MITZVOT" {good deeds} because GOD commands us to do so. But modern man is far too shrewd to do what he's told without getting something out of it for himself. He must look for, and find, good reason to motivate himself to do what's in his own best interest. He must want to be good. He must desire it.

The answer to self-motivation comes in the Quran where *God* says, "I am near." The nearer *God* comes to you in your conscience, thus turning it into a righteous soul, the more

⁴⁷ Jewish humor is renown. Christians have gotten on board to expand on our humor in incredibly funny ways. But aren't yet known for their humor. We {Judeo-Christians} make a concerted effort not to insult Muslims because we still believe they're not able to take a joke. The essence of humor lies in letting down your defenses to allow *God* to draw nearer. The more you gently question what you believe, the more *Hē* rewards you with a more sustainable belief system.

⁴⁸ Remember that the original meaning of "appreciation" is "to increase in value." If you can't increase your value, you're never going to achieve a place in the "world to come" in your own eyes, let alone in **GOD's**. If you were your judge and jury, would you escape hanging? We're more dependent on **GOD** than most people would like to imagine.

you feel like a student who has caught the teacher's eye, and the more you simply wish to do good for your standing in **HIS** eyes and your own.⁴⁹ But not even that is enough.

*"Be charitable.
God loves the charitable."
[2:195]*

*"Be charitable.
GOD loves the charitable."*

GOD loves the charitable because they're learning to be charitable to themselves by way of giving of themselves to others. They're learning to prioritize their lessons in life from the outside in as they're slowly being given permission to give to themselves from the inside out. When you overcome your unfocused thoughts and apathetic feelings toward others, you're allowed to act more righteously toward you. Then you discover what it means to give and receive from yourself before you ever act out in the world. It's at this point that you realize how much you want to see yourself in a good light. It's at this point that you realize how much you want to be right. And it's at that point that you realize how much you want do better.

When a soulful person does something for others, it's because his cup truly runneth over, not because he's afraid of what **GOD** (or others) will say about him if he behaves uncharitably. His benevolence becomes a sign of his high standing within himself, not necessarily how he's perceived by his community. He acts wisely and lovingly because he's devoted to his personal studies with the **TEACHER**. This consciously connects his actions in the external world with his spiritual motivation. This makes the seat of his/her urges {penis/clitoris} a mysterious gift from **GOD**.

Those who've learned to be charitable to themselves are offered "office hours" with the **PROFESSOR**. Their prayers hold an intimacy and warmth with **HIM** that makes them feel **HE**'s drawn nearer to them. This is a sublime and awesome experience of intimacy with **GOD** that I can't put into words any more personal than these.

Charity with myself isn't a duty that comes before my duty to family or community. It happens simultaneously. Because **GOD** works in mysterious ways, there isn't any one formula, recipe or way to achieve this heavenly reward. But I believe I can still tempt **GOD** to come nearer to me than I'm now experiencing **HIM**.

⁴⁹ In the Creation story, after having eaten from the Tree of knowledge, Adam and Eve heard GOD coming toward them. They heard HIM approach. (Surely, HE could have come quietly had HE wanted to.) This was the preview in Torah of GOD coming closer, to *God* coming nearer to the *Prophet* than **HE**'d ever come before any man.

“Closeness” is a move that connotes physical or emotional proximity. Nearness is measured from the soul. Nearness to **GOD** comes with devotion to myself, not just to others. Nearness to **GOD** makes me want to embrace each and every manifestation of **GOD/GOD/God** in an effort to become wholly holy.

The spiritual process must begin with you. Waiting for **GOD** to motivate you isn’t reasonable. What **HE** may choose to do is to motivate you with outcomes that will reward or punish you in an effort to activate your curiosity to learn more about yourself and how you operate. But whether you take those hints to heart is completely up to you.

Don’t worry about being manipulative, deceptive or calculating with **GOD**. **HE**’s already taken all your evil inclinations into account. **HE** knows how **HE** made you. **HE** knows how easily you slip morally downhill and how slow it is for you to get morally up again. Just be honest with yourself about what you’re doing and watch for signs of how you can guide you to do better.

Misfortune is a great sign to the student of life who wants to improve his standing with the **TEACHER**. You may be amazed to find that your grades can be raised higher than you think; your standing in the class made more secure than the class curve might indicate; and your relationship with the **TEACHER** become more appreciated than you now know. Hold on to hope. The more you acknowledge that all your classmates are going through the same spiritual, learning process whether they know it or not, the better you’ll come to understand the assignments you’re given and how to pass them with outstandingly good grades.

Don’t hide what you’re thinking, feeling and wanting from **GOD**. If you can be honest, sincere and genuine on the inside, you’ll discover that you’re behaving authentically enough throughout all your dealings with others, as well as frank in your communication with them.

Listen to yourself. And then ask yourself questions. If you still come up with the belief that you should work against gays, destroy the Jewish influence in the Middle East by opposing the existence of Israel – prepare for a bad ending to a rough life. You don’t get rewarded for hurting innocent people or by getting even with minorities.

The Peter Principle in the gay community means something a little different from what it means in the straight community.⁵⁰ For us, the Peter Principle sardonically implies that although your peter may want what it wants, you’ll rarely get what you want if you only seek what it wants. In other words, when you gamble on only getting your needs met, you rarely succeed in getting your spiritual needs met as well. Vengeance comes from your penis, not your soul. But **GOD** will get even with you for using your penis vindictively by seeing to it that you get screwed over.

⁵⁰ “The ‘Peter Principle’ is a concept in management theory formulated by Laurence J. Peter and published in 1969. It states that the selection of a candidate for a position is based on the candidate's performance in their current role, rather than on abilities relevant to the intended role.” [Wikipedia]

“God is compassionate to His servants.”
[2:207]

“**GOD** is compassionate to **HIS** servants.”

In the school of life, everyone has to earn his tuition fee for his spiritual education himself. Some pay before they face new experiences with worry and angst. Others pay concurrent with their behaviors through fear of failure. And some may pay afterwards with disappointment and regret.

A servant of **GOD** is someone who knows **WHO** he works for and why. A servant of **GOD** is a student of life who knows he'll have to pay for some of his tuition with pain and suffering if his lessons are going to be lasting and effective.⁵¹ The whole point of having been given a human body that can feel pain and sense suffering is to make your journey a learning experience, and not just a marathon race to the finish line. A servant of **GOD** is a student of life who's devoted to putting his education in becoming better today than he was yesterday above all else. Only such a person can believe that “**GOD** is compassionate to **HIS** servants.”

“God knows the unjust from the just.”
[2:220]

“**GOD** knows the unjust from the just.”

GOD knows you better than you know yourself. **HE** created you in **HIS** image in a just, forgiving and fair way despite your idiosyncratic wants and desires. Therefore, it's up to you to learn how to separate your thoughts from your feelings and beliefs in order to learn how to reunite them morally with more righteous desires. Your crotch has an uncanny way of subsuming your thoughts, feelings and beliefs with its intentions. The inner forces above your waist are always going to be challenged by the inner forces below your waist.

(Don't bother to try to recreate the fonts you're reading in this book in your imagination. The purpose of these fonts is to encode certain words with connotations you may not have considered before. Your mind will upload these ideas naturally, and you'll find yourself automatically thinking, feeling and believing in new ways whether or not you make an effort to do so. You may even find that this book affects your dreams at night and fantasies during the day. Don't try to force the process. It'll happen any way it happens.)

It's not my intention to change what you want. I have no desire to affect your passions. I don't want to yank off the serpent/satan from your tree; cut out the worm from your apple; or cut off those fruits hanging from their precarious stems... Your private life must remain private or you'll feel disrespected by me. What you do with these moral challenges remains uniquely personal.

⁵¹ A teacher of life learns how to succeed in the external world. A student of life learns to succeed in the world within.

Look for justice and mercy in how **GOD** created your container, and you'll be able to appreciate the Christian path in the way **HE**'s allowed you to fill yourself with the sacred contents of love. You won't be able to explain your cravings, passions or sexual desires unless you observe how they interface with your feelings. You'll be spiritually crippled by the forces within you if you can't tolerate, accept and admire yourself for the way you're becoming.

Many who are physically disabled have inner strengths that others don't see or try to emulate. Many physically disabled people have asked **GOD** for an understanding of why **HE** created them as they are, and they have powerful answers you won't understand unless you're curious to discover what they've learned about themselves that you could search for and find in yourself.

Those with mental disabilities also struggle with questions you can't imagine unless you look more personally at how **GOD** made you. If you can't help yourself because of a rut you've fallen into, you're really deluding yourself to think you can be of great service to others. First observe what you want. Then observe how that affects how you feel. And then observe what conclusions come to mind. Only in those ways will you come to see your beliefs more clearly. You can't help other people heal mentally if you can't speak about the process from a personal perspective.

The Hebrew Testament was written for the Children of Israel and for the infant in us all. It teaches us about the wisdom of **GOD** that the Jewish people have worked millennia to achieve, despite injustices from **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims*.

The Gospels was written for the child in each of us. It teaches us about **GOD**'s love, which is also called "wisdom of the heart." Love was won with great pain and suffering.

And the Quran was written for the adolescent who's expected to know the other two holy books of **GOD** by heart and use all three to build a tower to *God*'s devotion that's built using the principles of cooperation, not collusion or conspiracy.

In the Quran, *God* often refers to *Himself* as **HE** did in the 3rd Commandment of Torah. ⁵² *He* speaks about *Himself* in the third-person. From this linguistic style, you can learn to distance you from yourself. You have permission to speak about yourself in the third-person. In so doing, you'll learn to consciously separate and describe the workings of your body and your inner forces. You'll come to see the relationships you've forged with each. Your head is in an "I" relationship to it {your body}. Your heart is in a "you" relationship with your head. And your soul is in a "he" or "she" relationship with the two of them.

The word for "holy" is "KADOSH," which means "separate." The word in the European languages for "holy" means "whole," "united" or "unified." A student of the Quran is expected to be able to separate and then reunite the linguistics parts of himself. As Muslim men learn to appreciate their penis, and as Muslim women learn to appreciate their clitoris, they're going to better appreciate their roles as students of the Quran. They're going to use their Holy Scripture to learn to operate themselves rather than tell others how to behave.

⁵² The 3rd Commandment of Torah states, "THOU SHALL NOT UTTER THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN." If it had been in the first-person **GOD** would have said, "THOU SHALL NOT UTTER MY NAME IN VAIN."

Let the justice system deal with crimes against the state and let your conscience deal with your crimes against **GOD**.

The 2,000-year old animosity the **CHRISTIANS** had with the Jews will end with greater understanding and appreciation of Islam. We're all expected to internalize and personalize the spiritual process by separating our head, heart and soul and then reuniting them as inner forces we can employ. We're all expected to use our Holy Scripture to learn to operate ourselves, thereby coming to know **GOD**, God and *God* as aspects of the one **GOD** who made us all.

*“Do not trifle with God’s revelations.
Remember the favor God has bestowed upon you,
and the book of wisdom He has revealed for your instruction.”*
[2:232] ⁵³

“Do not trifle with **GOD**’s revelations.
Remember the favor **GOD** has bestowed upon you,
and the book of wisdom **HE** has revealed for your instruction.”

If you can't learn from anyone other than a Muslim, you have a spiritual, learning disability. If you can't learn from anyone because he's a Muslim, you also have spiritual, learning disability. And the same can be said of a Christian and a Jew. **GOD**’s designs are for man to learn from all people of all ages, in addition to learning from **HIM** directly by learning from you about you.

By extension, this means that if you can't learn from a woman as easily as from a man, you're still a toddler at heart. If you can't learn from your neighbors, you're still behaving childishly. And if you can't learn from a gay-Jew because of his lifestyle and/or religion, your inner world is still juvenile. It's not evolved enough to support mature, humanoid life. How can you claim to be at one with nature if you pick and choose those aspects of your own nature you allow yourself to explore?

*“There is no god but Him;
the living, the eternal one.
Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him.
His is what the heavens and the earth contain.
Who can intercede with Him except by His permission?*

⁵³ “The book of wisdom of the head is Torah. The book of wisdom of the heart is the Bible. And the book of wisdom of the soul is the Quran. This was a clever was for **GOD** to teach us to appreciate all of **HIS** revelations.

*He knows what is before and behind men.
They can grasp only that part of His knowledge that He wills.
His throne is as vast as the heavens and the earth,
and the preservation of both does not weary Him.
He is the exalted, the immense one.”*
[2:255-256]

“There is no god but **HIM**;
the living, the eternal **ONE**.
Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes **HIM**.
HIS is what the heavens and the Earth contain.
Who can intercede with **HIM** except by **HIS** permission?
HE knows what is before and behind men.
They can grasp only that part of **HIS** knowledge that **HE** wills.
HIS throne is as vast as the heavens and the Earth,
and the preservation of both does not weary **HIM**.
HE is the exalted, the immense **ONE**.”

No greater words have ever been spoken, but what good are they if you can't bear to look at them in this new way? The **WORDS** of **GOD** are greater than the wants throbbing in your crotch. A need to put down gays or Jews is a personal penis problem, even if there are millions of men who suffer in the same way. This problem has nothing to do with who I am.

Until you learn how to learn about yourself, you'll remain in the dark when it comes to **GOD's** designs, and you'll possibly feel like a victim of circumstance beyond your control. Over time, that sense of victimization could even expand until you feel like a martyr with everyone potentially being a perpetrator against your **GOD/GOD/God**.

From the serpent between our legs emanates the voice we pay the greatest attention to. There is no greater friend (or enemy) of **GOD** than the serpent that hangs down from your tree. If you don't know “it,” figuratively speaking, it's time you learn about “it” from a higher perspective. It's time you get off the ground by climbing to a high branch. The low-hanging fruit have all been picked.

Becoming a man is the undertaking of the young. By the time you've reached middle age, it's time to stop trying to become a man and start trying to become a mensch {German/Yiddish: righteous human being}. Every man who worries how to prove he's a man, whether through sex, money, family, heroism or physical strength, must realize he's already lost the fight for masculinity. Every woman who worries how to prove she's a woman, whether through sex, money, family, heroism or physical strength, must realize she's also lost the fight for femininity. Today's young people realize something the rest of

us don't – that the struggle should only be to become a good person not a masculine or feminine person. Proving you have the socially selected attributes of your gender as seen from one particular viewpoint of society is a fool's errand.

The WORDS of **GOD** are delivered in words. But the voice of the serpent is delivered in code. Think of the voice of your serpent as figuratively uttered in zeros and ones. When you want someone or something, it registers as a "1." When you don't, it registers as a "0." Man's snake and woman's worm talk loudly out loud, but in code. Urges and impulses turn you on {1} and off {0}. Granted, an urge can be loud or soft, great or small, but it first has to be "on" or it's simply very far "off" {0.00001}.

The serpent in the Creation story had knowledge of **GOD's** urges and impulses for **HIMSELF**. The urge for **GOD** to know and love **HIMSELF** is apparent in the natural world. But when you conclude your penis or clitoris are separate from your head, heart and soul, you can't see how the separation of your inner forces affects your perception of reality.

Your wants slither up and down your tree hissing the same things all the time. With a hood {uncircumcised} or without it {circumcised}, it proclaims "0" or "1" about every little thing. Such is the nature of sex. Such is the nature of evolution.

*"A kind word with forgiveness
is better than charity followed by insult.
God is self-sufficient and gracious."
[2:263]*

*"A kind word with forgiveness
is better than charity followed by insult.
GOD is self-sufficient and gracious."*

Using a kind word with forgiveness will make it possible to see how the Quran supplements the Hebrew and Christian Testaments and how all your inner forces supplement self-expression. But that's easier said than done. Opening yourself to the unity of the Abrahamic faiths will bring you greater self-sufficiency and grace because it'll open you up to acceptance of forces within that you weren't consciously using in unison with your beliefs in the past. Isn't your car more pleasant to drive after a tune-up?

If you try to use arrogance {externally} or smugness {internally} to prove your faith in you, **GOD** may scatter the thoughts in your mind; break your heart with a love that goes sour; or vanquish you from your soul through illness, war or misfortune. And your desire for revenge will only exacerbate your problems. You may even watch helplessly as those you're most devoted to are scattered on a journey of atonement that may cause them great suffering or longing. Your personal wishes, dreams or hopeful intentions may have little effect on **GOD's** designs if you're only fantasizing about the nature of the reality you wish to create. Facing yourself is hard work.

Muslims should have learned more about the Holocaust instead of denying it ever happened. Now many Muslims in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East are discovering what the word "holocaust" means to them personally in a new era. But they're perpetrating

their wars on themselves. They've become the perpetrators, victims and martyrs of their own smugness. Surely **GOD** is teaching them something from all the pain and suffering they're causing their own people. But what can they say they're learning? Are they going to continue to blame their wars on gays and Jews?

In Torah, the Israelites said, "NA'ASEH V'NISHMA" {We will do and we will listen}. [Exodus 24:7] In the Quran it says, "We hear and obey." [2:285] First men *do*. Then they realize they've done it wrong and agree to *listen*. Giving **GOD** obedience is the greatest act of charity a man has. But if he doesn't practice this beneficence on others and then listen to himself to discover what he's learned from his experiences; he may only be successful in giving his devotion to GOD/GOD/*God*. He'll continue to do while refusing to listen. What would you do to you in such an instance if you were **GOD**?

The word "AVODA" has two meanings, "work" and "worship." All the work you do is a form of worship, and all the forms of worship you practice are forms of spiritual work, whether you're aware of the work happening consciously, subconsciously, unconsciously, or not.⁵⁴

The message of the second surah of the Quran {*The Cow*} depends on good Muslims making the same mistakes Jews made, such as the mistake of the Golden Calf. This growing up process is humbling, but necessary. It turns every calf into a mature cow, or it turns you into someone who's full of bull.

You can't hope to become a mensch in the moral sense until you've been domesticated in the spiritual sense. You may be psychologically passive; you may give all your milk {love} for the good of your loved ones, community and faith – but you aren't yet a mensch made in **GOD's** image until you have a poetic understanding of the Prophet's reasoning for putting his discussion of the cow at the beginning of his 114-surah recital.

⁵⁴ Your head has to do and then realize it did it all wrong before it will be ready to listen. Your heart has to learn to listen to convince your head that it was impatient and wrong. Only then can your soul say to **GOD**, "We hear and obey."

Surah 3

The Imrans

The word “Imran” is an Arabic male, given name. The first reference to this name was the father of Moses and Aaron, “Amran.” This name later became a reference to the father of Mother Mary, “Imran,” even though his Hebrew name was “JOACHIM” {raised by Y.H.V.H.}.

The third surah of the Quran begins as a contemplation of the father of the “mother of GOD,” leaving me with a sense of the immensity of **GOD’s** designs that the Prophet was privileged to be a part of. It begs the metaphoric question what it means to be the FATHER of us all in the Judaic sense and the FATHER of a young, Jewish woman {Mary} who was destined for spiritual greatness in the Christian sense of the WORD.

Surah 2 began the discussion with a simile of the vehicle you’re in: the human body. It described the human body you’re in as being like a cow. Ancient peoples sacrificed themselves for the sake of their family, community, nation and religion like the cow whimsically sacrifices its milk, meat and hide for our wellbeing. In Surah 3 the Prophet asks us to look at ourselves through the eyes of our spiritual leaders beginning with Imran our Judeo-Christian historical ancestor.

When we move even further back in time from the father of Mary {Imran} to the father of Moses and Aaron {Amran}, we realize that fatherhood is a great privilege if you’re privileged to produce sons like Moses and Aaron or a daughter 1,400 years later like Mary. We tend to think of it being a gift to have been given good parents, but it’s also a gift to have been given good children.

The metaphor of man as a tree of knowledge begins with the seedling stage of becoming a human being, a seed planted in a particular grove {family}. Adam and Eve are like the two halves of your shell you had to break open to grow through the infancy stage of individuation from your parents to reach up through the ground of your being into the light. This is true for males and females.

The story of Cain and Abel, the first children of Adam and Eve, personify the spiritual sprout in this quest for spiritual light. The child breaks through the ground of his infantile experience of life into the first rays of the light of world-awareness. The story of Noah and the Ark, the third story of Genesis, is the sapling stage of this metaphor in which the individual blossoms with first fruits, the awakening to the glorious rainbow of sexual awareness that comes with your first orgasm. The Tower of Babel, the fourth story of Genesis, represents the young tree that’s grown tall enough to see the seasons of life and the repetitions of experiences he needs to master.⁵⁵ And Abram, the fourth story of Genesis, represents the mature tree in the garden of GOD’s initial design as Abram reached up to the sky for knowledge of his **CREATOR**.

Abram’s first son Ishmael {**GOD** hears and listens} was illegitimate, in that he was conceived with Abram’s servant, Hagar, not Abram’s wife, Sarai. Ishmael was devoted to

⁵⁵ “Babel” comes from the verb “LEBALBEL,” meaning “to confuse.” Every man is a tower of confusion that must come down. The downfall of that confusion is often scary. But with faith in yourself, fear can be overcome.

his mother in childhood, not his father because his father treated him cruelly. But the wildness and unlawful intentions of Ishmael went against GOD's design (even though they were in keeping with *God's* design).

Ishmael isn't just the spiritual ancestor of the Muslims. He represents an aspect of every man in the process of spiritual maturation. He represents a divergent personification of our serpent. We must all act out the role of Ishmael. And we must all eventually stop ourselves from acting out like an Ishmael, a wild juvenile who feels he has to misbehave to demonstrate that he's different from his father. We must learn to use our penis maturely. The descendants of Ishmael were, for a time, disowned from the Abrahamic tradition by Judaism and, later, Christianity, just as Ishmael was, at first, disowned by Abraham. But this, too, was a part of **GOD's** mysterious designs. To embrace your whole family, including your half-brothers, stepbrothers and disowned brothers, you should have a very deep connection with **GOD**. You should take your name and reputation very seriously.

Isaac was Abraham's second son. His name means "laughter." All men grow out of their tendency to be overly compliant and obedient with their father, too. When Abraham tied Isaac up in anticipation of killing him, Isaac's only comment was, "THE FIRE AND WOOD ARE HERE, BUT WHERE IS THE LAMB FOR THE BURNT OFFERING?" [Genesis 22:7] Isaac is the poster child for the inexperienced, naïve and gullible. He's the world's first "yes" man and doormat who must also grow up.

We'll all account to **GOD** for our reasons for emulating one of these two sons of Abraham, a wild child who does as he pleases or a compliant child who can't stand up for himself. And the only way to do so successfully is to personify the blessings of both by pleasing the **GOD** and *God* within.⁵⁶ Extreme behavior doesn't work.

The road to "hell" on Earth is paved without conscious awareness of anyone else's intentions.⁵⁷ It's only the road back from "hell" on Earth that's paved with good intentions for all. Most of what we do, we do without thinking. Our intentions only come to consciousness when we witness who we've become over time.

As great as **GOD's** desire may be to lift us out of our animal instincts through knowledge of **HIS** magnificent designs, we know **HIS** designs must be approached slowly and patiently. We know we must go through life in stages. We must bite off a little bit of spiritual awareness at a time.

*"He has revealed to you
the book with the truth,
confirming the Scriptures which preceded it;
for He has already revealed Torah and the Gospel for the guidance of mankind,*

⁵⁶ GOD later changed Abram's name to Abraham, and Sarai's name to Sarah. More about the psychological meaning of these name changes later.

⁵⁷ Jews don't believe in "heaven" or "hell." But just because the Jews don't believe in "heaven" or "hell" doesn't mean that **GOD** doesn't believe in the Jews.

*and the distinction between right and wrong.”*⁵⁸
[3:3-5]

“*He* has revealed to you
The book with the truth,
confirming the Scriptures which preceded it;
for HE/HE has already revealed Torah and the Gospels for the guidance of mankind,
and the distinction between right and wrong.”

Torah revealed the truth about what’s good and evil through one metaphor. The Gospels revealed the truth about what’s right and wrong through two symbols. And the Quran revealed the truth about what’s better or worse through 114 similes. Without all three figures of speech, you’ll never discover the truth that is most personally true for you.

The world around you will teach you about the objective time and space we share. But you’re also responsible for learning about subjective time and space – the experience of growing up and growing old in inner space. This is what makes your own experiences with the **TEACHER** so gratifying, personal and subjectively important, especially over time. When you find yourself with classmates and tutors from your youth, your mortality becomes poignantly real. You may even realize you’ve always been alone with the **TEACHER**. You may even realize you’re spiritually distinct.

The Jews have taught the world to look far. The Christians have taught the world to look wide. But without Islam, the world would never have been able to look deep. Our religious ancestors were so influenced by one another that we take for granted what we know today without giving credit for how it was delivered to us. Today’s distinctions between Judaism, Christianity and Islam should be based on three inner perspectives of GOD/GOD/*God* we can’t literally hear or easily talk about. But we can see these differences in the Abrahamic faiths. Therefore we shouldn’t try to fight *over* them. We should fight *for* them.

Life is a 3-dimensional experience that takes you through multiple, inner expressions of **GOD**-consciousness. You’ve been exposed to millions of bits of evidence that have given your imagination a sense of length, width and depth. But you might have chosen to ignore how it happened. You might only have wanted to give credit where you were trained to give it, to happenstance or GOD/GOD/*God*. You might not have understood the process.

Call the three aspects of **GOD**-consciousness in geometric terms a “love/hate triangle” with three sides {GOD/GOD/*God*}. Call it algebraically $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$. Call it the relationships between your head, heart and soul. Call it FATHER, SON and Holy Spirit. It doesn’t matter what you call life in the 3rd dimension; it will always have three, separate characteristics resembling length, width and depth. A ROSE isn’t a ROSE isn’t a *Rose*.⁵⁹

⁵⁸ The Quran is the book with the remaining portion of the truth. Taking only partial instruction will only achieve partial results.

⁵⁹ Jewish-lesbian poet Gertrude Stein said, “A rose is a rose is a rose.”

There are three aspects of guilt. They are:

1. Embarrassment of your body
2. Shame of your character
3. Humiliation in being in the constant presence of the Lord

The rewards in the outer world for moving through guilt by not avoiding guilt are as follows:

1. Embarrassment of your body, which teaches you modesty
2. Shame of your character, which teaches you humility
3. Humiliation of your unrealized relationship with **GOD**, which teaches you the grace you need to become soulfully aware of your need to become devoted to everything you do in both your worlds.

What's right and wrong for you is personal and private, as well as public, because what you do affects you as well as us all. You must learn from yourself about yourself, but you must also share yourself with others to feel that your impressions of life are meaningful and real. Your desires may draw you away from your subjective world out into the objective world we share, but this movement from the subjective to the objective should make you more aware of what's motivating you internally. This discovery process eventually becomes an inner struggle with **GOD**/**GOD**/*God* you may or may not want to talk about with anyone. You may find yourself coming before **GOD** with no desire to tell **HIM** anything at all about what you've learned about you. The only thing that may truly connect you to **HIM** may be your onliness.

Your penis or clitoris will figuratively tempt you to take actions out in the world when you're young at heart. But once your heart has been sufficiently cracked, broken and crushed with negative emotions, it may become less easy for the outer world to tempt you to share your feelings and sexual desires with others. You may become closeted, secretive or enigmatic.

*"It is He
who has revealed to you the book.
Some of its verses are precious in meaning –
they are the foundation of the book,
and others are ambiguous.
Those whose hearts are infected with disbelief observe the ambiguous parts
so as to create dissention by seeking to explain it.
But no one knows its meaning except God.
Those who are well grounded in knowledge say,
'We believe in it;*

*it is from our Lord.
But only the wise take heed.
Lord, do not cause our hearts to go astray after You have guided us”
[3:6-9]*

“It is *He*
who has revealed to you the book.
Some of its verses are precious in meaning -
they are the foundation of the book,
and others are ambiguous.
Those whose hearts are infected with disbelief observe the ambiguous parts
so as to create dissention by seeking to explain it.
But no one knows its meaning except **GOD**.
Those who are well grounded in knowledge say,
‘We believe in it;
it is from our Lord.
But only the wise take heed.
Lord, do not cause our hearts to go astray after **YOU** have guided us”

Fourteen hundred years ago, there were many who couldn’t believe the wondrousness of *God’s* designs. Their hearts were in disbelief at the majesty of a new way to appreciate life. They were exposed to the effects of time and space in the objective sense just as we are today. But we now know we can only know and love **GOD** to the extent we can devote ourselves to HIM/HIM/*Hím* in each and every subjective way **HE** comes to us. Our ancestors didn’t know as much about the subjective meaning of life. Nor were they allowed to talk about their thoughts, feelings, beliefs and wants as we can today. Forgive them, Lord, for they knew not what they did.⁶⁰

God’s design 1,442 years ago was to separate the faiths in order to create three distinct, inner forces that guided our ancestors into creating the dogmas each of the Abrahamic faiths holds today about those designs. Today’s challenge lies in the urgent need to now unify what **GOD** previously allowed to be separate.

When we claim to hold universal truths, we must go beyond what we’ve been told to address. Those who are submerged in their faith alone make claims about life that are partially based on hypotheses and conjecture, not fact. They dip into the dark, religious realm called dogma.

Every holy man must be able to say, I don’t know as much as **GOD** knows. I only know as much as I was taught by those in my tradition who came before me. I’ve added to that knowledge with my own experience. And in this way, I can learn more about **GOD’s**

⁶⁰ Jesus’s last WORDS on the cross were, “FORGIVE THEM, LORD, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.” [Luke 23:34]

designs than my father and his father before him. I can come closer to peace day-by-day while I strive for a better future for myself and those I love.

Every holy man must learn to see himself metaphorically as a tree of knowledge so deeply rooted in dogma that he could never extricate himself from it without the help of Torah. He must believe that the taller the tree, the deeper the roots. Some claim spiritual trees must be cut down to make way for spiritual fields and vineyards. I disagree. I don't even believe that the sky is the limit.

In Judaism, we're given a great gift from GOD. We're allowed to speak to HIM directly. In Christianity, they're given a great gift from GOD. They're allowed to speak to HIM through Jesus. In Islam, Muslims are given the great gift given to the Prophet. They're allowed to speak to GOD through the recitation of the Archangel Gabriel. Whatever spiritual communication options you've been given – use 'em! We need your input!

*“Say to the nonbelievers,
‘You shall be overthrown and driven into hell,
an evil resting place.’
[3:10]*

*“Say to the nonbelievers,
‘You shall be overthrown and driven into ‘hell,’
an evil resting place.’*

I'm sure, 1,400 years ago, it must have been necessary that the Arabs and Persians distinguished themselves from Jews and Christians with the dogma that anyone who didn't believe in *Allāh* was an atheist. But I don't believe that today's atheists are going to a place as hot as the “hell” *Muslim* terrorists are going to... Those who can't discern better from worse ought to be able to know right from wrong, or, at least, good from evil. Killing innocent people indiscriminately for your dogmatic principles is evil if you believe in GOD/GOD/*God*, and just as evil if you don't. Not trying to make peace with your enemies is awful and unlawful. (Sleeping with someone of the same gender or having an abortion is nothing to sweat over by comparison. These culture wars are distractions hypocrites create because they can't grasp what's figuratively going on between their legs.)

Men often interpret forbidden fruit as homosexual relations. They often conclude that gay men are servants of satan – snakes in league with the devil. They see us as trying to burrow into them through their anus where we'll release our evil poison, thereby converting them to homosexuality and devil worship.

The fanatically religious see gays as always recruiting. Some straight men imagine themselves so sexually desirable to us that they think we can't think about anything else but getting laid by them. That's a form of self-worship that borders on pathology. These men see themselves as a golden calf that they think gay men want to dance around. (Having been a professional dancer, I can tell you, I'm very particular about my dance partners.)

Thinking people can't stop themselves from lusting for you is fool's gold. It's an alloy created by stinking thinking and a lust for a love you can't hold. It's alchemy of the mind.

It's 24-carets impure mettle that will soon corrode. It comes from a penis that's filled your head with seamen...

Deep, down inside, these religious men see themselves as idols they think everyone wants to worship. They see themselves as morally golden and sexually divine. They can do no wrong in their own eyes. Nothing tarnishes their impression of themselves. Their conscience is Teflon and their penis is hard plastic.

Parents who worship their sons turn them into golden calves that will eventually be melted down by unforeseen circumstances they won't be able to anticipate or understand. They do their boys a disservice.

We should look at the wars happening in the Middle East as an enormous furnace in which today's golden calves are being melted down. Sadly, innocent men, women and children are the kindling that is keeping this fire going. Good people are being sacrificed so that bad people will die. No tree of knowledge or tree of life should have to give his or her life to such a fruitless cause.

*"Indeed, there was a sign for you
in the two armies that met on the battlefield.
One was fighting for the cause of God,
the other being a host of nonbelievers.
The faithful saw with their very eyes that they were twice their own number.
But God strengthens with His aid whom He will.
Surely in that there was a lesson for the discerning."
[3:11-13]*

*"Indeed, there was a sign for you
in the two armies that met on the battlefield.
One was fighting for the cause of God,
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But God strengthens with His aid whom HE will.
Surely in that there was a lesson for the discerning."*

The outer world is called "reality," and they discredit your inner world by calling it fantasy. But the people in your outer world are so bizarre and different from you that it makes anything you might imagine almost dull by comparison. Therefore, you should choose aspects of reality to make sense of your inner world. This will determine and demonstrate your nature. The more you interface with reality, the more complex and interesting you become.

The Belgian surrealist painter, Rene Magritte, known for "the treachery of inner images," painted a picture of a pipe in which he wrote the words on the canvas "Ceci n'est pas une pipe." {French: This is not a pipe} And in the same way that a picture of a pipe is not a pipe, the people in your mind are only images you've created that stand for the real

people they look and sound just like. These representations in your mind are not real {objective}. They're surreal {subjective}.

This makes the activity of thinking a much more complex concept than you may have realized because much of what you think about are fantasies you create for yourself in inner space. It's as though you're the director and producer of inner productions that you sell only one ticket to. But these inner space movies aren't just for your amusement. They're educational. They're meant to sway your opinion of you in subtle ways. Therefore, look more closely at what you think about in the privacy of your mind.

GOD, of course, knows all this because **HE** made you in **HIS** image. **HE** is the **PRODUCER/DIRECTOR** of the world around us, and you're the re-producer/re-director of your world within. The more you know about yourself, the less I believe you're going to suffer for the way things turn out in the world around you. The real world around you is very closely connected to the surreal world within you.

Most people sit in the audience of their inner auditorium watching these inner shows without giving much thought to the fact that they have the option of critiquing the performance. They don't question what they're watching or the affect it's having on them. They aren't morally secure enough to scrutinize the messages they're giving themselves. They simply take these performances at face value without considering whether they really approve the propaganda they're serving themselves. They eat it up without a second thought.

People put parental, control monitors on their TV and media devices to keep their kids from watching programming they deem unsuitable. But they don't have an inner, equivalent option to keep their inner child from being exposed to garbage. And then they wonder why they get depressed, paranoid or short-tempered over seemingly incidental nonsense that occurs around them. Many people's inner child is fed up with being ignored.

What you see in yourself is what you get until you tell yourself something more important than you now know. The insight you develop into you will change your perception of everything around you. To be able to discern between the four inner forces in you will strengthen your character, making it possible for you to realize that the world around you is, in part, a projection of what's going on within you. You project opinions onto others that are reflections of images you've created within. You pollute reality with fantasy.

To the extent that you can perceive what you're doing to you, you'll grow. You'll mature. You'll slowly begin to feel like a container being filled with spiritual contents, and you'll become more aware of **GOD's** constant presence. But what you won't discover is to what end. **GOD's** constant presence requires wisdom and devotion, not just love. You should discover why you want to grow in the direction you're growing. That's a mystery worth exploring.

When you envision someone in your mind who you don't like and casually utter inwardly, "Who does he think he is?" you're creating an emotional reaction to your own thoughts. The real person in the outer world you're thinking about isn't present in your head. Therefore, you shouldn't just question your opinion about the real person. You should question your opinion about the representation of him you've created in your mind as well.

Dislike of others always signals something you're withholding from you. I'm not saying you should change your opinion about them. I'm only saying you should use that

negative reaction as a reason to ask **GOD** why **HE** brought that person into your life and what you can learn about you from him/her. I've found that what I most dislike about others are behaviors that I've been unconsciously perpetrating against myself.

Like **GOD** speaking to man in the Quran, you're speaking in the first, second and third-person to yourself, whether or not you're paying close attention. In **HIS** case, we see **HIS** words externally on the page, while hearing them internally as we read them. Internally, you may hear yourself think, but you may not be fully listening. You may be hearing your thoughts like elevator music in the background. If you really listened, you might be amazed at how much you say to yourself that you'd find offensive if someone else said it to you.

The consequence for not listening closely enough to you may be more severe than you think. If anyone else ignored, neglected, offended or insulted you, you'd want them to pay closer attention to who you really were. So why shouldn't *you* want you to pay closer attention to yourself? If you feel like you've been driven from your land, banished, forced to go through pain and suffering while searching for **GOD's** reason for all that's happening to you, you're a restless wanderer in this world, and it should now be no surprise why. You've been avoiding one of your worlds to make the case for the other. You've been developing a relationship with GOD/GOD/*God* to the detriment of your relationship with **GOD**. You've been building alliances to collude with strangers at the cost of making a friend within.

People develop sophisticated fantasy worlds; play competitive games on computers; and wage wars against strangers they don't really know anything about – because their own ignorance of themselves has been projected out onto the external world. When you don't have any desire to go within to get to know yourself, you dismiss your thoughts like elevator music. You simply block it out by thinking about one external thing after another in quick succession. That's called distraction.⁶¹

The big questions in life begin after you've learned to listen to yourself even if you hear opinions in your head you don't approve of in your soul. If you don't work to create an intimate relationship with the one you're always with, how can you expect to have a good relationship with the one you're always with? You aren't going to be able to listen any more deeply to the *words* from *God* as presented by the Prophet if you aren't listening carefully to what you're saying to you. And the same can be said, of course, about the WORDS from GOD and the WORDS from GOD.

*“Men are tempted by the lure of women and offspring,
of hoarded treasures of gold and silver,
of splendid horses, cattle and plantations.*

⁶¹ If you listen closely to the way some people speak, you can hear their mind bouncing around in an effort to avoid thinking about themselves. Don't blame them for it. Question yourself about what you hear. **GOD** may bring us clues to our own nature that we summarily reject as being immoral, childish or naïve until we hear other people speaking similarly out loud.

*These are the enjoyments of this life,
but far better is the return to God.”*
[3:14]

“Men are tempted by the lure of women and offspring,
of hoarded treasures of gold and silver,
of splendid horses, cattle and plantations.
These are the enjoyments of this life,
but far better is the return to **GOD**.”

The lure of money, property, power and prestige is human. This lure is a feeling combined with an impulse. It's a sensation that figuratively begins in the groin and makes its way up into your chest where it mixes with your feelings. This feeling/sensation grows, and as it grows, it mirrors your erections. Some men seek to satisfy these inner urges sexually. Others prefer “hoarded treasures of gold and silver.” Some prefer to satisfy their urges with “splendid horses, cattle and plantations.” What you want is personal. It's not my business to tell you *what* to want or not want. My only job is only to explain to you *how* you want what you want.

And that's where institutional religion goes astray. They try to force you to want what they tell you is good, right or better. I say, get your nose out of my crotch. It's none of your business what's going on between my legs or between my heart and penis. Ironically, the extreme factions in all three of the Abrahamic faiths try to interfere with my relationship with me as well as my relationship with **GOD**! ⁶²

Because you know it's so hard to learn about yourself at all, you may feel guilty about having to learn about yourself by yourself. But you should be reminded that moving through guilt to **GOD**-consciousness takes time. You're growing out of your shell like a seed through the ground of your being, through the rock of reality and up into the light. You're reaching toward the heavens and branching out to blossom and bloom before **GOD** in your own, unique way. No two trees ever look exactly alike.

Moving out of guilt to wisdom, love and devotion reminds us all that nothing in life is free or easy. We should want what we want very badly to get it. We should be very committed to doing good, being right and getting better day-by-day. But that takes enormous intimacy with our many selves, an effort and intimacy that we'll then surely want to share with **GOD**.

The institutions of faith don't teach the simplest of things about guilt because they're each consumed with only a part of the whole. Guilt isn't a good way to teach people to give and receive. Guilt is the way to teach people to steal and then barter and sell what they've stolen.

⁶² Perhaps now you can begin to imagine why so many, many people are deeply suspicious of gays and Jews. They're afraid to discover any more about themselves. We're the strangers many of them most want to avoid because we personify thoughts that force them to listen to the lyrics of the elevator music playing in the background of their mind.

And yet, there are rewards for not avoiding guilt. But you can't seek those rewards consciously if you don't know what makes guilt so different from all other feelings. As I said earlier the three aspects of guilt are:

1. Embarrassment of your body that's overcome with modesty
2. Shame of your character that's overcome with humility
3. Humiliation in being in the constant presence of the Lord

The rewards for moving through humiliation require enormous work. This is the form of toilet training that you only began as a toddler and thought ended when you no longer needed diapers. But you must continue the toilet training your parents brought you through with spiritual toilet training for the rest of your life. You must learn why **GOD** gave you an anus. The ability to embrace the lessons of the dirtiest orifice in you opens you up to the moral uncleanness of this world that's very important that you come to know.

Most men want to play kabob with their penis. They want to skewer naïve, young men on it at one end through the anus and come out the other end at the mouth. These are meat kabobs. They stack up men one by one by screwing them over (or killing them). Violent video games are nothing more than cooking lessons in how to make meat kabobs.

And straight men do the same with women through the vagina. But these they call chicken kabobs. This kabob is more commonly referred to as "notches on their bedpost." They stack up one conquest after another. And the more women they can squeeze onto their stick, the longer they think their stick is. (Once a guy realizes why "it" literally grows bigger, he wants to know how much bigger he can get "it" to grow figuratively.)

Such is the spiritual toilet training an innocent young man or woman will probably have to go through in learning about spiritual cleanliness and moral sanitation. This is the training of their anus their parents may have fought with them about in puberty but couldn't explain to them as graphically as I have here. These are life-lessons that can leave anyone feeling embarrassed, shamed and humiliated.

The man who can't acknowledge these three levels of guilt as they're happening isn't going to appreciate the importance of all three of the Abrahamic faiths. He's going to develop as though in a fantasy. And he's going to need to be awakened to realize that everything that happened around him says something about what's going on within.

But that waking up process can leave him disoriented and deeply disappointed with himself. It can make him think his life has been for nothing. It can even terrify him if he concludes he's dealing with a stranger inside who's pulling his strings as though he were a puppet. And many learn how to pull other people's strings in the hopes of avoiding what they fear inside.

You won't be able to improve your relationship with your body {embarrassment/modesty} without wisdom. You won't be able to improve your relationship to your character {shame/humility} without love. And you won't be able to improve your relationship with **GOD** {humiliation/redemption} without devotion. But it can all be done. It's even easier than you might think if you know what you're doing.

Some claim the Jews are foolish for trying to teach the world wisdom. Some say the Christians are hateful for trying to teach the world self-love. And today many are saying the Muslims are mean-spirited for trying to teach the world devotion to life.

But it's only when you internalize all these lessons that you return to your **MAKER** wiser, more loving and more devoted than when you got here. And even that is dependent on using all three attributes to achieve redemption. It's only when you *don't* internalize your achievements in life that you turn your life and the lives of others into a living "hell."

*"To those who were given Scripture
and to the gentiles say:
'Will you submit to God?' ⁶³
If they become Muslims they shall be rightly guided;
if they pay no heed, then your only duty is to warn them.
God is watching all His servants."
[3:20-22]*

*"To those who were given Scripture
and to the Gentiles say:
'Will you submit to God?
If they become Muslims they shall be rightly guided;
if they pay no heed, then your only duty is to warn them.
GOD is watching all **HIS** servants."*

Life is like a school, and the uneducated student who doesn't want to learn should be of less concern to us. Just as the **CHRISTIANS** should have let the Jews discover **GOD's** love for themselves; the *Muslims* should let both of us discover *God's* devotion on our own. ⁶⁴ Defend your faith by allowing the **TEACHER** to teach each of us in **HIS** own way. Just watch other people's lessons, tests and graduation. Decide for yourself how each individual models the graduate degree you wish to earn.

Let the **Hindus**, **Buddhists**, **Taoists** and non-believers learn from **GOD** using their **philosophies** and at their own speed. Their grades aren't going on our report cards either. What they believe or don't believe is none of our business. They'll surely paint themselves into a corner, just as you and I did, and then they'll sit and wait for the paint to dry. Patience with yourself, not self-indulgence, is the greatest of virtues.

The white slime that comes out of your penis is a mirror of the black slime you conspire to create with the relationship of your heart and penis. That inner sludge must be purified

⁶³ The Jews were given Scripture, but both we and the Christians must learn to submit to *God*. That doesn't mean we have to submit to *Muslims*. And it certainly doesn't mean we have to submit to **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** or *Muslims*.

⁶⁴ The idea that the Jews seek wisdom is true. The idea that the Christians seek love is also true. But the idea that the Muslims seek devotion isn't exactly true. Muslims seek redemption through devotion. If you seek wisdom, love and devotion you'll naturally meld them into redemption.

before you release it on the world. It's deeply spiritually corrosive if not properly refined. The JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* have been telling us how to refine ourselves *ad nauseum*. I think they'd even stick their hand up inside of us to scrub around in there if they could.

If I want to call myself a married man because I married myself at the Wailing Wall, don't let that concern you. If I have a boyfriend on the side to keep me warm and happy at night, don't let that concern you. And if I want to call myself a rabbi because I ordained me as such, don't let that concern you. Even if my whole inner congregation were to cum together through momentary unifications of my head, heart and soul, what difference would that make to you? ⁶⁵ If you have a strong urge that I be like you, perhaps you should consider that *your* penis problem, not mine.

“Say:
‘Lord,
Sovereign of all Sovereignty,
You bestow sovereignty upon whom You will
and take it away from whom You please;
You exalt whomever You will and abase whomever You please.
In Your hand lies all that is good.”
[3:26-27]

“Say:
‘Lord,
Sovereign of all sovereignty,
YOU bestow sovereignty upon whom **YOU** will
and take it away from whom **YOU** please;
YOU exalt whomever **YOU** will and abase whomever **YOU** please.
In **YOUR** hand lies all that is good.”

Submission {Islam} to **GOD's** will makes it imperative you understand the metaphors, symbols and signs **HE** brings you. Internalizing your lessons, assignments, quizzes and tests will help you advance in the school of life by leaps and bounds. Your class schedule may be in your hands, but your future curriculum is entirely up to our **TEACHER**. The better you do in getting a good education from life today, the more you'll learn to listen to the call of the fire within as it advances into tomorrow. Mistakes should lead to guilt. Guilt

⁶⁵ Your head is a container for your brain. Your heart is a pump for blood. But a good soul isn't a Jewish soul, Christian soul or Muslim Soul. So what might be the difference between a straight soul and a gay soul? And would you be willing to add to the soul you now have to become more soulful regardless of your religion or sexual identity? If I choose to figuratively cum inside, that's no one's business but my own.

should lead to wisdom {mistakes corrected}. Self-improvement should lead to self-love, and self-love should lead to self-loyalty for using **GOD's** spiritual system to improve yourself, for a rising tide raises all boats.

The spiritual system is personal. It works to the extent you work it. But it's unlikely you'll consciously perceive how your thoughts, feelings and beliefs operate better in unison until you see a modicum of results around you.

*“The day will surely come
when each soul will be confronted with whatever good it did.
And for its evil deeds,
it will wish it were a long way off.
God admonishes you to fear Him.
God is compassionate toward His servants.”*
[3: 30]

“The day will surely come
when each soul will be confronted with whatever good it did.
And for its evil deeds,
it will wish it were a long way off.
GOD/GOD/God admonishes you to fear HIM/HIM/Him.
GOD is compassionate toward **HIS** servants.”

Fear of the Lord is much too easy for modern man to avoid. When we fear nothing around us, we also think we're immune to fear spontaneously arising from within. Modern man's command over his environment has made him impervious to fear from external strife. He thinks he can solve any and all problems that come at him (provided they come at him externally).

It's paranoia that modern man ought to fear more than fear. Paranoia is fear of yourself. People like to console themselves by believing paranoia is fear of nothing. But it's only when you're aware of your fear of yourself that you consciously realize you can sometimes be your own worst enemy. Then you realize that almost nothing anyone can do to you can hurt you as much as you can hurt your own reputation in your own eyes. **GOD** admonishes you to fear **HIM**. But how can you possibly fear **HIM** unless you fear yourself?

Most people avoid being afraid of themselves by being anxious instead. They find reasons to be anxious about everything. They even make the claim that modern man lives in the “Age of Angst.”

Don't you think cavemen were anxious over saber tooth tigers? Don't you think medieval man was anxious when he travelled between towns because of marauders? Modern man is anxious over external issues that amount to much less by comparison. If he'd scratch his anxiety, he'd see the paranoia beneath it. He'd see his penis problem or she'd see her clitoris conflict. And maybe then, they'd realize how great their anal issues really are. What you want is affected by what you most desire.

Gays and lesbians have asked themselves more moral questions about their serpent or worm than anyone else on Earth. We've had to. Most of us lead conservative, sex lives. Would we have petitioned so diligently for marriage equality if we lived otherwise? We know how our lifestyle still strikes fear in some straight people. And we're very proud of ourselves for having fought that fear, knowing, full well, it's only paranoia.

But few gays and lesbians I've known have told me they've gone to **GOD** to humbly ask **HIM** for help – not help to become straight – just for help to devote themselves more fully to knowing and loving themselves. And that's ironic because I think they're so much nearer to **HIM** than hyper-religious, straight people.

I recommend you admonish yourself for not fearing you. What you don't know about your own black slime may end up teaching you lessons you can't now anticipate or imagine. It's the combination of your feelings and wants that will beguile you into thinking anything you have an urge for can be rationalized with your mind to make you conclude you have the right to take whatever you want – but especially knowledge without giving thanks to its **SOURCE**.

When GOD admonished Adam and Eve for eating from the Tree HE commanded them not to eat from, HE didn't use the word "take" or "steal." He used the word "eat." It was the ancient Jews who had to generalize the concept of eating and taking until GOD gave them Commandments, which spelled out HIS intentions literally. (You can't blame a toddler for stealing. But you must blame an adult who behaves like a toddler by stealing.)

If you look at the ways in which you indulge your mouth with unkind words, your stomach with unhealthy food and your penis with disreputable urges for excess, you may see how fearless you really are. You may be so used to you that you may even abuse, degrade and appall you without you even consciously realizing it. ⁶⁶ Only once you learn how to operate yourself better will you perceive the paranoia you need to motivate you to approach **GOD** humbly for help.

Almost everyone "takes" knowledge for granted. Almost everyone learns without being consciously grateful for the ability to learn. There are many with learning disabilities. And I assure you, they aren't nonchalant or blasé about what they know. They know more than you know just because they work much harder than you and I work at knowing. The gift of intelligence is a mixed blessing if we don't learn to give thanks for all the knowledge we so casually consume.

Many are addicted to sex, love, food, work, worship, gambling, fame or fortune. Many are lazy and dream of having nothing to do except indulge their drug of choice. But all these inebriating forms of power figuratively emanate out of their testicles; beguile their heart with urges; convince their head; and then try to overwhelm their conscience with rationales. We should know better. We see from far off when a bad example is set. So why can't we see the bad examples we set?

⁶⁶ Think about how easy it is for you to see people degrading themselves. Think about how easy it is for you to be appalled at how they behave. If it's so easy for you to observe all this in them, why can't you see yourself doing similar things to you? Fat people are sign of overindulgence. Who's to say you aren't obese on the inside?

The GOD of the Creation story was actually lenient on Adam and Eve in telling them what the future looked like for them. HE was shrewd in not discussing any of this with the serpent. And HE was merciful in only banishing Adam and Eve from “paradise” while allowing them to continue to live.

GOD knows we’re still figuratively living outside ourselves wishing to get back in. We call our destination “paradise,” but “paradise” is closer than we think. HE gives us permission to enter our inner Eden from time to time, although we’re quickly banished from it for the most innocuous and blindest of moral reasons. He gives us permission to enter “heaven” in our heart on occasion. And *He* gives us a taste of “hell” once in a while, too. We’re at **HIS** mercy, whether some know it or not.

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But few gays and lesbians I’ve known have told me they’ve gone to **GOD** to humbly ask **HIM** for help (not help to become straight) – just for help to devote themselves more fully to knowing and loving themselves. And that’s ironic because they’re so much nearer to **HIM** than most religious, straight people.

It’s so much easier to fear GOD/GOD/*God* than become terrified, horrified or filled with dread and consternation at how you’re treating you. It’s so much easier to project your paranoia onto a select group of people and turn them into a scapegoat rather than come to **GOD** with clean hands and heart. The reason it’s so difficult to stamp out prejudice is because the alternative is paranoia. You’d have to internalize your fears if you gave up your prejudices of others. And most people would rather not do that.

All you need to do to change your bad habits is to choose to explore self-intimacy rather than self-hatred. And all you need to do to begin the process of intimacy with yourself is to respond to yourself when you talk to yourself. Don’t ignore you when your mind is telling you something. Over time, the uniquely dismissive ways in which you turn your back on you will become the essence of your particular brand of insanity. Becoming saner will become your vocation in life. **GOD** knows, I had to make it my fulltime job!

I fear you’ll pay a dear price for your rude behavior toward you in the long run if you don’t take your sanity more seriously. I can see that **GOD** is determined to teach everyone self-intimacy. I can see that appreciating life can’t be done if you can’t appreciate you. But overcoming your fear of strangers is only for practice. Tolerating, accepting and admiring gays and Jews wasn’t my goal in writing these books.

*“God exalted Adam and Noah,
Abraham’s descendants
and the descendants of Imran above the nations.
They were the offspring of one another.*

God hears all and knows all."

[3:33-34]

"GOD exalted Adam and Noah,
Abraham's descendants
and the descendants of Imran above the nations.
They were the offspring of one another.
GOD hears all and knows all."

GOD exalted Adam in Torah so we'd recognize in him the infantile mind in us that must grow up to understand our thinking process. GOD exalted Noah so we'd use the lumber of the many trees of knowledge around us in our youth to construct a figurative ark to carry us through the torrential, emotional storms and floods of puberty. The adolescent who now lives deep down inside of us was once a bridge between the child we were and the adult we've become. Adolescence was really a rainbow of promises GOD once shined within us to give us hope and courage to go on growing in another, new way.

We're all the descendants of Amran {father of Moses} and Imran {father of Mary}. We're like the patriarchs of old. We should all find new and better ways of guiding ourselves toward our future in order to give our children a better future. To move further into maturity, we must have a spiritual vehicle more developed than that of the child or adolescent. A biblical ark full of wild animals won't do. We must figuratively become a spiritual airplane full of mature travelers. The times have changed. The modes of transportation have changed. Therefore, conscious awareness of our intrinsic ability to determine our final destination needs to change as well.

GOD hears all and knows all because **HE**'s within us all, as well as around us. **HE** hears what we hear when we talk to ourselves, and **HE** hears the silence within when we don't. **HE** sees what we see when we dream, and **HE** sees when our dreams are about to be shattered. It's not **GOD** who has to get to know us. It's we who needs to get to know ourselves better. And that's best done in **HIS** presence through conscious awareness of **HIS** willingness to help.

When you talk to yourself silently, you shouldn't feel embarrassed. Religious people use prayer to overcome their feelings of loneliness and paranoia. They talk to GOD/GOD/*God* about themselves, but they may not be as willing to create as close a bond with themselves because of their paranoia that talking to themselves will drive them crazy. How can you enjoy what you have with the Lord if you can't enjoy all of you with yourself?

I'm like Moses. I led myriad Israelites in me into the modern era. I went through 40 years of wandering in the desert of my mind before I got to the shores of my Jordan, only to discover that the man who got me where I wanted to go {Moses} was a murderer who wasn't able to take me any further.

I'm like Joshua. I had to fight my way into my Promised Land: sanity. Then I had to do it all over again to make my way into my heart, like Joshua #2: Jesus. And I've since had to figuratively go from my inner Mecca to "heaven" and back through my inner

Jerusalem to discover the truth about my soul. And I had to do that just as the Prophet did it, in a dark cave; only my cave lay in my imagination.

If you go on the journey within yourself to make Scripture real for you, you'll become someone you'll admire. You'll use the wisdom of Moses, the love of Jesus and the devotion of the Prophet to bring you into the modern era in your own way. ONE/One/One size doesn't fit anyone. ONE size fits all.

The days of metaphorically wandering on foot within yourself like a Jew or symbolically swimming across your oceans of emotion like a Christian are, hopefully, behind you. You can earn your wings day-by-day for a reward at the end of your earthly stay. You can learn how to soar like a bird across your inner landscape like a Muslim.

Modern man can, with the help of the Quran, learn to emblematically fly using figurative speech. Most people are prosaic. You have a predisposition to become poetic if you wish it.⁶⁷

*"The male is not like the female.
They called her 'Mary.'
Protect her and all her descendants from Satan."
[3:37]*

*"The male is not like the female.
They called her 'Mary.'
Protect her and all her descendants from satan."*

Does it look like today's Arabs are protecting the descendants of Mary? Does it look like the hearts in the Muslim world are filled with love for Christians? Where's their guilt? I hear only silence from most Muslims. It's not only the fruits between the legs of today's hyper-religious *Muslims* that I question. Do any of them behave as though they know which of their testicles exudes the life-giving power of good, right and better, and which exudes evil, wrong and worse? Is the right one right, and the left one wrong? Does anyone today even listen to what comes out of the mouth of his serpent? Do straight men ever ask themselves what it is they really want out of life? They must want more out of life than a wife and children.

Israel is off the table. JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* can't have Israel. Domination of the world is off the table. They can't have that, either. So, what's left? The only thing left is to make peace with their Abrahamic brothers. And the only reason to do so must be found in the Quran. To use Torah, the Gospels *or* the Quran to create enemies will only get them in trouble with **GOD**. Haven't the hyper-religious made enough trouble?

A Muslim should ask himself whether he's making a conscious effort to seed the world with the fruits of wisdom, love and devotion. We saw in the second story of Genesis what

⁶⁷ If you didn't have a poetically inclined soul, you'd have thrown this book at a wall by now.

happened when one brother {Cain} was envious of what GOD gave the other {Abel}. Can he not see his jealousy of the Jews and envy of the Christians? Does he dismiss his tendency to covet what **GOD** gave to other people?

You should be thankful for what GOD gave Jews; what **HE** gave the Christians; and what *He* gave the Muslims. But you'll only succeed in doing so if you can take their gifts personally. You'll only succeed in becoming thankful if you recognize the jealousy and envy you create and then do something inside to fight it. Recycling other people's good fortune should begin within or your head will end up looking like a garbage dump; your heart will become as polluted as today's oceans; and your soul will look like the ring of smog around every city horizon.

Your gifts are everyone's to enjoy unless you're ungrateful for the wisdom, love and devotion **GOD** gave you. **HIS** universal designs are available to all those seeking peace. Make war with others, and **GOD** will banish you from yourself. Make peace with yourself, and you'll be let back into "paradise" on Earth. It's just that simple.

When you touch your head, think kindly of the Jews. When you touch your heart think kindly of the Christians. When you touch your breastplate think kindly of the Muslims. And when you touch yourself below the waist think of every fallen angel who finds himself in "hell" here on Earth trying to work his way out of here to the best of his ability. Ignorance of you is anything but bliss.

*"The angels said to Mary,
'God bids you rejoice in a word from Him.
His name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary.
He shall be noble in this world and in the world to come,
and shall be one of those who are favored.
He shall preach to men in his cradle and in the prime of manhood,
and shall lead a righteous life."
[3:45-46]*

*"The angels said to Mary,
'GOD bids you rejoice in a WORD from HIM.
HIS name is the MESSIAH, Jesus, son of Mary.
HE shall be noble in this world and in the "world to come,"
and shall be one of those who are favored.
HE shall preach to men in HIS cradle and in the prime of manhood,
and shall lead a righteous life."*

The Quran holds some of the answer to the meaning of life, but if you don't read its WORDS/WORDS/*Words* with the intention of making peace with yourself, how are going to turn this world from a mirror of "hell" into a mirror of "heaven"? If you don't see yourself preaching from cradle to grave to the one person who really needs to hear your

vow of goodness, how will you be able to prove to yourself that you've lived a righteous life?

Another person's inner world will always be a mystery to you. If you think you know what other people think, feel, believe or want by their faith, gender, sexual identity or the color of their skin, you're simply ignorant of the one person you were sent here to get to know. You're ignoring very important, spiritual truths about yourself because you still wish to remain in denial of what's truly going on within you.

I met an old man once when I went to mosque to pray. He didn't know I was Jewish, but he could tell I wasn't Muslim. He sat down beside me and told me a story about the evils of Moses. Of course, as a guest in that mosque, I didn't contradict him (but I thought it was quite rude). But he walked with a cane, and because I saw how debilitated his gait was, I pitied him. Those who walk with a limp may figuratively talk with a limp. Those like Moses who talk with a stutter {oral limp} may figuratively think with one, too. ⁶⁸

You weren't just born nude. You aren't just emotionally naked. You're spiritually exposed. We all are. Yet some strut about as though they were emperors in new clothes. Would that they could see themselves as we can see them.

If you're Jewish, you don't have to wait for a rabbi to show you how to delve into Torah to take it personally. If you're Christian, you don't have to wait for a priest, pastor or minister to model how to transform your heart through the Gospels. And if you're Muslim, you don't have to wait for an imam or cleric to teach you to transcend yourself using the Quran.

*"I come to confirm Torah which preceded me
and to make lawful for you some of the things you are forbidden.
I bring you a sign from your Lord:
therefore fear God and obey me.
God is my Lord and your Lord:
therefore serve Him." ⁶⁹
[3:50-51]*

**"I COME TO CONFIRM TORAH WHICH PRECEDED ME
AND TO MAKE LAWFUL FOR YOU
SOME OF THE THINGS YOU ARE FORBIDDEN.
I BRING YOU A SIGN FROM YOUR LORD:
THEREFORE FEAR GOD AND OBEY ME.
GOD IS MY LORD AND YOUR LORD:
THEREFORE SERVE HIM."**

⁶⁸ If you're physically disabled and are offended by these words, think about thin people who are fat with greed; the broken hearted who suffer coronary disease; the deaf who carve poetry in midair with their words. The human body is poetic, not just prosaic.

⁶⁹ GOD IS MY LORD AND YOUR LORD: THEREFORE SERVE HIM" is a restatement of THE WORDS of Jesus by the Prophet Muhammad as recited to him by the Archangel Gabriel for your edification. The WORDS/WORDS/*Words* of the Quran are true.

These words were first uttered by Jesus and then recited to the Prophet by the Archangel Gabriel. Part of this message was to remind all people of faith that *God* had more to say to them than had been said before. If you don't hear the difference in the tenor of GOD, God and *God* in Scripture, it may be because you don't hear any differences in the voices within you. You may suffer from an aural limp.

Seeing is believing. What's written in the above passage of the third surah isn't a great mystery if you have an inquiring mind. You don't have to obey every Christian you meet. But you ought to respect him as a believer in the aspect of GOD called "Jesus." Whether you pray to HIM is none of anybody's business. Christians believe in HIM, and who is anyone to say that their belief is untrue? If the Prophet was humble enough to say so, you should be able to say so, too.

I can't graduate the school of life for anyone else. I can't take your final exam for you. Each of us should live life for himself. If you want to avoid the mistakes I made, stay in your figurative seat, face front and pay attention to your studies. Remember the **TEACHER** is always watching. You can't get away with murder, not even if you're willing to commit suicide to see your enemies die.

*"Some of the people of the book wish to mislead you,
but they mislead none but themselves,
though they may not perceive it."
[3:69]*

*"Some of the people of the book wish to mislead you,
but they mislead none but themselves,
though they may not perceive it."*

There are plenty of JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* who are consumed with the topic of homosexuality and other issues of Scripture that don't apply to the 21st Century. If you think I'm misleading you, it ought to be because of my opinions, and not because of who I sleep with. You should be prepared to *argue* your position rather than *fight* for it. There's no opinion you can win by killing or curtailing gays and Jews.

Torah is the book that teaches what not to do. Don't let men lord over women even though there are examples of men in Torah doing so. Don't enslave your fellow man even though there are great discussions in Torah over how to do so "righteously." Don't hate homosexuals even though Torah tells you to. If you can't think for yourself, just imagine how people will guilt you into feeling the way they want you to feel and force your loyalties to conform to their beliefs!

*"Among the people of the book there are some who,
if you trust them with a heap of gold,
will return it to you intact,
and there are others who,*

*if you trust them with a dinar,
will not hand it back unless you demand it with importunity.*

For they say,

‘We are not bound to keep faith with gentiles.’

Thus they deliberately say of God what is untrue.

Indeed,

*those who keep faith and guard themselves against evil
know that God loves the righteous.”*

[3:75-76]

“Among the people of the book there are some who,
if you trust them with a heap of gold,
will return it to you intact,
and there are others who,
if you trust them with a dinar,
will not hand it back unless you demand it with importunity.

For they say,

‘We are not bound to keep faith with Gentiles.’

Thus they deliberately say of **GOD** what is untrue.

Indeed,

those who keep faith and guard themselves against evil
know that **GOD** loves the righteous.”

That was written 1,400 years ago! Since then a lot of Jews have learned to keep faith with Gentiles and Gentiles with Jews. There are many Jews and Gentiles today who keep faith and guard themselves against evil by trusting Muslims. They know that **GOD** loves the righteous. The times have changed. If you’re not a thoroughly modern individual, you may end up proving to yourself that you’re abominably, spiritually sdrawkcab. People who live their life sdrawkcab will find themselves going the wrong way.

*“Had the people of the book accepted the faith,
it surely would have been better for them.*

*Some are true believers,
but most of them are evil doers.”*

[3:111] ⁷⁰

⁷⁰ The only way to keep the faith is to have faith in yourself and keep your faith in yourself. All those who believe in GOD/GOD/*God* are faithful. But most of them are evil doers unconsciously because none of them are true to all of Scripture. Believing in a third of

“Had the people of the book accepted the faith,
it surely would have been better for them.
Some are true believers,
but most of them are evil doers.”

You know better than to determine evil by a man’s religion, the color of his skin or whom he sleeps with. Evil is the result of a man’s deeds, not his faith, his body type or his lifestyle. If you judge a man by whether he sleeps with men or women, you’re judging him superficially. If you judge him by the color of the fence **GOD** put between his two worlds {skin tone}, you’re doing yourself a disservice. And if you judge people by the kind of tree **GOD** fashioned them into, a tree of knowledge or a tree of life, you’re doing them a grave injustice, too. Don’t generalize and don’t judge. If you could see the mess you need to clean up inside yourself, you wouldn’t project such disgusting conclusions onto others. You’d be hard at work cleaning up the mess you’ve made inside.

Another person’s inner world will always be a mystery to you. If you think you know what other people think, feel, believe or want by their faith, sexual identity, gender or the color of their skin, you’re simply ignorant of the one person you were sent here to get to know. You’re ignoring very important spiritual truths about you because you still wish to remain in denial of what’s going on within you.

Prejudice is evil, wrong and, therefore, bad for you. It will leave you worse off than you were before. And you may need to take responsibility for your prejudices in the “world to come” if you don’t clean up that black slime inside while still can. You won’t get out of this world without accounting for your opinions. **GOD** will break open your container and see all that dark slime you’ve still got inside. There’s nowhere for you to hide, now, or ever.

“Believers,
don’t make friends with any but your own people.”
[3:118]

“Believers,
don’t make friends with any but your own people.”

On the surface, this is just as idiotic as saying that students in one classroom shouldn’t make friends with those in other classes because they might learn something new. We only learn by exchanging information with people who’ve been taught differently. Our **TEACHER** created many classrooms so we’d share knowledge, feelings, wants and beliefs with one another. The more we learn about one another’s attributes, the greater our reason to be grateful for the way **HE** made us as we are.

Scripture is like reading a third of a book. You never fully know what you’ve read if you’ve only read the beginning, middle or end.

And yet, when you take this passage to the personal limit within, it makes great sense. The people you know best are the voices inside you that you create to look like the people around you. These inner images and voices are your best friends because your mind made them using the evidence around you to elucidate you to yourself. You should stand back from your thoughts to observe them. That will help you gain control over all the forces within you. That's a clue to why your head was given to you separated from your body with a neck. You have every reason to listen to and question what these inner images in your mind say and do. Beware! "Don't make friends with any but your own (inner) people."

The characters in the world around you are brought to you by **GOD**, telling you that you ought to modernize. If you don't struggle with the vignettes of thoughts, feelings and conclusions you draw internally, you'll surely struggle with people externally. But if you don't scrutinize the people internally, you're going to go crazy.

The JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* around you represent inner parts of you that you have the opportunity to see mirrored in the world we share. Once you leave their company and begin to think about what they've said, you'll see some good and evil in them, too. As you modernize internally, you'll slowly become an ambassador of peace in the world we share. In this way, **GOD** will determine what to do with a "fallen angel" such as yourself.

*"No one dies unless God wills it.
The term of every life is fixed.
He that desires the reward of this world shall have it;
and he that desires the reward of the life to come shall have it also.
We shall surely recompense the thankful."
[3:145-6]*

"No one dies unless **GOD** wills it.
The term of every life is fixed.
He that desires the reward of this world shall have it;
and he that desires the reward of the 'life to come' shall have it also.
WE shall surely recompense the thankful."

Everything happens for a reason. The emotional turmoil **GOD** puts you through is significant, even if it creates more horror and anguish than you could have ever conceived of. You're not evil. You're just morally ill. And so you need to be healed, whether you like the treatment you have to go through, or not. If you think of **GOD** as your **DOCTOR**, go to him for a diagnosis of what **HE**'s putting you through. Discuss your symptoms with **HIM** as indications of a moral illness that can be treated, maybe even cured.

Chemotherapy isn't pleasant, but you wouldn't blame your doctor for you having to endure it. Moral cleansing is much easier than pickling your body with chemotherapy or

radiating your tumors with the harsh light that emanates from beyond the visible range of colored light in the rainbow. I'm not suggesting you don't need medical attention if you're sick. I'm suggesting that you need to take your spiritual issues as seriously as your physical health. Moral cancers that are eating you up inside can be treated effectively in the modern era if you understand your relationship to **GOD** as one of patient to **DOCTOR**.

Just don't blame me for what you're having to go through spiritually. I'm not like the cholesterol that's filling your vessels that's giving you high blood pressure. I'm not stopping you from getting cured. **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims* have expelled people like me from their houses of worship, and then proclaimed that we're the reason why they're having to struggle with **GOD**/**GOD**/*God*. Are you kidding me? I mean that literally. Are you turning me into a kid goat that you intend to sacrifice? Wouldn't it be better for you to learn how *not* to sacrifice *yourself* instead? ⁷¹ Someday, you might have to pay for what you're doing to you.

"Salafism" is gaining ground as the ground figuratively rocks and rolls beneath the Muslims in the Middle East. ⁷² The earthquakes in the mind of Muslims are making their inner grounding shift. Cracks and crevices are appearing in their faith and within themselves. The journey of the Israelites to Israel, the Promised Land; the journey of the Christians from Israel to the Promised Land in their heart after their lifetime; and the journey of the Muslims through the desert in their mind from Mecca through Jerusalem to the Promised Land in their soul is leaving Muslims in the Middle East feeling shaken, morally dizzy and spiritually confused. "What is *God* doing to them?" they ask themselves.

GOD allows us free will, and yet **HIS** hand is in everything that occurs. That means we should take responsibility for everything we make happen. But it also means **HE** uses our evil intentions and actions to teach inquiring minds about **HIS** wisdom, love and devotion. We have the free will to feel guilty. We have the free will to learn or to remain ignorant. We have the free will to choose autonomy or freedom, liberty and emancipation.

We'll be judged by **GOD**, even though **HE** gave us the free will to try to get away with murder. The dead will never be able to tell us how fairly they were treated by **GOD**. But the voices of the living who've suffered injustice will forever cry out from the ground of their being just as Abel's blood cried out to **GOD** after Cain killed him.

In today's Judeo-Christian Western world, you may see yourself as your brother's keeper. But when you imagine your inner child {Abel} as your heart, you should have no more doubt about your moral responsibility to yourself. Your heart {Abel} may make

⁷¹ There are **CHRISTIAN** fanatics who claim that all the tornadoes in the Midwest are caused by **GOD**'s wrath against the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community. You'd think **HE** could aim a little better since most of us live on the coasts... Now that the fires in California have burned so much of the chaparral, the crazy **CHRISTIANS** are finally associating *that* with the gays. But they don't have a word to say about the hurricanes and floods on the East Coast. Suffer, we all will.

⁷² "'Salafism' is a school of Sunni Islam that condemns theological innovation and advocates strict adherence to Sharia law and to the social structures existing in the earliest days of Islam." [Wikipedia]

sacrifices to GOD that GOD approves of, but your mind {Cain} came up with the idea of gifting HIM in the first place. Your thoughts must never give up control over your feelings. But you must also make sure your conscience is on board with the decisions the two of you make.

It's so easy for your mind to kill your feelings with denial. It's so easy to recreate the story of Cain and Abel in yourself while denouncing Torah as primitive and useless to the modern world. "He that desires the reward of this world shall have it; and he that desires the reward of the 'world to come' shall have it also."

The heart wants what it feels, whether or not it has copied, taken, stolen or picked something that wasn't its to begin with. Be careful when you follow your heart. You never know if you're getting into the same trouble Adam got into by going along with Eve. You never know if GOD is tricking you with a moral question as **HE** did when HE sanctified Abel's gift instead of Cain's. You never know what **HE**'s teaching you unless you understand HIS head, HIS heart and *His Soul*. **HE** shall surely recompense the thankful. ⁷³

*"Say to them:
'All is in the hands of God.'"
[3:154]*

*"Say to them:
'All is in the hands of **GOD**.'"*

Say to them, everything happens for a reason that can only be plummeted from within. Therefore, take your feelings personally. Assume **GOD** has granted you permission to feel as you do, just as HE allowed Eve to pick the forbidden fruit because she was curious and HE allowed Cain to kill his brother because he was envious.

Never let your head or heart guide your decisions. Use your conscience as your guide. Weigh your thoughts and feelings in your conscience. And remember that your desires, like a thumb where it doesn't belong, may be weighing down your scale in a beguiling way. ⁷⁴

Judge *yourself* strictly, not *others*. Imagine yesterday's grades in the **TEACHER**'s roll book each morning and see what you think you can do to raise the class curve for everyone

⁷³ Think of GOD as sometimes slipping in reverse psychology to keep you seeking wisdom. Think of GOD as sometimes slipping in mercy to keep you seeking love. And think of *God* as sometimes slipping in hospitality to keep you seeking devotion. Only in all three of these ways will you seek redemption from **GOD**.

⁷⁴ In the Creation story, when GOD questioned Eve she replied, "'THE SERPENT BEGUILED ME, AND I ATE.'" [Genesis 3:13] You may consume that which tempts you. And you may learn from your temptations what GOD's losses were in having to give up one piece of fruit in his vast universe. You may feel hurt, disappointment and sorrow. It doesn't take a soothsayer to see that much.

by being a little better to yourself today. You'll be amazed at how much improvement you can achieve with a few, small changes to your work habits and cooperation in the university of life.⁷⁵

“Say to them:
‘Had you stayed in your homes,
those of you who were destined to be slain would have gone to your graves nevertheless;
for it was God’s will to test your faith and courage.
God has knowledge of your innermost thoughts.’”
[3:155]

“Say to them:
‘Had you stayed in your homes,
those of you who were destined to be slain would have gone to your graves nevertheless;
for it was **GOD**’s will to test your faith and courage.
GOD has knowledge of your innermost thoughts.’”

HE already knows your faith isn’t as strong as it needs to be. **HE** already knows your thinking isn’t as sharp as it ought to be. Your feelings could be more heartfelt and your desires, more pure. **HIS** job is harder than it looks from down here because your job is harder than you may believe it to be.

The road you took got you as far as you’ve come today. The “hell” on Earth you still suffer with is a mirror of the “hell” you’re hoping to avoid at the end. Your faith and courage are always being tested within you, even if your faith and courage seem seamless around you. Watch your innermost thoughts. Don’t leave it up to **GOD** to watch them for you. Be a tree that anticipates and participates in your own growth. You’ve got the root system to do so.

“When they were told,
‘Come fight for the cause of God and defend yourselves,’
they replied,
‘If only we could fight,
we would surely come with you.’”

⁷⁵ I don’t know how kids are graded today, but when I was a kid we were graded in the subject matter as well as in work habits and cooperation. Grades in the subject went from A-F. Grades in work habits and cooperation were graded “E” for excellent; “S” for satisfactory; or “U” for unsatisfactory. Just because your ego tells you that you’ve advanced to the university of life campus, doesn’t mean you no longer need to work on your work habits and cooperation. There are still too many students of life who are receiving FUU in many subjects in their curriculum.

[3:166]

“When they were told,
‘Come fight for the cause of **GOD** and defend yourselves,’
they replied,
‘If only we could fight,
we would surely come with you.’”

Fighting JEWS and CHRISTIANS 1,400 years ago was only for practice. The real fight today isn't in fighting JEWS, CHRISTIANS or *Muslims*. The real fight is in each one of us learning how not to fight ourselves. When you internalize the struggle, it is real. The crusades and jihads need to be internalized to become meaningful. Otherwise you'll continue to create “hell” on Earth for yourself. And you'll be rewarded for it with “hell” after Earth on top of what you went through down here.

Don't retaliate against the hurt people inflict upon you. Internalize it. Feel it. And if it came from family or close friends, feel the disappointment, too. Hurt and disappointment lead to sorrow. Sorrow leads to questions. Questions lead to answers about why **GOD** allowed you to be left open and vulnerable to begin with.

*“It was not God's aim to leave the faithful in their present plight,
but only to separate the evil from the good.
Nor was God to reveal to you what is hidden.”*
[3:179]

“It was not *God's* aim to leave the faithful in their present plight,
but only to separate the evil from the good.
Nor was **GOD** to reveal to you what is hidden.”

The Quran states what Torah and the Gospels could only allude to. The Quran separates evil from good so that all of us will be able to more clearly perceive the path to righteousness from within. The Quran makes it possible for you to perceive good and evil as two fruits to choose from. You can't literally reach for one or the other. But figuratively, you can grasp what I'm saying if you come to a balanced place within. Internalize your struggle and the faithful side of you will alleviate you of your plight.

Pope John Paul II made a formal apology to the Jewish people in 1998 for the inaction of the Catholic Church during the Holocaust, Pope Francis said in 2016, “I believe that the Church not only should apologize to the person who is gay whom it has offended, but (the Church) should apologize to the poor, to exploited women, to children exploited for labor; it should ask forgiveness for having blessed many weapons.” ⁷⁶

⁷⁶ To each his own. It takes all kinds. Nobody's perfect, except maybe Jesus. And if you compare yourself to HIM you're making a grave error. It would be better if you contrasted yourself to HIM.

If you can seek and secure an apology from those who've offended you, you've succeeded in a greater way than if you simply forgive and forget what others have done to you. But if you can seek and secure an apology from you for having offended yourself, you've succeeded in a far greater way than if you simply forgive and forget what you've done to yourself over a lifetime.

GOD's designs may be far greater than you might have previously suspected. It's far harder to get out of "hell" on Earth than it looks. Most people are suffering banishment when "paradise" is so close at hand. To become free, liberated and emancipated, you ought to begin within. And then you should teach others how to free, liberated and emancipated themselves by guiding themselves, not your Scripture.

Your Israel is your struggle with **GOD**. Therefore, your reward should be an Israel of your own. Your reward should be a "heavenly" reward, not only an inner, earthly reward. Even the most fanatical of **CHRISTIANS** have moved the reward of Israel into the future when their **MESSIAH** returns.

Muslims can do better by further internalizing their struggle today. The man who strives for Israel from within will receive what **GOD** is hiding from us all. The external struggle over Israel will never be won by the **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** or *Muslims*. It will never be won in the world around us. Israel is ours. It is the fruits of our labors. It must be sought for within. Stealing Israel is no different than stealing forbidden fruit.

*"When God made a covenant
with those to whom the Scriptures were given,
He said,
'Proclaim these to mankind and do not suppress them.'
But they cast the Scriptures over their backs
and sold them for a paltry price.
Evil was their bargain."
[3:187]*

*"When **GOD** made a covenant
with those to whom the Scriptures were given,
He said,
'Proclaim these to mankind and do not suppress them.'
But they cast the Scriptures over their backs
and sold them for a paltry price.
Evil was their bargain."*

That was then, and this is now. The guilt of the ancient Jews, Christians and Muslims isn't our burden to bear. There are those in every faith who are selling their faith rather than pursuing it, and they're going to get their just desserts, too. Our burden is to present ourselves to ourselves as honestly, sincerely and authentically as we can.

This means JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* ought to face their guilt in discriminating against Jews, Christians, Muslims and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community. Each of us must become a transparent window that allows our true self to be clearly seen. Too many today are still a translucent window that only allows light, not clarity, to shine through.

It takes courage to do better. That requires all of us to move through our embarrassment at having been given the container we have; it requires us to move through our shame at having the paltry, righteous contents we presently contain; and it means we should move through the humiliation we shirk while standing before **GOD** day after day. It means we should clean up the black slime {interpersonal impropriety} and sludge {moral indiscretion} that we've created inside.

Your soul is like a satellite view of the planet. Your soul isn't a desert of complaints you kick up like sand as you take one step after another. Your soul isn't an intermittent oasis you happen upon where you mindlessly quench your thirst. Your soul isn't a land of lakes surrounded by smog. There surely are pockets of great emotional depth in you. So when you see flooding around you, know that it mirrors the emotional overwhelms and spiritual indulgences you tolerate in yourself.

Without your soul, your wings would be clipped. You couldn't fly as high as you fly. Without a soul, you'd leap and lunge like a chicken flapping its useless appendages, or a *Muslim* terrorist who gets a brief, precious glimpse of something from on high that every dove can clearly see.

In the metaphor of life as a school, the outer world is your laboratory. The inner world is your classroom. Test your theories. But if you're planning on blowing up the whole campus because you're frustrated with the results you're getting from your experiments, know that your behavior will reflect on your transcript.

The way it turns out for us will be a sign of **GOD's** response to the inner actions we take today that will make some people even better tomorrow. Israel is real. Gay life is real. Your personal opinions of Jews and/or gay people are none of anyone's business. Take your opinions to **GOD**. See what **HE** says about us and leave us alone about it. Your issues are personal, not interpersonal. Chances are, things are going to get a lot better for us and a lot worse for those who insist on living in their grandparents' fading, prejudicial past.

*"Some there are among the people of the book
who truly believe in God,
and in what was revealed to you
and what was revealed to them.
They humble themselves before God
and do not sell God's revelations for a trifling price.
They shall be rewarded by their Lord.
Swift is God's reckoning."*

“Some there are among the people of the book
who truly believe in **GOD**,
and in what was revealed to you
and what was revealed to them.
They humble themselves before **GOD/GOD/God**
and do not sell **GOD’s/GOD’s/God’s** revelations for a trifling price.
They shall be rewarded by their Lord.
Swift is **GOD’s** reckoning.”

GOD’s reckoning may be swift, objectively speaking, but subjectively, it can seem like it takes a very long time to get what you think you deserve. We, Jews, have been in concert with **GOD** the longest. And we’ve made many mistakes that have filled some of us with guilt, but which has endowed us with a great deal of wisdom, love and devotion to **HIS** designs for every man, woman and child on Earth. But we still have a JEWISH problem within our faith with homosexuality that we need to work at solving.⁷⁷

The JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* are stabbing at shadows of themselves. **GOD’s** light might be terrifying them because it hits them from behind. I just don’t think they’ll be allowed to turn around to look into the light until they repent.

The great question of today isn’t whether, but when JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY and *Islam* will see themselves as pieces of a universal puzzle. **GOD** didn’t create any of the Abrahamic faiths to exclude the others. Zionism is a movement to protect the Jews with a homeland because, as 1/10th of 1% of the world’s population, we must have our own country to protect us from the foolishness, hatred and disloyalty to humanity that ignorant Abrahamic peoples hold. When radicalized *Islamists* submit to the inevitability and necessity of the wisdom of the peoples of the book, the Quran will be lauded by the whole world.

It isn’t wise of Muslims to divide their loyalties between the Sunnis and Shiites.⁷⁸ It isn’t wise of them to make the Kurds the Jew du jour.” It isn’t wise to profess their loyalty only to their *Teacher* and not to our **TEACHER** and the whole class.

⁷⁷ When I refer to the JEWISH problem, I’m referring to the homophobia in the ultra-orthodox JEWISH community, which is sometimes expressed violently. I’m also indirectly referring to the CHRISTIAN problem in the rightwing CHRISTIAN community that’s always expressed through homophobia, xenophobia and misogyny, and often expressed violently. And I’m referring to the *Muslim* problem that encourages mass murder.

⁷⁸ Did it matter to the Jews in the Concentration Camps whether the Nazis that imprisoned and killed them were PROTESTANT or CATHOLIC? Did it matter to the Jews killed in pogroms that the killers were Eastern Orthodox CHRISTIANS? What difference does it matter whether you’re SUNNI or SHIITE? This is a test. This is only a test. There is a final exam yet to come.

If people would spend more time praying with people who believe differently from them, they'd know better. If people had spent more time exploring all the forces within them, these problems wouldn't have gotten out of hand in the first place. **GOD** knows that we in the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community can only do so much with our penises or clitorises to bring peace unto the nations. Our "agenda" should, by now, be obvious.

The JEW has exposed his tribal nature. He has a hyper-religious platform that he says will meet the needs of Israel, but he doesn't have a spiritual platform. He's a thorn in the side of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community, and yet he thinks GOD will always and only be on his side.⁷⁹

The CHRISTIAN has exposed his tribal nature. He, too, has only a hyper-religious platform to meet the needs of our nation. Much of his beliefs emanate out of clutching his gun instead of his penis in public; forcing women to bear babies they don't want to have; and keeping Muslims out of America. When people behave in tribal ways, it's very easy to keep them oppressed using the pyramidal model of social control. It begs a totalitarian to take control.

If *Islām* continues to expose its tribal nature, recreating the mistakes of the JEWS and CHRISTIANS, it will continue to suffer egregiously. To modernize from the pyramidal model to the cube model of social opportunity for all people, Muslims are going to want to look to Israel and America as models of national and social construction, as flawed as they are.⁸⁰ But to do so will require an enormous amount of wisdom and humility not to recreate the mistakes we've made. This is precisely what **GOD** is waiting to see.

Amran/Imran is the patriarch of our Judeo-Christian-Muslim past, not the father of our future. The future lies with the Prophet if the Islamic world can adapt the Quran to the new age, a future that will never unfold successfully without the help of Jews, Christians and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community.

⁷⁹ There is no difference in meaning between the words "spiritual" and "moral."

⁸⁰ The model Israel offers comes from HASHULCHAN AROCH, the Hebraic table with leaves that can be extended to invite more guests to our meal. If you exclude people from your spiritual table, expect to get excluded from those dishes served in the "heavenly" meal that you anticipate. You are what you eat.

Surah 4

Women

The mountain that once approached Muhammad has made its way to you. The Jews are like rock upon which the whole mountain rests. The Christians look up and down from the summit like snow reflecting two realms, the one above us and the one below. And the Muslims soar over the mountain as though they're diaphanous clouds. But if you're going to add to that view from within, as well as contribute to the world around you, you're going to want to learn why man's loyalty to women is paramount to **GOD's** designs.

Women challenge men (even gay men) with the curiosity we need to turn every external mountain into an internal mountain. They give us the hope we need in ourselves to dream about a better life to come for our children in this world and for ourselves in the next. This vision usually comes in the form of a living dream first introduced to a boy by his mother while in her arms or by his father at his knee.⁸¹

In the story of Abram, his wife Sarai {quarrelsome} and his mistress Hagar {Arabic: forlorn} couldn't get along. Later GOD changed Sarai's name to Sarah {noble}. Our KING {GOD} may turn a woman into HIS princess. What this means for man is that none of us can become a prince in GOD's eyes until he's become a prince in such a woman's eyes. This Moses, Jesus and the Prophet achieved. This is why the fourth surah of the Quran is about the least likely people on Earth a man would have chosen to talk about in those ancient days: women.

They say women are baffling, not just beguiling. The GOD Eve defied by picking the forbidden fruit was sanctified by **HIS** designs for man over time. She wasn't created out of a bone from Adam's rib just to be his companion. Women aren't just companions for men. That perspective is demeaning. A man could get a dog as a companion or a cow to help him if women had no greater worth than that. It belittles women, and it belittles any man who believes women are like animal because it belittles Jesus, The SON of GOD who came to Earth to reveal the second aspect of **GOD's** designs. Eve was the spiritual descendant of Mary who was the mother of GOD in Christian doctrine. Women have a mysterious worth that's personal, not gender specific.

God created Hagar. The GOD who sanctified Abraham's expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael was the same GOD as the *God* who blessed the two of them and promised to watch over them. But *God* had a different design in mind for Hagar. Here is a brief, Biblical review of **GOD's** designs in stages:

⁸¹ The concept of a living dream is hard to describe since all dreams appear to be real when we experience them in our sleep. The living dream passed down to you by your mother or father is so personal, so cherished and so intimate that I certainly won't find words to describe it. It's something I consciously share with my mother even now through her dementia and the dying process. It's something I shared unconsciously with my father when I sat with him at his deathbed. And it's something I share with you now to remind myself what my parents did for me and what I did for them.

1. GOD created Adam (masculinity)
2. GOD created Eve (femininity)
3. GOD created Cain {intellect}
4. GOD created Abel (feelings)
5. *God* created Ishmael {Islam} out of Abraham and Hagar
6. GOD created Jesus {Christianity} out of HIMSELF and Mary
7. **GOD** created us all.

My mother was like Sarai and Hagar when I was a child. She was quarrelsome and forlorn. My father made her quarrelsome, but the Nazis had made her forlorn. She had no idea she was Jewish because her Jewish mother and Christian father hid that fact from her until the Nazis threw my mother out of school. My mother had to search for her nobility {Sarah } all her life. She found it in the world we share. She is the epitome of a 20th Century modern woman. Now today's modern women only need to search for their Sarah within. The rest will take care of itself.

I was a good Jewish son like Isaac who grew up to become a wild young man like Ishmael. I was a good boy at heart, but I behaved irresponsibly once I left home at 18. I couldn't find my place out in the world. I had no idea where to look for love or meaning. I was the epitome of today's modern youth.

My father was like Abram, and I watched, as a child, as he destroyed our family unity before my very eyes. And although everyone in my family is literally Jewish, **GOD** has given us figurative challenges to find our individual places in **HIS** story. But I couldn't find meaning until I studied Scripture; all of them. Now answers pour down to me like manna from "heaven."⁸²

I don't literally give a damn about that silly little fruit GOD cared so much about. I don't care about power over others or the secret to creating life. I care about helping women and children so they don't have to go through what my family and I had to endure with my father. And I'll cut down any tree of knowledge that gets in my way of me telling my truth.

When the Prophet introduced the topic of women, he was opening his heart and soul to the world by exposing his projection of his spiritual attraction to himself. In this surah, he demonstrated how to break the projection the common man holds on women to perceive the truth of how men universally feel about themselves.

The wisdom the Prophet brought to the Abrahamic faiths came from the grounding in wisdom he received from the Archangel Gabriel who introduced him to the masculinity of GOD/*God* that's only accessible through a universal understanding of **GOD's WORDS**. If you don't figuratively listen to your better angels, you're not going to make sense of your life. And you're going to go through life as though in a fantasy rather than a dream.

With his insight, the Prophet was able to perceive the worst aspects of this world as a preview to "hell," the place Jesus spent three days in after HE died (according to Christian Scripture). The Quran is a warning about the "world to come" for those who profess to

⁸² "manna from 'heaven'": colloquially translates as {food from the gods}. "MANNA" literally translates from Hebrew as "serving." I'll say more about the manna GOD served the Israelites in the desert later.

respect women, but who treat them the way they really feel about themselves: utterly disgusted having to be themselves and afraid of degradation from everyone.

Think of “heaven” and “hell” as the first perceptions of an afterlife. You don’t have to take these concepts literally to take them personally. You don’t have to bang your head on CHRISTIAN or *Muslim* dogma. You could bow your head and pass under them without confrontation. Let people believe whatever they will. I believe what I subjectively know to be real. I, too, believe from the inside out. But at least my beliefs can be confirmed with outer reality. They don’t deny it.

This surah of the Quran is a view to the contributions of women at a time when *Muslim* men still lived in a spiritual fog. Today we all perceive ourselves as sitting on solid ground above the clouds looking out on the world with a magnificent view of reality from above it all. We look back on the past our forefathers went through with pride, and forward with anticipation of the “world to come.” But there are times for each of us when we suddenly perceive that nothing could be further from the truth – especially when we look at the past through the eyes of what women have seen or when we squint to get a glimpse of their future and the future of all children.

Men who come out of the three Abrahamic faiths have made their way to the top of this inner mountain from all three directions. They’re only now beginning to realize that their Abrahamic brothers are coming up from other sides. They see them as having had a view very different from their own. But as they all get closer to the summit, they struggle to assemble the big picture together in their mind.

Never before in the history of humanity have we been better poised to appreciate the horrors of our ancestors’ past and the spiritual reasons for the Lord’s designs to have history unfold as it has. Never before has the next generation been better situated for such potential for peace on Earth. But this will never be realized until women are allowed to do everything some straight men only allow some other straight men to do.

*“You people!
Have fear of your Lord who created you from a single soul.
From that soul He created its spouse,
and through them He bestrewed the earth with countless men and women.”
[4:1]*

*“You people!
Have fear of your Lord who created you from a single soul.
From that soul **HE** created its spouse,
and through them **HE** bestrewed the Earth with countless men and women.”*

Adam may have been created in GOD’s image in Torah, but only the Quran refers to Adam as a soul, not just a man. From one soul we can create billions, just as we can light endless candles from a single flame. GOD created Eve from one of Adam’s rib, inferring she was that part him under his chest known as his heart that he would reject and project out onto the world in infancy. For man to find self-love, he must first search out in the

world for that metaphoric bone GOD removed from him. Only after not finding it around him will he search for the evidence of that loss within. Through the loss and search for love, ironically, comes bittersweet joy filled with great wisdom.

For having denounced Eve before GOD, every Adam today must earn the right to return to his own heart with a personal truth about the way he feels about himself. To see humanity as souls growing in wisdom; souls filling themselves with love; and souls determining their own sense of devotion – each of us must honor and rejoice in the creation of women.

*“Fear God,
in whose name you plead with one another,
and honor the mothers who bore you.
God is ever watching you.”
[4:2]⁸³*

*“Fear GOD/GOD/God,
in whose name you plead with one another,
and honor the mothers who bore you.
GOD is ever watching you.”*

In olden days, men needed to fear GOD/GOD/God to honor women. But today we need to be in awe of **HIS** spiritual process to appreciate the creation of woman. You should begin that quest by being in awe of yourself. If you’re afraid to get to know you, awe will simply translate as surprise or astonishment. You won’t discover the meaning of the word “mystery” {my story}.

You should explore the majesty in the way you were made uniquely in **GOD**’s image. That would help you realize you’re an integral part of **HIS** designs. To do so, you ought to talk to yourself more about your relationship with you. In doing so, you might like to refer to yourself in the third-person as “he” or “she.” Jesus spoke about HIMSELF in the third-person. *God* does so, too, in the Quran. You should try it and see if it doesn’t distance you from you in a way that makes you more tolerant, accepting and admiring of the one you’re with.

When you discuss yourself with **GOD** in the third-person, you treat **GOD** as an advisor with whom the two of you can work together to decide how to handle “him” or “her” in wiser ways. You elevate your position before **HIM**. You demonstrate that **HE**’s no longer your **TEACHER**. **HE**’s become your **PROFESSOR**.

⁸³ All of us are the descendants of indigenist mothers. Those in the Far East are the descendants of mothers who didn’t learn about GOD/GOD/God, but they were given **HIS philosophies** to pursue morality and justice. Would you claim to love your mother more than the next man?

We talk about cars and boats as “she.” We talk about our earthly, manmade vehicles in the feminine to show our affection for them. But the first vehicle you were carried in was your mother. All vehicles, animal or machine-made, are mirrors of her. When you realize she isn’t a dog or a cow, you’ll also come to realize that you’re no longer a puppy or a calf.

Your body is the personal vehicle **GOD** gave you for the journey of life. You should therefore find the affection to speak about yourself as either “he” or “she” without any pejorative innuendo. Gay men often speak about themselves in the feminine form. It has nothing to do with whom we’re attracted to sexually, and it has everything to do with whom we’re attracted to spiritually.

When you were a child, the delights of sex were beyond your ability to conceive of or appreciate. You made your way through puberty like a bridge you crossed over a raging river that took you from the banks of childhood to the banks of adulthood. The Pharaoh’s charioteers followed the Israelites across a bridge that appeared out of nowhere at the bank of the Red Sea (according to Jewish Scripture). When the walls of water that revealed that bridge collapsed, the charioteers were drowned.

When puberty ended and you looked back on where you’d been, there was no sign of the path you took or a way back to where you came from. And I’m sure you, too, saw many who literally and figuratively died. But if you were molested as a child, you drowned. If your parents divorced, you drowned. If you had to live in a car or your parents evicted you because you were gay, you drowned. There are many drowned ancient Egyptians fighting to make their way to the surface of their own red {angry} sea {feelings}.

The staff Moses was instructed by **GOD** to dip into the Red Sea is a euphemism for the first wet dream a young man has. The Israelites were literally cornered by the Pharaoh’s soldiers coming after them from behind and the Red Sea looming as an impenetrable obstacle before them. The waters of every young adolescent figuratively rise up and separate, and he walks through an unexpected path as though it were given to him alone the first time he has orgasm. His staff is the tool **GOD** provides him with that causes the waters within to part in this magical way. His first orgasm takes him across his feelings to a new land that will lead him to greater promises to come.

A male’s first orgasm is a miraculous occurrence that no one can describe or refute. It’s the first proof that **GOD** has always been watching over him whether he was aware of it or not. It’s the first proof that there’s something happening below his belt that’s very different from all that’s happening above it.

A man can’t honor any woman, least of all his mother, if he doesn’t know how to honor himself. But loving yourself sounds easy until you try to honor the infant, child, adolescent, adult, stranger, neighbor, mother and father in you. Then you’re suddenly stopped in your tracks like a car moving through heavy mud or deep sand, unable to proceed. There are taboos everywhere; spiritual stop signs you must obey.

The vehicle you’ve been given was given only to you, but you haven’t yet fully earned the license to drive it. Every day that you’re alive, you’re earning that license with new experiences. You might think you could write the “D.M.V. Handbook of Life” because you know so much about getting around in this world. You might think your sexual experiences make you a master at love. But never forget that every youngster behind the wheel tends to glorify the man who taught him how to drive a car while forgetting the woman who taught him how to drive the vehicle **GOD/GOD/God** gave him.

The present-day diaspora of the Muslims to Europe is a spiritual opportunity for them to learn how to become thankful to Christians and Jews . It's a passage over water to their new land of promise. Over time, the children of these three religious enemies will become friends. In this way, each male JEW, CHRISTIAN and *Muslim* will learn to choose self-love rather than project their self-hate onto gays, lesbians, the transgendered and all the other bizarre, odd and queer people in between.

When you greet every stranger and new neighbor as a mirror of an aspect of yourself with a lesson from **GOD** to teach you more about the “him” in “you,” you remind yourself to live the metaphor of life as a school and **GOD** as your **TEACHER**. The metaphors, symbols and signs of **GOD**'s designs should be approached internally to make sense of what's happening to you externally. Otherwise you're only living in a world of theories, conjectures and dogmatic insistence in the way things have to turn out to remain in accordance with your desires. The mystery of your inner life will never end so long as you're alive. But mastery of life as a learning experience can make that mystery more and more fascinating and awesome over time.

I think the ultra-orthodox JEWS, rightwing CHRISTIANS and fanatical *Muslims* must be bored to death with themselves. They may not have enough to live for within because their life has become entirely externalized. They already have all the answers to the ways others should behave. They already have all the outcomes they want for you to procure. They each claim to know more than anyone else on Earth. And any time you try to teach them something new, they conclude that that bit of information is “below the belt.” They couldn't be more right about where it comes from, but they couldn't be more terrified of what “it” might lead to.

*“God desires to make this known to you
and to guide you along the paths
of those who have gone before you,
and to turn to you with mercy.
God is all knowing and wise.”
[4:26]*

“GOD desires to make this known to you
and to guide you along the paths
of those who have gone before you,
and to turn to you with mercy.
GOD is all knowing and wise.”

The paths of those who went before you were internal paths bestowed upon you for you to struggle with to make even more real. Those paths up the mountain were given to you so you'd move off the beaten track to see the panorama from another point of view.

You're following the paths of the past as well as observing yourself ascending a new way that will help you better relate to the cliffs and valleys that have challenged you personally. Your climb will bring even greater views to those who come after you.

Ancient warring *Muslims* knew how much their heads were influenced by the early warring JEWS and how much their hearts were influenced by the early warring CHRISTIANS. It's today's Muslims who need to come to believe that they need us, and we need them. We're not hearing enough about **GOD**'s designs from Muslims.

Don't take your head, heart and soul for granted. If your conscience uses your thoughts and feelings wisely, your conscience will grow to become all the more soulful. And then you'll be able to see the loyalty to life you hold so dear. You may even come to appreciate that **GOD** is all knowing and wise.

*"God wishes to forgive you,
but those who follow their own appetites
wish to see you stray grievously into error.
God wishes to lighten your burdens,
for man was created weak."
[4:27]*

"GOD wishes to forgive you,
but those who follow their own appetites
wish to see you stray grievously into error.
GOD wishes to lighten your burdens,
for man was created weak."

Mankind was spiritually created as weak as a baby. It took millennia for him to grow out of his spiritual infancy into childhood. His appetites came from his stomach, but he was also greatly influenced by the forbidden fruits of sex that tempted him. Today, some still behave in an infantile manner. Others are emotionally childish. Some are spiritually juvenile; and a few are young, but immature. And yet they all see what others possess that they're missing and become hungry for something crudely called "free" love. In truth, love is anything but free.

Today, we have the liberty to talk euphemistically about the appetites that originate between our legs as clues to how our designs intersect with **HIS**. You may have memories that are still teaching you how grievously you strayed into error as the result of appetites you once had no wish to curtail. **GOD** only wishes to lighten your burdens. But all human beings have a personal weak spot when it comes to matters of wants and desires.

Gays and Jews aren't going away. Neither are Republicans or Muslims. We should learn to live together in peace because we have no other choice. We're all too strong to allow another Holocaust to happen, but not strong enough to prevent a holocaust within. Are you willing to take chances with the planet and your standing in the "world to come"? Are you willing to disrupt class for everyone because you don't like the lesson you're going

through? Are you going to go crazy in your effort to let the criminally insane know you oppose them?

GOD doesn't wish to forgive you for your appetites. **HE** wishes to teach you to conquer them by using your appetites productively. You can't take another step closer to **HIS** throne until you appreciate that the closer you come to **HIM**, the more you become aware of the "junk" you bring with you.⁸⁴

GOD wishes to lighten your burdens, but the only way for that to happen is for you to study the Quran in an effort to make peace, not create stalemates. Only you can carry your physical burdens, and only you can physically lighten them with exercise. Only you can carry your emotional burdens, and only you can lighten them with self-love. Only you can carry your spiritual burdens, and only you can lighten them with self-enlightenment.

*"Do not kill yourselves.
God is merciful to you,
but he who does that through wickedness and injustice
shall be burned in fire.
That is easy enough for God."
[4:28]*

*"Do not kill yourselves.
GOD is merciful to you,
but he who does that through wickedness and injustice
shall be burned in fire.
That is easy enough for **GOD**."*

Life is a school; don't graduate until you've completed your studies and have achieved your Ph.D. degree in thee. Life is a tree of self-knowledge; don't cut yourself down, leaving only a stump behind with roots that have no way to offer anything. Life is a field of wheat and a vineyard of grapes; don't assume that the lowly have less to reap than you. The seeds you previously sowed will be yours to reap if you have faith in the process. Remain hopeful at all times. Life is a school in which learning from your mistakes is always possible.

You'll make yourself miserable if you disobey the 6th Commandment by figuratively killing yourself. Life is too short and laborious to make it miserable and painful. Unless you're going to be in terrible, physical pain until the very end, tomorrow might be a better day. **GOD** is merciful, but don't push it by graduating with anything less than a post-graduate degree. You have no idea what your grades may look like in the future, but you wouldn't want to leave here with a transcript that has classes that show on your transcript as "Incomplete."

⁸⁴ It's not that your "junk" is worthless. It's that your junk has a tendency to produce slime that will gum up your works.

*“Men shall be rewarded according to their deeds,
and women shall be rewarded according to their deeds.
Rather implore God to bestow on you His gifts.
Surely God has knowledge of all things.”*
[4:29-32]

“Men shall be rewarded according to their deeds,
and women shall be rewarded according to their deeds.
Rather implore **GOD** to bestow on you **HIS** gifts.
Surely **GOD** has knowledge of all things.”

People reward and punish one another in accordance with the ways in which they reward and punish themselves. But **GOD** rewards and punishes us in accordance with the ways in which we reward and punish ourselves. Because **HE** is so merciful and slow to anger, **HE** often allows us to continue for quite some time in one direction without motivating us to change our behavior toward ourselves. Self-autonomy doesn't last forever. Thank **GOD** that even Hitler eventually died.

If you think that not even **GOD** can teach you anything, you're wrong. Don't whip yourself or avoid whipping yourself in the hopes that **HE** won't whip you into shape. That's not a sound strategy. Reward yourself with encouragement, compliments and kudos. Punish yourself with apologies and vows not to repeat bad behaviors that are hurtful to others because they're also hurting you. Don't use self-castigation or self-sacrifice to better yourself. They'll only show others how little you care about you. And when you offend you; when you can practically smell how foul you smell inside – remember that every action causes some sort of reaction.

When you get angry, people tell you to breathe deeply. What they really mean is that you should imagine smelling yourself on the inside. Either that will assure you that you smell fresh and clean, or it'll tell you that some foul smell is wafting out from within.

Think of depression as the result of years of self-abuse you inflicted upon yourself unconsciously. Rather than try to stop your depression, try, instead, to raise your unconscious thoughts to consciousness. Not only will you probably see how much you morally deserved the harsh emotional punishment you inflicted upon you. You'll also see what you can do to raise yourself morally in your own eyes so you won't punish you any longer. Pills can help, but you've got to help the pills so that you aren't one more pill you have to swallow.

The history of the world is **HIS** and **HER** story. The mystery of the world is like my story. If you think you can elude the truth about the way you treat you, **GOD's** truth will reach beyond the words you now know and use. Therefore, implore **HIM** to teach you to become a beneficiary of self-knowledge slowly and thoroughly. Implore **HIM** to make you wise.

1. Self-discovery is the key to self-intimacy.
2. Self-intimacy is the key to self-devotion.
3. And all expressions of devotion to life are keys to your redemption.

You hold the locks and keys to all three. You have what it takes to open these doors. These three locks in you have three separate keys but unlocking them will give you the power to make yourself whole. A Christian would say, “1 + 1 + 1 = 1” But I say:

GOD's head + heart + soul = **1**

GOD's thoughts + feelings + beliefs = **ONE**

The whole produces an awareness of something that the sum of the parts can only imply. The whole produces the mystery of your desire to be good in a way that no one else can achieve. You have the power to make miracles if you come to know how you were made.

“Some Jews take words out of their context and say:

‘We hear, but disobey’...

but if they say,

‘We hear and obey’

it would be better and more proper for them.

They have no faith,

except a few of them.”

[4:46]

“Some Jews take words out of their context and say:

‘We hear, but disobey’

but if they say,

‘We hear and obey’

it would be better and more proper for them.

They have no faith,

except a few of them.”

Judging a good Jew from a bad Jew 1,400 years ago was a lot harder than it is today. Imagine how many people actually do have faith in **GOD's** designs today after Jews, Christians and Muslims did so much to spiritually polish us with greater awareness and depth, century after century, with what it means to be a truly universal believer in **HIS** mysterious ways.

Today, you can hardly tell a Jew from anyone else because everyone thinks he's smart to the point of wise. You can hardly tell a Christian from anyone else because everyone feels he's loving and worthy of being beloved. And you can hardly tell a Muslim from

anyone else because everyone believes he's devoted to **GOD** and **HIS** universal designs for man. How little they know about what little they know...

Who stands out like Moses, Jesus or the Prophet Muhammad nowadays? Who isn't a mix of the messages from all three? Even if you refuse to enter the houses of prayer of the other two Abrahamic faiths, you may already pray a lot like them even if you don't pray with them.

I'm sure there may be some Jews today who take words out of context and out rightly say, "We hear, but disobey." But, nowadays, there are many Christians who say, "We hear but disobey." But even more Muslims are saying, "We hear, but disobey." Disobedience has actually become the essence of the social reform movement worldwide. We don't need JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* who are arrogant, defiant and contrary to defy modernity. We need Jews, Christians and Muslims who can change the social and emotional tenor of the societies in which they live without upsetting the apple cart. We all need to learn from ourselves, listen to ourselves and obey ourselves.

Saying, "It would be better and more proper for them" is a tone of speech that comes across as threatening and provocative. It sounds more like a warning. And warnings may lead to threats of retaliation if you don't agree to do as others wish. Not everyone has to try to fit in, but everyone should learn how to fit in better with himself. If you can't hear and obey yourself internally, what hope do you have of being cooperative externally? This problem is universal, not Jewish.

If you think my words are false because I'm a Jew, because I'm gay or because I'm an American, you're judging the cactus by its leathery leaves and prickly thorns, not by the sweet, juicy meat inside it.⁸⁵ If you think I know too little about life because I was a ballet dancer, garbage collector, ground steward, waiter, ball boy, bank teller, goffer, English teacher and entrepreneur – you'll overlook the metaphor in favor of the literal. You'll destroy my symbols and pervert my signs. You'll blind yourself to the figurative ways in which **GOD** is teaching you. You'll walk in the darkness within, bumping into strangers inside you without understanding why you feel intimidated and frightened by silly little things that shouldn't rattle anyone. Every friend you lose in life will only remind you of a mysterious stranger whose friendship you haven't yet earned.

*"As for those who have faith and do good works,
We shall admit them to gardens watered by running streams,
where,
wedded to chaste spouses,
they shall abide forever.*

⁸⁵ Native born Israelis are called SABRAS {the name of the fruit of a cactus that's edible despite its leathery skin and sharp needles}. Everyone is like a Sabra; forbidden fruit that's painful to touch if you try to discover how sweet someone is inside without first getting permission to move through their sharp, leathery peel to the sweetmeat under the skin. In truth, they're no different than you. And your mother is no different from every other Jewish mother.

To a cool shade We shall admit them.”
[4:57]⁸⁶

“As for those who have faith and do good works,
WE shall admit them to ‘gardens’ watered by running streams,
where,
wedded to chaste spouses,
they shall abide forever.
To a cool shade **WE** shall admit them.”

The garden of Eden was a metaphor. If you take it literally, you’re missing the point Torah is making about the meaning of life. You’re the tree of knowledge that’s been forbidden to you, and you must earn your way to the center of your secret garden where **GOD** will allow you to pick the metaphoric fruits of your inner labors if you learn to ask you rather than just take, take, take. Your life is harder than it looks when you insist on being autonomous by forcing others to live by your rules. But it gets magically easier when you pursue freedom, liberty and emancipation in your struggle to be real. You don’t have to reserve some privileges only for your gender or only marry someone of the opposite gender. To live and let live you only have to guide yourself wisely.

The good works you do will make you an ambassador of peace. The spouse you attract will be a partner in that process, regardless of his or her gender. And the cool shade you’ll enjoy will be a welcomed contrast to the hot seat others find themselves in.

Israel is an emotional gift to the Christians. The original Christian Apostles were rabbis who taught their flocks to internalize the garden in their heart. The Christian message of **GOD**’s love makes your heart feel as though it’s a garden watered by a running stream. In this inner “paradise,” He admits **HIS** followers into communion with **HIM**. The Christian Israel in their heart is somewhat like our Jewish Israel in our head. But the State of Israel will never literally be Christians.

Together we’re teaching today’s, modern Muslims to see that their Israel is also somewhat like ours, but ours will never be theirs, either. Theirs is a spiritual gift from *God*. Just as **GOD** created many souls out of one soul, **HE** created many gardens out of one.

Your Rome and your Mecca are literally yours, although figuratively universal. Jerusalem is literally ours, even though Jerusalem is figuratively universal. We’re all the emotional and spiritual recipients of the Christian and Muslim inheritances, and everyone is the intellectual recipient of the Jews. Don’t steal fruit from anyone’s garden. Learn from others’ mistakes, or you’ll never become wiser. That would greatly diminish the quality of your life, as you see that it did to those in the past and is doing to many today.

To acknowledge this truth, **GOD** may have wed you to a chaste spouse. And that partner may be a perfect match for you, one made in “heaven.” Or **HE** may have wedded

⁸⁶ When you think about a reward or punishment that will last forever, try to allow your imagination to go past your trunk, bough and branch to the twig that supports your leaves and fruit.

you to one who's a perfectly horrible match for you, a match that has made you feel like you've been dragging yourself through "hell."

You can only live and love another person to the extent you're in love with you. You can't happily marry another person if you haven't first been unified and betrothed from within. Many couples suffer from fractured, inner forces that are externalized as a crusade or jihad with the one they're married to. If you become a justice of your own peace, justice you'll receive, and justice you'll serve.

*"God commands you to hand back your trusts
to their rightful owners,
and,
when you pass judgment among men,
to judge with fairness.
Noble is that to which God exhorts you.
Surely God hears all and observes all."
[4:58]*

"GOD commands you to hand back your trusts
to their rightful owners,
and,
when you pass judgment among men,
to judge with fairness.
Noble is that to which **GOD** exhorts you.
Surely **GOD** hears all and observes all."

Give your trust to yourself by unifying your trust in yourself. You can't receive all **GOD's** blessings upon you if you don't fully trust **HIM**. You don't have to believe like a **JEW**, **CHRISTIAN** or *Muslim*. You only need to detach from your beliefs enough to respect the way they believe. How will you come to trust anyone if you can't trust you?

When Adam and Eve gave birth to their firstborn, Cain, he represented the next generation of the mind, the son of Adam whose self-knowledge was greater than his parents'. And when they gave birth to Abel, he represented the next generation of emotions you've also experienced in yourself. But these two sons of the infantile head and heart you once modeled were in childish competition with one another. Their struggle to gift **GOD** represents the inexperienced ways in which your head and heart were in rivalry with one another to gift the gods in your life long ago {mommy and daddy}. Make peace with your head and heart today by acknowledging how you once were so much less aware.

The juvenile mind of every Noah ironically moved you, too, toward a more mature relationship with **GOD**. It taught you to bring on board all sorts of wild instincts and impulses that you had then that you had no idea how to bring ashore until the flood of adolescence had ended. After that, you constructed your early adult tower to power {Babel}. Then you saw that as you were building an ivory tower, you were losing your

ability to communicate meaningfully with some people around you. Growing into an Abrahamic man isn't ever easy.⁸⁷

In every old tree of knowledge you'll find evidence of its past rings when you look at the stump after the tree falls. Peer inside yourself to discover who you once were, and you'll discover who you're now becoming.

As you learn to trust yourself a bit more each day, you'll find better reasons when, and when not, to trust others. When you pass judgment among men, judge with fairness. Noble is that to which **GOD** exhorts you. Don't judge people by their gender, skin tone, religion or lifestyle. If you judge yourself fairly, you'll judge others fairly on the outside. And if you can judge their exterior fairly, you'll be poised to judge what you can see of their interior fairly, too.

Remember your mother and honor her. She may have been far more intuitively correct at those times when you thought she treated you unfairly than you may now be fair to yourself. Surely, **GOD** brought trees of life into your life for you to learn about life. A world without women would be far from ideal. If you feel like a piece of skewered meat, maybe you should have listened more to your mother about some things.

When I was young, I thought my mother was the best mother in the world. When I was a teenager I saw her as an O.K. sister. But when I became a more or less mature adult in my 40's and 50's, I saw her as a precious, spiritual wife. And now, in old age and with dementia, she's become like a daughter to me. Don't anticipate how things will turn out for you. You never know. Just learn to put your trust in **GOD's** designs without becoming a doormat to others.

If people step on you as though you were a doormat, assume it's because they want to make sure they don't traipse dirt into their house. Note their behavior as "too good," not "not good enough." The more you object to being a doormat, the more they're going to shuffle back and forth all over you. Find wiser ways of telling them about the bottom of their soles.

Women aren't cows only meant to carry golden calves to term. Women aren't barnyard animals to exploit for their yield or pets to keep around in your barn. They aren't responsible for giving men's values value. They have a value all their own. They're as great a mystery for us as we are for them.

Those days when men commanded, controlled and contained women are coming to an end. Today, some men are like trees of life who appreciate life, and some women are like trees of knowledge who augment our understanding of ourselves. The literal fruits of a woman's womb aren't her only fruits. She's fruitful in so many more ways than some men care to admit. Surely **GOD** hears all and observes all. If you'd like to hear more and observe more, there are many ways for you to become a little godlier. But you may want to choose to give up your religious dogma in favor of the spiritual facts of life.

⁸⁷ The four stories following the Creation story in Torah describe the psychological underpinnings of the infant, child, adolescent and young man before a male becomes a more or less mature man like Abraham.

*“Let those who would exchange the life of this world
for the hereafter
fight for the cause of God.
Whoever fights for the cause of God,
whether he dies or triumphs,
on him
We shall bestow a rich recompense.”
[4:73]*

“Let those who would exchange the life of this world
for the hereafter
fight for the cause of **GOD**.
Whoever fights for the cause of **GOD**,
whether he dies or triumphs,
on him
WE shall bestow a rich recompense.”

GOD is the eternal “**WE**” that we must learn to emulate. **HIS** desire to bring the spirit of unity into the world is clearly evident by the way **HE** speaks so often about **HIMSELF** in the first-person plural in the Quran. I know of only one place in Torah where **HE** does so. In the Creation story, after Adam and Eve defied **GOD** by eating from the fruit of knowledge of good and evil and got a sense of the meaning of morality with their first inkling into **GOD**’s design through the experience of guilt, **HE** said, “**THE MAN HAS NOW BECOME LIKE ONE OF US, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL.**” [Genesis 3:22]

There are many meanings for the word that signifies the first-person plural:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. WE | GOD/Y.H.V.H. |
| 2. WE | GOD, Jesus and the Holy Spirit} |
| 3. <i>We</i> | <i>God/Allah</i> |
| 4. We | Eastern philosophies |
| 5. <i>we</i> | sociologically: humanity |
| 6. We | Christians with GOD |
| 7. WE | GOD |

To fight for the cause of **GOD** requires you to struggle within for a sense of the “we” in “me,” not to fight with your neighbors. No one will be rewarded for fighting with his brothers and sisters. You’ll only be rewarded for struggling to understand the spiritual brother and sister {Adam and Eve} that reside within you.

The source of brotherhood and sisterhood is internal, not eternal. In Exodus, **GOD** told Moses that his brother Aaron “**WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU.**” [Exodus 4:14] In the Bible, Jesus taught the Jews how to reenter Israel by opening their hearts to **GOD**’s love. Today,

there are *Muslims* who still choose to fight over conquest of Israel when the wealth of their inner Israel is far greater and longer lasting than any literal piece of the material pie.

Devotion will express itself. If you can't access your devotion to you, you'll repress it, and it'll come out in projection as territoriality and patriotism. Your leaders know this, and they're manipulating your conscience in an effort to control your soul. Animals are territorial. The unawakened are blindly patriotic. When justice is threatened, look in your head, heart and soul for the best way to manage this challenge brought to you from **GOD**.

Life is a game of chess, but most people are playing checkers. And they're afraid to graduate to chess because they don't want to begin as a pawn in the game under the rule of a king. They're afraid of their own power because they can't control it.

The religious advisors in the game of chess around us are like bishops who move diagonally, never in a straight line. The knights are players who can take two bold steps forward and then have to take a step aside. The patriotic pawns are so wrapped up in protecting their king that they don't take advantage of their queens... And yet they all think they know what life is all about.

Jerusalem will be shared fairly within you, but Jerusalem will never again be divided. Jerusalem was the head of all faith in the Lord long before it became the heart and soul of the Abrahamic faiths. Jerusalem will always be a literal home for the Jews. Guests at our table are welcome if they learn to express their love and loyalty to us and our land. They don't have to join us in our faith. Those who seek to fight us will receive lessons from **GOD** that will further illuminate them to **HIS** auspicious designs. **GOD** will see to it that their evil desires become more and more painfully evident to all.

*“And how should you not fight for the cause of God
and for the helpless old men, women and children who say,
‘Deliver us Lord from this city of wrongdoers;
send forth to us a guardian from Your presence;
send to us from Your presence one who will help us.’”*
[4:74]⁸⁸

“And how should you not fight for the cause of **GOD**
and for the helpless old men, women and children who say,
‘Deliver us Lord from this city of wrongdoers;
send forth to us a guardian from **YO’UR** presence;
send to us from **YO’UR** presence one who will help us.’”

⁸⁸ Today, the *Muslims* are trying to make you believe the city of wrongdoers is Jerusalem while the **CHRISTIANS** are trying to make you believe the city of wrongdoers is San Francisco. The city of wrongdoers lies in your imagination not around you. You're responsible for all that you do.

The hyper-religious who choose to only obey their RABBI, PRIEST, PASTOR, MINISTER, *Imam* or *Cleric* may have chosen a religious leader who ought to do more to change himself from within before he tells others what to think and do. The great leader you're seeking must be sought from the inside in, not the outside out. Ultimately, only you (with **GOD's** help) can lead yourself on the adventure of self-discovery that will reveal your part in **HIS** designs.

Mecca was once considered a city of wrongdoers in the Quran, just as Sodom and Gomorrah were once looked upon as cities of wrongdoers in Torah. Life has always been a school, and there have always been classrooms figuratively set aside for "detention." Las Vegas is probably today's best-known classroom for detention. Everyone arrives in Las Vegas feeling cocky and lucky to be away from his daily schedule. Few, however, leave without feeling punished, but better for it...

Today's great guardians of morality have all served detention in their own way and intuitively know how cool it feels to be a little bad. You don't become holy without filling a few holes... Everyone has a figurative hole in his head or his belly that should be filled with a few, wasteful excesses. Don't profess to be holier than THOU/THOU/*Thou*. Everyone has one hole he doesn't want to talk too much about filling. It's humiliating to talk about that unless you've been schooled how.

*"When they are blessed with good fortune,
they say,
'This is from God.'
but when evil befalls them,
they say,
'It was your fault.'"*
[4:78]

"When they are blessed with good fortune,
they say,
'This is from **GOD**.'
but when evil befalls them,
they say,
'It was your fault.'"

It's so easy to blame others when you lose your head. It's so easy to browbeat those without religious dogmas to keep them feeling guilty when you've bankrupted your own heart. But when you, yourself, are "blessed" with misfortune – when things aren't going your way – it's time to question **GOD's** unique and mysterious designs made just for you.

GOD is always bringing you forward on the journey of life. But you may have a tendency, like the Israelites in the 39th year of their wandering in the desert, to fantasize about going kcab to the past. Your own version of bondage in your own ancient Egypt is

as subjectively real as was theirs.⁸⁹ You may be headed for the womb you came out of and not the room with a view.⁹⁰

Modernity is today's Israel made manifest anyway you choose. We're all in our 39th year of wandering. We're all closer and farther away from our destination than we may think. So, live and let live. To each his own! It takes all kinds. Nobody's perfect.

The word for "Egypt" in Hebrew is "MITZRAYIM." It corresponds to the WORD "MITZARIM," which means "narrow places." A newborn is the greatest expert in getting out of a narrow place. After commending ourselves for extricating ourselves from our mother's womb, we all repeat that lesson in myriad, external ways.⁹¹ The world begins literally and prosaically but it always seems to end far more figuratively and poetically than it began. It begins on Earth and ends at the edge of elsewhere, a room determined by religious experts who claim to have all the facts they need to know who's going to end up where. The first tight spot you got yourself out of was birth, and you succeeded admirably getting out of that squeeze. The last tight spot will be death, and that will surely be the narrowest passage of them all... Therefore, open yourself to new options now.

Ancient Egypt was the surrogate mother of Judaism. And, although my ancient ancestors escaped her clutches as described in The Book of Exodus, many of the Israelites spent those 40 years in the desert wishing to go back to the melons they received in celebration of the pharaoh's birthday each year. They were sick and tire of being sick and tired. They couldn't stop complaining about the hardship of their journey. Keeping your eye on the prize becomes hardest when you're closest to achieving it.

The body is weak; the journey seems endless; and the destination after life is hard to secure when **GOD** often seems to be leading you around in circles. {The Israelites could have walked from Cairo to Jerusalem in four weeks had they gone in a straight line. It didn't need to take 40 years.} Sometimes **GOD's** designs seems to take forever to unfold. We'd all love to cut corners from time to time. Only in retrospect can we see the wisdom in **GOD's** long-winding ways.

We all need to personalize the lessons of the early JEWS and CHRISTIANS rather than repeat them. **GOD** brought **HIS** third child into the world, Islam, to learn from the mistakes of his older brothers, not to replicate them. But those who play the role of the baby in the family may find it hard to grow up. They may refuse to listen to anyone. They may be spoiled. Autonomy is a curse **GOD** grants the arrogant or smug for a time, but not forever.

*"Say to them:
'All is from God.'"
[4:78]*

⁸⁹ The Book of Numbers, the fourth book of Torah, took place in the 39th year of wandering in the desert, the year before the Israelites reached Israel. In it is described a rebellion in which a large number of the Israelites gave up and wanted to return to Egypt.

⁹⁰ A Room with a View, 1908 novel by English writer E. M. Forster (gay)

⁹¹ Because I was caesarian born, I got off to a slow start when it came to getting myself out of the first tight spot I was in, and I've been slow to extricate myself from situations ever since...

“Say to them:
‘All is from **GOD**.’”

There’s no need for the war against the gays and Jews to continue. There’s no need for the squabble between *Sunnís* and *Shíites* to cause more bloodshed. The previous historical East-West schism that created the Eastern Orthodox Church {1054 C.E.} and the latter split that created Catholicism and Protestantism {1517 C.E.} are mirrors of the three classes of Jews: KOHANIM, LEVITES and ISRAELITES that **GOD** created in Torah, each for a different, holy purpose.⁹²

How will religious leaders continue to preach, “All is from **GOD/GOD/God**” when they’ve been proclaiming for millennia that there’s only one **GOD**? They’re going to look like hypocrites. Question the difference between what they think, feel, want and believe, and what they say.

Does it make a little more sense now that **GOD**, in **HIS** infinite wisdom, had to exclude the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community for a time? But the time has come for all of us to choose between hypocrisy and fairness. If some continue to keep those outside out, they’re going to pay through the nose for their defiance.

The schisms in your faith are divisions made by **GOD/GOD/God**. “One plus one plus one equals three” regardless of the Abrahamic faith you’re a part of. What seems like three gods in one in Christianity is no different than the schisms you see inside. Are you going to wander around in circles for 40 years like an ancient Israelite, or are you going to unite your four selves {head, heart, soul and wants}?⁹³

*“Whatever good becomes you,
it is from God.
And whatever ill befalls you from yourself.”
[4:79]*

“Whatever good becomes you,
it is from **GOD**.
And whatever ill befalls you from yourself.”

The secret to **GOD**’s designs begin within. If you don’t look for happiness from you in life, you’ll spread your misery around you in an effort to magnify what you’re doing wrong.

⁹² KOHANIM {priestly class}; LEVITES {workers in the Temple}; ISRAELITES: {Jewish masses}. I’m an Israelite. I think you should be able to perceive that from my attitude and outlook. I was born at the base of the pyramid. I’m blue collar, but I love sharpening my wits on those in the middle and at the summit.

⁹³ Man is like a square, not a pentagon. The fifth side of you is your ego. You should endeavor not to make it a part of you.

You'll amplify your inner schism in order for you to perceive it. Those with the poorest insight will externalize the problems of their inner world the most.

The pursuit of happiness shouldn't be synonymous with the pursuit of gratitude. Happiness comes from the comforts of material acquisitions. It's fine to thank others for the things you have and appreciate yourself for having gotten them legally and cooperatively. But the words "thankful" and "appreciative" are only going to give you the feeling of happiness. In order to achieve "gratitude," you're going to want to compound thankfulness and appreciation. You're going to want to multiply your blessings, not add them. You may be facing hatred inside and/or out, but the more grateful you become for what **GOD** has allowed you to pursue, the more joyous you'll become day-by-day.

The problems you're having in life are definitely caused by you, but they're amplified by others; making your problems even greater. They become struggles with **GOD** you're going to want to work through all the days of your life. The answers you're seeking, therefore, will come to you as you become more deserving of reaping the rewards of your own wisdom, love and devotion. The conclusions you draw will prove to you that you're a combination of wisdom and foolishness; self-love and self-hate; self-devotion and self-conspiracy. The more you serve the Lord by learning as much about yourself as you can, the harder it will get in the short run and the easier it will get over time.

GOD created the world, but if you think being creative is enough to become a better person, you should move on from creativity. You're going to want to become inventive. JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* are fond of using the new inventions produced by the Jews, Christians and Muslims. The JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* are clever in the ways they abuse what they scornfully take from those around them. And they might even thank GOD/GOD/*God* for their thefts! They look at inventions as gifts they deserve and were given just to them. They're like children surrounded by ripe fruit they pick without a second thought. They greedily stuff themselves with ill-gotten gains. But gratitude isn't what they feel. What they feel is probably more like superstition, scorn and cynicism that, over time, turns to paranoia (as well it should!).

There's a saying in Yiddish that's perfect for this discussion. "Affen ganif brendt de hettle." {A thief's hat is on fire.} But the thief can't see that his hat is on fire (obviously) because the fire is burning above his eyes. He can only sense it. But as the fire grows bigger, he begins to feel it. What starts out as slightly odd, external behavior on the part of a thief eventually becomes erratic, wild actions that make no sense to the objective viewer until you discover the cause for the way he's behaving. But his hat never comes off until he repents. Only then can he put out the fire he started. The 8th Commandment {THOU SHALL NOT STEAL} brings with it a proverbial fire. But so do all the other Commandments. Who hasn't burned himself in this way?

The wise, loving and devoted draw the conclusion that there must be many a thief at the top of the political pyramid. We presume that their odd actions are the result of ways in which they've stolen from the taxpayer. But we can't see the evidence for their guilt and the subsequent fear of getting caught until the fire spreads and becomes obvious to one and all. The press is responsible for calling in the fire. The Congress is responsible for arguing over whether or not there is a fire. And the judicial system is responsible for putting it out.

But the politicians who's hats are on fire will assure you that their erratic actions are the result of something else entirely.

As the inner world of the thief gets hotter, it's up to the awakened individual to learn more about himself by reporting his findings so that those at the bottom of the pyramid can alert those at the top when the system is in jeopardy of overheating. In this way, psychology and sociology overlap.

It's amazing how easy it is for the masses to see those who are thieves at the summit, but how hard it is for the thieves at the summit to see themselves. They think no one can see their burning hats if they distract us by making us look at their enemies instead. They think they're playing peek-a-boo with babies.

Don't expect to get all "A's" in this school. On every elementary or secondary test, you'll be graded in many inexplicable ways. Learn to read the **TEACHER's** comments in the margins by the way things are turning out for you. Don't just look at outcomes in your life and then throw away your faith with disbelief. Don't conclude there's no method to the **TEACHER's** madness. There are many ways in which you may be less knowledgeable in the ways of the Lord than you might think, especially if you're a devout believer! When you graduate to the university of life setting, you'll become more aware of your spiritual education in new and inventive ways that will further illuminate you to your personal mission in being here.

The Old Testament is filled with the **PROFESSOR's** class notes from beginning to end. The New Testament is the homework **HE's** assigned (that you really ought to do on a daily basis). That will show up on the tests. And the Quran is the laboratory where you're doing the experiments that will prepare you for your final exam.

We see so many students of life who are doing very poorly with the curriculum the **PROFESSOR** gives them in this university setting because they don't know how to move past their institution of faith to a greater faith. You'd think a true believer would be *more* interested in religion, not *less*.

Most of the problems in this world are created by the extremely religious. They don't take their idea of GOD/GOD/*God* far enough. And then they get stuck along the way because of the evil they refuse to undo.

Moses made his way from ancient Egypt to Israel. Jesus made HIS way from Israel to "heaven." And the Prophet made his way from Mecca through Israel to "heaven" and back. But none of the extremist believers want to go on the whole journey from start to finish. It's not that their head, heart and soul aren't willing to do so. The problem lies you-know-where...

*"He who obeys the Apostle obeys God.
And for those who pay no heed,
know then that
We have not sent you to be their keeper."
[4:80]*

“He who obeys the apostle obeys *God*.
And for those who pay no heed,
know then that
WE have not sent you to be their keeper.”

There were many apostles before the Prophet Muhammad. GOD gave the world Jewish men to build the first step to HIS kingdom. They were prophets, beginning with the greatest prophet of them all: Moses. The second step was built by Jesus with the help of HIS Apostles. The Prophet Muhammad is the apostle who came after the Apostles. He brought insight after hindsight and foresight.

People may have a lot to say about Islam from military and political perspectives, but how many of them have read the Quran? If you know the lay of the figurative land inside you and have dived down to the bottom of the sea, that still doesn't mean you've earned your wings and are ready to fly. We need many more apostles who can do all three.

GOD hasn't sent anyone to be your keeper. Was Cain Abel's keeper? {He was his murderer.} Are you your brother's keeper? You have enough to do trying to keep your own body and soul together. Keeping others is a luxury few of us can afford. You keep a pet. You feed it and play with it. But you don't keep a grown, human being. People aren't dogs or cats here for your amusement. Your spouse isn't your pet. Your parents and your children aren't domesticated animals. If you want a pet, pet yourself. Discover how it feels to be the keeper of the one you're always with.

Brotherhood begins within. Your head should maintain control over your heart as an older brother would keep an eye on a younger brother. If not, your heart {Eve} will conspire with your penis {serpent} to fulfill your wants in devilish ways. Once you can keep yourself as a brother helps his parents keep his siblings in line, you can begin to talk about your need to express brotherhood with others. If brotherhood doesn't begin within, it leads people to treat others like unwanted possessions. It turns the world into a world of kings with serfs; a chess game of kings with pawns; or, at best, as a metaphor of owners with pets.

From our head we conclude we are our brothers' keeper. If we don't help our brothers with their secular education, a democratic society will suffer. From our heart, we also conclude we are our brothers' keeper. If we don't help him with socialization skills, couples will suffer, and then children will suffer. But from our soul, there's absolutely nothing we can do for anyone. We must keep ourselves because, in the end, we, alone, will be responsible for the outcome of our soul. We can't blame anyone other than ourselves for the company we keep within.

GOD gave the Jewish people the Creation story before the story of Cain and Abel so we'd learn to decode the first story before we'd come to understand the second. When your head {Cain} and heart {Abel} are in competition for **GOD's** admiration, one of them is going to win, and it will always be your thought patterns to the detriment of your feelings. Only when you observe yourself misbehaving will you be able to say you've begun to understand how Torah is constructed like an edifice with one story built upon the next.

*“Will they not ponder on the Quran?
If it had not come from God,
they could have surely found in it many contradictions.”*
[4:82]

“Will they not ponder on the Quran?
If it had not come from **GOD**,
they could have surely found in it many contradictions.”

There are no contradictions in the Quran. It came from **GOD**. There are also no contradictions in the Gospels or Tanach. There's only the simplicity of good thoughts, kind feelings and virtuous beliefs that get combined with the best of intentions and wants – or not.

There are no evil people left in this world. Evil was eradicated by our ancestors. There are only morally sick people these days. We live in a world that's mentally, emotionally and spiritually ill. And that, of course, includes, at the very least, one of us.

The mental, emotional and spiritual stressors on your life have caused deep psychological wounds to your head, heart and soul. Many of these wounds have healed, but they've left you with scars you may not even realize are there. When they talk about someone being “thick headed” they're really saying that the person has so many scars in his mind that he's become stubborn and unreachable through rational means.

But when we look at our love life, we can see that we've been attracted to people with emotional scars in their heart, as well. We should be able to see that we've even been wounded in ways that have caused scars in our soul. Sick men in the past fractured their perception of **GOD** in their head, heart and soul and turned one **GOD** into three.

You can heal yourself in all three ways {mentally, emotionally and spiritually} if you look at the good examples set by Jerusalem, Rome and Mecca. The contradictions you see in Scripture will be easy to take personally when your head, heart and conscience cooperate to make you a more soulful person.⁹⁴ To ponder Tanach and the Bible with greater insight, a man must ponder the Quran's message for today's world, as well. But to ponder only the Quran is like building a skyscraper starting with the penthouse and then working your way down to the foundation.

*“God:
there is no god but Him.
He will surely gather you all together
on the Day of Resurrection:*

⁹⁴ A conscience is what you wish others would have. A conscience is also what you should wish you would develop more of. If you want to become soulful you're going to want to embrace secularism and religiosity, gays and straights, males and females, blacks and whites, Jews, Gentiles, Muslims and Israel.

*That day is not to be doubted.
And who has a truer word than God?"*
[4:86]⁹⁵

"GOD:
there is no GOD/GOD/*God* but **HIM**.
HE will surely gather you all together
on the Day of Resurrection:
That day is not to be doubted.
And who has a truer word than **GOD?"**

You can prepare for the "day of resurrection" {tomorrow} by living your life more deeply in the now. The more you gather yourself together today, the more meaningful tomorrow will become when it arrives. Your "to do" list today has been greatly decreased thanks to our ancestors: the ancient Jews, Christians and Muslims whose paths got you as high as you are on the mountain now. Strike off all those decrees from Torah, the Bible and the Quran that no longer apply to the subjective day in which we live. Focus on what we now need to do to realize the rest of Scripture together.

Of course, the problem with working together boils down to the problems caused in working with gay-Jews. If you can't open your head, heart and soul to us, you're not going to get much further in reading this book or in understanding yourself. You can't claim that your head, heart and soul are unified in their desires unless you've made your conscience *your* guide, and not mine.

Maybe Jesus is both your problem and your Savior. Maybe the thought of HIM possibly having been a gay-Jew is more than your conscience can bear. If it took Christians 2,000 years to accept Jews even though Jesus was Jewish, how much longer will we have to wait for them to accept HIM if HE had also been gay?

The Divine Miss M wrote that the doors built inside the pyramids were built so very low because the lintels could only be constructed as high as the Jews were tall.⁹⁶ (It's common knowledge that the Israelites were the slaves who built the pyramid.) Today, you should build your trophy to yourself, using the skills and tools you have in the age in which we now live. You can't build a doorway into you that's any higher than when you're standing tall. You'll bang your head on the lintel of your own entryway if you don't build it at least a little higher than your head. If not, you'll have to bow every time you pass through your own doorway. Sooner or later, as I know all too well, you'll surely get bruised.

⁹⁵ Resurrection began as the idea that Jesus was the SON of GOD who died for our sins. Resurrection became the idea that you're going to die for your own sins whether, or not, you believe in the doctrine of Christianity. Don't let anyone convince you, you have to believe in the person setting a good example in order to recreate that example. GOD {Jesus} set HIS own example. Set your own, too.

⁹⁶ View From a Broad, 1980, Bette Midler (Jewess): Semi-autobiographical, campy, funny, book about the wit, wisdom, life and career of this great, multi-talented performer.

Likewise, if you have to stand up, kneel down and prostrate yourself before GOD/GOD/*God* every time you think about HIM/HIM/*Him*, you're going to get exhausted, maybe even a bit bored. It's only when **GOD** is with you every moment of every day that you don't ritualize Your relationship.⁹⁷ Once you've unified your head, heart and soul, **GOD**-consciousness becomes a lot more interesting.

You're no longer limited by the WORD/WORD/*Word* of GOD/GOD/*God* that your parents adhered to. But you are limited by the inventiveness of your imagination. If it can't yet ponder the potential of the WORDS of **GOD**, you may be standing in your own light, creating your own shadows. You may be creating your own limitations through superstitions, paranoias and fears that have rational, moral causes. The more you blame others for the way your life is turning out, the more you may see your pyramid raided by thugs, opportunists and thieves. The more you may feel like your body is more like a mausoleum than a trophy you've been awarded.

I had to graduate with a degree in "doormat" in "the school of hard knocks" before I was ready to speak from my heart. Until everything I went through in life became meaningful and humbling, I let people step all over me. It's hard to teach a doormat to speak up quietly and politely. Nobody likes a loudmouth doormat. Once they get used to brushing their shoes on you, they don't like it if you suddenly object to it.

Spelling in the English language is a devotion to the history of the spoken word. The word "knife," for instance, was pronounced "ck-ni-fe" in 13th Century England. There's no reason in the world why we spell English using these antiquated symbols anymore. Not even linguistic scholars have any desire to remind us of how much we've changed our pronunciation of English over hundreds of years.

Devotion to Scripture is similar. People insist on taking some parts of Scripture literally and others figuratively. And, although there are historical references for why they pick and choose what they do, they don't seem to care. Their penis problem or clitoris conflict determines their devotion for them. They become loudmouth doormats that the faithful unite within their ranks.

Rather than try to repeat what our forefathers already accomplished, we should move forward to do that which has never been done before. Although I'm not suggesting we should spell "knife" "nyf," there are simplifications of orthography like "the WORDS of **GOD**" that we should entertain.

Seek **GOD's** wisdom through every word you utter. Build your inner sanctuary with **HIS** love. And enter it with devotion to the cause of self-enlightenment. Enlighten up! It all begins as an inside job. It's the words you utter to yourself that will prove that your inner world and the world around you are mirrors of **ONE** and the same.

⁹⁷ The word "Your" refers to **GOD** and you, not necessarily Jesus and you, although for some, it might. When you look at GOD as **GOD** in the flesh, these sorts of linguistic curiosities will arise.

*“When your prayers are ended,
remember God standing sitting and lying down.
Attend regularly to your prayers
so long as you are safe:
for prayer is a duty incumbent on the faithful
to be conducted at appointed hours.”*
[4:103]

“When your prayers are ended,
remember **GOD** standing, sitting and lying down.
Attend regularly to your prayers so long as you are safe:
for prayer is a duty incumbent on the faithful
to be conducted at appointed hours.”

The Jews pray on Saturdays standing before GOD. The Christians pray on Sundays standing and kneeling before **GOD**. And the Muslims pray on Fridays standing, kneeling and prostrate before *God*. There's greater truth in these times and positions than can be stated in any book. You should experience praying in all these ways and times to sense the differences that come up for you. You may think your imagination can do all that for you, but your imagination won't bring up religious prohibitions you're not yet aware of.

Life isn't a test-tube experience. Sometimes you'll want to experience experiences with your whole body to create new sensations. Life doesn't occur only in your mind. You should take some risks in satisfying your desires to discover what it means to be an integral part of **GOD's** designs.

The soles of your feet must bear the weight of your body when you pray standing. Your bottom must bear the weight of your upper body when you pray in a seated position. You have to support most of your weight upon your bony knees when you kneel. And your toes must be bent or pointed to feel the stretch that prayer brings to your feet when you're prostrate on the ground.

It's easy to imagine praying in all of these positions, but it's far more creative and inventive to literally do so. If you don't have the body knowledge of these three forms of prayer, perhaps you're more out of touch with the body **GOD** gave you when you're praying than you think.

The Jews and Christians ought to experience prostrating before **GOD** to learn how that feels. The Muslims already have that body experience in their soul. Now, all they ought to do is go to synagogue and church to discover the rest.

*“We have revealed to you the book with the truth
so that you may arbitrate among men
by that which God has shown you.”*

“We have revealed to you the book with the truth
so that you may arbitrate among men
by that which **GOD** has shown you.”

Torah is the book with the truth. The Gospels is the book with the truth. The Quran is the book with the truth. But to know the whole truth, you should overcome your ignorance of yourself. Those who are hyper-religious even separate themselves from many in their own faith whom they disapprove of. Only those of us who are curious about the strangers' ways work together to make this world a better place for us all.

I'm a rabbi, but only because I ordained myself as such. I'm a married man, but only because I married myself. If you insist you need generals, politicians, rabbis or married men in the traditional sense of the word to solve your problems for you, I'd say you've got a penis problem. Humanity is very sick, and we've got many religious specialists who don't have a clue what they're doing, yet they claim to be healers. What we have too few of are spiritual, general practitioners. Maybe you're on your way to becoming a doctor in your own right. Maybe you're already enrolled in spiritual, medical school and just don't know it.

*“God has revealed to you the book of His wisdom,
and taught you what you did not know before.
God's goodness to you has been great indeed.”*
[4:113]

“**GOD** has revealed to you the book of **HIS** wisdom,
and taught you what you did not know before.
GOD's goodness to you has been great indeed.” ⁹⁹

Wisdom is harder to achieve than knowledge, even though they both are attributed to the same source: your head. Those well-schooled from universities and other institutions of learning may not know any more about life than you do. The plaque on their wall may make promises they can't figuratively keep.

The depth of self-knowledge **GOD** has provided you with until now might be more than enough of a foundation to take the next step in furthering your quest for wisdom. **HIS**

⁹⁸ “We” in this sentence refers to the Prophet and the Archangel Gabriel. It's only capitalized because it's the first word in the sentence.

⁹⁹ The first book with **GOD's** wisdom is Torah. It isn't just a foreshadowing of the coming of Jesus. The second book of **HIS** wisdom (of the heart) is the New Testament. It isn't a lie construed by ancient Jews to piss off other Jews. And the third book of **HIS** wisdom (of the soul) is the Quran. It isn't an eraser that rubs away the wisdom of the other two books.

worlds, the one within you and the one without, will teach you how to achieve wisdom; and through wisdom, love; and through love, devotion. Thanks to all your experiences thus far, you may actually already know more than you think.

If we look at life like a map, and **GOD** like the frame around it, many who go beyond the edges of their own plotting and planning will discover that their frame is really too small for their own big picture. Building a bigger frame is easy. Organized religion is filled with experts at doing that. They've had to do that for millennia. There's no reason why you couldn't contribute to their efforts. You could expand your own idea of "g.o.d." if you gave more attention to what's happening within you through everything happening around you day after day.

Would you ignore the bus driver who takes a turn, off his designated route? Would you allow a pilot to crash the plane you're on if you could reach the cockpit? Many feel helpless in the vehicle they're in and dependent on others to get them where they're going. With better understanding of how to conduct yourself, you'll discover you're not a helpless infant anymore. You're a helpful child of **GOD**, whether people have the spiritual awareness to acknowledge that about you, or not.

GOD's story {history} is like a city {Torah} surrounded by suburbs {Gospels} encircled by countryside {Quran}. If you want to make your way through civilization, you're going to want to know where you are and where you're going. You're going to want to learn to appreciate all three civil surroundings for the convenience, comfort and beauty of **HIS** increasingly more detailed designs for everyman.

As the wildwood gets filled with villages and the fields of grain and grape are plowed in ever-closer rows; the cities of Jerusalem, Rome and Mecca will take on select, spiritual significances they didn't consciously hold for you before. And as they do, you're going to see yourself become a citizen of the world.

*"And who has a nobler religion
than he who submits to God,
does what is right,
and follows the faith of saintly Abraham,
whom God chose to be His friend?"*
[4:125]

*"And who has a nobler religion
than he who submits to **GOD**,
does what is right,
and follows the faith of saintly Abraham,
whom **GOD** chose to be **HIS** friend?"*

Abraham is the father of all three of the Abrahamic faiths. He isn't just a friend to the JEWS because he didn't sacrifice Isaac to GOD. He isn't just a saint to the Catholics because he killed a lamb to redeem Isaac in spiritual anticipation of the coming of Jesus, the

symbolic LAMB of GOD. He isn't just holy to the Muslims because *God* blessed Ishmael, Abraham's firstborn, who is their spiritual ancestor.

He's your spiritual father, and he's mine. He's the model of maturity from which we can all strive to do better, as would any good son for his father.

But there isn't one faith with a monopoly on all that Abraham did. Just as he had two sons from two women, he had two names, one given by his earthly "father" {ABRAM – "exalted father"} and the other given by his "heavenly" **FATHER** {ABRAHAM: father of multitudes}. Every modern man has the potential of becoming an Abraham unto himself. But to do so he must understand the four previous stories of Genesis with psychological interpretation from within:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Adam and Eve | The infantile level of self-awareness with GOD consciousness |
| 2. Cain and Abel | The childish level of self-awareness with GOD-consciousness |
| 3. Noah and the ark | The juvenile level of self-awareness with GOD-consciousness |
| 4. The tower of Babel | The young adult level of self-awareness with GOD-consciousness |
| 5. The story of Abraham | The mature stage of self-awareness with GOD-consciousness |
| 6. The story of Abraham | The emotional stage of awareness with GOD -consciousness |
| 7. The story of Abraham | The spiritual stage of awareness with <i>God</i> -consciousness |

*"The hypocrites shall be cast into the lowest depths of the fire:
there shall be none to help them.*

*But those who repent and mend their ways,
who hold fast to God and are sincere in their devotion to God -
they shall be numbered with the faithful,
and the faithful shall be richly rewarded by God."*

[4:146]

"The hypocrites shall be cast into the lowest depths of the fire:
there shall be none to help them.
But those who repent and mend their ways,
who hold fast to GOD/GOD and are sincere in their devotion to *God* -

they shall be numbered with the faithful,
and the faithful shall be richly rewarded by **GOD**.”

Those who believed in GOD/GOD/*God* shall be numbered with the faithful and shall be richly rewarded by **GOD**. But make no mistake. The faithful and those numbered with the faithful are not one and the same. Wouldn't you rather be faithful than just numbered with them?

The lowest depths of the fire in the scientific sense is the hottest, the blue-white range when looking at a normal flame that burns on oxygen. The red is the coolest part of the flame. The temperature increases as you move to the lowest depth of the fire, from red at the tip to orange, yellow and bluish white at the center.

These colors and temperatures correspond to the spiritual purification process the Prophet was describing about “hell.” He stated that the hypocrites would be cast into that part of “hell” that has the hottest {blue-white} flame.

He didn't like hypocrites then, and we still don't like hypocrites now. But the worst of the hypocrites are those who realize they're hypocrites and still refuse to repent. They're beyond denial of what they're doing to themselves. They're willfully defiant. The material world is more important to them than their spiritual, inner world. It's only fair that they be flung into the hottest part of the flame, especially since the rest of us are sweatin' bullets to improve ourselves.

Although the colors of the rainbow are visual descriptions of hope and promise to those who are righteous, these colors also figuratively spell potential pain and suffering for us when we behave hypocritically. The colors of the rainbow were first given to us through the story of Noah in Torah. GOD gave Noah a rainbow as a promise that HE'd never to flood the world again. The rainbow is also a sign of the coming of Jesus to Christians who perceive HIM as the rainbow of promises in the flesh fulfilled. And the threats from the Prophet about the colors of the flames of “hell” are vows from *God* you should take seriously, as well. Hope springs eternal for those of us who wish to learn about ourselves. Despair falls forever like a black curtain upon those who don't.

Rainbows appear in seven colors because water droplets break white sunlight into the seven colors of the spectrum {red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet}. You can only see a rainbow if the sun is behind the rain you're observing. And you can only perceive hope in every rainbow from a personal perspective if you note that the coolest color, red, is facing up to “heaven” and the hottest color, violet, is facing down to earth. In this, too, there are indications of the way you are.

The three primary, spiritual colors and their emotional equivalences are:

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 1. Red | Anger |
| 2. Yellow | Fear |
| 3. Blue | Sorrow |

The seven emotional colors of the spiritual rainbow are:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| 1. Red | Anger | Primary Color/Emotion |
| 2. Orange | Anxiety | |

3. Yellow	Fear	Primary Color/Emotion
4. Green	Covetousness {Jealousy/Envy}	
5. Blue	Sorrow	Primary Color/Emotion
6. Indigo	Awe	
7. Violet	Joy	

The three primary, spiritual shades are:

1. White	Innocence
2. Black	Guilt
3. Grey	Confusion/Doubt/Uncertainty

“But those who repent and mend their ways, who hold fast to **GOD** and are sincere in their devotion to **HIM** – they shall be numbered with the faithful.” The world has had millennia to separate the hypocrites from the truthful, and still we find this world full of terrible deceit down to the level of denial of our own vices.

To understand what the Quran can do for us, we must be willing to explore the flame within that ignites our soul with righteous intention. We must be willing to look at our mind as wood and our heart as the spark that will ignite our soul {tinder} with faith in ourselves. And we must keep that flame burning by feeding it with ever-more righteous deeds.

*“And why should God punish you
if you render thanks to Him
and truly believe in Him?
God shall surely recompense your works,
for He knows them all.”
[4:147]*

“And why should **GOD** punish you
if you render thanks to **HIM**
and truly believe in **HIM**?
GOD shall surely recompense your works,
for **HE** knows them all.”¹⁰⁰

¹⁰⁰ You can give thanks from your head. You can give thanks from your heart. You can even give thanks from your soul. But to give thanks requires a desire to do much more. If you don’t yet have the passion to give that much more of yourself, don’t expect too much in the “world to come.” It may be harder to get a good spot “there” than we think. It may require a head, heart and soul that are united to form an impeccably good conscience.

GOD's intention is never to punish, but to teach. People should interpret **HIS** sticks as tough love and **HIS** carrots as tender love. But they're both motivational tools **HE** created that are at **HIS** disposal to guide us forward physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. To doubt **HIS** intentions as our **TEACHER** is to doubt ourselves as an Abrahamic student of life. To doubt **HIS** intentions using the role of **DOCTOR** is to refuse to believe that you're your own patient who should help yourself heal.

Would you be so foolish as to conclude that a tree of knowledge is greater than a tree of life? Are you so prejudiced that you'd cut out a whole worm from an apple, but not cut off the whole head of a snake, not just its hood?... The more you learn about self-knowledge, the more you'll appreciate every tree of life and **GOD's** beneficent designs for you as a life-giving member of the human race.

*“The people of the book ask you to bring down for them
a book from heaven.
Of Moses, they demanded a harder thing than that.
They said to him,
‘Show us God distinctly.’
And for their wickedness, the thunderbolt smote them.
They worshipped the calf after clear signs had been revealed to them;
yet We forgive them that,
and bestow on Moses clear authority.”
[4:153]*

“The people of the book ask **YOU** to bring down for them
a book from ‘heaven.’
Of Moses, they demanded a harder thing than that.
They said to him,
‘show us **GOD** distinctly.’
And for their wickedness, the thunderbolt smote them.
They worshipped the Calf after clear signs had been revealed to them;
Yet we forgive them that,
and bestow on Moses clear authority.”

An “authoritarian” is someone who wants to grow up to be like his father. An “anti-authoritarian” is someone who wants to grow up to be like his son. Moses was authoritarian in nature. He may have been too young to remember his father, having been separated from his parents shortly after birth. But he was definitely a man with a patriarchal streak in him. Generally speaking, Jewish and Muslim straight men are raised to be authoritarian, while Christian straight men are brought up to be anti-authoritarian. Jews and Muslims strive to be like their father. Christians strive to be like their sons, because **GOD** was **GOD's SON**.

When the Archangel Gabriel recited the Quran to the Prophet, the indigenist Arabs were ignorant of GOD's previous lessons to the Jews. A lot had flowed under the bridge by that point. The Israelites had long since left their ancient Egyptian masters and danced around the Golden Calf while Moses was up on Mt. Sinai. The Jews had been studying with our TEACHER 2,000 years before the Prophet recited his message of self-purification. By the time the indigenist Arabs on the Arabian Peninsula had converted to Islam, the Jews had already survived the civilizations of ancient Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Greece and Rome. The Jews weren't exactly kindergarteners in the school of life when the Quran was presented to the world. **GOD** had forgiven us for many mistakes we'd made until then, and bestowed a great deal of moral authority on us by the 8th Century C.E.

We Jews are only 1/10th of 1% of the world's population with about 18 million followers worldwide. The Muslims and Christians will be about equal in number by the year 2050 at about three billion each. The unaffiliated are anticipated to decline in population {1.35B}, while the **Hindus** and **Buddhists** numbers will increase or stay the same in the next 35 years {**Hindus** 1.4B, **Buddhists** 0.5B}.

I believe peace will come, but we're going to need to learn the principles behind **GOD's** universal designs before peace arrives universally. Each of the faiths and **philosophies** will need to modify its dogmas with modern beliefs to accommodate the new age.

We're all going to need to learn to become authoritarian and anti-authoritarian from the inside out, whether we like it or not. We're all going to need to recognize the inner father and son we become to ourselves over time. If everyone could claim to have a Jewish head; a Christian heart; a Muslim soul; a **Hindu** bellybutton; a **Buddhist** inner eye; and **Taoist** nose, it would be possible to perceive even more of **GOD's** intention – and our grandchildren's children will be able to claim to be citizens of the world.

*“When We made a covenant with them,
We raised the mount above them and said,
‘Enter the gates in adoration.
Do not break the Sabbath.’
We took from them a solemn covenant.
But they broke their covenant,
denied the revelations of God,
and killed the prophets unjustly.
They said, ‘Our hearts are sealed.’”
[4:154-5]*

“WHEN WE MADE A COVENANT WITH THEM,
WE RAISED THE MOUNT ABOVE THEM AND SAID,
‘ENTER THE GATES IN ADORATION.
DO NOT BREAK THE SABBATH.’
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But they broke their covenant,
denied the revelations of GOD,
and killed the prophets unjustly.
They said, ‘Our hearts are sealed.’”

The mistakes of the ancient Jews became the evidence for Muslims in the need for *God* to have created Islam. Sadly, contemporary *Muslims* have broken their covenant with *God* as well. To err is human; to forgive – divine. Since humanity isn’t going to be allowed to start over, it makes more sense for us to work together on mending and blending our covenants. Wouldn’t that give **GOD** more pleasure than watching us continue to argue over which covenant is right to the exclusion of the other two?

*“They denied the truth
and uttered a monstrous falsehood against Mary.
They declared,
‘We have put to death the Messiah,
Jesus, son of Mary,
the apostle of God.’
They did not kill him,
nor did they crucify him,
but they thought they did.”*
[4:157]

“They denied the truth
and uttered a monstrous falsehood against Mary.
They declared,
‘We have put to death the Messiah,
Jesus, son of Mary,
the Apostle of GOD.’
They did not kill HIM,
nor did they crucify HIM,
but they thought they did.”¹⁰¹

CHRISTIAN blame of Jews for killing Jesus has gotten tiresome after 2,000 years (to say the least)! But *Muslims* didn’t put pressure on the ancient CHRISTIANS to treat Jews any better. The Christians have never gotten along as well with us as they do now, and *Muslims* have never been so dependent on Christians as they now are. Time has healed the

¹⁰¹ The Prophet is contradicting early CHRISTIAN teaching that the Jews were responsible for the death of Jesus. He’s saying that the Jews only uttered a falsehood in denying Jesus’s and Mary’s place in the big picture.

wounds of Christian love for the Jews with greater wisdom of everyone's heart. And time will heal the wounds of the disloyalty *Islamists* still accuse the Judeo-Christian world of, and Israel, in particular. When you look at the Abrahamic grievances from the perspective of gays and lesbians, all these issues seem archaic, prosaic and passé. Come out of *your* closet! If we could come out of our closet, you can do similarly.

GOD separates the thoughts from the feelings of the child {Cain and Abel}. **HE** separates the thoughts and feelings from the urges of the adolescent {Noah and the ark}, leaving the young adult with thoughts, feelings and wants he should learn to unify in his conscience {tower of Babel}. Meanwhile, the flawed senior should find ways to deal with his opinions of a world that doesn't take his most cherished opinions seriously {Abraham}.

In the same way that **GOD** separated the child from the adult with a bridge called "adolescence," the Abrahamic faiths were separated into Eastern Orthodox and Protestantism with Catholicism. The Jews were witnesses to those religious separations, and we've all been witnesses to the clumsy and painful attempts at unification of Christianity in the last half century.

Now Sunnis and Shiites are going through their own separation and unification process. I'll let them compare and contrast their schisms to those of Christians using spiritual psychology rather than warfare. In order to make anything whole, **GOD** first divides it and creates a bridge for future unification. In this way, holiness becomes a unification process that makes us all more whole.

The ideas of separation and unification may be apparent around us, but they're less apparent within. When you look at the world around us as a clue and a challenge to what you ought to do to make yourself whole from within, you'll make greater progress in becoming a holy person. You'll use the wisdom, love and devotion of the Abrahamic faiths to better yourself. You'll use Christianity (love) as a bridge between Judaism (wisdom) and Islam {devotion}.

*"Those who disagree about him
were in doubt concerning him;
they knew nothing about him that was not sheer conjecture;
they did not slay him for certain.
God lifted him up to Him. God is mighty and wise."
[4:158]*

*"Those who disagree about HIM
were in doubt concerning HIM;
they knew nothing about HIM that was not sheer conjecture;
they did not slay HIM for certain.
GOD lifted HIM up to HIM.
GOD is mighty and wise."*

The historical wounds between Christianity and Judaism have left their scar. Christ's name, alone, brings fear into the hearts of some Jews, so great is the remnant of distrust

over past Christian cruelty. In my opinion when Jews will come to see Jesus as a gay-Jew, they'll probably react in a lot less inflammatory manner to HIS message than they did in the past when HIS WORDS were spewed out by CHRISTIANS with hatred, disgust and scorn rather than love.

The WORDS of Jesus are kind, loving and forgiving, although they can be, at times, frightfully frank. No modern Jew or Muslim has any reason to fear HIS WORDS if he approaches them with universal regard for **GOD's** designs.

And the same can be said of the *words* of the Prophet. The Prophet addressed the issues of the ancient Jews and Christians with profound understanding of spirituality. **GOD** is mighty and wise. There's no need to fear **HIM**. And the *words* of the Quran are also mighty and wise. There's no need to fear them. It only takes a slight, visual change of perspective to perceive *His words* with greater appreciation of **HIS** intentions.

*“We have revealed Our will to you
as We revealed it to Noah
and to the prophets who came after him;
as We revealed it to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the tribes;
to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, Solomon,
and David, to whom We gave the Psalms.
Of some apostles,
We have already told you,
but there are others of whom We have not yet spoken
(God spoke directly to Moses):
apostles who brought good news to mankind and admonished them,
so that they might have no plea against God after their coming.
God is mighty and wise.”
[4:163-4]*

*“**WE** have revealed **OUR** will to you
as WE revealed it to Noah
and to the prophets who came after him;
as WE revealed it to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the tribes,
to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, Solomon and David,
to whom WE gave the Psalms.
Of some apostles,
We have already told you,
but there are others of whom We have not yet spoken
(GOD spoke directly to Moses):*

apostles who brought consciousness news to mankind and admonished them,
so that they might have no plea against **GOD** after their coming.
GOD is mighty and wise.”

GOD spoke directly to Moses. GOD told him what was on HIS mind. But to Jesus HE opened HIS heart. And through one of **HIS** angels, **HE** opened *His* soul to the Prophet Muhammad. (This suggests that we all need to bare our soul to one another. It’s not enough that we express our deepest opinions to GOD/GOD/*God* alone.)

Now you only need to want to unify **HIS** designs for you. That’s why we should all take a closer look at what’s going on below our belt. (I’m extremely interested in getting in your pants! I’m just not interested in doing so literally or sexually. If you think otherwise, perhaps that’s *your* penis problem, not *mine*.)

*“People of the book,
do not transgress the bounds of your religion.
Speak nothing but the truth about God.
The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was no more than God’s Apostle
and His word which he cast to Mary:
a spirit from Him.
So believe in God and His Apostle
and do not say: ‘three.’
Forebear,
and it shall be better for you.
God is but one God.”
[4:171]*

“People of the book,
do not transgress the bounds of your religion.
Speak nothing but the truth about **GOD**.
The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was no more than GOD’s apostle
and HIS WORD which HE cast to Mary:
a spirit from HIM.
So believe in GOD and HIS apostle
and do not say: ‘three.’
Forebear,
and it shall be better for you.
GOD/GOD/*God* is but one **GOD**.”

There is only one GOD if you ask the Jews. And there's only one *God* if you ask the Muslims. But if you ask the Christians, they'll tell you that there's only one **GOD**, too. I know it sounds crazy to Jews and Muslims, but Christians will swear that $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$. And when you take their belief to heart by unifying your thoughts, feelings and beliefs, you should be able to admit that their clever, spiritual algebra comes close to the truth.

Imagine the Herculean effort of Anne Sullivan in trying to communicate with Helen Keller (who became blind, deaf and unable to speak in infancy).¹⁰² It was in spelling the word "water" in hand gestures that Anne was able to awaken Helen to the world around her. Would that it were as easy for me to awaken you to the grandeur of your world within. These seven books are my effort to spell out the **WORD** water with universal meaning until you suddenly discover what my literary symbols mean to you.

Just as a man can satisfyingly address his feelings by talking about them to himself, **GOD** can reveal **HIMSELF** satisfyingly from within you without literally using words. You don't need to blindly follow one Abrahamic path to **GOD/GOD/God**. **HE** made man in **HIS** image. **HE/HE/He** therefore asks each of us to piece **HIS** images together as you would a puzzle to create your own big picture.

For you to think you know another man as well as you know yourself is folly. Your assumptions about others are an inner trick you're playing on you. You must learn how you operate to get the faintest inkling into how others operate. To discover how **GOD** operates, you're going to need to learn how you could interact in more modern ways with you. **GOD** has the same kind of mind, the same kind of heart and the same kind of soul as you do. Only the seat of **HIS** desires differs from ours. Our desires are base because we must exist in a world with jealousy and envy. We want what we have. **HE's** beyond that. **HE's** already got all that we yearn for.

How do you react when you see a white man holding the hand of a black man? How do you react when you see two men walking down the street hand in hand when one of them is physically disabled? How do you feel when you rub your penis sexually, caress your testicles or put a finger in your anus?

What you feel is private, even though what you can sense is common to all men. We're all made in **GOD's** image just like you. Your reactions are personal to you while my reactions are impersonal to you. If you insist on colluding with those who feel like you just because you don't like what the two of you see around you, you're both going to pay a price for your sick desire to eliminate or control those you detest.

Take a moment to think back to an incident that occurred in your childhood. Now think about an incident that occurred yesterday. Your recall of your distant past and recent past may not be expressed any differently by your mind's eye. That's why older people often

¹⁰² If you aren't familiar with the historic example of courage in Helen Keller, I suggest you read one of the many books about her. Or watch the movie about her life, "The Miracle Worker." It's likely she and her teacher and partner, Ann Sullivan, lived a quiet lesbian life together. You could create that kind of intimacy within you, whether you're $\{x^1 + x^2\}$ or $\{x^2 + y\}$.

say they don't feel old. That's why they often talk about things that happened long ago as though they happened yesterday.

Your mind's eye operates like You Tube. You can summon memories in film format easily if you don't suffer from a mental illness. The videos your mind records of yourself are all there to replay at a time of their own choosing. But there's no way to determine by the video being replayed within when it was shot. There's no date stamp on your interior screen.

Your heart is that part of your operating system that has no sense of the passage of time. Feelings can be recalled in film just as they were first recorded. But unless you know how to edit the scene with voiceover to change the effect of your recollection of events that occurred in your past, you're going to mindlessly replay the same scenes over and over, learning nothing from them. You're going to feel plagued by your memories. You may even wish that that you could disable part of your operating system.

Prejudicial thoughts, pejorative feelings and judgmental beliefs aren't going to change unless you learn how to operate yourself more interactively. You're like a complex computer, not like a telegraph, telephone, radio or black and white TV. But you may not know as much about how to run you as you think. You may literally be using a smart phone externally, but you may figuratively be talking on a princess phone internally.¹⁰³

You must realize that the way you judge others advertises how you really feel about yourself. How you treat them won't determine how **GOD** will treat you. But how you treat you will determine how **GOD** will treat you. Expect things to change for the worse unless you constantly strive to change for the better. It's only right that this world should be made this way. People are physically lazy, emotionally lethargic and spiritually indolent. And you're no different from the rest of us in that respect.

There's a mystery to appearances you ought to endeavor to pierce to discover more of the truth about reality. The road only gets narrower as you age. Objectively, you know that that couldn't be so because you see that every step you take on a road is as wide as it was on the previous step. But **GOD**, in **HIS** infinite wisdom, created this world round. That means that, subjectively, the road will appear to narrow when you look far ahead. This is a clue to the difference between your objectivity in the outer world and the subjectivity of your inner world. It's harder to be you than you may have imagined because reconciling two worlds existing at the same time is harder than you probably thought it would be.

The world around you is only like the tip of an iceberg. How you treat yourself internally is comparable to everything under the waterline that only some are habituated to dive down into. The icy cold feelings you have for you; the darkness you fear but don't talk about; the loneliness you dismiss because it's so terrifyingly immense; and the pressure you put yourself under – these are aspects of the water you're going to want to learn to swim through. As you learn to see the world you share with the rest of us as the tip of an

¹⁰³ “The ‘princess telephone’ was introduced by the Bell System in 1959. It was a compact telephone designed for convenient use in the bedroom and contained a light-up dial for use as a night-light. It was commonly advertised with the slogan ‘It's little...It's lovely...It lights.’” [Wikipedia] There are many princesses still operating internally as though they were living in the 1950s. It shouldn't have to take a queen to call up a princess to tell her to get with the times...

iceberg, you'll find the courage to dive down into yourself to discover the massive, irregular shape you now have. That will soften and change over time. We're all melting. We're all in this alone together.

Using your Scripture only to placate your discomfort in having to be you, while calling that a sacrifice to GOD/GOD/*God*, could be seen as defiant, disgusting and even immoral. I actually think you'll have to pay for that somewhere down the line. Use Scripture to discover how to operate you more comfortably in your own skin. Use Scripture to discover the joy in the complexity of life.

Rap a table with your knuckles. Tap your feet on the floor. Put your hand on a wall. *This* world should be your hobby. Now touch your breastplate. Therein lies your AVODA {work and worship}. Most people busy themselves the other way around. They put "busyness" first. If you think you can become an expert in the external world without bothering to do any work within, you're going to suffer grave disappointments in life. Eve told GOD that the serpent beguiled her. I tell you that your penis or clitoris is beguiling you. What you want the most in life may not be what you're paying the most attention to.

GOD's mercy isn't enough. Having HIS SON on your side isn't enough. Going back to the anger and wrath of GOD will only scare you to death. And if you think you can turn your back on Them to believe only in *God* instead, take a look at a newspaper or go to any country other than Israel in the Middle East and look at what you have to witness there. There's only one **GOD**. And that really complicates matters...

Your comfort with intimacy between the races, genders or with your sensual sense of self shouldn't be dictated by the literal words of GOD/GOD/*God* found in any one of the Scriptures. You can't avoid the spiritual work you need to do in moving through your anger or embarrassment using the dogma of any one faith. The WORDS of **GOD** will pursue you into your synagogue, church or mosque.

The truths presented by **GOD** can be united with Spiritual Linguistics and Spiritual Semantics. Together, they're called, "Spiritual Psychology." You have the choice of learning from the new example set by young people around the world or getting old by withering up inside and figuratively turning to dust.

You can deny the importance of these words if you so choose. Your penis will tell you anything you wish to hear. You can even call me the devil in disguise. But there's no way to avoid your fate except by pursuing your destiny. Your future will become more spiritually modern than your past, or you'll revert to the primitive behavior of our ancestors. Time will march on, with you or without you.

*"As for those who have faith
and do good works,
God will bestow on them their rewards
and enrich them from His own abundance."
[4:173]*

“As for those who have faith
and do good works,
GOD will bestow on them their rewards
and enrich them from **HIS** own abundance.”

A special awareness of **GOD**'s abundance was saved for **HIS** youngest child, Islam. But even this child, born so long after his older brothers, must learn to live in peace with his fellow Abrahamic brothers.

The youngest of three children in any family is usually a little spoiled. He may find it difficult to listen to the wisdom and love of his older siblings. He may tend to think that the devotion of their father could never end or be squandered. Such is the way in which some children take what they have for granted, believing their father's abundance is their due.

The Arab Spring may have gotten off to a bad start. And the weather within in the Middle East has only gotten hotter the past few years. But the weather within will improve when *Muslims* figure out that autumn is a time of harvest. Today's Islamic spring is still better than the *Islamic* winter they're coming out of. The lessons of modernity are no different for them than they were for those Jews and Christians who survived the Second World War. Time marches on.

Everyone in Judeo-Christian communities understands the wild impulses of the Ishmael type, but we all need to go through a somewhat anti-authoritarian episode before we can claim to know life well enough to call this place home. Growing up spiritually is as hard as growing up physically.

Puberty separates a son from his mother in a way that the severing of his bellybutton from her at birth only began. And when my mother dies, my separation process with her will still be incomplete. Plummeting the depth of Sarai, Hagar and Sarah, the three faces of Eve, is a problem in discovering the x^2 factor for me that will consume me for the rest of my life.

My mother taught me to see myself as human, not just gay, Jewish or American. Outliving my mother will only be a wonderful gift from **GOD** if I can continue to grow my relationship with her even after she's passed on. *My* end of *our* umbilical cord doesn't tell the whole story.

Your umbilical cord is like a rainbow. Your umbilical cord is like the journey of the Israelites from surrogate mother, Egypt, on their way home. It signifies birth at one end and death at the other. If you're not able to look forward to death with hope and anticipation, you'll find that trying to saw through your umbilical cord emotionally will be a useless waste of time. There's more to life than the mother and son relationship.

The maturation process of man continues well beyond the emancipation of parents and children from one another. Getting your relationship with your mother from behind you to within you is, in itself, a big job. It requires that you explore the subjectivity of the x^1 or x^2 factor that makes her a part of you forever. It requires that you explore those seeds in your fruit that don't just bring up the question: *y*. It requires that you relate to the figurative power in your ovaries or testicles having great potential in helping you become a mensch.

Judaism created the metaphoric FATHER/son relationship that initiated the patriarchal society we live in today. Christianity celebrates the FATHER/SON relationship that elevates each of us in a heartfelt way to hope for the next generation. And Islam insures that there's only one place in inner space where we can master the father/son relationship, and that's in our soul with our inner child.

Call me the aunty Christ. Call me an aunty-Semite and an aunty-Zionist. But there's also a male/female relationship in you that you may acknowledge in your mind that you can't yet see in your heart as a mother/SON of GOD {Mary/Jesus} relationship given to us all through the Gospels. There may be feelings you have for women or men that you haven't explored, and wants that have conspired with those feelings that you aren't even aware of. That's not a gay issue. That's not a religious issue. That's a female/male issue in the way we're all made. That issue is universal.

If you want to know how most mothers feel about their sons and most sons feel about their mother, promote greater peace between *Muslims*, CHRISTIANS and JEWS. A mother's loss of her son may not be her greatest loss in life. (The loss of her dignity may be.)

Surely, the death of Jesus was far greater for Mary than it ever could have been for any Christian then, or since. Christianity tries to allude to Mary's loss. But only a mother who's lost a child can truly know how Mary must have felt. And only a man who elevates the importance of women for himself will dignify all women with the legal rights associated with equality.

The relationship of Muslims to their [mother and father] $\{x + y\}$, or [father and mother] $\{y + x\}$ may be far more complex than we can see as outsiders to their faith because they don't use the metaphor of GOD as FATHER or the symbolism of GOD as the FATHER's SON. They externalize their devotion to their father much more than we do.

I've prayed in mosques where women were nowhere to be seen. And I've prayed in mosques where the women sat in chairs at the back of the room, their faces and bodies completely covered. The concept of a woman concealing her face in public is meant to separate her from strangers. But when she's at home with family members, the veil comes down. A Muslim son knows his mother's face as well as you know your own mother's face. His relationship to her is no less sanctified than yours. But his relationship to his father may require some scrutiny in every society. The x^1/y factor is, in another way, as mysterious as the x^2 factor.

The simile of *God* like a *Father* is prevalent in aggressive *Islamic* cultures. It puts their father on a pedestal externally thus making for a more rigid and patriarchal, social structure in the family and in society in general. But the further that rigid respect goes outside the home, the more anti-authoritarian *Muslims* become in reaction to it. Their collective struggle for aggressivity becomes engaged with every man they meet.

Ishmael is described in Torah as follows: "HE WILL BE A WILD DONKEY OF A MAN; HIS HAND WILL BE AGAINST EVERYONE AND EVERYONE'S HAND AGAINST HIM, AND HE WILL LIVE IN HOSTILITY TOWARD ALL HIS BROTHERS." [Genesis 16:12]

I've heard that homosexuality, drinking and drugs are secretly indulged in in the upper classes in the Middle East. I've also heard that Victoria Secret underwear is worn by some well-to-do Muslim women underneath their religious garb. Perhaps their devotion to their

father is going through emancipation today, different from the freedom and liberty we've experienced in the West.

In the U.S., we have the distinct social advantage of having unified Judaism and Christianity in terms of our FATHER issues. There's little resistance anymore to the religious differences between our belief systems because our secular society has grown tolerant of our myriad, tribal styles. We give men the psychological wiggle room to behave more like a father or son, provided they do their job responsibly. **GOD** is slowly becoming like a **FATHER** to us.

Anti-authoritarianism in the West is condoned and even encouraged in pubescent young men and women as an important rite of passage. It's seen as a defiance that's morally helpful to society in the long run. Youngsters aren't considered cool until they've let off a little steam or express themselves with gender-bending behaviors. It's when authoritarianism becomes institutionalized on the world stage as it has in Trump's America, Russia, China, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Israel and North Korea that we see the tension between laser-focused authoritarianism and blind anti-authoritarianism. Nowhere is that more evident than in Israel if you visit the Holy Land with your eyes open.

As we teach corporate leaders the spiritual importance of reading Scripture to edify the importance of religion, we'll see the moral intentions of young people spread into establishment politics and business through spirituality. And we'll see the Abrahamic faiths becoming more insightful and respectful of one another. This will surely please **GOD**.

For the Prophet to have written about women in the fourth surah of the Quran is a profound achievement at a time in history when women were figuratively relegated to the appendix, not the body of a written work. The relationship of Muslim men to their mother is as complex as the relationship of gay and Jewish sons to their mother. But we're not going to unravel the relationship of any man to his mother until we understand the way in which he puts his faith in his father or son.

When fathers and sons can't address their feelings for one another, they then have to use GOD/GOD/*God* as their intermediary. They become one another's perpetrators, victims or martyrs to act out their love and devotion to HIM/HIM/*Him* indirectly. But if they can't express it directly to him they're certainly not going to be able to express it directly to **HIM**. This then creates tremendous frustration in men with all men and boys that they then tend to take out on women and children. They become bullies.

They say, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree," meaning that children take on the characteristics of their parents. But we ought to be more specific. In truth, the apple doesn't fall far from either the tree of knowledge $\{y + x^2\}$ or the tree of life $\{x^1 + x^2\}$. When we see *Muslims* killing Muslims indiscriminately while proclaiming their faith in *God*, what we're really seeing is an apple behaving as a typical tree of knowledge, but not as a typical tree of life. We're seeing a problem that emanates out from a place located much lower than man's breastplate... We're seeing y repressing x^2 . We're watching the serpent beguiling Eve. We're seeing men screw themselves over. It's got everything to do with magnifying the issue of eating forbidden fruit.

Muslims behave like *God*. They take upon themselves the authority to give life and to take it away. They behave in authoritarian ways that mimic the characteristics of their

fathers {y} while ignoring the characteristics of their mothers {x}. They're in touch with only half of themselves. And they're setting precedence for their sons that will be perpetrated by future generations unless we teach them **GOD**-consciousness.

Out of 114 surahs in the Quran, the Archangel Gabriel chose to recite the 4th surah on the virtues of women. And the Prophet Muhammad devoted himself to that cause. When men minimize the x^2 factor and only act out their y factor, they behave tyrannically. They become patriarchal, obstinate, recalcitrant and defiant. And we see this sort of domination when it comes to their interactions with women and children, gays and anyone else who defies their authority, especially what they think is their religious authority. Their left testicle becomes swollen with the seeds of hate. And their wants become engulfed and engorged with determination to force themselves into other people's lives like an unwanted pregnancy.

I see no visible evidence in me where that rib once was in Adam that GOD used to create Eve. But I feel its absence projected out onto every woman I meet. The throb in my chest as my heart skips a beat when a woman walks into the room is what GOD achieved when HE created woman. Perhaps you feel that when you see a cop car in your rear-view mirror. Perhaps you feel it in your groin when you see a pretty gal. Men react differently to women, and that's O.K.

At some point in maturity, every man goes back to childhood and the memories he has of his mother to question his separation from her and his desire for unification with his father. And every man will want to describe that loss to other men in his own unique way. Although a man's mother literally came before him chronologically, she came after him, in matters of his emotions. He was born, and then she emotionally appeared. He loved himself, and then he suddenly found himself in love with her. Despite the "cooperation" between his parents that brought him into being, every boy learns to accept their "collusion" in bringing him into this world and move on. But the pain of being born {getting out of a narrow place} never goes away.

Torah got it metaphorically right when it described GOD as having created Eve out of Adam, even though it's literally untrue in terms of mothers and sons. The Gospels amplified that emotional relationship in the relationship of loss that Mary had to endure when GOD took Jesus from her. And the Quran explains all that in this surah. Today, our understanding of our relationship to men and women must come through an integration of all three of the Abrahamic faiths beginning with our relationship to our parents. The apple doesn't fall far from either tree.

Without an understanding of the essential need for there always to be gays and Jews in this world, violence will continue between the Middle East and the West that will spread to the Far East. Muslims will continue to become more and more frustrated at feeling feared and misunderstood worldwide. But their problems won't be with Israel. Their problems will be with Israel and everything "it" stands for in them.

Without an understand of the essential need for there to be gays and Jews in this world, violence will continue between Republicans and Democrats that will spread worldwide. The love of the Republican for Israel (the literal words of Torah) and the love of the Democrats for the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community (the figurative interpretations of Torah) will continue to divide our country.

Israel brings up the issue of family dynamics. Israel brings up the issue of what it means to be a human being striving with hope to fulfill **GOD's** designs. Israel brings up the issue of what it means to be gay or straight, male or female, Jew or Gentile, Eastern or Western.

GOD gave Israel to the Jews to begin the unfolding of **HIS** designs. For this reason, nothing on Earth will get straightened out until the gay/straight problem gets settled between Jews and JEWS. If you don't learn to add accurately in the first grade, what do you expect to have happen when you get to differential equations in college?

The orthodox JEWISH community in Israel is deeply despised by most Jews. But until these rifts are ironed out using Torah, there isn't going to be peace with Israel's neighbors or peace in the world. The issues of the West Bank that deeply divide Jews from JEWS are the consequences of penis problems. The JEWS insist on leaving their penis out of their prayers. The Jews insist on coming before GOD physically nude in their mind, emotionally naked in their heart and spiritually exposed by their soul. Until the ancient territories of the tribes of Dan, Gad and Reuben on the eastern side of the Jordan River are settled by Jews and JEWS using Torah, the problems of the West Bank won't get settled either.

Along with Israel's penis problems, *Muslim* women worldwide have a serious clitoris conflict of their own. Until they can convince *Muslim* men to change their study of the Quran to meet the challenges of the modern age, the penis problems in *Islam* won't get solved, either.

Women speak a universal language of oppression that no man will ever be able to master. Even a gay, Jewish male, such as myself, who can communicate in several languages cannot speak "female" fluently. I can only approximate the profound differences between a tree of knowledge and a tree of life. I can only speculate about the differences between the male and female containers. I'm not closer to **GOD** than a woman.

I can't imagine pouring my contents into a female container and achieving the same spiritual results I have now as a combination of $x^2 + y$. I'm a man, and, like every other man who has personal knowledge of x^2 , I still have no idea what happens when x^2 is combined with x^1 . This is something only **GOD** can address.

First, GOD came up with the idea of creating Adams and Eves. HE described that in metaphor to Moses, which produced the patriarchal society we've suffered under for 5,780 years. Then HE created Jesus and filled HIS heart with HIS love for HIMSELF. And then HE created the Prophet Muhammad and sent an angel to fill his soul with **HIS** devotion to *Himself*. If the mystery of **GOD's** designs is going to be revealed to man, then woman is obviously going to need to be a big part of unraveling it. $x^2 + y$ will never be able to solve for $x^1 + x^2$. Men and women are just going to have to learn to live in peace with one another.

Surah 5

Table

The Last Supper occurred at the Passover table where Jesus revealed HIS design for humanity. There HE asked HIS disciples to remember HIM through the bread and wine that was served at Passover, the Jewish holiday that commemorates the Exodus. The spirit of the Christian, spiritual table is the feast of HIS body {bread} and blood {wine} that the whole world is beginning to appreciate as something brought to the world that was greater than anything previously given by any human being on Earth. Familial love, romantic love, love of country and brotherhood are all forms of love that express **GOD's** love for us all.

The Christian spiritual table where the Last Supper was served was an extension of the SHULCHAN AROCH {long table}. This spiritual table invites everyone, not just Christians, to take a seat. The Prophet added a leaf of his own, took a seat and invited all Muslims to join us.

The Christian salad of love comes after the Jewish soup of wisdom. Wisdom is hard to swallow because mistakes made must be apologized for, atoned for and not repeated – love comes to those who complete the first course. This spiritual soup and salad was followed by the main course that was revealed through the similes of Islam. And this Abrahamic meal will conclude with the spiritual delicacies coming to us from the Far East. This spread ain't over!

The Hebrew “long table” of wisdom and the Christian “lengthened table” of love are parts of the metaphor on which **GOD** is serving us the spiritual food we need to make our individual lives meaningful. Without the main course, however, this meal would be paltry indeed. The Islamic contribution via the Quran is essential to our spiritual diet, whether or not we're satisfied with the wisdom and love we've enjoyed thus far.

Now is a good time to describe the main course, which isn't literally *God's* devotion. *His* devotion is like sorbet. It's only through devotion that we're blessed with the main course: redemption. You can't fill your head with wisdom and your heart with love without coming to the conclusion that you don't know enough about how to redeem yourself in **GOD's** eyes. The contents of your head and heart will avail you little if you don't open your conscience to create the kind of soul that can recognize the negative effects of your desires and wish to atone for them any way you want.

You'll never leave this world redeemed if you don't heed the *words* of the Quran. **GOD** didn't create Islam as a bridge between East and West without good geographic reasons. **HE** created Islam like a flying buttress on a Gothic church, to strengthen its massive walls. Once you can internalize the message from the Prophet, you'll be able to reconstruct your inner cathedral using steel girders and glass walls.

The devotion Muslims bring to the new extension of the old, spiritual table doesn't begin to describe the blessings of the main course of this spiritual meal. Territoriality and rabid nationalism are only paltry projections of an inner devotion Muslims haven't yet been able to glean from the Quran.

The Arab Spring has, thus far, been nothing more than sorbet meant to cleanse the palette before the main meal. The Arab efforts for the past 70 years to overthrow the State

of Israel and plans to take over the Western world have only compounded their spiritual challenge in bringing the main course to the table. Granted, *Muslims* are more interested in upsetting the table than taking a seat at it. But there's never been a shortage of spiritual disinterest in this world, and there never will be.

Muslims have been through the winter of their discontent with their older Abrahamic brothers, including centuries of European colonization in the Middle East that did little to bring **GOD's** designs to consciousness.¹⁰⁴ But now is the time for us to enter into the springtime of their relationship with themselves in preparation for a summer of love.¹⁰⁵ If each of us personally succeeds in creating that glorious season within ourselves, we'll all be advanced to a warmer world within and a cooler planet throughout.

*“Do not allow your hatred
for those who would debar you from the Holy Mosque
lead you in sin.
Help one another in what is good and pious,
not in what is wicked and sinful.
Have fear of God;
God is stern in retribution.”*
[5:2]

“Do not allow your hatred
for those who would debar you from the Holy Mosque
lead you in sin.
Help one another in what is good and pious,
not in what is wicked and sinful.
Have fear of **GOD**;
GOD is stern in retribution.”

Any effort to make peace with the Jews and Christians will be rewarded if Muslims do not allow their hatred for those who would debar them from the Holy Mosque lead them

¹⁰⁴ William Shakespeare: Richard the Third, Act 1, scene 1, 1-4: “Now is the winter of our discontent/Made glorious summer by this son of York/And all the clouds that low'r'd upon our house/In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.”

¹⁰⁵ “‘The Summer of Love’ was a social phenomenon that occurred during the summer of 1967, when as many as 100,000 people, mostly young people sporting hippie fashions of dress and behavior, converged in San Francisco's neighborhood Haight-Ashbury.” [Wikipedia] A summer of love will be the glorious outcome of the Arab spring. The poorest of Muslims will rejoice. The Palestinians will embrace the Israelis as they both awaken to **GOD's** designs and make peace with peoples everywhere.

into sin.¹⁰⁶ **GOD** knows that none of these three steps to **HIS** throne are easy to take. These spiritual steps require you to become as embarrassed as a Jew over your foolish thoughts; as ashamed as a Christian over your hateful feelings, and as humiliated as a Muslim over the false beliefs you hold about **GOD's** designs.

Most everyone has already been humiliated to some extent by his efforts to fight the world rather than join in helping to heal it. War, pestilence and illness are **GOD's** ways of humiliating each of us to teach us to change our mind; transform our feelings; and transcend our current beliefs with more modern tools of self-inquiry. Greater loyalty to your faith will come if you work together with those of other faiths and **philosophies** to improve spiritual, living standards worldwide.

You can always give your devotion to **GOD/GOD/Gođ** without first giving it to you. You can always give your loyalty to your brothers and sisters without first giving it to your parents. You can even tell **GOD** you're devoted only to **HIM** without being able to show that devotion to anyone. But deep in your soul, you'll know if you're not honest, sincere and authentic. You'll know you won't know the meaning of your words until you give and receive them from yourself.

The religious fanatic suckles "heaven" like a nipple. He works his way up to **GOD's/GOD's/Gođ's** abode one day a week, and then he sucks on the memory of that experience for the next six days, claiming he gives **HIM/HIM/Hím** his all.

But **GOD** turns him around on the Sabbath and points him back where he came from. If he's lucky, **HE** shows him a little more of himself day-by-day. But until he's been weaned onto whole food, he won't question what he does. Forbidden fruit won't always be ground up until it's unrecognizable before he swallows it. Forbidden fruit eaten whole and fresh from the tree is the goal.

The highest place in San Francisco is called "Twin Peaks." It mirrors **GOD's** breasts. You should wean yourself off the breasts in the sky. The Earth is still your home, not "heaven." Your efforts need to be here and now. There's no point in helping **GOD** do **HIS** job from "heaven." **HE** needs you to do your job grounded, not while dreaming of sucking the nipple of **GOD/GOD/Gođ** like some infant in its mother's arms who's gotten hungry again.

Devotion isn't easy to give others because devotion must begin by overcoming the impediments to devotion within. Until you learn how to devote yourself to yourself, you're not going to have the confidence you need to redeem yourself.

You're going to make claims you can't deliver on, and you're going to give people the impression that you can't be trusted. What's more, you're going to face doubts and uncertainties about your relationship to you that will exacerbate your need to mindlessly and automatically try to do even more for those whom you've projected your mission upon.

¹⁰⁶ The Holy Mosque lies in Mecca, not Jerusalem. The Dome of the Rock is a test of Muslim purity. The way in which they learn to use their foothold in Jerusalem, will, of course, determine where they go from there, up {+} or down {-}.

But your efforts will be empty of feelings for you. Your efforts will turn you into a zombie, an automaton that serves only some external end. You'll become a part of the old-boys' network or a staunch opponent of it, which will still leave you feeling like a pawn in a game. You'll pursue your goals without questioning why you feel as disconnected from gays or Jews as you do. Your relationship to HIM/HIM/*Him* will be a projection of "it" {whatever ideal you idolize}. You'll create a HIM/HIM/*Him* before **HIM**. And in doing so, you'll repel and disgust the man you've always wanted to be.

Everyone is like Helen Keller. Everyone is blind {JEWISH}, deaf {CHRISTIAN} and numb {*Muslim*} without knowing it. Everyone should learn that he can't see, hear and speak to himself in all ways. The parts of him aren't united.

You can't see yourself if you can't laugh at yourself. You can't hear yourself think if you can't question what you're feeling. And you can't speak to yourself if you're so habituated to being you that you don't wake up fresh and new each day with hope for the new day. The time you've been given to achieve redemption is precious. Don't look back with regret on your deathbed. Live better now.

Do you remember how exciting it was as a child when you got up in the morning? It was so exciting because you knew you were going to experience and learn new things. Self-love was real. You were a master student of life, and you were curious about everything.

By comparison, you may take your life nowadays for granted. You may wake up in the morning without a sense of excitement in getting to spend the whole day with your best friend. And if you aren't excited about being with you, how exciting could others find you? Being you with you may only make you feel guilty about having to share yourself with **GOD** all day.

What purpose does **HE** serve if not to help you come to know, love and feel sensational about being you with you? What devotion have you earned being you that will prove to you that you're not full of hot air? And if you're already in a relationship with GOD/GOD/*God*, could it be that you might actually be treating HIM/HIM/*Him* more like a sugar DADDY/DADDY/*Daddy* than a **FATHER**? Once you grow up, "gimme prayers" become a waste of time. Learning about yourself becomes far more valuable.

Embarrassment of your body is a universal problem. No one has mastered being in the body they were given. Shame of your character is a universal problem. No one has mastered the character they find themselves with. Humiliation from your relationship with yourself is a universal problem. No one has mastered standing before **GOD** completely transparent yet satisfied with who they are. Even defiance at having to learn is universal. Nobody anticipated having to be in school day and night their whole life!

"Dear **GOD**, I can't tell the difference between **YOU** and me. I listen to my thoughts and know YOU are there between the lines. I look into my heart and know YOU are the melody of my song, the ocean of my emotions. I follow my beliefs and know *You* are above me like a bird looking down on me from the sky. What more can I say about **YOU** and

your relationship to me? Please teach me to speak to **YOU** with **YOU** and then for **YOU**.”
{AMEN: I believe}”¹⁰⁷

Welcome to the problems of being human. They’re not going to change until you stop stealing knowledge from yourself, and others. You, too, are metaphoric forbidden fruit. You, too, are symbolic bread and wine. And you, too, are like herbal airs that fill your nose with a sense of something coming that’s greater than anything you know now.

You don’t need **GOD** to give you more junk to put in your dresser drawers. You need **GOD** to give you a greater appreciation for the junk you’ve already got, whether that junk is in your drawers or in your inner garments.

Taking Torah literally would require you to cut open your testicles to discover the secret to being you. That wasn’t **GOD**’s design when HE encased your fruit in their shell. Some *Muslims* can’t stand the idea of every man on Earth having been gifted with his own secret to the meaning of life. The JEWISH and CHRISTIAN fanatics are also guilty of confusing the literal with the figurative. They, too, still want to figuratively get their hands in your pants to squeeze your testicles until you agree to give them all that you’ve got inside. None of the religious extremists know anything about the meaning of privacy, except when it comes to concealing their crimes.

*“The nonbelievers have this day
abandoned all hope of vanquishing your religion.
Have no fear of them:
fear me.”
[5:3]*

“The nonbelievers have this day
abandoned all hope of vanquishing your religion.
Have no fear of them;
fear **ME**.”

Today’s problems of religion can’t be solved by secular societies without spiritualists. The universal problems of today’s religious intolerance should be addressed in synagogues, churches and mosques by leaders who understand the universality of **GOD**’s designs.

There should be no hint of desire in Judaism or Christianity to overthrow Islam. The Muslim fear of Zionism was created by CHRISTIANS and perpetrated by intolerant religious and political leaders worldwide. The Quran warns Muslims against intolerance, but their message should be universalized. It must begin as intolerance of those aspects of

¹⁰⁷ The WORD “AMEN” comes from the verb LA-AMEEN {to believe}. It doesn’t matter whether you use Torah, the Gospels or the Quran to pray. What matters is that you end your prayers with the WORD “AMEN.” If you don’t assure yourself that you have the ability to believe in yourself, you’re just talking to thin air. You’re not listening to what you’re saying.

themselves their conscience tells them not to tolerate before it's expressed wisely and tolerantly externally for ONE and all.

The JEWS dread the increasing influence of the gays and the Jews, while the CHRISTIANS couch their fears in secular society in their love of guns and abortion. Terror at taking Torah figuratively makes people more terrified of their Lord. Fear of what's going to become of their faith grows as modernity encroaches on everyone's impressions of the meaning of life. *Muslims* claim that all the problems in the Middle East are caused by the Jews. What excuse are they going to use after the Kurds succeed in wresting their own land of milk and honey out from under the Turks and Iraqis? What excuse are they going to use when Syria turns to dust and the Jews didn't do it? What will they say about GOD/GOD/*God* if Iran gets it their way? And what will CHRISTIANS say when Russians are caught colluding with the Republicans?

Good people who live a modern lifestyle will only come on board religion if they can keep what they have in order to discover more. They aren't the nonbelievers the Prophet Muhammad talked about then. All nonbelievers died off a long time ago. Those with doubts and reservations about the efficacy of the religious institutions of the Abrahamic faiths today aren't without faith. They're without evidence of the wisdom, love and devotion of the Abrahamic faiths, and so they have doubts about the possibility that **GOD** has designs behind all that happens. And they certainly aren't going to work consciously to redeem themselves in **GOD's** eyes while the only thing the extremists in the Abrahamic faiths can all agree on is the superiority of men and the inferiority of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community.

*“He who is constrained by hunger
to eat of what is forbidden,
not intending to commit sin,
will find God forgiving and merciful.”*
[5:4]

“He who is constrained by hunger
to eat of what is forbidden,
not intending to commit sin,
will find **GOD** forgiving and merciful.”

The idea of being constrained by hunger is an interesting concept whether you're straight or gay. Most people aren't constrained by their hungers. If they're hungry, they simply indulge themselves until they're sated, regardless what that hunger might be. The person who's constrained by his hungers is someone who feels guilty but may not know it. He doesn't indulge himself, but he also doesn't know why he can't join the rest of the world in their self-indulgences. Such a person will be granted permission to eat of what is forbidden because he is not intending to commit sin. He'll be permitted to talk about what others are doing that he can't participate in. He'll be given the opportunity to merge religion with modernity. He'll look for ways to lessen his guilt in order to understand the

motivations for his hungers. But the extremists in the Abrahamic faiths won't find **GOD** either forgiving or merciful because they aren't interested in pursuing self-understanding. They only want to steal their own fruits.

Those who are realistic about their material, biological, emotional and spiritual hungers will be able to personalize the fruits of good and evil from the tree of knowledge. But that can't happen to those who refuse to hold a modern understanding of the purpose of desire. Only if you see yourself as a seed figuratively planted in a garden will you seek the sweet fruits of self-knowledge on the uppermost branches of your tree. Only then will your striving to express yourself with **GOD**'s help be rewarded during your lifetime. For you, self-knowledge will lead to wisdom. With that wisdom you'll achieve love. With your love you'll achieve devotion. And with your devotions you'll know that you're on the road to redemption.

GOD wants what's best for the Jewish, Christian and Muslim people. Self-knowledge will improve their situation inside and worldwide. What makes you a Jew, Christian or Muslim isn't something you can see. It's something you can perceive. Becoming a better Jew, Christian or Muslim requires exposure to, and experiences with, people who **GOD** made differently to how **HE** made you.

*“All wholesome things have this day
been made lawful for you.
The food of those to whom the book was given
is lawful for you,
and yours for them.”
[5:5]*

“All wholesome things have this day
been made lawful for you.
The food of those to whom the book was given
is lawful for you,
and yours for them.”

The secret of Torah was locked up for millennia in metaphor. Now that the secret has been revealed in universal terms through the main metaphor of Moses, anyone can avail himself of the wisdom of the people of the book.¹⁰⁸ Some are tempted by things; others, by people; and still others by redemption. There's always something to be learned about yourself from what you desire. It's lawful to satisfy your personal wishes if you do so morally. But killing yourself {#6}, cheating yourself {#7}, stealing your reputation out from under yourself {#8}, lying to yourself to remain in denial of what you're doing to

¹⁰⁸ The main metaphor of Moses is that life is a garden. People are planted in this garden as a seed. They'll grow to become a tree of knowledge or a tree of life. **GOD** is our **GARDENER**.

yourself {#9} and coveting your immoral desires to get what you want in the outside world {#10} is out of the question.

To live lawfully in accordance with Torah, the Gospels and the Quran means to hold something in your possession that's always been yours that you've earned. To live lawfully means to be thankful to others, appreciative of yourself and grateful to **GOD** for all that you're going through. Complaining about others in your prayers is a moral offense to **GOD**. Complaining about yourself in your prayers, on the other hand, will bring blessings upon you. It's a sign that you wish to learn. It's a sign that you're hungry to know more about how **GOD** made you in **HIS** image.

You've learned from new experiences all your life. It's doubtful you're going to greatly change, transform or transcend the spiritual process by which you live your life. There'll always be some degree of pain caused by the world around you and some degree of suffering within because you must seek more carrots and avoid more sticks to more motivate you to do what's right for you. The more elevated your understanding of the good and evil you perpetrate on yourself, the more you'll come to understand your own desires. The food of those to whom the book was given is lawful for you, and yours for them. Isn't that better than it was before?

GOD sees all that you do, but **HE** also knows all that you think, feel, believe and want. **GOD** has knowledge of all things. You live in a glass house, but you may erroneously believe you can close the curtains to hide from **HIM**. The only way you can veil yourself from **GOD** is with ignorance, stupidity and denial of reality. A literal veil won't do.

Being in denial of the truths brought to us from the Abrahamic faiths will leave you closing an eye to your need for redemption. It will veil you from your own truths and falsehoods in ways that are very different from how Muslim women veil themselves from strange men. The degree to which you lie to yourself will become evident in your projection of your false beliefs upon others. **GOD** doesn't need to pursue you while you're still chasing your tail.

*“Remember God’s favor to you,
and the Covenant with which He bound you when you said, ‘
We hear and obey.’
Have fear of God.
God knows the innermost thoughts of men.”*
[5:7]

“Remember **GOD**’s favor to you,
and the covenant with which **HE** bound you when you said,
‘We hear and obey.’
Have fear of **GOD**.
GOD knows the innermost thoughts of men.”

Most Jews believe in one GOD. Christian math ($1 + 1 + 1 = 1$) is too hard for them. The way their faith was given to them by **GOD** is a fabulous mystery in itself, but Jews have no desire to pray to Jesus as their intermediary. As JEWS become more accepting of gay-Jews, I predict all GOD's children are going to appreciate Christianity all the more for their gay GOD.

And as far as Islam is concerned, the covenant given to us doesn't require us to hear and obey *Muslims*. Jews have a voice in our soul that tells us to hear and obey ourselves. Some will; some won't. The rest lies in **GOD's** hands. But some of us have been gifted in incorporating the best of others' faiths into our own without praying in a way that blends our prayers with theirs.

A man's head tells him to "DO AND THEN LISTEN." His heart tells him to "LOVE AND OBEY. But his soul tells him to hear himself feel, and *then* obey what he believes would better him. This creates the conditions for his conscience to awaken to the need for self-redemption. It doesn't become a reason to tell others how to live, love or pray.

Without the three Abrahamic faiths discussing among themselves the three ways by which **GOD** has revealed our differences, we're never going to appreciate one another or our specific, spiritual fields of expertise. Without learning to do what we think is right from our head; listen with an undivided heart; and then hear and obey our deep held moral beliefs – we're not going to solve the challenges **GOD** is giving us. You might see more method to **HIS** madness if you were more curious about the strangers' ways.

"Whatever we are today is the result of what we have thought, spoken, and done in all the present moments before now. What we shall be tomorrow is the result of what we think, say and do today." This was beautifully stated by the **Buddha** and paraphrased by Eknath Easwaran.¹⁰⁹ I would say that **GOD** has designs that don't need to go beyond this moment in time. As you fill the now with greater awakening, **HE** creates **HIS** next designs for your tomorrow.

All your experiences {thoughts, feelings, beliefs, wants, actions and reactions} have made you into the unique person you are. No one on Earth is behaving exactly like you. Like a snowflake, you appear to behave like all the rest. But when viewed from deep down within, you can see that your pattern is one of a kind.

That said, it behooves us all to observe how we flutter like a snowflake and fly in a flurry. It behooves us to look at where we've landed; how we've melted; and where we're now rushing to in a raging torrent – cool, little droplet of water that we are. I'm sure if you'd do that, you wouldn't gush with emotion, depression, denial or despair. You'd see the majesty of your style – even if you sometimes have to admit you're all wet...

The problems of modern man lie in his over exuberance to do things his own way when he doesn't know how to operate himself as a unique image of **GOD**. He sees himself as either not good enough {ice} or too good {fire}. He refuses to accept that only good enough {warm water} is good enough. He swings wildly from one extreme to the other or he

¹⁰⁹ Eknath Easwaran was a 20th Century Indian author. This quote is from his daily reader, Words To Live By: Inspiration For Every Day.

vacillates with apathetic indecision, striving to approach perfection in his own inimitable way.

“I tell you one thing – if you want peace of mind, do not find fault with others. Rather learn to see your own faults. Learn to make the whole world your school. No one is a stranger. This whole world is your classroom.” ¹¹⁰

*“Believers,
fulfill your duties to God
and bear true witness.
Do not allow your hatred for others
to turn you away from justice.
Deal justly.
That is nearer to true piety.
Have fear of God;
God is cognizant of all your actions.”
[5:8]*

**“Believers,
fulfill your duties to GOD
and bear true witness.
Do not allow your hatred for other
to turn you away from justice.
Deal justly.
That is nearer to true piety.
Have fear of GOD;
GOD is cognizant of all your actions.”**

GOD knows how little we know. **HE** knows how wide the road to “hell” is on Earth and how narrow it becomes as you approach your ultimate horizon. Here on Earth we’ve divided “hell” into lanes going both directions so we don’t crash helter-skelter into one another in our efforts to pave it with good intentions. Go through whatever “hell” on Earth you’re assigned with a good attitude, and you’ll likely avoid “hell” altogether when you leave here.

Foolishness was, at one time, only the fault of the Jews. Everyone insisted we had a monopoly on foolishness. In the distant past, our foolishness kept us from being tolerant of our indigenist brothers. “Hatred” was, at first, only the fault of the Christians. Everyone insisted they had a monopoly on hatred. In the recent past, their hatred of us kept them from being accepting of a world everyone ought to love. And mean-spiritedness has seemingly become the Muslim fault of today; and that mean-spirited attitude still keeps

¹¹⁰ This quote comes from Sri Sarada Devi, a 20th Century Indian mystic.

many from being able to admire themselves. Without self-admiration, no one will be able to give anyone some of what *God* gave the Muslims. They, too, will hold their bad attitude as though they have a monopoly on meaning of life.

*“God made a Covenant with the Israelites
and raised among them twelve chieftains.*

God said,

“I shall be with you.

*If you attend to your prayers
and render the alms levy:
if you believe in my apostles
and assist them*

*and given God a generous loan,
I shall forgive you your sins
and admit you to gardens
watered by running streams.*

But he that hereafter denies Me shall stray from the right path.”

[5:12]

“GOD made a covenant with the Israelites
and raised among them 12 chieftains.

GOD said,

‘I SHALL BE WITH YOU

IF YOU ATTEND TO YOUR PRAYERS

AND RENDER THE ALMS LEVY:

IF YOU BELIEVE IN MY APOSTLES

AND ASSIST THEM

AND GIVE GOD/*God* A GENEROUS LOAN,

I SHALL FORGIVE YOU YOUR SINS

AND ADMIT YOU TO GARDENS

WATERED BY RUNNING STREAMS.

But he that hereafter denies **ME** shall stray from the right path.”

It took us {Jews} four trips to “hell” through slavery {ancient Egypt, Babylonia, Rome and Germany} for us to learn the harsh lessons we couldn’t then understand that granted us a return to our Promised Land in 1948. Those in denial of the Holocaust are in denial of how it changed us from within and the world throughout.

Today we have two kinds of Jews/JEWS living in Israel, the secular, spiritual Jews and the ultra-orthodox JEWS. The secular Jews want to trade part of our land for peace with our neighbors. The ultra-orthodox JEWS want to keep it because GOD gave it only to us. If

Christians and Muslims want to discover the personal part they're playing in **GOD's** designs, they should look to discover the personal meaning of the WORD "AVODA:" "work" in the internal world and "worship" throughout. Once you turn the two into one, you'll find your solution to the problems in your inner Israel. And you'll make your way to your land of milk and honey.

The problems of the world have been solved for us in Scripture, but the secular world would rather not have to read the Scripture of their ancestors or look to combine all three into one. When all else fails, no one thinks to stop what they're doing to read the instructions.

And if you'd like to read the instructions from the beginning, read about the Jews who moved from ancient Israel to Egypt. What happened to them? Do you really think we'd be so stupid as to end up as slaves a fifth time? Our land is not available to hostage holders. Learn to live in peace *our* way. We aren't going to learn to live in peace your way. You have nothing to show for it except promises unfulfilled.

We all have the **GOD**-given right to enjoy this world as a Jewish garden, watered by the running streams of Christian love over blue skies of Muslim devotion to the Lord. But getting people to add to what they now know isn't going to be easy if they already think they know it all. As soon as you try to teach people something new, they suddenly say to themselves "not good enough" or "too good" and hurriedly walk away. They just don't want to think about what they think about. They just aren't interested in quenching their thirst with Scripture. They say forbidden fruit is sweet, but sometimes you can't tempt them to take even one little nibble.

Medieval man didn't like the idea that the world was round, and today's medieval thinkers don't like the idea that their present horizons aren't the limit of other people's imagination. It was easier for Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan to denounce his country; sail for King Charles V of Spain; and prove that the world is round – than it is to convince JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* to go all the way around their world within.

The extremists in all three of the Abrahamic faiths oppose gays and lesbians on religious grounds. That they can agree on! They're all examples of KSCHE OREF {the stiff-necked JEW}. Like a horse pulling a carriage in Central Park, whatever they can't see on either side of their field of vision they think doesn't exist. Their religious institution fits them with blinders. And whatever they refuse to see becomes a sphincter problem of enormous circumference {asshole issues} that they don't want to see as originating in themselves.¹¹¹

They don't think much of what others think about. They don't think much about what others are feeling. They don't think much of what they believe in. All they're interested in is what they want. And then they wonder why they're always being humiliated or humiliating themselves. Think more about other people's sphincter problem and you'll be awakened to your own.

It's easy to say **GOD** made every man in **HIS** image. And it's easy to steal forbidden fruit from **HIM**. But it's not so easy to give it back without creating a smell and a mess.

¹¹¹ Although a donkey {Democrat} sphincter is the very definition of an asshole, an elephant {Republican} sphincter is by far the biggest on the planet.

Being reactive is the very definition of an anal issue when looking at that part of your spiritual self from the inside out.

There's no dogma in Judaism about life after life. We make no claims of what rewards {"heaven"} and punishments {"hell"} will come because GOD never revealed any of that to us in Tanach. (What good is threatening an infant with punishments that won't take effect until they're dead?) But just because the Jews don't believe in a "heaven" or "hell" doesn't mean that "heaven" and "hell" don't believe in the Jews.

God revealed a great deal about the blessings of "heaven" and the curses of "hell" to the CHRISTIANS because a child is expected to learn what he's doing.

And *Hē* described a great deal of the enchantments of "heaven" and horrors of "hell" to the *Muslims* because an adolescent needs evidence of what will be granted or befall him if he doesn't find his way.

But if you choose to look at life as a school, I suggest you think about the desire you have for "heavenly" delights in your lifetime and the burns you've already received that have sometimes made your life feel like "hell" on Earth. Let them together be lessons to you in how our **TEACHER** gives us all a taste of what's to come that only **Hē** can reconcile.

*"But because they broke their Covenant,
We laid on them our curse
and hardened their hearts.
They have tampered with words out of their context
and forgotten much of what they were enjoined.
You will ever find them deceitful,
except for a few of them.
But pardon them and bear with them.
God loves those who do good."
[5:13]*

*"But because they broke their covenant
wē laid on them **OUR** curse
and hardened their hearts.
They have tampered with words out of their context
and forgotten much of what they were enjoined.
You will ever find them deceitful,
except for a few of them.
But pardon them and bear with them.
GOD loves those who do good."*

There may only have been a few Jews 1,400 years ago whom the first Muslims believed they could trust, but there's enough evidence today of our contributions to humanity over the past 5,780 years if you choose to study history. Those who use Torah, the Bible or the

Quran to justify stupidity, hatred and irreverence in their enemies will experience what **GOD**'s hardened heart looks and feels like within and/or without.

Decide for yourself whether I'm tampering with the WORDS of **GOD** or whether I'm revealing them. Call these books a miraculous achievement or call them the work of the devil. "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."¹¹²

*"With those who said they were Christian,
We made a Covenant also,
but they too have forgotten much of what they were exhorted to do.
Therefore We stirred among them enmity and hatred,
which shall endure till the Day of Resurrection,
when God will declare to them all what they have done."
[5:14]*

*"With those who said they were Christian,
wE made a covenant also,
but they too have forgotten much of what they were exhorted to do.
Therefore wE stirred among them enmity and hatred,
which shall endure till the Day or Resurrection,
when GOD will declare to them all what they have done."*

Religiously speaking, we're not alone in the world anymore. When the Quran was written, the ancestors of the ancient Muslims had little idea of the vastness of the world or **GOD**'s universal designs for man. Muslims can never know more than Jews about wisdom or more than Christians about love. And we cannot know more about devotion than the Muslims. But unless we add up what we all know, redemption will remain an abstract concept that **GOD** may reveal to each of us on our individual day of resurrection. Now that everyone can see everyone's area of expertise, perhaps we'll all be more motivated to explore his own special reason for having been created in the light of modernity.

*"People of the book,
our Apostle has come to reveal to you
much of what you have hidden of Scriptures
and to forgive you much."*

¹¹² Last words of Rhett Butler (played by Clark Gable) to Scarlett O'Hara (played by Vivian Leigh), in the 1939 film "Gone With The Wind" (book written by Margaret Mitchell) in response to her tearful question: "Where shall I go? What shall I do?" (Scarlett, honey, you've got to answer those questions for yourself...)

*A light has come to you from God
and a glorious Book,
with which God will guide you to the paths of peace.
Those that seek to please Him,
He will lead by His will from darkness to the light;
He will guide them to a straight path.”*
[5:15]

“People of the book,
Our apostle has come to reveal to you
much of what you have hidden of the Scriptures
and to forgive you much.
A light has come to you from God
and a glorious book,
with which **GOD** will guide you to the paths of peace.
Those that seek to please **HIM**,
HE will lead by **HIS** will from darkness to the light;
HE will guide them to a straight path.”

In this passage, **GOD** is presenting us with three paths to peace. By referring to the Quran as a glorious book, **HE**'s implying that the paths of wisdom and love will be enhanced with greater devotion to the three Abrahamic faiths. But this will only be possible if, and when, Islam will preach to the world about the importance of redemption (from within, each of us in his or her own unique way).

*“Unbelievers are those who declare,
‘God is the Messiah, the Son of Mary,’
Say:
‘Who could prevent God if He so willed,
from destroying the Messiah, the Son of Mary,
His mother,
and all the people of the earth?’
God has sovereignty over the heavens and the earth
and all that is between them.
He creates what He will;
and God has power over all things.”*
[5:17]

“Unbelievers are those who declare,
‘GOD is the Messiah, the son of Mary.’
Say:
‘Who could prevent GOD, if HE so willed,
from destroying the Messiah, the son of Mary,
HIS mother,
and all the people of the Earth?
GOD has sovereignty over the ‘heavens’ and the Earth
and all that is between them.
HE creates what HE will;
and GOD has power over all things.”

Because GOD has power over all things, HE has the power to make all three of the Abrahamic faiths real without contradicting HIMSELF or HIS designs. If you don’t learn from each one of the Abrahamic faiths, you might behave in ways that will lead you to severe misjudgments on Earth, which would, in turn, affect your standing in the hereafter.

It’s possible for GOD to have been the SON of GOD and also the son of Mary. It’s possible for HIM not to have been the MESSIAH. It’s possible that the MESSIAH will one day come. It’s possible that the Messiah will one day return. And it’s possible that HE already returned as the Prophet Muhammad.

It’s possible that the Jews didn’t acknowledge the MESSIAH when HE came. It’s possible that the Jews and Christians didn’t acknowledge HIM when he returned to give a name to the Holy Spirit. And it’s also possible that today’s JEWS, CHRISTIANS and Muslims aren’t willing to entertain any new ways of looking at HIS designs because their urge to have it their way overwhelms their rational thinking.

An ounce of spiritual prevention is worth a pound of cure. Wisdom is imperative. Do not swallow everything you might choose to bite off and chew. Spit out that which is abhorrent to you. Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Muhammad were all human beings who were born and died. They each went through spiritual, operating system assignments we’ve all experienced in our own way. Anybody can get some things wrong when he’s fated to take only one path to where he’s going. Even if Jesus was GOD, HE still motivated HIMSELF to go through the spiritual process just as you and I do every day.

*“The Jews and the Christians say,
‘We are the children of God and His loved ones.’
Say:
‘Why then does He punish you for your sins?
Surely you are mortals of His own creation.
He forgives whom He will and punishes whom He pleases.*

*God has sovereignty over the heavens and the earth
and all that lies between them.
All shall return to Him.”*
[5:18]

“The Jews and the Christians say,
‘We are the children of GOD/GOD and HIS/HIS loved ones.’
Say:
‘Why then does **HE** punish you for your sins?
Surely you are mortals of **HIS** own creation.
HE forgives whom **HE** will and punishes whom **GOD** pleases.
GOD has sovereignty over the ‘heavens’ and the Earth
and all that lies between them.
All shall return to **HIM**.”

Surely GOD punishes Muslims as well as Jews and Christians for their moral errors of judgment. But you can be quite sure that there were very few Jews and Christians in the 8th Century who referred to themselves as a Judeo-Christians. It took longer than two millennia for us to be able to say, “We are the children of GOD/GOD and HIS/HIS loved ones.” The perspective given by the Prophet on our faiths then was the consummate outsider’s point of view at that time. His third segment of **GOD**’s spiritual love triangle took 1,442 years to come into view.

Anyone who knows the history of the JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* in Europe and the Middle East knows there has been no sense of “we” until we grew spiritually closer to one another in the New World. The Judeo-Christian world we appreciate today that so many *Muslims* are mocking is one of the greatest, if not *the* greatest achievement of the new age. Would that Muslims could see this and help to create the Judeo-Christian-Islamic world of tomorrow using the word “we” as the Prophet did.

The meaning of “holy” in Judaism and Christianity comes from a separation and unification process that Islam has ought to learn to compare and contrast with even more righteous intention than we have. We all ought to learn to separate every idea with historical accuracy to understand how to recombine it with personal meaning for ourselves. Only then will we be able to fold that idea in with others to appreciate our belief in **GOD**’s designs. Only then will we learn a new definition of holy that we’ll joyously be able to pass on to our children to help make them feel like citizens of a world united with faith and **philosophy**.

*“Bear in mind the words of Moses to his people.
He said,
“Remember, my people, the favor that God has bestowed upon you.*

*He has raised up prophets among you,
made you kings,
and given you that which He has given to no other nation.
Enter, my people, the holy land that God has assigned for you.
Do not turn back
and thus lose all.”*
[5:20-21]

“Bear in mind the words of Moses to his people.
He said,
‘Remember, my people, the favor that GOD has bestowed upon you.
HE has raised up prophets among you,
made you kings,
and given you that which HE has given to no other nation.
Enter, my people, the Holy Land that GOD has assigned for you.
Do not turn back
and thus lose all.’”

Since the Prophet admits in this passage that the Holy Land was GOD’s gift to the Israelites, the CHRISTIAN crusades should be seen in retrospect as a fruitless attempt at one time to prove **GOD**’s love for them alone. The *Muslim* attempt for the past 70 years to prove *God*’s devotion to them alone through jihads has been equally fruitless and wasteful. Neither of these twisted beliefs understood the underlying message from **GOD**: You can’t have something that isn’t yours, no matter how much your GOD/GOD/*God* wants the best for you.

Whatever we hold that’s not ours will be taken away from us whenever **GOD** decides to do so – including life itself. The continuing effort of those who want to destroy Israel will only prove my point if the wars in the Middle East rage on and the animosity from the United Nations continues.

Your life is not yours alone. It’s a loan from **GOD**, a loan **HE** has the right to recall whenever **HE** pleases. It’s not for you to take another life or to live as though your life lies solely in your hands. You’re responsible to others for your life, as well as to **GOD**. And you’ll learn how to give back to mankind, and **HIM**, or you won’t.

Some eagerly pay tuition for their education in the school of life. You can figuratively see them sitting in the front row, near the **TEACHER** with their eyes glued to everything written on the board like handwriting on the wall. Others grumble about the cost of their studies or about their confusion at what their lessons mean. They are, of course, in the middle of the room, some of them even facing away from the **TEACHER**. They’re absentmindedly looking every which way except straight ahead. They’re distracted by their

daily affairs, concerned about the class clowns right behind them, but, perhaps, not at all distressed about the bozos at the back of the room.

GOD gave Israel to my ancient ancestors when they left ancient Egypt on the Exodus. HE took it away from their descendants when they were taken in chains to Babylonia. And HE gave it back to their descendants 125 years later. But HE took it away again 500 years after that after Jesus died and my ancestors became slaves in Rome. HE returned Israel a second time after 2,000 years to my parents' generation just 70 years ago.

The fact that **HE** gave Israel back to us again after the Holocaust proves **HIS** point: Stealing is against **GOD's** law. You will be punished for stealing. Stealing Israel from the Jews is one material manifestation of stealing knowledge. Stealing is a crime **HE** doesn't excuse anyone for. That's not just a Jewish lesson. That's not just a lesson for Christians and Muslims. That lesson is universal. And if the ultra-orthodox JEWS think they can steal my reputation out from under me because of my gay lifestyle, I assure them, my reputation doesn't lie in their hands.

If you saw that someone dropped something that slipped through his fingers, would you grab it for yourself? Or would you return it to its rightful owner? Would you rationalize your theft as GOD's/GOD's/*God's* good luck shining down upon you? Or would you see it as a test from the **TEACHER**?

All the losses you've suffered in life can be rectified by the Lord if you give back that which you've taken under false pretenses and redeem yourself by proving your self-worth to **HIM** through your wisdom, love and devotion beginning by bestowing it upon you. Using Israel or the gay lifestyle as an excuse for your bad behavior isn't going to get you where you want to end up. The literal, like your Scripture, is only a part of the truth.

Today's CHRISTIANS can't declare any more crusades on others to prove GOD's love of them. Today's *Muslims* can't declare any more jihads against others to prove *His* devotion to them. The moral challenges to modern man are more complex than those given to our ancestors. It's harder to be good these days because we have so much more overlapping understanding of HIS/HIS/*His* intentions to help challenge us to be better than those who came before us.

*“Recount to them in all truth
the story of Adam's two sons:
how they each made an offering,
and how the offering of the one was accepted
while that of the other was not.
One said, ‘I will surely kill you.’
The other replied,
‘God accepts offerings only from the righteous.
If you stretch your hand to kill me,
I shall not stretch mine to slay you;*

*for I fear God, lord of the universe.
I would rather you should add your sin against me to your other sins
and thus become an inmate of the fire.
Such is the recompense of the unjust.”*
[5:25-29]

“Recount to them in all truth
the story of Adam’s two sons:
how they each made an offering,
and how the offering of the one was accepted
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such is the recompense of the unjust.”

The stories of Cain and Abel in Torah and the Quran elucidate different aspects of man. Cain killed Abel in Torah, but Abel couldn’t adequately defend himself. His blood called out to GOD from the ground for justice. In becoming a victim, Abel had to leave justice up to GOD. In the Quran, Abel chooses not to defend himself, thereby leaving fairness up to God.

The Archangel Gabriel may be the same angel in all three Scriptures, but his messages from **GOD** were vastly different over time. You’re not even the same person you once were. Your view of events has changed over time. Therefore, your message should have changed over time, too. If not, you’re not moving forward or growing, and your redemption may be in question.

The moral issues first presented in Torah have slowly become universally intriguing thanks to the influences of Christianity, Islam and psychology. GOD heard Abel’s blood calling out from the ground for justice. GOD brought HIS symbolic SON to Earth to reveal **HIS** love to avoid further injustice. And then *He* chose to reveal *His* devotion through the Archangel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad to further **HIS** goals of fairness. This revealed **HIS** wisdom, love and devotion to the whole world through the message of the possibility for personal redemption. In that sense, you are and aren’t your brother’s keeper. It’s up to you to decide in each and every circumstance that **GOD** brings to you.

But if you feel you can only be redeemed through Moses or redeemed through Jesus, you should only expect to receive a third of the reward you were planning on. And even if

you seek redemption through the *words* of the Prophet, you should still only expect to receive a third of your potential reward.

The moral problems of today are more complex than they once were because man has shared so many of his areas of expertise with others for 5,780 years. That means that you're like a Jew. I'm like a Christian, and we're all like Muslims. What you do in your lifetime to seek redemption is entirely up to your conscience to guide you.

Today we should be able to say we know what it means to receive a spiritual education in the 3rd dimension with **GOD** coming to us from three directions. We're discovering moral length, width and depth, and now know what we're talking about without having to literally say it.

When you realize you're being personally challenged by **GOD** in ways that bring the puzzle off the page into an inner world that goes north and south, east and west, you realize that your life will always get morally harder and harder. But it's supposed to!

Don't be physically fruitful by making babies unless you really think of yourself as someone who knows enough to be able to teach your children about the meaning of life. It's a sin to create a life and then not know what to do with it. It might be far better if you spent your time learning about being fruitful in your own way than trying to teach something you don't know much about to someone who'll believe anything you say (for a while).

Abel {heart} stole the idea of gifting GOD from Cain {head}. Abel {heart} copied Cain {head} without giving Cain {head} credit for his idea. And GOD sanctified the theft with mercy upon Cain {head} to give him the opportunity to work out the moral dilemma for himself. Torah gave us Cain {head} to model the first perpetrator who made himself into a victim after killing his brother {heart}.¹¹³ You do the same every day when you sacrifice your feelings for thoughts you haven't fully explored and then kick yourself when the outcome isn't in your favor.

In the Creation story, man stole from GOD's Tree. In the story of Cain and Abel, man stole from man in order to gift GOD, not knowing that **GOD** would come to be far greater than he thought at the time. The infantile {Adam} can only take. The childish {Cain} can give, but only by gambling on getting what he expects in return. When Cain didn't get what he expected {GOD's blessing} he acted vindictively toward his brother Abel. Real giving and receiving only begins in puberty {the story of Noah and the ark} when the youngster discovers the human body is literally created to give and receive sexually.

You must come to your head and heart from a third place in inner space: your soul. Only from there will you see **GOD's** intentions for you. Life is hard than it looks. Life

¹¹³ After GOD chose Abel's sacrifice over Cain's, HE said to Cain, "WHY ARE YOU ANGRY? WHY IS YOUR FACE DOWNCAST? IF YOU DO WHAT IS RIGHT, WILL YOU NOT BE ACCEPTED? BUT IF YOU DO NOT DO WHAT IS RIGHT, SIN IS CROUCHING AT YOUR DOOR; IT DESIRES TO HAVE YOU, BUT YOU MUST RULE OVER IT." [Genesis 4:6-7] After Cain killed Abel, GOD said, "'ANYONE WHO KILLS CAIN WILL SUFFER VENGEANCE SEVEN TIMES OVER.' THEN THE LORD PUT A MARK ON CAIN SO THAT NO ONE WHO FOUND HIM WOULD KILL HIM." [Genesis 4:15] That mark is guilt. To this day, it's guilt that separates the perpetrators from the victims. It separates your head from your heart. Understand guilt, and the way to "heaven" is yours.

moves more slowly than you think. And every moment of life is more important than it appears.

The next story in Genesis, Noah and the Ark, reveals the mystery of puberty, awareness of being in a vehicle of love which was created out of the spiritual wood you gathered in childhood. The myriad animal instincts you took on board, you later reproduced so as to let out your passions in adulthood after the flood of feelings of adolescence subsided.

The next story in Genesis, the tower of Babel, represents the young adult level of psychological development. The spiritually young will collude with one another to attain power if they have an enemy in common to conspire against. In this fourth story of Torah, the common enemy of the people on Earth was GOD. Young adults want to reach up beyond the clouds to GOD's abode to stop future floods from happening, not realizing that by conspiring together against HIM they create perpetrators and victims among themselves.

If young, immature men and women have a potential for becoming good, there's no other possibility than that they first become cynical, skeptical, sarcastic and sardonic. They must go through experiences that are the inverse of what they *should* be to validate their immature feelings of righteous indignation, disappointment and bitterness. This is a rite of passage into spiritual maturity that many naïve fools avoid by relying on GOD/GOD/*God* to protect them from evil instead of learning to expose themselves to it to question it.

The morally, mature man is introduced in the subsequent story of Torah, the story of Abraham. Abraham found a way to protect himself from unscrupulous people while in Egypt; and he protected his nephew Lot in Sodom from unscrupulous people there. He had a conscious relationship with GOD (as acknowledged by all three faiths) as he made his way through the journey of his life. It was only at home in his family life that his weaknesses were evident.

If modern man could, he'd probably kill GOD/GOD/*God* because of all the little things that don't go his way instead of asking **HIM** how **HIS** operating system works with regard to the big picture. It's so easy to blame others for your misfortunes and so difficult to see why **GOD** has allowed this world to unfold as it has for you. Maybe there are aspects of yourself that you still need to learn about. Maybe you're mystery that can be solved.

The aspect of GOD/GOD/*God* you're most familiar with through your faith will reveal the degree to which you understand the dimensionality of your crimes against your own humanity. Because **GOD's** moral intentions go beyond our horizons and even beyond the grave, we can't judge **HIM** for the ways in which **HE** allows us to be treated by others. We need to teach-and-learn {DO AND THEN LISTEN}; and then learn-and-teach {*Hear and obey*}. And in our ignorant effort to do both, we're damn lucky if we get to learn a little bit about love along the way...

Our ultimate rewards and punishments are beyond our ken. We can only see as far as we can see. The moral world is round, not flat. The simple conclusions you come to about the State of Israel {Judaism}, right and wrong {Christianity} by which you determine better from worse {Islam} only raise your view from the mountain to reveal more of the magnificent panorama of truth that you're allowed to see.

But even from a seat on the International Space Station, the astronauts can only look down, at most, on half of the Earth. And from the viewpoint of all three of the Abrahamic

faiths, you can only figuratively see, at most, half the truth. The Eastern **philosophies** add a whole other dimension on the other side of our inner world we need to come to understand.

When you look more closely at your past, you may discover that **GOD** gave you a great deal of rope to see if you'd use it to weave a basket or whether you'd use it to hang yourself. **GOD** allowed your past to unfold as it did to bring you to this day so you could express yourself as the unique person that you are today. **GOD** is guiding you through the present to teach you to learn from you – with **HIS** help. And your future will unfold with **HIS** carrots {blessings} and sticks {curses}, regardless of whether or not your life turns out the way you might like.

Many killers {#6}, like Hitler, die at their own hands. Many cheaters {#7} die believing they've spread love, when all they've really created are bittersweet notches on their bedpost that conceal self-loathing and heartache. Many thieves {#8} die sick with a super-healthy bank account. Many liars {#9} speak small bits of the truth that they insist wipe away their denial. And many who covet {#10} what others have find themselves with nothing they really need at the end.

You can't judge the power of the second tablet of Commandments by the superficial evidence you see around you. When you see someone fall off a cliff, your first instinct is to get up to the spot where the person was last seen to determine what happened to him after that. In that sense, only when you get to your own deathbed will your curiosity be satisfied about what happened to the inner stranger you occasionally encountered on your journey.

GOD doesn't need to know where you're going. **HE** knows where you are. How far you think you can go from here and now depends on how genuine you are with yourself. Like a teacher who can change the lesson plan in an instant to accommodate the student, **GOD** can do the same with your curriculum depending on what you decide to learn and when. You should choose how much you wish to discover about yourself at every moment of every day. But **HE**'ll help you whether or not you want to help yourself. You'll tolerate **HIS** help if you receive it unconsciously. You'll accept **HIS** help if you receive it semi-consciously. But you'll applaud and admire **HIS** help if you can receive it consciously 24/7.

Reality is a three-pronged process of going out into the outer world, returning to your inner world with experience and then going out again based on inner changes that came as the result of the previous external/internal experience. Reality is constantly changing depending on how much you respond and how much you react to it. Reality is like consumption; you're eating through a forbidden fruit you can't stop yourself from picking because it relieves a hunger that never ends. But the infant in you will spit out anything he doesn't like whether or not it may be good for you. Therefore, your spiritual likes and dislikes make you as healthy or as sick as you are.

The modern, psychological interpretation of the story of Cain and Abel is that the child's mind {Cain} will come up with ideas that the child's heart {Abel} will steal and use to its own advantage. As children, we had thoughts that were in conflict with feelings that we had to choose between. Generally we chose what we felt like doing {heart/Abel} because that was also what we wanted {genitalia}. But our parents tried to teach us to use

our better judgment {head/Cain} instead. Over a long stretch of time, we discovered for ourselves that our heart and genitalia weren't always acting in our best interest. The outer world taught us about our inner world. Experience became our best teacher.

Teaching ourselves to use our mind to gain control over our emotions is the essence of the second story of Genesis. It's not about literally being your brother's keeper. Even if your conscience may choose the gifts from your heart over those from your head, you have a responsibility to weigh all outcomes for their moral importance to you because you and **GOD** are watching you.

Those who don't thoroughly master this lesson often receive the "wrath" of **GOD** indirectly (in the external world) through people, natural disasters, accidents and illness. And then, when their heart cries out from the ground of their being for justice at their losses, **GOD** determines the best way to teach them the next lesson appropriate to their level of understanding.

That's what makes the job of **GOD** one none of us can apply for. That's why it's so important we don't play god. It's so important we don't vilify those who get in our way because everyone becomes a subjective messenger from **GOD**. What you decide to do with that message will determine your future, not whether you pray standing, kneeling or prostrate on the ground.

Fighting with others doesn't solve anything internally. Violence is only an outward expression of how you really feel about being you, and it describes what you'd really like to do to **GOD/GOD/God** if you could. People who promote violence wrack havoc on the world in a misplaced effort to express themselves autonomously. Their Israel is projected into the world around them. They become banished of evidence of the Eden within, which then leaves them scornful of Torah and all its teachings.

(Just because someone claims to be an atheist or agnostic doesn't mean that they're immune to this universal operating system. It just means that they're in denial of it to some degree. It just means that their experiences haven't been shaped with **GOD** to draw them into this discussion with **HIM**.)

GOD's reaction to the loss of one fruit stolen from **HIS** garden is never described in Torah. But the well-educated can see the importance of teaching every student of life to discover the various outcomes of stealing. The death of Jesus personifies and personalizes this loss. If stealing the life out of **GOD** didn't fulfill man's desire for defiance and autonomy, nothing will.

People who fight *internally* get physically sick. People who fight *externally* get physically hurt. But people who don't question what happens to them in either place become damaged. Addictions and moral infringements against others are external ruptures that mirror internal fissures, cracks and breaks in a container that will seriously affect its ability to hold more contents, symbolically speaking.

Immoral behavior is like a breach in the hull of a boat. It causes leaks that can sink the ship. The more you commit to behaving lawfully and loyally, the more you can hope to learn about how you operate. The more you drill holes in the boat, the more you're going to have to bail.

If the meaning of life is to give life meaning, then you must find answers from within to the pain and suffering you've been through; are going through; and may still have to go through. You can prepare for the future by being more here, now.

*“That was why we laid it down for the Israelites
that whoever killed a human being,
except as punishment for murder or other villainy in the land,
shall be regarded as having killed all mankind;
and whoever saved a human life
shall be regarded as having saved all mankind.”
[5:32]*

“THAT WAS WHY WE LAID IT DOWN FOR THE ISRAELITES
THAT WHOEVER KILLED A HUMAN BEING,
EXCEPT AS PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER OR OTHER VILLAINY IN THE LAND,
SHALL BE REGARDED AS HAVING KILLED ALL MANKIND;
AND WHOEVER SAVED A HUMAN LIFE
SHALL BE REGARDED AS HAVING SAVED ALL MANKIND.”

When you kill a human being you destroy two worlds. When you kill a man to solve a grievance with him, you then multiply your grievances with yourself. You then should ask yourself how it is that you can trust a murderer. You become as Moses (who was a murderer) unto yourself.¹¹⁴

Every murderer ought to ask himself why he chose to kill instead of discuss his grievances. That would have been so much more beneficial for everyone, but especially for himself. In order not to have to ask and answer such difficult questions after the fact, people move into denial of the seriousness of their moral crimes. (They claim they're righting a wrong.) And the more serious and frequent their crimes, the more denial builds up like tarter on teeth. It's the halitosis of *Muslims* that give them away.

Veterans on both sides of a war would be good people to speak to about such questions. But nobody faces this moral dilemma more deeply and personally than a suicide survivor, for he's obviously both the perpetrator and the victim of his crime. His guilt is undeniable.

*“Apostle,
do not grieve for those who plunge headlong into nonbelief;
those who say with their tongues,
'We believe,'*

¹¹⁴ Remember, it was Moses who's credited with being the author of Torah. His story of Cain and Abel should be meaningful to anyone in the Abrahamic faiths who wants to learn how to stop murder at its source. Surely Moses knew much more about murder than Jesus or the Prophet because Moses committed murder by his own hand.

*but have no faith in their hearts
and those Jews who listen to lies
and listen to others who have not come to you.
They tamper with words out of context and say,
‘If this be given you, accept it;
if not,
then beware.’”
[5:41]*

“Apostle,
do not grieve for those who plunge headlong into nonbelief;
those who say with their tongues,
‘We believe,’
but have no faith in their hearts
and those Jews who listen to lies
and listen to others who have not come to you.
They tamper with words out of context and say,
‘If this be given you, accept it;
if not,
then beware.’”¹¹⁵

There are many today who plunge into disbelief that **GOD** has a daily designs, much like a teacher has a daily program of study that falls into a general curriculum. Rather than take the time to explore the forces of their head, heart and soul from within before they take actions out in the world against others, students come to class each day with no idea where they really are or what they’re doing. They react and then act on their reactions. They *do*, and then they *listen*. They question why there are so many rectums around them, but they can’t ponder their own. Anal issues, they think, are other people’s problems.

It’s so much easier to follow others like a sheep than to shepherd yourself with a passionate desire for health and truth. It’s so much easier to use your conscience as other people’s guide and later wonder why you’ve come to the conclusion that **GOD** has forsaken you. It’s harder to believe in yourself than in **GOD** because you’re rarely, if ever, really there for you. Asking yourself for more information on why you’ve done what you’ve done is perceived of as a blow below the belt. Threatening your low self-esteem with tough questions is considered rude and inappropriate. And you wouldn’t want to be rude or discourteous to yourself...

There’s a big difference between “tampering with words out of context” and building upon an intellectual foundation with pillars of love and a roof that covers your inner temple from inclement weather with a lifelong devotion to life. Those who cling to the past are

¹¹⁵ There are many making, eating and serving chicken cheeseburgers. You can smell it on their breath, emanating out from under their arms and from their behind. They stink!

going to wander aimlessly and homelessly within, making grievous errors of judgment that will cost them dearly. The future will be handed to those who'll embrace themselves as **GOD** made them: as a work in progress, whether you approve of **HIS** choices, or not.

Those who turn their back on the future are turning their back on **GOD**. They're looking back with nostalgia at the womb they came out of. They're like infants who haven't yet been fully weaned from their mother's breast. At best, they behave like toddlers who are so driven to learn that they constantly get into mischief.

If you're dealing with a severe loss, look forward. Face **GOD**. Tell **HIM** how you feel. Ask **HIM** how you're going to carry on. Tell **GOD** how you believe it should have turned out. And then listen.

GOD stands before us beckoning us toward **HIM** as a father does with a young son learning to leave his mother's arms. Only cowards turn around and go the other way, spitting their disdain for gays and Jews as they reach kebab in time for the breasts they once suckled. Only cowards refuse to make their way forward into their **FATHER's** arms.

The biggest issue in the religious world of the Abrahamic faiths is whether the anus should be used as a sexual "entrance" in addition to a nutritional "exit." That problem is the distraction of little minds that have nowhere else to go. They plop themselves down where they are like babies, ignoring their father and mother, distracted by nonsense with clenched fists and angry tears. They're frustrated by their ever-growing ego.

The better question they should be asking is whether their mother's vagina should be figuratively used as their private "entrance" after they used it as an "exit." Don't go kebab in the direction you came. Avoid nostalgia if it leads you to conclude the future will be appalling. Hope lies ahead. What you do with your anus is far less morally important than what you may be unconsciously and nostalgically feeling about your mother's vagina.

The spiritually young and inexperienced are going to longingly pine for their mother, not for their father. This is normal. But there comes a time in the life of every man and woman when spiritual puberty sets in. And then, they reject the direction of inexperience; turn around; get up; wipe away the hot, angry tears; and go the other way. This is a spiritual change of heart that you cannot predict or forewarn. You need to experience it for yourself with yourself, and no one else.

Those who die incestuously clamoring for a physical or emotional past that seems ideal are going to graduate the elementary school of life, but they'll never know what it's like to connect with themselves any more deeply than a child. Growing up may now be harder than you once thought.

*"You cannot help a man if God intends to try him.
Those whose hearts God does not intent to purify
shall be held up to shame in this world,
and in the world to come grievous punishment awaits them."
[5:42]*

“You cannot help a man if **GOD** intends to try him.

Those whose hearts **GOD** does not intend to purify
shall be held up to shame in this world,
and in the ‘world to come’ grievous punishment awaits them.”

Illumination and heat lead to purification. Wisdom and love lead to burns. No one was so obedient to his parents that he didn’t reach out and touch a flame they warned him not to touch. **GOD** created a whole faith {Islam} around this principle. But there are many who fear purification. Many choose to avoid the harsh burns within in favor of physical scars they can proudly show off to others.

There’s so much we all need to do to purify ourselves spiritually, and there are so few who’ve contemplated the purpose of fire from a spiritual perspective. ¹¹⁶ We live in a world where the light bulb that turned on our mind in comic strips displayed a cool, incandescent glow we never associated with our ancestors’ spiritual campfires. If you don’t consciously strive to internalize the seven attributes of **GOD**’s flame, you’ll be forced to externalize them: there’s the burn! And if you don’t internalize the three attributes of evil {ice}, you’ll externalize them, too. ¹¹⁷ And that, too, will burn.

*“They listen to falsehoods
and practice what is unlawful.
If they come to you,
give them your judgment or avoid them.
If you avoid them,
they can in no way harm you;
but if you do act as their judge,
judge them with fairness.
God loves those who deal justly.”*
[5:43] ¹¹⁸

¹¹⁶ Think of the flaming swords **GOD** put in front of the tree of life in the Creation story as the flame that stands before your mother’s vagina, warning you to always go the other way. It would be better that you explore the x^2 factor in you than spend your whole life trying to recapture a place that was never yours to begin with. This is the spiritual essence of the meaning of “hell on Earth.” And this is the essence of why there has to be an equivalent meaning for “hell” after life. Humiliation is **GOD**’s warning sign.

¹¹⁷ The three attributes of spiritual ice that will burn you in an altogether different way are: (1) Apathy rather than love; (2) Hopelessness rather than healing; and (3) Succumbing to the idea of death rather than the pursuit of “eternal life.”

¹¹⁸ “Judgment” is a powerful word, one that’s going to have spiritual consequences every day of your life.

“They listen to falsehoods
and practice what is unlawful.
If they come to you,
give them your judgment or avoid them.
If you avoid them,
they can in no way harm you;
but if you do act as their judge,
judge them with fairness.
GOD loves those who deal justly.”

I’m not a Christian or a Muslim, and yet I speak as lovingly and soulfully as I can about what I believe. The man whose head is honest; whose heart is sincere; and whose soul is authentic will be perceived as being genuine. And although his words may come across as frank (and may therefore burn a little), they’ll ring within as real. You don’t need any more liars who try to be P.C. at all cost. You need people around you who are willing to be frank, but not rude.

You don’t have to believe me, any more than you have to believe Jesus who was quite frank with the JEWS of HIS day. I don’t really care whether you believe HIM or me. Your grades aren’t going on my report card. I only recommend that you learn to believe yourself.

I hold my reputation in my own hands. There’s no one whose opinion of me matters more to me than my own. I have to speak wisely because I ordained myself a rabbi. I don’t have a religious school to fall back on to defend my reputation. I’m solely responsible for everything that comes out of my mouth.

I’m a master of the occult. The “occult” is that which is hidden. The occult is that which lies unseen in the dark, afraid to be approached. In the astronomical realm, there are black holes in space. In the inner world of the occult, there’s evidence of dark spots in man that are equally difficult to fathom. You can practically see the illumination of some people as it gets sucked into the nothingness of their black holes, leaving them foolish and mean.

As a suicide survivor who engaged in self-loathing most of my life, marrying myself was an inspired thing to do. It now seems like an arranged marriage made in “heaven.” But I’ve got the ideal partner for life, someone I’m coming to love more and more over time. I never knew learning to love and like myself could be such a meaningful experience. I may be a rabbi who began his spiritual training in a ballet school, but I’m grateful for the way my life has turned out. I’m physically strong, emotionally tender and spiritually transparent. If you’re not envious of me, you’re crazy. I think you should want everything I’ve got...

*“We have revealed the Torah,
in which there is goodness and light.
By it the prophets who submitted to God judged the Jews,
and so did the rabbis and the divines,
according to God’s Book
which had been committed to their keeping*

and to which they themselves were witnesses.”
[5:44]

“**WE** have revealed the Torah,
in which there is goodness and light.
By it the prophets who submitted to GOD judged the JEWS,
and so did the rabbis and the divines,
according to GOD’s book
which had been committed to their keeping
and to which they themselves were witnesses.”

The 600,000 Israelites were conscious, collective witnesses of GOD’s plagues in ancient Egypt and HIS rewards and punishments in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. More than 5,000 Jews were conscious witnesses to Christ’s miracles in ancient Israel. But no one saw the interchange between the Archangel Gabriel and the Prophet Muhammad. That was altogether personal and private.

Faith can be both collective and individual. It can be public and private. The witness you’ve become to yourself can be enhanced with greater insight. If you increase your awareness of what **GOD** gave the world before you entered it, you’ll discover **HE** gave the world something more than the light you’ve grown accustomed to.

Moses was a prince. Jesus was a middleclass carpenter. And the Prophet Muhammad was a poor, illiterate, camel driver. Faith is for the rich, the bourgeois and the poor. Faith has been given to the world in all three of these sociologic strata so no one would be left out. If anyone tells you you’ve been excluded because you’re divorced, unwed, gay or because of your religion or financial standing, tell them they don’t know **GOD** as intimately as you do. Tell them that their religious frame for GOD/GOD/*God* is too small for your big picture.

*“After them We sent forth Jesus,
son of Mary,
confirming the Torah already revealed,
and gave him the Gospels,
in which there is guidance and light,
corroborating what was revealed before it in Torah:
a guide and an admonishment to the righteous.
Therefore, let those who follow the Gospels judge according to what God has revealed
therein.
Evil-doers are those who do not judge according to God’s revelation.”*
[5:46-47]

“AFTER THEM **WE** SENT FORTH JESUS,
SON OF MARY,
CONFIRMING THE TORAH ALREADY REVEALED,
AND GAVE HIM THE GOSPELS,
IN WHICH THERE IS GUIDANCE AND LIGHT,
CORROBORATING WHAT WAS REVEALED BEFORE IT IN TORAH:
A GUIDE AND AN ADMONISHMENT TO THE RIGHTEOUS.

Therefore, let those who follow the Gospels judge
according to what **GOD** has revealed therein.

Evil-doers are those who do not judge according to **GOD's** revelation.”

You need to learn to judge yourself. You need to be able to step back from your faith to perceive all three of the faiths as an independent observer. Without being able to judge yourself fairly, you won't glean awe out of life. You won't discover the mysterious meaning of the color indigo.

Depression is a lack of color. It's a world of shades. Depression indicates that you're having trouble learning to operate yourself from within. Just being successful in making money or holding power over others isn't going to teach you the skills you need to be successful from the inside in. You can't appreciate the rainbow in the night if you don't improve your imagination.

The psychological concept of projection is a *casting out* or *mapping out* of moral questions given to you by **GOD** that you can't yet answer internally. It's like getting up from your seat and going to the board to write out your answer before the teacher and the class rather than quietly handing in your paper with the others. Projection becomes punitive. Projection is the equivalent to banishment from your garden. But it's also every individual's diaspora in the external world that makes coming home meaningful. When you come back to your seat knowing you've put the right answer on the board, you feel great.

The opposite of projection doesn't cast out. It casts in. It's a mapping of questions that arise from the external world that you then recreate in your imagination to learn about your world within. This casting in is an entirely private experience that occurs by using metaphors, symbols and similes to map your inner world. It's a return to your Eden to discover what you didn't know about yourself that you could only learn from your experiences. Figurative speech helps make your inner world more real.

Racism doesn't just dissipate out in the world like morning dew that disappears before noon. It sinks in. If you don't look for racism below the surface, you're going to make the claim that your racism simply disappeared. If you don't look at fear of blacks, Jews and gay people as dew, you're going to claim, instead, that every black, Jew and gay person is a racist. You're going to live out your hatred of you through projection. And you're going to conclude that Israel is an apartheid state and Africa is being run by apes.

We all know there's no such thing as wisdom that resides in your heart or soul. It's love that pervades your heart and devotion that pervades your soul. We all know your penis problems don't reside in your crotch. It's ego that enters your heart from below your belt that causes you to adore the sensations you experience. And we all know your conscience

isn't located beneath your breastplate. It's mindfulness that makes you a morally better person.

What the **Buddha** calls "mindfulness" has nothing to do with your mind. What he's referring to is soulfulness. But what can a nonbeliever like the **Buddha** say that's profound about the absence of **GOD**? You cannot answer questions about **GOD** from the East until you've gone all the way around the world going West. San Francisco is the Golden Gate to the East.

Our divisions of thoughts, feelings, beliefs and wants are all occurring in our mind. So the mapping within that began with the main metaphor of Torah; advanced to the two symbols of the Gospels; concludes with the similes of the Quran – are all aspects of the mind of man. If you don't become mindful, you'll become apathetic to yourself and to the outcome of your life. You'll become materialistic and superficial. You'll become the stereotype of the JEW that the CHRISTIANS railed against for 2,000 years. You'll become a joke. And you'll sense that you're being humiliated in public and behind your back.

From the nonjudgmental place of science and psychology you can observe yourself and others spiritually, but impartially. From the spiritual knowledge you've already gleaned about life, you can improve yourself quickly and easily. It's religion that tends to influence our opinions with a desire to be on the one winning team. I've got news for you: We're all on winning teams!

A very special rabbi in my life (Rabbi Alan Lew, best known as the Zen rabbi) said something very profound in a Torah class that I haven't forgotten. He was talking about the authors of Torah and the various theories about how Torah was assembled over hundreds of years. He debunked the myth that Torah was written only by Moses in favor of the theory that it was an assembly of beliefs that came together through many anonymous sages. But he concluded his discussion with the inspiring thought that regardless of who wrote Torah, the fact that it was assembled as it was is a miracle of awesome proportions.

I say the same now to you. The fact that there's a **GOD** who gave us three sets of Scripture is far more inspiring than thinking this world all came together by pure chance. It makes no sense that this world was created by three gods: **GOD**, **GOD** and *God*. It makes much more sense that man was created in **GOD**'s image metaphorically; that man was recreated in **GOD**'s image symbolically; and that man was again created in *God*'s image a third time as a sign of something yet even more hopeful yet to come. If you don't combine these creations into one, where else would you expect to go but back in time to your own beginning, not forward toward your end?

Science has been, up until now, a valuable tool in coming to understand man and the world around him, but it's been a lousy tool for discerning good from evil, right from wrong and what's ethically better or worse. The field of psychology may be a subdivision of science, but people are becoming more polarized, rigid and stubborn with what little they know about human nature. They're becoming secular or religiously extremist in their views. They're not finding ways of melding the two around them because they can't access the tools they need from within.

The urge to reject science and psychology is the gravest of all the errors of judgment the extremists in the Abrahamic faiths are making. But the urge to reject religion altogether

is the gravest of all the errors of judgment the secularists are making. Going backward, not forward, requires scientific principles melded with spirituality. It requires a reassembly of you through poetic license. **GOD** is prosaic only when it comes to creating “heavenly” bodies. When it comes to each and every life, **HE**’s poetic.

None of us is so high up the face of the mountain that we can see 360 degrees in every direction. There’s always something obscured from our view. There’s always some panorama we can see perfectly, while another aspect of the view is concealed by the mountain. Your view is obscured by the very rocks that made it possible for you to have climbed this high. Therefore you need other men and women’s points of view. No one has the perspective of **GOD** on **HIS** throne in “heaven” looking down in all directions.

If you don’t continue to ascend this mountain, as well as make your way around it to observe the truth you hold from many other points of view (including that of science and other religious and **philosophic** systems), you’re not going to get a continuous view that goes from the base to the summit on all sides. You’re going to make claims that only elucidate your personal penis problem or clitoris conflict. You’re going to react impulsively to reality, and you’ll thereby create an anal issue. And when you die, **GOD** is also going to have to figuratively come down farther than is necessary to retrieve you because you’ll have stopped yourself from climbing any higher than you’ve come today.

Therefore, never stop climbing and endeavoring to see the view from many other points of view. Modern life should be an ever-ascending spiral escalator, not just a circular balcony or ladder. Make sure you work past your issues in being you, even if there are millions of people around you who agree with *where* you are, but don’t want to tell you to do anything about *who* you’ve become.

Travel if you can. I live in a little neighborhood of the City by the Bay called Noe Valley, but I like to tell people that I’m always up for a trip to San Francisco... Talk to people in neighborhoods you don’t frequent. See the world by getting on a cross-town bus. Meet with people whose faith and lifestyle are different from your own. They could literally be around the corner.

You don’t have to change your faith to more fully appreciate the faith **GOD** gave you. You only need to learn to appreciate all **GOD**’s faiths to more fully appreciate your place in **HIS** designs. This will open you to the great **philosophies** **GOD** created anonymously. This will make you mindful.

*“And to you We have revealed the book with the truth.
It confirms the Scriptures that came before it,
and stands as a guardian over them.
Therefore give judgment among men according to God’s revelation,
and do not yield to their whims
or swerve from the truth made known to you.”*

[5:48]

“And to you *We* have revealed the book with the truth.
It confirms the Scripture that came before it,
and stands as a guardian over them.
Therefore give judgment among men according to **GOD**’s revelation,
and do not yield to their whims
or swerve from the truth made known to you.”

There’s no way to believe that the Scriptures that came before the Quran make the Quran revelatory if you haven’t personally experienced the WORDS of Torah changing your mind and the WORDS of the Gospels transforming your heart. You can’t transcend yourself with the *words* of the Quran if you don’t appreciate the prior revelations that come before the revelations revealed by the greatest of all the prophets.

The WORD/WORD/*Word* of GOD/GOD/*God* isn’t going to get you where you want to go, not now, not ever. You can’t cut out parts of your brain and not see detrimental effects in parts of your body. Unification of your mind will unify your head, heart and soul. But that can only happen when you open yourself to **GOD** and **HIS** mysterious designs that you must discover for yourself.¹¹⁹

Don’t be afraid of going it alone. Nobody can hold your hand through this process. It’s an inside job. You ought to find the courage to be yourself with yourself. You can’t assimilate externally alone. Fitting in with you should begin in you not around you.

If you don’t look at your thoughts from the third-person {s/he} {a clinical perspective}, you won’t realize that the images in your mind are reflections of aspects of you that you’re mapping internally, rather than just projecting out externally without a second thought. The people you think about aren’t only thoughts about those people. They’re also self-made copies of them, chess pieces, you use to debate moral lessons given to you by **GOD**.

I can’t impress upon you how slow and difficult this awakening is or how quickly it sometimes occurs. Nor can I relieve you of your struggle by telling you how to anticipate how this awakening process will unfold from day to day. As detailed as I’m trying to make this, there are enormous vistas of self-discovery that you’re going to need to map alone. I may know more about the pattern of my snowflake, but that doesn’t mean that what I know about my pattern is identical to yours.

The internal shape of my tree of knowledge {y} and my tree of life {x²} has little to do with my genitals. My genitals don’t define me. Any desire I have to be like other men or women is a false impulse that quickly subsides. It’s always my desire to be more like me, more genuine than I was before. That makes me feel real inside, which, in turn, makes my words more convincing to others. I’m willing to be frank so long as I’m not (terribly) rude...

Studying the Quran will make you smarter, but only if you compare and contrast it to the Old Testament and the New. If you don’t use the third-person {s/he} as a clinical,

¹¹⁹ Obviously, unification of your head, heart and soul can’t happen until you observe your penis problem or clitoris conflict in action. You aren’t going to believe you’ve got many issues below your belt unless you see them for yourself.

psychological tool to discuss Scripture with yourself, you aren't going to get to know "him" {y} and "her" {x²}, the strangers within everyman.

Scripture will help you achieve greater knowledge of yourself if you take it personally. But those who are curious to learn about **GOD's** designs are going to get smarter than you if you don't learn more about yourself. There have been plenty of wolves in sheep's clothing who've gotten smarter by using these sorts of tools without bothering to write them down or share them for the sake of the good of everyone. good must learn from evil to do what's right. Being right is the only way to get from bad to better.

Everything you previously believed to be from Y.H.V.H. or Jesus or *Allāh* has been an externalization of yourself you've been using for practice in preparing to come before **GOD** with pure hands and a clean heart. For you to clean up your act by becoming wiser, more loving and devoted to you, you're going to want to use people to break through those projections you still entertain. Even the image you hold of GOD/GOD/*God* in your imagination is for practice in learning to be better to you.

Purification of your soul can't be achieved without purification of your head and heart.
¹²⁰ Your mind must create a head, heart and soul that are blended for you to move ideas through your unconscious beliefs to semiconscious feelings and conscious thoughts. If you don't delve down inside to discover more, you're only going to make it so far up and around the mountain externally. You're not going to learn how to soar above it.

Think of your conscious mind as Jewish; think of those thoughts in the back of your mind as Christian and think of those bright ideas you suddenly come to perceive as real and as though out of nowhere, as Muslim. Coming to know you is like repeating history. The more you appreciate GOD's design, GOD's design and *God's* design, the more you'll be able to consciously piece together **GOD's** unique designs made just for you.

Most of the time, you're consciously thinking like a Jew. Some of the time, you're reading between those lines, gathering feelings and emotional impressions that underscore your thoughts. When you do that, you're applying wisdom of the heart. You're thinking like a Christian. You're using your semiconscious mind to access the deeper parts of your being through feeling.

And when you're suddenly surprised to discover what it is you truly believe about someone or something, you're bringing up thoughts from your unconscious. This is a world that Islam excels in expressing. This is the deepest part of your mind that can make you soulful. Being soulful isn't about how deeply you care for others. Being soulful is about how deeply you care for you.

Unfortunately, the extremist in the Abrahamic faiths are against knowing, loving and expressing devotion to themselves. They're in opposition to the sensuality and sexuality of self-awareness. They promote sex for procreation only. Most of them claim that sex for pleasure is disgusting. They don't want to look at what's going on below their own belt. This is why we see so much hypocrisy in the institutions of faith. This is why we see them telling us how to behave toward others, but not elucidating how to operate ourselves for the betterment of humanity.

¹²⁰ Purification of your soul is the inner jihad.

The attitude the secular world holds about life celebrates sex and sensuality. It's when you have a good sex life that your attitude about your life improves. It's when you're grateful for the people in your inner circle that your attitude soars. And it's when your beliefs about **GOD** become unified that your attitude reaches joyous awe, the violet spectrum of the rainbow.

Those who informed you about sex when you were a child didn't tell you much. You had to discover for yourself that information, data and knowledge about sex was only a small part of the truth. If you prune you with hateful beliefs about sex, you're going to lose your appetite for life. Your leaves are going to shrivel up. Your blossoms are going to fall off. And your fruits are going to be bitter and hard. You'll be ashamed of your children, which will, of course, be a mirror of something in you that you may never rectify. ¹²¹

The JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* are being brought to you for practice. Look at how clean or unclean your actions have been with regard to your inner land of milk and honey. Look at your inner orchard. The State of Israel is just for practice in coming to know and love the grounding you've achieved thus far in you.

Look how *you* treat you, and you'll come to identify with the 40-year journey of the Israelites that GOD literally brought out of bondage and took to their new home. Their Exodus to Israel is available generically for you to mark the path from your head to your heart.

Next look at the journey Jesus took from Earth to "heaven." That symbolic exodus from Israel is available to you while you're alive by humbling yourself into your heart. You won't treat you fairly if you don't love you. And you won't love *you* until you can look at the journey from your heart upwards from this newer place in inner space.

All the myriad ways you shine your love on others are just for practice. If you're not able to see the source of that light within, the sun in the noonday sky won't be warm enough to rid you of the frigid cold you'll feel inside.

Lastly, look at the journey the Prophet took from Mecca through Jerusalem to "heaven" where he discussed Scripture with Moses and Jesus. ¹²² That journey is available to you in your soul. That marks the journey from "hell" on Earth to "heaven." You must learn that you love you because you express devotion to you. Your devotion to everyone else has always been for practice.

*"Believers,
take neither the Jews nor the Christians*

¹²¹ Iranian politicians are paying off the parents of suicide bombers in occupied Israel and in Europe to keep them from examining what their loyalty to their loved ones is costing them in spiritual wealth in the "world to come." No amount of money is worth it!

¹²² Jerusalem was in the hands of the CHRISTIANS at that time. Soon after the Prophet's ascension to "heaven," Jerusalem became a *Muslim* conquest. So long as there are Jews with friends like me, {and there are billions}, **GOD** won't allow Jerusalem to be in anyone's hands but the Jews. The JEWS who control Jerusalem now, are already losing much of their power thanks to the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community and our effect on the world stage.

*for your friends.
They are friends with one another.
Whoever of you seeks their friendship shall become one of their number.
God does not guide the wrongdoers.”
[5:51]*

“Believers,
take neither the JEWS nor the CHRISTIANS
for your friends.
They are friends with one another.
Whoever of you seeks their friendship shall become one of their number.
GOD does not guide the wrongdoers.”

GOD does not guide the wrongdoers. **GOD** guides the honest, sincere and authentic. **HE** guides the true believer with conscious awareness of **HIS** mysterious intentions. **HE** guides the lesser believers semiconsciously or unconsciously on those occasions when they happen to be going the right way.¹²³ **GOD** guides you when you’re righteous, and **HE** allows you to do anything you please when you choose to do wrong.

Your head and heart must become friends or you’ll struggle with doubts and uncertainties for a lifetime. But your soul must never become one with them. It must judge each separately. A world guided by Adams Eves creates a garden overrun with serpents and worms.

How did you learn the difference between good and evil, right and wrong and better and worse? It wasn’t all from reading books or following other people’s instructions. Most of what you know comes from experiences in life. **GOD** has always been in your life presenting you with unexpected experiences. And from those experiences, you’ve always had opportunity to do good or evil.

The Quran, like Torah and the Gospels, must be studied for its truths. But no man can tell the whole truth using the written word. Most aspects of the truth must be learned through experience. You’ll just have to wait to converse with **GOD** directly someday to discover what you did right and wrong. Until then, you’re going to need to decide for yourself what makes you a righteous servant of the Lord or a wrongdoer.

Not all the Jews and Christians are your friends, but we aren’t all friends to one another, either. Lumping us all into “them” and lumping all Muslims into “us” may have worked 1,400 years ago, but it’s much too simplistic a way of thinking for today’s world. If the wars in the Middle East and the conflicts with Muslims in Christian countries have proved anything, they’ve proved that the sense of “us” and “them” should be made personal and internal. It can’t be determined only collectively and externally.

¹²³ The true believers are willing to admit when their desires are conspiring against their head, heart and soul. The true believers see continuity in their being. They’re more interested in getting a “head” than getting “ahead.”

Some Muslims may live under the illusion that once they sort out their problems amongst themselves, their united sense of “us” against the rest of us will magically return with a vengeance. That’s a fantasy. Loyalties begin within. How they’ll shine out from there, then, will be unique to each one of them.

Sunnīs and *Shīʿites* will never come together to create an “us” against the rest of us because their hearts aren’t in it, even if their head tells them otherwise. Too much blood has flowed under that bridge. Just as Jews and Christians have been divided into sects, sub-tribes and lifestyles that are slowly learning to live together in peace, so must *Muslims*. You can break a diamond into several stones that, when polished, shine brightly. But you can’t glue a cut diamond back together into one rock. The whole point of a diamond is to enjoy the brilliance of each individual gem after having cut and polished it.

Men are learning to improve themselves in their dealings with one another, just as your thoughts and feelings are learning to exist peacefully with one another in your inner world. But your conscience must remain apart from your head and heart in the same way that the Prophet wisely recommended that Muslims keep themselves somewhat separate from the rest of us.

As Muslims learn how to use their loyalties more effectively, they’ll learn how to make more morally justifiable decisions that **GOD** can approve of. Live and let live in the world around you, and you’ll suddenly see how your soul will be able to hold your head and heart very naturally in the world within you.

*“The Jews say,
‘God’s hand is chained.’
May their own hands be chained!
May they be cursed for what they say!
By no means!
His hands are both outstretched;
He bestows as he will.”*
[5:64]

“The JEWS say,
‘GOD’s hand is chained.’
May their own hands be chained!
May they be cursed for what they say!
By no means!
HIS hands are both outstretched:
HE bestows as **HE** will.”

I’m not going to contradict Muslim Scripture, but perhaps the ancient Jews in the 8th Century C.E. suspected GOD’s hands were chained because they weren’t yet seeing the results they were hoping for in CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* who were already killing one

another then. I'm sure there are plenty of Muslims today who think the same thing about *God's* hands as they watch Arabian nations breaking up; blood poured like wine; Muslims fleeing *Muslims* for safety in Christian lands; and *God* seemingly unable to do anything about it.

GOD. has knowledge of all things. Make your way to a new peak on the mountain, and you'll see a different view of the panorama around you that will help you understand the conclusions you've come to. The Prophet was given a view at the time befitting the men at that time.

GOD's hands are surely outstretched, just as the Prophet stated. It's man's hands and feet that feel chained to circumstances he believes are beyond his control. He refuses to allow himself to go to any lengths necessary to improve his relationship within himself. And then he blames **GOD** for where his hands and feet can't take him. The more you hate yourself, the more you'll turn others into your enemies. Denial is your greatest enemy, not good people.

Sunnis and Shiites are just the Jew and Christian du jour. If things continue the way they're going, we'll all be at each other's throats while claiming all the while that **GOD's/GOD's/God's** hands are chained. Surely there's a holocaust brewing within many that fools can't wait to exact upon someone; anyone other than themselves.

*"There are some among them
who are righteous men,
but there are many among them who do nothing but evil."
[5:66]*

*"There are some among them
who are righteous men,
but there are many among them who do nothing but evil."*

The evil Jew has changed faces so many times in history that it's hard to keep track of what the evil JEW du jour looks like anymore. Start to imagine the evil JEW in your mind as weighing down your heart and soul with issues you aren't willing to take personally. If you start to clean up your *act*, you may discover you're way out of *whack*...

Although I'm not imagining that JEWS are homophobic, I know that they're an external problem that mirrors an inner challenge for me to come out even further from the closet. I may be out of my bedroom closet. But now I may be hiding in a hall or linen closet, instead. I have to look for me wherever I might be hiding.

Purification of your soul is a bigger job than you may have believed it to be. Killing Jews and gays isn't going to purify you. It's only going to take you to "hell." Iraq and Syria are full of people who thought this way. Iran! Take note!

The advantage the true believer has over the secularist is that the true believer understands that he's in a relationship with his **MAKER**. He isn't just floating fancifully through life as though on a magic carpet. Consequently, the true believer comes to realize

that his conclusions are the result of his beliefs. His beliefs are not the result of his conclusions. His beliefs illuminate his mind. His beliefs illuminate his heart. He flies around the mountain of his imagination with its Jewish base and Christian summit looking at what he sees to be true, always with an eye to what's happening above him; always with an eye to **GOD** who's looking down on him looking down on others.

JEWISH, CHRISTIAN and *Muslim* extremists blame the gays, Jews, Christians and Muslims because they just want to kick the dog du jour. They justify their behavior with their beliefs, but their beliefs are merely conclusions that validate their urge to appease their GOD/GOD/*God*. And that's when the arguments begin with secularists pointing fingers at true believers for being hypocrites.

Needless to say, I think both the religious and the secularists are hypocrites for the ways in which they use paranoia {fear of themselves}, righteous indignation {anger at others} and pity {sorrow for having to be alive} to manipulate other people's actions.

I also blame experts in matters of faith {RABBIS, PRIESTS, PASTORS, Ministers, *Imams* and *Clerics*} who go to Scripture for moral enlightenment into how their beliefs could further illuminate their thinking, but then get caught up in what they want to see happen to their enemies. Their penis problems are the biggest of all.

“Say:
‘People of the book,
you will attain nothing until you observe Torah and the Gospel
and that which has been revealed to you by the Lord.’”
[5:68]

“Say:
‘People of the book,
you will attain nothing until you observe Torah and the Gospels
and that which has been revealed to you by the Lord.’”

It would help if Muslims read the Quran with this passage in mind, rather than make the claim that Jews and Christians are hypocrites just for being Jews and Christians. That's like saying you can't believe in **GOD** if you're gay. Such people are terrified of the ultimate outsiders' point of view.

Ad hominem attacks are the product of narrow minds and hard hearts with no understanding of how to operate a conscience. *Ad hominem* attacks are classic examples of people with a penis problem or clitoris conflict. They model an exercised ego without spiritual strength. Their urges have gotten the worst of them. And then when we see such people use disreputable means to get their way, we have to concede that on top of their penis problem or clitoris conflict they've got anal issues for which they surely will someday be humiliated. This is the anatomy of an anus that's bound and determined to screw himself up to his eyeballs before he screws himself over in the sight of us all.

Examples of such people are especially prevalent in orthodox JEWISH, CHRISTIAN and *Muslim* circles. They all secretly mourn the loss of Torah's patriarchal attitude toward women and attitude toward slavery. Today's latest struggle for domination in the Abrahamic faiths lies in marriage equality and all forms of equality for women.

Of course, they're not alone. The business world only has "busyness" in their mind. They only care about the bottom line, not their own bottom. They, too, shall learn that they suffer a learning disability that will leave them crippled in the "world to come."

You ought to look personally at that which has been revealed to you by the Lord. If you don't use your knowledge of Scripture in conjunction with your experience, you're only going to mindlessly repeat what you've been told by those who were spiritually as sick or sicker than you. Many people repeat their version of the truth *ad nauseum*, but so few look for a truth that will make them morally superior in their own eyes. (Kicking the dog du jour isn't going to rid you of low self-esteem.)

*"Believers,
do not forbid the wholesome things
that God made lawful for you.
Do not transgress;
God does not love the transgressors.
Eat of the lawful and wholesome things God has given you.
Have fear of God in whom you do believe."
[5:87-88]*

*"Believers,
do not forbid the wholesome things
that **GOD** made lawful for you.
Do not ssersgnart;
GOD does not love the srossersgnart.
Eat of the lawful and wholesome things **GOD** has given you.
Have fear of **GOD** in whom you do believe."*

Fear of *God* isn't any different from fear of GOD or fear of **GOD**. The emotion "fear" is the result of a conscience that awakens you to a moral transgression. Whether your conscience has caused you to feel fear, you should be able to relate to the feeling even if you can't relate to the cause.

Both Adam and Eve ran away from GOD when they heard HIM coming toward them, albeit for different reasons. Adam was afraid because of what he'd conspired with Eve to do. Eve was afraid of that, plus what she'd done before that on her own.

Today's JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* have all become experts at standing their ground. None of them are eager anymore to admit their fears for fear that that would unite them with one another. It takes outsiders brought to them with a new perspective. The

enemy that they all previously agreed to hate has come to them with a new view in a new age. And hypocrisy has now reached a level it's never experienced before.

The modern idea of being afraid of nothing should, as I've said, be called "paranoia." It's not nothing that man has reason to be afraid of, but of himself. His own hypocrisy is slowly terrifying him. He's beginning to worry that he's his own worst enemy. He sees himself as Cain. He sees himself as Abel. And if the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community is figuratively able to tattoo the mark of Cain {guilt} in his soul, everyone will see it, too. Religious hypocrites and institutions consumed with busyness will have nowhere left to hide. We're here not only with a vengeance. We're here with an agenda!

Paranoia always existed, but ancient man used superstition and an unending number of enemies to distract himself from his fear of himself. But if you look at how you've changed your mind so many times because of other people's opinions; watched your heart transform as love has waxed and waned in your life; and sought to transcend yourself with New Year's resolutions you believed would make you a better person next year (resolutions you dropped by the middle of February) – you'd see how much paranoia you've endured. Paranoia is sometimes more real than your worst fears.

Paranoia is often projected out into the external world. This produces irrational fear of strangers. Paranoia is expressed as misogyny, racism, homophobia and xenophobia. As you overcome your fear of the people around you, you shouldn't conclude you're afraid of nothing at all. You only have to be *brave* to face your external fears. You have to be *courageous* to face your paranoias. That takes a whole lot more moral stamina.

When you realize there's someone within who you can't literally meet, and he's someone you've never been taught how to make peace with, you're going to be terrified of that stranger without consciously knowing why. He's going to confront you in the middle of the night as nightmares, and he's going to remain at the back of your mind following you around all day. The way you may have dealt with this inner shadow was to project your fear of him out onto others, erroneously thinking that would make you safer and more secure within.

You may have indirectly confronted these shadows in the form of disdain for the dark skinned, the homeless, the poor and the mentally maladjusted. Only occasionally do you *probably* ask yourself to face your prejudices directly. (Those of us who've been involuntarily committed to mental institutions are extremely sensitive to your struggle. We know what you're going through.)

Jacob wrestled with a stranger the night before he had to face Esau (the brother he'd cheated out of his inheritance 20 years prior) without questioning why that confrontation happened when it did. [Genesis 32]

Psychologists are going to question and diagnose your problem of confrontation scientifically. Religious leaders aren't going to make any connection they want between the two. That leaves it up to you to use Scripture spiritually.

Believing in yourself is the only way to overcome paranoia. But there's a spiritual process to doing so that needs to be spelled out generically. Here is an example of a series of historical beliefs that you might have figuratively struggled with without having given it a second thought:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. I believe in our gods, and our gods believe in us. | Indigenists |
| 2. I believe in GOD, and GOD believes in us. | Hyper-religious JEWS |
| 3. I believe in GOD , and GOD believes in us. | Hyper-religious CHRISTIANS |
| 4. I believe in <i>God</i> , and <i>God</i> believes in us. | Hyper-religious <i>Muslims</i> |
| 5. I believe in me, and GOD believes in us. | Modern thinkers |

If you believe in **GOD** and **GOD** believes in you, there's no need to fear **HIM**. Nor is there any need to fear the stranger you haven't yet befriended within. Anything that happens to you will be an opportunity for atonement {externally} and redemption {internally}, which will greatly reduce your pain and suffering over time during your lifetime.

The modern thinker may not have enough reason to love **GOD**, but he has no reason to fear **HIM**. And yet, it must also be said that the modern thinker may not have enough reason to love himself – because he has very good reason to fear himself. You ought to clean up your past if you want to look forward to a hopeful future. And you won't succeed in doing so in your inner world if you don't clean up the planet.

Unless you're willing to hold an adult-adult relationship with you, you're not going to be able to hold an adult-adult relationship with **HIM/HER**. Therefore, start at the beginning with an adult-infant relationship with yourself. Don't avoid the helpless, innocent part of you that's so wide-eyed and gullible.

Your inner child resides in your heart. Talk to him. Talk about him. Talk for him. Everything you can do to build that relationship of love will serve you immensely when your inner child is old enough to make his way from *his* heart to *your* {second-person plural} soul.

Faith, paradoxically, increases by moving through fear to awe. But faith tends to decline when you don't see the magnificence of **GOD's** mysterious ways over time. The religious institutions are aware of this axiom of faith, but they often strive to make their believers more frightened of GOD/GOD/*God* instead of more in awe of **HIM**. By keeping true believers emotionally on edge with external threats from enemies without (especially with threats concocted about gays and Jews), religious leaders provoke wars and impede peace.

What has really changed since the Holocaust is that Christians have become less afraid of Jews, but more paranoid. Their growing fear of themselves has benefited gays and Jews worldwide. The more the Christian masses seek to discover the source of their fears from within, the less they find the need to project paranoia onto members of society who are small in number, disenfranchised and, actually, rarely threatening. The more motivated they then become to learn about themselves.

By internalizing the stranger, they befriend others. That's the essence of spiritual progress around us and the mystery of **GOD's** ways. That's what the extremists in the Abrahamic faiths don't want you to see. That's why they continually look for new enemies to rail upon. Today, it's illegal aliens. But they never give up their disgust of blacks, gays, women and Jews. Their list only gets longer.

When we read, “Eat of the lawful and wholesome things that **GOD** has given you” modern Muslims should be able to see how the metaphor of consumption from Judaism and Christianity has had a positive effect on their faith, too. **GOD**’s designs should move out of everyone’s unconscious mind to become readily tolerated, accepted and even admired in his conscious mind.

Fear of your negative feelings about you can’t just be overcome. It must be transformed. And that means you must push yourself out of your head and into your heart where you can consciously experience the reasons for the semiconscious, negative feelings you have for you. Your fear of you will lead to anger with yourself. And that anger will lead to disappointment in you. But if you proceed through these negative feelings and not avoid or deny them, you’ll make your way to self-love.

This emotional process is transformative. And it will give you the hope and promise you need to take the next step, which will be transcendent. This spiritual process is miraculous. But building and flying airplanes once seemed miraculous, too. Bringing faith out of old-time religion and into psychology by becoming faithful to ourselves will enhance our faith in **GOD**.

Every day, **GOD** will reveal more ways in which you can reinterpret your experiences to grow wiser, more self-loving and devoted to your journey toward your unique personal destination.¹²⁴ Don’t give up. You may have come much further than it may have seemed possible when you were judging yourself from the outside out.

Your body was given to you like a smart phone, but you may have used it more like a hammer. It may have taken you decades to discover what a sensitive instrument of **HIS** creation you are. The more you can appreciate the way in which **HE** made you, the more you’ll operate yourself with cautious awe and fascination. Fear of the Lord is the result of having treated you like a carpenter’s tool, not like a technological wonder. And yet, it’s usually the “cell phone” types who are outwardly afraid, and the “hammer” types who are outwardly fearless.

You’re lucky if your body has been faithful to you, considering how you may have abused it with food, inebriants and sexual indiscretions that have had a cumulative, negative affect. I’d venture to guess that rates of alcohol intoxication, drug inebriation and obesity are far lower in Muslims communities. Perhaps they know something about how to operate themselves that more self-indulgent people do not.

*“In regard to any food they may have eaten,
no blame shall be attached to those who have embraced the faith
and done good works
so long as they fear God,
believe in Him*

¹²⁴ Your personal destination is the inner goal of “heaven.” That doesn’t have to conform to the dogmas of **CHRISTIANITY** or *Islam*, but it may.

*and do good works;
so long as they fear God
and believe in Him.
God loves the charitable.”*
[5:93]

“In regard to any food they may have eaten,
no blame shall be attached to those who have embraced the faith
and done good works
so long as they fear GOD/GOD/*God*,
believe in **HIM**
and do good works;
so long as they fear GOD/GOD/*God*
and believe in **HIM**.
GOD loves the charitable.”

Muslims can't give anything of spiritual value to Jews or Christians that they haven't first received from themselves. This is the essence of the charity the Prophet spoke of. Only then will they come to know just how deeply they've eaten through their spiritual food {forbidden fruit} and consumed the delectable core where wisdom resides. Only then will they come to satisfy their personal hunger for spiritual bread and wine. Not all that isn't kosher or halal is forbidden you. Your spiritual diet may be wider than you think.

The Tree of knowledge has fruits that contain knowledge of good and evil. But no tree is the **SOURCE** of good or evil. The tree is the delivery system of the **SOURCE** of knowledge. Knowledge of this knowledge came from the serpent, the outsider to the tree itself. Your serpent can figuratively infuse you with its perspective. It can teach you about the life-giving properties of goodness, and it can teach you about the death-imparting properties associated with evil. Therefore, don't pretend to understand how to use magic if you're just a sorcerer's apprentice.¹²⁵

You're far more complex and subtle than you may realize. And when you get yourself into difficult situations, you can never know exactly what's best for you unless you look at the issue morally. Every day can turn into an adventure or a nightmare. But every day is a day in class with our **TEACHER**. And **HIS** assignments change all the time. Your

¹²⁵ “‘Der Zauberlehrling’ {German: The Sorcerer’s Apprentice} is a well-known cautionary tale in the German-speaking world. The lines in which the apprentice implores the returning sorcerer to help him with the mess he has created have turned into a cliché, especially the line ‘*Die Geister, die ich rief*’ {The spirits that I called}, a garbled version of one of Goethe's lines, which is often used to describe a situation where somebody summons help or uses allies he can't control (especially in politics and war).” [Wikipedia]

homework gets harder. The tests get increasingly more difficult. And you eventually discover that growing old is not for sissies.¹²⁶

It's O.K. to moan and groan a little about how hard it is being you. We all do. Just try to put your complaints in the third-person (especially in your prayers). That will make you easier to bear for others; more amusing to yourself; and it will give you a perspective on **GOD's** personal plan for you that will make more sense. For surely only **HE** can say **HE** knows how hard it is being you.

*“‘Lord,’
said Jesus,
Son of Mary,
‘send down to us from heaven a table spread with food,
that it may mark a feast for the first of us
and the last of us:
a sign from You.
Give us our sustenance.
You are the best provider.’”
[5:114]*

*“‘Lord,’
said Jesus,
son of Mary,
‘SEND DOWN TO US FROM HEAVEN A TABLE SPREAD WITH FOOD,
THAT IT MAY MARK A FEAST FOR THE FIRST OF US
AND THE LAST OF US:
A SIGN FROM YOU.
GIVE US OUR SUSTENANCE.
YOU ARE THE BEST PROVIDER.’”*

GOD gave Jesus food to share with HIS hungry world, a world that was so much smaller than it is today. And GOD gave HIM a sign. But that sign wasn't visible to the whole world then. It was only seen by a few Jews who called themselves Christians. That sign has become the Christian leaf of the Abrahamic table {SHULCHAN AROCH} spread with food for all. Muslims who wish to add their leaf to our table are going to want to share the religious connotation of eating with new friends. They're going to want to demonstrate that they can see the signpost up ahead. And they're going to want to take the side of Israel and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community. All other signs point to "eternal death."

¹²⁶ ““Growing old is not for sissies.’ This quote has often been attributed to Bob Hope, but it would appear that it came from the actress Bette Davis.” [Wikipedia]

Today, you should be able to recognize a sign when you see one. You should be able to discern good from evil. That which each of us has taken illegally must be returned. The good reputation you've stolen out from under yourself must be atoned for through deeds for others that change their opinion of you. But then you must repent for the deeds you discover you're perpetrating against yourself to receive the good reputation that will change your opinion of you. What you then hope for can be taught to your children and modeled for everyone you meet.

The Quran is as straightforward and helpful as Torah and the Bible. But who's trying to read them in a way that will make all their messages personal? As someone who sits with a Christian boyfriend at **GOD's** table, I can tell you that the feast at Christ's food is love, whether or not I feel that feeling coming through to me from Jesus by name. When I pray with Muslims I know that the good they wish to share with me is devotion in anticipation of redemption even if they don't quote the Prophet when they say it.

But until the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community is invited to the table, no one is going to get fully fed. No one is going to receive the redemption they yearn for in **GOD's** eyes. The whole world will continue to go hungry. You can't eat other people's food to your heart's content without eventually feeling guilty. The spiritually obese will come before **GOD** as they really are.

*“God has sovereignty over the heavens and the earth
and all that they contain.
He has power over all things.”
[5:120]*

“GOD has sovereignty over the ‘heavens’ and the Earth
and all that they contain.
HE has power over all things.”

GOD has power over all things including the thing you're in: your body; and the thing that's hanging down from your body: your penis. But that thing hanging down over your two fruits seemingly has a mind of its own. You may be subject to the physical laws of the universe, but you're also subject to the emotional and spiritual laws of the universe.

The physical forces of **GOD's** universe are self-evident. Any scientist can tell you how they work. But the moral forces of the universe are in play, too; they're just not as easy to perceive since they emanate out of your inner world. It requires a poet, prophet or apostle to explain as best he or she can how this world works from within. Then what happens on the outside becomes easier to understand as a moral lesson from **GOD** that you can find a way of interpreting personally to guide yourself more accurately.

The spiritual laws of the universe aren't as obvious as the physical laws of the universe, but they're just as complex to the uninitiated. If you think Isaac Newton got hit on the head with an apple by coincidence, you're not a true believer. That was just a little tough love from the **TEACHER** to get his thinking moving. There are no mistakes in the way things

turn out. We all make our way to the spiritual table when invited to do so. So be prepared with something tasty to share.

The wellbeing of the poor is on everyone's mind. Some wish to help them with tough love. Others wish to help them with tender love. Some wish to make them wiser. Others wish to make them more devotional. When you realize that charity begins at home, you recognize how hard it is to help others since your experiences have made you an expert in one person, not a generalist for all people.

Surah 6

Cattle

The second surah of the Quran was entitled “*The Cow*.” The Cow is a symbol of avoda {work and worship}. It was a retelling of the story of the Golden Calf that the Israelites danced around to distract themselves from the awesome truth about **GOD**’s eternal presence. It was a way of describing the process of maturation in which a person figuratively goes from a golden calf To a grown cow.

Although that was a long, long time ago, we still see people dancing around all sorts of distractions to keep the thought of **GOD** at bay. What were once considered grievous derelictions of religious duty are now seen as the everyday addictions, compulsions and obsessions of people who consider themselves modern in every way. Even minor self-indulgences are considered nothing more than twirls around golden calves they perform instead of dancing with **GOD** through every day of life.

The topic of cattle as presented in the Quran might be better described as the Golden Calf issues that the masses contend with collectively. The psychological issues each of us deal with individually grow to become sociological issues we then have to deal with en masse. These cattle issues are what every skilled cowboy learns to corral.

“Say:

‘To whom belongs all that the heavens and earth contain?’

Say:

‘To God!

He has decreed mercy for Himself,

*and will gather you all on the Day of Resurrection,
a day not to be doubted.*

Those who have forfeited their souls will never have faith.”

[6:13]

“Say:

‘To whom belongs all that the ‘heavens’ and Earth contain?’

Say:

‘To **GOD**!

HE has decreed mercy for **HIMSELF**,

and will gather you all on the Day of Resurrection,
a day not to be doubted.

Those who have forfeited their souls will never have faith.”

Here the Quran addresses the issue of man’s soul directly. “Those who have forfeited their souls will never have faith.” This is a terrifying prospect, especially for JEWS,

CHRISTIANS and *Muslims*. It infers that they're going to have to give up their faith for another faith. But nothing could be further from their desires. It's a unification of the disassociated parts of themselves that will bring them their faith. No one has to pray to Jesus or stop praying to Jesus to unify his head, heart and soul.

There isn't literally a part of your body that corresponds to your soul. Your breastplate doesn't literally designate the location of your soul in your body. You're a soulful person if you know yourself intimately; if you can operate you in such a way that you do **GOD's** bidding.

The concept of a soul was described by Jesus symbolically as the holy container HE inhabited. HE gave all that HE had {HIS contents}, and when HIS spiritual gifts weren't sufficient, HE willingly gave his physical container to HIS cause. HE wanted HIS followers to remember HIS body and blood so they'd recall what it was like to feel empty and without GOD's love. HE wanted them to feel they were discovering their own love from the example HE set. HE knew that you can't feel GOD's love without feeling your own.¹²⁷

JEWS think they're wise, loving and devoted to GOD. CHRISTIANS feel wise, loving and devoted to **GOD**. And *Muslims* believe they're wise, loving and devoted to *God*. Who would dare disagree with any of them?... But you'd have to be blind not to see the whole truth and the folly in how little each of them knows about himself. They need us. But we need them, too.

The outsider's perspective in the Creation story was the serpent's perspective. This is how the serpent was able to give Eve a point of view about the Tree of knowledge that convinced her to defy GOD. You should share this voice in you with you. It's distinctly separate and different from the other voices within you. A man doesn't just suffer from a penis problem. He should also be the beneficiary of penis pride.

Despite the religious tradition we were born into, each of us holds a unique relationship with our **CREATOR**. Each of us has the potential to think, feel and believe his life is special and holy. Each of us has a unique head, heart and soul. And each of these inner forces is something you're both born with and also have the potential to further develop. They're ideas you learned in the household in which you were raised in accordance with the patterns those people set, which you emulated or rejected. They're ideas you learned in the schools you went to and the jobs you held. The longer you live, the more you should hope to become more intelligent, caring and soulful {mindful}. The longer you live, the more you should see your penis as something to be proud of rather than something that's only becoming a bigger and bigger problem.

The ancient indigenists believed in gods. The ancient **philosophers** of the Far East believed in **Gods**. The ancient Jews believed only in GOD. The ancient Christians believed only in GOD who was a direct descendent of GOD. And the ancient *Muslims* believed only in *God* who was bigger and better than the Jewish and Christian GOD/GOD. If you're still maintaining any one of these mindsets, you're going sdrawkcab and forward, getting nowhere.

¹²⁷ Jesus spoke about HIMSELF in the third-person, so we can speak about GOD's love emanating out of Jesus using the third-person. But remember, HE never said a WORD against homosexuals or homosexuality. And HE never said HE was GOD.

GOD has condoned the eating of forbidden fruit with reservations, regardless of your belief system. Whether you eat pork or have sex before marriage, your moral destiny will be determined by much more important criteria. If you're consumed with your earthly hungers, you should wake up and smell the coffee... We're all subject to feelings of guilt. We're all working on getting what we want without sacrificing more than we have to.

Teaching is as important as learning because paradoxes come to light when we realize we're usually consumed with attaining more knowledge without looking for the wisdom, love and devotion hidden beneath the facts. Because knowledge comes to us from two directions, within and without, it can almost feel as though forbidden fruit is eating *us* up inside rather than *us* digesting *it*.

With greater self-wisdom, self-love and self-devotion, your conscience will be better able to determine what actions you should take in the assignments and tests our **TEACHER** is presenting you with. The repetition of this process thousands of times with increasing conscious awareness of what you're personally trying to accomplish will make you more soulful, more peace-loving and kinder.

Becoming a believer, whether or not you can fully measure the depth of your faith in **GOD's** participation in your life, isn't a challenge unique to you. What makes every believer special is the moral strength and direction with which he can aim his best intentions.

Just because you may believe you're soulful doesn't mean you're self-wise, self-loving or self-loyal. Everyone short-circuits this spiritual process at times to get to the results he wants without doing all the inner work necessary at every step along the way.

In junior high school math, you were told you had to show all your work; you couldn't simply give the teacher the right answer. In matters of spirituality, the same is true. Only now, you ought to break down your process to show all your work to *you*. In doing so, you'll discover many mistakes you're making at the levels of intellectual, emotional and spiritual awareness. If you put your inner urges into words, you'll find your mistakes more quickly. You can only get out of your head to investigate what's going on in your heart and soul if you have the courage to speak about the feelings and sensations the outer world arouse in you. (You don't have to tell *us* about that. You have to tell *yourself*.) Spiritual Linguistics is the study of this universal, but individual process, of using language to achieve **GOD-consciousness**. But you're going to have to learn to talk to yourself if you want to build your spiritual vocabulary. Learning to speak to others was just for practice.

The **WORDS** of **GOD** are important because you're going to want to use them when talking to yourself. If you were to limit your speech to just nouns, verbs or adjectives, imagine how little you'd be able to say out loud. We all unconsciously separate words into these grammatical parts of speech as an infant and then later reunited them to form sentences in the language spoken in our home. Now you can use that early-life experience to validate the process of using language to discover the depth of the **WORDS** of **GOD**. That isn't done with fonts. It's done with critical thinking skills you first amass about others that you then apply to yourself.

You should identify thoughts that are founded upon guilt. You should acknowledge thoughts that are based on fear, anger or sorrow. You should observe the fantasies you tell yourself and ask you to tell yourself what they mean. Talking to yourself is hard work.

You can't discover the importance of the earth we share without coming to believe in the oceans of your emotions. You can't discover the importance of the ground beneath your feet without coming to believe in the skies overhead inside you. It's so easy to read the word "earth" as written here, while stilling feeling scornful of a world within that you have yet to come to fully know. To love the earth and not treat it like dirt, you should love the earth, seas and skies not just the Earth.

There are many ways in which people may disgust you. But those people are like a reflection in a mirror that you aren't looking at closely enough. You might not like the color of the fence around their house {skin}. You may not like the size of their house {girth}. You may not even like what they do inside it, or how they smile mischievously as they look blankly out their windows {eyes}. You might not like how they behave toward their neighbors while ignoring you.

But home is where the heart is. And your heart can never be in anyone else's home. "Who am I to judge?" ¹²⁸

You're never going to put others before you. You were trained by your parents and society to attempt to do so, but you'll never succeed, so stop trying. Deep down inside, you're going to call some people names without questioning what those names would mean if you took them personally. You're going to utter all sorts of names in vain while commending yourself for never uttering the Lord's names in vain. Hypocrite!

*"If God afflicts you with an evil,
none can remove it but He;
and if He blesses you with good fortune,
know that He has power over all things."
[6:16]*

*"If **GOD** afflicts you with an evil,
none can remove it but **HĒ**;
and if **HĒ** blesses you with good fortune,
know that **HĒ** has power over all things."*

Both your fortune and misfortune are **GOD** decreed, but it's up to you to decide **HIS** reasoning. You should figuratively make your way to "heaven" on a daily basis to discuss the matter with **HIM**. And you should figuratively descend back down to Earth to work out **HIS** WORDS in the world we share. This makes **HIS** moral lessons for you personal and private. This is what made *His* moral lessons with the Prophet personal and public.

Some feel oddly blessed with the rewards of misfortune, and some feel cursed with the punishments of good fortune. They're confused by the lessons that come to them because they seem to come from so many directions with so many possible moral conclusions about

¹²⁸ Words of Pope Francis when asked what he thought of gay people.

what they mean. That's a normal response when you're in the junior high school level of self-discovery. That's simply what all spiritual adolescents have to go through.

But as you spiritually mature, you're going to graduate through spiritual high school, leaving behind your favorite TEACHER/TEACHER/*Teacher* to enter spiritual college with our ONE and only PROFESSOR. Then, you'll learn to listen to your intuition more carefully and ask our PROFESSOR for HIS reasons for the fortune or misfortune conferred upon you. If you don't question HIM many times a day about what you're learning, why claim you participate in the metaphor of life as a school and you as a student? You're more like a kid looking longingly out the classroom window.

Why bother to get up in the morning and go to class if the only thing that's going to get you out of bed will be looking forward to getting your frustrations out on the poor, disabled and disenfranchised? Why bother interacting at all with your classmates if it means discovering that some of them have turned out to be gay and others, Jewish?

Since you can't stop them from being themselves, you may choose, instead, to distract yourself in class in evil, mischievous ways. You may, eventually, decide to drop out and only watch others go to school. You and your mates may even taunt them with jeers and jabs for the fortitude, resilience and strength in them you don't possess.

And yet, if you go back, you know you're not going to graduate with the kind of degree you'd once hoped for when you'd concluded the TEACHER/TEACHER/*Teacher* was against you. The others are so much further along than you. You're still more confused than enlightened. Your questions have still not been answered. You may decide to drop out again, if things don't change.

If you don't ask yourself what's going on inside you, and you don't confess the truth to yourself, how are you going to learn anything new? You can't begin in the middle or at the end. You must begin at the beginning. It is, after all, all about you. You must seek knowledge from within.

Most students of life are embarrassed by their body; ashamed of their character; and worried about being humiliated in front of the class. Either they seek sex to relieve themselves of their guilt, or they don't seek sex to relieve themselves of their guilt. But most of them think about sex, either way. They just don't take action on their apathy or desire for intimacy. They neither question themselves about what they're doing, nor do they act on what they're thinking. There are more dropouts wandering around just outside school than students coming to class.

Don't believe you haven't got a chance to learn in life. You have no competition. You can only learn from you. The more you question yourself, the more you'll know about you. There's nothing too small or too incidental if it catches your attention.

*“Deaf and dumb are those who deny Our revelations:
They blunder about in darkness.
God confounds whom He will,
and guides to the right path whom He pleases.”*
[6:40]

“Deaf and dumb are those who deny OUR revelations:

They blunder about in darkness.
GOD confounds whom **HÆ** will,
and guides to the right path whom **HÆ** pleases.”

This passage may seem demoralizing if you conclude you’re not taking moral action because **GOD** has it in for you. What this passage is really saying is that our **GARDENER** is pruning you in the world we share so that you open yourself up by yourself to the world within you. He’s blocking one path so that you choose another path.

This sort of truth is easy to perceive when you can fly over the fork in the road, and no longer beat yourself up over whether to take the road less traveled.¹²⁹ This sort of truth is easy to perceive if you don’t dance around golden calves at the beginning of your journey or wander around like an Israelite for 40 years, seemingly in circles, as you make your way to your destination.

The **CHRISTIANS** were once blind to the truth. They believed that seeing was believing. The **JEWS** were once deaf to the truth. They believed that the difference between truth and fiction could be argued away with rational thinking. But that only left the two of them with differences of opinion they could agree to disagree about. And the *Muslims* were once dumb to the truth. They could see and hear the truth, but they couldn’t express it intelligently for themselves. They could only use violence to express themselves.

Today, modern man is becoming a combination of all three of the Abrahamic faiths. Even if he’s often only semiconsciously aware of being spiritually blind, deaf and dumb, he has the potential of waking up as Helen Keller so admirably proved can be done. Water! It’s all about water.

Modern man lives like the three monkeys, see-no-evil, hear-no-evil and speak-no-evil. Therefore he must sniff his way to the truth using his intuition and imagination rather than blunder about in darkness like his religious ancestors did.

GOD created this world and then divided it into two, the Western half and the Eastern half. **HÆ** sent the Jews and Christians to the West and the Muslims toward the East. But no one from the West can explain the inscrutable East, not even the Muslims. The answer to the questions posed by the Eastern half of the world will only become easier for Abrahamic man to decipher once he’s completely fluent in Torah, the Gospels and the Quran. But we must go West to end up in the East. We must use rationality to approach **GOD**’s poetry.

“Say:
‘Do but consider:
if God took away your hearing and your sight
and set a seal upon your hearts,
could any but God restore them to you?’”

¹²⁹ The Road Less Traveled: a 1978 popular book of psychology and spirituality by M. Scott Peck.

[6:46]

“Say:
‘Do but consider:
if **GOD** took away your hearing and your sight
and set a seal upon your hearts,
could any but **GOD** restore them to you?’”

The seal set upon man’s heart isn’t guilt. It isn’t lack of devotion. It’s boredom. Man yearns for a mate, but after two people get to know one another well, they often become bored with their sex life and dream about strangers while naked in one another’s arms.

If you adopt only half of the new ideas presented in this book, imagine how your imagination will come to life. Even your sex life might improve with the partner you’ve got now. You have no idea how imaginative you might become in bed if you let **GOD** into your bedroom. It doesn’t take a pill or a change of partners to feel the thrill of intimacy when it comes from the inside out. Once you can have sex with your heart involved in what you’re doing, you should try having it with your soul! Once you become mindful, the inscrutable East will fascinate you as a piece of the puzzle you’re going to be curious to explore.

You’re the Helen Keller in your life. You’re the Anne Sullivan, her teacher, partner and even bedroom mate. If you don’t discover what water means to you, you’ll leave here without ever knowing the least little thing of importance. You’ll fill yourself with rocks {ideas}. And if you’re really terrified of the thin air between those rocks in your head, you’ll fill yourself with sand instead {concepts}. Seventy-one percent of the Earth’s surface is water {love}. Add water to the rocks and sand, and you’ll discover that there’ll still be pockets of air {**GOD**}.

You’re severely, spiritually disabled until you’ve built and traversed the bridge between your two worlds {East and West}. But you should build it – not with your head, heart or soul – nor with your eyes, ears or mouth. You should build it with your nose. You should heal yourself using your intuition as your guide. But that will require miracles. There are signs every day coming to you from **GOD**. But don’t bother to look or listen for them. Don’t bother to talk about them. Sniff around inside and you’ll find them like presents under a Christmas tree just waiting for you to open.

*“See how We make plain to them Our revelations,
and yet they turn away.”*

[6:47]

“See how **wE** make plain to them **oUR** revelations,
and yet they turn away.”

Acknowledge that you sometimes feel stuck in the physical container you were given. Acknowledge that there’s a lot of name-calling going on inside you, even if you don’t do

so in words. You can't get out of your body without killing yourself or getting yourself killed. And yet, it's only getting harder all the time to be you. The bullying we see in the world around us at the Jew du jour is a reflection of the bullying that people are doing to themselves.

The JEWS bully the gays, which gives the CHRISTIANS permission to bully the African-Americans, which gives the *Muslims* permission to bully the Jews, which gives everyone permission to bully themselves. If you don't stop it at its source, you're going to be punished for participating in these quad clashes.

You may sometimes feel like a prisoner in this school, and not a student participating in class schedules arranged by the **TEACHER**. Acknowledging that you're all alone in figuring out the metaphoric meaning of the words "me" and "you" may make you resentful at times at having to "be." Many humiliate themselves to discover that they're their own worst enemy in ways they can't yet conceive. Your bad attitude would be avoidable if you could see how the three aspect of guilt – embarrassment, shame and humiliation – may be running or ruining your life.

You're you, and nobody can solve the mystery of you, but you. You may be seriously in need of miracles and yet not profess to believing in miracles despite the fact that you may profess to believing in the GOD/GOD/*God* who dispenses them. You should probably consider yourself a hypocrite because you can't even get that much right.

Acknowledging that **GOD** is the only **ONE** who can help you help yourself from the inside in may make you despondent if you don't understand the part you're playing. But it's a personalized mystery.¹³⁰ That means you can't know what will happen next or where the next question-and-answer will come from. You can't even know if the next situation you're in will humiliate or encourage you. Wisdom doesn't insure you'll be able to foretell the future. Wisdom insures that you'll make better decisions today than you did yesterday by living in the present more realistically than you do now.

The present is longer, wider and deeper than you think. You have so little room to move in the moment now because you haven't earned the space inside you need to engage in more of the present than you can now.

Once you've graduated the *school* of life for the *university* setting, you're going to want to begin the search for a major.¹³¹ You may find that "you" are not yet your major. You may have chosen a subject around you that holds the mystery of you for you in projection. Because I had no career goals after I retired or children, pets or debts, I was in the perfect place to create my own major: Spiritual Linguistics. I found my calling.

¹³⁰ A mystery is a puzzle that you're searching for pieces for in the world around you. And a mystery is a puzzle you're searching for piece for in the world within.

¹³¹ A major is a subjective perspective that consistently gives your life more meaning. Some of the most popular majors in the university of life are: partnership, children, career, home, hobby, charity, politics and religion. After romantic love is quenched, many partners discover that they don't share the same major. More important than sharing the same major, partners need to share respect for each other's major. And if neither of you has a major, the chances are that you'll accuse the other of being a drifter.

Becoming more cooperative with the class and appreciative of the **PROFESSOR** will help greatly with your studies, regardless of your major. In my core curriculum classes, I spent a little more time each day listening to myself and commending and critiquing the production of my speech internally. Over time, I was finally ready to talk to others about myself. Eventually, I was ready to talk about the **WORDS** of **GOD**.

Some men are like birds from the moment they were hatched. They stretch their wings, flap them to build strength, and then fly, as though it were the most natural thing in the world for them to do. Perhaps there is no way to teach someone to figuratively fly. Perhaps you need to take wing when you're ready; soar with a freedom you never knew you had; enjoy the lay of the land below from an untouchable place above – before you discover you have nowhere you need to go or need to be.

The Christians allude to spiritual flight {liberty} as “earning their wings.”¹³² You can't now know whether you were made in **GOD's** image in order to migrate elsewhere. You can't behave like an angel in disguise if you don't know where you came from and where you're going. Earning your wings ought to be interpreted as having chosen a major.

First, you walked mindlessly down a particular path. Then you concluded you were at a fork in the road. Then you realized you were going round in circles. But when you viewed yourself from on high, you were really just getting a lay of the land to formulate the moral meaning of your life and how you were going to go from here to “there.” It's completely natural for man to yearn to fly. But it's vital that he discovers how to do so spiritually, or he'll get emotionally entangled by someone or intellectually distracted by something.

It's natural for man to anticipate his fear of flying through his soul even before he's airborne. Moving out of fear to excitement is a daunting task without becoming aggressive or violent. Moving through despair to hope and from apathy to interest is hard to do. You're going to want to begin by becoming more open minded to what you're thinking. Then you're going to want to become open hearted to what you're feeling. Only then will you have the skills in place to pilot your plane.

Those who are cautious will spread their wings through charity. Those who are more assertive will flap them and bounce up and down in their nest through politics. The daring will follow the way of religious leaders who take a leap of faith, feel the wind beneath their wings and then suddenly wonder how in the “hell” they're ever going to land safely. Your style of learning is something you're going to want to discover for yourself. Don't let anyone criticize your style. Know you have style!

“Say:

*‘I do not tell you that I possess God’s treasure
or know what is hidden,*

¹³² The concept of “earning your wings” implies becoming emotionally liberated. I'm using the expression to imply that we all have a bird-like desire to fly that can only be achieved by becoming mindful of what we're doing. Mindfulness comes after years of crawling through your thoughts and swimming through your feelings. When you can appreciate the universality of the dream of flying, you'll come to appreciate **GOD's** designs more personally.

*nor do I claim to be an angel.
I follow only that which is revealed to me.”*
[6:49]

“Say:
‘I do not tell you that I possess **GOD**’s treasure
or know what is hidden,
nor do I claim to be an angel.
I follow only that which is revealed to me.’”

What the Prophet asked you to believe about *him*, he also wanted you to believe about *you*. None of us can see **GOD**’s treasure waiting for us all year like presents under a Christmas tree. We’re all forced to wait and watch for **HIS** designs to unfold from “heaven” and make its way down to us on Earth and into our conscious mind.

Much of what was hidden 1,400 years ago has since been revealed, but none of us can move one second in front of anyone else to see what will come next. Every man should use his head to grow as a tree of self-knowledge from seed to pine. Without the gift of life we received in our shell, none of the Abrahamic faiths would make any sense at all. You can’t afford to take the **WORDS** of **GOD** only literally, but you can’t afford to take them only figuratively, either. You’re forced to make choices. You’re forced to realize that you’re here and therefore will always be forced to choose so long as you’re here.

“Say:
*‘Are the blind and the seeing equal?
Can you not think?’*”
[6:50]

“Say:
‘Are the blind and the seeing equal?
Can you not think?’”

The blind and the seeing are not equal {=}. They’re equivalent {±} because they can both think. A tree of knowledge and a tree of life are not equal {=}. They’re equivalent {±} because they can both think, feel and sense. Human beings and angels are not equal {=}. They’re equivalent {±} because they can both believe. None of us are equal {=}. We’re equivalent {±}. Even angels in disguise are only equivalent to one another. ¹³³

¹³³ Externally, we’re not equal {=}. You can see our differences. But internally, we’re equivalent {±}. We were all made in **GOD**’s image fairly, justly, equitably, uniformly and symmetrically.

Such is the spiritual bankruptcy found in the JUDEO-CHRISTIAN-*Muslims* who don't think clearly about a world full of diverse people. Theirs is the political and religious habitat to which we've grown accustomed. Theirs are three view of a world order that is creating "hell" on Earth and for which they may, ironically, go to "hell" after their stay on Earth despite their faith in GOD/GOD/*God*.

*"Thus do We make plain Our revelations,
so that the path of the wicked may be laid bare."
[6:55]*

"Thus do **WÆ** make plain **OUÆ** revelations,
so that the path of the wicked may be laid bare."

The wicked aren't blind. They, too, have inner eyes. The wicked aren't deaf. They, too, have inner ears. If you help them use their imagination to perceive the big picture, the wicked will be laid bare to their transgressions against themselves. They'll see how dumb they are, and they'll get quiet. They'll realize they can't think straight. They can only rail against the gays for not being straight.

*"He reigns supreme over His servants.
He sends forth guardians who watch over you
and claim your souls without fail when death overtakes you.
Then are all men restored to God,
their true Lord.
He is the judgment,
and most swift is His reckoning."
[6:62]*

"**HÆ** reigns supreme over **HIS** servants.
HÆ sends forth guardians who watch over you
and claim your souls without fail when death overtakes you.
Then are all men restored to **GOD**,
their true Lord.
HIS is the judgment,
and most swift is **HIS** reckoning."

The **PROFESSOR**'s reckoning will probably be swift when you graduate. **HIS** *decree* will be your *degree*. But that may not seem like it's coming at all swiftly now as you find

yourself slogging through your studies day after day. In fact, your reckoning with **HIM** may sometimes seem painstakingly slow from our lowly point of view.

Don't expect **GOD** to guard you from yourself forever. Maturing is far more important to **HIM** than shielding you from the pain and suffering of having been created as **HE** did. When you discover the power in each and every word you utter, you'll become more sensitized to the **WORDS** of **GOD**. There are so many guardians of the faith and so few guardians who have faith in themselves.

Nobody should want to remain infantile, childish or juvenile all his life. In the course of growing up, everyone should want to learn how to spiritually guard himself from his own tendency to regress rather than progress. But progress can't be accomplished with cynicism, scorn or derision of yourself. Nor can it be accomplished with skepticism about your ability to make a difference in other people's lives.

Those who collude with one another to conspire against the poor and disenfranchised will get their just desserts. But those who collaborate with others to cooperate with humanity will get a sweet reward. In those ways you contribute to the eradication of dishonesty, insincerity and inauthenticity you won't suffer.

If you're looking for examples of hopeful self-inquiry, look to the ideals expressed in your flag. The Israeli flag expresses a GOD-fearing people. Many European flags still stand for peoples who are GOD-fearing. Many Middle East flags express that they're *God*-fearing. Think about what the American flag stands for. We should only fear **GOD**. How your soul will be claimed when death overtakes you depends on the flag you're fly within.

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GOD wasn't so foolish as to give you any reasons to believe you're his favorite. **HE** may play favorites, but you'll never be able to guess who they are by their health, fame, fortune or luck. What's important is that you use your happiness to pray with gratitude and that you use your unhappiness to pray for greater understanding of your part in **HIS** designs. These prayers alone will ground you. Fighting over ground in the Middle East is for school children behaving like they're on a playground, not well-educated students studying in a classroom setting.

Since we're all defiant, **GOD** obviously must be judging us for the ways in which we express our defiance. Giving alms and charity to others is a productive form of defiance against evil. Speaking out against injustice is another useful form of defiance. But since you're the one who treats you uncharitably at times, and therefore more unjustly than everyone else put together, you must look at what you're doing externally to perceive your motivations at their source.

Stuffing yourself with food, drugs and alcohol when **GOD** put so much attention into making your body a holy vehicle of earthly transportation is like driving under the

¹³⁴ Our L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. rainbow flag stands for the seven colors of hope, the seven expressions of love and the seven levels of "heaven." Perhaps you should give thought to flying our flag, too.

influence. And don't get me started on killing, cheating, stealing lying and coveting that which you haven't earned.

“Say:
*‘Who delivers you from the perils of land and sea,
when you call out to Him humbly and in secret,
saying,
‘Save us, and we will truly be thankful?’*”
[6:63]

“Say:
*‘Who delivers you from the perils of land and sea,
when you call out to **HIM** humbly and in secret,
saying,
‘Save us, and we will truly be thankful?’*”

Don't *say* those words. *Ask* them. Go back now and ask the above question. It's a very difficult question to ask. Before you learn to answer questions, you're going to want to spend some time learning to ask them. (Make sure you aren't skipping instructions that are important to the outcome of what you're doing.)

Nowadays, **GOD** must deliver us from the perils of what we've done to the land, sea and skies environmentally. We live in a much larger spiritual context than our ancestors. We hold greater responsibility for our relationship to every corner of the Earth. Our ancestors were only responsible for the perils that came from the land and sea. Today we've conquered the sky and can now atone for our ignorance of our previously paltry, spiritual goals by acknowledging a much bigger picture.

Today's smog isn't a natural disaster. It isn't an act of GOD/GOD/*God*. It's a manmade disaster that mirrors an inner stench. Our spirit is filthy.

“*Your people have rejected this
although it is the very truth.*
Say:
*‘I am not your keeper.
The time will come when every prophesy will be fulfilled,
and you shall learn.’*”
[6:67] ¹³⁵

¹³⁵ It's possible that you may have rejected the message hidden in the Quran without even knowing it.

“Your people have rejected this
although it is the very truth.

Say:

‘I am not your keeper.

The time will come when every prophesy will be fulfilled,
and you shall learn.’”

When you read, “I am not your keeper,” you should have said it to yourself. If you did, you would have heard you tell yourself, “The time will come when every prophesy will be fulfilled and you shall learn.” The Prophet is not your keeper. The Archangel Gabriel is not your keeper. You are.

Out of the head of a Jew {Moses} you were given the story of Cain and Abel. And from it you learned that you *are* your brother’s keeper. Out of the heart of a particularly mature and more modern Jew {Jesus} you were given the same story from a different place in inner space. But the Prophet Muhammad retold the story from his soul with yet a third meaning.

Now is the time to see that you are not your keeper, either. Parts of you are keeping you repressed. But you’ll have no hope in keeping externally if you’re repressing you internally. I can only guide you in teaching you how to help yourselves. I can only guide you to see the Quran as a book of wisdom from the soul.¹³⁶

With two spiritual coordinates [moral “length” {justice} and moral “width” {mercy}] you can achieve a map-like understanding of life as a two-dimensional, moral surface. You can use these two coordinates like longitude and latitude lines to help you graph your inner world with justice and mercy to thereby develop quadrants of good {right} and evil {wrong}.

But we live in a three-dimensional world with length {self-love}; width {other-love}; and depth {love of **GOD**}. If you don’t strive for all three, you’re going to model a flat-earth mentality.

The infantile, childish and juvenile are terrified of being penetrated by their own desires, so they project that fear onto others and then worry about being penetrated in some **GOD**-awful way that will utterly humiliate them externally. Homosexuality is just a mirror of their innermost fear.

GOD gave Islam to the world not only to prove that this world is real. **HE** gave us Islam to help us pinpoint fairness using three moral coordinates in order to discover impartiality. Many cry out for justice. Even more cry out for mercy. But wouldn’t it be nice if we could all just live with what’s fair?

Even if you may not have rejected the Quran in the literal sense of the word, you may have rejected it by not seeing it as the third coordinate needed to define every place in inner space. In that sense, you’re spiritually lost. What good are longitude and latitude on the surface of a map if you can’t find your way across a globe? Everything that happens to you, inside and out, truly depends on your conviction that morality is real.

¹³⁶ There was a very popular series of books with more than 200 titles and more than 500 million copies in print called, Chicken Soup For The Soul. It was created by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen. But the first chicken soup for the soul was the Quran.

*“It is **He** who has created for you the star,
so that they may guide you in the darkness of land and sea.
We have made plain Our revelations to men of knowledge.”*
[6:97]

“It is **HE** who has created for you the stars,
so that they may guide you in the darkness of land and sea.
WE have made plain **OUR** revelations to men of knowledge.”

You are the star in your life. You are the light in your night. If you don’t use your own inner illumination to guide you, you’ll never fully actualize your potential power. GOD divided the light from the darkness and the “heavens” from the Earth so we’d learn to find our way back to **HIM**, arriving with greater self-knowledge than when we left. Why bother to yearn to return to your **CREATOR** unless you can return with something to give **HIM** you didn’t have before? And what greater gift do you have to offer in gratitude for life than self-wisdom, self-love and self-devotion? Did **HE** spend millions of years creating man through an evolutionary process to watch you throw all **HIS** hard work away with apathetic disregard for yourself?

To know how you were made in **GOD’s** image is the only thing you’ll have that no one – but absolutely no one – can take away from you. What you’ve learned about you up until now is the most personal and intimate gift you could possibly offer **HIM**. But there’s much more for you to learn.

The stars are hints to **GOD’s** designs. They’re our ceiling lights and **HIS** footlights. The universe is vast to give you a sense of the vastness of your inner world. And your imagination is as large as the universe is big. If you don’t seek **GOD** in both places, in the universe around you and in your own private universe within, you won’t discover how you can be in two places at once. And if you can’t perceive that, you’ll never truly believe that **GOD** can, either. You’ll fight over the skin of the apple and ignore the meat and the core.

The second time GOD damned us to bondage was in Babylon. The Babylonians emptied Israel of ancient Jews and took them as slaves in chains to work for them in what is present-day Iraq. Those ancient Jews were so unsophisticated that they actually thought they’d left GOD back at the Temple in Jerusalem. And, like fools, they cried out for HIM at the gardens of Babylon because they thought HE was so far away from them that HE couldn’t hear them. They didn’t understand the concept of GOD being in two places, outer place and inner space, at once. Don’t make the same mistake. Separate your two worlds, and then reunite them, or you’re lost.

GOD has given us this world as a moral experiment for us to discover just how clever we can be. **HE’s** given us two worlds to discover how we’ll choose to use defiance in creative, not destructive, ways. But if you cut corners by using immoral means to get ahead, you’ll only create pain and suffering, and you’ll be judged accordingly. You’ll discover

that while you've been looking out for yourself externally, **GOD** has been looking in at what you're morally doing to yourself internally. (This is why it often seems **HE** has enormous patience with those people we all know are evil.)

You can't get a sense of the big picture without seeking it through the little picture you observe every day. You'll never understand the theory of the "Big Bang" unless you can understand the "little bang" theory.¹³⁷

The mystery in every flame you see around you will take you on an adventure no one else can see. But just because you may have a little picture you're pleased with doesn't mean you have a valid sense of the big picture. There's always more to learn and to verify. Life is a mystery because you can't anticipate what will happen in the next second, let alone the next election or generation. Give up prognostication. Give up procrastination. The time to act is now.

Many asked "Where was **GOD** during the Holocaust?" Many young people still figuratively ask that question deep down inside when faced with injustice in their own life. The answer is that **HE**'s in both your worlds. But if you look for **HIM** in only one of them, you'll come away thinking **HE** doesn't care about justice, mercy or fairness. You'll misjudge **HIM**. There's more to **HIS** designs than meets your eye.

Most people judge **GOD**'s presence by their fortune in the external world. The rich, in particular, think themselves exceedingly beloved by **GOD/GOD/Gođ**. But the moral process we're all involved in can easily be misconstrued if you look only at whether you're a winner or loser externally. As a gay-Jew, there are those who think I'm a double loser, while I think of myself as twice blessed. But I'm judging me from the inside in, while they're judging me from the outside out. Who would you like to bet is more correct?

*"Momentous portents have come to you from your Lord.
He that sees them shall himself have much to gain,
but he who is blind to them shall lose much indeed.
I am not your keeper."
[6:104]¹³⁸*

¹³⁷ The "little bang" theory implies that you are a creation no different from the theory behind the creation of the universe. Your own name is the key to the spiritual pattern by which you're expanding and influencing the world around you. Your (three) names are keys to your unique pattern of growth. You don't have to change your names to reveal your pattern to yourself. You have to reveal your pattern to change, transform and transcend the name you were given.

¹³⁸ If you depend on Moses, Jesus or the Prophet to keep you safe, you're going to humiliate yourself. You should, instead, decide to devote your whole life to growing up. Not even **GOD** is your keeper. If you don't wish to embrace the response ability you need to keep yourself, you'll suffer.

“Momentous portents have come to you from your Lord.

He that sees them shall himself have much to gain,
but he who is blind to them shall lose much indeed.

I am not your keeper.”

We’re all here to learn to keep ourselves. Our physical wellbeing is dependent on others. Our intellectual wellbeing is dependent on ourselves and others. Our emotional wellbeing is much more dependent on our inner selves than on others. But our spiritual wellbeing is entirely dependent on ourselves. We ought to learn to participate together in life with a humble attitude toward learning about ourselves with our self using a cooperative manner of interacting that we practice with one another. War is not the answer to self-awakening.

The billionaire with money will never be as well liked as the internal billionaire who’s swimming in honey. External, good grades in getting rich monetarily or obedience to authority figures aren’t nearly as important as internal grades in getting rich spiritually and obeying yourself. In other words, success in the inner world can lead to great success in the outer world, but success in the outer world will do next to nothing for your success on your final exam. Money must be used as a tool for fairness, not just justice or mercy.

Moses was a prince. **Buddha** was a prince. Jesus was a middleclass carpenter who made a nice living. All three relinquished their external power in favor of the power they could wield from within. But only the Prophet Muhammad began dirt poor and steadily increased his power and wealth in both his worlds simultaneously.

*“Thus do We make plain Our revelations,
that they may say,*

‘You have studied deep so that this may become clear to men of knowledge.

Therefore follow what has been revealed to you from your Lord.

There is no god but Him.

Avoid the pagans.

Had God pleased,

they would not have worshipped idols.

We have not made you their keeper,

nor are you their guardian.”

[6:105]

“Thus do **wE** make plain **OUR** revelations,
that they may say,

‘You have studied deep so that this may become clear to men of knowledge.

Therefore follow what has been revealed to you from your Lord.

There is no god but **HIM**.

Avoid the pagans.

Had **GOD** pleased,
they would not have worshipped idols.
WE have not made you their keeper,
nor are you their guardian.”

There are no human beings left on Earth who worship idols, even though there are many who behave like infantile Israelites dancing around golden calves. There are those who dance around the bottle or the biscuit. There are those who dance around sex or sexual abstinence. And there are those who dance around drugs. Paganism is a derogatory term. The appreciation of indigenism has only just begun.¹³⁹ But you are no one’s keeper.

The issue of how many gods there are should have been removed from everyone’s “to do” list long ago, but Scripture is still news. The problem today is that there are many who worship food, alcohol, drugs, sex, money, power or prestige while scorning others who worship other golden calves from the same list. They make pithy claims about believing in **GOD/GOD/God**, but they’re really much more consumed with the material matters of the world around them than the spiritual matters of their world within.

They fill their body with sensations; their wallet with cash; their calendar with events; and their address book with names. They’re less interested in filling themselves with **GOD**-consciousness than they claim to be. They want comforts, toys, events and people surrounding them on all sides. They yearn for a Rolex when what they really need is a more precious opinion of time.

Everyone was born with a stomach. Everyone was born with appetites. But people don’t generally think about which appetite emanates out from which part of their body. At times, they feel powerless over their need to fulfill one or another of the appetites of their body. Their penis or clitoris figuratively whispers in their ear about the power from their left testicles or ovary that’s running the show, but they just don’t have the power to argue with what it says.

The man who seeks money, power and prestige dances the same golden calf jig as the foodie, drunk or druggy. He dances around his hollow self, bellowing all the while, as did the Golden Calf when the wind whistled through it from one open end through to the other.¹⁴⁰ Such men are mesmerized by sensations that make them feel golden inside temporarily. And that includes *Muslim* terrorists who discipline themselves in order to destroy Western

¹³⁹ Indigenism will make it possible to expose the hypocrite for what he is. Those who claim to be faithful to **GOD/GOD/God** often behave like pagans. They can’t control their impulses, passions and cravings. They get caught with their hand in the cookie jar. They use ill-gotten gains to finance their golden calf jigs. They try to round up the cattle to keep them fenced in and ignorant of their schemes. They’re full of bull twinkies! Recognizing that you’re like a pagan without adequate moral concerns may, paradoxically, help you come to believe in **GOD**.

¹⁴⁰ The wind whistling through the Golden Calf is a midrash about the noise it made that was attributed to **GOD**’s disapproval of what they were doing. We’re all golden calves **GOD** whistles through.

civilization. They haven't yet gained insight into how to operate themselves through words. They're acting on impulse. And their religious leaders are equally uninsightful. Penis problems are caused by the production of evil intents.

You'll achieve more in both your worlds as you learn to communicate with yourself more effectively. Just as you can learn more than one language even if you may be devoted to the comfort of your mother tongue, you can learn to speak to yourself even though it may seem awkward at first doing so. Just as you can use each of your hands simultaneously to play a musical instrument, you can coordinate your thoughts and feelings simultaneously if done so from your conscience. But you can't do so if you're stuck in your head or heart. With practice, you'll become skilled at doing four things at once [thinking {N} believing {E} feeling {W} wanting {S}]. That will be great news to you.¹⁴¹

A conscience that's illuminated to doing good becomes mindful. A mind that's illuminated to the need for redemption becomes soulful. The more mindful you become, the more capable you'll be of helping yourself. The more soulful you become, the more you'll master understanding why this world is as it is. What you seek will determine what you find.

GOD got rid of almost all the nonbelievers on Earth, but now you should know that **HE** didn't make you the keeper of all those who live here now. The world is unfolding just as it must. That means my only job is to share my progress in operating me with other believers in the Abrahamic faiths. And wherever there are differences I can't reconcile, such as abortion and homosexuality, I like to live and let live. Let **GOD** handle **HIS** business. **HE**'ll throw anyone in "hell" **HE** chooses. I don't have to make it "hell" on Earth for others before they die just because I disagree with the way they operate themselves. That wouldn't be wise, loving or devoted of me. It's really just a passive-aggressive way of being vindictive.

Diversity is essential to **GOD**'s designs. Arguing for others to become straight, white, male or rich isn't in anyone's best interest. **GOD** made you as **HE** made you. The more you get used to differences, the less flack you're going to take from those who have trouble with you being as you are, and the less flack you're going to give them for being different.

People who don't pray together are bound to eventually fight one another. They're bound to disrespect one another's faiths, traditions and customs. They're bound to argue over lifestyles when what they really don't like is the idea of life being lived with any style other than their own. Just tell them that "familiarity breeds consent."¹⁴²

¹⁴¹ If you're Christian, I recommend you point to the symbolic parts of your body when consider using this N/E/W/S [thinking {N-head}, believing {E-soul}, feeling {W-heart} wanting {S-penis}]. And I recommend you reorder that signage by crossing yourself instead. Then you'll refer to your faith as N/S/E/W [{N-thinking}, {S-wanting}, {E-believing} and {W-feeling}]. The association of the cross with the forces within you will indicate that you have a sense of your inner compass.

¹⁴² "Familiarity breeds consent" is a play on words of the adage, "familiarity breeds contempt." You might even say that the gay strategy of familiarity breeding consent is what took us from criminalization to marriage equality in one generation.

*“If We sent the angels down to them
and caused the dead to speak with them,
and ranged all things in front of them –
they would still not believe
unless God willed otherwise.
But most of them are ignorant men.”*
[6:110]

*“If We sent the angels down to them
and caused the dead to speak with them,
and ranged all things in front of them –
they would still not believe,
unless **GOD** willed otherwise.
But most of them are ignorant men.”*

GOD consistently creates miracles for believers to well up with tears at **HIS** constant care and concern for us. So why are we so verklempt {Yiddish: choked up}? ¹⁴³ We're verklempt because our cup runneth over. We're verklempt because our soul isn't big enough to hold our joy. We need to strive for a soul, not assume we already have one. The gift of life is so precious that we don't want to miss a bit of it, but we don't yet know how to hold on to it more tightly. Being verklempt is a wonderful sign of **GOD's** presence and our deep, abiding belief in **HIM**.

But what's really happening when we're verklempt is the sensation of being “humbled.” When we're choked up with tears we've been humbled to something we could only arrogantly see before. People are ignorant because they don't avail themselves more often of the opportunity to be humbled. They're smug because they avoid the joy of being verklempt.

Subjective space and subjective time can only be held with precious self-regard if you expand your attention to the minutia in your mind that you may not have noticed before. Bring your faith out of your house of worship and into your life in the moment. Think about how you're doing everything you're doing. Then think about how you could be doing whatever you're doing with more feeling. Granted, this will bring up some guilt. But it should also bring up some wisdom, love and devotion that you may not yet appreciate about yourself.

¹⁴³ “Yiddish is a derivative of old German. It was carried by the Jews east out of Germany into Central Europe. It originated during the 9th Century and was fused with elements taken from Hebrew and Aramaic, as well as from Slavic languages and traces of Romance languages. Yiddish is written with a fully, vocalized alphabet based on the Hebrew script.” [Wikipedia] Today, it's only spoken in small pockets of orthodox JEWISH communities because millions of Yiddish speakers were murdered by the Nazis.

Drive with faith, eat with faith, brush your teeth with faith, etc. Every chore you perform is one you could do with more faith in the possibility of learning something new about you. You could be the most fascinating stranger you ever met if you'd just set aside your cynicism and scorn of you. Every activity in your life could be a lesson from the **TEACHER** if you just showed up to class and didn't play hooky because you were bored or lazy. (Getting accepted into spiritual college requires good grades.)

From the time of Jesus until almost the birth of the Prophet, the rabbis were engaged in writing "Talmud." If you look at every page of the 28 volumes of Talmud, it appears to look like a puzzle on the page. These visual pieces of the puzzle are commentaries on problems from rabbis that spanned 500 years.¹⁴⁴

But those ancient conversations between rabbis on how to live a righteous life based on the wisdom of GOD were nothing compared to what the wives of those learned men could do with the wisdom of the Talmud. The Jewish wives of those rabbis integrated wisdom into the bread they baked. They swept their houses clean while they simultaneously cleaned their inner dwelling. They changed their baby's soiled garments while GOD changed their stinking thinking with new ways of appreciating the drudgery of life. These Jewish women turned daily work into worship.

When you study Talmud, you live from the inside in simultaneously with the outside in. You learn to appreciate the wisdom of the ways in which GOD personally challenges you to grow. Those who love Talmud should study the Quran for allegories. Those who love the Quran should study Talmud for metaphors. And all those curious about both should study the Gospels for parables.

GOD has given us science and technology to replace fantasy and reckless speculation. Today there are many who should have died but didn't, thanks to modern medicine. They're truly the walking dead. They're miracles on two feet who otherwise wouldn't be here. HE's given us promises of miracles-to-come that we can use to reassure ourselves that our children will be better off than we were when we were children.

Don't worry about the job around us being too big. Don't worry about us running out of time. Worry about not being verklempt more often. Worry about how you can help another person get all choked up over the beauty of life that he can't quite express without tears. Then tell him how humbled he's becoming to himself.

*"Many are those who are misled through ignorance
by their desires:
surely your Lord best knows the transgressors."
[6:118]*

*"Many are those who are misled through ignorance
by their desires:*

¹⁴⁴ Each page of Talmud has a handful of comments by rabbis over the course of as much as 500 years with each comment separated with a frame of blank space around it; making each page look like a puzzle that's been assembled with a visual pattern unique to that page.

surely your Lord best knows the transgressors.”

Every man is guided by his penis until he learns that it's only the delivery system and not the source of his power to bring life into the world. The goodness in you can be infused into everything you do if you learn to use the modesty, humility and devotion your parents and society taught you. And if you augment the lessons of childhood with modesty, humility and devotion from yourself, through yourself and to yourself – everyone you meet will become the beneficiary of your sanity.

Then **GOD** will have greater reasons to reward you in ways you cannot now imagine. Ignorance – ignoring your higher desires – isn't going to teach you anything about them. You should inquire and question yourself in order to learn.

Mark Twain said, “Adam was but human—this explains it all. He did not want the apple for the apple's sake. He wanted it only because it was forbidden. The mistake was in not forbidding the serpent; then he would have eaten the serpent...”

Most people are far more interested in sexually swallowing the “serpent's words” than in chewing on the personal meaning of the serpent that cajoled Eve into eating the forbidden fruit. The serpent said she would be like **GOD**. It put the outcome of her efforts into the form of a simile.¹⁴⁵ But instead of looking at simile as *God* given, people think up all sorts of ways of taking pleasure in the penis in their bed; the hotdog on their plate; and the hotrod in their garage.

We really should look at hypocrisy as a human condition that was first addressed in Torah allegorically through ideas that were symbolized as people and things. Only then can we move out from there with understanding, wisdom and forgiveness through to repentance.

The tendency to act hypocritically was further elucidated by Jesus through parable. He extended the metaphors with symbolism to show the ancient Jews that they were acting hypocritically if they didn't act lovingly.

And hypocrisy was later described by the Prophet through similes. If you don't compare and contrast your behavior in your two worlds, you're going to reveal that you're a hypocrite who doesn't really believe in one **GOD**.

Life isn't a diet. You don't have to give up the appetites of life, such as food and sex. You only need to learn how to manage them morally better from within. It may be subjectively immoral for you to be overweight, but far be it for me to make that determination. I don't have to live in your body. The way you treat your body isn't going on my report card.

I believe in a clean, nutritional diet and a clean sex life because they make me feel better about myself. But you're your own keeper. If you told me I'd have to give up my gay lifestyle to become a better person, I'd say that giving up cheesecake would do about as much good... We all have the right to come to terms with ourselves in our own way. If you can live with yourself, you can let live.

¹⁴⁵ What the serpent said to Eve was, “YOU WILL NOT CERTAINLY DIE, FOR GOD KNOWS THAT WHEN YOU EAT FROM IT YOUR EYES WILL BE OPENED, AND YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, KNOWING GOOD AND evil.” [Genesis 3:4-5] This is a holy simile that anticipates the revelation of the Quran.

You can learn how to use the fire within you without getting burned. You can learn to use your penis without letting it overthrow the freedom in your head and liberty in your heart with hungers for external satisfactions that will never spiritually satisfy you. What literally looks like a snake hanging down from the male body is figuratively a serpent hanging down from a metaphoric tree. It isn't a broken branch. It's a figurative serpent that's guarding man's fruits from anyone who'd like to pick them to render him powerless.

You're like a fallen angel. You're like the devil in disguise. Your penis or clitoris is a sign of the truth about your truth. Your desires should be helping you become more powerful from within, not hinder you by focusing your wants on what other people are doing with theirs. Other people's wants and desires are none of your business unless they're hurting you. Get your nose out of their crotch.

To use the fruits of your tree productively, first figuratively plunge the life-affirming force within you into yourself. Use your power on you to reveal your power to you. This will make you more vital, vivacious, vibrant and alive. You'll see the world more vividly, and you'll become more charming, charismatic and dynamic. If you succeed in uniting yourself, you'll be able to make linguistic love with everyone you meet.

*"Sin neither openly nor in secret.
Those who commit sin shall be punished for their sins."
[6:119]*

*"Sin neither openly nor in secret.
Those who commit sin shall be punished for their sins."*

If you make mistakes unknowingly, you've sinned, and you'll eventually feel the guilt that comes to the innocent who've done wrong. But if you make mistakes knowingly, you've also sinned, but you probably won't feel any guilt over it. You'll intuitively know that there's something about you that's guilt-ridden, but your mind will erroneously conclude that you've beaten guilt at its own game. "Sin neither openly nor in secret." Sin neither once, nor twice.

You've only evaded and postponed divine punishment. And if you indebt yourself morally by sinning even more often than twice, you may need to repay that debt after life because you didn't have the time to complete the repayment process {atonement/redemption} while here on Earth. That would be unfortunate. Begin the waking up process now.

You can use up your allotment of sweet self-indulgences {lies and denial} for this lifetime by fooling yourself into believing you can simply dig into your allotment set aside for your next lifetime. That kind of thinking will bankrupt you. It won't help you perceive reality as it is – an opportunity to help you grow. If you don't believe me, see how you feel as you come closer to the end of your journey and find yourself having to return the vehicle you leased to the **OWNER**. What a wreck you may have on your hands by then!

If you find you're guilt free because you've convinced yourself you're always doing GOD's/GOD's/*God's* will, you may not be able to differentiate guilt from innocence. You may find yourself in denial. You may clearly see how others are in denial but won't be able

to see so in you. When that happens, consider yourself in spiritual trouble. That's why the Prophet was given the task of warning you.

This is what happens when you spiritually dismember your member or psychologically castrate yourself from your power. You lose the potential to make peace within. You become less vibrant and feel less alive. And then you may look for fights with blacks, Hispanics, gays, women and, if all else fails, Jews. A bigot is a hypocrite who can't get in to his own thick skin. He's outside himself. He's banished from his own forbidden fruits. He's outside his inner Eden. He's figuratively already dead desperately seeking to be restored to life.¹⁴⁶

If this describes you, ask yourself how **GOD** could have made you so close to perfection while making others so fallible and delusional. Depression, frustration, anger, rage and terror are the consequences of deeply engraved, character defects you may not have wanted to take personally, and, therefore, no longer take seriously.

Self-contempt is, paradoxically, the first step toward self-love. Familiarity of others breeds contempt of others. Therefore, you should have realized that contempt of them would do the same of you. After all the decades and decades you've known you, did you really think all those bad moods you've had to deal with weren't caused by familiarity issues?¹⁴⁷

It was hard for me to face self-contempt because I had such a contemptuous regard for myself that I refused to even discuss the issue with me. After twice having tried to murder me, I was the last person I wanted to spend any more time with. I was not on speaking terms with me.

The only way of going through anything is simply by going through it. It doesn't help to candy-coat it with euphemistic terminology or Pollyanna positions that aren't realistic. Sometimes it can be a great relief just to honestly admit to yourself that you've lost your way within (even if others might say you appear to be outwardly exceptional). Being miserable being you is a curse, but it's one you can turn into a blessing.

Many people will tell you that if gay people would only stop themselves from thinking, feeling, craving and believing that they're happy being gay, they'd become as *they* are: straight. But these are the same people whose parents and grandparents were racists, bigots, misogynists, Anti-Semites and anti-Zionists. And they're the same people who are teaching their children to hate Muslims and aliens. Do you really want to be as miserable being you as they're miserable being themselves? I'd rather go through my own misery than theirs. I may have been contemptuous of me to point of suicide, but they're worse...

"IT'S AN ABOMINATION TO SLEEP WITH A MAN AS WITH A WOMAN." [Leviticus 18:22, 20:13] That, all three of the extreme factions of the Abrahamic faiths all agree on! Pointing

¹⁴⁶ It is said that Jesus literally brought Lazarus back from the dead. You can do something figuratively similar for yourself if you suspect you're a hypocrite. But the only way back inside you is with self-love, not more self-indulgence.

¹⁴⁷ Familiarity with you will breed self-contempt. But the more you admonish yourself fairly as needed, the more you'll come to respect yourself over time.

fingers at men who bring to consciousness the feminine side of themselves is something all religious hypocrites love to quote as something **GOD** abhors.¹⁴⁸

Abrahamic men love to stick their nose up the behind of gay men to sniff out what's going on in there. And they love to do the same with the vagina of pregnant women who don't want to bring their fetus to term. But, **GOD** only knows if they ever use their nose to sniff around inside themselves. Surely if they did, they'd behave more humbly about other people's choices.

I find it morally fascinating that the extremists in all three of the Abrahamic faiths can agree with their worst enemies about how much their GOD/GOD/*God* abhors gays and lesbians. What they wouldn't do to get in good with the **TEACHER**! They'd conspire against any of their classmates if they thought it would get them good grades. And you wonder why the environment looks as filthy as it does. It's a mirror of how the **TEACHER**'s pets feel about themselves.

Some of Scripture should be taken literally, and some of it should be taken figuratively. Don't fight over chicken cheeseburgers. If it doesn't look kosher, it's not kosher. The letter of the law isn't as important as the spirit of the law.

I think it might be possible to reason with JEWISH homophobes, CHRISTIAN bigots and *Islamic* terrorists if we could get them to look more closely at both their worlds, and not just the world we share with them. We ought to be able to encourage some of them to reason with themselves, even if they're not willing to reason with us. Some of them will realize there are greater abominations than those their religious leaders have impressed up them. There are worse things to fear in life than having a penis up your anus or a woman's finger in there as she massages you to orgasm.

Islamic terrorists fear *God*, and that's a good start. Bravo! Now let's help them teach themselves how to be in awe of **GOD** rather than in fear of **HIM**. It's paranoia, not fear, that's motivating *Muslims* to kill indiscriminately. It's paranoia, not fear, that's motivating CHRISTIANS to be bigoted and hateful. And it's paranoia, not fear, that's motivating JEWS to be rabid homophobes.

Cynicism and skepticism lead to sarcasm and scorn. Cynicism and skepticism are forms of self-defense against pessimism. Hope is incredibly hard to hold on to. That's why **GOD** had to describe the way **HE** created man from three places in inner space using three sets of Scripture.

It's reasonable to be pessimistic about others, but totally unreasonable to be pessimistic about yourself. You were never you before this lifetime. You have everything it takes to

¹⁴⁸ The statement about homosexuality in Leviticus is a trick question the **TEACHER** gave the class to see who would become wise to **HIS** designs. **HE** did the same with the Creation story when **HE** told Adam the Tree of knowledge was forbidden. **GOD** doesn't need your wisdom, love or devotion. You do. If you give them to **HIM**, as is, you're only playing **TEACHER**'s pet. And you're not going to respect yourself for that in the long run.

succeed admirably if you develop faith in yourself. That's why befriending you before you befriend Jesus (or anybody else) is so important. Even the Prophet made it clear that ultimately you're spiritually on your own. We've seen what happens when JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* befriend GOD/GOD/*God* before befriending themselves. They only create greater enemies of one another. Surely in this there is a sign.

*“Therefore do not eat of that
which has been consecrated in the name of God,
for that is sinful.”
[6:120-121]*

“Therefore do not eat of that
which has been consecrated in the name of GOD,
for that is sinful.”

Be very careful when eating forbidden fruit. Ask! Don't grab! Don't mindlessly take what you want from life without considering how it will affect your relationship with you, and with **GOD**. If you steal knowledge from your Abrahamic brothers, or disrespect yourself in other ways, you'll only compound your problems. Don't take communion if you're not Christian. You'll find yourself ever deeper and more lost in the forest, searching for that lovely garden with those two infamous trees growing in it that you once read about in a book.

But “do not eat that which has been consecrated in the name of GOD” unless you're Christian, “for that is sinful.” In other words, do not participate in Holy Communion. Breaking bread and drinking wine with Christians is fine. But restrict your diet to literal food.

GOD has consecrated everything. Nothing in life is free. You're going to pay for every mistake you make and every blessing you're given. And if you can't pay your spiritual bills in your lifetime, the Prophet made it very clear what the repayment plan would look like after life.

Ask permission to allow yourself to fulfill your desires before you fulfill them. Even if that piece of cake on the plate calls to you and you can't resist, ask permission from yourself in words before you dig in. If you don't, you'll become a pagan who turns even cake into an idol to be worshipped. If you use words, you'll eventually find the words to stop unwanted behaviors, not just start them.

*“If God intends to guide a man,
He opens his bosom to Islam.
But if He pleases to confound him,
He makes his bosom small and narrow
as though he were climbing up to the sky.*

Thus shall God lay the scourge on the nonbelievers.”
[6:126]

“If **GOD** intends to guide a man,
HE opens his bosom to Islam.
But if **HE** pleases to confound him,
HE makes his bosom small and narrow
as though he were climbing up to the sky.
Thus shall **GOD** lay the scourge on the nonbelievers.”

When you climb a high mountain, you feel the sensation of your chest getting tighter and breathing becoming more difficult. You pay a little more for every breath you take at higher altitudes. The same can be said of spiritual altitude. Those who study the Quran are like climbers who have a constant supply of oxygen with them. Those who believe in Judaism or Christianity also climb to spiritual heights that will make their heart beat faster and soul yearn for more of **GOD**'s vast and majestic view. But they can't go any higher than they've gone without Islam. With the wisdom of the Prophet, you figuratively bring an oxygen flask with you. Then there's no vacuum in life you cannot withstand. Neither emptiness nor onliness frightens you any longer.

You could become a great artist or teacher if you exhibited the self-devotion **GOD** is inspiring you with. The great secret of the Quran lies in its relationship to the faiths that came before it. You could be of help to the world if your bosom were more open to you. With more wisdom from Torah {justice} and more wisdom of the heart from the Gospels {mercy}, and more wisdom of the soul {fairness} from the Quran, you'll do much better than you're doing now. You'd discover impartiality within.

*“To Moses We gave the Scriptures,
a perfect code for the righteous and precepts about all things,
a guide and a benison,
so they might believe in meeting their Lord.
And now We have revealed this Book truly blessed.
Observe it and keep from evil,
so that you may find mercy
and not say,
'The Scriptures were only revealed to two communities before us;
we have no knowledge of what they read;
or had the Scriptures been revealed to us
we would have been better guided than they.'”*

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we would have been better guided than they.’”

Don’t ever compare or contrast yourself to another human being. Their grades aren’t going on your report card. Their lessons in life aren’t going to be on your tests. But their assignments could teach you something you need to know to pass your final exam. The final exam is usually not easy, but you can prepare for it over your lifetime if you work hard at all the classwork and homework assignments the **PROFESSOR** gives you.

Compare and contrast your lessons to others’ lessons. Pretend you’re taking their tests to see how you’d do if you were sitting in their seat in class. Ask yourself the answer you’d give to the questions they’re asking. Each belief system has its own *principle*, but we all share the same **PRINCIPAL**. Don’t just use your head. Use your heart and soul as well. And then analyze the outcome from all three perspectives. Once you’ve done that, you’ll be able to see what your desires are and whether they’re affecting your outcomes for better or worse.

If Muslims had been given the Old Testament or the New instead of the Quran, they wouldn’t have done any better with them than our forefathers did. Look at what the Muslim world looks like today with Muslims only informed by the Quran as their guide. These three books were given to be combined, not to forever be studied separately.

To make each of them meaningful for the new age, you ought to consider praying with those of other faiths. If the class refuses to work together on passing **HIS** tests, the **PROFESSOR** will simply repeat the lessons until everyone feels hopeless and despondent. I’d rather internalize my problems than externalize them. I’d rather learn from others than vilify them to maintain my truths through dogma.

Without a better understanding of the **PROFESSOR**’s plan, you’re going to make serious mistakes of judgment that will affect your g.p.a., as well as the class curve. Those of us in the first row with a clear view of the board are getting bored. The bozos at the back of the room won’t shut up. Those in the middle of the room are distracted by technology and the pursuit of material comfort. And everyone near the front of the room thinks he’s already smart enough, good enough and dependable enough – when we all know that’s simply not true of anyone.

Many people think there's nothing they still need to learn about themselves. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world and so much irritation always erupting from within. If everyone made a concerted effort to learn a little more about himself – as embarrassing, shameful and humiliating as that might be – the levels of pain and suffering in the world would diminish.

The issues of cattle come out of the issues in each and every golden calf. You can't figure out how cows behave unless you're ready to look at all the bull in you. The sociological, religious problems of the three Abrahamic faiths are revealed when you look at the psychological problems you're struggling with in yourself. Once you've learned how to make one brick, you're rewarded with the knowledge needed to make bricks enough to build yourself a very secure house on a firm foundation. Your challenges will change as you achieve each goal. You'll awaken to what you're doing inside in stages.

Surah 7

The Heights

You can't climb the spiritual, tabletop mountain over a lifetime without acknowledging the increase in spiritual height. In middle age, when you've reached the plateau, there's then a panoramic 360-degree view you didn't have before. There's a rarified air you enjoy above the clouds, above the everyday doom and gloom that keeps many young men and women from enjoying the light of each and every day.

My mother was the only Holocaust survivor in my family of five Holocaust survivors who later built bridges to mend her relationships with the German people. She went long and far to make peace with her past. But I'm going long, far, high and wide to make peace with my own past. It's not possible for me to speak about justice and mercy without also having learned to treat myself fairly.

My attitude toward Muslims is being tested because they seem so intimidated by me when I go to mosque to pray with them. My attitude about all people is being tested, and this comes even after marriage equality has become the law of the land. Many have reached the heights of gay tolerance while so many still refuse to take the first step.

You can't talk about this surah of the Quran without acknowledging that life is like a mountain. Muhammad didn't literally go to this mountain. This mountain had to figuratively come to him. And now this mountain metaphor is approaching you.

The heights you reach for in society will be a sign of the work you do within. This will give you a sense of the reward you wish for at the end. The poor, disabled, disenfranchised and aging may not have the material privileges you have. But they may have other vistas on this world you could learn from, even if you disdain them for some reason.

If you want to climb ever higher, help others up the ladder Jacob gave us in his dream.¹⁴⁹ The higher you bring others up, the less the Lord will have to dip down to meet you at the end of your trek. Spiritual, mountain climbing is an extreme sport; we're all just holding on by a thread.

*“Observe that which is brought down to you from your Lord
and follow no other masters besides Him.*

But you seldom take warning.”

[7:3]

“Observe that which is brought down to you from your Lord
and follow no other masters besides **HIM**.

But you seldom take warning.”

The cynicism and scorn of the Prophet in say that people seldom take warning is a tool by which he makes clear that your own outlook on life may have gotten you into a mess

¹⁴⁹ In Torah, Jacob, one of Abraham's grandsons, had a dream of a ladder reaching up to the “heavens” on which angels were ascending and descending. Those “angels” are modern man's thoughts taking him morally up, and his feelings, which are bringing him back down to earth.

inside, whether you see it or not. We ought to listen to the Prophet's tone of voice and take it personally.

You seldom take warning when you're feeling as arrogant as the JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* about being right. But you may be so accustomed to your own smugness that you don't see it in yourself, only in others. You may want to win. You may want to master life. You may want to progress on the journey of life. You just may not want to learn about you because learning to take your life personally might bring up the {1} embarrassment, {2} shame and {3} humiliation {guilt} of having to be you from the beginning right through to the end.

Everybody ought to learn to listen to himself. Listening is impossible for the infant; difficult for the child; resisted by the adolescent; and scorned by the young and immature of heart. It takes time to learn to listen for answers from within. But the best way to learn how is to pray for permission to know yourself. The more you add to what you hear your Jewish mind is telling you by listening to what your Christian heart is feeling, the more your personal, but hidden, desires will be made consciously aware to you. **GOD** will then give you a WORD you thought you already knew or a WORD you felt you already felt. **HE**'ll give you new ways of believing in yourself that you'll meld within to form *words* to express faith in yourself, you didn't have before. You'll become soulful. In this way, you'll learn how to see yourself as a moral agent; listen to yourself as a moral student; and, eventually, speak to yourself as a moral student with a tutor.

In this way, you'll add to your spiritual vocabulary day-by-day, just as you did as a young child, but on a whole other level. The Quran will become meaningful (or more meaningful) to you as the third set of instructions needed to complete the whole job. You'll find you'll get along better with gays and reformed and conservative Jews (which will be a great relief for me), and you'll do something meaningful to make this world a better place for us all.

The Quran was recited by the Prophet for the edification of arrogant, straight sphincters of unusually large circumference who thought this world was made for them alone. But the Quran was actually a gift given to everyone, not just Muslims. The Quran presents the *Word of God* with a flowing cadence you can't appreciate until you begin to clean up the mess you've made in your soul. Only then will you discover the WORDS of **GOD** as they've been blended together in the West just for you.

The Prophet knew his message would be heard, but not listened to. So why did he employ guilt in this passage? What did he know about the way **GOD** made you that you may not know?

*"How many cities have We destroyed?
In the night Our scourge fell upon them,
or at midday,
when they were drowsing."
[7:4]*

“How many cities have **WE** destroyed?
In the night **OUR** scourge fell upon them,
or at midday,
when they were drowsing.”

GOD has been allowing civilizations to rise and fall since the beginning of time. The Jews have ridden most of these civilizations as those earlier people made the same claims of faith we hear professed today. **GOD** has no difficulty separating your fate from those around you, any more than **HE** separates you from **HIS** light incrementally in the daylight hours and completely at night.

Many civilizations figuratively collapsed in midday {at their height} while the people were taking their noon siesta. America will be just such a civilization if it doesn't get its act together. Europe is already reverberating with the rumbling of another attempt at becoming more “civilized” by excluding Jews and Muslims. You'd think their recent fiasco with the Jews would have taught them more about Christ's message of inclusion and love.

You can't hide like cattle crowded together in a field behind a fence. You must believe in **GOD's** ability to single you out for better or worse. The inner world in your mind is like a village hoping to become like a city in your heart, which then hopes to become a great civilization in your soul. How many cities have been destroyed in you? How many great civilizations have you seen come and go within?

You're not cattle. No matter how much your leaders try to drive you like sheep in flocks; use you like oxen to pull their industrial plows; or send you to war like chickens conditioned by pecking order – you're more valuable to **GOD** than any of **HIS** other creations.

*“And when Our scourge fell upon them,
their only cry was, ‘
We have, indeed, been wicked men.’”*
[7:5]

“And when **OUR** scourge fell upon them,
their only cry was,
‘We have, indeed, been wicked men.’”

It's so easy to cry out at your guilt after the fact, and so hard to avoid it in the first place. The wisdom needed to anticipate problems is like a twig growing on a branch of a tree. The leaves and fruit that will hang from that twig can't be counted until after they appear. You simply grow in goodness without knowing in advance what will become.

You may make mistakes in order to learn from them, but you can also learn to avoid mistakes before you make them. Either way, you can learn about yourself to know more about yourself. And you can include people who don't believe as you do in with your inner discussions.

That can't be done unless your tree is 3-D. You should be able to slink from bough to bough, like a snake; swing from branch to branch like a monkey; and fly from tree to tree like bird. You should look from every point of view for morality to come alive with meaning.

Once you know how to operate yourself better, your punishment will be greatly increased if you make the same mistake twice or, **GOD** forbid, thrice. You can't be retained in the school of life without causing great harm to yourself and others.¹⁵⁰ Not even your whole generation will be allowed to progress if it's scholastically going the wrong way.¹⁵¹

*"We have given you power in the land
and provided you with a livelihood:
yet you are seldom thankful."
[7:10]*

*"~~W~~E have given you power in the land
and provided you with a livelihood:
yet you are seldom thankful."*

You should have been taught by your religious leaders to be more appreciative of your own land. You couldn't have accomplished anything in the past if you hadn't first increased your self-worth by grounding yourself in that. The emotional tension you create every day in proving to you that you can colonize the ground you've got within. When you can be thankful to your parents and teachers for having fertilized your intellectual soil with wisdom and watered you with a few precious drops of love, you, too, will be given spiritual permission to reach for the sky.

You have everything you need to grow "yet you are seldom thankful." If you insist guilt is nothing you need to relate to, you'll lose your land as we lost ours. And getting it back will be as painful for you as it's been for us. I don't have to be a rabbi to predict that much. Muslims today are crying out "Let my people go." And they're making an exodus out of Muslim lands for Europe, the Americas and elsewhere. Would that they could appreciate Islamic history as well as they can condemn Jewish and Christian history.

On an airplane, they tell you to put your own oxygen mask on first. They know you care so much about the ones you love that you'd try to go a whole lifetime on one breath of air if you had to. But you can't be of any use to others if you don't take that instruction figuratively as well as literally. Only then can you be of spiritual assistance to those around you. After everyone has his oxygen mask on, then pray anyway you choose individually and/or collectively that the plane will land safely. If you don't do things in the most logical,

¹⁵⁰ "To be retained " means to be made to repeat a class. You've probably retained yourself many times without having applied this word to you.

¹⁵¹ Scholasticism implies self-study; the intelligence needed to unify the forces within by teaching yourself what you need to know. Consider you a scholar in the university of life if you can judge the flow of the words you produce inside and out. Remember, the meaning of life is to give life meaning.

emotionally pure and spiritual order, you won't receive the bounty of **GOD's** grace when you need it. You'll find yourself a mile high in the sky without knowing how to land. {Perhaps you didn't ponder the fact that "land" is a verb, too!}

It's only by learning from Scripture through metaphor, symbols and similes that you're going to unlock the secrets brought down to you by the world's great T.A.'s.¹⁵² It's only by observing your penis or clitoris figuratively that you're going to discover the sensuous, spiritual side of you. And it's only by taking gay-Jews more seriously that you'll keep your head screwed on tight and appreciate the little bit of land you've got.

As I've already said, Jews are 1/10th of 1% of the world's population. Gay and lesbian Jews are 1/10th of 1/10th of 1% of the world's population. But gay, male Jews are only 1/2 of 1/10th of 1/10th of 1% of the world's population. If **GOD** made so few gay, male Jews, surely there might be a voice inside you saying that gay-Jews couldn't possibly be at all important to **HIS** designs if they're so small in number. Surely the majority rules when it comes to truth. Surely, I should avoid listening to someone who's a member of a group of people who have so little collective power.

But what if Jesus was a gay, male Jew? What if **GOD** makes just as many kinds of people as **HE** needs? Maybe numbers aren't as important as people think. What if the number of Jews, Christians and Muslims in this world won't affect the outcome of **GOD's** designs in the least? What if it's a question of individual quality, not mass quantity?

*"We created you and gave you form.
Then We said to the angels, '
Prostrate yourselves before Adam.'
They all prostrated themselves except Satan,
who refused to prostrate himself."
[7:11]*

*"wE created you and gave you form.
Then wE said to the angels,
'Prostrate yourselves before Adam.'
They all prostrated themselves except satan,
who refused to prostrate himself."*

As I've already stated, I believe the devil is a euphemistic, religious term that signifies the spiritual symbolism and simile in **GOD** having given you a penis. Your penis is a part of your container that affects you contents. Your wants are like your penis. When you have an erection, it isn't easy to command "it" to prostrate itself any more than the Prophet

¹⁵² Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Muhammad were the **TEACHER's** three greatest assistants.

described euphemistically. What goes up doesn't always come down as quickly as it rises in excited anticipation. And what is down may not go up on your command.

Most Muslims have read this surah on the heights without thinking about the height of their penis or the depth of where they ought to figuratively plunge "it." Insane *Muslims* may get very angry at this interpretation. Only sane *Muslims* are going to listen and reserve judgment until they can decide for themselves the value of these *words*.

This surah of the Quran could be very meaningful to you on your mountaineering expedition if you learned how to use spiritual carabineers to help yourself and others.¹⁵³ Moses may have climbed Mt. Sinai using only a staff for support, but today's inner mountains require much more sophistication and planning to be scaled.

Dogmatic insistence on the way the outer world operates without inner verification of how you operate isn't going to serve you well in the long run. You can cut off people's hands for stealing or cut off their head for thinking things you don't like. But you're not really addressing the issues at their **SOURCE**.

GOD created man with great hope and promise. The angels can be interpreted as outer world messengers and/or inner world forces. Angels are concurrently working in harmony with **HIS** designs when you're doing well, but in conflict with **HIS** designs when you're physically, emotionally or spiritually ill at ease. Angelic forces within are euphemistic expressions for the forces of your thoughts, feelings and moral belief. demonic forces would be better described euphemistically as urges that arise from below your waist in your left testicle or ovary.

The kings and despots that run the Middle East today mirror the dictator in your head that may have complete control over your thinking. The inner voices in you that are heartfelt and desirous of change may be repressed if you aren't aware of how they're struggling with infantile, childish and juvenile desires still at play in you. If you can't allow yourself to entertain other influences on you for fear that that might cause an inner rebellion, you can imagine how rigidly and conservatively you're going to adhere only to the society you keep now.

The autonomy to hate those you don't like is a twisted kind of freedom. It's not freedom, liberty or emancipation. The will to keep your head separate from your heart is an indulgence that's only as long as your stiff neck. And the desire not to emancipate you from yourself is a death wish that may spill over from suicide into mass murder.

Think of your head, heart and soul as inner forces you can only control with the use of **WORDS/WORDS/Words**. And think of your penis as that inner force that speaks to you in numbers. "Spiritual Math" refers to relationships between desires that end in the "black" {+} or the "red" {-}. Think of every item of food you're fond of as a specific number

¹⁵³ "A carabineer is a metal loop with a spring-loaded gate used to quickly and reversibly connect components, most notably in safety-critical systems. Carabineers are widely used in rope-intensive activities such as climbing, arboriculture, caving, sailing, hot air ballooning, rope rescue, construction, industrial rope work, window cleaning, whitewater rescue and acrobatics." [Wikipedia] If your mountain lies within, you're going to need carabineers to scale yourself. You're going to want to come up with all sorts of new, inner tools to get to know you.

between one and a million. You're constantly comparing and contrasting hungers {cheesecake to Oreos, or ice cream to sour cream}. You're adding up points in your mind or subtracting them to find the perfect total you're hoping for by the end of your lifetime. The bigger {+} or smaller {-} the number you set for each of your urges, the more you'll see the consequences of what your urges mean to you.

If your thoughts, feelings and beliefs are expressed in the language arts and your wants are expressed in numerical code, then it's up to you to learn to communicate both ways. In doing so, you'll see how you're making war or peace with **GOD** and the Abrahamic faiths.

Allow your mind to lead you honestly to what it really wants: wisdom. Allow your heart to lead you sincerely to what it yearns for: love. And allow your soul to be authentic with you and tell you what it really believes in: one **GOD**.

Now you're left with your desires. And they're going to strongly influence your thoughts, feelings and beliefs. The intensity of your desires will determine whether you'll come away with a conscience that's mindful of others or a soul that's spiritual. Decide for yourself what you most want when you're young because a time will come when you'll realize you won't be able to seek redemption without a conscience that guides your soul.

Most people use loyalty, not their conscience, as their guide. Their loyalty to friends makes them too prejudiced to be of much help to **GOD**. They do little or nothing to express their friendship to themselves on a daily basis but then raise their clenched fist to the sky rather than look at problematic situations fairly. And by doing so, they often become accessories to moral crimes against their own humanity. **GOD** is watching us all, not just those who agree with you.

You may not become an Albert Einstein who'll discover mathematical formulas that describe the nature of the cosmos, but you may learn how to add and subtract your temptations in ways you can actually keep track of. That will make you feel like an Einstein in contrast to all those who can't.

Most people are figuratively obese in youth. They can't stop themselves from gorging themselves on new experiences. Consequently, they often don't lose their spiritual, baby fat until middle age. The desire to have fun and be right overwhelms their ability to do good. Curiosity about life leads them into intellectual and emotional greed. Their greed causes them to consume much more forbidden fruit than they admit. So when they finally come to weigh themselves spiritually (often in middle age or in the middle of the night), it's appalling to them how heavy they sit on the scale. They don't just need to go on a spiritual diet to lose the weight of {1} arrogance, {2} greed, {3} gluttony, {4} envy, {5} lust, {6} wrath and {7} sloth they've taken on {The Seven Deadly Sins of Christianity}. They need to deal with the despondency and disgust they've caused themselves.

This is the beginning of guilt rising to the surface of the mind. This is the awakening to embarrassment that separates the men from the boys with modesty. This is the awakening to shame that separates individuals from family, friends and associates. With time, shame humbles you to your character flaws. And this becomes the awakening to humiliation that makes the soulful aware of their distance from **GOD**. This produces the devotion the Prophet speaks of, not the misplaced loyalties to those who can't understand.

“Understanding” is a “standing” “under” others to offer them your backing and support. And understanding is a standing under yourself to do the same for you. Do you deserve any less from you than you’re giving others?

If you get your inner house in order, you’re going to create a sense of inner governance, not a terrorist organization inside you that causes you to react poorly to all that’s happening around you that mirrors what’s going on within. Once you can create an inner sense of governance, you’ll be able to aspire to spiritual statehood.¹⁵⁴ This is the experience of your own Israel that can occur at any time now that it once again exists in outer reality.

It’s too late to become a Renaissance man. Nor are you Medieval. You’re modern. You don’t have to get involved in or be an expert at everything. You don’t even have to care about everything or everyone. You only need to get involved with those things that call to you.

Your urges will, at times, be contrary and defiant. That’s human. It’s the nature of the force of impulse to oppose your other forces within you to get what you want. While your mind may choose to stand tall before GOD; while your heart may descend to its knees before HIM; and while your soul may go down on all four in submission to *Hím*, your penis may decide of its own accord to rise up contemptuously in disregard of all three of them. Such is the inscrutability in the way **GOD** made man. He must learn to incorporate his needs in with his own plans, even if he must control his temper, his tongue or his disposition to do so.

The man who’s honest with himself knows he shouldn’t offend others to get what he wants. The man who’s sincere with himself feels he shouldn’t insult others to get what he wants. And the man who’s authentic within himself believes he shouldn’t hurt others to get what he wants. Unfortunately, man has learned to justify his actions with his urges. When he tells himself he needs to get what he wants, he ultimately gives himself permission to use force to get it. And then the wars begin outside and in.

Offending JEWS, insulting CHRISTIANS and hurting *Muslims* is going to need to be justified before our Lord with an explanation of your real and imaginary need for control. **HE**’s going to settle your disputes by allowing you to follow your worst impulses if you can’t control your four selves. (And the outcomes of your actions may cause great pain and suffering all around.)

It’s only when *you* need *you* more than *you* need other people that you’ll consider building bridges and ascending mountains within rather than committing crimes against your own humanity. Unless you put yourself first and foremost in the morally most elevated ways, you’re going to run into trouble with others that will complicate your relationship with you.

Affluence is actually a great deterrent to war. When people are comfortable with the modest acquisition of possessions they’ve amassed, they’re much less willing to risk losing it all by fighting for more. Spiritual insight is another deterrent to war. When people are made comfortable with what they’ve acquired spiritually, they’re much less willing to risk

¹⁵⁴ “Spiritual Statehood” infers that statehood can only be achieved if you use Israel as one of three models for the inner state that you’re learning how to create and govern.

losing their reputation before the Lord by fighting for more. In both instances, they choose the path of peace.

Spiritual poverty is universal. There are great pockets of spiritual poverty in every family, institution, society and religion, But suicidal, *Islamic* maniacs are the spiritually poorest people on Earth. And by rewarding their families for what these maniacs have done, *Islam* is only getting itself in more hot water with the Lord.

When we see corporations conspiring with totalitarian countries like the sick who'll do anything to make themselves feel better, we must resolve to put even more faith in our individual ability to perform open heart surgery on ourselves. We must resolve to put even more faith in our ability to do the soul searching necessary that leads to spiritual recovery.

Ploys such as the B.D.S. movement are eventually going to open people's mind to the injustice of punishing Israel for the problems in the Middle East. The B.D.S. movement is an anti-Zionist organization even if they claim not to be anti-Semitic.¹⁵⁵ "It makes no difference to the man who died to know that the dynamite that killed him was of good quality." [Mark Twain]

GOD is some people's **TEACHER** and others' **PROFESSOR**. **HE** teaches everyone to believe that **HE** can and will show us how to operate our inner forces ethically. Promising suicide bombers a place in "heaven" and paying their family for indulging in such a morally impoverished mentality is a crime of the highest magnitude. It's as criminal as giving guns to those who are so mentally incompetent that they can't tell the difference between a penis and a weapon. They're both forms of spiritual rape for which you'll be judged for your complicity in such crimes.

As you learn about the abominable ways you're treating yourself, you're also going to see how and why your neighbors and countrymen behave as they do. And when you get frustrated with those around you, you should note how frustrating it can sometimes be to teach yourself some lessons over and over again. Learning isn't easy if the student isn't fully willing to expand his horizons.

Israel isn't innocent. But Israel is your friend and neighbor who's always first in making the mistakes you're later going to make and magnify within. There's a method to **GOD's** madness. The seniors get the assignments first, so the juniors can struggle with the mistakes the seniors make, while the sophomores can struggle to avoid those mistakes entirely. Don't act like a freshman who doesn't yet know there's a system in place.

GOD will use **HIS** sense of justice in your life with rewards and punishments regardless of your standing in school. **HE**'ll repeat lessons you need to repeat when you're delinquent in teaching them to yourself. But you also need to believe **HE**'ll use **HIS** sense of mercy beyond the grave in a way that befits each and every crime you commit with the blessings of a modicum of forgiveness. Being human is harder than it looks.

HE created Christianity out of Jewish hope to give us all a more magnified sense of hope. *He* created Islam out of Judaism and Christianity to give us an even more augmented

¹⁵⁵ The "B.D.S. Movement" stands for "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions," They claim to be using their tactics to change the political policies of Israel, but they're really out to destroy the Jewish state.

view of hope. The hopelessness we may feel or see in those around us is part of the mystery of the frailty and fragility of everyman.

Hopelessness isn't a reflection of man's vanity. Man often has good reasons to be vain. He just doesn't have good reason for rubbing his conceit in other people's face. You can't know it all, no matter how attractive you are, so you might as well learn to express modesty of your body to alleviate your vanity, and humility over your mind to alleviate your conceit. How else would you expect to achieve grace?

Lest we get lethargic emotionally, in addition to lazy physically, **GOD** created Islam to remind us that there are limits to **HIS** goodwill. Don't be so spiritually indolent that you refuse to see the importance of each and every faith **HE** created.

The tongue of Judaism and lips of Christianity will reveal that there are teeth in **GOD's** designs for anyone who leaves this world as immature as when he first entered it. As you consume knowledge from your tree so shall you be consumed. If you think you can rest on the dogmatic laurels of the institutions of your faith alone, you're taking a big risk with your eternal wellbeing. **GOD** may bite you if *Islam* doesn't.

*“Why did you not prostrate yourself
when I commanded you?”
He asked.”
[7:12]¹⁵⁶*

*“Why did you not prostrate yourself
when **HE** commanded you?”
HE asked.”*

Evil will never prostrate itself before good. The committed wrongdoers will never prostrate themselves before the righteous. And those who strive to get worse will never prostrate themselves before those who wish to get better. So you'd better learn to do so within, because there's little chance you'll see it happen around you.

GOD never asks us questions we can't answer. When Adam and Eve hid among the other trees in Eden after having eaten from the Tree of knowledge, **GOD** asked him, “WHERE ARE YOU? And he said, ‘I HEARD YOU IN THE GARDEN, AND I WAS AFRAID BECAUSE I WAS NAKED; SO I HID.’” [Genesis 3:9-10]

GOD looked at Adam and saw he'd covered his genitals with a fig leaf and then asked Adam (as you might ask of a very young child while pointing to his genitals), “WHO TOLD YOU YOU WERE NAKED? HAVE YOU EATEN FROM THE TREE OF WHICH I COMMANDED YOU THAT YOU SHOULD NOT EAT?” [Genesis 3:11]

¹⁵⁶ This quote comes from **GOD** speaking to satan. You could just as easily ask a pubescent boy why he didn't force himself to subdue his raging erection. A man's serpent has to be taught how to listen. We all had embarrassing moments in adolescence when this question first came up... This is a tongue-in-cheek literary device to make you think.

The leaf Adam used to cover his genitals inadvertently exposed and accentuated his crime in the same way that cookie crumbs on a child's lips are evidence of him having gotten into the cookie jar without permission. The questions GOD posed of Adam {the mind} had the effect of making him realize he looked guilty with that leaf hanging down below his waist. And he snapped back at GOD in self-defense, "THE WOMAN YOU PUT HERE WITH ME – SHE GAVE ME SOME FRUIT FROM THE TREE, AND I ATE IT." [Genesis 3:12]

When GOD questioned Eve, it was like HE questioned Adam from another place in inner space. Eve {the personification of man's heart} realized she couldn't hide from GOD either. But because Eve had been fashioned from Adam's rib, she didn't perceive just how deeply loyal she was to Adam. And so, when asked, she said, "THE SERPENT DECEIVED ME, AND I ATE." [Genesis 3:13]

From this we can conclude that the head can be very reactive and easily prone to appearing guilty, while the heart can be very sincere, seemingly even appear to be guilt free. The mind defies the appearance of guilt in the world around us. The heart defies the crime being a crime at all.¹⁵⁷

Instead of a man looking at the conclusions of his thoughts one way and his feelings another, he doubles down on his urges in defiance of having to develop a conscience. He spends his life pursuing his wants without much consideration of the moral importance of developing a conscience that will become skilled enough over time to become a soul. {You can't circumcise your soul if you ain't got one...}

Man erroneously concludes that he must run away from the GOD in his head or the GOD in his heart to make peace with the *God* in his breastplate. He perceives **GOD** {GOD/GOD/*God*} differently in each place on his body because he can't take responsibility for his lack of interest in discovering how he operates from within. This is what motivated him to create three Abrahamic faiths rather than ONE.

A man slowly discovers over a lifetime that he can't hide from the guilt in his head, the guilt in his heart or the guilt in his soul. This is why his desires must pursue him wherever he goes. He must slowly realize that we all generalize, internalize and universalize the Creation story. We all unconsciously intuit that the first story of Torah describes something about ourselves that goes beyond myth or fable. The main metaphor of Moses describes man's universal operating system – every man's – not just Abrahamic man.

Every tree of knowledge conceals itself with leaves strategically placed to hide its serpent and fruits. But GOD will find you in your head. HE'll find you in your heart. *God* will even pursue you into your breastplate to fill that hollow in your tree with good. It will come to pass that only with self-knowledge will you face your guilt and come to know **HIM**.

On some level, every Adam realizes how he hides from GOD, hates GOD and doesn't fully believe in *Him*. On some level, he wants to do what he wants to do regardless of what

¹⁵⁷ Your head {Adam} will blame circumstances outside your control. Your heart {Eve} will tell you that collusion is not a crime. And your conscience {GOD} will watch and record everything you say. This story is the oldest story on Earth. And yet it's retold every generation as though it's brand new. Surely you're old enough to recognize this crime when you witness it.

GOD wants him to do. It's only on the first day after the seven days of creation {the eighth day of life} that every male first sees himself as a little less admirable than he would have wished.

This is the day of banishment. This is the day you left innocence and joined the world of experience. On the eighth day of life you were given life, not before. This is the day you receive the potential to develop a soul. There should be no argument about when a fetus comes to life. It comes to life when it joins the human race, and not before. An animal is not human even though it is alive.

This is the day when Jews circumcise their sons. In descending from his own adoring opinion of himself with the pain of circumcision inflicted on him by his own parents, the infant looks up for the first time at **GOD** without egotistical self-consumption and wonders "Why me?" But this ritual must be reinforced with reminders of the meaning of the Creation story throughout one's lifetime. Every cut and blow thereafter will become a reenactment of your covenant with **GOD**.

GOD knows when we have erections and what excites us. If we aren't willing to be honest with ourselves about that, how can we truly be honest with **HIM** about anything else? If we aren't willing to talk to ourselves about what we feel for others and the sensations they induce in us, how can we claim to hold an intimate, intellectual or emotional relationship with **HIM**? You should be close enough with your **CREATOR** to tell **HIM** what you're really going through if you're going to reveal to **HIM** what you're learning about you from the forces within at play in the world we share.

For that reason, I suggest you begin to learn to pray by yourself in your bathroom nude while on the toilet before you ever try to enter a house of prayer with the intention of being candid with your **CREATOR**. Prayer was far too intimate an experience for me to have begun my studies by praying in public. I had to make my way slowly into synagogues, churches and mosques. I had to learn how to face **GOD** anywhere around me from anywhere within.

If you find my words sacrilegious or shocking, keep in mind that Jesus wasn't a prophet. He was the GOD from GOD who warned people about the need to pursue "heaven." (He never said anything about gay people having to go to "hell." And HE never told anybody how to make love.) Perhaps gay people personify **GOD's** designs better than straight people because some of us are comfortable with one form of humiliation before the Lord. Perhaps our ability to love men physically sets us apart from men who can only love other men abstractly. Surely our desire to screw men is more enlightened than those who only wish to screw them over.

Modern man is confused, upset and frustrated with desires he can't fulfill, whether or not he consciously realizes what's going on inside him. He feels he's being trespassed against by gays on the political right and by liberal Jews on the political left. He feels corralled like cattle by cowboys, and then fenced in. But these impressions are because he doesn't know his way around inside himself. Many an infantile Adam today still blames the Eve {heart} GOD gave him.

When Christianity went through the Great Schism that separated the Eastern Orthodox Church {Constantinople} from the Roman Catholic {Rome}, each blamed the other.¹⁵⁸ The Protestant Reformation of Catholicism in the 16th Century begun in Wittenberg, Germany began over the selling of indulgences.¹⁵⁹ If the former schism figuratively cleaved GOD's heart, the latter broke it in two, leaving Jesus mourning HIS church as it slowly turned into a reflection of HIS heart broken in three places.¹⁶⁰

Today, the Muslims suffer from a broken soul. The conflict between Shiites and Sunnis isn't caused by mental or emotional distresses. It's caused by a spiritual malaise that's fracturing Islam to the core. Until Muslims discover the wisdom in their relationship within themselves, as revealed through the Prophet, they certainly aren't going to see the wisdom in loving their Abrahamic brothers.

*"I am nobler than he,
he replied.
'You created me from fire,
but You created him from clay.'"*
[7:13]¹⁶¹

*"i am nobler than he,
he replied.
'YOU created me from fire,
but YOU created him from clay.'"*

If you think of satan as one of the bozos at the back of the room in the school of life, some behave like him. They're class clowns who disrupt to draw the attention of the class away from the **TEACHER** and the lesson in discussion at the front of the room.

Like satan, such bozos are the living epitome of fire. They're as charismatic and compelling as a flame to a moth. But those students who turn around to pay attention to

¹⁵⁸ Constantinople separated from Rome in the 11th Century. The causes were (1) the source of the Holy Spirit, (2) whether to use leavened or unleavened bread in the Eucharist and (3) minor administrative issues. The spiritual issue, from my perspective, was a break in the heart of Christianity at the suffering Christians put GOD through that they're still living with as each of them moves through the guilt of breaking HIS heart even still.

¹⁵⁹ "Indulgences" were paid delivery into "heaven" through donations to the Church. The Reformation also insisted that the Pope had no authority over purgatory and that the Catholic doctrine of the merits of the Saints had no foundation in the Gospels.

¹⁶⁰ The antagonism between Russia and the West is the last struggle by Christians to reunite GOD's heart.

¹⁶¹ This quote comes from satan who's saying that he's nobler than man. What adolescent or young man doesn't claim that his penis is nobler than the penis of the man who wants what he wants? This is a literary device to make you think about the length, girth and firmness of what you've been given within.

these jokers end up ignoring their education. They become more worried about wealth and autonomy in this world than wealth and obedience in the “next.”

I don’t believe the Muslims are racists, homophobes, misogynists or xenophobes. I don’t even believe that beneath their exterior lies an anti-Semite. They have nothing against Jews. Their anti-Zionism is merely a misunderstanding of Scripture, which is caused by their ignorance of all of Scripture.

The right-wing CHRISTIANS literally want THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY {Israel}. The fanatical *Muslims* literally want *The Land of Milk and Honey* {Israel}. But it’s only in becoming a good student in the university of life that one learns about Israel, the land of milk and honey that we can all pursue within, albeit with varying levels of consciousness.

The ultra-orthodox, European JEWS also want THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY in a restrictive, literal sense of the WORD, and they’re going to have to eat crow when they discover that many in the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community know more about **GOD’s** universal designs than they do.

Sometimes, a man’s serpent doesn’t seem to sense a thing, while at other times it feels as though it’s on fire. It’s figuratively as though that part of our body was made from another substance, not the clay **GOD** used to make the rest of us. The fire that ignites man to seek physical penetration with his penis is the same fire that ignites him to seek physical penetration with his gun, world domination with his arms, and religious supremacy with his WORDS/WORDS/*Words*.

The fire that ignites man internally consumes some men with the need for spiritual penetration of the mystery of **GOD’s** designs.¹⁶² It makes him feel like a partner in service to **GOD** in life. The serpent in man can give him the creativity to set the artistic world aflame, or it can ignite the holocausts and wars we see burning everywhere around us. Those who think they can use fire to steal Israel away from the Jews will watch as they burn themselves again and again. **GOD’s** designs are too great for their puny penises.

The secret to the fire in man’s testicles is the same secret that makes him yearn to become a horticulturalist. He sees every man as a tree, and *God* as the wind that whistles through him. Figuring out why people do what they do is like learning about the wind that makes the leaves quake and the trunk grow in its unique, gnarly way. But there’s a place below ground where the roots of every tree cannot be touched by the wind. There, a man must look to see what it is he’s wrapping his roots around. He must ask himself the meaning of a rock in Jerusalem that will never fully support him like **GOD** does. **GOD** is his **ROCK**.

A man’s testicles correspond to his forbidden fruits. But there are many ball-breakers in this world. Most often, this vice is assigned to women. When a man feels he’s been kicked in the crotch emotionally, it’s usually a woman he turns to, to blame. When one man physically does it to another man, the injured feels obliged to admit that no good guy would treat another that way. And as he clutches his crotch in pain, the injured party

¹⁶² Fire is the passionate desire to grow intimate with **GOD** through wisdom, love, and devotion.

begrudgingly admits that developing a conscience can be painful in many amusing ways when it isn't happening to you...

Women are often accused of being crude, inexperienced or rough in the ways they handle men. Many men simply blame the woman du jour that happens to be closest them. When males are children, it's usually their mother they blame. When they become a young adult, it's their girlfriend or wife. And when they get old it becomes their female boss or some other old lady who gets in their way. Such men will always excuse, forgive and exonerate their male enemies so that the two of them can go back to blaming women the way they used to. Such is the unawakened man's idea of making "peace." We see it on the political left and right in those who don't grow.

Ignorant men bank on using their anger at some women to keep all women and feminized men under their thumb. The last thing an unrefined man wants is competition in winning his GOD's/GOD's/*God*'s affection. He sees life as one big "us" {y} against all of "them" {x}. And he uses GOD/GOD/*God* to exacerbate his perception of alienation and unfair treatment.

Crude men don't know how to handle one another with kid gloves.¹⁶³ They're ball-breakers, but they can't help themselves. They don't realize how they force gay men and women out of every discussion with banter and bravura, only to discover that under the spiritual table, we can see how they're kicking themselves, and one another in the crotch.

The Quran, like the Old and New Testaments before it, had to find euphemistic ways to talk about issues that our ancestors weren't willing to speak about as openly as we can today. If you can't talk about sexual matters in public like a mature adult, perhaps it's because you're not yet as grown up as you think. If you can't talk about sexual matters with **GOD**, perhaps it's because your relationship with **HIM** isn't as mature as you think. If you're ramming your opponents, head to head, like horny, longhorn sheep, perhaps you're really using your penis, not your brains, to determine your brawn.

It's those who can't discuss their genital issues in spiritually meaningful ways who can't discuss differences in faith or politics. They're not ready to sit at the adult table until they're more practiced in behaving in a civilized manner when seated with the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community. They're still at one of the kiddy tables with good reason.

*"They replied,
'Lord, we have wronged our souls.
Pardon us and have mercy on us,
or we shall surely be among the lost.'"*
[7:23]¹⁶⁴

¹⁶³ "Kid gloves" are made from the skin of a young goat or lamb, which is much softer than gloves made from other leather. So to be a spiritual kid who uses kid gloves is quite a challenge. It's so easy to pretend to be grown up, and so hard to handle people gently.

¹⁶⁴ Adam and Eve realized they had souls.

“They replied,
‘Lord, we have wronged our souls.
pardon us and have mercy on us,
or we shall surely be among the lost.’”

In the Hebrew Testament, Adam and Eve don’t refer to their souls. The above words were a “modern” interpretation of Scripture in 700 C.E. that the Quran was able to contribute because the concept of men and women having a soul had become common knowledge to Jews and Christians by the 8th Century of the Common Era.

To make the claim that only *Muslims* have souls would be, of course, a conclusion based on evidence emanating only from below their belt. Hitler ostensibly made the same claim. If you’d like to follow CHRISTIANS from the last century on their “adventure” through life and out of life, history will show you the way. But I wouldn’t recommend you go that way.

*“Children of Adam,
We have given you clothes to cover your shameful parts,
and garments pleasing to the eye;
but the finest of these is the robes of piety.”*
[7:25] ¹⁶⁵

“Children of Adam,
wE have given you clothes to cover your shameful parts,
and garments pleasing to the eye;
but the finest of these is the robe of piety.”

The clothes you literally cover your genitals in is your underwear. It conceals your shameful parts. The garments you wear over your underwear may be pleasing to the eye but have no illusions about what’s under those garments. Your shame spreads from your groin throughout your inner body.

To perceive your robe of piety, you’re going to want to disrobe yourself in a way that leaves you figuratively nude, naked and transparent before you. And you’re going to want to do so by yourself with just yourself. If you can only see your shameful parts when you look at you nude, you don’t have the inner eyesight yet to see yourself as you truly are.

The Quran rightly uses the words “shameful parts” because there’s an underlying understanding that you’ve been morally embarrassed, shamed and humiliated in a variety of ways by others, not just by your own desires. You’ve been forced to endure other

¹⁶⁵ The literal children of Adam and Eve were Cain and Abel. But we’re all the figurative children of Adam and Eve. Clothes to cover your shameful parts refers to knowledge of the three aspects of guilt: embarrassment, shame and humiliation. Garments pleasing to the eye refers to modesty, humility and grace. This is how you ought to want to be dressed when you leave your body for your “heavenly” reward.

people's unexamined desires, as well as **GOD's** desire to educate you. If you don't look for the meaning of your life through your experiences of life, you won't find a very good answer to the meaning of your life in Scripture.

It takes what it takes for the **TEACHER** to get you on board **HIS** educational system of self-improvement as a means to redemption. And **HE's** not averse to allowing others to poke and prod you to cause that to happen. But that doesn't mean they're all right and you're all wrong or that you're all right and they're all wrong. It means **HE** forces everyone in class to consider his moral duty to reform.

If you want to become a living, growing and vibrant tree of wisdom, you're going to want to use your experiences like wood. If you're burlled, warped or become petrified over time, you're going to want to look at the ways in which you've become twisted, misshapen and fossilize. And you're going to want to admit it and then find a way to grow anyway.

The "robe of piety" refers to a soul that's been enveloped in a conscience that's been awakened to **GOD's** presence. Your conscience is only as aware of your spiritual education as you wish to invest your life with meaning. If you want pleasure in life, pleasure you'll seek, and pleasure you'll find meaningful when you achieve it. If you want money, money you'll seek and money you'll find meaningful when you earn it.

When you've sufficiently grown through enough seasons in life to realize that the robes of piety for a literal tree consists of branches full of leaves and flowers that turn into fruit, then every autumn will become more personally meaningful to you. Your figurative harvests will become more plentiful. And you'll improve yourself with sincere desire to look at everything you go through as spiritual advancement.¹⁶⁶

Self-righteous indignation is human. It may be painful, but it's real. Self-righteous indignation comes from having been forced out of the pleasant home you had in your mother's womb, down the tunnel with the white light at the end, and out into a world you then filled with all your anger at having been dislodged from a lifestyle you once wanted to maintain as it had been.¹⁶⁷

If you can't learn from the humiliation that has continued to make you feel self-righteously relocated again and again, you're probably not growing. You're probably turning into petrified wood. (It may take millions of years to create petrified wood in nature, but the same can be figuratively accomplished in record time by the fool who insists he's surrounded by Jewish and/or gay enemies.)

¹⁶⁶ "Meaningful" means that you see your life as having a beginning, middle and end in the sense of your birth, your life and your death.

¹⁶⁷ As a child born by caesarian, I wasn't forced out of my pleasant abode. I was gently removed from it and then rudely awakened by a doctor. Perhaps I've never been quite as self-righteous or indignant as most people, but that may have been because I was deeply somnolent and sluggish. Life rudely awakened me to reality through mental illness. I had no idea where I was until I experienced a strong and compelling urge to leave here once and for all. I'd felt more like an alien dropped off and abandoned on a distant planet than a member of the human race. It's taken me a long time to feel like I fit in or that I am, at least for the time being, at home.

False piety, like artificial sweetener, is commonly consumed and assumed to be safe, although the latter (artificial sweetener) isn't nutritionally neutral and the former (false piety) isn't spiritually helpful. Most people suffer from false piety. They only want to appear good externally to receive kudos from their community. It's the rare individual who's willing to take morality to a higher level. This morally higher lever is the spiritual height the Prophet is alluding to in this surah.

The leaves Adam and Eve used to cover their nude genitals correspond to the modesty our parents taught us in covering our body from prying eyes. The blossoms that figuratively cover our naked branches correspond to the humility our parents and community taught us that conceals our shame with social protocols and respect for all life on Earth. But the fruits of all our labors that weigh our branches down have always been produced with **GOD's** help in order to see ourselves as transparent before ourselves, and our **CREATOR**. This can only happen with the view given us by the Prophet through the Quran.

*“As for those who have faith and do good works -
We never charge a soul with more than it can bear.
They are the heirs of paradise,
and there they shall abide forever.”
[7:42]*

*“As for those who have faith and do good works -
WE never charge a soul with more than it can bear.
They are the heirs of ‘paradise,’
and there they shall abide forever.”*

GOD doesn't give you more than you can handle. You aren't so laden with gifts that your branches will soon break from the burden of the fruits of your labors. Everyone can become an heir of “paradise” if he's mature enough to produce fruits of loving kindness.

But there are seedlings and saplings running nations who have no idea what the bounty of **GOD's** power looks like from within. They may be so deluded with self-adoration that they think there isn't a leaf big enough to cover the bounty of their gifts from **GOD/GOD/God**. They may feel their heart couldn't open any further with more self-adoration or that their robes of piety couldn't dress their soul any more handsomely. Such is the ego of the foolish man who concludes he, alone, was created in **GOD's** image. Such is the seed planted alone at the top of a distant hill.

Don't let your inner eye deceive you with desires. Listen and question those older and wiser than you. Judaism is the lock. Christianity is the key and Islam is the deadbolt.

There's a MEZUZAH on the door inside you, and in it is written the SHEMA prayer: "HEAR O' ISRAEL, THE LORD our GOD, THE LORD IS ONE." [Deuteronomy 6:4] ¹⁶⁸

*"We shall take away all hatred from their hearts.
Rivers will roll at their feet,
and they shall say:
'Praise be to God who has guided us hither.'
Had He not given us guidance,
we would have strayed from the right path.
Our Lord's apostles have surely preached the truth.
And a voice will cry out to them, saying,
'This is the paradise which you have earned with your labors.'"*
[7:40-43]

"WE shall take away all hatred from their hearts.
Rivers will roll at their feet,
and they shall say:
'Praise be to **GOD** who has guided us hither.'
Had **HE** not given us guidance
we would have strayed from the right path.
Our Lord's apostles have surely preached the truth.'
And a voice will cry out to them, saying,
'This is the 'paradise' which you have earned with your labors.'"

The Israelites would have to have been idiots not to have known that they couldn't go any further than the Red Sea before they left their homes in ancient Egypt 400 years after Joseph welcomed them in. And yet, they pursued freedom anyway. The point of going on the trek to freedom lies in the miracle **GOD** will give you when you can't go any further with reason, logic and physical limitation. How **GOD** will reveal the right path to you is a mystery I cannot answer.

The path beneath the Red Sea had to be revealed to the Israelites. **GOD** had to withdraw the water to reveal the way. And the path for Sunnis and Shiites is equally concealed from them at this time. But I guarantee that they won't have to convert to Judaism or Christianity to discover **GOD's** designs. *God* will afford them a path, but parts of it may appear to be

¹⁶⁸ "MEZUZAH" A piece of parchment (often contained in a decorative case) inscribed with the verses from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21. It's nailed to the right side of every door in Israel. The SHEMA prayer in the Mezuzah is verse 4 from Deuteronomy 6. The WORD "SHEMA" means both to "hear" [with your head] and "listen" [with your heart]}.

more like a toll bridge. Mistakes are always costly. We must all turn life into a labor of love.

GOD's guidance will teach you to grow like a tree into the "heavens" above and sway in the wind as though you had branches. **HE** is the invisible spirit that, like the wind, surrounds us all, making **HIMSELF** evident not only in the things you can see. **HIS** spirit figuratively whistles through you. It figuratively pushes you from behind or thwarts your progress. You could never have made it this far without **GOD's** guidance. But you can't make it any farther without more knowledge of yourself, either. How you operate is concealed metaphorically in how you were made. The more you discover about you, the more you'll discover about **GOD**. **GOD**-consciousness is directly proportional to self-consciousness.

*"Then the heirs of paradise will cry out
to the inmates of the fire.
'What our Lord promised we have found to be true.
Have you, too, found the promise of the Lord to be true?'"*
[7:44]

*"Then the heirs of 'paradise' will cry out
to the inmates of the fire.
'What our Lord promised we have found to be true.
Have you, too, found the promise of the Lord to be true?'"*

We're all in this conflagration called life together. But you only come to realize it consciously after you've learn to take the seven attributes of fire personally. There are those who aren't burning inside with the desire for justice and mercy. They're burning with revenge.

We're all going to need to learn to live with what's fair because vengeance is the Lord's, not ours. Now that devotion to **GOD** has entered our Judeo-Christian-Muslim vocabulary, justice must be tempered with mercy, and mercy with fairness. Anyone who uses vengeance to motivate his actions will be denounced with the warnings from the Prophet.

One of the reasons for **GOD** having created Islam is so we could choose to submit to **HIS** will. Israel is a state of mind for the Jews. Israel is a state of emotions for the Christians. And Israel is a state of belief for the Muslims.

Who did **GOD** give Israel to? And who did **HE** give it back to? You must give up that which **GOD** doesn't want you to hold onto because it wasn't yours in the first place. You can keep your wisdom, love and devotion. That's yours. The land is not.

Money-grubbers, heart breakers and soul grabbers will be asked by the heirs of “paradise” whether they’ve “found the promise of the Lord to be true.” And they’ll admit that the Lord’s promise are true.

Are you like infantile Adam who blamed Eve? Are you like childish Cain who inferred he wasn’t responsible for his own actions? Are you like juvenile Noah, who simply did what he was told and disregarded how the outcome would affect others?

Or can you admit you’re still infantile, childish and juvenile in some ways, but not in others? How mature do you wish to become in your lifetime? What can you say you’ve already learned from your own beginning about your middle as you approach your end?

The JEWS, CHRISTIAN or *Muslim* who thinks **GOD’s** will is moved only because of his faith alone is deeply delusional. The man who thinks he’s better than a woman or the woman who thinks she’s better than her mother is spiritually sick. The man who thinks he’s got a monopoly on Scripture because of his gender and sexual orientation will use his ego like a weapon and his weapons to validate his trigger-happy ego. He, too, is spiritually sick.

People will continue to be offended, insulted and hurt by others, and then mask those emotions when they come before **GOD**. The only thing you can do to help yourself to graduate the **TEACHER’s** curriculum program for you is to devote yourself to peace with yourself, not to stalemates.

Whether you become a pastor of peace between any two individuals or between nations will just be for practice. Ultimately, you’ll be judged by your efforts to make peace with you. War is something you should wage only with you, and, even then, only under the direst of circumstances. Dedicate your life to making peace.

*“And when they turn their eyes
toward the inmates of the fire
they will cry,
‘Lord, do not cast us among the wicked people!’
Then those on the heights will say to men they recognize by their looks,
‘Nothing have your riches or your scornful pride availed you.
Are these the men who you swore would never earn God’s mercy?’”
[7:47-49]*

*“And when they turn their eyes
toward the inmates of the fire
they will cry,
‘Lord, do not cast us among the wicked people!’
Then those on the heights will say to men they recognize by their looks,
‘Nothing have your riches or your scornful pride availed you.
Are these the men who you swore would never earn **GOD’s** mercy?’”*

It's so easy to think you can recognize a man of faith by his looks when, in some ways, you've been blind to aspects of the message of the Prophet and blind to aspects of the messages of Moses and Jesus, as well. How can you use any one of the Abrahamic faiths to your advantage without acknowledging all their contributions to your life? Can you put on a pair of pants without acknowledging the belt that keeps it from falling down? Even if you only know how to give and take, you're always going to need to receive.

Hitler managed to rid Germany and her neighbors of JEWS. *Muslims* have managed to rid their countries in the Middle East of Jews, Christians and gays. But **GOD**, in **HIS** infinite wisdom, has made it possible for the voices of Jews, Christians, gays and our friends to infiltrate every conversation in the world. You'll receive the good news whether or not you take it to heart. And you'll be judged for what you do with it, whether you like it or not.

Why should **GOD** always call on the Jews to teach you to behave like Christians if you're Muslim? Why should **HE** always ask the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community to teach you to behave more queer? The answer is because you're hypocrites! You have to walk in your enemies moccasins before you see the errors of your own ways. And you'll be judged by the standards of the time in which you live, regardless of what you subjectively think about yourself.

Most men would say that the vagina is the greatest organ of giving in **GOD's** creation. But if you ask them the next greatest organ, they'll tell you the penis, which is an equally ludicrous answer. The penis and vagina are self-serving organs. They give only because they love the sensation of giving, for no other reason.

Those Muslim women who've been circumcised must offer their vaginas to men as an act of duty, rather than pleasure. But, as those women know so well, there's little pleasure in doing your duty. If you have to be sweetened with promises that won't arrive until the "afterlife," someone is making it too hard for you.

The greatest organ of giving in the human body is the rectum. This is the lowly organ that's despised and untouched. This is the piece of the human puzzle that nobody wants to give credit to except gay men. Your rectum removes nutritional waste from your system. It gives tirelessly all your life, without any appreciation. It does its duty without fanfare or approval. Toilet paper is about as much attention as most people are willing to give to their rectum. (And yet, who doesn't know how to kiss up to people with anal issues?)

Some men wonder why they're so afraid of other men. They ask themselves why strangers would want to screw them over; why nations would want to invade theirs; why Ham came close to raping Noah (his father), in Torah – and why Biblical scholars don't want to discuss the matter publicly. To discuss these issues, you should be willing to take your rectum personally. But to do that, you should admit that even that part of you was made in **GOD's** image with good reason.

When, like Noah, you do your duty without love and devotion, you leave yourself open to getting screwed by those you love the most. Doing your duty is the least you can do. You must force yourself to do what you need to do with love and devotion, or don't do it at all. A brown nose is far different from a nose that **GOD** made brown.

When our male, religious leaders admit they'd rather cut out their own rectum than have to sit next to someone gay, you'll finally see the anal issues of our primitive ancestors at play today. They'd rather be nailed like a rabbi to a tree than have to contemplate the

truth about the gifts **GOD** gave others. The rectum is the site where the hypocrisy in Abrahamic man resides. This is where you ought to bend over backwards to get a closer look at you...

GOD will decide who will teach you what. I suggest the religious leaders come together with the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community to work out their differences despite their embarrassment in discussing their anal issues with us.

Don't give a job to someone who isn't qualified to do it. Peace on Earth should never have been put in the hands of military leaders and politicians. Peace on Earth ought to be the first order of business of religious leaders. But have you listened closely to your religious leader's homilies lately? You might discover they're only talking about a very small "piece" of the "peace" we need to be discussing. They've all got anal issues that exacerbate their penis problems! They're ashamed of talking about anything below their own belt!

Every thief knows this about the religious. A clever thief will appeal to your desire to be cleansed, disinfected, decontaminated or sanitized. If you're especially suspicious, he'll address your need to be sterilized, purified and sanctified. Only then will he make his appeal to your penis to get you to penetrate yourself with one of the seven deadly sins. And when he stands before **GOD**, he'll insist **HE** needed him to teach you a lesson... ¹⁶⁹

Torah drew you a sketch of this world in the Creation story, but you refused to look closely at it. The Gospels filled in that picture with color, turning it into a spiritual painting with eternal hope through Jesus. And the Quran fleshed out that picture by turning it into sculpture. Is it any wonder we need the great Eastern **philosophies** to teach us to sing and dance within?

Your scornful pride at being monetarily better off than others will avail you nothing in the end. Religiously sniffing women's vaginas and men's anuses to determine their godliness is a waste of a good proboscis. Deciding the worth of someone's inner dwelling by the color of the fence around it is a preposterous way of sizing up a human being. And deciding what you think of someone by the tradition by which he prays is as grave an error as ever there was.

If **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims* did pray together you might worry about the **JEWS** stepping on the **CHRISTIANS** while they're kneeling, and the **CHRISTIANS** falling all over the *Muslims* crouching on all four on the ground... You might worry about where you'd find a spiritual choreographer to arrange the seating in your house of prayer so that nobody got hurt while moving in proscribed ways before their **GOD/GOD/God**...

There's more worry in this world about who'll succeed in getting his faith through "heaven's" gate first. Is it any wonder life on planet Earth looks as it does? Do you really think any of us deserve it any better than we've got it? If you don't know what you're really

¹⁶⁹ **GOD** needs nobody. **HE** can do anything **HE** wishes. **HE** can accomplish anything any **HE** way desires. If **HE** allows you to harm others, it's only to teach you to ask yourself if you would treat you as you treat them. The answer to that question may very well determine your fate.

thinking; how you're really feeling; and what you truly believe in – it doesn't make much sense to make the claim that you aren't getting what you deserve.

Only when you figuratively turn your eyes toward the bluish-white flame within will you remember that you're a hot spark, given distance on yourself by **GOD** so you can see where you're coming from. If you're lucky, you'll only smolder and smoke as you watch others fume. You'll come to realize how gracious **GOD** has been with you.

But *His* devotion to you isn't guaranteed. It's something you need to earn day after day. Just as justice and mercy lie in **HIS** hands, so, too, does fairness. If you were to judge yourself fairly, you'd see that life isn't going to get better until you earn what it is you desire.

What good is justice and mercy if you don't learn how to be fair? What good is prayer if you don't get to know anyone who believes differently from you? Why bother to appeal to the Deity not to caste you into "hell" with the wicked if you're making it "hell" on Earth for gays and Jews (some of the smallest of all the world's minorities).

GOD cares for each and every individual. But the value of the group is based upon the value we put on the individual. How can you call society civilized if you don't care enough about yourself to stand up for your own rights? Standing up for the rights of billionaires isn't in your best interest. Let them stand up for themselves without their money propping up their opinions. Protecting the two largest faith-based religions doesn't make you godlier. Make the financial 1% and the religious majorities pay their fair share.

The extension of the metaphor of the mountain to include greater and lesser heights isn't any easier to ponder than the extensions of the fire to include all the temperature levels of **GOD's** flame. **GOD** can raze the "paradise" {PARDES: orchard} you're in and turn it into a meadow where grasses grow. **HE** can destroy the vineyard you've relied on for the inebriating feeling of **HIS** love, leaving you depressed, morose and feeling hopeless. **HE** makes your money worthless just by refusing to allow you to take it with you when you leave here. **HIS** designs for you and me go beyond our ability to predict. But through metaphor, symbols and signs, you can discover yourself and do your utmost to better yourself.

*"[And again,
turning to the blessed,
they will say:]
'Come into paradise.
You have nothing to fear or to regret.'"
[7:50]*

*"[And again,
turning to the blessed,
they will say:]
'Come into 'paradise.'*

You have nothing to fear or to regret.”

No truer *words* were spoken. But the *words* of the Prophet were chiseled out of thin air {beliefs}, while the WORDS of Jesus were chiseled out of calm waters {feelings} and the WORDS of GOD were chiseled out of rock {thought}. ¹⁷⁰ You require greater spiritual education and experience before you'll be able to see and understand the importance of your interior world in creating something eternal out of your life. But that takes the kind of knowledge that will teach you to create words out of fire.

*“We have bestowed upon them a book
which We imbued with knowledge,
a guide and a blessing to the true believers”
[7:52]*

*“wE have bestowed upon them a book
which wE imbued with knowledge,
a guide and a blessing to the true believers.”*

The Quran is the key to happiness in the 21st Century. Those who don't study it won't understand why the present is unfolding as it is. Those who don't use the Quran in conjunction with Torah and the Gospels won't see the need for separate pasts that we're now commanded to share. Their best guess will destroy life, while they go down praying for mercy.

*“Your Lord is God,
who created the heavens and the earth in six days
and then ascended the throne.
He throws the veils of night over the day.
Swiftly they follow one another
and the sun and the moon and the stars –
all subservient to His will.
His is the creation,
His, the command.
Blessed be God,
Lord of the universe.”*

¹⁷⁰ Moses received the Ten Commandments readymade. But after he saw the Israelites worshipping a Golden Calf, he smashed them. Then he ascended Mt. Sinai a second time at which time GOD recited the Commandments to him, and he carved them out of stone with the sweat of his own brow.

[7:54-55]

“Your Lord is **GOD**,
who created the ‘heavens’ and the Earth in six days
and then ascended the throne.

HĚ throws the veil of night over the day.

Swiftly they follow one another
and the sun and the moon and the stars –
all subservient to **HIS** will.

HIS is the creation,

HIS, the command.

Blessed be **GOD**,
Lord of the universe.”

The veil of night over the day is the veil of guilt over innocence. In this way, **GOD** will be able to determine the sanctity of each one of us according to our deeds.

Christianity and Islam are **GOD**-given additions to **HIS** original design in the same way that a father can have more than one child and still claim one family with everyone sitting together at the same table. **GOD** never told Jesus or the Prophet that the Jews had become superfluous to the fulfillment of **HIS** designs. And **HĚ** never told me in any of my prayers that gays are useless to **HIM** either. If some believers in the Abrahamic faiths want to believe gays have no place in **HIS** designs, I say to them that their rectum is superfluous to **GOD**’s designs. And I suggest they cut out that hole and see if that makes them any holier...

The Prophet’s Scripture completes the spiritual triangle that mirrors your head, heart and soul. It’s only because of the ignorance of our spiritual leaders that we’re being pushed in the direction of hatred of our Abrahamic brothers. Everyone is a part of **GOD**’s designs. If the Pope himself declared that he shouldn’t judge others, where does anyone else have the nerve to do so? When you discriminate, you describe how hateful you feel about having been created with a rectum. And there’s a bully in you that’s going to ridicule, scorn and deride you for that for the rest of your life, possibly even longer.

In the last century, a great many **CHRISTIANS** in Europe decided that Jews, gays, disabled and all those who opposed their political ambitions were superfluous to **GOD**’s designs. This started a war of such “hellish” proportions that we’re still reeling from the consequences of the cruelty **GOD** then allowed man to perpetrate against himself. Those running the world and the religious institutions claim to be doing much better today. Do you agree?

*“Good soil yields fruit by God’s will.
But poor and scant are the fruits that spring from the barren soil.*

Thus do We make plain Our revelations to those who render thanks.”
[7:58]

“Good soil yields fruit by **GOD**’s will.
But poor and scant are the fruits that spring from the barren soil.
Thus do **wE** make plain **oUR** revelations to those who render thanks.”

There isn’t a spiritual tree, meadow, vineyard or herb garden that doesn’t benefit from fertilizer and rain. If the soil is poor, it can be enriched. If the weather is dry, the crops can be irrigated. It would have been useless for the Archangel Gabriel to have spoken to the Prophet in any way other than the way he did. The times change. The conditions change. The solutions man can perceive change from one generation to the next. That doesn’t mean the Quran has become useless and outmoded. It only means you should go back and compare the instructions in your manual when you’re in need of expanding your understanding of the spiritual, operating system used by all.

*“Long ago,
We sent forth Noah to his people.
He said,
‘Serve God, my people,
for you have no god but Him.
Beware the torment of a fateful day.”*
[7:59]

“LONG AGO,
WE SENT FORTH NOAH TO HIS PEOPLE.
He said,
‘Serve GOD, my people,
for you have no god but HIM.
Beware the torment of a fateful day.”

{“NOAH” means “comfort”}. Noah did what GOD asked of him, but not a bit more. The man of comfort seldom goes out of his way to improve the lives of others, even if they’re relatives of his. The Jews, Christians and Muslims are spiritual relatives through Noah. You cannot escape your relatives, no matter how hard you try. **GOD** plants everyone in a particular grove {family}.

GOD blessed Noah and gave him the rainbow as proof of HIS good intentions. HE made a covenant with him. But HE also judged him needy of further education. When his son Ham gazed upon him naked, Noah exploded in fury. (How silly!). You may feel responsible for your father when he’s emotionally naked and spiritual exposed, but he

should have no reason to fear you seeing him nude. And yet, you can't be held responsible for what he's done if he morally exposes himself in the sight of the Lord.¹⁷¹

*“And Lot,
who said to his people,
‘Will you persist in these lewd acts
which no other nation has committed before you?
You lust after men instead of women.
Truly, you are a degenerate people.’”
[7:82-83]*

*“And Lot,
Who said to his people,
‘Will you persist in these lewd acts
which no other nation has committed before you?
you lust after men instead of women.
truly, you are a degenerate people.’”*

Lot, whose name means “covering” or “veil,” was the nephew of Abraham. Lot came with Abraham from southeastern Turkey to Canaan {Israel}. Lot chose to live in Sodom where he generously welcomed two messengers of the Lord into his home. But when the townsmen wanted to have sex with the two male strangers, Lot offered the townsmen sex with his daughters to tempt them away from sex with the strangers. Lot went too far in protecting the wellbeing of the strangers over that of his own family. And Lot's wife didn't go far enough in stopping him from turning their daughters into tools to use as he saw fit.

In this story, there are many moral directions from which to determine what it means to persist in a lewd act. But disregarding the physical wellbeing of your children to pander to the desires of your neighbors is one of the most lewd. Disregard for the wellbeing of your children's safety is figurative incest and rape.¹⁷² It violates their head, heart and soul. It disregards their most basic needs.

¹⁷¹ “NOAH, A MAN OF THE SOIL, PROCEEDED TO PLANT A VINEYARD. WHEN HE DRANK SOME OF ITS WINE, HE BECAME DRUNK AND LAY UNCOVERED INSIDE HIS TENT. HAM, THE FATHER OF CANAAN, SAW HIS FATHER NAKED AND TOLD HIS TWO BROTHERS OUTSIDE. BUT SHEM AND JAPHETH TOOK A GARMENT AND LAID IT ACROSS THEIR SHOULDERS; THEN THEY WALKED IN BACKWARD AND COVERED THEIR FATHER'S NAKED BODY. THEIR FACES WERE TURNED THE OTHER WAY SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE THEIR FATHER NAKED. WHEN NOAH AWOKE FROM HIS WINE AND FOUND OUT WHAT HIS YOUNGEST SON HAD DONE TO HIM, HE SAID, ‘CURSED BE CANAAN! THE LOWEST OF SLAVES WILL HE BE TO HIS BROTHERS.’” [Genesis 9:20-25]

¹⁷² It's common for ultra-religious JEWISH, CHRISTIAN and *Muslim* parents to throw their gay and lesbian children out of the house when the kids come out to them. These parents treat any child who doesn't conform to their tribal, belief system as an outcast because of

Honoring Lot honors the hypocrite in you. What difference does it make to you if there are some men in your country who prefer a serpent instead of a worm? Is it the size of a man's ego rather than his righteousness that determines your awe of him? Truly you come out of a degenerate generation if you think so superficially.

Maybe the two strangers were the biblical antecedents of gays and would have preferred sex with the townsmen over Lot's daughters. Maybe his daughters were lesbians who had no desire to have sex with any man. The sexual preference of the townsmen was none of Lot's business. He should have argued his case for hospitality bestowed upon the strangers and leave his daughters out of it. Lot suffered from the rectal problem, not the townfolk. His desire for sanctification from GOD overwhelmed his desire for harmony in his life.

There's still frenzy in America over the "threat" of black men taking "our" white women. But what about all the Catholic "priests" who raped our children? What about all the insane killers who've developed a relationship with their gun as their penis and their ammo as their sperm?

The discussion of lewd behavior has been magnified over the past 1,400 years for us to look at it in a bigger picture. Morality isn't a genital problem. The questions of morality only begin below the belt. It's you who should raise these questions above your waist with impartiality.

We must begin lifting this moral weight by considering the difference between a "possession" and a "belief." Are white women and children possessions you're entitled to treat like your things? Are black men possessions you're entitled to control like property? Are guns possessions you're entitled to use without license and training? When does the religious extremist stop looking at his penis as a possession and admit it's a part of the way he was made with good reason? When does he perceive his anus as a moral clue to the humiliation he deserves if he compartmentalizes the holes in his body?

If you don't take responsibility over all of yourself, you'll project that objectification onto others, often onto the least powerful in society. You'll be possessed (and not by satan, but by your own evil inclination). Men will only stop believing they have the right to possess any "thing" they want only once they learn to accept the "things" between their own legs. So far, there's little evidence that men are in psychological peace with their penis or anus. They divide and conquer inside and out.

Granted, many gay men are sex and love addicted, while many straight men are addicted to the possession of guns; the consumption of hot dogs and spring rolls; the embrace of control sticks and steering shafts; the erection and blastoff of rockets; and the production and dissemination of firecrackers and ammo. That's why you, too, should conclude that most men aren't in full possession of all their faculties.

The WORD "LOT" might also be translated as {to wrap closely or envelop}. Today, we might substitute the word 'assimilate.' As an outsider to ancient indigenist society in Canaan, Lot tried to assimilate with his neighbors. He tried to quell their lingering suspicions of him by offering them his daughters in order to control the norms of that society.

examples in Scripture which are teaching moral concepts that the ultra-orthodox can't fathom.

Assimilation and loyalty to his newfound land worked for Lot until strangers arrived who threatened that assimilation.¹⁷³ This is the social template Jews have been subjected to in every society and civilization since the beginning of written history. This is the pressure Muslims are now under living in Christian lands. This is what an angel of the Lord does to upset the status quo. Fear of the next stranger, strangers' ways makes the assimilated stranger paranoid.

When Lot, his wife and their two daughters had to run away from their adopted home in Sodom to avoid GOD's wrath, his wife was turned into a pillar of salt for turning around to look back on all she'd left behind.¹⁷⁴ The three of them {father and daughters} then made their way to a cave where Lot's daughters got their father drunk and seduced him in the hope of repopulating the world.¹⁷⁵ [Genesis 19]

So when Lot revealed his real feelings about his neighbors ("Truly, you are a degenerate people.") we're forced to consider the assimilationist/hypocrite who rises in rank in society, only to assert his moral prejudices and hatred when he finally gets a chance. This is the man who had sex with his daughters after condemning his neighbors for wishing to have sex with men. What a homophobic hypocrite!

Both the bourgeois man of comfort {Noah} who does nothing to help others and the assimilationist {Lot} who wants to help strangers to further secure his standing in society, may find themselves humiliated by those they wanted least to offend, insult or hurt – their own children. Both Noah and Lot were violated by their own flesh and blood. The problem with the hypocrite is that he can't see how he's behaving, neither in society nor even in his own family. And this is precisely when **GOD** has a strange way of bringing **HIS** lessons home.

*"We delivered him and all his kinsfolk,
except his wife,
who stayed behind,
and let loose a shower upon them.
Consider the fate of the evil doers."
[7:84]*

¹⁷³ When Lot was captured in a war between rivaling kings, Abraham rescued Lot and strengthened the position of the king of Sodom. [Genesis 14]

¹⁷⁴ Salt was considered a luxury in ancient times. Those who could afford salt were considered wise and blessed by GOD with outward riches. A "pillar of salt" is someone who has the inner wealth to see the truth, but who can't act on his or her righteous desires. Lot's wife looked back with regret at what happened to her home and standing in society; what she might have done to avoid the fate her children were forced to turn toward.

¹⁷⁵ When Noah got drunk his son took advantage of him by merely looking at his genitals. In the case of Lot, his daughters got him drunk in order to have intercourse with him to repopulate the world. Any father who doesn't protect his good reputation from *himself* will then find himself in compromising circumstances with his loved ones. The apple will never fall far from the tree. If *you* screw you, your kids will probably screw you, too.

“**WE** delivered him and all his kinsfolk,
except his wife,
who stayed behind,
and let loose a shower upon them.
Consider the fate of the evil doers.”

The flood in the story of Noah is more like a shower by the time you get to the story of Lot. The rain that poured down on Noah was nothing compared to the rocks that rained down on Sodom. Noah may have had an ark to protect him from the rising sea, but the fire and brimstone that rained down on Lot and the townspeople of Sodom were much worse than stormy weather. In the retelling of these stories in the Quran, the hypocrisy of the unawakened in Genesis becomes much more obvious to us.

GOD's showers come in a variety of ways to each of us, although they may seem confounding. **HE** can shower you with blessings, and **HE** can shower you with curses. **HE** can even shower you with spiritual sandstorms {confusion} and hail {indifference}. Everything is meant to teach.

The taste of sweetness corresponds to love. The taste of bitterness corresponds to disappointment. The taste of sourness corresponds to anger. And the taste of saltiness corresponds to wisdom.

The woman who's turned into a pillar of salt was once a “pillar of society.” The woman who dutifully follows her husband's lead comes across as looking smart, but she's incapable of acting on her own. If her husband is a fool, she may behave shrewdly, but she'll never be perceived of as wise.¹⁷⁶

When a woman can do nothing to change her husband's mind, she'll turn around and look back on her past with regret. This figuratively turns her into a “pillar of salt.” She sees something she has no ability any longer to change for the better. She becomes resolute, rigid, stubborn, obstinate, inflexible and adamant. She becomes like rock. She becomes a tree that's turned into petrified wood.

Previously, she may have been flattered into believing she was the “rock” in her family. But that kudu may have been given only to placate her. When men don't appreciate the wisdom women bring to the spiritual table, women become hardened. Some women refuse to use the wisdom they've earned and are either lauded or condemned for their choices. If they're petrified of taking action contrary to the will of male authority figures, they can only flatter themselves as being dutiful to tradition. The story of Lot in Torah and the Quran alert us to the hazards that may befall our children.

In ancient days, the differences between a tree of knowledge and a tree of life were separate and distinct. Men were thoughtful. Women were kind. Men were rational. Women were emotional. Men, like the sun, were life giving, illuminating and warm. Women, like the light of the moon, were inconsistent and cool. A woman's light came in phases that

¹⁷⁶ And yet, it's not for us to determine how she should behave. Her choices are her own. Her outcomes are more evidence for us help us make our own choices. Just look at how Hillary Clinton had to fight to make her own choices. Everyone, male and female, in her generation made their conscience her guide.

were said to be predictable if you studied her closely. The effect of women was figuratively seen on the tides, not the land.

In ancient days, those men who were emotionally fragile and whose feelings ebbed and flowed were compared to women and ridiculed for being weak willed. “Real” men were *contrasted* to women in those days. Today, real men are *compared* to women – except at the extreme end of all three of the Abrahamic faiths where they want to go back to the way it once was.

The Islamic symbol of the crescent moon alludes to secrets found in the Quran that surpass the primitive, spiritual assumptions of the ancient JEWS and CHRISTIANS. But, today, there are so many who admire the ancient JEWS and CHRISTIANS who put their children at risk that it’s sometimes hard to see the war between modernity and authoritarianism for what it is: an inner struggle with **GOD**. Learning to refill our empty metaphors, symbols and signs with personal importance will refresh the meaning of faith in the modern era.

Lot is just one of the many characters in Scripture who exemplifies what to do and not to do. Each and every character of Torah personifies a level of self-awareness that succumbs to the challenge to embrace even greater self-awareness. Each succeeding character rises in our esteem, only to fall at the next higher level of moral distinction. There isn’t a character in Torah who should entirely meet with your approval. Even Moses, who’s said to be the author of Torah, gave plenty of examples of how disreputable he was. You can trust a murderer only so far. ¹⁷⁷

Lot thwarted the townspeople of Sodom from raping the visitors, but at what cost? The righteous indignation and feelings of Lot’s wife and daughters never even make it onto the page of Torah or the Quran. What would any wife think of her husband offering their daughters as whores to quell the intentions of their neighbors? What would such girls think if their parents didn’t protect them with a united front? Torah wisely says nothing, leaving you to feel a woman’s indignation yourself. The Quran boldly asks you to ask yourself where your loyalties lie.

The Sodom you were born into is the Sodom where you’ll die. And the shower of misfortune **GOD** rains down upon you shouldn’t be seen as impersonal or wrathful. It should be seen as an episode in your life, a chapter you needed to write to make you aware of your own hypocrisy. Your misfortunes should be seen as befitting a character you had to outgrow to become a better person.

Don’t look back like a pillar of salt on your family life. Don’t scheme with your daughters against your wife or you’ll regret the outcome. And don’t shove all your moral challenges onto gay people and blame us for the lack of moral scrutiny with which you’ve lived your life.

The Gospels give us good reason to see GOD’s intentions as loving in the same way that your parents did the best they could using rewards {tender love} and punishments {tough love} to guide you when you were a child. The Quran gives us good reason to see

¹⁷⁷ The irony of this comment isn’t lost on me. I, too, am a murderer, even though I didn’t succeed in killing my victim. Take my advice with a grain of salt {wisdom}. View my opinions skeptically. Don’t interpret them literally. Remember, they emanate out of my anus.

God's intention as devoted, in the same way that your husband or wife expresses devotion in ways you never received from another living person before you chose to share your life with him or her.

Those who are ready to add to their Judeo-Christian traditions of wisdom and love will wed themselves to Islam. There, they'll find their life fulfilled in unimaginable, new ways of expressing their devotion. This won't detract from their upbringing or religious tradition. This won't make them an enemy of their past or the state. Redemption becomes a natural fit for those who've pursued wisdom, love and devotion. Your marriage to Islam will become your third spouse {me, myself and I}. Islam is the match made in "heaven" you never expected or asked for.

*"After those,
We sent forth Moses with Our signs to Pharaoh and his chieftains,
but they too disbelieved them.
Consider the fate of the evil doers."
[7:103]*

*"After those,
wE sent forth Moses with OUR signs to pharaoh and his chieftains,
but they too disbelieved them.
Consider the fate of the evil doers."*

Despite the Ten Plagues that descended upon the slave owners in indigenist days, the ancient Egyptians refused to believe in the GOD of the Israelites. It took enormous pain and suffering for Pharaoh to acknowledge that the GOD the Israelites claimed to be theirs had created everyone and everything. Pharaoh's heart had to be opened the hard way, personally, with the death of his firstborn son, through the last of the Ten Plagues.¹⁷⁸

¹⁷⁸ "The first two plagues {Nile turning blood-red and the infestation of frogs} were merely omens that awakened everyone then with fear of a greater destruction to come. The third and fourth {lice and flies} were superficial skin discomforts that caused the Egyptians to move away from where they were to other locations. The fifth {disease of livestock} affected the lives of the Egyptians animals and therefore their livelihood. The sixth {boils} was a serious, skin illness that affected only the ancient Egyptians and their livestock. The seventh and eighth plagues {hail and locust} destroyed the grain on which their cattle and human livelihood depended, forcing man and beast to take shelter inside together. The ninth plague {darkness} was symbolic of a spiritual darkness in the soul of the ancient Egyptians, but the Israelites continued to have light in their homes. After the tenth plague {death of the firstborn son} which touched Pharaoh personally, he agreed to let the Israelites leave ancient Egypt." [Wikipedia] But after triggering the Exodus, he then changed his mind, sending his charioteers after them. The Israelites arrived at the banks of the Red Sea where Moses conferred with GOD, who parted the sea to allow the Israelites across into the Sinai Peninsula, and then, trapping the charioteer's between the two walls

*“Moses said to his people,
‘Seek help in God and be patient.
The earth is God’s;
He gives it to those of His servants whom He chooses.
Happy shall be the lot of the righteous.’”
[7:128]*

*“Moses said to his people,
‘Seek help in GOD and be patient.
the earth is GOD’s;
HE gives it to those of HIS servants whom HE chooses.
Happy shall be the lot of the righteous.’”*

The earth is GOD’s. The sea is GOD’s. The sky is *God*’s. Until you unify your head, heart and soul, you’ll fight over the land, sea and sky. Look at the Palestinian fight to keep from giving back their land to its rightful owner. Look at the Chinese fight over the seas with the Americans. Look at the Russian fight over airspace and virtual space.

It’s easier to claim to have hope in the Lord than to live with a hopeful attitude within yourself. **GOD** doesn’t need to push **HIS** believers into becoming hopeful. They do so slowly and naturally over very long periods of time if they’re good enough to themselves. They learn to enjoy the now if they believe that the past was for the good and the future will be for the best.

The hateful, exclusive and prejudiced are hypocrites who promote hopelessness and fear around them because of the hopelessness and fear they hold within. You see this in politics in the ways the left vilifies Israel and the right vilifies the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community. And you see it at its source in all three of the Abrahamic faiths. You’ll even see it in yourself when you examine your y tendency to bully your x² or your x¹ tendency to bully your x². Everyone has anal issues. Everyone has a dirty hole that humiliates him.

*“They replied,
‘We were oppressed before you came to us,
and oppressed we still remain.’”
[7:129] ¹⁷⁹*

of water, HE drowned them. Climate chaos should be seen as the cause of today’s modern plagues. Only today, it’s the Arab spring that’s creating an exodus within {the Egypt: narrow place inside themselves} rather than an exodus to Israel.

¹⁷⁹ The Israelites were said to have spoken these words. A bad attitude may not be apparent to mere mortal men. Hope requires effort.

“They replied,
‘we were oppressed before you came to us,
and oppressed we still remain.’”

The Israelites were impatient before the Exodus, and many were impatient afterwards as they made their way to Israel. Even modern Jews are stereotypically known for “kvetching” {Yiddish: complaining} about the world not changing fast enough for them. GOD’s designs unfolded too slowly then. GOD’s design has unfolded too slowly over the past 2,000 years. And, for the *Muslim* extremists today, *God*’s design isn’t unfolding nearly as fast as they were expecting it to, either. Surely, we need to perceive **GOD**’s designs more realistically if we’re going to make any sense out of the way things are turning out.

Being modern doesn’t mean you aren’t going to become impatient from time to time. Being modern means you’re going to grow out of the need for an inner parent and temper the impatience of your inner child with your inner adult. Being modern means you’re going to use your impatience with others to perceive your own character defects as would an adult with someone else’s child. Being modern means you’re going to work on impatience slowly, beginning with composure.

Nobody wants to be condescended to, especially not from within. Therefore, create an adult/child relationship with yourself and see your inner parent to the door. Use rationality and humor to control your inner child. If you won’t listen to the rational approach of your inner adult, your inner parent certainly isn’t going to keep your impulses and urges under control with finger wagging, withholding rewards and punitive forms of self-sacrifice or criticism of others.

Treat yourself like an adult with an adorable child accompanying you on a journey. Don’t treat yourself like a parent with a spoiled brat you have to drag along with you, or, sooner or later, you’ll surely revolt against yourself. Nobody wants to live with his parents all his life. Loving them from afar is enough if you claim to be mature enough to manage your own affairs.

*“We afflicted Pharaoh’s people with dearth and famine
so that they might take heed.
When things went their way,
they said, ‘
It is our due,’
but when evil befell them,
they ascribed it to Moses and his people.
Yet it was God who had ordained their ills,
though most of them did not know it.”
[7:130-131]*

“WE AFFLICTED PHARAOH’S PEOPLE WITH DEARTH AND FAMINE
SO THAT THEY MIGHT TAKE HEED.

When things went their way,
they said,
‘It is our due,’
but when evil befell them,
they ascribed it to Moses and his people.
Yet it was GOD who had ordained their ills,
though most of them did not know it.”

GOD afflicted Pharaoh and his people with hardships. The ancient Egyptians admitted that they deserved what they had to go through. But when the Plagues befell them, they blamed the Israelites. Then **GOD** admitted in this passage that it was HE who ordained that outcome.

Although there are aspects of you that behave independently from the rest of you, **GOD** is well aware when **HE** allows one aspect of **HIMSELF** to interact with mankind. It’s up to us to look at how we’re unconsciously behaving like a god and bring to consciousness all our intentions. If we don’t, **HE**’s morally bound to interfere with our plans for our own good. This is what we call our fate. This is what we should call learning.

The way it’s turning out for the **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims* of today is the way **GOD** wants it to be at this time in **HIS** story. The Arab Spring may have begun with the suicide of a Tunisian fruit seller who was exasperated with his brothers who refused to give him a path to making an honest living. But that wasn’t caused by the Jews. Jews brought awareness of GOD’s wisdom into the world. Christians brought awareness of **HIS** love. And Muslims are making us aware of *His* devotion. Despite **HIS** efforts, each individual must learn how to better himself, himself. If not, all “hell” will break loose.

The victim in the Creation story wasn’t Adam or Eve. The victim was the fruit. There’s some of that fruit in you. Either you believe you’re a spiritual descendent of “original man” who was a perpetrator, victim and martyr to his own error of judgment, or you center your life around teaching others to better themselves in accordance with your GOD’s/GOD’s/*God*’s standards. But I say to you that you’re not my prophet, GOD or apostle.

It takes a good squeeze to get the juice out of fruit. If you’re not truly dedicated to the task of looking for the meaning of your life, you may not see the results after life you’re hoping for. You may die dried up, wooden and tasteless.

Give up the silly notion that you’re forbidden fruit you can’t indulge yourself in. Give up the paranoia that urges you not even to touch yourself in certain places. The difference between a modern individual and an ancient believer is more evident today than it ever was. History is always repeating itself in more obvious ways. Isn’t it about time to correlate mankind’s history to your own mystery?

*“So We plagued them with floods and locusts,
with lice and frogs and blood:
clear miracles,*

*yet they scorned them all,
for they were a wicked nation.”*
[7:133]

“SO WE PLAGUED THEM WITH FLOODS AND LOCUSTS,
WITH LICE AND FROGS AND BLOOD:
CLEAR MIRACLES,
YET THEY SCORNE THEM ALL,
FOR THEY WERE A WICKED NATION.”

The modern plagues of today are “floods” {climate change}; “locust” {illegal migration}; “frogs” {the 1% who want to dominate the whole planet}; and the letting of “blood” {religious wars}. If we can survive these challenges through the unified study of Scripture, we’ll avoid the death of anymore firstborn sons {the inner child} we all need to give us hope for another day.

The contemporary Egyptian people of today are believers in Islam. They believe in the same **GOD** as the Jews and the Christians. But they aren’t psychologically educated enough to teach Scripture with the universal adaptations of full inclusion. They can’t yet envision the concept of **GOD** from their head and heart, only from their soul. And so the Egyptian government is being ripped apart by factions that range from gay haters at one end of the political spectrum to Jew haters at the other. In truth, it’s modernity they abhor.

Modernity teaches us not to be embarrassed by our anus. Modernity teaches us to equate our anus to our anal issues. Our anal issues are ways in which we’ve been purified to perfection in a world that’s far from perfect. Our desire for perfection stems from a religious conviction upon which hangs a piece of fruit. Embrace modernity, and you’ll become proud of your anus because it’s a small part of all of you.

There are no pagans left in Egypt. There are only believers whose circumcised penises and clitorises aren’t helping them enough to avert their own desires; desires for inner pyramids that will rival those their ancestors built in the desert around them. ¹⁸⁰

*“And when each plague smote them,
they said,
‘Moses, pray to your Lord for us.
Invoke the promise He has made you.
If you lift the plague from us,
we will believe in you and let the Israelites go with you.’”*
[7:134-135] ¹⁸¹

“And when each plague smote them,
they said,

¹⁸⁰ These are the words of the Archangel Gabriel who’s retelling the Passover story.

¹⁸¹ The ancient Egyptians asked Moses to pray for them.

‘Moses, pray to your Lord for us.
invoke the promise HE has made you.
if you lift the plague from us,
we will believe in you and let the Israelites go with you.’”

The plagues change from one generation to the next; the plan does not. The *Muslims* of today are modern Israelites. The Muslims of today are like the Hebrus {This word was an ancient Egyptian word that meant, “people from the other side”}. Today’s modern-day Muslims in Europe understand the fear of being in a strangers’ land where they feel they aren’t welcome or allowed to be themselves. This is how the Jews felt for 2,000 years in the same lands where these Muslims live today. This is how today’s gays feel everywhere on Earth.

Such is the mystery of **TEACHER**’s repetitive ways. There’s nothing new under the sun; there’s something new under the SON. The lessons change slightly for those at the front of the room who are using their imagination. But the bozos at the back of the room look at each lesson as the same thing being repeated *ad nauseum*. And those in the middle, as they’ve always done, shake their head in disbelief, wondering how our **TEACHER** could possibly claim to know what **HE**’s doing. **HIS** curriculum is beyond their ken.

You may need to become a Moses unto yourself. You may have recreated the Passover story through your own experiences without giving yourself credit for your quest for freedom. It doesn’t require a Jewish rite or ritual to yearn to breathe free. You need only expand your imagination to give yourself more room in the cave in your mountain where you, too, could meet privately with the Archangel Gabriel.

*“But when We had lifted the plagues from them
and the appointed time had come,
they broke their promise.
So We took vengeance on them and drowned them in the sea,
for they had denied Our signs
and paid no heed to them.”*
[7:136]¹⁸²

“BUT WHEN WE HAD LIFTED THE PLAGUES FROM THEM
AND THE APPOINTED TIME HAD COME,
THEY BROKE THEIR PROMISE.
SO WE TOOK VENGEANCE ON THEM AND DROWNED THEM IN THE SEA,
FOR THEY HAD DENIED OUR SIGNS
AND PAID NO HEED TO THEM.”

¹⁸² This is the Archangel Gabriel quoting GOD directly.

GOD worked in mysterious ways with the indigenous Egyptians then. But when we understand that **HIS** designs are to morally elevate us, the mystery becomes less mysterious. Vengeance is the Lord's because **HE** uses **HIS** vengeance to shape us. But when we use vengeance to shape others, it always becomes a penis problem or a clitoris conflict that reveals to us that we have anal issues. Therefore, don't seek revenge.

The *Muslim* people deserve all the political rights the Jews and Christians have, but they're going to need to earn them, just as we did. And vengeance isn't going to get that job done. Vengeance is only going to make them more jealous and envious of what we have that they're still struggling to attain.

If you think black lives matter less than yours because of the white picket fence **HE** painted around your inner dwelling, you're going to discover that **GOD** works in mysterious ways with you, too. If you point fingers at the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community on the grounds that you have the right to hate whomever you please because GOD/GOD/*God* gave you permission to do so in Scripture, you're going to pay a price for trying to use Tanach, the Bible and the Quran against a people **HE** also created in **HIS** image. And if you sanction the killing of Jews in Israel, Christians in Europe or Muslims in the Middle East, you're going to be forced to recreate our African-American, gay and Jewish histories in yourself. Be grateful for your fate rather than have to die without a modicum of understanding.

GOD created man in stages to see if he would be willing to learn about himself in stages, or whether he'd get impatient and blame others instead. If you think that a Jew is less developed than a Christian whose less developed than a Muslim, you wish to make an omelet without cracking open the eggs or scrambling them. Today's *Muslims* are frying eggs still in the shell. And if you think that's appetizing, I've got a couple of insane asylums I've been to that I can heartily recommend to you...

Until you empathize with our causes or drown in your own self-loathing, you'll remain ignorant of **GOD's** designs. **GOD** works in mysterious ways when you're vindictive, jealous or envious of what **HE** gave others. When you're not, it's amazing how easy it is to see **HIS** hand in everything that happens.

The Pharaoh's soldiers drown in the Red Sea for following a leader who insisted on keeping slaves in the face of the evidence of GOD's opposition to that design. The signs were clear then. The signs were clear when Jesus preached to the ancient Jews to get the "hell" out of their head and give up animal sacrifice. The signs are clear now. But it takes more than eyes and ears to perceive the truth. Consider these seven books signs to people who don't yet fully believe in signs.

Everyone ought to learn to think. No one was born intelligent. Intelligence is an attribute you earn. Everyone ought to learn to feel. Everybody was born with a huge resentment mixed with confusion and fear after having entered this world the way he did. And everyone ought to learn to believe. After you've been taught to believe in the unity of

GOD/GOD/*God*, you ought to then learn about the universality of **HIS** designs. It's hard to learn submission to **GOD's** will. But submit you will (or you won't).¹⁸³

Everything inside and out is a part of **GOD's** designs. You can overcome your fuzzy thinking with greater examination of your moral intentions. You can overcome your weak feelings with greater empathy for the legitimacy of learning about love. And you can overcome your twisted beliefs if you care to correct those impulses in you that conspire with the feelings in your heart to produce ignorance, hatred, vengeance, jealousy and envy.

With the Quran by your side, you can find your way around your fractured soul and mend it with **GOD's** help. You don't need to live with the mental, emotional and religious brokenness you've suffered from in your own way until this day. When the season is right, even a snowflake will melt and find itself a part of something rushing to a greater end.

The Israelites knew that when they ran out of Egypt their Exodus would be stopped at the Red Sea. Sometimes you can't go any farther than you can go. When you reach a dead end, you should stop and remember to pray to **GOD** to show you how to get from there to your next stop on your way to **HIS** final destination for you. Don't literally drive yourself over a cliff in frustration (as I did) or figuratively into a sea of despair.

GOD gave the Israelites a bridge out of Egypt they never could have found on their own because HE'd concealed it under the sea. You know that bridge as puberty because you crossed it at the end of childhood on your journey to adulthood. Grow up now by honoring that passage. It's not that hard to do something new once you realize you've done it before.

Modern man needs to part his own inner sea. He needs to make miracles happen himself to come to believe in himself. How can he come to believe in **GOD** if he can't believe in himself? The infantile Israelite has been relegated to history. Today's Hebru should get to the other side of himself by himself.

Islam is making its way out of childhood. And Muslims have every reason to feel humiliated and to be afraid of what will come next. But they have two older brothers who can assure them that what they're going through we went through, too. They don't need to face their spiritual adolescence on their own.

*"We gave the persecuted people dominion
over the eastern and western lands which We had blessed.
Thus was your Lord's gracious word fulfilled for the Israelites,
because they had endured with fortitude;
and We destroyed the edifices and the towers of Pharaoh and his people."*

¹⁸³ Submission means you come to the Abrahamic table of peace and give up killing to achieve your rights. Submission means you care more about what **GOD** thinks of you than what others think of you. Submission means you're ready to ask those religious leaders spewing hatred to give up their seat to those who wish to learn.

[7:132-138] ¹⁸⁴

“WE GAVE THE PERSECUTED PEOPLE DOMINION
OVER THE EASTERN AND WESTERN LANDS WHICH WE HAD BLESSED.

Thus was your Lord’s gracious word fulfilled for the Israelites,
because they had endured with fortitude;
AND WE DESTROYED THE EDIFICES AND THE TOWERS OF PHARAOH AND HIS PEOPLE.”

All that the GOD of the Jews did, HE did before you knew *He’s* your *God*, too. *He* relieved your indigenist ignorance and innocence and added to Judaism and Christianity with a new way of viewing *Him* through Islam. There’s nothing *He* can’t do for you now, and nothing you don’t deserve if you’re curious enough to question **HIS** personal, yet universal, plan for you.

*“You shall never see Me,’
He replied
‘but look upon the mountain;
if it remains firm upon its base,
then only shall you see Me.”*
[7:143]

““YOU SHALL NEVER SEE ME,’
HE replied,
‘BUT LOOK UPON THE MOUNTAIN;
IF IT REMAINS FIRM UPON ITS BASE,
THEN ONLY SHALL YOU SEE **ME**.”

The base of the mountain is Judaism, and at the summit lies Christianity like snow. When you look down from above the mountain and look back on the flight path *He* gave the Muslims, you’ll see that your view is a combination of insights.

¹⁸⁴ The eastern and western banks of the Jordan River are these lands. This is the admission by the Prophet that Israel is and always will remain **GOD’s** gift to the Jews. As Muslims find reasons in their heart to share themselves with themselves, **GOD** will become a greater reality in the Western world and **HE** will replace GOD/GOD/*God* from the minds of today’s extremists with **GOD**. This will turn Palestine from a pipe dream into a potential promise *within* the State of Israel. But would you allow a renter in your house who lives above you to overflow his sink intentionally? Would you allow a passenger on your boat to drill a hole in the bottom? Traitors will have to be moved out and disembarked.

You shouldn't have to die in the valley of death. The Jews can climb this mountain as high as they want; the Christians can swim across the alpine lakes and whitewater raft the rapids; and the Muslims can hold on to their faith in *God* with a bird's eye view. "Look upon the mountain; if it remains firm upon its base, then only shall you see **ME**."

*"But when they repented
and realized that they had sinned
they said,
'If our Lord does not have mercy on us and pardon us,
we shall surely be among the lost.'
[7:149] ¹⁸⁵*

*"But when they repented
and realized that they had sinned
they said,
'If our Lord does not have mercy on us and pardon us,
we shall surely be among the lost.'"*

All those who don't see **GOD's** story as it unfolds are wandering about in a spiritual infancy, childhood, adolescence or young adulthood, unable to achieve spiritual maturity. To become an Abrahamic family man who believes in **GOD** in the modern era, you'll need to learn to climb a lot higher than any of our spiritual ancestors were able to go. You're going to need to use your head in conjunction with your heart and soul. If you just use your head along with your urges, you're going to suffer from penis problems. If you use only your heart and soul, you'll be exposed as a self-righteous hypocrite for the way you treat yourself. And if you insist on maintaining the course you're on, you'll, of course, end up with rectal issues that will remind you what a pain in the butt you really are at times to us all.

The Israelites only had to wander for 40 years before **GOD** was ready to let them into the Holy Land. But there are people today who wander around their whole life, going in circles looking for the ladder that will take them up to the next higher rung from materialism and greed to something more satisfying. Their life is a journey, but they're still waiting for a way to take all that they accumulated with them when they die...They don't want to leave their money, property and prestige behind.

They have no idea how high they have the potential of going because they haven't begun their ascent the right way. They're more concerned about stretching their money to the end of their journey than they are in getting their honey from down here up "there."

The "valley of death" is the realm of unawareness. It's not a place of evil, but of illness. To climb out of your malaise, whether it's physical, emotional or spiritual, it would behoove you to consider living your life using the metaphor of life as a school in which

¹⁸⁵ This is the statement made by the Israelites after the Golden Calf experience.

you're competing with yourself rather than life as a race in which you're competing with others. There are so many racists and so few pupils.

*“Lord,
said Moses,
‘forgive me and forgive my brother.
‘Admit us to Your mercy
for of all those who show mercy,
You are the most merciful.”
[7:151]*

*““Lord,
said Moses,
‘Forgive me and forgive my brother.
Admit us to YOUR mercy
for of all those who show mercy,
YOU are the most merciful.””*

It's probably not going to be particularly easy for you to love yourself if you, like me, have a lot to forgive yourself for. My errors of judgment led me to believe I was unlovable. The attempted murder of a Jew and a gay man {the two most precious aspects of my selves} led me to conclude I was hopeless and helpless. But I turned that assessment around by talking to myself and learning my way around inner space instead of assessing me using the material yardsticks others so gleefully provided. Granted, I needed money to give my life external comfort; but, just as important, I needed a purpose that would give me a sense of comfort from within.¹⁸⁶

Moses is the first man mentioned in the Quran as having prayed to GOD for mercy for his brother. This prayer for the liberation of your brothers will be bestowed upon you, too, if your prayers are sincere. If you take the message of Muhammad to heart, you'll see how soulful you already are, and work for the next level of **GOD's** mercy after freedom and liberty: emancipation. It all depends on how much you're willing to bench-press your faith to achieve faith in yourself. You are your first, and foremost, precious brother.

GOD taught us to perceive **HIM** using the first-person plural {**WE**}. But Moses is the first-person in the Quran quoted as having used the word “we” to refer to his brother Aaron and himself. (“Forgive me and forgive my brother.”) Forgiveness is the first scriptural sign of brotherly love.

¹⁸⁶ I use the word “purpose” to describe an inner goal out from which my external life will be measured.

Brotherhood began with Judaism as a GOD/prophet/priest relationship between Moses and his brother Aaron.¹⁸⁷ Brotherhood made its way into Christianity as love for a brother {Jesus} who loved HIS mother {Mary}, and through her, to a love for all women and men. Brotherhood then made its way into the Quran as a relationship of brotherhood that begins in you for yourself. Your body is like your brother. Cherish it.

But if you're not already standing at the mouth of your cave {imagination} in your mountain looking back on the path of **GOD's** magnificent plan that brought you this high, you're not going to see where you are. You're not going to be able to use your gifts to help your brothers make their own way up and over their inclinations.

*“Had it been Your will,
You could have destroyed them long ago,
and myself too.
But would You destroy us because of what the fools among us did?
That trial was ordained by You to confound whom You willed
and to guide whom You pleased.
You alone are our guardian.
Forgive us and have mercy on us.
You are the noblest of those who forgive.
Ordain for us what is good,
both in this life and in the hereafter.
To You alone we turn.”*
[7:155-156]¹⁸⁸

“Had it been YOUR will,
YOU could have destroyed them long ago,
and myself too.
But would YOU destroy us because of what the fools among us did?
That trial was ordained by YOU to confound whom YOU willed
and to guide whom YOU pleased.
YOU alone are our GUARDIAN.
Forgive us and have mercy on us.
YOU are the noblest of those who forgive.
Ordain for us what is good,

¹⁸⁷ “THEN THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, ‘SEE, I HAVE MADE YOU LIKE GOD TO PHARAOH, AND YOUR BROTHER AARON WILL BE YOUR PROPHET.’” [Exodus 7:1] Aaron later becomes the high priest of the Israelites.

¹⁸⁸ Moses is speaking to GOD privately in prayer. No one could have known this except the Archangel Gabriel. The assumption is that **GOD** allowed **HIS** messenger to overhear **HIS** words and relay them from the prophet {Moses} to the Prophet {Muhammad}.

both in this life and in the hereafter.
to YOU alone we turn.”

Lot’s wife turned her back on GOD to look to her past in Sodom. Moses turned, instead, to GOD seeking forgiveness and mercy. The x² factor in man is able to assess his past errors of judgment. The y factor in him is able to use that evidence to enlarge and improve his relationship with his **CREATOR**. When unified within, a mensch can use his past to atone to others in the present, which will then assure him of a better future in which to redeem himself.

When Moses prayed to GOD, he guilted HIM into forgiving him. {Would YOU destroy us because of what the fools among us did?} He assuaged HIM with his awareness of HIS mighty plan. {That trial was ordained by YOU to confound whom YOU willed and to guide whom YOU pleased.} Only then was Moses ready to beg HIM for mercy {Forgive us and have mercy on us.} The ways a man slowly comes to appreciate **GOD** aren’t always easy for any of us to endure. Man can be quite manipulative in his sluggish effort to be good.

If you don’t learn how to look at your own prayers, how can you claim to pray in a way that will appeal to a higher awareness of GOD/GOD/*God* than you can access now? How do you know that you know how to pray if you don’t occasionally pray with people who pray differently from the way you do? It takes an outsider to show you the religious hypocrite that you are. But if I weren’t a hypocrite myself, I couldn’t call you out on what you’re doing.

The Prophet has given us a method and manner by which we can learn how to pray. But you ignored HIS/HIS/*His* teachings because of the dogmas associated with your faith. In promoting the dogmas of only one faith, you acted hypocritically. Like a man running around inside a burning building trying to get to the door, you refuse to exit through a window onto the fire escape. You’re so habituated to going where you’re accustomed to going that you refuse to use your common sense.

After Joseph was sold into slavery in ancient Egypt, GOD created a famine and the Hebrew tribes sought relief from it in ancient Egypt. And when Joseph’s brothers came before him begging for food, he responded with the wisdom we’ve seen revealed in the Quran. Joseph said in Torah, “‘DON’T BE AFRAID OF ME. AM I GOD, THAT I CAN PUNISH YOU? YOU INTENDED TO HARM ME, BUT GOD INTENDED IT ALL FOR GOOD. HE BROUGHT ME TO THIS POSITION SO I COULD SAVE THE LIVES OF MANY PEOPLE. NO, DON’T BE AFRAID. I WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN.’ SO HE REASSURED THEM BY SPEAKING KINDLY TO THEM.” [Exodus 50:19-21]

“I will visit my scourge upon whom I please:’

He replied:

‘yet My mercy encompasses all things.’

[7:156]

“‘I WILL VISIT MY SCOURGE UPON WHOM I PLEASE:’

HE replied,

‘YET MY MERCY ENCOMPASSES ALL THINGS.’”

Muslims say in Arabic, “*Allāh Karīm*” {*God* is noble and generous}. Everyone begins as a seed planted in a figurative garden. It’s as if he breaks through the ground of his being only to later perceive himself surrounded by tall trees, grasses and vine. Call this world an orchard, a field and a vineyard where you find yourself rooted in your unique perception of reality, growing to the best of your ability. The more you learn how to grow with righteous intention, the higher you’ll branch out and the more fruitful you’ll become. **GOD** sees all and knows all. HE will visit HIS scourge upon whom HE pleases. His mercy encompasses all things. *He* is noble and generous. **HE** has many sides.

You produced your own spiritual wood to manufacture your own spiritual ladder. Your branches have become like rungs, and the fruits of your labors are the precious rewards you pick at each level of awareness you reach. As you learn how to go even higher, the sky’s the limit.

But don’t be self-congratulatory by looking down on others. Don’t talk derogatorily about “them.” They’re no different than you. Their lessons in life have simply been arranged through another class schedule. But your overall curriculum will be somewhat similar to theirs. Don’t assume you’re going to graduate with a major in “them.” That’s a fool’s errand. Your major will always be “me.”

Those who are infantile Adam can only perceive and pick the low-hanging fruit. Those who are childish like Cain throw branches, leaves and fruit at their brothers to keep them from competing. The adolescent types who think they’re as tall as their father believe they can climb just as high and see just as far as him without having done so. And the young man who babbles out loud without listening to himself think looks out over the canapé of spiritual cultivation around him and schemes to top those trees that block his view.

The Abrahamic believers who are devoted to GOD/GOD/*God* know what little they know about spiritual gardening. They can water plants. They can prune trees. They can pick fruit and harvest crops. But no man can create a seed.

Since the x^2 in woman {rectum} is equal in every way to x^2 in man, the x^2 factor makes it possible for both men and women to understand each other if they care to try. But the x^1 factor {vagina} is a mystery to man. A man can never know x^1 . And a woman can never know y . This is a mystery decided by **GOD**.

*“When some asked,
‘Why do you admonish a people whom God will destroy or sternly punish?’
They replied,
‘So that we may be free from blame in the sight of your Lord,
and that they may guard themselves against evil.’”
[7:165]*

“When some asked,
‘Why do you admonish a people whom **GOD** will destroy or sternly punish?’

They replied,
‘So that we may be free from blame in the sight of your Lord,
and that they may guard themselves against evil.’”

Playing god isn't the role you were meant to play in this play. But if you can't tell where your inner world ends and the external world begins, you're going to pretend to be god any way you can. You're going to behave like an x^2 {asshole}. If you wish to free yourself from blame in the sight of your Lord, look within for answers. Don't be vindictive against others in order to teach them to guard themselves against evil. That's not your job. Your job is to discover the mystery in you.

GOD brings you **HIS** assignments with greater reasoning than our ancestors could ever have known in the elementary school setting in which they were enrolled. **HE** may have wanted the ancient Jews and Christians to question their hypocrisy by having created Islam. But today, **HE** surely wants you to question your hypocrisy, not the hypocrisy of Jews, Christians and/or Muslims.

If you see yourself as only a religious policeman brought here to maintain control over others; if you anticipate being rewarded with domination over the entire world – you're going to miss the opportunity to learn to police yourself. You're going to point fingers around you without ever learning how to tactfully point fingers within. (The pious are much too quick when it comes to criticizing others. The spiritually uncommitted are much too quick at criticizing themselves.)

There was no reason for Moses to go back to ancient Egypt at the age of 80 other than that he was finally willing to help those **GOD** wanted to help. He may have needed to free himself from his guilt in having killed a man, but he had no reason to punish the ancient Egyptians or to treat them vindictively for him having killed a slave driver. His previous anal issues were no longer being tested. He was ready to commit himself to helping everyone. It wasn't Moses who unleashed the Plagues.

He led the Children of Israel out of Egypt because he needed to get somewhere within himself even more than they needed to get away from slave drivers. We're not on the same journey with anyone, even if we're on a similar journey at the same time as them. Our interactions with others are brought to us by **GOD**. What we do with those opportunities depends on what we desire.¹⁸⁹

When you help others guard themselves against evil, **GOD** then teaches you how to guard yourself against your own evil inclinations by magnifying your faults enough for you to see them. There are no free lunches in “the cooking school of life.” First you learn to cook. Then you learn to serve others. Then you learn to clean up their mess. Only then are you allowed to sit down and eat the meal you made, because only then is **GOD** certain that you'll be motivated to clean up after you. Forbidden fruit does not a complete meal make.

¹⁸⁹ “A journey is a subjective experience of life with **GOD**, making it personal, intimate and morally uplifting. It's made up of many trips.

When you believe our **CREATOR** slowly opens your mind to teach you to perceive the magnificence of **HIS** designs, hope unfolds in your chest like leaves on a tree in the spring. Opportunity blossoms like pedals on a bud in the summer. And your life slowly fills with rewards that hang like juicy fruit emerging from dried flowers in the fall.

*“And when they scornfully persisted
in their forbidden ways,
We said to them,
‘Turn into detested apes.’”*
[7:166] ¹⁹⁰

“And when they scornfully persisted
in their forbidden ways,
WE said to them,
‘Turn into detested apes.’”

When you don’t wake up to your moral transgressions, it’s like going in the opposite direction of evolution. It’s becoming like an ape instead of like an angel. The moral evolution of mankind moves us ever into the future, not the past. Those who wish to recreate the time and place in which their Scripture was created will be figuratively turned into Neanderthals {the drawkcab, unawakened}, what was then called “detested apes.”

Being Jewish was once treated as a crime by **CHRISTIANS**. Being Jewish is still treated as a crime by *Muslims*. Today, **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims* can only agree that the universal crime is being gay, female or feminine. But being gay isn’t forbidden anywhere other than in certain synagogues, churches and mosques in the Western world. Only outside of Israel in the Middle East is being a member of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community still perceived of as a crime against **GOD/GOD/God**. **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims* in Israel and elsewhere are still trying to turn homosexuality into crimes against “their” **GOD’s/GOD’s/God’s** nature. Anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and homosexuality have become one issue because the **JEWS** refuse to get along with the Jews. It’s about time the **JEWS** read the Gospels and Quran. It would help them enormously in understanding Tanach.

Those who look and behave like detested apes are those who walk with their knuckles scraping the ground as they defend the right for the mentally and morally insane to carry guns. The detested apes of industry are those who beat their chest and grimace when the government tries to make them pay more in taxes or regulate their business and pollution practices. Today’s Neanderthals are the hypocrites who stick their nose anywhere they please if they smell something that displeases them. Growing up and evolving is going to leave some behind. There can be no other way.

¹⁹⁰ **GOD** was cursing those who refused to live and let live, in this case, the ancient Egyptians who insisted on following after the Israelites to punish them for trying to get away.

I am a tree whose roots are embracing a **ROCK** that no one but me can see. I spent enough years in my youth swinging like a simian in the urban jungle. I spent enough of my life throwing insults at others like feces as I looked down on them from up high. I walked far enough with my knuckles scraping on the ground and my lips curled in disgust at having to learn about life from life without much of a clue from anyone else.

*“Then your Lord declared
He would raise against them others
who would oppress them cruelly
till the Day of Resurrection.
Swift is the retribution of your Lord;
yet is He forgiving and merciful.”
[7:167-168]*

“Then your Lord declared
HE would raise against them others
who would oppress them cruelly
till the Day of Resurrection.
Swift is the retribution of your Lord;
yet is **HE** forgiving and merciful.”

Indeed, the Jews were oppressed cruelly until the Day of Resurrection {the day Jesus died}. But they were cruelly oppressed thereafter as well. To make this passage meaningful, you have to look at every tomorrow morning as a day of resurrection, a miraculous rebirth.

The GOD of the Hebrew Testament couldn't say all HE had to say in one book or through HIS first chosen people. Think of the Hebrew Testament, Christian Testament and Quran as Volumes One, Two and Three of Scripture. The only thing that might dissuade you from reading and learning from all three of them might be your fear of what you might then feel about the hypocrites around you who are trying to keep you down and the hypocrite within you who's raising you up too high.

There's no secret in life you've been forbidden to learn about or talk about. You're nude, naked and transparent before our **CREATOR**, yet you might still conceal yourself from others for reasons you refuse to discuss with you. When you realize you're in a great school and the lessons are coming to you every minute of every day, you'll take yourself more seriously. The day of your resurrection is today. Whether you choose to behave like a wolf in a pack or a lamb in a herd, you'll receive lessons, for better or worse.

Where **GOD** planted you as a seed was where **HE** wanted you to begin to grow. Your roots will always remain deeply buried in your childhood beliefs whether you were on a forced march into Nazi Germany from Hungary like concentration camp Jews during the Second World War or like the Muslim migrants who walked from Hungary to Germany not long ago. Both are figurative repetitions of the Israelite journey of 40 years from ancient Egypt to Israel. All forced marches teach the preciousness of freedom, but not all people

on forced marches make the association between that Biblical march and their own. It takes good, spiritual leaders to teach these connections to their people.

GOD is teaching you to “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” [Leviticus 19:18, Deuteronomy 6:5] And HE’s teaching you to “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” [Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31] Don’t, for an instant, think they’re the same message. They come from two completely different places in inner space, your head and your heart. But if Muslims don’t make their way to their soul to perceive those two messages as distinctly different, they’ll never discover what it means to “*Love your neighbor as yourself.*”

*“We disbursed them through the earth in multitudes –
some were righteous men,
others were not –
and tested them with blessings and misfortunes
so that they might return to the right path.
Then others succeeded them who inherited the book
and took to the vanities of the nether life.
‘We shall be forgiven,’ they said.
And if such vanities came their way once more,
they would again indulge in them.”
[7:168-169]*

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some were righteous men,
others were not -
and tested them with blessings and misfortunes
so that they might return to the right path.
Then others succeeded them who inherited the book
and took to the vanities of the nether life.
‘We shall be forgiven,’ they said.
And if such vanities came their way once more,
they would again indulge in them.”

We’re all the descendants of the vain {those who love their container} and the conceited {those who love their contents}. This isn’t a Jewish, Christian, Muslim, male, female, straight, gay or racial matter. This isn’t a matter of being able or disabled. These are human factors. If you’re vain, it’s because your heart is so full of your love for your body that it’s clouding any other way of loving. If you’re conceited, it’s because your head is so full of thoughtful regard for your achievements that it’s clouded your view of any other way of thinking.

Try to use the Quran to understand your vanity and conceit from yet a third place in inner space. Try to use the justice in your head and the mercy in your heart to achieve fair and equitable results in all your affairs, both personal and public. Try to use the adult in you to teach your inner child to be impartial. This is the secret to peace in your soul and peace in the Middle East.

This is also the essence of sanity. This is why I've stated that modern man doesn't suffer from being good or evil. He's not right or wrong. He isn't doing better or worse than anyone in the past. He's dealing with personal levels of sanity and insanity. He's spiritually healthy in some special ways and very, very sick in others. His "heavenly" reward will have nothing to do with him being gay or Jewish. It all depends on how much he's improved from how he was before. It all depends on measuring his height from original seed to his highest blooming bud.

*"Are they not committed to the Scripture
which they have studied well,
to tell nothing of God but what is true?
Surely the world to come is a better prize for those who keep from evil.
Have you no sense?"
[7:169]*

*"Are they not committed to the Scriptures
which they have studied well,
to tell nothing of **GOD** but what is true?
Surely the "world to come" is a better prize for those who keep from evil.
Have you no sense?"*

The only person you can truly trust to determine how sane or sick you are is you. And if you believe everything you tell yourself (or can't believe anything you tell yourself), you may have trust issues you need to work out with **GOD's** help. It could very well be that there are voices in you that are more and less mature that you'd like to hear from. Just as there are boughs on tree to stand on; branches to lean on; and twigs you can only pick from – there are aspects of yourself you should come to know in a variety of ways. Learning how, when, where and why you should trust yourself is a spiritual gamble. You should take chances by questioning your thinking. Being you requires more than luck or skill. It requires faith in your faith. No one is so naïve these days to think he can believe everything he's told.

When you get a new computer or cellphone, there are always new apps you're given to adapt your device to your personal lifestyle. You may feel more independent thanks to your cellphone, but the more familiar you are with its uses, the more you can make it an even greater tool in your life.

The same can be said about your body if you understand that it's a tool given to you by **GOD** to help make you more independent. New versions of "you" are coming out all the time, just as new generations of cellphones are so much more powerful and useful than

what we had in the past. Do the best you can with the generation of spiritual technology you've been given. You're all you've got. Now is changing incrementally from one moment to the next.

The Hebraic sense of the soul is the self. There is no part of the self that can't be called your soul. Your thoughts, feelings, wants and beliefs make you soulful. There isn't anything literally in your head, heart or breastplate that's going to do that. Only the words we choose and the ways in which we say them make us more or less soulful. As you learn how to use the seven powers of words, you'll discover your own sense of depth and your own appreciation for the WORDS of **GOD**.

You can use what you learned in the past to embrace new ways of doing things. You wouldn't go back to a typewriter now that you've got Windows 10. But you would use your typing skills on new instrumentation. You wouldn't buy a landline, or worse, a party line, to replace the smart phone you're now using. But you'd still want to be able to make calls. The world is only going in one direction, and either you go humbly in that direction or you'll go kicking and screaming, looking back on your past with your back to **GOD** as you make your way forward.

The future lies in the hands of those who embrace the future eagerly. Usually the young can do that with less difficulty than the old because the old have less future to look forward to. But you can embrace the future at any age if you use every now to get you there and then.

GOD draws us nearer to **HIM** using the four powers **HE** gave **HIMSELF** in creating this world: inner {subjective} time and space and outer {objective} time and space. You have all four at your disposal.

Inner space and outer place are relatively easy concepts to master. But inner time and outer time are more difficult because, from within, time may sometimes seem to stand still. The only way to master time is through the 4th Commandment.¹⁹¹ When you can perceive the difference between subjective time and objective time, history comes to life. The week comes to life. Your whole life comes to life.

*“As for those who strictly observe the Scriptures
and are steadfast in prayer,
We shall not deny the righteousness their reward.”
[7:170]*

“As for those who strictly observe the Scriptures
and are steadfast in prayer,

¹⁹¹ “HONOR THE SABBATH” Only two of Commandments are worded in the positive, the 4th one and the 5th one, “HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.” It's not too much to ask of JEWS to also honor the SABBATH/*Sabbath*. It's not too much to ask of CHRISTIANS to also honor the SABBATH/*Sabbath*. And it's not too much to ask of *Muslims* to also honor the SABBATH/SABBATH. How are we going to achieve a three-day weekend for everyone without honoring the Sabbath?

WE shall not deny the righteousness their reward.”

Scripture and prayer are the universal communication tools that were first given to you as a child when you were taught how to speak. Every word you learned was a gift from **GOD**. Every WORD/WORD/*Word* you learned thereafter came from Scripture, whether you made the association beyond your own Scripture or not. The way you use words has been so seamlessly infused into your operating system that you may not even realize how **GOD**’s system works using your own words.

Those who speak two or more languages already have a perspective on how words can be magically generated out of thoughts, feelings, urges and opinions that influence the beliefs of people with different mentalities. Mono-linguists may think they have a monopoly on their inner forces just because of their fluency in one language, but every linguistic, operating system operates in the same way. The differences in mentalities created by linguistic differences in languages are the result of historical, religious and cultural differences. When you have access to two or more mentalities through two or more languages, you have two or more perspectives on the entire spiritual process. But how you operate yourself can only be determined by how you use the words you know. You’re never outside **GOD**’s system, because **GOD**’s system is constructed upon words.

Your foolish, hateful and disloyal misuse of language is a sign of the ways in which you’re spiritually unhealthy. Like a computer with a virus or a cell phone that’s been bugged, you behave in unreliable ways that you should scan yourself for and correct. These internal issues can be addressed from the inside if you learn how to reprogram yourself using words. But reprogramming you can’t happen if you can’t trust yourself enough to help you by talking to yourself. If you try to trust yourself and your word isn’t good, you won’t succeed in accomplishing a thing. You’ll know that you’re reprogramming you to achieve greater power out in the external world in order to manipulate others. And then you’ll suffer for your moral disregard by unconsciously attempting to use manipulation even further. In that way, you’re not going to discover **GOD**’s designs. You’ll only expand upon your own manipulative intentions.

The easier way to self-discovery lies in elucidation of your nudity {mental clarity}, nakedness {emotional sincerity} and transparency {spiritual devotion} before the Lord. The more interest you take in yourself, the more you’ll discover how **GOD** is bringing you signs all the time through others to help you through the mystery of being you. All lies, denial and deceptions you use on others are outer evidence of ways in which you’re destroying the inner communication system you could otherwise be using to improve yourself.

If you can’t communicate with **GOD** through prayer {faith}; if you can’t communicate with yourself through self-study {spiritual literacy}; and if you can’t communicate with others through spiritual discussion {religious freedom} – you’re denying yourself access to ask you to teach you more about you. You’re holding yourself back.

We need medical doctors to combat Alzheimer’s; psychological leaders with emotional fluency to combat broken hearts; and religious trailblazers {not religious predators} to

combat injustices in the ways we perceive our faiths. Without all of the above, we're going to find our conversations interrupted and our connection with **GOD** wanting.

*“When We suspended the mountain over them
as though it were a shadow
(they feared it was falling down on them)
We said,
‘Hold fast to that which We have given you
and bear in mind what it contains,
so that you may keep from evil.’”
[7:167-172]*

*“When **WE** suspended the mountain over them
as though it were a shadow
(they feared it was falling down on them)
WE said,
‘Hold fast to that which **WE** have given you
and bear in mind what it contains,
so that you may keep from evil.’”*

The mountain the Prophet was speaking of is more real than the world you see around you. Those whose faith is weak (“YE OF LITTLE FAITH” ¹⁹²) fear Christianity like a shadow crawling over them. The shadow of their own love reminds them of insects crawling over them. There’s nothing to fear in this creeping darkness. Darkness and dread of yourself is a sign of something you ought to learn about that you’ve been previously projecting around you.

GOD hides in the dark for believers to look for themselves there with **HIS** help. **HE** divides the world into day and night to produce shadows. If you’re not afraid of the love you have to give to yourself at noon, you shouldn’t be afraid of the devotion you need at twilight until midnight. And if you’re not afraid of yourself at midnight, you won’t need to wait impatiently until the dawn finally breaks outside or in.

*“God has the most excellent names.
Call on Him by His names
and keep away from those who pervert them.
They shall receive their due for their misdeeds.”
[7:180]*

¹⁹² “YE OF LITTLE FAITH” [The Book of Matthew: 8:26]

“**GOD** has the most excellent names.

Call on **HIM** by **HIS** names
and keep away from those who pervert them.
They shall receive their due for their misdeeds.”

If you’re going to call upon **GOD**, you don’t need to use all three of **HIS** names in succession {Y.H.V.H Jesus *Alīlah*}. You wouldn’t address anyone else that way. You address people with the name they give you, the name they prefer you use when addressing them. **HE/He/He** knows **HIS/HIS/His** own name. You don’t have to address **HIM/HIM/Him** using all three of them. It’s good enough if you simply remember that, like you, **HE** has more than one name.

You can’t say you know anyone well if you don’t even know his whole name. To know **GOD**, you must know **HIS** whole name, not just that part of it that you believe in. Why would you think you’ve learned all about **GOD** merely from your faith-based tradition? There’s surely much more you don’t know about **HIM** that others do. Why wouldn’t you want to learn from others if their intentions are wise, loving and devotional? If your faith-based tradition has taught you to be suspicious of the cheap Jew, the colonizing Christian or the deceitful Muslim, don’t you owe it to yourself to repair the record with personal experience that comes from enlightenment through new experiences with people? This is **GOD** experienced indirectly.

I understand the level of spiritual dwarfism that combines murder and suicide to create a plastic, bonsai tree that looks just like the real thing. I wouldn’t have tried twice to kill the Jew and the gay man that I am if I hadn’t felt exceedingly small and unnatural. The inner struggle I had with myself was a mirror of the struggle I was having with **GOD/GOD/God**. The self-wisdom, self-love and self-devotion I was seeking in me became the keys to discovering **HIM** and **HIS** designs for everyman.

It was through my personal struggle that I discovered my mission in life. I was blessed in that **GOD** refused my “self-graduation ceremony” {suicide} from the school of hard knocks. **HE** insisted I go back to my studies to learn about the spiritual height, breadth and ensuing depth life can have. **HE** insisted I grow taller than I was, to perceive more of **HIS** big picture. **HE** insisted I come to see my roots to discover that I’m not made of plastic. I’m genuine.

The 3rd Commandment states not to utter the Lord’s name in vain. Curiously, **HE** addresses **HIMSELF** in the third-person in that Commandment, just as **He** often does in the Quran. **GOD** models for us the behaviors **HE** wishes us to employ. If you can’t use the third-person to distance you from yourself, you’re surely using your own name in vain. Therefore, you should practice repeating the words “you” and “he” silently while referring to yourself internally. You’ll discover more about the complexity of the myriad ways in

which you were made like **HIM**. You'll discover the "we" in "you" {the first-person plural in the second-person plural}.

You have the power to grow bigger than you are now just by questioning the pronouns you may be taking for granted. With a deeper understanding of the words you use, you'll discover the power to replant yourself in a bigger pot. You'll even have the power to see others from a greater height, with a greater breadth and with greater depth. Subjectivity makes life worthwhile.

My mother is 97 years old. She's suffers from dementia but is physically well. Despite her physical wellbeing, occasionally she feels embarrassed, ashamed and maybe even humiliated by her problem with memory. She has no idea what she may have done wrong, but she's far too disabled to question whether she's done something to herself she needs to seek redemption for. She's moving through the darkness within without the ability to return to the light.

Whether your parents were hunted down by Nazis or you've been hunted down by racists or homophobes, you should find the goodwill toward yourself to keep you going to the best of your ability. You should be sure you don't do to you what they did to you.

The quality of the words my mother utters produces a sensation I cannot share with anyone. There's a subjective meaning to her words that only **GOD** can know about me. This is the essence of the 5th Commandment. This is why I encourage her to love herself. Herein lies the essence of the reward of honoring my mother. Doing so personalizes and subjectifies my being.

The beauty of Arabic art lies in the mystery of **GOD's** grammar as conveyed through designs, not linguistics. As you explore the abstract nature of Arabic art, you may come to see the "I," "you," "he" and "we" that are mirrored in the geometric relationships that are similes for the mystery of life. Their symmetry, pattern and color reveal the spiritual symmetry, geometry and emotional balance Islam ascribes to and presents in the Quran.

Muslims are truly a dynamic and mysterious creation made in **GOD's** image, different from how **HE** fashioned Jews or Christians. They are a mystery unfolding on the family tree of man. And the more they learn to communicate effectively within themselves, the greater power they'll achieve in prayer. "*Allāh Akbar!*" {**GOD** is noble and generous.} How noble and generous are you? How noble and generous is the "he" in your "me"?

*"None can guide those whom God confounds.
He leaves them blundering about in their sinful ways."
[7:186]*

"None can guide those whom **GOD** confounds.
HE leaves them blundering about in their sinful ways."

Evil doers who abuse the power **GOD** gave them do so without hope. They need money, property and prestige to substitute for hope. What they steal from righteous Jews, Christians and Muslims will be taken away from them with a purification process that none

of us would ever want to endure. They've spiritually bankrupted themselves because their RABBIS, PRIESTS, PASTORS, MINISTERS, *Imams* and *Clerics* have stolen the best out from under them. They have nothing but their own mercy left to rely on, a mercy, paradoxically, they'll never understand or command so long as **GOD** confounds them.

You don't have to cut off the hands of the thieves you've caught red-handed. You don't have to behead anyone who doesn't think like you. You don't have to cut out the heart of those who love differently from you. And if you dismember or castrate someone, whether literally or figuratively, that will say much more about your little, delivery system of wants than it'll say about theirs.

Your losses come from within you, but you'll answer to **GOD**, not to your religious leader, for those losses. Don't try to please the leaders of your faith. They're simply human. They'll answer to **GOD** for themselves. The spiritually bankrupted rarely see what their future holds before it's too late. You and I can see it and cry for them out of disappointment, but we're not our brothers' keeper. Their deaths will not feel like a graduation ceremony to us. We'll feel sad for them having been expelled from the kindergarten of life, knowing there was so much they never got to learn.

*"They will put questions to you
as though you were privy to it.*

Say:

*'None but God has knowledge of it,
though most men are unaware of this.'"*

[7:187]

"They will put questions to you
as though you were privy to it.

Say:

'None but **GOD** has knowledge of it,
though most men are unaware of this.'"

People will question you as though you were privy to all the knowledge **GOD** has ever bestowed on humanity. But you're not responsible for knowing everything. Ancient man was given a body that acted like a party line to stay in contact with the gods. Modern man has a body that acts like a smart phone to stay in touch with **GOD**. I can only wish that the masses would turn in their dumb phone to **GOD/GOD/God** and join the 21st Century with greater, spiritual, technical ability. All it takes is communicating with their selves.

You're going to want to internalize your challenges and find the answer for yourself – with **GOD's** help. You can't be questioned about what you know if you don't ever commend yourself for what you know. Once you know what you know, you can explore what you don't know with curiosity rather than dread. You're not my brother, and I'm not your keeper. You're your brother and you're your keeper.

The noun “ignorance” comes from the verb “to ignore.” The man who ignores his moral responsibility to himself is the poorest in our Lord’s kingdom. He’s deserving of pity mixed with divine fairness so he can learn about the height, breadth and depth of the way in which he was made in **GOD**’s image. His ignorance is a sign of his pitiful moral size.

The more we learn to respond rather than react to spiritual sickness, the more we’ll raise ourselves toward the summit where we’ll be able to turn around and look back on the base with greater appreciation for our individual ascension. Goodness is best expressed through fairness, not revenge. If you don’t ignore yourself, you won’t ignore anyone else. And the more you learn about yourself, the more you’ll know about everyone else, as well {even if they prove to be different from you}. You’ll grow in stature and shine with spiritual mass.

*“It was He who created you from a single being.
From that being He created his spouse
so he might find comfort in her.
And when he had lain with her,
she conceived,
and for a time her burden was light.
She carried it with ease,
but when it grew heavy,
they both cried to God,
their Lord,
‘Grant us a goodly child and we will be truly thankful.’”*
[7:190-191] ¹⁹³

“It was HE who created you from a single being.
From that being HE created his spouse
so he might find comfort in her.
And when he had lain with her,

¹⁹³ Eve {original woman} is the universal spouse who lies at the heart of every man under that missing rib that leaves him yearning for more love out of life. Most every Adam must disentangle himself from his mother, his first and primary universal spouse, to discover his love of himself, which was first mirrored in her and then in others. Only once he can demonstrate loving feelings for himself can he wisely decide whom he wishes to give his heart to. This exploration of the woman in man should be an exercise in joy. Your relationship to your inner, original mother, Eve, corresponds to the virgin relationship of Mother and Child glorified in Christianity. The path of wisdom leads to the happiness that comes with freedom. But the path of love leads to the liberty that comes with the joy of a loving relationship with the world. The path of devotion leads to the individual emancipation that makes it possible to express gratitude to **GOD**.

she conceived,
and for a time her burden was light.
She carried it with ease,
but when it grew heavy,
they both cried to GOD,
their Lord,
‘Grant us a goodly child and we will be truly thankful.’

That child born of Adam and Eve was, of course, Cain. But he turned out to be a murderer, and still GOD pitied him, marked him with a sign, and granted him safe haven in the world. But could Adam and Eve have been truly at peace knowing they’d created a son who’d killed his brother? Such is the spiritual dilemma Islam finds itself in today. Such was the challenge for its older brother, CHRISTIANITY, in the not-so-distant-past when it killed 6,000,000 of its Jewish brothers.

Judaism dealt with a civil war about 700 years before Christ, and from that war we lost 10 of our 12 tribes and the Ark of the Covenant. The lessons of fratricide are very harsh. **GOD** surely doesn’t like it when we solve our inner challenges with murder and/or suicide.

An unborn child is already a burden to both parents, but more so, of course, for the mother who literally carries the child to term. After it’s been born, it then becomes a great burden for the one who earns the money for food, shelter and clothing. For the next 18 years at least, a child is a burden that both parents must endeavor to bear. If you make a baby, both of you should be responsible for its wellbeing until the child is legally emancipated. And both parents should be punished if that child suffers as the result of their irresponsible behavior in raising it.

Jewish children come of age at 13 when they’re given the rite of passage called a BAR {male} or BAT {female} MITZVAH {blessing}. It’s at puberty in the Jewish child’s life that the parents step aside and all the child’s deeds spiritually rest on his or her own shoulders. It’s when embarking on the passage from childhood to adulthood that the deeds of the child are no longer protected by the parents before GOD.

Physical puberty marks the time in our life when we can create life and therefore are responsible for our own life, even though our parents have a legal responsibility to us, which is determined by the society in which we live. At 13, a Jewish child stands spiritually alone before GOD. That’s why the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is such an awesome rite of passage. It signals our responsibility for determining our own moral destiny or fate.

But the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is only the first of many rites of passage in Jewish life that prepares the individual for exploring the meaning of puberty from within. Anyone, at any age, who’s lost one or both parents feels like an orphan in this world. This is part of the emotional rite of passage from spiritual childhood into spiritual puberty. You could call this the emotional evidence for the passages in life. This emotional passage, or bridge, mirrors the rainbow that came to Noah after the storm.

The death of our parents unites us a little more with **GOD** while simultaneously separating us a little more from those around us. The last rite of passage is our own death. This is the spiritual bridge between life and what’s to come. This is the aspect of life that makes us all feel like an infant on the edge of an awesome experience.

It's reasonable to pray to **GOD** to help you raise a good child, but you'll be judged by the outcome of your efforts to bear that burden wisely, just as your children will be judged by the outcome of bearing you lovingly in your old age. **GOD** knows all. **HE**'s known what you've wanted since you first opened your eyes in this world and took your first breath. But **HE**'s only given you what you needed.

You can't escape the responsibilities created by your penis or clitoris, and rectum. You're living in a glass house in which you cannot hide any part of you from **GOD**. You can conceal your thoughts, feelings, beliefs and wants with pious curtains from others' prying eyes, but not from **HIS**. The robes of piety you wear within say more than anything you don over your body. But these inner robes may not be as clean or spot-free as you imagine. Therefore, strive to love your enemies as you've loved yourself when you've offended you. The more they're forced to cry out at your goodness, the more **GOD** will bless you. **GOD** has knowledge of all things.

*"Those whom you invoke besides God
are,
like yourselves,
His servants.
Call on them,
and let them answer you,
if what you say be true."
[7:193]*

"Those whom you invoke besides **GOD**
are,
like yourselves,
HIS servants.
Call on them,
and let them answer you,
if what you say be true."

If you invoke the help of saints or angels, be sure you ask them wise and loving questions about your spiritual progress. Don't just cry your heart out at your misfortune or bemoan your confusion about the way things are. If you worry whether your questions may obfuscate your issues, restate your questions again and again in different ways, especially noting your tone of voice each time. You'd be wise to restate your issues in the third-person, as well.

Those who worry wisely know that worry holds no color. It's transparent. It doesn't make itself visible on the rainbow of feelings you hold so dear. Worry peers through everything. Worry is as transparent as water or thin air.

If you're not sure whether you're dealing with reputable servants of the Lord, ask **GOD** directly why **HE** would test you in such a way. Ask **HIM** what you can learn about your own temperament from any disreputable teachers you may have or have had. Everyone is brought to you to learn.

Your mental health is only as good as your emotional health, which is only as good as your spiritual health. You probably won't get the answers you're seeking if you only ask for stuff in your prayers and contemplations. You're not here to stuff yourself. You're here to learn about yourself. So skip the prayers for material gains and start praying for health.

¹⁹⁴ There's no point in beating around the bush with **GOD**. Your health is all that matters. Many appear to be the living dead. Their moral efforts aren't visible to you.

Political and religious leaders are human and, often, not at all spiritually healthy. They, too, are here to learn, not to stuff themselves with self-indulgences. The more respectfully you treat them, however (by courteously questioning their motives) the more likely you are to learn about the lessons **GOD** is bringing you through your contact with them. Putting leaders down for their ignorance and spiritual dis-ease won't raise you up high or make you any spiritually healthier. It will only spread your worry. Political and religious leaders may need to learn more than you. They may need to learn to internalize the reasons for their grasp on government or their institution of faith in order to find their way to their own forbidden fruits. Try to elucidate their struggle for them. Try to help them learn to love the one they're with. But get some of them away from external power as quickly as possible. They ought to focus their struggle for power within themselves, not on serving chicken cheeseburgers to obfuscate their evil intentions.

*“Have they feet to walk with?
Have they hands to hold with?
Have they eyes to see with?
Have they ears to hear with?”*
[7:194]

“Have they feet to walk with?
Have they hands to hold with?
Have they eyes to see with?
Have they ears to hear with?”

¹⁹⁴ We all claim that health is the most important thing in life, but nobody makes the connection between faith and health. The word “health” associates your opinions about sexual conduct with mental, emotional and spiritual intentions. If you think the leaders of the extreme ends of the Abrahamic faiths are healthy, your mental health has been very compromised. If you allow these religious leaders to continue to dictate policy on guns {penises}, female health issues {vaginas} and L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. issues {rectums}, you're going to deserve just what you get in the external world we all have to share.

We're all missing parts of our spiritual body, whether or not we're physically disabled in ways others can literally see. The physically disabled are sometimes more able to express their honesty, sincerity and authenticity in ways that "normal" people find difficult to do.

Many a thin man is secretly obese inside with hungers he needs to learn to satisfy without food. His gluttony can't literally be seen on his bones. It must be perceived with his inner eye. Many a liar has a mellifluous, trusting voice. The sound of his words is carried like a sweet tune, but it's not holding trustworthy intentions. He's all melody; his disharmony is played only for his own ears to hear.

Your eyes and ears may deceive you unless you use your experiences insightfully to get to know yourself before you make great pronouncements about others. If you can't see what you're missing, you'll never learn to sense your own need to become more trusting of you. For this you need **GOD's** help.

Your deepest, inner needs can only be met through contact with people who have what you're missing to model what you need to learn. But if you can't perceive that anything's missing in you, how are you going to motivate yourself to seek help? Your eyes and ears are often unable to lead you toward what you most need in order to gain more experience. Only your nose knows. This is a spiritual Catch-22 you can't solve without self-study.¹⁹⁵

We all begin life naïve, and we quickly learn that life isn't a rose garden. It can often feel much more like a briar patch. But this world is actually more like a school in which we learn to use our nose to sniff out what's there and from that determine what's missing. After we've learned to use our eyes, ears and mouth to ask for what we need, we're allowed to use our nose to smell our way intuitively toward something no one else can see or hear. After each good deed done for others, we're allowed to sniff a little more with our inner nose at what we've got within. The internalization of this sense organ makes it possible to figuratively perceive our behind as something other than a joke. It makes it possible to turn the other "cheeks" when **GOD** teaches us painful lessons...

Torah is your textbook. The Gospels is your workbook. And the Quran is your test booklet. When you follow through on your education using all of Scripture, you discover the secret to acing the final exam.

Question with your heart and you'll learn to use your nose better. The word "answer" in Hebrew {TSHUVA} also happens to mean "repentance," "return" and "turning back." The redemption of the world depends on the repentance of each one of us. Therefore seek answers in the Hebraic sense of the WORD.

¹⁹⁵ "'Catch-22' is a satirical novel by the American author Joseph Heller (JEWISH). The phrase 'Catch-22' has since entered the English language, referring to a type of unsolvable, logic puzzle sometimes called a 'double bind.' A 'double bind' is an emotionally distressing dilemma in which an individual (or group) receives two or more conflicting messages, and one message negates the other. This creates a situation in which a successful, intellectual response results in a failed emotional response, so that the person feels wrong regardless of the outcome. A double bind occurs when you can't confront the inherent dilemma as a conflict between your head and heart, and therefore you can neither resolve the situation nor opt out of it." [Wikipedia]

*“Show forgiveness,
speak for justice,
and avoid the ignorant.
If Satan tempts you,
seek refuge in God;
he hears all and knows all.”*
[7:199]

*“Show forgiveness,
speak for justice,
and avoid the ignorant.
If satan tempts you,
seek refuge in **GOD**;
HE hears all and knows all.”*

All temptations arise from within you, not around you. There is no satan. But there is a metaphorical serpent that hangs down from your tree that figuratively whispers to your heart. Your wants are the source of all your temptations.

Your wants burst through your unconscious {soul}, semiconscious {feelings} and conscious mind {thoughts} like a volcano bursting through the ocean currents to the surface. Your wants disorient your thoughts, feelings and beliefs. They cloud your inner world, distracting you from what you’re doing. To become awakened and aware, you need only figurative watch and listen to your penis or clitoris.

Yearn to trust yourself. Becoming your best friend should become your greatest goal in life. You’ll never be able to trust anyone more than you can trust you. The pursuit of health is much harder and slower than it looks. Don’t for a New-York-second think you’re spiritually sound just because you regularly go to a house of prayer. Your faith is no indicator of your ability to draw conclusions about yourself that are logical, loving and loyal. Some of the worst offenders of spiritual health run institutions of faith. Many give religion a bad name because of their low self-esteem. Their penis is all that’s guiding them. But you can help turn that around with greater effort to raise your own esteem of you.

*“When you have no verse to recite to them,
they say,
“Have you not invented one?”
Say:
‘I follow only what is revealed to me by my Lord.’
This Book is a veritable proof from your Lord,
a guide and a blessing to true believers.”*
[7:203]

“When you have no verse to recite to them,
they say,
‘Have you not invented one?’
Say:
‘I follow only what is revealed to me by my Lord.’
This book is a veritable proof from your Lord,
a guide and a blessing to true believers.”

The tests of life can be passed with thoughtful study, sincere effort and authentic regard for everything you do and for everything that happens as the result of what you do. The smallest of incidents has a reason for being. You don't need to lose your mind (as I did) in order to embrace your heart and soul. Look for answers from your intuition after you ask the Lord each question you pose in the vast darkens of inner space.¹⁹⁶ Listen inside for voices that will give you good guidance and look for signs around you that will do the same. Don't get so excited about what you desire that you act impulsively. If **GOD** can move slowly, so can you.

If you're upset with **GOD**, discuss your feelings with **HIM** candidly. Don't be afraid to tell **HIM** sincerely how you feel. Don't use your mind like a curtain to conceal your feelings. Don't use your heart like a veil to mask your beliefs. Don't use your actions like a robe to conceal your soul. Strive to be an open book in every sense of the **WORD**. A closed book is only a mystery to the reader, not the **AUTHOR**.

*“When the Quran is recited,
listen to it in silence
so that you may be shown mercy.
Remember your Lord deep in your soul with humility and reverence,
and without ostentation:
in the morning and the evening;
and do not be negligent.”
[7:205]*

“When the Quran is recited,
listen to it in silence
so that you may be shown mercy.
Remember your Lord deep in your soul with humility and reverence,

¹⁹⁶ Asking yourself questions in your conscious mind and offering yourself answers from your intuition isn't forbidden. It won't drive you crazy. *Not* asking and then answering yourself will drive you crazy. The loneliness of a soul without anyone to talk to is unbearable.

and without ostentation;
in the morning and the evening;
and do not be negligent.”

It was easier in bygone days to speak poetically about virtue. The Prophet spoke one moment about “detested apes” and the next about the need to “listen...in silence” to be shown mercy. Remembering the Lord with “humility and reverence, and without ostentation” is easier when you feel lucky. When your luck suddenly and abruptly ends, it’s time to seek better questions from a deeper place in inner space.

There’s no word for “luck” in Hebrew because there’s no such thing as luck in Judaism. {“MAZAL” is an ancient Assyrian word we added to our vocabulary that means “stars.”} Lucky are the righteous, for **GOD** gives them what they need. Unlucky are the evil doers because **HE** ignores them. You do not want to take your journey alone or find yourself without **GOD’s** guidance along the way. That would be unwise.

Life is like a series of assignments you’re given in school day, often without you consciously being aware that the moral choices you make will determine the curriculum you’ll be given by the **TEACHER** the next day. If you make bad choices over time, you may not be given a great mission in life to help humanity evolve. You may come to believe that your participation in school isn’t even important. Then, your self-esteem will become the major topic in your spiritual education. Others will be forced to interfere with your lacking education.

The Quran rightly moves you out of your head and heart in the direction of your soul. The Quran asks you to have enough faith in the world **GOD** gave us that you can use it to learn about yourself without considering you more or less important than anybody else. The Quran will take you to a new place in inner space. If you’re not willing to go there, you’ll suffer from low self-esteem. But if you’re not willing to use the Quran in conjunction with Tanach and the Gospels, you’re going to suffer from a superiority complex. Either way, you won’t achieve a full understanding of **GOD’s** designs. Without an appreciation of the possibility for Muslim contribution to the 21st Century, you’ll crawl like a snake on the ground, swim like an eel in the sea or fly like a bat through the branches of a tree. You’ll never enjoy the blessings of being created in **GOD’s** immense and unifying image.

There’s no one you can trust as much as you, but you’re going to need **GOD’s** help to do so. You probably realize by now that you either don’t trust yourself as much as you’d like to or you have no inkling of any reason not to trust you at all. The Quran is teaching you to use tough love on you if your self-esteem is too low and tender love if your self-esteem is too high.

As your relationship with you improves mentally, emotionally and spiritually, your relationship with **GOD** advances, and you evolve. What you previously saw as a relationship to HIM, Him or *Him* has already been perceived by your head, heart or soul as separate relationships with **HIM** that you’ve projected out onto the three Abrahamic faiths. You’re ready to unite these faiths within as faith in yourself.

*“Those who dwell with your Lord
do not disdain His service.
They give glory to Him
and prostrate themselves before Him.”*
[7:201-206]
“Those who dwell with your Lord
do not disdain **HIS** service.
They give glory to **HIM**
and prostrate themselves before **HIM**.”

Begin in your imagination by praying to the Lord on your feet like a Jew. Then imagine kneeling like a devout CHRISTIAN before HIM as you pray. Then prostrate yourself in your mind's eye like a Muslim before *Allāh* in prayer. You don't have to do anything differently in the world we share to make vast changes in your world within. No one needs to know what's going on in your imagination. Your effort to use your imagination to unite your head, heart and soul in this way will change the way you think, feel and believe. And it will also set a new tone in the way you want to make peace out in the world.

You can't skip any of the seven pieces of the puzzle within and claim to have the big picture in your purview. To become a citizen of the world, you're going to want to expand your imagination, not necessarily your footprint in the world we share.

Figuratively speaking, you can't skip the arithmetic lessons of simple addition and subtraction and claim to be properly prepared for trigonometry. Life gets more complex the longer you live. Therefore, be prepared to learn about others if you want to claim you can learn from yourself.

This surah of the Quran speaks to the heights achievable to those of faith and the height of folly that others go to when they attempt to climb the reflection of this mountain in the sea that the rest of us are capable of flying over. Some look back from time to time to remember where they came from and how far they've come. Others forge ahead without using their head. Don't delude yourself by drowning in religious, thin air. The answer lies in repentance {sincere apologies to others}. And repentance is the secret to redemption, self-apology to yourself with **GOD** as your **WITNESS**.

Surah 8

The Spoils

Once you've reached an understanding of the great height of the mountain you must climb, then the spoils become available to you as you get close to the summit. The base of the mountain is justice; the summit is mercy. As you journey up and down day-by-day, each challenge you face comes from the wisdom of your devotion to this lifelong trek. When you look around at the material possessions you've attained; the connections to people you've made; and your increasing sense of self – you'll begin to see the spoils of the war you've waged all your life within you. Once you're committed to justice, mercy and fairness, you'll be allowed to look back from time to time to take in all that you can see from where you've come, to what you've got now, and where you'll be going from here.

Most people are far more interested in the spoils than in the uphill journey that never seems to end. For those who associate the weight of the world with the gravity of the meaning of life, the spoils become an outward Israel that merely reflects a tiny fraction of the vast inner Israel that could be their prize.

The spoils are delightful blessings, but you need to keep your eye on the real prize. For those who know something about the base and the summit, the surah after this one on repentance, is what they look forward to. The answer lies through repentance in redemption. And the secret to both lies in the Quran.

The "spoils of war" are the riches due the victors. The spoils of war go to those who then have to live life as winners surrounded by losers. For those for whom life is a religious war instead of a struggle within, their material riches are paramount. For those of us struggling with self-doubts and uncertainties, the immaterial rewards are vital. **GOD's** chooses for us *how* and *what* we're going to win *when*. (You can't convince another person that they're waging the wrong war. They have to fight their war, win it or lose it, and then decide for themselves what they got out of it.)

The Prophet fought battles internally and externally and won. Fourteen hundred years ago the Arabs and Persians were nonbelievers. They were idol worshippers making their way into the religious worlds of Christians and Jews. The only people the Prophet could look to contrast himself to were the ancient Jews who had then been around twice as long as the ancient Christians.

The spiritual lingua franca of the West today is psychology. Psychology is spirituality brought down to the level of secular people who want to get along with people of all faiths and **philosophies**. Psychology is **GOD** without **HIS** three names or the Western lifestyle that elucidates **HIS** works. Psychology is the inner workings of the universal man, the interface of our various, inner universes without knowledge on how we mirror **GOD** from a spiritual perspective. Psychology makes it possible to understand how easily we're spoiled by our spoils.

The sciences of psychology and sociology (which were created in the West) are deeply influenced by the unfolding of the Abrahamic faiths. And because all the Abrahamic faiths have such deep roots in homophobia, the modern-day efforts of gays and lesbians to change society by changing the psychological makeup of individuals and sociological makeup of nations is, in essence, a job of Herculean proportions. Those who oppose us are today's

“detested apes.” [7:166] They’re the unevolved who insist on remaining the way their spiritual ancestor were. {Homophobia is a particular prejudice that isn’t as widespread in Eastern **philosophies**.}

When you look at the CHRISTIANS in America who hate the Muslims in our society; when you look at the mass migration of Jews from France to Israel to escape the conflicts between CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* in Europe; and when you look at how the *Muslims* have cleansed their societies in the Middle East of Jews, Christians, and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community – you see why it might be easy to conclude that we live in a world that’s hard to describe adequately in words.

The wars against Israel are religious in nature. And they’re being stoked by the money of “true believers” who are making a killing with gun sales worldwide, secure in their belief that they’ll survive because there is no **GOD**, only “their” GOD, God or *God* who shows them HIS/HIS/*His* adoration with money. They’re perfectly willing to take their chances that they’re on the winning team. After all, what could GOD/GOD/*God* have to give them that’s more valuable than money?...

Is it any wonder that big business takes no position on whether evolution is a myth; climate change, a hoax; or that the Constitution must be upheld with strict adherence to the Second Amendment.¹⁹⁷ The goal of big business is to crush, manhandle, punch, squash, squeeze, squelch, squish and, if necessary, trample anyone whose testicles or ovaries get in the way of their urge to make more money. Religion isn’t their thing. And yet so many religious people dance with devotion around the rich.

The effort of the Prophet through the Archangel Gabriel was to bring spiritual psychology into the world 1,300 years before Sigmund Freud turned religious inspiration into a science in the early 20th Century. But the goal of the Prophet and Sigmund Freud {who was an atheist Jew} was the same: to help man live with himself in peace and prosper. Today, we’ve got spirituality and science, like two hands from the same body. We’re twice as far along as those who have only one or the other.

*“The true believers are those whose hearts are filled with awe
at the mention of God,
and whose faith grows stronger as they listen to His revelations.
They are those who put their trust in the Lord,
pray steadfastly,
and give in alms what We gave them.
Such are the true believers.
They will be exalted and forgiven by their Lord,
and a generous provision shall be made for them.”*

¹⁹⁷ The Second Amendment gives Americans the right to own a gun. And if their penis or clitoris doesn’t adequately flatter their desires, they give themselves permission to fire that gun at anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable.

[8:2-4]

“The true believers are those whose hearts are filled with awe
at the mention of **GOD**,
and whose faith grows stronger as they listen to **HIS** revelations.
They are those who put their trust in the Lord,
pray steadfastly,
and give in alms what **WE** gave them.
Such are the true believers.
They will be exalted and forgiven by their Lord,
and a generous provision shall be made for them.”

In this passage, we hear the Prophet speaking about **GOD** primarily in the third-person: “the mention of **GOD**,” “**HIS** revelations,” and “trust in the Lord.” But then **GOD** suddenly speaks about **HIMSELF** in the first-person plural: “give in alms what **WE** gave them.” This sudden shift from the third-person singular to the first-person plural is very curious, begging the questions, “Why here? Why now?”

GOD is implying that we, too, should give greater thought to speaking about ourselves using the third-person because we’re usually doing so unconsciously anyway. We, too, suddenly shift to the first-person singular {I} or plural {we} in verbal speech without paying full attention to our thought patterns. We may think from one place in inner space and yet often speak out loud from another.

If you observe your thoughts in the early morning hours or as you awaken from a nap, you may remember that you had some thoughts you couldn’t connect in words to the stream of consciousness you were undergoing. These, sometimes bizarre, detours of your mind are interruptions by another force within you that’s trying to make its view known through a metaphoric, symbolic or comparative form of interjection, not dissimilar to the way the Prophet sometimes recites *God’s words* in otherworldly ways.

Therefore, watch yourself think to see if you seemingly mindlessly change pronouns or thought patterns that could be describing aspects of yourself to you from you. Without more consciously moving in and out of first, second and third-person inner dialogue, you may be figuratively sleepwalking through some of your life, and thereby not giving yourself the intimacy and regard you deserve.

Often when you say something to yourself that’s critical about another person, you’re really speaking about you using the third-person. You’re tactfully and politely alerting you to a flaw you see so clearly in them but haven’t yet looked for in yourself. If you don’t use reverse psychology to question your projections, you’ll discover more and more people around you that you’ll become determined to fix or avoid.

When **GOD** spoke from **HIS** head in Torah, the first-person plural {WE} implied that HE only had angry thoughts about us. When **HE** spoke out loud through Jesus from **HIS** heart in the Bible, **HE** used the first-person plural {WE} to imply HIS love for everyone **HE** had created. But then in the Quran, *God* spoke in the first {I}, second {You} and third-person

{He} singular to imply another place in inner space: **HIS** soul. And it's from this place that **HE** showed us that **HE** could measure **HIS** thoughts against **HIS** feelings to conclude that humanity must give in alms what **HE** gave us. This modeled **HIS** soulful regard for **HIS** creation in three places in inner space.

GOD was asking us for recompense in the same way that a parent would ask a child for acknowledgement of what the parent did for the child. This turns a gift given without ulterior motive into a learning lesson. It teaches the child that there's a moral need to move to a higher level of understanding what life is all about.

The root of self-denial lies in not recognizing who's speaking while you're talking to yourself and where that voice is coming from. You can't really call yourself completely sane if you haven't achieved this rudimentary aspect of self-awareness and awakening. But this can't happen without good listening skills and by forcing inner dialogues with yourself through which you make an effort to use the first, second and third-person, singular pronouns to discover how you're employing them in various situations when talking to yourself. If you don't know who's talking to whom inside you, you're not going to be very successful in increasing your trust in you.

When speaking to yourself, the first-person {I} emanates out from your head. The second-person {you} comes from your heart. And the third-person, {he} is uttered from your soul. Each holds a perspective on your subjective reality that will make your wants verses your desires more evident to you. You can't beguile you if you can observe yourself from three directions in inner space.

In this way, self-denial can become apparent in a variety of external ways. If you find yourself having to repeat what others are saying because you can't perceive their meaning without hearing it in your own voice, or if you mix up letters when reading, leaving you confused by your effort to decode messages – you're likely in denial of some aspect of yourself that you should want to question. Tricking you is easy for you. You've been doing it for years. But you can learn to see through your tricks on your own.

If you suddenly figuratively leave a conversation with another person only to find yourself reliving a moment in your past, or if you find yourself focused on someone's accent, facial gestures or hairstyle instead of their message – you're being drawn away from them toward an ongoing issue you're having within you about you. Making your way through such interruptions is going to be a very long, circuitous and very private path. You made your way into that labyrinth in your mind to escape something you didn't want to admit to you, and so you're going to need to find your own way out of it.

You're not insane. Your head, heart and soul are merely filled with the awe and/or fear of operating you. Doing new things or scary things requires tools you often develop concurrent with external actions. Not everything you need can be anticipated and achieved by your mind. Your faith in yourself will grow stronger as you listen to your feelings and question what makes you angry {red}, anxious {orange}, afraid {yellow}, jealous {jealous} and sad {blue}.

But your faith will also grow if you question happenstance. Nothing happens externally without **GOD's** permission. The more you believe, the more you'll put your trust in the Lord because you'll experience that your trust in you is coming from all that you

learn. This mystery will open you to awe (indigo} and, eventually, to the joy {violet} in being you.

Think of your mind as a freeway you made your way onto in early infancy with words and have been travelling down at an increasingly faster clip ever since. There have been accidents and incidents along the way that forced you to stop by the side of the road or made you choose to get off the freeway to take city streets to slow down your pace; to make your way another way. You've had to exchange the highway for boulevards, avenue, streets and alleyways in your mind. You've had to use words to describe more and more subtle aspects of reality.

We all travel these myriad ways within ourselves. Needless to say, everyone's journey becomes circuitous, and everyone finds himself, from time to time, going down dead ends and even, occasionally, going up one-way streets the wrong way. You may zip mindlessly through certain parts of you you're not yet ready to look at closely, but you should be able to admit there are times when you can see others whizzing down the freeway while you're crawling down a crowded city street inside yourself, cursing the traffic and everyone who's getting in your way.

Over a lifetime you may have found that you're knowledgeable about some parts of this inner town, but not others. Your character defects are like an inner ghetto where you have no map, no sense that law and order will help you if you get into trouble. This ghetto is a place you don't want to go to.¹⁹⁸ But there inside you, you know you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have no idea who'll be there within to help you if you get into trouble. You're alone inside, and you know it. Although these parts of your town are places where we all habitually get lost, they also seem to be where we always find ourselves at the worst possible moments.

When that happens, you may choose to take a nap, overeat, drink, drug or watch porn to help distract you as you unconsciously make your way back from the wrong side of the tracks to the part of town where you know your way around. But you intuitively know you're going to find yourself driving around alone in the ghetto inside you time and again. You may not like to talk about these inner experiences because that part of us is so hard to talk about except through metaphor, symbolism and simile. And you may not be accustomed to accessing that part of you in these ways.

This is a description of the mind. This is the realm of the word "I" where I use this pronoun liberally, not realizing that the definition of the first-person singular excludes everyone. There, above the ghetto in my mind, lies the darkness of inner space where there's nothing but inner points of light seemingly light years away, leaving me wondering about myself, and **GOD**.

The word "you" is less frightening and alone because now there are two voices inside, one speaking to the other. And the word "he" is even less lonely and frightening because now there are two voices inside speaking about a third.

¹⁹⁸ "A ghetto is a part of a city in which members of a minority group live, especially because of social, legal, or economic pressure. The term was originally used in Venice, Italy in the 16th Century to describe that part of the city in which Jews were forced to live. It was not just segregated from the Christians. It was walled and locked with a gate at night." [Wikipedia] Don't for a second jump to the conclusion that there isn't a ghetto in you. There are places in you that nobody wants to go to, not even you.

GOD introduced the ancient Jews to the first level of self-awareness {I}. God introduced the ancient Christians to the second level of self-awareness {you}, which the ancient Jews and Christians quickly, but unconsciously, combined to create combinations of thoughts and feelings that improved their awareness of how they operated themselves. And *God* introduced the ancient Muslims to the third level of self-awareness {s/he}, which the ancient Jews, Christians and Muslims quickly, but unconsciously, combined to expand their understanding of the human condition even further to include a universal place in inner space to hold our thoughts and feelings about our beliefs.

The Jews literally made their way out of the ghetto of Venice, Italy to live amongst the well-heeled uptown, and you can figuratively do so, too. For the past hundred years or so, it's black thoughts we've personified in our mind that we've been learning to tolerate, accept and even admire. When we see black people, we should make a conscious effort not to associate them with the ghetto we sometimes find ourselves in within. There, above the ghetto in the recesses of our mind, there's a canopy of darkness inside that's exciting, mysterious and chilling. That could be a black experience of a positive kind if you'd allow yourself to go there.

If you can't consciously separate black people from the blackness around you, shadow images within you, and the black ghetto with the inner areas that frighten you, you're not going to overcome racism externally and dogma internally. You're going to hear black people complain about the way they're being treated, but you're not going to be able to take it personally. The struggle to get out of the ghetto is ubiquitous. But racism is only an external symptom of an inner illness, an inner misunderstanding of thoughts that could come in so many more than the gray shades between black and white if you included your colorful feelings.

Today, the modern ghetto is like the Castro community in San Francisco. Here gays and lesbians of my generation came to hide from JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* who projected their religious perversions onto us. As you come to admit to yourself that **GOD** created gays and lesbians as gifts to help you come to know and love yourself in all the hues of the rainbow of hope, your devotion to you will grow. And if you choose to give some of that devotion to **GOD**, blacks and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community, that would be a nice gesture. It would be the mature thing to do. But none of that can happen so long as you're struggling with the existence of Israel.

{1} GOD tested Adam by telling him not to eat from the Tree of knowledge. {2} GOD tested Jesus by telling HIM to decide for HIMSELF whether to sacrifice HIMSELF for the sake of man. {3} And GOD is testing you to see if you're going to loath, denigrate and distain gay men as you do yourself. {1} wisdom, {2} love and {3} devotion is the skin, meat and core of forbidden fruits that only the very, very hungry are going to devour. How hungry are you?

One of the lesser-known words for "GOD" in Hebrew is "HAMAKOM," which means "THE PLACE." GOD gave the Jewish people Israel to learn to orient ourselves through our mind. This is the first revelational place where HAMAKOM makes HIMSELF known to us. You can't understand this word for **GOD** unless you explore every place in inner space. You can't understand **GOD** unless you move into the dark spaces with **HIM** by your side.

When we speak about Jerusalem, which means “city of peace,” we’re referring to a place on the planet that corresponds to one of the place names for GOD/GOD/*God*. GOD revealed HIMSELF to Abraham through the Archangel Gabriel when he wanted to sacrifice Isaac on the rock that’s now housed under the Dome of the Rock, which is located on the Temple mount. That was where the first and second Temples had been previously located. GOD revealed HIMSELF through Jesus in the second Temple and nearby in the Old City of Jerusalem. And 800 years later the Prophet ascended to “heaven” from the same rock to convene with Moses and Jesus in “heaven.”

That rock also resides in your imagination, but you can have feelings for it that echo in your heart and beliefs about it that are mirrored in your soul. You just can’t move that rock to another place in inner space. When you think about it or imagine it, the place where that happens will always be in your head.

The mystery of the WORD “HAMAKOM” becomes even more apparent when we look at Jerusalem, Rome and Mecca as places designated by **GOD** as holy. But until you look for the inner places **HE** made holy in you, you’re going to continue to fight over real estate with outsiders. You’re going to recreate the religious wars we learned about in our study of ancient history.

The Babylonian Exile of the Jews from Israel in 586 B.C.E. and the corresponding destruction of the first Temple in Jerusalem was a spiritual challenge for the primitive, ancient Israelis who thought they had literally carried GOD from ancient Egypt to Israel in the Tabernacle under the leadership of Moses and had deposited HIM in the Temple in Jerusalem under the leadership of Solomon. The ancient Jews thought GOD’s presence on Earth emanated only out of Jerusalem. They thought they’d brought HIM home. (And since neither Rome nor Mecca would become a religious site for hundreds and hundreds of years, the ancient Jews were, at the time, right.) It wasn’t until these ancient Jews were slaves crying by the gardens of Babylon, wishing to return to GOD in Israel that they realized HE was everywhere, not just back where they thought they’d left HIM in the Temple.

This realization of the universality of GOD brought with it an incredible opening of the ancient Jewish mind (in a world of indigenists) to the potential of knowing GOD in a way that their Israelite forefathers, more than a thousand years earlier, could never have imagined.¹⁹⁹

There are probably many alleys, twisted passages and paths of denial in your mind that you haven’t had a chance yet to work your way through, and exit. If you’ve ever been to the Old City of Jerusalem, you can imagine your mind like the many ancient passageways there you’d need a lifetime to explore to find your way around. Jerusalem is a mirror of

¹⁹⁹ Upon their return to Israel from Babylon, “NEHEMIAH THE GOVERNOR, EZRA THE PRIEST AND TEACHER OF THE LAW, AND THE LEVITES WHO WERE INSTRUCTING THE PEOPLE, SAID TO THEM ALL, ‘THIS DAY IS HOLY TO THE LORD YOUR GOD. DO NOT MOURN OR WEEP.’ FOR ALL THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN WEeping AS THEY LISTENED TO THE WORDS OF THE LAW.” [Nehemiah 8:9] They were weeping because Torah had been revealed to them in a new, more modern way. GOD, they *then* knew, was everywhere.

your mind. Rome is a mirror of your heart. Rome rests on seven hills. And Mecca is a mirror of your soul. It's a place excluded to nonbelievers.²⁰⁰

The mystery of being you can't be perceived only from the top of the Temple mount where the rock is located on which Isaac was almost sacrificed. You must go to the base of the ruins of the Temple and pray from the Wailing Wall to imagine the span of time behind **GOD's** designs.

Nor can the mystery of being you be perceived only from the Stations of the Cross that Jesus took as HE made HIS way to HIS crucifixion. You must go to Rome and look back on the hardheartedness of the Roman conquerors of Israel to experience HIS sorrow in your own heart. And you must climb those seven hills that correspond to the seven colors of the rainbow HE personified in the flesh.

The mystery of being you can't be perceived only from the top of the Temple mount. Where Muslims stand and look down with audacious condescension on the foolishness of all humanity. You must imagine going to Mecca to see the departure city of Muhammad's flight to "heaven." Jerusalem was just a stopover for him. It wasn't his final destination.²⁰¹

The essence of the "Old City" of Jerusalem for every individual lies in your willingness as a modern citizen of the world to get off the freeway of life with conscious intent to explore the streets where you live. If you're going to make yourself at home here on Earth during your brief sojourn, you're going to want to ask yourself better questions about what you're doing. The answers lie in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, but all the questions lie in you.

Looking down on mankind isn't a JEWISH, CHRISTIAN or *Muslim* privilege. It's the privilege everyone takes when he's younger than his siblings. And it's a privilege everyone takes when he's older than his siblings. You'll need to go up and down the circuitous path on the mountain to discover the meaning of being from the inside out. The babbling idiots who only want to go up the ladder of success are willing to scale those cliffs, but only because they're consumed with the spoils at the top. But what goes up must come down. The tower of Babel story told you that much. Your penis will tell you the same.

Listen to those who contradict themselves as they try to maintain their lofty perspective above those of us who take the slow and steady path around the face of the mountain. Don't think they're smarter than you because they have more money than you and peer down from a lofty, financial height. Their spoils won't include the panorama you have from the many sides of the mountain you've come to know.

Those of us who had mothers who underwent severe trauma in their lives may have been toilet trained and socially engineered using methods that were unforgivingly strict or

²⁰⁰ Without the symbolism of Jesus, it would be impossible to unite these three ideas in your heart. But because you understand yourself as a container filling with spiritual contents, you can organize your head, heart and soul into one organizing principle that's been given one singular direction.

²⁰¹ *Muslims* who believe that conquering Jerusalem yet again will help them achieve their final destination in "heaven" are deluded. From Jerusalem, they'll find the need to proceed to Rome. And while their back will be turned, there'll surely be more trouble brewing in Mecca. They'll externalize their journey through life. But without a corresponding internal journey, that will go against **GOD's** universal plan.

forbearing. We may now understand her reasons, but it's far too late to do anything about the way we came to be who we are. Our anal issues have been set. Our snowflake has its pattern frozen in place.

GOD chose an external Eve {mother} for every Adam, and we just have to live through **HIS** decision by struggling with the repercussions in the way we were raised. We are the way we are because of the wisdom, love and devotion **GOD** gives to **HIS** designs. Your toilet training is the first evidence that you have a singular path that includes no others. There is nothing more personal and private than that.

Now, you just ought to do your best to find your way through the labyrinth of your mind, like a lab rat trying to find the cheese. You may feel that you're in a rat race, but you should do your best to maintain your moral equilibrium inside and out. The only moral recourse you have is to be able to say to yourself that you're determined to win this race without resorting to foul play.

*“Remember how the nonbelievers plotted against you.
They sought to take you captive or have you slain or banished.
They schemed – but God also schemed.
God is most profound in His machinations.”*
[8:30]

“Remember how the nonbelievers plotted against you.
They sought to take you captive or have you slain or banished.
They schemed – but **GOD** also schemed.
GOD is most profound in **HIS** machinations.”

GOD's scheme with humanity began in having given us two worlds (which we often confuse until we're made aware of the importance of them both). If you're claustrophobic on the outside, you're also afraid of getting into tight spots on the inside. If you're afraid of large, open spaces, it corresponds to vast vistas of inner space you're afraid to float through, too.

There's nothing more frightening than an empty head. It's like the moon. It's like a vacuum surrounded by brilliance, darkness and shadowed rocks where you find you're all alone. For those who suffer from dementia, perhaps the emptiness within them is like being on the moon with no way to contact those on Earth. They're forced to look back at the big, collective picture from a singular perspective. If you try to stay above it all like the man on the moon smiling down on the Earth, you'll end up losing the luxury of being grounded in reality with the rest of us here on Earth.

The psychological problems people suffer from are only confounded by wars, economic hardship, loss of loved ones and illness. If you don't take the time to get to know yourself, you're going to come away with conclusions about the meaning of life that will be most regrettable and unfortunate. Your idea of **GOD** may look more like a laboratory

scientist who's putting rats through tests using mazes than you're being influenced with, with new thoughts, feelings, wants and moral standards to help you succeed.

At the time the Prophet lived, practically everyone on the Arabian Peninsula was a nonbeliever. Practically everyone was lost in labyrinths of the mind they couldn't find their way through. And although he was the Prophet who brought the revelation of *God's* third name {*Allāh*} to consciousness, his own inner forces had to go through a self-discovery process unique to him. And he had to do so without the science of psychology. He had to rely on faith. You've got so much more than that today to work with.

This waking up process to the way in which we're made in **GOD's** image is aptly described in fairy tales, myths, legends and short stories. These lessons describe the potential of humanity to become more humane. You can regard these tales told around the world from a psychological and/or spiritual perspective. Either way, these messages are intended to help you find your way through yourself. If you don't take them personally, you're wasting your time reading them. They're really about the prince {Adam} and princess {Eve} in us all.

The 4th Commandment is to keep the sabbath holy. The 4th Commandment, like the fourth dimension, is one of time. You can't keep time sacred if you can't make use of your time to deal with personal matters. Obsessions with destroying the State of Israel, making a killing in the stock market or becoming famous are dead ends. They're external goals that people obsess on rather than working from the inside out. Don't take my **WORD** for it. Do it your way and look back on life to see whether you got what you wanted. Often the classes you're attending in the school of life are unconscious, while, consciously, you're trying only to achieve what you want.

In the above passage from the Quran – “Remember how the nonbelievers plotted against you. They sought to take you captive or have you slain or banished.” – the psychological consequence of feeling taken *captive* corresponds to today's ambivalence and doubts that might paralyze a weak person and keep him from acting righteously on the tenets of his faith. The psychological consequence of feeling *slain* occurs when you destroy your greater, moral goals, and revert to your animal instincts to guide you only externally. And when a person feels *banished*, he's like Adam or Eve, aware of his errors of judgment and despairing of punishment being inflicted upon him without the opportunity to discover the profundity of the truth he's being exposed to. “**GOD** is most profound in **HIS** machinations.”

Although all Scripture relies on pastoral metaphors that include trees, plants, cattle and sheep {or scapegoats}, the mature, modern individual should only use these comparisons to challenge himself to move out of self-denial to greater intimacy with himself before **GOD**. You can't claim to hold an intimate rapport with **HIM** if you've hidden the best of yourself from you.

So many good, older individuals can't give up the need to help others after a lifetime of having projected their goodness outward. They feel lonely, empty and useless if they don't have anyone to love. The golden years are the time in life when you should learn to help, comfort and console yourself {the inner “he”}. If you busied yourself all your life with getting your needs met externally, you ought to want to do something vastly different when you're old and gray. But instead of pursuing self-devotion, most old people get

cranky and morose. They worry about young people's future, when their own is staring them in the face. That's the time to teach others how to learn from their head, heart and soul. But that can only be done if you're doing it, too.

*"Tell the nonbelievers that if they mend their ways
their past shall be forgiven;
but if they persist in sin,
let them reflect upon the fate of bygone nations."
[8:39-40]*

"Tell the nonbelievers that if they mend their ways
their past shall be forgiven;
but if they persist in sin,
let them reflect upon the fate of bygone nations."

This message was interpreted for a long time to mean that Muslims should proselytize to promote the ideals of Islam. But as the WORDS of **GOD** are being spread internally in the soul of every human being on Earth, they're also being spread externally. Today's Muslims are deeper, more profoundly Islamic than their ancestors. They're now ready to take our messages into their hearts and minds.

We're all new and improved variations on our ancestors from the past. We're all more capable of recognizing the mystery of **GOD's** designs for the Western world and individually gifted in purveying it communally through interactions with others, and, if sufficiently evolved, personally within our selves {I/you/he or she}.

If you don't believe the Jews have a fundamental right to their own nation; if you don't believe **GOD** gave the land of Israel to us as a light unto all nations; if you don't believe **GOD** saw to it that the Jews were expelled from Palestine by the Romans after the second Temple was destroyed, 30 years after **HIS** death; if you don't believe *God* insisted that the Jews were given Israel back 2,000 years later after the Holocaust – you simply don't believe in **GOD**. You don't really believe **HE** has a plan that includes you, too. You don't really believe that the mystery of *your* being is an important part of **HIS** story.

What was once called a nonbeliever is today someone who's merely spiritually confused. If you mean little to you, you're going to fight the gays and the Jews to make sure you get a bigger piece of the pie for yourself. You're going to steal forbidden fruit now and ask question later. You're going to choose between living like an ape in an urban jungle or like a rat in a maze. You won't be able to enjoy a bird's eye view. And you're going to spit on the ground at **GOD's** designs and say to yourself, "I'm already in "hell!" Who cares what comes next?"

Changing history by immoral means is for shrewd fools and ignorant imbeciles. The wise, loving and devoted are more interested in living out **GOD's** designs for them to the best of their ability. **HIS** designs for you aren't ever going to change any more than you're able to change your mind. It's not going to be transformed any more than you're able to

transform your heart. And it's not going to be transcended any more than you're able to transcend your soul. To become transfigured, you must repent to yourself (not to GOD/GOD/*God*). And so it all boils down to what's hanging down between your legs or tucked away inside between them. It all depends on what that crafty serpent or worm urges.

They say, "resistance is futile." But I say, "Resistance is fickle." Your wants are what your urges are. If your urge is to rape the land, sea and sky; rape a woman or a child – you may hide your urges behind a leaf, as Adam and Eve did. But you aren't going to be able to hide your theft for very long in the grand scheme of things. Sooner or later, GOD is going to noisily come toward you, crashing through your garden of delights, and you're going to need to answer some very tough questions, just as A&E had to.

The concept of transfiguration is a universal change in the way human beings regard their container and its contents. You can pour orange juice into a milk container. "hell!" You can pour everything you've got into a champagne glass. But that isn't going to change what it tastes like. It doesn't matter what you read on the label; what you tell yourself on the inside; or what you describe to others using your wagging tongue. Your nose knows.

We already see Asians mastering classical music; black men mastering golf; black women mastering tennis; white women doing everything white men can do; and gays and lesbians mastering child rearing. Don't think that **GOD's** designs are limited to the horizons you see before you now. Just keep moving forward with hope. Your horizons will change slowly. You aren't going to fall off the edge of your inner world. I promise. Your inner world may be round, but there's a gravity to your being that will keep your feet on the ground.

Today, we should all reflect upon the fate of bygone nations. There's no reason to believe **GOD** owes any nation more attention now than in the past. Not even allowing the Jews to hold onto Israel for the past 3,400 years has been within our grasp. And yet, **GOD** always seems to give us more chances to redeem ourselves despite our inconsequential numbers and unwise ways. For Jerusalem to become a light unto the nations, Rome and Mecca will need to reflect on the light they shine and where all those lights emanate from.

There are relatively few nonbelievers left. Only about a third of the Jewish and Christian worlds profess no faith in **GOD**, and yet guilt is spreading within like wildfire. The world is actually more full of guilty people than faithful believers. People just call themselves "spiritual" nowadays because the religious have given religion such a bad name.

Today we use metaphor, symbols and signs without acknowledging that words are miraculous gifts from **GOD** that hold stories, parables and allegories we need to give life meaning. We use electricity and running water without acknowledging that WIFI and indoor plumbing would be construed as magic to our ancestors. Today's spiritualists watch movies to believe for 90 minutes at a time. They don't yet have the strength to believe 24 hours a day. Hollywood has become their Jerusalem, and actors play the roles of rabbis, priests and ministers. We're all waiting for better actors to come along to play the roles of imams and clerics. Good scripts for them haven't yet been written.

"Know that 1/5th of your spoils shall belong to God,

*the Apostle, the Apostle's kinfolk, the orphans, the destitute
and the traveler in need."*
[8:41]

"Know that 1/5th of your spoils shall belong to **GOD**,
the apostle, the apostle's kinfolk, the orphans, the destitute
and the traveler in need."

Some of your spoils will need to be given to those who haven't yet been as spoiled as you are. When you look at your material wealth as spoils, you'll realize how hard the fight was to achieve the possessions you have. But when you realize how grateful you are for all that you have, you also know you can't hold that gratitude without sharing with others how thankful you are for it.

As I age, I look at my wrinkles as where my smiles have been, and my illnesses as the wars I've won. I'm the greatest spoil in my life. But even my body, the container of all that I am, I'll eventually have to relinquish. If not for my contents, what am I?

Descartes said, "Je pense, donc je suis." {French: I think, therefore I am.}. Any good Christian will tell you he feels; therefore he is. And a good Muslim will get into the conversation by insisting he believes; therefore he is.

I say, "I fill; therefore I am." The WORD "SHALOM" {peace} comes from the verb LISHALEM "to fill." Peace, like the consumption of food and knowledge, is a filling process: a sacred form of symbolism. Jesus wasn't the first man to model peace. **HE** was the first man to personify peace.

The gifts of faith first had to be distributed externally before they could be distributed internally. They had to be morally disseminated in a holy manner everywhere around us before we could earn the right to disseminate our faith in ourselves from our **SOURCE** within. This is the process of growing up. This is the process of creating thankfulness to your parents, completing the first tablet of the Ten Commandments and moving on to the second tablet.

Don't try to convert people to your faith. Don't try to make them live by your religious laws. Teaching others about the miracles "your" GOD/GOD/*God* has given you won't help them find **GOD** any way they like. Just remind them that **GOD** is bigger than GOD, GOD or *God*. Remind them that **HE**'s got the whole world in **HIS** hands.²⁰²

You're the neediest person in your life. Charity begins at home.²⁰³ It's easy to see that most people spend 4/5th of their worry on matters that concern those they love, but they often ignore their own desires, thereby wasting that last 1/5th of their wealth entirely. And

²⁰² "**HE**'s got the whole world in **HIS** hands": song first published in the paperbound hymnal, *Spirituals Triumphant, Old and New* in 1927.

²⁰³ Even though 1/5th of your external spoils must be given to others as charity, 4/5th of your internal spoils must be given to yourself as charity. Four out of your five 5^{ths} are your (1) thoughts, (2) feelings (3) beliefs, and (4) wants. Your fifth 5th is what you give to others through what you desire. If not, it becomes the ego that turns your square into a pentagon.

then they may wonder why they sometimes come away feeling emptier after they give to charity than they were before.

You may have had to be a traveler in need, destitute or an orphan in the literal sense to understand the importance of this passage from the Quran through your own life. In other words, you may have had to go through great pain and suffering to personalize the *words* of the Prophet.

The word “spoils” literally means “goods stolen or taken forcibly from a person or place.” But the spoils you covet that you’ve stolen from yourself will not only give you personal reasons to believe you have the right to steal from others. Your spoils in the outer world will reinforce previous thefts you’ve committed against yourself. And for this, you’ll be judged severely if you don’t wake up to what you’re doing.

In the past, when the family unit was extremely rigid; when divorce was nonexistent; and when birthright and inheritance were proscribed by religious law – men and women might have felt more content to sacrifice themselves for others and reserve little of their self for themselves. Nowadays, however, people are more self-centering, less selfish or selfless. If you want to go back to bygone days when people were more committed to their little, external world, you’re going to give up all the self-awareness you’ve worked so hard to attain. You’re going to go in the direction of the extremists in the Abrahamic faiths.

The right-wing CHRISTIAN believes the world is 6,000 years old. And, in a heartfelt way, he’s right. When modern man looks at his liberation from nature, he sees himself in a godly way. He sees himself as a steward of the world and not a part of it. He’s sees himself from a higher plane of reality. (But it’s a good thing he has Jews, Christians and Muslims to bring him down to reality or he’ll continue to blame the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community for Hurricane Katrina...)

At one time, the Syrians were the worst anti-Zionists in the *Muslim* world. They hated the Israelis with a ferocity not seen in any of the other Islamic tribes. Now those few, surviving Syrians who are struggling in bombed out Syrian towns, Jordanian refugee camps or languishing in Turkey ought to be asking themselves what their anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and homophobia got them. How did it bring them honor in *God’s* eyes?

The way it works out is the way it had to work out given who you once were. Change your mind and you change your luck. Transform your heart; transcend your soul – and your fate will turn into an unimagined destiny. But if you don’t do all three, read on. The Prophet has more bad news for you.

The orphan is that part of you that may feel abandoned, alone and alien in society. The orphan in you will always be in need of internalized, socialization skills, support and understanding. To spend time with yourself, as one would with an orphan, will enrich you in sharing yourself with greater, righteous regard for the odd, queer and strange people you run into around you. Treat your inner child like someone else’s child and you’ll find you’ll treat yourself a lot better.

The destitute voices within you are conclusions that leave you believing you’ve been overlooked by your GOD, God or *God*; that you’re extrinsic to **HIS** designs. Your destitute conclusions may frighten, anger and frustrate you, as well they should. If you don’t fight these ideas with moral self-support, you’ll surely see yourself become jealous of what **GOD** gives others. And that’s a very impoverished way to look at your life. The feeling of

dread and eventual catastrophe you may experience when you wake up in the morning would then be justified.

The traveler in need comes directly out of Torah. Abraham's hospitality to the three strangers tested him to determine if he was truly a man of spiritual wealth {i.e. faithfulness}. When you test yourself; when you share yourself with you; and when you commend yourself for your pursuit of the mystery of **GOD's** intentions for you – you behave like a father of multitudes {Abraham}, not just the exalted father {Abram} you previously saw in you. Then every person who comes to you represents an aspect of GOD/GOD/*God* that's drawing you nearer to **HIM**.

Going from boyhood to manhood is harder than it may have first looked. When you realize you work at maturation both internally and externally, you see how challenging a job you've been given by **GOD**. Being you is a lifelong project. None of us have reasons to be arrogant. But if we don't find good reasons to be proud of ourselves, we become smug instead. Smugness, not pride, cometh before the fall. ²⁰⁴

*“The hypocrites and those whose hearts were tainted,
said,
‘Their religion has deceived them.’
But he who puts his trust in God
shall find God mighty and wise.”*
[8:49]

“The hypocrites and those whose hearts were tainted,
said,
‘Their religion has deceived them.’
But he who puts his trust in **GOD**
shall find **GOD** mighty and wise.”

The Prophet had to have known that faith is a mysterious process that works differently through individuals, communities and faith-based systems. He had to have known that all those who put their trust in either GOD, God or *God* would eventually find HIM, Him or *Him* mighty and wise. It takes faith in GOD, God and *God* to create faith in **GOD**. You've lost nothing by getting this far using the path you've taken. But be very careful from here on out. It only gets harder.

When you run low on faith, you certainly won't be able to create more faith in yourself if you witness you destroying, cheating, stealing, lying or coveting what others have that you haven't yet been given. Those of little faith become cruel and oppressive over time – even murderous. (That's not just a JEWISH, CHRISTIAN or *Muslim* problem. That's a Jewish, Christian *and* Muslim problem.)

²⁰⁴ “PRIDE COMETH BEFORE THE FALL.” [Proverbs: 16:18]

To build faith in yourself, you should witness you doing good and watching as your good thoughts turn into self-love, and, with enough expression, into self-devotion. Each of these three cups {head, heart and soul} must runneth over. Only in this way will you be able to face **GOD** without making excuses for your minor self-indulgences. Only in this way will you put your education in the school of life first. You can't tutor others in subjects you haven't passed.

Giving to you first may make you very uncomfortable, especially if you were brought up in a household where *giving* was considered much godlier than *taking* or even receiving. If so, you're going to force yourself to put your spiritual needs on a pedestal that stands above all other needs. You can't give to others any more than you've received from yourself. But you can't receive from yourself unless you respect the one giving. This is another spiritual Catch-22.

The more you give to you, the more you'll give to them. And the more you take pleasure from giving to them, the more you'll receive pleasure from being you. It may seem counterintuitive to put yourself first, but if you try doing it gently, you'll see that it works far better than the way you may have been giving previously. You'll become a gentleman or lady from the inside out.

Altering your behavior is the consequence of changing your thinking, transforming your feelings and transcending your beliefs. The experiences you've been through in the world around you prove that you've evolved thus far. Prayer is particularly helpful in this regard because it makes your partnership with yourself a topic of discussion with your **CREATOR**. It involves **HIM** in Your ongoing projects. It turns you into an angel in disguise who you're disclosing to yourself.

Talking to my mother is like praying. Her dementia is so severe that she can't always even acknowledge that she knows it's me on the phone. And even though I can't see her and get no verbal clues that she hears me, I have faith that she's receiving my message in her soul because our relationship has been forged over so many years.

When I wake up in the morning, the first thing I do is look around inside at where I was all night. Then I begin to reorient myself to my place in outer space. I experience a spiritual reawakening to HAMAKOM {**PLACE**} that makes each day a holy experience of me with myself in the presence of our **TEACHER**. Then dread of what might happen that day or worry about my final Day of Judgment {death} become manageable.

The time to begin your prayers is when you've oriented yourself to both your worlds, even if it's just a nod or "good morning" to the **PROFESSOR** as you feel yourself entering that day's classroom. That will prepare you for a full day of relationships with your classmates that will be enlightening, revealing and hopeful. If you think of your classmates as good books, you'll be able to tell yourself that you spent the day reading when your head hits the pillow that night.

To pray on your feet on Saturdays like a Jew; to pray on your knees on Sundays like a Christian; and to pray prostrate on the ground on Fridays like a Muslim – really requires that you begin by praying at ease in bed every morning and night when reclining alone. It would behoove you to speak to your **MAKER** in a relaxed and comfortable manner about the challenge in being "I" {from your head}; "you" {from your heart}; and "he" or "she" {from your soul} before beginning the duties of the day and after completing them.

For the Prophet to have seen the hypocrisy in others, he must have been able to see hypocrisy at its source, in himself. There's no way anyone can detect the weaknesses in others if he isn't clued into those weaknesses through his own life experiences. To have lived like a hermit in a cave must have been an incredible experience, one we should emulate without literally having to be surrounded by solid rock with only an angel looking over our shoulder to talk to.

Those who are young and naïve may not be able to see duplicity in others. But that's because they're equally clueless to duplicity in themselves. You can't dedicate your life to helping others if you aren't looking for ways to break through self-denial to help you see through yourself. Helping others should always be for practice. In the end, their grades won't be going on your report card anyway. Tutoring or helping them will convince the **TEACHER** you're ready to be given the extra credit assignments you'll need to get that "A" in self-love and devotion you'll need when taking your final exam.

The difference between "helping yourself" and "helping your self" is enormous when you give thought to the inflection of your words and the essence behind the differences in meaning. The former is said in a lower tone of voice. The latter creates a high note that holds quite some tension. The former puts the emphasis on "helping" and deals with self-indulgence. The latter puts the emphasis on "self" and deals with self-improvement and the importance of the self in contrast to others.

These aspects of spirituality have been recently incorporated into the field of linguistics thanks to oriental, tone languages, but this knowledge wasn't available to ancient Abrahamic man. It's taken an enormous increase in our understanding of the world around us to appreciate the complexity of our world within and the way **GOD** made life to be about self-discovery. WORDS/WORDS/*Words* will become your best friends if you learn how to use them more creatively and accurately.

*"Like Pharaoh's people and those before them,
they disbelieved their Lord's revelations.
Therefore We will destroy them for their sins
just as We drowned Pharaoh's people.
They were wicked men all."*

[8:54]

*"Like Pharaoh's people and those before them,
they disbelieved their Lord's revelations.
Therefore **WE** will destroy them for their sins
just as WE drowned Pharaoh's people.
They were wicked men all."*

GOD will destroy the sinful today, just as HE destroyed Pharaoh's people then. GOD drown them in the Red Sea, but then HE slowly allowed the offspring of the Pharaoh's men to participate in HIS design through memories of their experiences of the Ten Plagues. HE later let their descendants become aware of HIS presence semiconsciously through Jesus.

And HE made their descendants aware of *His* presence consciously through the Prophet Muhammad. Which aspect of **GOD** would you cut out in your effort to have and hold your penis with understanding? Circumcising it wasn't enough. Circumcising your heart hasn't been enough. Clearly, you need your soul circumcised, too.

Today's Egypt is replete with true believers. But there are true believers on all geographic sides of Egypt who don't hold the history of the Egyptians. **GOD's** designs are truly magnificent, but it'll become even more miraculous when gay-Jews can live in Egypt without fear of true believers discriminating against them or physically harming them. It's time for all true believers to grow up.

*“If they incline to peace,
make peace with them,
and put your trust in God.
It is surely He who hears all and knows all.
Should they seek to deceive you,
God is all-sufficient for you.
He has made you strong with His help
and rallied the faithful around you,
making their hearts one.
If you had given away all the riches of the earth,
you could not have so united them;
but God has united them.
He is mighty and wise.”
[8:60-64]*

*“If they incline to peace,
make peace with them,
and put your trust in **GOD**.
It is surely **HE** who hears all and knows all.
Should they seek to deceive you,
GOD is all-sufficient for you.
HE has made you strong with **HIS** help
and rallied the faithful around you,
making their hearts one.
If you had given away all the riches of the earth,
you could not have so united them;
but **GOD** has united them.
HE is mighty and wise.”*

People rarely look at themselves from the outsider's point of view. They may try to imagine gay, male sexual relations, but they don't try to think about gay life in a straight world and how **GOD** has conditioned us so differently from them. Gay people see straight people as perpetrators of crimes against their own humanity. I see us as martyrs to a greater cause that's more meaningful to **GOD's** designs than making babies.

The Jews have always been perceived of as the perpetrators of crimes against GOD/*God*. (We even judge one another as perpetrators of crimes against GOD.) The Christians have always perceived themselves as religious victims. (If you ask the CHRISTIANS why they killed 6,000,000 Jews, they'll eventually be forced to admit they did it in revenge for what they claim the ancient Jews did to Jesus.)

And Muslims see themselves as martyrs. The *Muslims* are never going to rest until Israel has been wiped off the map and every Jew in the world has been murdered. (I'll discuss our crime in their eyes later.) Like the CHRISTIANS, the *Muslims* see the Jews as perpetrators of evil. The problem for the *Muslims* is that every time they conspire with the CHRISTIANS to eradicate the Jews, things only seem to get worse for the two of them. Their GOD/*God* works in mysterious ways.

From my gay-Jewish sexual perspective on life, I see a whole lot of sadists, masochists and voyeurs in this world. Pain/pleasure alliances are very common in the S&M community in the gay world. One man offers to inflict pain on another, and the other allows him to do so for the sexual gratification and pleasure he receives from the experience. And they both come away with a sheepish grin on their face because despite the guilt, there's a good deal of joy they derive from their relationship of pain and pleasure. And we know all about that because the voyeurs who enjoy learning about sex have told us what they saw.

Gay sadists don't charge gay masochists to hurt them. In the gay community, pain is considered a reward freely given. It isn't considered a form of suffering. Gay men may use drugs and alcohol to facilitate their alliances, but because we've suffered so much in society, the thought of having to pay one another to inflict or receive pain isn't something I imagine would be a part of these sexual alliances.

In the straight world, the religious fanatics want to die martyrs so they'll be ushered into "paradise," deserving of GOD's/GOD's/*God's* rewards. This is why they allow their leaders to say and do almost anything, regardless of whether it's morally sound, painful or downright evil. The hypocrisy of the religious extremists is based on the desire for self-sacrifice which they then reward with selfishness. And all this is done secretly so no one finds out how they behave. In San Francisco, by contrast, you see male sadists and masochists walking arm in arm.

In national and world events, you see sadists arm in arm with other sadists. Politics and money make abominably sadistic bedfellows. But we, the masses, watch the cruelty they perpetrate unaware, until the press teaches us how we've been cheated once again.

Right wing, straight men penetrate the masses with murder, cheating, thefts and lies. Gay men only penetrate their boyfriends literally. The religious right cause unwanted suffering for millions of innocent women and children. Gay men gleeful pierce one another in the privacy of their home. You tell me who's more deserving of a "heavenly" reward.

As *Muslims* begin to observe how they're recreating the sadism and masochism evident in Judeo-Christian societies in the past, they're going to learn how to avoid our mistakes without blaming all the problems in the modern world on gays and Jews. They're going to admit that *Muslims* are the worst of the worst sadists. *Muslims* are going to admit that their faith has not only turned them into Abrahamic martyrs, it's unconsciously turned many good Muslims into sadists, masochists and voyeurs.

We can all see how CHRISTIANS gave themselves permission in the past to kill Jews out of religious revenge rather than admit to the sheer pleasure in having done so. The "Final Solution" wasn't a heartfelt pleasure brought down to them by Jesus. It was wicked delight that originated from a whole other place in inner space.

Muslims can see these sado-masochistic tendencies in themselves and are coming to realize that they aren't **GOD's** only martyrs. In fact, martyrdom goes all the way back to early Judaism.²⁰⁵

In the gay world, any voyeur of voyeurs will tell you that the voyeur always seems to get caught up in the action subjectively, even if he doesn't literally participate. Watching the show never seems to be enough. And so the pain/pleasure concept spreads from sexuality into the realm of psychology, sociology and spirituality. For some, the pain/pleasure concept doesn't seem to stop in the bedroom. Don't limit morality to sex, or you'll make grave errors of judgment in all your affairs.

Such is the consequence of picking forbidden fruit when your desires are affecting your unconscious unconsciously. Until you learn how to bring to consciousness the forces within you so you can observe them, you're going to use the world around you as a laboratory to magnify your urges and impulses. But you're not going to be able to bring the results of your experiments into the inner classroom to discuss what they mean.

I'm not suggesting you give up your sexual fantasies and proclivities. Your sexual inclinations are mirrors of your desires. But if you've been so inhibited by your parents, tradition and your fear of your GOD/GOD/*God* that you refuse to make these connections intellectually, you're going to get just what you deserve at times of **GOD's** choosing. If you don't want to get to know yourself, there are others who are working overtime to figure out other people's vulnerabilities. And if they see you as a victim-type, they'll try to take advantage of you

GOD carves each and every snowflake personally. **HE** molds every leaf and shapes every grain of sand. **HIS** patience with nature is a sign of **HIS** nature. But it's also a sign of **HIS** patience with man's nature. If you want to move in **HIS** direction, learn to shape

²⁰⁵ "The most famous act of Jewish martyrdom occurred in 74 C.E. at the ancient fortress of MASADA. Masada was an ancient fortification in Israel situated on top of an isolated rock plateau, akin to a mesa, overlooking the Dead Sea. Herod the Great built palaces for himself on this plateau and fortified Masada between 37 and 31 B.C.E. The siege of Masada by troops of the Roman Empire at the end of the first Jewish-Roman war ended in the mass suicide of 960 Jews in 74 C.E. They killed themselves rather than die at the hands of the Romans or be taken in chains to Rome as slaves for the third time in history." [Wikipedia]

yourself yourself. Pour yourself like water into the many containers your mind can create. If you want to move in **HIS** direction, grow new leaves of modesty each season with awe at the way in which you were made. If you want to ground yourself in the mystery of thought, examine every thought you produce like a grain of sand created with a shape intended to inspire only you.

GOD unites the world, albeit it slowly. **HE**'s mightier than you. **HE**'s wiser than you. Look to the Land of Milk and Honey for examples of the wisdom you could be conferring upon yourself. Don't judge the Israelis by the love or devotion with which you should be judging yourself.

Do the ultra-orthodox **JEWS** *hate* the Jews and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community? I think they do! They do nothing to lift a finger for the military security of Israel, and they banish their children if they turn out gay. I think the ultra-orthodox **JEWS** are shrewd enough to hide their feelings from plain sight. I think they're sharp enough to hide the arrogance that keeps them from taking our Scripture personally by covering themselves with leaves of modesty. And I think they think that their guilt won't ever show. When I studied Torah with Jews/**JEWS**, I found fascinating what I learned about me. Try it. You'll see. Studying Torah with Jews/**JEWS** really helped me!

The self-loyalty **GOD** has in store for you will make your chest burst with pride if you internalize your loyalty to all three of the Abrahamic faiths. You have no reason to fight with your Abrahamic brothers. You should even question whether you have any good reasons to fight with yourself. You could be pursuing peace, rather than war, from within. You could be learning to love the one you're with!

*“Those who have embraced the faith
and fled their homes
and fought for the cause of God,
and those who have sheltered them and helped them –
they are the true believers.
Forgiveness and a gracious provision await them.”
[8:74]*

“Those who have embraced the faith
and fled their homes
and fought for the cause of **GOD**,
and those who have sheltered them and helped them –
they are the true believers.
Forgiveness and a gracious provision await them.”

The spoils of this world are going to the spoiled. And all of us want to be a little spoiled. Like fruit fallen from a tree, we lie on the ground rotting. We're decaying, slowly returning to the earth out of which we came.

The world is dying because you're dying. The fate of this world lies in your hands because your fate lies in your hands. The world will only live if you learn to live forever,

and that will only happen if you pursue redemption and give up the superiority complex that keeps you so high and mighty here and now.

Today, it's the Christian nations that are burdened with refugees from Islamic lands, and who knows if these millions of refugees are anti-Semites, anti-Zionists and homophobes who'll teach their children to loath gays and Jews. I can see why there's so much resistance to letting them into Christian countries.

But we shouldn't stop ourselves from moving our hatred through fear to our anger; through our anger to our sorrow; and through our sorrow to our lust for love. *Muslims* will always believe they, alone, are the only true believers. They won't take responsibility for the Arab Spring having taken Islam back into winter. JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* never learn through pain and suffering what Scripture could mean to them personally. Ironically, they're the least spiritual people on Earth.

It's a pity gay men in the Muslim world aren't asked their opinion on religious matters. Who would think that a "pervert" could teach you so much about yourself? Who would have imagined that **GOD**, in **HIS** infinite wisdom, thought to create one community that would stand outside all other communities until **HE** was ready to help the true believers appreciate the way **HE** made them?

The CHRISTIAN extremists will never give up their lust for Israel. They're promising their followers that Israel will again be theirs when Jesus returns. The *Muslims* extremists will never give up their lust for Israel. They're promising their followers that Israel will be theirs in their lifetime. Even the extremist JEWS greedily lust for the spoils of Israel for themselves.

Meanwhile, the rest of us are slowly discovering that our own inner Israel must be protected from all three of them. If we don't internalize the spiritual purpose of **GOD** having created Israel in the first place, the struggle, crusade and jihad over Israel will never end.

The flag of your inner Israel is like the rainbow flag.²⁰⁶ It promises you hope personified as love in the flesh. This is a hope **GOD** first brought to Earth as a distant rainbow in the sky for Noah. But it became the coat of many colors Jacob gave to his favorite son, Joseph. Jesus became the manifestation of that hope in the flesh in the heart of Christians. He became hope personified. The Prophet brought that hope into the soul of every Muslim, and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community holds that hope high for people of every race, religion, gender and sexual identity on Earth.

Like the German composer Beethoven, uneducated people may shake their fist at **GOD/GOD/God** when they become spiritually deaf to **HIS** message. They may become spiritually blind to the human diaspora in today's world that mirrors the 2,000-year long Diaspora **HE** inflicted upon the Jews. History repeats itself in individuals and nations so

²⁰⁶ The rainbow is the metaphor, symbol and sign of hope. It's a hope you can perceive in the darkness of your inner night with just a scant few of **GOD's** footlights {stars} around you. The rainbow is made up of all the colored lights of **GOD's** love surrounded by a universe of black guilt.

that those today who didn't live through it the first time can learn the lessons of life for a new age using the wisdom, love and devotion gleaned from their own experiences.

Unless the imams and clerics of today begin to study Torah and the Gospels with rabbis, priests, pastors and ministers, the future of Islam will remain in serious trouble. The Middle East will remain a battle over Jerusalem, instead of the Jerusalem it's intended to be within the heart of every one of us. When every man can find his own way to his city of peace from within, Israel will become our unique and individual struggle with **GOD**, and not the struggle with **GOD/GOD/God** we still struggle with today.

The future of Jerusalem depends on the future of the Abrahamic faiths. Jerusalem isn't going anywhere. Judaism isn't going anywhere. Israel isn't going anywhere. The L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community isn't going anywhere. Christians and Muslims aren't going anywhere. We're all a part of **GOD's** designs. If Muslims want to live in peace beside us in a Jewish land, they're welcome to become our friends. They can have it no other way.

But first they must prove that they're willing to express their gratitude to **GOD** for **HIM** allowing them to become the last newcomers to the systems of faith and **philosophy**. Next they must appreciate Israel for its existence and perseverance. Lastly, they must fly the flag of Israel and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community as a sign of their thankfulness for what non-Muslims have done to help them develop themselves over the past 1,400 years.

Jerusalem will always be the capital of Israel, even if Jerusalem serves as an inner world heritage site for all the Abrahamic faiths. Those who hate the thought of that happening really only hate themselves. They're deluding themselves with desires that hide their true intentions. They're not being honest, sincere or authentic with themselves because they aren't capable of being genuine.

"**GOD** don't make no junk!" ²⁰⁷ HE didn't create Jews for practice in making Christians. And *He* didn't make Christians for practice in perfecting Muslims. **HE** didn't burn his molds by mistake when **HE** created Africans. **HE** didn't make man for practice before creating woman. And **HE** didn't create man with an anus just to remove food from his physiologic system.

If straight children think gay children are clay too dirty for them to play with, straight children are going to discover their arrogance in mysterious ways of **GOD's** choosing. As the Prophet says, we're not your keepers (and you're not ours).

The spoils are for those who are spoiled, and we've all been spoiled. The more you can admit that you've been spoiled, the more you should look at your spiritual, bank account to see how deep it may be in the red. You may have overcharged your credit limit, and you may not even know it. Don't wait for a call from your **BANKER**. They're never fun.

The Christians do a very fine job of teaching people to add up their blessings from **GOD** like positive numbers. The Muslims do a very fine job of teaching people to add up their curses from *God* like negative numbers to avoid the "hell" to come. But if you're so spoiled that you look at Israel only as the spoils of war, you'd better learn to account for

²⁰⁷ "**GOD** don't make no junk!" is the first studio album by the American, indie, rock band The Halo Benders, released in 1994.

what you're doing to yourself and how it's taking you into the red {anger}. You may be more in debt to yourself (and the **BANK**) than you think.

Surah 9

Repentance

This is the only surah in the Quran that doesn't begin with the invocation "*In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.*"

The tendency of man to make mistakes and compound them with even more egregious errors of judgment is renown worldwide and throughout history. There always seems to be another "hell" below the "hell" he finds himself in. And yet, he egotistically and smugly thinks he's going in the right direction because the way that he's going happens to conform to some scriptural passage he likes to quote as his entire philosophy of life. If not for the constant course corrections **GOD** makes to take the future out of men's hands, we'd surely have been lost long ago.

The history of the Jews is a great example of how deeply HIS chosen people have had to depend on **HIM** to keep us learning, growing and evolving long after HE first introduced HIMSELF to us as a people 600,000 strong in ancient Egypt. Today's modern Jews are so vastly different from our ancestors that, apart from the Hebrew language and Israel, we have little in common with the mentality of our spiritual predecessors. We not only eat at the same table as other believers. I, for one, have enjoyed praying with my Abrahamic brothers and sisters in churches and mosques, as well as in every kind of synagogue there is.

Repentance might be compared to being given the opportunity of repeating a class in the school of life you didn't pass the first time by taking it pass/fail instead of for a grade. Repentance is a gracious gift from our **TEACHER** that gives the elementary and secondary school student of life a chance to retake a spiritual subject with different classmates in a different classroom setting. But if you think you get the same luxury at the university level of life without paying a substantial price for having squandered your earlier education, you're deluding yourself. An "Incomplete" is a serious grade in the school of life.

Repentance is a necessity in the metaphor of life as a learning experience. No man is so clever that he can outsmart himself. No man can make his way through all the layers of "hellish" lessons in this world and come out the other end in "paradise" without having done any homework. Self-denial ultimately leads all of us to see that we've overlooked something important. We all hide some things from ourselves in the labyrinths of our being where it might take us decades to find our way to them in consciousness. Without heartfelt concern for your college-level loyalty to yourself, you may not be able to get through the maze inside without suffering from confused thoughts, jumbled feelings and muddled beliefs.

*"Know that you shall not escape God's judgment,
and that God will humble the nonbelievers."*

[9:2]

*"Know that you shall not escape **GOD**'s judgment,
and that **GOD** will humble the nonbelievers."*

GOD humbles those who believe less faithfully than they behave so that their children will learn to avoid the errors of their parents by having witnessed their parents' pain and suffering. Today, very few nonbelievers are causing the major problems in this world. Most of the world's major problems are caused by fanatical believers who use the forces below their belt unconsciously to take what they want.

In today's world, it's the believers who are humbling us to truths about reality we didn't previously see in ourselves. It's not nonbelievers who are doing so. Much of the Far East is filled with nonbelievers who rely on rich, spiritual **philosophies** to guide them. And they may well be looking at us with disdain at how we fight over what appears to be nothing but greedy outcomes. They don't think they need to learn about **GOD** to conclude that we're idiots. Little do they, too, consciously know about how they were made in **GOD's** image.

GOD surely would like everyone to advance in **HIS** classes; grow tall in **HIS** garden; and evolve in **HIS** natural setting from animal to angel. But for you to do so, you ought to acknowledge that people are often so quarrelsome by nature that in order to advance, they find themselves painted into corners where embarrassment, shame and humiliation are the black feelings that drive them forward to the next step they must take. Self-sacrifice would be less of a sacrifice if modern man were more willing to move through bad feelings about himself in the moment in order to learn more about himself in the long run.

"God and His Apostle are under no obligation to the idolaters.

*If you repent,
it shall be well with you;
but if you pay no heed,
know that you shall not be immune from God's judgment."
[9:3]*

"GOD and HIS apostle are under no obligation to the idolaters.

**If you repent,
it shall be well with you;
but if you pay no heed,
know that you shall not be immune from GOD's judgment."**

The assumption made in this passage is that the Arabian idolaters in those days would read the Quran without realizing that everything written in it would augment what **GOD/GOD** had written before and what *God* would intend thereafter. No one then or thereafter would be immune from **GOD's** judgment. Sadly, **JEWS, CHRISTIANS and Muslims** missed that point.

The *Islamic* terrorist today who thinks he has license to kill because Islam is the only *Word* of *God* is blind to the truth and therefore will pay a terrible price in the "world to

come.” And those who promote terrorism with arms or financial compensation to the families of terrorists are also making their way down, not up, the ladder. Beware Iran!

There’s a little nonbeliever in us all who hopes to get better treatment than everyone else. Even the Prophet must have once been a nonbeliever to perceive where others were coming from. How else could he have understood the previous paths to GOD/GOD so thoroughly? The revelation he personally went through made him the perfect Prophet for doubters, disbelievers and those in denial. His perspective on the previous Abrahamic faiths gave him wisdom in his heart of hearts {soul}.

Moses had also once been a nonbeliever. He’d been a prince out of touch with the faith the Israelites held that their GOD would someday redeem them from bondage. He was physically, emotionally and spiritually separated from them in his youth due to financial circumstances beyond his control.²⁰⁸ He killed an ancient Egyptian slave driver out of a rage that emerged seemingly from nowhere. And yet, it was his separateness that made him such a good candidate for the spiritual mission GOD brought to him.

Jesus was just the opposite of Moses. HE was more in touch with GOD’s presence than the Jews HE lived with thanks to HIS love, rather than fear of GOD. HE was born in BETHLEHEM {house of bread}, grew up in NAZARETH {sprout, shoot} and died in Jerusalem “city of peace,” then the Jewish capital colonized by the Romans. HIS associations with outer place mirrored HIS journey through the inner space of the Jewish heart. And HE was crucified for HIS dream of bringing GOD’s love to consciousness in everyone.

The Prophet wrote the Quran based on inspiration and revelation from both Biblical sources as well as his personal contribution to the unfolding of our understanding of GOD’s designs. (You can’t know in advance the inner path you’re going to take through the layers of your head and heart. You can’t know how you’ll pull yourself through to a sense of soulful regard for the miracle of life. All we can say about our individual journeys is that they appear to be part of greater designs.)

Synchro-mysticism claims that all symbols and signs hold multiple layers of meaning, histories and interpretations that will lead to greater unification of our understanding of reality.²⁰⁹ Given enough time and knowledge, all symbols and signs will eventually be found to contain information about all others facets of life. Each piece of a 2-D puzzle we build in our mind has the potential to become holographic in nature over time if we get out of our head. With love and devotion, the personal will become universal, 3-D and real.

*“Proclaim a woeful punishment to the nonbelievers,
except to those idolaters who have honored their treaties with you in every detail*

²⁰⁸ Because of the edict to kill all Jewish baby boys, Moses’s mother put him in a basket on the Nile to be carried away by the current. He was found and raised by the princess of the Pharaoh. He lived in luxury in the royal palace while the Israelites toiled in slavery building the pyramids we see today in Egypt. Today’s march for freedom, liberty and emancipation is for everyone in the Abrahamic faiths, not just the Jews or for the financially disenfranchised.

²⁰⁹ “Synchro-mysticism” is the quest for the divine through the connection of the objective and the subjective, the external world and our internal, subjective response to the external world.

*and aided none against you.
With these keep faith,
until their treaties have run their term.
God loves the righteous.”*
[9:4]

“Proclaim a woeful punishment to the nonbelievers,
except to those idolaters who have honored their treaties with you in every detail
and aided none against you.
With these keep faith,
until their treaties have run their term.
GOD loves the righteous.”

Keeping treaties with people you don't respect is only for practice. Keeping a promise of fidelity to your spouse is just a rehearsal. To make your words more meaningful, you're going to come to appreciate the depth of all words. You're going to do more than teach your children to keep their word. You're going to suffer each and every time you break your word with you. And that will be the deepest cut of all.

As the depth of a man's word and the WORDS of **GOD** are unified, they naturally reveal synchro-mysticism. The world within him and the world around him will begin to converge in a way that makes him saner and more spiritually productive.

When you look back on your past, you should be able to see how much saner you are now than you once were. If your eyes seem opened, it's because your head, heart and soul have already been opened. If you feel smarter than you were before, it's because you are. Experience is the best teacher. **GOD's** designs have been working on you for a lifetime. You just may not have been as aware of it then as you are now.

*“God and His Apostle repose no trust in idolaters,
save those with whom you have made treaties at the sacred mosque.
So long as they keep faith with you,
keep faith with them.
God loves the righteous.”*
[9:7]

“**GOD** and **HIS** apostle impose no trust in idolaters,
save those with whom you have made treaties at the sacred mosque.
So long as they keep faith with you,
keep faith with them.
GOD loves the righteous.”

After centuries of disrespect and distrust between JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims*, there are no treaties that should be agreed to anywhere except at the Dome of the Rock at the site of the ruins of the second Temple in Jerusalem. Only the height of Islamic appreciation for the meaning of the mountain within us all will convince the world that the wisdom of Islam is real.

The apostles of the faith are those who hold all history sacred. Only they'll be able to hold themselves as an apostle in their own soul. Only they'll know the depth of their love of their own life. Only they'll be welcome into the new Jerusalem in their soul, just as Jesus was welcomed enthusiastically when HE entered Jerusalem so long ago on Palm Sunday only days before HIS last Passover.²¹⁰

*“God caused His tranquility to descend upon
His Apostle and the faithful;
He sent you aid,
invisible warriors,
and sternly punished the nonbelievers.
Thus were the infidels rewarded.”
[9:26]*

“GOD caused *His* tranquility to descend upon
HIS apostle and the faithful;
HE sent you aid,
invisible warriors,
and sternly punished the nonbelievers.
Thus were the infidels rewarded.”

The Jews were given the name of GOD, {EL SHADDAI: the breasts of GOD}. This is the description GOD used when S/HE spoke to Abraham. “I AM EL SHADDAI ALMIGHTY; WALK BEFORE ME FAITHFULLY AND BE BLAMELESS.” [Genesis 17:1] The milk from GOD's breasts is the comforting nourishment of the wisdom of HER heart {left breast /love} and wisdom of HER soul {right breast/devotion} upon which Jewish knowledge of GOD rests.

The SHECHINA is the invisible feminine force from GOD that SHE revealed to Abraham. It refers to GOD as having breasts with which SHE nurtured the ancient Jews at that time when they were so spiritually young that they couldn't yet feed themselves. By extension, all influence GOD had over them in those early years of their spiritual development is equivalent to mother's milk. That translates universally as “the milk of human kindness” that still nurtures the world in its way to this day.

²¹⁰ “Palm Sunday is a Christian feast that falls on the Sunday before Easter. The feast commemorates Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in each of the four canonical Gospels.” [Wikipedia] {The palm of the palm tree is the largest leaf on Earth. Curiously, the palm tree is a grass, not a tree.}

The Land of Milk and Honey is the Jewish land of love and wisdom that's held symbolically in each Jew as well as in Israel. The milk from the breasts of GOD nourishes us with HER love {left breast} and devotion {right breast} in the world around us, something that's especially evident to all those in Israel. It gives us a mystical connection to GOD that has made it possible for us to survive despite our vulnerability as a minority.

But our baby-like land of milk and honey is different from the childlike bread and wine of Christian lands where **GOD** creates angels in disguise through the efforts of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the neutral {non-sexual}, universal force from **GOD** that corresponds to water, not milk. The Holy Spirit is the invisible, neutral force from GOD that HE revealed to Jesus. That's why HE said "TRULY I TELL YOU, ANYONE WHO WILL NOT RECEIVE THE KINGDOM OF **GOD** LIKE A LITTLE CHILD WILL NEVER ENTER IT." [Mark 10:15].

The tranquility of *God* comes from the masculinity of *God* as revealed to the Prophet through the Archangel Gabriel. It corresponds to the spiritual maturation in Muslim males that produces the equivalent of "man's milk," the milk of life: semen. The tranquility of *God* makes it possible for their invisible warriors to wage war on their head and heart by their soul, confident that they'll win because they have *God* on their side. These invisible warriors, when externalized, are responsible for the wars *Muslims* are waging against one another and us. They're not penis problems because man's milk only gushes forth out of the mouth of the penis. They're problems that figuratively emanate out of their testicles.

The descendants of the Shechina, Holy Spirit and tranquility of **GOD** into this world are experiences I can only speak about thanks to the differing fonts that come from my study of Spiritual Linguistics. Each of these fonts represents a time period in the spiritual unfolding of the consciousness of humanity that mirrors the individual, spiritual maturation of us all.

The Shechina is the mystical power of GOD that corresponds to infancy when we consume knowledge as though it were mother's milk. The Holy Spirit is the mystical power of **GOD** that corresponds to childhood when we consume knowledge as though it were water. And the tranquility of *God* is *His* mystical power that corresponds to adolescence when we produce and disseminate knowledge as though it were like semen. These are the three juices from the fruits of knowledge: mother's milk, water and father's milk.

Today, we're spiritually old enough to appreciate our infantile childish and juvenile behavior. We can now unify our understanding of ourselves, thus making it possible for us to appreciate humanity as a spiritually maturing species.

What the Prophet is saying in the above passage is that the tranquility you seek will become a tool for you in the world we share, not just a way to connect with GOD/GOD/*God*. With it, you, and by extension, others will receive aid in the form of what he called "invisible warriors." These invisible warriors will become evident in your soul. Christians externalize these invisible warriors using the expression "angels in disguise." They appear to them in the external world as helpful individuals who, as the result of synchro-mysticism, are able to bring signs of **GOD**'s love to others.

The Islamic invisible warriors are conclusions, principles and beliefs that help you like yourself more. You can't witness the moral weight of your behavior toward others until you can like the way you behave towards yourself. You can't cry about what *Muslims* are doing to Muslims with full understanding of what they're doing to themselves until you can cry out for the way you're treating the one Muslim you're going to be with for the rest of your life: the Muslim in your soul.

Awareness of **GOD's** designs {SHECHINA, Holy Spirit, *Tranquility*} will continue to move you through self-wisdom to self-love and through self-love to the devotional exercise of learning to like and dislike yourself as determined by your conscience.

You're on a journey of redemption with **GOD**, whether or not you like where you think **HE**'s taking you. Until you realize **HE**'s teaching you to like yourself for becoming wiser, more loving and eternally devoted to the miracle of your own life day-by-day, you may not perceive **HIS** presence.

You may not understand why your invisible warriors are battling with you; why they're making it "hellish" for you to be with you all the time. But they're teaching you to understand the spiritual process you're going through. Don't judge yourself until each battle each day has been won. Take being you a day at a time. You're a spiritual work in progress.

*"The Jews say that Ezra is the son of God,
while the Christians say the Messiah is the son of God.
Such are their assertions by which they imitate the infidels of old.
God confound them!
How perverse they are!"*
[9:30]

*"The Jews say that Ezra is the son of GOD,
while the Christians say the Messiah is the SON of GOD.
Such are their assertions by which they imitate the infidels of old.
God confound them!
How perverse they are!"*

This quote is a play on words in Hebrew because it holds an historical context that you may not know of. "EZRA" means "help." And it's also the name of the Babylonian Jew who returned to Israel in the 5th Century B.C.E. with one-quarter of the Jewish slave descendants whose ancestors had lost the war with Babylonia more than a hundred years prior. They returned to Israel to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. Those ancient Jews then resumed the animal sacrifices their ancestors had participated in for hundreds of years before they'd been enslaved and taken to Babylonia in the 7th Century B.C.E.

Ezra wasn't literally the son of GOD. He was one of GOD's most loyal sons. He was a figuratively good toddler who wanted to help his MOTHER by giving her something he thought was of value. He helped resume GOD's design of animal sacrifice, which gave the

ancient Jews a comforting sense of being able to cleanse themselves of guilt through the destruction of more animals. This ancient (albeit it horrific) process of animal sacrifice made them feel they were gifting HER in the same way that a toddler will offer to share his pacifier with his mother.

These ancient returnees to Israel believed that killing animals around them would end the life of the wild, animalistic forces within themselves {later described by the Prophet as invisible warriors.} What separated the previous, ancient Jews who'd lost the war with Babylon from those who returned from Babylon to Israel with Ezra was that the returnees had learned about the universality of GOD while strangers in a strange land. They learned that GOD was everywhere, not just in Israel, where HE resided in the Temple.

Nevertheless, they still felt the need for proximity to HIM/HER through animal sacrifice. Even though these new and improved, ancient Jews continued to practice animal sacrifice in the second Temple, they knew GOD was not just in Jerusalem because they'd experienced the presence of the Shechina in Babylonia, as well.

Man's understanding of GOD was painfully slow and incremental in those days. Even though we take such spiritual knowledge for granted today, we should remember that future generations will judge us for the simplistic conclusions many are still living out about GOD/GOD/*God* today. We, too, are sacrificing the animal kingdom to our primitive desires, whether we literally admit it, or not. Many today know much less about **GOD's** presence than they think.

The invisible warriors in those days were the same we enjoy today, the forces from our head, heart and soul. We just don't externalize these invisible warriors as the man called "Ezra" {help} anymore. We call them inner forces that motivate us to improve ourselves. We call them "inner voices," "inspiration," "visions" "creativity" and "the mother of invention." But there are many still who are superstitious and suspicious about such things.

About 200 years before Christ, the ancient Jews were worried about whether animal sacrifice was what was still needed to alleviate their guilt. It had slowly begun to dawn on them that sacrificing animals wasn't as morally useful as self-sacrifice. Since there were, as yet, no other believers, the issue was still entirely an in-house matter.

When Jesus {Joshua #2} was born, He became the second Joshua to stand out for exceptionalism in our history. (The first Joshua led the Israelites into Israel when GOD told Moses he wasn't going to be able to enter the Holy Land.) The first Joshua brought the Israelites over the Jordan River with swords and knives. The second Joshua {Jesus} figuratively brought them across the Jordan River with the rite of baptism, which symbolically submerses them in **GOD's** love {using the waters of the Jordan River}. The first Joshua was our savior who used violence sanctioned by GOD in Torah to get HIS way. The second Joshua was the Savior who promoted mercy and forgiveness to get HIS way.

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²¹¹ "AFTER THE DEATH OF MOSES THE SERVANT OF THE LORD, THE LORD SAID TO JOSHUA SON OF NUN, MOSES'S AIDE: 'MOSES MY SERVANT IS DEAD. NOW THEN, YOU AND ALL THESE PEOPLE, GET READY TO CROSS THE JORDAN RIVER INTO THE LAND I AM ABOUT TO GIVE TO THEM – TO THE ISRAELITES. I WILL GIVE YOU EVERY PLACE WHERE YOU SET YOUR FOOT, AS I PROMISED MOSES. YOUR TERRITORY WILL EXTEND FROM THE DESERT TO LEBANON, AND FROM THE GREAT RIVER, THE EUPHRATES – ALL THE HITTITE COUNTRY – TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA IN THE WEST. NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST YOU ALL THE

From a Jewish perspective, Ezra and Joshua #2 were each a son/SON of GOD who realized GOD's design for man. Ezra resumed animal sacrifice, while Joshua #2 {Jesus} indirectly ended it.²¹² Ezra was the son of GOD who helped us get what GOD had promised us: return to the land of milk and honey. Jesus was the SON of GOD who saved us from continuing to use violence against nature to assuage ourselves of our guilt. HE {Joshua #2} brought self-sacrifice into the world for the sake of securing our wellbeing in the "world to come."

The creation of Islam and the invisible warriors the Prophet spoke of reveal further internalizations of faith and further aid given to man by GOD/GOD through the true believers of Islam who believed in *God*. But until you can see what's happened in your head and heart from your soul, it's as though you're submerged in reality like a fish in water or a mole burrowing underground. You must learn to fly like a bird over it all.

When the Prophet said, "How perverse they are!" he was referring to those who didn't see *God*'s design then and those who hadn't seen it prior. But when you look back on the blood shed during the first few millennia of the Common Era to today, you should be able to admit that man is still perverse.

We still don't see that we're not three separate faiths working independently with three names for **GOD** that are in conflict with one another. We're all in this together. Today, **GOD** is helping to keep hundreds of millions of Muslims from driving 9 million Jews into the sea. This is more than odd. This is miraculous! This is something loyal Muslims will want to look at for spiritual edification of the meaning of their faith.

Muslims are required by *God* to hold the State of Israel with love in their heart and devotion to the wisdom in their soul, just as Jews and Christians are required to do the same of Mecca, albeit from different places in inner space. Today's struggle over the Israel within us will only be solved with internal crusades and jihads that will achieve spiritual solutions that will emanate out with synchro-mysticism {signs}.

Military and diplomatic efforts now will only defer the end to our external strife. They'll only require future generations to solve even greater problems that could be circumvented today if people were more spiritually enlightened. It's rabbis, priests, pastors,

DAYS OF YOUR LIFE. AS I WAS WITH MOSES, SO I WILL BE WITH YOU; I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU. BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS, BECAUSE YOU WILL LEAD THESE PEOPLE TO INHERIT THE LAND I SWORE TO THEIR ANCESTORS TO GIVE THEM.'" [Deuteronomy 34:1-6]

²¹² Thirty years after the death of Jesus, the Romans destroyed the second Temple. (The Babylonians had destroyed the first Temple 500 years prior.) With the second destruction of our Temple, the rabbis questioned whether rebuilding it a third time was a realistic part of GOD's design. Instead, they decided to internalize the Holy Land, making each Jew an Israel unto himself with his heart as the capital: Jerusalem. Therein, self-sacrifice was born. Each Jew (and later each Christian) came to sacrifice his animal instincts on the altar of the fire in the Temple within. Today's Dome of the Rock not only stands as a reminder to us that self-sacrifice, not the destruction of animals, is the way by which **GOD** wants us to relieve ourselves of guilt. It is a reminder of **HIS** growing plans for an Israel in every modern man.

ministers, imams and clerics who are going to end all the religious wars that have now spread throughout the Middle East to Europe and our shore, not diplomats and generals. The peace our spiritual leaders will teach together will become the spiritual foundation upon which the new age will be grounded. The global, environmental and religious issues of the modern era depend on spiritual leaders guiding us through this century with universal respect for the wisdom, love and devotion our predecessors couldn't achieve in their day.

Getting through the infantile, childish and juvenile antics we see in politics today needs to begin within. Those who are other-centered by having projected their sensuality away from themselves need to struggle to learn to listen to those who are self-centering. This requires paying greater attention to the meta-messages they weren't receiving before. They need to listen to the messages they receive in addition to the messages they're broadcasting. They need to listen to their intuition and ask themselves questions about what they hear themselves saying.

The struggles in the Middle East will end when Muslims personalize the Judeo-Christian struggle as 2/3rds of their own struggle with themselves. Then, conquering Mecca internally rather than conquering Rome or Jerusalem externally will become vital to their wellbeing. Then the struggle within will show results throughout. This can only be achieved with greater **GOD**-consciousness. As Jews, Christians and Muslims make peace within themselves, they'll bring a spirit of inner emancipation to the world that we've never seen before. They'll measure themselves against who they were before rather than measure themselves against others.

*“Believers,
why is it that when you are told,
‘March in the cause of God,’
you linger slothfully in the land?
Are you content with this life in preference of the life to come?
Few indeed are the blessings of this life compared with those of the life to come.”
[9:38-39]*

*“Believers,
why is it that when you are told,
‘March in the cause of **GOD**,’
you linger slothfully in the land?
Are you content with this life in preference of the ‘life to come?’
Few indeed are the blessings of this life compared with those of the ‘life to come.’”*

The Prophet asked good questions. Your answer to spiritual sloth can only come with greater education and understanding of your internal affairs. World affairs are won when internal affairs are in order. The more Muslim men, women and children learn about the wonders of the world within, the more they'll be motivated to apply their experiences every

moment of every day to the world around them. Only then will the Arab Spring begin to show the “darling buds of May.”²¹³

When you see anyone looking as though he’s lazy and unmotivated, it’s always a sign that he’s building greater evidence within himself to find a way to like himself for being chosen by **GOD** to help in accomplishing **HIS** designs. (You just want to do your best to make sure **HE** uses you to set a good example. There are plenty of examples of what bad examples look like.)

The Jews don’t hold a monopoly on being **GOD**’s chosen people. The Christians aren’t a cartel that makes them **GOD**’s chosen either. If anything, Jesus is the chosen **ONE**, even if many behave as though they’re seated on the right-hand side of **GOD** (presumably on top of **HIM**...) And Muslims don’t need to recreate this hubris by seeing themselves as *His* only chosen ones, either.

Even gay people have been chosen to participate in **GOD**’s designs. The question now is whether the crazy fanatics in all three of the Abrahamic faiths will, once again, reject **HIS** designs because of all the “undesirables” they conclude are trying to take it away from them.

The self-esteem of the Muslim world couldn’t be lower than it is at this time in history. Millions have been displaced from their homes in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East. Hundreds of thousands have lost their lives in Iraq. Every Muslim nation is worried about its future because radical *Islam* has threatened every form of earthly authority with its own brand of “ultimate authority” and the horrors awaiting them from *God* for perpetrating the next “Final Solution.”

But their authority is ignorant of **GOD**’s designs for every man, and their solutions only dilute today’s problems by their distracting, materialistic attention to greed. **GOD** didn’t create all the divine diversity and delicious differences in the world for **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims* to eradicate it all with hate. **HIS** ways are far more mysterious and queer than that!

The future of the insane lies in the self-esteem issues they can’t actualize until they feel better about themselves inside and out. They must witness their individual truth and beauty and celebrate the littlest of successes in learning about life, **WORD** by **WORD/WORD/Word**. They must find good reasons to stand before our **CREATOR** with their heads held high. We’re all held up as the poster child of stupidity sooner or later. (Better you should get to do so in the privacy of your own mind than in the newspaper.)

The anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist, homophobic, racist, xenophobic and misogynistic fears of the strangers’ ways should be fought everywhere, inside and out. The road to salvation must feel like an inner burn, a purification process that’s personally meaningful and real.

The death and destruction caused by **CHRISTIANITY** and *Islam* worldwide mirrors the evil inclination of the **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims*. And the scheming plans of the **JEWS**

²¹³ “The darling buds of May” comes from Sonnet 18, “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day,” by William Shakespeare.

mirror your own. If any of them think they're going to escape the equivalence of "hell" in the afterlife, they'll assuredly come to know more about "hell" while here on Earth. No one, no faith, no nation is exempt from **GOD's** designs. Look at the history of the Jewish people and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community if you don't believe that miracles are possible. We offer you inspiration.

*"If you do not help him,
God will help him
as He helped him when he was driven out by the nonbelievers with one other.
In the cave he said to his companion,
'Do not despair. God is with us.'* ²¹⁴
*God caused His tranquility to descend upon him and sent to his aid invisible warriors,
so that he routed the nonbelievers and exalted the word of God.
God is mighty and wise."
[9:40-41]*

*"If you do not help him,
God will help him
as **HE** helped him when he was driven out by the nonbelievers with one other.
In the cave he said to his companion,
'Do not despair. God is with us.'
GOD caused His tranquility to descend upon him and sent to his aid invisible warriors,
so that he routed the nonbelievers and exalted the Word of God.
GOD is mighty and wise."*

The aid **GOD** gave the Prophet came in the form of *His Tranquility* through which he received further assistance from his own invisible warriors. In that way, he was able to exalt the WORDS of **GOD** in his own way. But for the past 1,400 years all that most Muslims have heard was that *God* helped Muhammad when he was being driven out of town by nonbelievers. In truth, the experience happened simultaneously within and around him.

Instead of driving out those who don't believe as you do, drive out the guesses, presumptions, assumptions, conjectures and suppositions that have plagued your belief with erroneous conclusions unbecoming any modern, moral person. Doubt is the struggle

²¹⁴ The Hebrew name "EMANUEL" is usually translated as {GOD with us}. But it literally means "us with GOD." In Christianity, the name "EMANUEL" {us with GOD} refers to Jesus. When the *Prophet* used the expression, "*God* is with us." he was invoking a great blessing and hope for all Muslims and mankind.

you're fighting with, not gays or Jews. This isn't just a Muslim task. This is a universal task no one can accomplish without the help of everyone **GOD** brings into his life, especially those he may find irksome. Think of every irritating individual as a JEW brought by **GOD** just for you...

NEVI'IM {The Book of Prophets} is the second of the three divisions of the Hebrew Testament {TANACH}. ²¹⁵ NEVI'IM comes after TORAH {INSTRUCTION} and before KETUVIM {WRITINGS}. The Book of Prophets is a guide through reformation without rebellion. We're too small a tribe to fight among ourselves. Therefore, we argue instead.

The Protestant Reformation raised the level of moral discourse in Christianity, bringing the importance of love to a higher level of understanding, one that doesn't include self-indulgence or indulgences to the Church. Europe had to become Christian lands for the spiritual reformation of European humanity to take root.

The Arab Spring is bringing Sunnis and Shiites into the modern era by lifting the level of moral discourse on devotion to a universal level in **GOD's** designs. Those in Muslim lands are undergoing an emancipation that, when perceived in conjunction with freedom and liberty for all, will turn the Middle East into EDEN {"paradise"/PARDES "an orchard of peoples"} on Earth.

Today, we're living in a world of better educated men and women who have more reasonable doubts not utter disbelief. As you remove their doubts, they'll come to see themselves as citizens of the world. They'll learn from people who believe and behave differently from them, while enhancing their ability to profess greater devotion to their GOD/GOD/*God*. In this way they'll discover the miracle of life and **GOD's** part in it.

When the Prophet said "Do not despair. *God* is with us." he was invoking as well as defying the Hebrew meaning of the WORD "EMANUEL." He was suggesting that although from the outside it may appear that we should endeavor to go with **GOD**, nevertheless, from the inside, it feels as though **HE**'s coming with us wherever we decide we must go.

This push/pull experience of "GOD with us" and "us with GOD" makes it possible for us to struggle in our soul with our individual piece of our **CREATOR's** designs. ²¹⁶ It makes it possible to say that although GOD/GOD/*God* may always be with us, we prefer at all times to be with **GOD**.

*"Had the gain been immediate
or the journey short,*

²¹⁵ "TANACH" is an acronym of the first two Hebrew letters from TORAH, NEVI'IM and KETUVIM.

²¹⁶ My first name is "Barry." It means "spear" in Irish. My Hebrew name is BARUCH, which means "blessing." "BARI" means "healthy." And "BE'ERI" means "my water well." My middle name, EMANUEL {us with GOD}, connects me to GOD in a deeply loving way. And my last name, "ZEVE," means "ray of light." I suggest you look for greater, personal meaning in your own name if you're looking for "the luck of the Irish" in you.

*they would have followed you.
But the distance seemed too far to them.
Yet they will swear by God,
‘Had we been able,
we would have marched with you.’
They bring ruin upon themselves.
God knows that they are surely lying.”
[9:42]*

“Had the gain been immediate
or the journey short,
they would have followed you.
But the distance seemed too far to them.
Yet they will swear by GOD/GOD/God,
‘Had we been able,
we would have marched with you.’
They bring ruin upon themselves.
GOD knows that they are surely lying.”

Fourteen hundred years ago, most people were lying to one another. Today, most people are lying to themselves. GOD/GOD/God separated the liars from those who told the truth then. And **GOD** is separating the deniers from those who are telling the truth today. Today, believers lie much less, but they often fool themselves or are in denial of those parts of the truth they’ve unconsciously hidden away out of self-protection. They resist those aspects of the truth that don’t support their petrified philosophy of life. They pick and choose truths to paint the picture they want to present to the world. And they generally don’t bother to use **GOD** as their reasoning for the truths they hold. In short, they’re hypocrites, but they don’t even know it.

A hypocrite is someone with a penis problem. He thinks the delivery system of his desires depends on the length, width and depth with which he can penetrate reality to leave us with the essence of his desires: the seeds of his fruits. But I have no interest in hypocrites or the black seeds they have to offer me.

I’d rather suffer from the anal issues I’ve got. I’ve humiliated myself all my life in an attempt to understand life. I’ve made many mistakes. But I’d rather have anal issues than penis problems. I’d rather look to the moral fruits {testicles} that are the source of what I have to give to the world than just my delivery device {penis}. I don’t mind spending my life learning from me. In fact, I prefer it to having to learn from others. I’d rather protect myself from others so that *I* can humiliate me rather than have anyone else be in a moral position to do so.

GOD figuratively critiques our assessment of ourselves with reality checks, thereby giving us the newspaper headlines we see each day to decide for ourselves what we wish

to believe about **HIS** magnificent process day-by-day. It's public. But it's also personal and private. You must decide how you're going to cash your reality checks. You decide how much reality you're capable of assimilating from one day to the other.

Abortion is the "murder" of an unborn, human life. But killing any human being ought to be avoided by not putting yourself in that moral predicament in the first place, whether you're male or female. The same goes for ending problems using suicide or murder. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

But the religious fanatics are opposed to prevention. They don't want women in positions of determining life or death. That they reserve for themselves: for men like them. For Americans to put a woman in the White House will be an act of spiritual courage because it will tell the world that women have as much right as men to determine the destiny/fate of the world.

That said, your moral grades aren't going on my report card. I couldn't care less how **GOD** judges you for having broken the 6th Commandment. Only someone with too much time on his hands is going to make his conscience my guide in matters that are morally miniscule and mundane in terms of the greater scheme of things. Kill an unborn baby: struggle with **GOD**. Kill yourself: struggle with **GOD**. Kill another human being: struggle with *God*. Torture and kill yourself over a lifetime by pursuing only what you want to extract from this world: struggle with **GOD**. The consequences get more and more complex and egregious.

Clearly the Jews aren't as upset by abortion. The Christians aren't as upset by suicide. And the Muslims aren't as upset by murder. There's no one correct answer to any of these infringements of the 6th Commandment. Therefore we need a court of public opinion that has a much greater understanding of **GOD**.

I face front in class. If I look around, I see a wide range of people sitting closer and further away from the **TEACHER**. Picking on men and the women they get pregnant isn't my problem. My problem was in having to grow up before I could determine right from wrong for myself. Before you know, those whose conscience is other people's guide will be slapping the death sentence on those like me who try to commit suicide...

I twice broke the 6th Commandment. And look at me now. I may still be crazy, but I'm not insane anymore. **GOD** has been merciful to me. I try not to make my mistakes three times. I've devoted my life to helping myself out of my moral transgressions by admitting my mistakes and repenting for them in a way of my choosing. This has rewarded me with **GOD**-consciousness, something I didn't have before.

For the longest time, I tried to change others instead of myself. It wasn't a waste of my time, but it didn't do as much to improve my grades as helping me more would have improved my own work habits. I was spinning my wheels with my drive shaft in neutral, but I was making marvelous time...²¹⁷

²¹⁷ I wrote these books for me, not you. I benefit from these books whether anyone will decide to publish them or not. I'm the beneficiary of my wisdom, love and devotion whether or not my name ever becomes renown.

Earlier in history there were laws against oral and anal sex between men and even against male masturbation. As our privacy is becoming more invaded today, it's becoming more important to us to be given the freedom to manage our relationship with our own body ourselves. Even euthanasia is slowly coming under the heading of a privacy issue. Religious institutions are losing ground in holding people accountable to *them* for matters that don't involve anyone other than **GOD**.

"They will swear by GOD/GOD/*God*, "Had we been able, we would have marched with you." People love to tell you what you want to hear. And they'll pass laws to force you to do what they want you to do. But when push comes to shove, they'll make quick excuses for not having "marched with you." Those who advocate the most for everyone living their life like them are usually hypocrites. Their word isn't good even if there's something right about what they say; and even if they're only inferring that they're better than you.

Don't swear by GOD. Don't swear by **GOD**. Don't swear by *God*. Don't make excuses for your behavior with pronouncements of your proximity to HIM/**HIM**/*Him*. Instead, listen to yourself as you say the same things over and over to different people. Your message is the same; you're only changing your audience. Ask yourself why you need so many others to hear the same message. You may discover that you're projecting your dogma onto them in an indirect way to convince yourself from the outside in.

The more you discuss your beliefs with yourself in the privacy of your own head, heart and soul, the more your dogmas will become more obvious. It's through these inner conversations that you'll discover the intimacy with yourself you need to draw closer to **GOD**. This will bring you insight.²¹⁸ The more insights you develop, the more you'll be able to profit from hindsight and foresight. You can't stand any closer to **GOD** than you can stand by yourself. It's all an inside job most people prefer to externalize and then reabsorb after the fact.

*"God forgive you!
Why did you give them leave to stay behind
before you knew those who spoke the truth
from those who invented false excuses?"
[9:43]*

"GOD forgive you!
Why did you give them leave to stay behind
before you knew those who spoke the truth
from those who invented false excuses?"

²¹⁸ Insight is the result of guilt taken personally. Insight is a way of paying your tuition in the university of life. If you can see you're doing something apathetically or overly passionately, warn yourself. If you can see a way to make a *profit* on what you're doing, don't expect to get the same reward as a *prophet*. The best use of insight is for you with yourself.

Those who stayed behind in those days promoted their faith, while those who stepped forward died for its continuation. The sacrifices made by all three of the Abrahamic faiths were tolerable in ancient days because they separated our ancestors into separate, spiritual camps, all developing the different relationships with GOD/GOD/*God* that brought us to today.

You can't unite that which hasn't first been separated. But you can't separate that which is occurring within you that you can't yet perceive. Therefore you must learn more about GOD/GOD/*God* to learn about **GOD**. Life is harder than it looks when you do something new. But it gets easier over time.

The last thing **GOD** wants as an expression of your love and devotion to **HIM** is to kill people you hate. If we don't raise the First Amendment higher and lower the Second, we're not going to survive as a species.²¹⁹ We aren't going to evolve into modern men, women and children.

If you need to get something off your chest, come to the spiritual table. There ought to be forums worldwide where rabbis, priests, pastors, ministers, imams and clerics discuss your complaints from a spiritual point of view. At this time, the United Nations can only focus on denouncing Israel. Someday, there'll be rainbow nations that will promote the internalization of Israel in their own countries.

"Say:

Nothing will befall us except what God has ordained.

He is our guardian.

In God let the faithful put their trust."

[9:50]

"Say:

Nothing will befall us except what **GOD** has ordained.

HE is our **GUARDIAN**.

In **GOD** let the faithful put their trust."

If you don't look for synchro-mysticism in the ways things turn out, you're not going to learn from other people's mistakes. You're going to hold fast to your dogmatic insistence that this world must turn out your way. Get out of your own way. Speak to yourself in the third-person. Look at yourself as would a stranger. Come to know you as if you were your own kind guardian, and you'll come to know **GOD** as your beneficently kind **GUARDIAN**.

²¹⁹ First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Second Amendment: "A well-regulated Militia {National Guard}, being necessary to the security of a free State {nation}, the right of the people to keep and bear arms {under law}, shall not be infringed."

There's a big difference between the words "fate" and "destiny." In the world around us, we worry about our fate, while in the world within, we all hope for a wonderful destiny. Fate is a reminder of "hell." Destiny is a reminder of "heaven." We need Judaism {wisdom} and Islam {devotion} to remind us, like double lines on the freeway, to drive in our lane and go only in one direction, so we don't kill or scare anybody to death. And we need the vehicle of Christianity {love} like traffic lights to get us where we all want to go in a timely manner.

Feelings begin with anger {red}. They spill over into anxiety {orange} which ultimately turns into fear {yellow}. Once you've moved through these feelings, you work your way into jealousy {green} which, lastly, turns to sorrow {blue}. All mystery (indigo) and joy {violet} is the result of awareness of how you feel.

The feeling you felt when you entered this world was utter terror, loathing and displeasure at having to enter this world. When people use the word "hate" they're usually referring to the terror, loathing and displeasure of birth. The stronger the hate, the closer it should bring you to reminders of how you felt when you were born.

To personalize fate and destiny, you first ought to separate them with your own experiences. **GOD** has brought you to understand your fate thanks to reoccurring feelings of hatred. And **HE**'s bringing you to understand your destiny with reoccurring feelings of love. What you hate about others, don't do to yourself. What you love about others, repeat on you.

You can unite that which has been internally separated by bad experiences in ways you weren't able to perceive earlier in life. This is the emotional essence of making love with yourself. When you sexually penetrate other people or are penetrated by them, you're uniting two external worlds. Whether you think sex is precious or pernicious has nothing to do with the gender of the person you're attracted to if you realize how important self-love is at increasingly more personal emotional and spiritual levels of awareness.

You can use the imagination in your heart, not just in your head. Living in your head is a lonely experience. Your heart will tell you that the ends justify the means. Your head will tell you that the means justify the ends. Your head {Adam} will tell you that your head is bad, but that your heart {Eve} is worse. Your heart {Eve} will casually shrug off what it tempted you to do by blaming your urges {serpent}. If you can't or won't come to a new place in inner space {soul} to debate their findings, you're doomed to remain in bad company.

The people around you become fateful ways of you experiencing "heaven" and "hell" indirectly right here on Earth. But when you take other people's feelings to your heart of hearts {soul}, you not only develop compassion for them. You develop great passion for yourself. Without you, you'd be lost.

If you become a lover of underdogs, it's because the underdog is always the one who has the least ability to understand his desires. The political debate between the left and right; the cultural debate between straights and gays; the gender debate between the men and the women; and your own debate between your head and heart – begins in your crotch and ends in your behind if you don't use your conscience as it was intended. You are the underdog; the x^2 factor; the gay bottom – until you bring your desires to consciousness. Herein lies the answer to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Your appreciation of those whose desires are unappreciated will speak volumes about the way in which you may not be able to appreciate the desire to know yourself that you're suppressing. Once you can use the privacy you've achieved in the cave in your mountain to take the risk of feeling your hatred {fear, anger and sorrow in being yourself}, you'll be in a much better position to feel the guilt that keeps you confounded. It's with the intimacy you develop in you and for you that you'll draw yourself nearer to **GOD**.

Give up your scorn of what others think, feel and believe about you. You won't become gay just from admitting your desire for your own intimacy. "In **GOD** let the faithful put their trust."

Most are egotistical when it comes to their prowess at sex. They think they invented it, perfected it and therefore can practice it with their eyes closed. In truth, they don't give me the impression that they're really very good at it at all based on all the ways they express distance from themselves. A good connection with others needs to begin within.

Making babies is for amateurs. Two years later, you're thinking about making another one, while the first is then passed off into the hands of a nanny; then a nursery; a pre-school; and kindergarten. If you aren't able to teach another human being how to live in every sense of the word, you shouldn't make babies in the first place.

And I don't recommend you substitute your urge for a family with a dog or a cat either. There are too many children and pets in the world as it is. If you want to learn how to parent a child or master an animal, you'd do a lot better by starting with yourself. You're the top dog and the underdog you need to learn about.

Even money lovers climb tree only for the fruits of their financial labors. They're not getting enough exercise in learning about themselves. They don't realize money trees, like babies, are just externalizations of forbidden fruit. Climb down from your projection of the orchard around you and get a better view of the urban jungle within. It's hardly "paradise" in your inner world. It could be more like the Pleistocene era in you. Using the outside world to satisfy your desires is the spiritually deprived man's recourse.

Growing up as the firstborn, American child in a family of five Holocaust survivors left me with a "0" and "1" view of reality. When I felt grateful, satisfied and curious to know more, I felt at "1" with the world. But when I felt like nothing {"0"}, I couldn't have felt more only inside. And my onliness only led to such horror and nightmares that I was plagued with a sense of "hell" everywhere I went. ²²⁰

I have no words to describe my insane perception of reality then. Nothing I could say about that time of my life would make any sense to you if I tried to connect my impressions of my life then to language. It was simply too intimate, personal and deep to express to any other human being. I can only discuss it now in shorthand with **GOD**. But it was a tenderness that left me so vulnerable that I couldn't stand being alive.

Sex should be an important yardstick by which you assess your ability to make peace with the world. If you think the length of the "yardstick" is what you ought to measure, you're doing yourself a disservice. If you think the number of "seeds" you plant will ascertain your prowess as a sexual gardener, you know little about harvesting spiritual crops. The more you know about the spiritual importance of separation and unity through

²²⁰ It's also possible to have negative urges {-1}.

the knowledge that comes from reparation of yourself, the more you're going to be able to discuss **GOD's** designs for you from an informed point of view.

How can you discuss "heaven" if you can't recreate it with orgasm? The sexual purity-to-the-extreme promoted by all three of the extremist views of the Abrahamic faiths becomes the launching pad for salacious scandals, prurient distain, prudishness, priggishness and the conformity to moral prissiness that makes the straight sex of the religious fanatics look so unappetizing to the outsider. If straight people don't keep their sex life more private and stop flinging their moral haughtiness in the face of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community, they're going to find their children expressing their unabashed disgust with the way their parents "take care of business."

Your finger pointing at people like me is only screaming your jealousy and envy of a sexual freedom, emotional liberty and spiritual emancipation that has accelerated us light years ahead when it comes to self-awareness. I don't recommend you have gay or lesbian sex. I recommend you learn from us what sex and marriage mean from a spiritual perspective. We could teach you a lot if you condescended to learn from a people many still laugh at and scorn as beneath them.

Why are so many men in prison in America? Could it be because they're breaking the law to get away from their mother and the other overbearing women in their life? Could it be that the prison walls are the only protection they have from a heart {Eve} projected out that they blame along with GOD/GOD/*God*? It may be a man's world, but some men may have turned it into a world only for men because they secretly loathe women but can't admit that that's a projection of how they feel about a part of themselves. Peace with women begins by making peace within.

The separation of the institutions of faith from the state has saved us (for the time being) from the totalitarian tendencies of straight, male, religious thinking. That kind of thinking didn't begin in Jerusalem, Rome or Mecca. It began in the ancient adolescent's cave or tent where fantasy, imagination and the mystical, magical attraction to the self were encroached upon by horrifying threats in their mind that amounted to nothing more than guilt trips. Get familiar with the feeling of guilt and your sex life with the one you love the most will improve immensely.

The ancient Jews' terror of indigenists is understandable when you realize the Jews were the only GOD-fearing people in their day. The sexual conduct of indigenist rite and ritual included moral abandonment coupled with anti-establishment and cultural recklessness that was clearly doomed from the true believer point of view. Children were born without a familial system in place to protect them, teach them and raise them with wisdom, love and devotion to their clan. Indigenism fed on itself and ate itself up, leaving nothing behind but the orgies of empty urges we're left with today. Fill in the center of your donut fantasy. Get your mind away from your fried, breaded, circumference and back to the hole you sense is there at the center.

In place of the hole at the center of every human being, the religiously dogmatic only offer us prudish, puritanical, straight-laced opinions about sex that we've been forced to endure for millennia. A man can't touch himself to urinate in a public restroom anymore without worrying about what it may look like to strangers.

Many don't enjoy sex because they're wracked with guilt at not knowing how to perform sex memorably. Many need to surreptitiously learn what feels good by watching others at various sensual and sexual points in the process through porn. Voyeurism is fine.

I only advocate that you add to that curiosity an interest in watching yourself as carefully as you watch others doing what they're doing.

Sex is harder than it looks if you're interested in doing it with your head, heart and soul, not just your genitals. Raw sex is considered forbidden fruit right off the tree. But you may have rolled so far away from your own tree that you have no memory of what raw fruit tastes like anymore. You're compote! You're such a concoction of cooked fruit that you can't recall that it originally comes from a tree, not a can.

The technical prowess people profess at sex comes from a head, heart and soul that have been so habituated to melding your penis or clitoris in with the forces within you, that you can't separate them anymore. And what you can't separate, you won't be able to unite. Divorce is the only way people have learned how to create distance from one another.

It's not in either of your two worlds that you're going to find your future, but at the border between the two. As you learn to develop a permeable filter between your inner and outer worlds, you'll be allowed to move more seamlessly through them. You'll become more sophisticated in your dealings with others as the result of having become more sophisticated in your dealings with yourself. That's what it means spiritually to have skin in the game. That's why the color of your fence and the shape of your borders have personal importance that no one else will ever fully appreciate. You're *unique* inside and out. You're just no *different* than anyone else.

The problem you have in talking to your four selves lies in your obsession with talking to GOD/GOD/*God* or to "the universe." Watch how you say what you say when no one is listening. And you'll hear yourself talking to a wall. You're not talking to you. You don't have a relationship with you. If not for the WORDS I'm giving you and the WORDS you're reading here in Hebrew, your imagination would still be sleeping through every day. Love or devotion are simply not enough.

The reason why no two snowflakes look quite alike is because the spiritual, meteorological process that froze each one of them figuratively affected how each of them reacted to what **GOD** did to it. Your body was, similarly, a sign of what **GOD** did to you before you entered this world. Your spirit was figuratively frozen in the 3rd dimension. You were physically made in the color and shape you got as part of your challenge of self-discovery. But your pattern goes much deeper than what the rest of us see on the surface. Your spiritual pattern is something you should personally plummet to perceive before you can tell us how you, too, were made in **GOD's** image.

Some people have become spiritually very cold, like hail or sleet rather than snowflakes. They cut through you in ways that leave you feeling burned. And after your shock, you become disappointed with them. Some are like hoar frost that takes on the appearance of crystals. They line up in very rigid patterns that are easy to see, even beautiful when viewed up close. Some behave like flurries, going every which way. Others turn immediately to ice when they hit the ground and never budge after that. Some are like powder, leaving you with a silence inside that would make even angels lower their voices and whisper. And some just melt and make their way underground or in raging rivers back to the sea.

Most people are so terrified of being spiritually frostbitten that they can't get close enough to themselves to appreciate their own unique pattern. They die without ever having come to know the one they're with. Why bother to engage in sex with another human being

if you aren't going to equate that spiritual unification and separation process to a part of **GOD's** designs for you alone? Has the institution of your faith so cut you off from your penis or clitoris that you can no longer celebrate the image in which **GOD** made you? Do you insist that others celebrate you for you? At the extreme end of that spectrum, that's called "prostitution."

The word "ISRAEL" in Hebrew means "struggle with **GOD**." If you deplore Israel, you deplore one aspect of your struggle with **HIM**. Only those who wish to celebrate their struggle with **GOD** will celebrate their struggle with **GOD**. And only those who can celebrate their struggle with **GOD/GOD** will come to celebrate their struggle with **GOD/GOD/God**.

Now that the diaspora has forced millions of Muslims to Europe, they're going to become experts on something we, Jews, learned a long time ago: the relationship between external and internal climate. They're going to learn how a desert people can adapt to a maritime climate around them and a very cold person within. Some will learn about **GOD's** designs. Others will insist on actualizing *God's* designs with loathing. They'll ignore the potential to celebrate the Quran with everyone.

Punishing abortion doctors makes no sense. They didn't create the embryo in question. Punishing the father of an unborn child doesn't make any sense because it wasn't his intention to bring life into the world. Punishing the unwed mother who never wanted a child in the first place is absurd because she, like the father, is the victim of urges she obviously couldn't control.

If you don't want a child, you should either have anal sex instead of vaginal sex, have gay sex rather than straight sex or use contraception. These are your only sensible options if masturbation doesn't satisfy you. And if you happen to make an unwanted baby by mistake, maybe you need to learn more about yourself with **GOD's** help. Maybe you need to address the 6th Commandment {murder} in your own private way. You obviously haven't learned how to responsibly control your desires. Surely, in some other way, you'll learn how to responsibly control your guilt in having to be you.²²¹

*"They swear by God
that they are believers like you.
Yet they are not.
They are afraid of you.
If they could find a shelter or a cave,
or any hiding place,*

²²¹ My boyfriend and I aren't trying to make babies. We're not trying to recreate a "straight" style of having intercourse in our bedroom. Our sex life is wholly personal and self-centering. It would be insane for us to pretend we're being fruitful in order to multiply. We have sex to grow closer to one another and have some fun. And whether each of us grows closer to **GOD** in the process is entirely a personal and private matter.

they would run in frantic haste to seek refuge in it.”
[9:55-56]

“They swear by **GOD**
that they are believers like you.
Yet they are not.
They are afraid of you.
If they could find a shelter or a cave,
or any hiding place,
they would run in frantic haste to seek refuge in it.”

God literally gifted the Prophet with a cave where he could go to contemplate the *Word* of *God* and recite it back to the Archangel Gabriel in the miraculous ways **GOD**. But today, the rest of us ought to find that cave within ourselves. The words we use have much deeper meaning than they did when **GOD/GOD/God** first brought them into man’s consciousness thousands of years ago. The only refuge you have from the world around you lies in your cave. This is the hiding place given to you to find yourself by yourself. If you refuse to go to your refuge, why would you expect *not* to be leaving yourself open and vulnerable to incidents and accidents around you? If you don’t struggle with **GOD**, expect to have to struggle with the court of public opinion.

A gay bar, a nightclub, a theater, a café, public transportation, a restaurant on the streets of Tel Aviv, a school or an American army base are no place to use bombs or guns to create the cave you seek inside. But these are perfect places to go to share the cave you’ve found with others. Anyone, anyone at all, who kills innocent people whether in private or public places, is deeply sick and in need of psychological and spiritual assistance. If you have the urge to do so, get psychological help. None of us can do all our assignments in this school alone.

That said, the help I got from the medical community for my mental illness was grossly inadequate. I can’t tell you how low an opinion I had of the model used in my day to help people help themselves. Medical practitioners do care, but only to the extent that they can care about themselves. I still consider most of them as unenlightened as most religious leaders.

But go to doctors and faith healers anyway if you can’t do it alone. Just don’t expect to find an expert in wisdom, love or devotion. They’re only human. At the very best, they’re struggling, too. But whether they’ll be able to admit they struggle with **GOD** is the real question.

As **GOD** guides you slowly over time towards self-awareness of this cave that’s naturally formed in your soul, you may go through a great deal of pain and suffering to appreciate its existence. You may be further burned and purified before you’re ready to appreciate the process. But there’s no need to get frantic over fear of being contained within your container for a lifetime. Spiritual claustrophobia is something we all suffer from. Fear of not being able to get out of the tight spot you found yourself in at birth is what consumes you. Recreating your conception is the essence of all anxiety.

Your soul is like a cave in a mountain. You can figuratively say, “Open! Says-a-me!” to enter or leave it if your moral priorities are in good standing with the Lord. But you won’t be able to get out of yourself permanently until the time is right.

*“Would that they were satisfied
with what God and His Apostle have given them,
and add,
‘God is all sufficient for us.
God will provide for us from His own abundance,
and so will His Apostle.
To God we will submit.’”
[9:58-59]*

“Would that they were satisfied
with what **GOD** and His apostle have given them,
and add,
‘**GOD** is all sufficient for us.
GOD will provide for us from **HIS** own abundance,
and so will His apostle.
To **GOD** we will submit.’”

I’ve weaned myself off of EL SHADDAI {the breasts of GOD}. I’ve moved on to solid, spiritual food. That’s not to say that I don’t still enjoy my cravings for dairy. It just means that I can associate milk with mother’s love, and mother’s love with GOD’s love. I’m not so confused that I associate her love with men or money.

And yet, I’ll never be satisfied with the outcomes of GOD and Jesus, HIS apostle. I’ve had to seek greater, internal evidence for **GOD** using the mystery of my beliefs rather than belief in the Christian concept of the Holy Spirit. Love alone was just not enough.

The Muslim concept of the tranquility of *God* has taught me the wisdom of submission to me, just as the Christian concept of **GOD** has taught me about the projection of my love onto others. But I could never completely submit to GOD’s wisdom, HIS love or His submission. I’ll always be a student of me. I’ll always be a child of **GOD** seeking understanding of my guilt to motivate me toward greater and greater redemption.

The rainbow GOD gave Noah had a beginning, middle and end. It had a red top, a violet bottom, with five colors in between. If you’re interested in learning about promises, you’ve got a lifetime to get to know yourself. But you’ll discover that you’re going to be both a great promise and a great disappointment to you. It’s not as easy being you, as you may already know, than you once thought. So why would it be easier to be you in the future than you now think?

As the gay-Jewish child of straight parents, I know that GOD/GOD/*God* doesn't answer all my questions with simple answers, but with metaphors, symbols and signs. In my reply to those Jews, Christians and Muslims who question Scripture and whether **GOD** is truly all-powerful, just quote the Quran: "**GOD** will provides for us from **HIS** own abundance." I've learned how to put my faith in **HIM** despite the apparent contradictions of the Abrahamic faiths and the contradictions in me. To **GOD** I will submit.

*"Alms shall be only for the poor and the destitute,
for those who are engaged in the management of alms
and those whose hearts are sympathetic to the faith,
for the freeing of slaves and debtors,
for the advancement of God's cause,
and for the traveler in need.
That is a duty enjoined by God.
God is all knowing and wise."
[9:60-61]*

"Alms shall be only for the poor and the destitute,
for those who are engaged in the management of alms
and those whose hearts are sympathetic to the faith,
for the freeing of slaves and debtors,
for the advancement of **GOD's** cause,
and for the traveler in need.
That is a duty enjoined by **GOD**.
GOD is all knowing and wise."

Charity (like self-knowledge) begins without, and works its way in. Those who are poor and destitute have no money or honey. Those engaged in the management of alms have some money and honey, but they're only aware of their power over others. Those whose hearts are sympathetic to matters of faith are often conspiring against Jews and Christians who spread matters of money and honey throughout the world. Those engaged in freeing slaves and debtors today are those who are still in bondage to themselves and indebted to **GOD** for knowledge they've stolen without having acknowledged its source. They're dying to receive what they know from themselves. Only those who are working toward the advancement of **GOD's** cause are personally invested in **HIS** designs.

The traveler in need is the one who sees himself through the metaphor of life as a journey. He's the outsider who's been chosen to learn about the blessings of charity internally and externally in his own, unique way. The traveler in need is the one who needs to know more and more about himself the further he goes down his path of life.

“**GOD** is all knowing and wise.” **HE**’s given us systems by which we can understand **HIM** if we’re curious about ourselves. Charity to others is for practice in coming to learn how to become charitable to our greatest desires for everyone. Until we learn to use our money and honey loyally, we won’t have the experience we need to benefit from our personal wellbeing.

Think of Judaism as the first step to **GOD**’s throne. Think of Christianity as the first riser. When you take a step in that direction and then perceive the riser that emanates out from it at 90 degrees, you prepare for the next step. With **GOD**’s help you make your way lugubriously up the spiritual staircase to **HIS** throne like a slinky going up stairs instead of down.²²²

What was primitively described in Torah by Jacob thousands of years ago as a ladder has been turned into a spiral, spiritual escalator you don’t even need to climb. If your head and heart are open, your soul will rise naturally, motivated by curiosity alone.

This simile begs the question why we even need Islam. Why wouldn’t wisdom and love suffice? How does reverence of *God* add to what we already have in a way we still need? What are the holy similes that make Islam essential to **GOD**’s design?

All of the Quran is a simile. You are like a cow and cattle. You are like a woman and a table. You are like the title of every one of the 114 surahs.

This answer isn’t obvious until you realize that if the spiral, spiritual escalator were that easy to perceive, you could see all the way from the bottom to the top. If the tower of Babel had been that easy to construct up to **GOD**’s/**GOD**’s/*God*’s abode, they wouldn’t have needed everyone conspiring together to get it in place. You can’t see where you’re going or why you’re trying to get there until you begin the avoda {work/worship}.

Your ascent to “heaven” isn’t easy to perceive because you never know what’s around the next bend. Sometimes, you can’t even easily decide whether you’re morally ascending or descending. It’s only when you take literal steps that your whole body knows whether it’s going up or down. It’s only when you look at what’s motivating your desires that your conscience can determine your moral efficacy.

As for the holy similes of Islam, chances are you need to learn about them all.

*“The hypocrites are afraid
lest a chapter be revealed to them,
telling them what is in their hearts.*

Say:

*‘Scoff if you will;
God will surely bring to light what you are dreading.’”
[9:64]*

²²² slinky: “1. (v.) graceful and sinuous in movement, line; 2. (n.) a toy consisting of a flexible helical spring that can be made to somersault down steps.” 3. (adj.) a way of describing your sexual organs when experienced sensuously.” [Wikipedia]

“The hypocrites are afraid
lest a chapter be revealed to them,
telling them what is in their hearts.

Say:

‘Scoff if you will;

GOD will surely bring to light what you are dreading.’”

Life is like a book divided into chapters if you see yourself as the author of your life. Like the Hebrew and Christian Testaments and Quran, I had to perceive myself as the author of a daily diary I was writing to appreciate **GOD** as the publisher of my journeys. I couldn't combine my trips into one journey before I could perceive them as separate treks each occurring with personal importance in different places within me.

In writing the previous chapters of my life, I learned not to scoff at GOD's/GOD's participation in what I was creating with my words and deeds as a gay man living in a Judeo-Christian society. Even though there was a mystery to my life I couldn't explain, I later learned to look for another chapter of the mystery of my being through Islam. Only once I'd completed these three chapters of my life in my head, heart and soul was I ready to delve into unifying them as chapters on how to become a complete Abrahamic man. Unification takes time.

Learning about yourself through the Quran is insufficient for a full life. But the same must be said of Tanach and the Bible. In fact, when you look at the whole world, and not just the Western half, you're going to need the steps of Moses, the risers of Jesus, the spiral construction techniques of the Prophet Muhammad as well as the **philosophers** of the Far East to make your way from the bottom to the top of this spiral, spiritual staircase. It will only become an escalator when you've become modern in the sense of a “*mensch*.”

“If you question them,

they will say,

‘We were only jesting and making merry.’

Say:

‘Would you mock God, His revelations, and His Apostle?

Make no excuses.

You have renounced the faith after embracing it.’

If We pardon some of you,

We will punish others,

for they are guilty men.”

[9:65-66]

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they will say,

‘We were only jesting and making merry.’

Say:

‘Would you mock GOD, HIS revelations, and *H*is apostle?

Make no excuses.

You have renounced the faith after embracing it.’

If **wE** pardon some of you,

wE will punish others,

for they are guilty men.”

I strongly suggest you don’t renounce any of **GOD**’s faiths or mock anyone’s faith. I once got reprimanded by an ultra-orthodox RABBI for being gay, and I still don’t renounce my own faith, even though the scar from that wound will never go away. Does a man renounce his penis for the trouble it gets him into? Does he renounce the bottle because he’s addicted to spirits? That’s as idiotic as renouncing the knife and fork because you’re overweight!

Don’t denounce your parents for the misery you’re in now or have been in. The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. It rolls only as far from the tree as **GOD** wants it to go. Bring your complaints directly to **HIM**, for obviously, **HE**’s got you just where **HE** wants you. Just ask **HIM** why.

Begin now by thanking **GOD** for your eyesight and hearing. As you age, **HE** may slowly take them from you. Thank **GOD** for your arms and legs. Many are missing theirs. **HE**’s got you over a barrel. He can reduce your ability to participate in life in major ways. As you look down on others, remember that **HE**’s looking down on you.

You’re going to want to take greater responsibility for acknowledging your virtues and vices, but that’s easier said than done. If you look at your father as a pyramid pointing up and your mother as a pyramid pointing down, take responsibility for the virtues and vices you got from both of them by attaching these two pyramids together, making a three-dimensional Star of David.²²³

You are the biological, intellectual, emotional and spiritual combination of the two of them. You are a combination of male and female attributes endorsed by **GOD** (or you wouldn’t be here). The more you can appreciate yourself as a unique combination of virtues and vices **HE** created with a purpose, the more you’ll be able to work with **HIM** to make the most of all that you are.

Any resentment you may have toward the Jews who took back their land; your disgust with gays who challenge you to look at what you think of the way you behave toward yourself; and any anger you still harbor at your parents – are not our fault. If you want to think of yourself as just and fair, you’re going to discover all the opinions of you that you’ve hidden in your unconscious where you think you have the autonomy to claim they

²²³ The Egyptians externalized the inner pyramid to their fathers with pyramids in the sand. If they want to build pyramids to their mothers, let them now begin within.

don't exist. If you're going to behave more fairly toward the one you're victimizing, you're going to have to explore self-denial.²²⁴

The world looks the way it does because you look the way you do. The more you stop victimizing you, the less you'll victimize others or let others victimize you. The more you get out of self-denial, the less you'll be in denial of reality. The Arab Spring is everyone's spring. This isn't a Muslim problem with Israel as its goal. It's a universal problem within ourselves with soulfulness as our goal.

The fanatically religious in all three of the Abrahamic faiths are "putzes" {Yiddish: penises, fools}. Without women and gay men at the helm of the Abrahamic faiths and their finger on all the red buttons, I fear for the future of humanity. Many straight men have bankrupted themselves. They're too spiritually poor to run this world or guide us up the spiral, spiritual escalator to the "world to come." We need to slowly transition the job from the perpetrators over to those who know better. Granted, there will always be room at the top for straight men and women, just not as much room as there has been up until now. Some of them will be brought down.

All men, including gay men, need to learn what it means to be a man who came out of a woman – because a lot of men still behave as though women came out of them. (They take the Creation story literally.) Don't let your putz get you into trouble with your **MAKER**. **HE** knows what **HE**'s doing. When you meet **HIM**, remember **HE** also made her. There's something about **HIM** that's much greater than the way in which **HE** made you. And the secret to what you're missing in you lies in women, not "the old boys' club." (The "bone" taken out of Adam is a metaphor that needs to be further unpacked.)

If I were to go back now to that Orthodox JEWISH synagogue where I was treated like *I* was the putz because I'm gay, they may choose to indirectly quote the Quran, saying, "We were only jesting and making merry." There are still many JEWS whose heads aren't Jewish enough. Their moral choices need greater scrutiny from above their belt. Their circumcision isn't doing them enough good. They're in denial of the pain they once went through and the pain they're causing others.

Many JEWS aren't Jewish enough. Many CHRISTIANS aren't Christian enough. I can add without equivocation that all *Muslims* today aren't Islamic at all despite their claim of devotion to *God*. These JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* go to synagogue, church or mosque religiously, but they aren't really true believers. They're actually the kind of people the Prophet so eloquently and tactfully called "nonbelievers." Their beliefs only go so far.

We live in a world where those who believe, rarely go to a house of prayer anymore because they're made to feel so uncomfortable there. This, too, must stop. The L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community is guilty of having given up on **GOD** because they've been so

²²⁴ Victims aren't only people who've been attacked or singled out by other communities. Victims are also people who've been attacked and singled out by themselves. From the point of view of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community, we're victims of all three of the Abrahamic faiths as well as victims of ourselves. If you think you've got a monopoly on the feelings of the victim or martyr, guess again. You're just another perpetrator from someone else's point of view. Making peace with the world around you is hard to do. You're going to need to begin by making peace with yourself.

disgusted by the intolerant people who run most of the institutions of prayer. But it's time they challenge the congregations they came from.

If you think there's any reason why you should be surprised that the N.R.A. runs America and Israel hasn't been able to forge peace with her neighbors, look more deeply into what you believe GOD's/GOD's/*God's* design is. Would you want to go to a synagogue, church or mosque these days if you were gay, Jewish, Christian or Muslim? The hypocrites are running religion into the ground. They're giving **GOD** a bad name. We can't get our government to work for us for the same reasons we can't get our institutions of prayer to work for us. People are working against the system. Such defiance will meet with a sorry end if we don't unite against them.

The serpent hanging down from the Tree of knowledge probably looked a lot like just another branch. Eve might have secretly thought she could always claim she couldn't tell the difference between a bough and a boa constrictor. And yet, when GOD questioned Adam, she simply said to HIM, "THE SERPENT DECEIVED me AND I ATE." [Genesis 3:13]

A man's heart is *like* a woman. His heart will deceive him if "she" believes "she" can get away with it. A man's heart isn't always his best friend. And his stomach often becomes the battleground between his heart and penis, much to the dismay of his head. His stomach will literally set him aflame with fire {heartburn} if he doesn't figuratively do what the two of them command. And it'll figuratively fill with butterflies {angst over matters of love} if he doesn't figuratively do what the two of them want.

Man's heart, like Eve, has three faces: (1) quarrelsome like Sarai (2) then sorrowful like Hagar, and lastly (3) noble like Sarah.²²⁵ When you're quarrelsome, you're angry. When you're angry, you become frustrated with yourself. When you're frustrated with yourself, your head has gone one direction and your heart, another. If you don't come to the third righteous place in inner space to solve the problem in being you, your desires will fill the vacuum below the level of consciousness.

Every boy goes through the stage of feeling like Ishmael. His mother is like Hagar, forlorn one moment, and like Sarai, quarrelsome the next. His father, like Abram, comes home at the end of the day, hears the screams and cries of his two-faced wife, while poor Ishmael can only express his frustration with home life through defiance. What child doesn't identify with Ishmael? His plight is universal. Who wouldn't turn into Torah's description of Ishmael, "A WILD DONKEY OF A MAN"? [Genesis 16:12]

The wife and mother who's like SARAH {noble} isn't rare, but her regal nature is seldom appreciated. Her ability to treat her son like ISAAC {laughter} isn't rare, either. But how many sons live up to the standards of Isaac {laughter personified}, and how many mothers and wives live up to the standards of Sarah {nobility}? You'd cynically conclude there's more nobility in the silhouette of a horse than in most sons and mothers.

²²⁵ "SARAH" {nobility} is the personification of a Jewish man's highest level of appreciation for the meaning of "woman." "Mary" {MIRIAM: sea of sorrow} is the personification of a Christian man's highest level of appreciation for the meaning of "woman." *Hagar* {forlorn} is the personification of a Muslim man's highest level of appreciation for the meaning of "woman."

I had to teach myself to make no excuses for me. Anyone might go crazy and want to kill others because of the mess he's made of his life. It's so easy to use GOD/GOD/*God* as a good reason for doing what you want. I had to renounce my faith in me after embracing it. And I had to give up thinking I loved GOD/GOD/*God* in order to discover I loved **GOD**.

So many think they're in love. It's so easy for your heart and penis to overwhelm your head with thoughts of fidelity after you've taken what you needed from others. Love is an aspect of your relationship with yourself that you may project onto one other after another. The more you know about you, the more successful you'll be in love.

"If **WE** pardon some of you, **WE** will punish others, for they are guilty men." In other words, it's not always the other guy who's guilty. Everyone has his own excuses ready to present if it'll mean receiving a pardon. But can you afford to be like everyone?

What if orthodox JEWS who denounce their children for loving a member of the same gender; right-wing CHRISTIAN who clutch their guns and adore their ammo more than life itself; and *Islāmic* terrorists who'll kill anyone for any reason – were all pardoned while the rest of us had to scrutinize our guilt? What if **GOD** allowed them to do their worst because they're such hypocrites that they'd completely lost any credibility in **HIS** eyes? What if **HE**'s much more worried about leading the guilty back to **HIM** than **HE** is in corralling the religious like wayward cattle?

What if the Democratic Party admitted the anti-Zionism on the left is as great as the anti-Semitism on the right? What if both political parties acknowledged that they're struggling to understand the role of the Jews in **GOD's** designs? Politics is nothing more than religion writ large.

Psychology has been the lingua franca for the past hundred years. Now we must find a way to further embrace psychology and the world of science by moving into inner space to explore ourselves using the fields of spiritual psychology based on spiritual linguistics and semantics.

The WORDS of **GOD** flow without pause or interruption. The WORDS of **GOD** don't repeat themselves in a pattern you can anticipate with the words you utter. It's a flowing, cascade of codes you must learn to decipher as you use them. You can't go back after you've said something to rewrite it in your heart another way. The first time you say something to yourself holds the truest meaning. All reinterpretations after that are guilty efforts to conceal your most authentic meaning from yourself, and others. When you go back to review what you said the first time, you'll come to realize how guilty you may feel about what you've really just said, whether or not you know now what you should have added to what you said.

There may come a point while witnessing yourself honestly that your feelings for you may diminish. You may become hot under the collar or so cool that your veins seem filled with ice. And for the sensitive individual who senses that the changes in his emotional temperature increase his guilt, it becomes harder to account for how he really thinks and feels.

When you look at yourself as Jesus did, as a cup filled with an intoxicating liquid that can change the way you feel almost instantaneously, you realize HE knew more about HIS feelings than you may do about yours. HE knew HE wasn't only filled with blood that

acted like wine in the way it affected HIS emotions. HE realized HE also had been given a very special cup created with a very special purpose.

When you feel you're entirely in your own hands you may also feel burned or frozen by your own feelings. You may feel your cup is impossible to get a grip on. But modern man, thanks to psychology, has done what Jesus figuratively did. HE put HIS cup into another cup to hold HIS feelings at bay. HE created an emotional thermos with one bottle figuratively inside the other. HE spoke about HIMSELF in the third-person.

This is the secret to emotional containment. This is how you can be upset with others without becoming so upset with yourself for being upset with them that you feel burned. This is how you can hold your feelings safely. This is how you can blame others internally without expressing that blame externally. This is the composure you're looking for that will lead you in the direction of patience.

You can achieve all this by talking to yourself in the third-person. It's this distance on you that creates the secondary, inner container. This is the silver lining that will protect you from your negative feelings for you, and others.

*"Your ways are like the ways
of those who have gone before you.
They were mightier than you,
and were blessed with greater riches and more children.
Like them, you have enjoyed your earthly lot
and, like them, you have engaged in idle talk.
But vain were their works in this life,
and vain they shall be in the world to come.
They will surely be the losers."
[9:69-70]*

*"Your ways are like the ways
of those who have gone before you.
They were mightier than you,
and were blessed with greater riches and more children.
Like them, you have enjoyed your Earthly lot
and, like them, you have engaged in idle talk.
But vain were their works in this life,
and vain they shall be in the "world to come."
They will surely be the losers."*

The Muslims who looked at the Jewish and Christian believers in the 8th Century C.E. couldn't perceive unity between the two established faiths. And some can't yet believe that's happening today. They're so consumed with accusing the others of hypocrisy that they can't see every little warp and ripple as a reflection of their feelings for themselves. Because their feelings for themselves fluctuate widely from boiling to freezing, they protect themselves by projecting all that they feel onto scapegoats well hidden by physical space

and objective time. They turn others into cups in their hands they want to smash. They have no clue how to create an emotional thermos. The resulting vanity doesn't feel to us like the burn of a fire; it feels like frost personified.

The fear that Zionism is a plan that will make it possible for the Jews to take over the world {9 million will lord over 8 billion} is ridiculous. In truth, Zionism from within will make everyone smarter, more loving and more loyal to himself. The idea that Christianity is going to take over the world {30% will dominate 70%} is only making men more caring and cautious. And the idea that Islam is going to take over the world {25% will dominate 75%} is only making men more devoted to their faith, nation, language, culture and lifestyle. **GOD** works in mysterious ways. If you were wiser, more loving and truly devoted to your life, you'd embrace the gays and lesbians in your faith, rather than exclude them. And you'd bless, rather than curse, the Jew in you.

The time has come for gays and lesbians to force their way into those SYNAGOGUES, CHURCHES and *Mosques* where they're unwanted. Who cares what they say about us or how they behave toward us? Their hypocrisy is only going to be more evident if we "come out" in the house of worship we once turned away from in disgust. Coming out today means going back in. And the religious fanatics and other hypocrites are just going to expose their hatred publicly while under their holy roofs before their GOD/GOD/*God*. Since they aren't willing to entertain the idea of one **GOD** judging us all, let them learn more about their guilt.

I believe the hypocrites in the houses of worship need to be exposed. They're so religiously unevolved that they need to be forced to look at their animalistic desire to exclude us. But they also should be reminded that if they want to exclude us, they ought to kill us, eat us and use our skin as lampshades and our fat to make soap. They shouldn't waste what GOD/GOD/*God* has given them. If they think themselves so civilized and spiritually elevated, let them use us as fertilizer to increase the nutritional value of the food they grow for their children. Let them use our bones to decorate their homes and noses. They're already cutting us up into little pieces with curses and obscenities, insisting we're fruits, and they're not. (They're nuts!) ²²⁶ The world hasn't gotten nearly bad enough for some, in my opinion. But if we follow the JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims*, I know it'll get much worse.

The religious extremists in the Abrahamic faiths are hypocrites, but fortunately we're hypocrites who already know it. If you listen to the anti-Semitism on the extreme right end of the Republican Party and the anti-Zionism on the extreme left end of the Democratic Party, you'll see that everyone picks a side in denial.

"They were mightier than you and were blessed with greater riches and more children." Those who appear to be mightier than you and who look like they're blessed with greater riches than you may actually be like cannibals at heart. Your ancestors could never have invited them to their spiritual table. They were savages. Go into their descendants' places

²²⁶ When I use the word fruit, I'm referring to an inner appreciation of the self as a metaphoric place to explore. Not every fruit turns out to be gay. But every fruit comes to the conclusion that there's something forbidden, holy and separate about him or her.

of worship today and observe what it is they really think, feel and believe. And you'll see what it is together they conspire to desire. Many of them are like man eaters still.

"Like them, you have enjoyed your Earthly lot and, like them, you have engaged in idle talk." I.e. **GOD** teaches us what we need to know when **HE** decides we need to know it. The more you learn, the more **HE**'ll decide what you're ready to learn next. And as you grow, your mission in the external world will become apparent.

"Vain were their works in this life, and vain they shall be in the "world to come." "Vanity: thy name is woman."²²⁷ Vanity: thy name is Eve. Vanity: thy name is man's heart in projection. Vanity, thy name is the heart of the man who's been beguiled by his own penis. That which you don't love {penis/clitoris}, you're bound to hate. But that which you don't hate {clitoris/penis}, you're bound to learn to love.

If you only follow your heart, you'll be led astray. You must use your head in life. But you must also perceive where your head and heart are taking you, and why. You must discipline the two of them with a clean conscience that can discern the moral directions you're taking yourself in. You don't want to wander about for 40 years like an Israelite in a desert. You're not looking for a deli. You're looking for a home!

You're going to need guides in life who are mindful, heartfelt and soulful. You're going to need guides who can elucidate to you the tension between your head, which is judicious; your heart, which is forgiving; and your soul, which only wants to be fair. With the help of guides and **GOD** you'll learn to handle the words of the serpent hanging from your tree or the worm in your apple.

Then you'll be able to die with a sense of moral accomplishment at how you, too, helped guide the world from the inside out. Then you, too, will have optimism {reverence} and hope {faith} in life and for the "afterlife." Then you'll believe you deserve a "heavenly" reward, and not the punishment the Abrahamic faiths insinuate you ought to receive if you don't agree with them.²²⁸

*"The true believers,
both men and women,
are friends to one another.
They enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil;
they attend to their prayers,
and render the alms levy,
and obey God and His Apostle.*

²²⁷ "'Vanity: thy name is woman.' The actual quote by Shakespeare comes from 'Hamlet,' the prince of Denmark, who said, 'Frailty, thy name is woman.'" [Wikipedia] The word vanity has taken over Shakespeare's quote in common usage, but, when you think about it, vanity is an internal conclusion we come to about our container that beguiles both men and women because it partially describes our penis problem or clitoris conflict.

²²⁸ Punishment is the consequence for all of us for putting up with the homophobic, racist, misogynistic and xenophobic bigots. Punishment is what we all get individually for the ways in which we treat ourselves inhumanely.

*On these God will have mercy.
God is mighty and wise.”
[9:71]*

“The true believers
both men and women,
are friends to one another.
They enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil;
they attend to their prayers,
and render the alms levy,
and obey **GOD** and **HIS** apostle.
On these **GOD** will have mercy.
GOD is mighty and wise.”

If the true believers, both men and women, were such good friends to one another, we wouldn't see the culture war we have in this country between men and women. If they could enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil, they wouldn't have the kind of violence we see everywhere in America. If they could attend to their prayers, render the alms levy, and obey **GOD** and all **HIS** apostles, especially Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Muhammad, they wouldn't weigh their homophobic thoughts against their frightened feelings to come up with the conclusion that the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community, blacks and illegal immigrants are fighting to dismantle everything they believe in. They'd be able to make a leap of faith to realize that they're simply using the serpent in their tree or the worm in their apple to decide what they want most to believe.

Such people aren't spiritually strong enough yet to achieve leaps of faith. They're still projecting their desires onto those they deem strange, queer and odd. And they're particularly violent and vicious when it comes to transgender people. They're hyper-religious, not heartfelt to strangers. Nor are they soulful to themselves. And they're going to pay a price for their evil inclinations. “**GOD** is mighty and wise.”

Those who've taken similar paths to mine have also been given majestic views of the path up the mountain. Our paths have often crossed, and we're all much closer to the universal summit than we once were despite our individual loves and losses. As the world moves through one moment in the present into the next, we string time together individually to make sense of the subjective gift of inner time and space. And in finding the universality of **GOD**'s designs, we become more awed by **HIS** creativity and in how **HE** made this world for all men, women and children.

Political systems that discriminate against Jews on the political right and Israel on the political left are passé. Such political, power struggles will become useless in a world where gay-Jews and other silenced minorities will find their voices. Men of every religious persuasion who represent the establishment will need to reconsider the moral positions they hold and their standing before **GOD** before they argue for opinions conjured up below their own belt. They'll need to reconsider the beliefs they've held until now and how they can

proceed from here to “there” without sticking their foot {penis} in their mouth. This presently appears to be a white, male problem. But I assure you, it’s a universal problem.

*“God has promised the men and women
who believe in His gardens watered by running streams,
in which they shall abide forever:
Goodly mansions in the garden of Eden:
and, what is more,
they shall have grace in God’s sight.
That is the supreme triumph.”*
[9:72]

“**GOD** has promised the men and women
who believe in **HIS** gardens watered by running streams,
in which they shall abide forever:
Goodly mansions in the Garden of Eden:
and, what is more,
they shall have grace in **GOD**’s sight.
That is the supreme triumph.”

The hope of this message becomes personal if your head is resigned to wisdom; if your heart is resigned to love; and your soul, to devotion.²²⁹ The view you hold of **GOD** may vary over time. But even your reflection in the mirror changes over time. You need to believe that your own reflection is real, even if what you’re looking at is an inverted image of your real image.

You can’t claim the mirror is at fault if you don’t like what you see when you look in it. To think that **GOD** is against you because you aren’t getting what you want out of life, you’d have to believe something about **HIM** that contradicts the chronological evidence of **HIS** designs. You should, instead, look at how you interpret the words you use to make your negative case about most everything.

The mansions in today’s Eden lie exactly where they’ve always been: within. Those who dwell with the Lord are blessed with running, indoor hot and cold feelings that give them the impression they could continue living the mystery in their heart forever. From the heart, eternity is a “heavenly” forever. From the head, however, our feelings often leave us with the impression we’re stuck in a living “hell.”

²²⁹ Repentance requires you to clean up the mess you made around you. Redemption requires you to clean up the mess you made within. Some prefer to start outside themselves and make their way in. Others prefer to do the opposite. Far be it for me to stick my nose in your soul searching.

Only from our soul can we come to understand **GOD's** designs.²³⁰ Only there in our soul lies our belief in **HIS** goodness. There we're sheltered from the burning heat, the pounding wind, lightening, thunder and the pouring rain that makes our inner climate as precarious as what's happening to the climate around us.

*“Prophet,
make war on the nonbelievers
and the hypocrites,
and deal rigorously with them.
Hell shall be their home,
an evil fate.”
[9:73]*

*“Prophet,
Make war on the nonbelievers
and the hypocrites,
and deal rigorously with them.
“hell” shall be their home,
an evil fate.”*

Everyone is, in a way, a prophet. Everyone must interpret Scripture in a way they can live with their conscience in order to make their conscience their guide, so as to pursue our one **GOD**. Every human being is in a struggle with justice and mercy and forced to strive for fairness. These are the choices we all make.

The Prophet Muhammad deeply understood the issues of his day and had an inkling of the issues future generations would face. He understood what the Archangel Gabriel meant when he recited the words “nonbelievers” and “hypocrites” so long ago. But at no time in the history of the world have the institutions of religion been filled with more non-believers and hypocrites, while the streets are filled with so many good people as we see today.

*“Some pledged themselves,
saying,
‘If God is bountiful to us,
we will give alms and live like righteous men.’
But when God had bestowed His favors on them
they tightened their fists and,*

²³⁰ You understand with your head. You understand with your soul. But from your heart understanding often boils down to the pain or pleasure principle because your heart was first compromised by matters below your belt.

turning their backs,
hurried away.
*He has caused hypocrisy to reign in their hearts till the day they meet Him
because they have been untrue to the pledge they gave Him
and because of the lies they told.”*
[9:77-78]

“Some pledged themselves,
saying,
‘If GOD is bountiful to us,
we will give alms and live like righteous men.’
But when **GOD** had bestowed **HIS** favors on them
they tightened their fists and,
turning their backs,
hurried away.
HE has caused hypocrisy to reign in their hearts till the day they meet **HIM**
because they have been untrue to the pledge they gave **HIM**
and because of the lies they told.”

Greed tightens men’s hands into fists and makes their hearts grow hard and cold. Greed makes men afraid that what they have will be taken away from them as punishment for having taken something that wasn’t theirs to begin with. Greed is **GOD**’s tool for leaving us with what’s fair. It’s not fair that we should work so hard for money and then have to leave it all here when we leave!... GOD is just and GOD is merciful, so it’s up to *God* to teach us to act fairly. But only good Jews, Christians and Muslims seem to hold that relationship with **HIM**.

The guilt that comes from the desire to be greedy shapes a man’s body, thoughts, feelings and beliefs. It even shapes history. Those who insist that gays or Jews are infidels take the shape of greedy hypocrites. You can’t talk to them. You can’t reason with them. You can’t frighten them. You can only teach those near them to convince them to teach themselves. You can only encourage all greedy hypocrites to give greater thought to their own “heavenly” reward, even if they scoff at the idea of meeting you “there.” Apparently, they think they’re going to live forever.

Life goes by so fast. And the comforts we hold dear wouldn’t be worth putting so high on our list of priorities if we didn’t care as much as we do about what’s fair. If you’ve been an emotional doormat like me, expect to be given lessons to protect your feelings from thieves who’d rape you of your dignity. If you’ve been a spiritual masochist, you may want to protect your honor, as well as your dignity, from thieves.

Teach the confused who are in denial of the truth about the universality of designs. But remember you aren’t your brother’s, spiritual keeper. Your grades aren’t going on his report card, and his aren’t going on yours. Be fair, not melodramatic. **GOD** sees all and

knows all. And **GOD's** tools are beyond your tools, a woman's tools, or both your tools put together. Your children will have far more tools at their disposal than you can ever imagine.

To make money is a form of knowledge that some have. To make love is another form of knowledge some have. To consolidate these two powerful forces is knowledge only a very few have.

But to create life is something any two idiots can do if they have the time and the right tools. It's the mystery of *why* your testicles or ovaries create life that can't be answered by science or religion. It's a personal mystery you should subjectively and objectively ask yourself. This question isn't something you can ask of another person. Everyone ought to turn his greed from the outside in.

I have a friend who ate muffins and watched porn. His appetite for nutritious food and nutritious relationships was nonexistent. He filled himself with empty calories, literally and spiritually. And then he wondered why he suffered from mood swings and depression. If you don't care for you, who will? If you're unhappy, chances are, whether you like it or not, that's fair.

*"It is the same whether,
or not you beg forgiveness for them.
If 70 times you beg forgiveness for them,
God will not forgive them,
for they have denied God and His Apostle.
God does not guide the evil doers."
[9:80]*

*"It is the same,
whether or not you beg forgiveness for them.
If 70 times you beg forgiveness for them,
GOD will not forgive them,
for they have denied **GOD** and **HIS** apostle.
GOD does not guide the evil doers."*

You *can* do someone else's homework, but you *can't* take his tests. You can even learn a lot from having done his homework. But his grades still aren't going to go on your report card. We're all in this alone, together.

Everything given to us in this world will remain here when we leave, including our body. The only "things" you'll take with you when you leave will be your grades. Everything subjective leaves with you when you leave here. Everything objective stays behind.

You are a spiritual tree planted in an orchard of opportunity. But you *will* be uprooted. You are also a spiritual cup {flesh} filled with a magical substance {blood}. Your blood is a euphemistic term that refers to your feelings. Your blood figuratively runs hot and cold. But when your cup runneth over with feelings, there's no saucer to catch what you've lost.

You lose. It's like finding yourself with a big wet spot on your pants in public. You experience embarrassment. You experience disappointment, even rage. Whether you've literally lost blood or figuratively lost feelings, you lose. That's life. Fortunately, that which doesn't kill you can still leave you wiser if you care enough to talk to yourself about your losses and how embarrassing it is to be wrong so often.

Those who don't talk to themselves about their losses never learn to ask **GOD** the one question every 5-year old asks all the time, "Why?" If you don't intersperse whys into your thoughts and feelings, how are you going to experience the spiritual process of communicating with **GOD**? How are you going to come from your soul? How are you going to learn from yourself? ²³¹

Think of you as a Jewish cup filled with Christian tea held in a Muslim hand. There's so much you can't anticipate even though you may think you already know yourself so well. You never know whether you're going to succeed in bringing your cup to your lips to sip the essence of your brew, or whether you're going to spill it all over your lap. (Don't be in awe of those whose pinky finger is raised in an elegant pose. They're just showoffs.)

The externalization of the tea ceremony we associate with Japanese ritual and Eastern choreography was never about drinking tea, but about aesthetics: preparing a bowl of tea from one's heart. The host of the ceremony always considers the guests with every movement and gesture. But the serving of your own tea for yourself is an inner art and a spiritual discipline you should come to appreciate for itself.

Your inner universe is as vast as the night sky. The synchro-mysticism of your two worlds is your subjective evidence that there *is* a **GOD** and that **HE** has designs. If you don't yet see it, I can point it out to you with one finger, but you still won't be able to perceive what I'm pointing to from within. What you see at this moment in time is only what you know about yourself right now. That will change in the next moment. I can freeze the frame around you to point out certain facts about the film, but I can't stop your inner world as it records and plays back reality to you on your own endless loop.

The more you deny your own inner evidence, the less evidence you'll amass. The more curious you are for more evidence from within, the more curious you'll become about the world around you. And some day, with intellectual curiosity in hindsight, you'll then increase your emotional insight and spiritual foresight. But no one can perceive the next moment of objective time before it comes.

*"They were content to be with those who stayed behind:
a seal was set upon their hearts,
leaving them bereft of understanding."
[9:87-88]*

*"They were content to be with those who stayed behind:
a seal was set upon their hearts,*

²³¹ Parroting back prayers in public forms of ritualistic worship are less useful than self-scrutiny. The recitations of the Prophet are prayers you're meant to ponder, not mindlessly echo.

leaving them bereft of understanding.”

To appreciate the *words* of the Prophet, you should live your life through learning, not wasting it on the singular pursuit of pleasurable, bodily sensations. Self-indulgence won't discipline your mind. You should talk with yourself to create a better self. Talk therapy begins within. You should combine the WORDS you know with the WORDS for what you feel. And then you'll be inspired, as was the Prophet, to use the *words* of your belief system to create a personal prayer for speaking to **GOD**. Interspersing your inner conversations with whys takes you out of your head and heart and into your soul. And it's only from there in your soul that **GOD** responds. But how **HE**ll respond and when, I cannot tell you. You should use your faith to develop faith {patience}.

You're probably going to want to “struggle with **GOD**” {Israel} to find the WORDS you need to express yourself more eloquently from your soul. It may already be easy for you to be frank with others, but can you be frank to the point of questioning yourself? This struggle with **GOD** is the reason for the creation of Israel. This struggle with **GOD** was the reason for the crusades over Israel. And this struggle with *God* has been the reason for today's jihads over Israel. Until you struggle with **GOD** within, you'll never know what I'm talking about.

You can't pray frankly on your Sabbath if you aren't talking to yourself internally all day long. Being frank with you is for practice in coming to prayer with a desire to be frank with **GOD**. I didn't say “rude.” When you're rude to you, you then distract yourself internally or indulge yourself externally. You take a detour and then find you having to travel further to get to your destination than you expected to go. Thoughts that are rude to you will get you nowhere. Verbal production within you that doesn't lead to the question “Why?” are lectures, not conversations.

Your soul is a prison cell with a tiny, barred window in it. You're locked inside that cell all alone. The only one you ought to talk to is the guard {your heart} and the warden {your head}. If you don't start cooperating with the staff, you're going to rot in there and the guard and warden are going to give you the impression that they've thrown away the key.

Strive to be genuine as well as frank when you talk to yourself or pray. Watch what you say in the hopes of expressing directly and candidly what you believe in your soul to be true. If you find yourself searching for words, it might mean you're not proud of what you're thinking or feeling. To feel blessed, you might like to discuss your opinions candidly and in detail with **GOD**. Making you more of the topic of the conversation might be more difficult than you think if you've been habituated to go to **GOD**/**GOD**/*God* only to ask for what you want externally.

If you feel you're facing a harsh, white light don't let that upset you. Be natural. Turn around and face your guilt. Darkness won't hurt you. Give yourself the most genuine answers you can but assume that you may be lying to you. You're always under oath,

whether you like it or not.²³² With this in mind when you scrutinize you, you'll develop greater authenticity in the world we share. You'll develop backbone.

I can see that *Muslims* are disingenuous. I can see that CHRISTIANS are insincere. And everyone's been saying since the beginning of time that the JEWS are dishonest. But aren't they all in a way a combination of "you"? Are you really better than any one of them?

The only question of any importance is *who* you are and *how* you are. We're all getting sick and tired of hearing *why* you are who you are. (That always comes across as a bunch of excuses.) And I can tell you that if you don't work at being more honest, sincere and genuine from your head, heart and soul, you're kidding yourself. Your opinion of you needs to be fairer. That's why **GOD** created designs, and that's why we have so much difficulty in perceiving them.

You might like to start your prayers by telling **GOD** what you really think of the body **HE** gave you; the family you were born into; and the challenges **HE** gave you to surmount long before you had any real sense that there even were designs. If there's bitterness, disappointment or guilt in your heart, admit it to **HIM** candidly. Rather than blame women, gays and/or the Jew du jour for the predicaments you're in, try to refrain from blaming anybody, even yourself. Just begin your prayers by telling **HIM** what you see as true about you and ask **HIM** what **HE** sees in you that **HE**'d like to elucidate for you. You might be frightened, flattered and confused by **HIS** response. Submit to what happens next.

If you don't ask the **TEACHER** questions, you're going to find yourself relying on the class to pass your tests in life. And I think that's usually insufficient. I think the class curve is very low at times. I think a lot of students are contrary and unmotivated, and the bozos at the back of the room are busy distracting everybody to avoid having to study. That should only prove to you that only those who are doing their homework are coming prepared for class. Only they're ready for their next lessons each day.

*"The offenders are those who seek exception
although they are men of wealth.
They are content to be with those who stay behind.
God has set a seal upon their hearts.
They are devoid of knowledge."
[9:93]*

*"The offenders are those who seek exception
although they are men of wealth.
They are content to be with those who stay behind.*

²³² When you're honest from your head, sincere from your heart and authentic from your soul, you'll realize you're always under an oath to strive to be genuine. **GOD** is always watching you. Are you?

GOD has set a seal upon their hearts.
They are devoid of knowledge.”

Many of the wealthiest in money are seated at the back of the room with the bozos. Even many blessed with popularity and fame are unaware of what they might be doing to ruin their reputation with themselves within themselves. They’re both externally governed.

Self-awareness often comes through pain and/or suffering. Instead of opening their heart, the wealthy, powerful and popular, like Pharaoh, find their heart hardened and, therefore, it becomes more and more sealed. To try to reason with people who behave like Pharaoh (or Hitler) won’t help. You might like to take the helpful approach of “yentas.”²³³

*“When they return,
they will appeal to you in God’s name to let them be.
So let them be.
They are unclean.
Hell shall be their home,
the punishment for all their misdeeds.”
[9:96]*

“When they return,
they will appeal to you in **GOD**’s name to let them be.
So let them be.
They are unclean.
‘hell’ shall be their home,
the punishment for all their misdeeds.”

The **TEACHER**’s punishment of others isn’t, of course, your concern. But when punishment comes close to home, as is happening today for Muslims, it’s natural to take other people’s wellbeing more to heart, while looking even more closely at your own wellbeing. For, in others, you may see a mirror of what you’re going through, too.

Your enemies are external mirrors of what you’ve been doing to you. The more you stop doing to you what they’ve been doing to you, the more you’ll be able to thank **GOD** for your enemies. Your grades have gone up thanks to them.

Getting away from sympathy for others is only a blessing if you can move in the direction of empathy instead. Looking down on others isn’t as useful as looking across at them. If you don’t see your own past misfortunes in them, your best intentions for you will be for naught. The homelessness, violence, pain and suffering we see in the Middle East

²³³ “Yenta” {Yiddish: woman who is gentle or noble} Yenta comes from the translation of “genteel/gentle.” In common parlance today, it refers to a gossip or busybody. But a yenta is really a matchmaker within yourself. The more you match you up with those inner parts you’re alienated from, the more you’ll encourage you to see that you’re a match made in “heaven.”

should give us pause as to what we've done to our inner selves. Answers need to come from within before the external world becomes meaningful. This is what politicians and generals aren't paid to do. This is what religious leaders are meant to do.

Unfortunately, many couldn't empathize with gays during the A.I.D.S. crisis. And many still can't do so today with gays and Israelis. They declared that gays were getting their just desserts then. And they believe the same about Israelis now. But you'll get your just desserts, too. And the longer you wait for your just dessert, the more likely the vegetables you've been avoiding may be waiting for you to finish.

If you give in to the unclean voices in you that beg to be left alone without comment or critique, you'll find yourself getting dirtier and lazier. And you'll find it more and more difficult to listen with your head, heart and soul to those in pain or suffering.

Let **GOD** concern **HIMSELF** with what will happen to the nonbelievers and hypocrites. You should worry only about the hypocrite in you. The idea of looking down from "heaven" onto "hell" is something I find myself having to figuratively do daily. Sometimes it's amusing. Other times, it becomes my "hell" to have to look at theirs. And once in a while it becomes a "hell" I'm stuck in, too. There's always something to learn in what **GOD** brings me. It just depends we're I'm at inside when it comes.

*"The desert Arabs surpass others in nonbelief and hypocrisy,
and have more cause to be ignorant of the laws
God has revealed to His Apostle.
But God is all knowing and wise."
[9:97-98]*

*"The desert Arabs surpass others in nonbelief and hypocrisy,
and have more cause to be ignorant of the laws
GOD has revealed to **HIS** apostle.
But **GOD** is all knowing and wise."*

This is a shocking statement since all those desert Arabs the Prophet talked about in such negative terms are the ancestors of the Arabs who live in the Middle East today. We can see from our perspective in Europe and America how much nonbelief and hypocrisy there is in the desert Arabs today. But can you see the nonbelief and hypocrisy in those around you? Can you see it in yourself?

It's also a shocking statement because it presents this perspective on "desert Arabs" from a more enlightened Muslim perspective. Who would have guessed that the Prophet had the ability to see his own people from such a critical outsider's point of view?

Each generation is ignorant of the next class's lesson plan from the **TEACHER**. That's why it's so important we give our children and grandchildren every opportunity we can to prepare for their ongoing education. It's so important to use the main metaphor of Moses that the Jews have been employing for 5,780 years. We've been through all the extended metaphors of life. It's the symbols and signs we're now studying.

Life for the Jews was a *battlefield* where our ancestors lived or died {3,400 B.C.E – 0 C.E.}; life was a *sport* they had to win {1 C.E – 1900}; and life was a *craft* they had to master {1900 – 2000}. Now it's time for us to enter the new age, the age of the metaphor of life as a *school* with **GOD** as our ONE and only **TEACHER**.

The ancient Jews had to survive the battlefield. The early Jews had to win the sport. The modern Jews had to master the mindset of others. And today's more modern Jews ought to make sure they graduate a lifelong education with a Ph.D. in "me." Come on board with us or continue to battle, play games or work to be a master over slaves.

We all need freedom in our country. We all need liberty in our culture. And we all need emancipation from ourselves. But we're all at different places on our journey, discovering different ways of describing emancipation as an aspect of our spiritual process. The Jews were given GOD who taught us to sanctify bread and wine. The Christians were given GOD who taught them to sanctify spiritual bread {flesh} and to wash it down with spiritual wine {blood}. And the Muslims were given the perspective of outsiders to our gifts to help us unify our gifts with a greater desire to learn about themselves through simile to discover **GOD's** mysterious ways for them.

The Passover meal {Exodus} describes the metaphors of freedom. The Passover meal {Easter} describes the symbols of liberty. And the Passover meal {Ramadan} describes the signs of emancipation. But if you only eat at your own spiritual table, you're only going to consume the spiritual food of one course of the three-course meal.

There is a parched desert in us all. It's an awesome, frightening space where there's very little liquid love to nourish or reprieve us from our angry, inner heat. It's an art to live in this kind of harsh climate. The warming of the planet in the 21st Century signifies a future "heaven" or "hell." It makes each one of us an inner Arab who understands the mystery of outer place from inner space. Until you see life as a school, you probably aren't going to learn to correlate much about what's happening in both your worlds without going a little crazy from time to time. And for that, you *will* be punished.

The world is mad, but people don't know about what. **GOD** is letting some people act on their insanity so that the rest of us will become even more upset about the way things are within us. The more you can acknowledge the ways in which you're "mad as 'hell' and aren't going to take this anymore," the more your madness will surface in healthy, creative ways, and the less worried you'll need to be about going insane.²³⁴

Abrahamic brothers have unique gifts that will bring material comfort and spiritual strength to everyone who's willing to learn how to learn about the family of man. **GOD** created us with a unity of spiritual purpose that won't be achieved everywhere in the future if it isn't first demonstrated in the Western world amongst ourselves.

*"Others there are who have confessed their sins;
their good works have been intermixed with evil."*

²³⁴ "I'm mad as 'hell' and I'm not going to take this anymore." Line from "Network" a 1976 American satirical, black comedy-drama film written by Paddy Chayefsky (Jewish) and directed by Sidney Lumet (Jewish).

*Perchance God will turn to them in mercy.
God is forgiving and merciful.
Take alms from them,
so that they may thereby be cleansed and purified,
and pray for them,
for your prayers will give them comfort.
God hears all and knows all.”*
[9:102-103]

“Others there are who have confessed their sins;
their good works have been intermixed with evil.
Perchance **GOD** will turn to them in mercy.
GOD is forgiving and merciful.
Take alms from them,
so that they may thereby be cleansed and purified,
and pray for them,
for your prayers will give them comfort.
GOD hears all and knows all.”

Accepting the prayers and blessings of those who are a mixture of goodness and evil is even more of a humbling experience than praying for them or accepting their material gifts. Praying for JEWS, Christians and *Muslims* is a great gift to us all. You won't be able to accept our material gifts if you haven't first prayed for our nocturnal souls. ²³⁵

*“Who is a better man,
he who founds his house on the fear of God and His good pleasure,
or he who builds on the brink of a crumbling edifice,
so that his house will fall with him into the fire of hell?
God does not guide the wrongdoer.”*
[9:108-109]

“Who is a better man,
he who founds his house on the fear of **GOD** and **HIS** good pleasure,
or he who builds on the brink of a crumbling edifice,
so that his house will fall with him into the fire of “hell”?
GOD does not guide the wrongdoer.”

²³⁵ Your head is up all day. Your heart comes out only at dawn and dusk when it's inspired by the rising and setting SON. But your soul reclines all night. Your soul is nocturnal. This is why hope springs nocturnal.

Are you praying to **GOD**, or are you praying to a *DOG* of yur own invention? Are you going the wrong way? Are you working for a good life through atonement and redemption, or are you working for your death and destruction? You'd better learn to see the difference because you aren't going to be able to hear any difference. Any voice inside of you can sweet-talk you unless you have ways of reading your own words.

It takes a strong heart with the best of intentions to be good in the face of the temptation to be vindictive. Those who are emotionally messy or spiritually lazy use vengeance to try to right the outer world of its wrongs. **GOD** knows where we live and how to bring us inside ourselves before **HÆ** brings us up "there" with **HIM**. The rewards of "heaven" and the punishments of "hell" need to be mirrored down here for us to come to believe in them.

Only once we can see the ecstasy of orgasm as a little piece of "heaven" brought down to Earth and the pain of fire as a little piece of "hell" brought up from the bowels of the Earth, will we avoid the insanity that comes from operating our two worlds as though they're unconnected and without reason.

*"God has purchased from the faithful
their lives and worldly goods,
and in return has promised them the garden.
They will fight for the cause of God.
They will slay and be slain.
Such is the true promise He made them
in Torah, the Gospel and the Quran.
And who is more true to his pledge than God?
Rejoice then in the promise you have made.
That is the supreme triumph."
[9:110-112]*

"GOD has purchased from the faithful
their lives and worldly goods,
and in return has promised them the 'garden.'
They will fight for the cause of **GOD**.
They will slay and be slain.
Such is the true promise **HÆ** made them
in Torah, the Gospels and the Quran.
And who is more true to his pledge than **GOD**?
Rejoice then in the promise you have made.
That is the supreme triumph."

You don't have to have literally try to kill yourself to have killed yourself trying to accomplish what you wanted. There are many ways to feel dead, buried and only somewhat

resurrected. Sometimes lifting a fork to your mouth in another celebration of life becomes the weapon you've chosen to do yourself in with more meaninglessness.

A Jew opens the refrigerator door looking for freedom. A Christian opens a liquor store looking for love. And a Muslim opens his eyes looking for a morsel of loyalty and a sip of devotion. I guarantee you that none of them will find redemption where they're looking.

Happiness means nothing if it's meaningless. Only meaning will make you happy. Therefore, pursue meaning, not happiness.²³⁶ If you pursue meaning, I promise that you'll experience happiness and that happiness will turn to joy. There will be losses that will turn the bright, white light yellow. Such is the difference between silver and gold. Happiness is silvery. Joy is golden.

The clink of glasses or a drag on a joint is a sign of the 6th Commandment being broken. You know the weapons you're using to kill yourself. Just think about your penis, and you know all about the weapon you're also using to break the 7th. If you don't wish to become responsible, you don't have to. You're free to lead an irresponsible life without words. But don't expect to discover anything about liberty or emancipation. That would not be realistic.

It won't only be those who used bullets and bombs who'll face their **MAKER** about the murder of righteous human beings. You're a human being. You, too, will answer to **GOD** for how you've treated yourself in accordance with all the Commandments. The more you see through your hypocrisy, the more you'll find yourself yearning to obey the Commandments from within.

*“It is not for the Prophet or the believers
to beg forgiveness for idolaters,
even though they be related to them,
after it has become manifest that they have earned the punishment of hell.
Abraham prayed for his father
only to fulfill a promise he had made to him.
But when he realized he was an enemy of God,
he disowned him.
Yet Abraham was a compassionate and tenderhearted man.”
[9:113-114]*

*“It is not for the Prophet or the believers
to beg forgiveness for idolaters,
even though they be related to them,
after it has become manifest that they have earned the punishment of “hell.”
Abraham prayed for his father*

²³⁶ Meaning is external and internal. Pursue meaning because without it your external world will become meaningless. Many are mad at others. But far more at mad at themselves because they didn't do in life that which would have given their life meaning.

only to fulfill a promise he had made to him.
But when he realized he was an enemy of GOD,
he disowned him.

Yet Abraham was a compassionate and tenderhearted man.”

We’re all relatives of nonbelievers and hypocrites who are addicted to the life around us, not in love with it from within. That wasn’t just a problem for Abraham who was surrounded by indigenists.

Torah sketched the future of the faithful in every faith and in every age. The Gospels painted a picture of it. And the Quran chipped away at it to give it to us as sculpture: frozen reality. If you find yourself with a father who’s addicted to money, power, women or deceit, know that you’re not alone. He’s a hypocrite. If you find yourself with a mother who’s addicted to popularity, vanity or making babies, know that you’re not alone, either. She’s a hypocrite. These are spiritual challenges **GOD** personally gave me, and you. You don’t need to fight with either one of your parents to become a better human being. Your bellybutton is lifelong evidence of your separation from both of them.

You can’t fight yourself with guilt and win. Guilt alone will only motivate you to avoid yourself. You can’t reward yourself only with love. Love alone will spoil you with self-indulgences. And you can’t worship yourself with devotion to your lifestyle alone. Devotion alone will misguide you. You should use the wisdom **GOD** has allowed you to earn on your own. Experience is your best teacher.

Abraham disowned his father, and “Abraham was a compassionate and tenderhearted man.” You can do better than that. You can learn from his mistakes. Avoid experiences that hurt others

The Prophet makes a point in stressing that it’s not up to us to beg forgiveness before **GOD** for our family members if they betray our faith in **HIM**. The grades of the bad students will never go on the report card of the good. But the good student had better turn away from the class clowns at the back of the room and face front, or they’ll ruin his grades and reputation in his own eyes, and in the **TEACHER**’s.

*“It is not right that all the faithful
should go to war all at once.
A band from each community should stay behind
to instruct themselves in religion
and admonish their men when they return,
so that they may take heed.”
[9:122]*

“It is not right that all the faithful
should go to war all at once.
A band from each community should stay behind
to instruct themselves in religion
and admonish their men when they return,

so that they may take heed.”

Naturally, the intellectually schooled individual will see himself as too valuable at home to go to war. And the heartfelt will want to do everything he can to ameliorate a bad situation close to home if it seems terribly upsetting to him. But he who is loyal to the cause of peace on Earth often spends an inordinate amount of time and energy far from home at war around him or within himself to figure out what’s going on. This loss of men would be avoidable if we were all instructing ourselves in spirituality.²³⁷

JEWISH campaigns, CHRISTIAN crusades and *Islāmic* jihads will only continue until men see through themselves to perceive their love of themselves by the way they treat their fellow man. The wars will rage on until they all see that their losses are emanating out from an intolerably uncomfortable, spiritual relationship with their penis and rectum. Being a pain in the butt to others is only for practice... There are many ways to screw yourself badly.

There’s no reason for what JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* are allowing themselves to do to us other than a desire to have something that isn’t theirs or a propensity to hate something for being the way it is. This is biologically centered on a belittling relationship with their penis and rectum that they then project out onto the world. Every man has one of each, and every man ought to get over his disgust of those parts of himself he struggles to love. He should admit he’s human. GOD made him in HIS image. GOD made him in HIS image. *God* made him *in His* image. **GOD** made him in **HIS** image. You can say it a million ways. It’s not going to change the way man is. You can only screw yourself figuratively. Your penis and anus aren’t a match made in “heaven.”

The problem began in giving the problems of the world to straight men to solve. Straight men don’t appreciate the loss of every penis as much they should. They think that by reducing the number of penises in the world, they’re increasing their chances for being fruitful and multiplying their own chances of biological success. They also think that **GOD** will reward them for getting rid of one or more of the rectal problems around them.

Only a gay man can see from the start what a bad idea that is. It’s as if straight men think that lowering the class average will increase their own g.p.a., thus magically making them smarter. In truth, the more each of us struggles to appreciate his own penal and rectal problems, the higher the class average rises for everyone, and the more motivated everyone becomes.

If the *Muslim* world thinks they’re going to convince the CHRISTIAN world to start another Holocaust against the JEWS, they’re misreading the signs of the times. The Christians will never recreate the anti-Semitism their faith perpetrated against the Jews in the past. They learned very hard lessons from their mistakes. But the CHRISTIANS will continue to plague the *Muslims*, blacks, women and L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community. For that, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* ought to expect to pay a dear price.

²³⁷ Religion is the belief in GOD/GOD/*God*. Spirituality is the belief in **GOD**. Needless to say, you need to use your disappointment with the former to achieve faith in the latter.

If the *Muslims* think they're going to convince themselves to create a holocaust against the Jews, they're misreading those signs, too. The *Muslims* would love to create more of the anti-Zionism we see today, and Muslims should fight against that if they wish to show their devotion to *God*. It's a Catch-44, twice as complex as a Catch-22.

It will be the Jews, Christians and Muslims who'll be responsible for creating peace on Earth. In the meantime, the oceans will rise, the rain will deluge the low-lying lands, and the sun will set the forests aflame. The plants will die. The honeybees and fish will die. And famine will teach good people everywhere indirectly what hunger for spiritual food tastes like.

The secular and religious wars against Israel will continue until straight men can't look down anymore from their lofty summits on the mountain without having to look at their own penis problem and anal expulsive behaviors. And death will crawl up from the valley to the highest mountaintop like a 5:00 o'clock shadow.

Many men refuse to love themselves. They refuse to love other men. They refuse to love women. And they refuse to love the planet religiously. There's something creepy that comes over men when they use the word love to describe their relationship with anyone or anything. It's as though a shadow in their crotch that covers their heart reaches out and crawls over their soul. They become greedy and afraid of something even worse than death. And it's not satan. I assure you it's not him. It's an unfiltered, unexamined desire to be autonomous.

When a man claims to love, it's like witnessing the moon crawling across the sun. The sun shrinks and then it grows bright again. It feels like your heart has been eclipsed by your mind leaving your soul momentarily in the dark.

*“Whenever a chapter is revealed,
some of them ask
‘Whose faith will this increase?’
It will surely increase the believers and give them joy.
As for those whose hearts are tainted,
it will add uncleanness to their uncleanness,
so that they shall die while still in nonbelief.”
[9:124-125]*

*“Whenever a chapter is revealed,
some of them ask
‘Whose faith will this increase?’
It will surely increase the believers and give them joy.
As for those whose hearts are tainted,
it will add uncleanness to their uncleanness,
so that they shall die while still in nonbelief.”*

The Prophet's *words* are just as true today as in the time in which he stated them. Most atheists will never believe in **GOD** because their smugness exceeds all religious bounds. And the believers, equally arrogant, will never give up their separate faith in GOD/GOD/*God*. It's up to you to believe in two worlds, to expose evil everywhere around you after you've been inspired to see it and eradicate it within.

You've now passed my class in Spiritual Linguistics and have been enrolled in the next higher class: Spiritual Semantics. Each is a major in the department called, "Spiritual Psychology." If you so desire, you can take Spiritual Semantics credit/no credit. I had to impress upon you the importance of the WORDS of **GOD** before I could introduce to you the importance of spiritual psychology. Spiritual psychology is the effect of **GOD's** WORDS on your individualized psychology. By seeing everything you have around you as a reflection of a piece of your own puzzle, you can use the field of psychology to better yourself.

I had to internalize, personalize and spiritualize the study of psychology before I could use it as a tool to better myself in the Islamic sense of repentance for the sake of redemption. Now I can use the field of spiritual psychology to further awaken me to the equally important field of spiritual sociology. The way people express their devotion to their religion, language, nation and family is the result of how they conform to external pressures to adapt their individual psychology to the pressures presented by each of the Abrahamic faiths.

When you internalize the Quran, you'll find the power to use your own words in remarkably new and powerful ways. Suddenly the magic of fairy tales will come real, and the magic behind the childhood magic you once believed in will be revealed to you in a whole other and surprising way.

Don't be afraid to be afraid of GOD. Don't hate having to love GOD. And then you won't defy your urge to devote yourself to yourself with *God's* help. As you learn to combine, unite, join, merge, mix, mingle and link these three paths up the mountain, you'll discover your mission in life and the power you receive when you experience all that happening.

*"Whenever a chapter is revealed,
they glance at each other,
asking,
'Is anyone watching you?'
Then they turn away.
God has turned away their hearts,
for they are senseless men."
[9:127]*

“Whenever a chapter is revealed,
they glance at each other,
asking,
‘Is anyone watching you?’
Then they turn away.
GOD has turned away their hearts,
for they are senseless men.”

GOD is watching you at all times. If you look around to see if anyone is watching you, you’re not as deep a believer as you’d like to be. You’re still worried about being humiliated by others. In other words, you’re *reacting* to feelings of guilt. You’re not *responding* to them.

If you lie, steal or cheat others, and then turn away from your deeds in denial of your guilt, know that **GOD** has turned your heart away from you. You’re definitely on the path, just not as far along or as high up as you think. Your feelings are demanding your attention. Your feelings for you are feeble.

Therefore, think back to the last time you were terribly sorry, a time when your heart was breaking and you felt as though it was going to burst. This very painful feeling is the natural consequence of actions that you had no idea would affect you so deeply. But there’s a similar experience that can emanate from your breastplate called “devotion.” This breaking of your soul can be even more painful than the breaking of your heart. *God* can and does take all of us on soul-seeking experiences.

Even though biological responses and reactions are out of your control, your mind doesn’t forget what it’s been through. And your mind doesn’t stop questioning what every little thing means. Guilt becomes the motivating force that drives you to explore the way you were made and how you can protect yourself from the powerful feeling of sorrow in having to be you sometimes.

Fear and anger won’t affect you as deeply or as personally as sorrow. Sorrow is so overwhelming for the simple reason that it’s the deepest and most personal expression of loss. Just know that sorrow and disappointment are the last feelings you need to endure before you reach love. You may not be at the top of the mountain, but your altitude is high enough for you to be able to understand my sentiment.

“Whenever a chapter is revealed,” you should glance at yourself, asking, “Is anyone inside me watching me?” The vast majority of people aren’t going to risk looking crazy in other people’s eyes because their conscience is still shining out in projection into the world around them. They aren’t ready, willing or able to risk their public reputation because their reputation still lies in other people’s hands. They want to be seen, felt or believed. They need to be judged as giving, loving and loyal by others. Their sanity lies in the hands of their leaders who know this about them. But their leaders’ sanity may lie in their own hands, far from the hands of **GOD**.

People who look around to see if anyone is watching can’t yet content themselves with their own unformed opinion of themselves. It’s as if their name is written in their soul, but they can only reach down as deep inside as their heart. They get weak and tender inside when it comes to self-assessment of their own moral image. Instead, they look outside

themselves telling you what you should do for them instead. They figuratively leave their body looking to validate their perception of the external world only. And then they have to deal with whispers reverberating inside that they can't fully hear, understand or control. This brings up a desire for retaliation in many men for appearing intellectually weak or emotionally feminine. Sanity is harder for many men to achieve than it looks.

If these thoughts resonate with you, you're at the spiritual stage in the game where you can reach the end of a twig of a thought, but there's, as yet, no blossom there to fill you with hope for future fruit. You can go out on a limb for others, but you aren't yet secure in doing so for yourself. You're afraid you're going to fall. Climbing back toward the bough and the trunk might seem like failure. But looking to yourself for answers is always the best place to be if you wish to grow into a mighty tree.

The question asked in this passage, "Is anyone watching you?" is a brilliant question. It isn't a question asked in the Old Testament. Adam told GOD he ran away from HIM because he was "naked" {emotionally revealed}. But, in truth, he ran away from HIM because he was "nude" {physically exposed}. What he didn't realize was that he was both, physically nude and emotionally naked before GOD. What the infantile head and heart don't realize is that we're all actually spiritually transparent before our **CREATOR**. So we run away from HIM/HIM/*Him* without even knowing why we're running. Slow down. Ask yourself if anyone is watching you. Take time to make sure you're in the same chapter as **HIM**.²³⁸

All a man usually thinks about is whether his penis is literally showing; whether it's properly concealed; and whether others are trying to imagine the size of it. Whether others are looking at his heart and soul, he rarely cares to ask himself.

If you think someone is watching you, ask yourself what part of you, you think they're watching. You may discover that the purpose of your penis is actually in projection. You may discover that many of the thoughts you have about what others want from you are really your own desires projected and intended for you. Conspiracists are people who project their desires out onto the external world, and then draw conclusions that someone's out to get them. The more curiously you embrace those thoughts, the more you'll discover new things about your relationship with yourself. You may even discover that you're nude, naked and exposed before you. You may discover there's a serpent, not satan, that's beguiling you.

JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* don't suffer from not seeing one another interiorly. They're quite content to use conspiracy theories to satisfy their curiosity. {Conspiracy theories begin below your belt.} This is why it's so important to expose yourself before yourself. You'll never know what you think you know until you start a dialogue with you.

²³⁸ The chapters in the Old Testament, New Testament and Quran are easy to access. They've all been annotated for easy reference. But the chapters of the book you're learning to figuratively write and read within can leave you frustrated and feeling worried, anxious and alone. You've already learned to read between your own lines. You need to recognize where others are coming from, even if they're coming from below their own belt and don't know it. But you can't do that until you can reassure yourself that you know where you're coming from.

You can't strive for self-reverence until you've mastered your discomfort at having been poured into the container you have, a container that won't last forever; a container you might not have chosen in the first place. To the extent that you're interested in munching through your own peel {embarrassment} and flesh {shame}, you'll make your way down to your core {humiliation}. Only then will you discover that guilt has always been your best friend.

Just as you don't need to become a physicist to turn on a light switch, you don't need to study the WORDS of Jesus to turn on the light of HIS/*His* love. JEWS and *Muslims* are particularly skeptical about learning about love using the Christian model – and understandably so. With so many CHRISTIANS out there trying to convert others rather than question how to convert themselves into loving human beings, it's no wonder so many good Christians don't even want anything to do with Christianity.

*“There has now come to you an apostle of your own,
one who grieves at your sinfulness
and cares for you;
one who is benevolent and merciful to true believers.”*
[9:128]

*“There has now come to you an apostle of your own,
one who grieves at your sinfulness
and cares for you;
one who is benevolent and merciful to true believers.”*

These words of the Prophet couldn't ring more true today than when they were first recited more than a millennium ago. The grief of this world hasn't grown since then. It's actually shrunk. Never before has there been more opportunity for building faith among the faithful than today. The above passage opens the Jewish/Christian/Islamic cave door for anyone to preach the goodness of **GOD** through his own deeds. Now you can take the *words* of the Prophet personally by becoming an apostle unto yourself. Now you can see that your own grief at your sinfulness has made you want to care for you all the more. Now you can see that only wisdom will open your heart and soul.

*“If they pay no heed,
say:
‘God is all sufficient for me.’
There is no god but Him.
In Him, I have put my trust.
He is the lord of the glorious throne.”*
[9:129]

“If they pay no heed,
say:
‘**GOD** is all sufficient for me.’
There is no god but **HIM**.
In **HIM**, I have put my trust.
HE is the Lord of the glorious throne.”

GOD/GOD/*God* is sufficient for all believers so long as they don’t venture beyond the dogma of their own faith and tradition. But these sorts of people aren’t spiritually prepared to live with the metaphor of themselves as a tree in a garden in a new day and age. They haven’t been taught to see the symbols of the spiritual wheat of the field and the fruit of the vine. They can’t believe **GOD** has thought ahead to give them a spiral staircase up to **HIS** throne.

We’re all “hominids,” {a family of man that includes human beings, but which also includes primates: any member of the group of animals that includes human beings, apes, and monkeys}. Hominids also include the fossilized remains of previous species that contributed to the evolutionary tree of man. If you *can’t* see the evidence for everyone’s spiritual evolution today, you’re more like a hominid. If you *can* see the evidence for how much you’ve evolved, you’re like a primate. And if you’ve chosen the branch reserved only for human beings by supporting the efforts of Jews, blacks, Muslims, women, the disenfranchised and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community, you’re well on your way to becoming like an angel disclosed.

The most faithful stumble the most egregiously. They know it’s harder to believe in **GOD** than it looks, but they can’t give up their dream of flying. They’re the bluebirds that are trying to make it over the rainbow. They can see the Promised Land in the magic evident by their journey. They’re not like the flying money monkeys who work for witches. They’re Dorothys who are gathering together brains {scarecrow}, heart {tin man} and courage {lion} before they’ll be allowed to go home.²³⁹

²³⁹ These are allusions to the 1939 film “The Wizard of Oz,” based on the book “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.” by L. Frank Baum. Many in the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community consider this movie our Bible. And I certainly agree that its metaphors describe our journey through life better than most stories.

Surah 10

Jonah

Jonah was a Hebrew prophet who began his journey of life by going in the opposite direction of GOD. GOD wanted him to go from Israel to Nineveh {Iraq} to preach to the sinners, but Jonah defiantly got on board a boat going the other way. A storm hit. Jonah realized he'd caused the storm. (i.e. GOD was angry with him. External storms are mirrors of internal storms we ought to learn to recognize.) And because Jonah was a good man who didn't want to threaten the lives of the sailors, Jonah threw himself overboard to save them from GOD's wrath.

Now, here comes the part of the story that's been badly translated, or, to be more accurate, the part of the story where there's a pun that hasn't been sufficiently explicated. On one level, the story is about a prophet who was swallowed by a "whale" and brought to Nineveh against his will despite his arrogant intentions to do just as he pleased.

In ancient Hebrew Jonah wasn't swallowed by a whale but by a DAG GADOL {a big fish}. And the expression for "a big worry" is "DA-AG GADOL." This play on words changes the whole message of the story, giving it a level of understanding beyond the literal.

The story of Jonah becomes three stories in one: one event you're asked to believe objectively; a second, simultaneous event given by GOD that you're supposed to believe subjectively; and a third story that brings you to an allegory that will draw you toward a spiritual mission you'll want to embrace, not out of duty, as Jonah finally did, but out of your love and devotion to **GOD**.

Don't go the wrong way out of defiance. It won't change the direction **GOD** wants you to go in. Don't jump overboard in your effort to be helpful to others to make up for your mistake. You'll only get swallowed up by worries much bigger than you. And don't hold a bad attitude about the way things turn out. Everything you go through is taking you to places where **GOD** will always have a way of showing you what **HE** wants you to see about yourself.

The story of Jonah is more than a story about a Jewish prophet. It's more than a step in the direction of the arrival of Jesus. The story of Jonah in the Quran is a message you can take personally. And the reason you can take it personally, is because it comes after the surah in the Quran on repentance. This surah is the first that elucidates how to achieve repentance from others with an eye toward redemption for yourself. Nothing could be more personal than that.

When a man is a nonbeliever, doubtful, without hope or lost because of addictions or desires for material acquisition {an idol worshipper who dances around an array of golden calves}, he turns his back on **GOD** to pursue his own desires. He becomes obsessed with his penis, and what it can do, literally and figuratively, to please him. En masse, people become like cattle that political and religious cowboys then round up and corral.

A Jonah goes on his journey of life, not in opposition to **GOD**, for no man can oppose **GOD's** will. But he sets sail in opposition to his better self. His desires conspire with his feelings to take him on a journey of self-discovery that becomes as terrifying as a storm at sea and as mystical as a nightmare. This is what a modern-day Jonah ought to ponder. This is what happens to us all.

You'd think it would be easy for me to live and let live, allowing the laws of man to apply to everything around my skin, and the laws of **GOD** to apply to what's inside me. But I couldn't do that before I knew how to separate and then reunite my two worlds morally. I was a yenta. I was consumed with other people's affairs. I stuck my nose in their business to discover unconscious clues to my own.

GOD had to make the universe as big as it is to convince me that my inner world is equally large. So far as we know, Jonah didn't think about any of this because he didn't have a "Yiddish kopf," [an Ashkenazi {northern European Jewish} head]. He just wanted to be free to do as he pleased. I imagine most people are like that. I know I certainly was when I was young.

I remember observing young, straight men when I was a kid. And I remember coming to the conclusion that straight men think about what women think about in an effort to attract them. I came to that conclusion because straight men talked to me a great deal about what women were thinking, perhaps because they intuitively felt I had an "in" to a woman's world.

Today, I'd describe my in in Biblical terms. I'd say, straight men figuratively ask themselves how they can get a worm to converse with their serpent. This is my Biblical interpretation of the essence of male/female social/sexual intercourse. This is the essence of romantic love. This is the knowledge figuratively described as the relationship between the birds {worms/women} and the bees {serpents/men}.²⁴⁰

In the past, straight men interpreted any temptation by another man to explore his serpent as sexual recruitment. Homosexuality became synonymous with devil worship. And everything evil and wrong with the world became associated with sodomy. Just opening a dialogue about such matters was considered unholy and taboo. Therefore, anyone who opposed strict orthodoxy in any and all of the Abrahamic faiths was considered an infidel, a rabble-rouser and a pervert.

Because Jonah was such a good man at heart, he must have known, even as he lay in his bunk at the bottom of the boat, that the storm the sailors were having to deal with on deck was, at least in part, a personal message from **GOD** to him. (His subjective association of circumstances in the world around him with his inner struggles was the essence of the science of synchro-mysticism then and the feeling of guilt that plagued him.)

Jonah in Torah jumped overboard because he realized he had a duty to do something drastic to protect the others from him {psychological motivation}. Jonah in the Quran jumped overboard because he realized he had a duty to do something drastic to protect the others from themselves {sociological motivation}. Both of these aspects of Jonah held emotional motivations that caused him to act in extreme ways for a moral cause.

The Jewish aspect of Jonah believed the sailors' problem originated in him; that he was the cause of the storm, and the sailors shouldn't have to suffer for it. He saw himself as a victim and **GOD** as a perpetrator who was seeking revenge.

²⁴⁰ A worm lurches clumsily every which way when exposed. A snake recoils when threatened. A worm moves naturally and as gracefully as a needle going through fabric when underground. A snake undulates above ground, each segment of its torso moving gracefully like fingers through hair.

The Muslim aspect of Jonah believed the sailors' problem originated in themselves. He saw himself as a martyr and that *God* was going to reward them all. By jumping overboard, Jonah became a martyr. He was doing it for all of them, including himself.

The storms in man are never unreasonable or coincidental, but the wails that swallow him whole, always are. (**GOD** uses language in Scripture to toy with us to keep us morally sharp witted. **HE** doesn't want us to swallow Scripture without first chewing on every WORD/WORD/Word.)

When you take words literally, refusing to examine them subjectively, you turn Scripture into separate dogmas that prescribe behaviors you believe all others must live up to. You turn into a hypocrite {externally} without noticing that you've also become a hypocrite at heart {internally}.

The purpose of a conscience is to teach you how to treat others judiciously. The purpose of a soul is to teach you how to treat yourself fairly. You need both a conscience and a soul. You need to examine the literal and figurative meanings of Scripture or you'll become manic and/or depressive in the way you look at life. At one extreme end of the conclusions you come to, you'll advocate for murder. At the other end, you'll advocate for suicide. And if you're really confused, you'll simply cover your bases and go for both.

This is what motivates some *Muslims* to become *Islamic* extremists who want to destroy Israel; some **CHRISTIANS** to become mass murderers; and some **JEWS** to become money grubbers and homophobes. Who knows? You might be in some ways a combination of all three.

When a good man finally takes the plunge into his own ocean of emotions he becomes like Jonah, and he realizes his life is then in **GOD's** hands. He knows he can no longer sail into his own storms of self-revulsion without capsizing. He'd rather drown in self-hate than in failure in **GOD's** eyes. He'd rather end it all than go on behaving hypocritically.

GOD saves every prophet from self-destruction by allowing him to be swallowed up by his worries if he's mature enough to put aside the notion of literally being swallowed by a whale. This becomes the point of departure from that of being a spiritual child to the stage of becoming a spiritual adult with a child within him.

In the case of Jonah, his worry about the cause of the storm was inconsequential. Whether it originated internally or externally didn't matter in the sense that he had to respond either way. He had to take moral action regardless of whom he did it for. Jonah literally jumped into the sea because of **GOD**. Jonah figuratively jumped into a sea of sorrow and despair because of **GOD**. And Jonah jumped overboard for *God*. All three were swallowed up by something below the waterline of consciousness and were spit out some time later on dry land {consciousness} not far from Nineveh {the place where **GOD** wanted him to go all along}.

Unfortunately, modern man can feel stuck in the belly of his own wails for a lifetime. No sooner does he feel himself on dry land {consciously awakened}, then another storm comes along and he finds himself back on board another boat. He repeats his self-sacrificing behavior of jumping overboard into his feelings, and then gets swallowed up by yet another worry. The pattern repeats itself, so he concludes he's never going to get to his Nineveh {his mission in life}. He concludes that either **GOD** hasn't read Scripture in a

long, long time; that they were never **HIS WORDS** to begin with; or that **HIS WORD** is no longer good.

Eventually, modern man begins to feel compassion for whales. He fights for the rights of whales against Japanese and Norwegian whalers – until he dares to figuratively identify as a whale in a man’s world. And like a whale {a huge, living worry swimming around in an ocean of all sorts of polluted emotions}, he discovers he figuratively has one eye facing off to the east and the other facing west. He sees everywhere except where he’s going: straight ahead. He ought to use spiritual sonar to move through the darkness, cold and pressure of his underwater world.

(If he’s Christian, he’ll miraculously identify as the two fish from the Sea of Galilee that Jesus later served His 5,000 followers. If he’s not, he’ll just feel caught; reeled in; and cut up into filets for hungry people who couldn’t care less what they’re doing to him and the planet.)

Even though we may all be symbolically like a man in the body of a whale swimming through life while stuck like a baby in a strange, small, dark place, we’re still subject to the hungers of men and whales. We’re like leviathans swimming around with a bellyful of human grievances that want to come out.

Through hardship, a man learns to identify not only as a tree growing from a seed planted on the land by GOD. He learns to identify as a big fish that can live for long periods of time at the bottom of his oceans of grievous emotions without having to come up for spiritual air. He learns to swim alone deep down inside himself as he moves through the pitch-black worries **GOD** gives him. Whether or not he has enough faith to mouth words of assurance to himself that **GOD** has designs behind all that darkness, pressure and cold is a good question.

Modern man has discovered that his inner world isn’t only made up of thoughts that crawl about inside his head as though on land. He’s got feelings that he’s swimming through and belief’s that he’s soaring through, as well. His inner world is round. It’s got length, width and depth. It’s got land, sea and sky. He’s got an inner world made up of thoughts, feelings and beliefs that he must learn to get through. Thanks to the fact that he was made in **GOD’s** image, no matter how hard his journey, every Jonah should believe that he is where he is with good reason.

GOD takes all good people to “Nineveh” an external place where they can be of help to those around them who suffer from little faith. Once you can see that the answer is that you’re both like the prophet Jonah of the Old Testament and the prophet Jonah from the Quran, you can look at this story from the viewpoint of Spiritual Semantics. You can see the story from **GOD’s**, **GOD’s** and *God’s* points of view.

Many good souls have literally died in Iraq in an effort to help the faithful people there become free of tyranny. They were prophets from all three of the Abrahamic faiths we lost to a senseless war that could have been avoided had we known more about how we operate.

You may not have literally been a member of the American Armed Forces, but you probably support American values during wartime in your own way. American values are Jewish, Christian and Muslim values. Those **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims* who conspired to promote that war to get rich, promoted self-indulgence. And there may be

“hell” for them to pay. They only succeeded in inflicting a lethal blow to their own humanity. They’ve taught us a nothing about how to enhance and embrace our own.

*“It was He who gave the sun his brightness
and the moon her light,
ordaining her phases
that you may learn to compute the seasons and the years.
God created them only to manifest the truth.
He makes plain His revelations to men of knowledge.”
[10:5-6]*

“It was **HE** who gave the sun **HIS** brightness
and the moon **HER** light,
ordaining **HER** phases
that you may learn to compute the seasons and the years.
GOD created them only to manifest the truth.
HE makes plain **HIS** revelations to men of knowledge.”

GOD created males and females to remind us that some of **HIS** image can be found in both. We may perceive **HIS** brightness in the sun and **HER** phases in the moon’s light, but we know that **GOD** is even greater than both these “heavenly” bodies.

How many study Scripture to separate the truth in themselves from the truth about the universe around them? Most study Scripture to achieve power over others to advance their faith in **GOD/GOD/God**, not their faith in themselves. They use principles to pervert, not elucidate, **HIS** designs. They don’t look at the sun as a sign of **HIS** illumination and warmth, and the moon as a sign of **HER** power over our oceans of emotions. They’d rather connect the dots between stars in the night sky to create fanciful constellations that look down on us with mystical meaning. They put more faith in astrology than astronomy. They don’t look at the “heavenly” bodies poetically to look for a personally spiritual purpose to **GOD’s** designs.

The Prophet Muhammad was also a poet. He had an uncanny ability to make spiritual sense out of the world around him that others then couldn’t see. But it’s within the grasp of today’s common man to make poetic sense out of his own life in ways that will elucidate him to common sense. ²⁴¹

²⁴¹ Common sense turns experience in the world around you into wisdom that elucidates your world within. Learning from your enemies is a fascinating enterprise because your enemies display some inner world struggle you may not yet be aware of in yourself.

*“Had God hastened the punishment of men
as they would hasten their reward,
their fate would have been sealed.
Therefore We leave those who entertain no hope of meeting Us
to their wrongdoings;
ever straying from the right path.”
[10:11]*

*“Had **GOD** hastened the punishment of men
as they would hasten their reward,
their fate would have been sealed.
Therefore **WE** leave those who entertain no hope of meeting **US**
to their wrongdoings;
ever straying from the right path.”*

GOD allows the wrongdoers to do what they want because that will, paradoxically, help the rest of us over time. **HE** doesn't involve **HIMSELF** in their evil intentions, helping them only in those small ways they wish to do some good. **HE** lets them dig their own grave. Autonomy will bury some, and freewill will bring others back from having felt dead inside.

Many bad people who believe in **GOD/GOD/God** are certain they're going to be excused for their transgressions. They sense **HIS/HIS/His** presence in some areas of their lives but are in denial of **HIS/HIS/His** absence in others. They dig themselves into holes that the rest of us teach one another to walk around.

First do it your way and then listen for further instructions just as the Israelites told **GOD** they would do. Rely on your experiences, and further down the line you'll see where you went wrong. If you choose to look at Jewish history for all the mistakes we've made, even better, because we're doing the same with you. Remember that you could be learning from everyone's mistakes if you were wise, loving and loyal enough to your own journey.

Don't blame anyone for your greed, laziness, dirtiness or denial. The circumstances you find yourself in today aren't the fault of your mother or father, sister or brother or the people next-door. Some Jews and gays have been setting better examples of how to do things for a very long time. And people have vilified us, and then they end up doing variations on the ways we do it (without ever commended us for our lifestyle).

Granted, many Jews are materialistic. Granted many gays are addictive by nature. The former are consumed with money. The latter are consumed with pleasure. The Jews are ants. The gays are grasshoppers.²⁴² Who doesn't see himself as having the nature of both?

²⁴² “Aesop's Fable number 373. The fable describes how a hungry grasshopper begs for food from an ant when winter comes and is refused. The situation undermines the pleasure

The Quran couldn't hit the nail on the head any more squarely than when it says, "Had **GOD** hastened the punishment of men as they would hasten their reward, their fate would have been sealed." Man is in a terrible hurry to reach his destiny. He's in such a hurry, in fact, that he's often tempted to take shortcuts through his fate.

When you look at the easy overwhelms you experience at the littlest of challenges, you can see how you bully and push yourself to do what you need to do without considering your feelings. Instead, you indulge your desires in an effort to assuage your feelings. But because you never stop to examine why you do what you do, you never realize that you aren't on speaking terms with your enemy. How can you make peace with someone you've iced out?

Children want carrots, not sticks. They want candy, not lectures. They roll their eyes when they hear something they already know (but don't yet feel). They look the other way when they feel something they can't believe in. And when the truth comes much too close to bear, they simply close their eyes, hoping they won't have to hear the truth, as well.

Money {JUDAISM}, power {CHRISTIANITY} and prestige {*Islam*} are the edifices of the Abrahamic faiths. Each of them thinks they're "in like Flynn."²⁴³

If you think you can substitute a bad relationship with your penis for a good relationship with a gun, you're "in like Flynn." If you think you can love ammunition but not ponder the spiritual importance of your sperm, you're "in like Flynn." If you think you can plow the same field over and over until there's nothing left that will grow in it without chemicals that create cancer, you're "in like Flynn." And if you think your sex life is totally detached from your relationship with **GOD**, you're "in like Flynn." You're taking shortcuts through money, power and prestige. You're missing the point.

This world is harder to graduate with honors than it appears. Your tests will be much harder in the future than you can possibly anticipate now. Growing old requires spiritual preparation. Raising your grades and having your seat moved closer to the front of the classroom take enormous dedication to your spiritual education.

Life is a fulltime job from start to finish, and you always get what you need, not what you want. Change the tone in how you speak to yourself and you'll change what you think of yourself. Transform how you feel about yourself, and you'll transform your mood. You'll discover there's a lot more thoughtfulness and love inside you than you previously imagined. Transcend what you believe to be true about you, and you'll discover that you can believe in people you previously described as "detested apes."

If you only want to study yourself part time, don't complain about the degree you graduate with. Many a spiritual kindergartener will blow himself up when he realizes how little he's accomplished with the principles and strategies he used to get "a head." Many a

of living in the now and sums up moral lessons about the virtues of hard work and planning for the future." [Wikipedia]

²⁴³ "In like Flynn" is a slang expression that means "having quickly or easily achieved a goal or gained access as desired. In addition to its general use, the phrase is sometimes used to describe success in sexual seduction. Its folk etymology often asserts the phrase has sexual origins. The term is often believed to refer to movie star Errol Flynn. Flynn had a reputation for a freewheeling, hedonistic lifestyle by womanizing, consuming of alcohol and brawling." [Wikipedia]

spiritual, secondary school student will refuse to learn anymore about his love of life than he absolutely has to. Many will graduate with delusions of being the valedictorian of their class when they're really spiritual, high school dropouts.

Stay in school. (I only promised not to give you advice about what you should do in the external world, not your internal world. When it comes to facing the challenges the **TEACHER** is giving you internally, you're your own guidance counselor. But it always helps to have an older student who's graduated your class who can teach you the ropes. School is not for sissies. School is harder than you can imagine.) ²⁴⁴

*“We destroyed generations before your time
on account of the wrongs they did.
Their apostles came to them with veritable signs,
but they would not believe.
Thus shall We reward the guilty.
Then We made you their successors in the land,
so that We might observe how you would conduct yourselves.”*
[10:13]

*“**wE** destroyed generations before your time
on account of the wrongs they did.
Their apostles came to them with veritable signs,
but they would not believe.
Thus shall **wE** reward the guilty.
Then **wE** made you their successors in the land,
so that **wE** might observe how you would conduct yourselves.”*

The land was Jewish. The land was stolen by the Roman indigenists. The ancestors of the Romans turned our land into a Christian land. Then our land was stolen by the Muslims. They turned our land into Muslim land. That theft continued, back and forth, for centuries until 1948 when, after the Holocaust, the land was given back to the descendants of the rightful owners.

If you don't perceive the *words* of the Quran as coming from *God*, you're still somewhat insane, even if you know you're not crazy. The Prophet's *words* couldn't be more eternal or meaningful! If you insist that Islam is a manmade hoax, you're a racist. You're running your life like a race. You're insisting you and your team must achieve first place at all cost.

²⁴⁴ When I was a professional ballet dancer, people thought I was a sissy. They thought I was prancing around in slippers because I didn't have the strength or masculinity to do something useful. They thought I was weak. They thought ballet was lame. Well, I have news for you. Ballet is harder than it looks. Take a ballet class and see for yourself.

Your ego is your god speaking to you. My ego is my god speaking to me. And you're going to want to decide how many of my words are weighed down by my ego and how many are buoyed by the inspiration I've earned from my spiritual education. You don't have to believe me. You need to believe yourself. And if you can't decide whether I'm on to something or just insane, just keep reading. There's no reason you shouldn't see what you might learn about yourself before you decide whether the Quran has something relevant to offer you.

But if you think that *God* didn't decide to give Israel back to the Jews after watching how *Muslims* lived on our land for about 1,000 years, you're nuts. Look at how *Muslims* are behaving in Muslim lands today? They don't even deserve that land! Those who've been relegated to the diaspora can decide for themselves whether it's better to live on the land with the Jews in Israel; the land with the Christians in Europe; or the land in the New World with descendants from the whole world. If they go back to the land they ran away from in the Middle East may they go back with their head bowed. May they do something in the land that hasn't been done there before.

*"When Our clear revelations are recited to them,
those who entertain no hope of meeting Us say to you,
'Give us a different Quran,
or change it.'"
[10:14]*

*"When OUR clear revelations are recited to them,
those who entertain no hope of meeting US say to you,
'Give us a different Quran,
or change it.'"*

Many true believers in all three of the Abrahamic faiths would rather rely on the words as literally written on the page of their Scripture than develop themselves personally using all the WORDS of **GOD**. They want simple answers to complex questions. They aren't ready to ponder realistic answers to the questions **GOD** poses of them in today's modern world.

JEWS, **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims* have discriminated against gays and lesbians for millennia. And while the three of them also fought over which one was the true faith, they all still agree that gays and lesbians know nothing about any of the possible right answer. The same can still be said about how they feel about blacks, immigrants and Jews. The times change, but many people don't.

When it comes to persecution, **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims* each feels persecuted by the other two. I maintain that none of them knows the persecution felt by the gays and lesbians, and those who identify with our community. This empathy for our feelings has

endeared us to Jews, Christians and Muslims and created greater enmity from JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims*.

We see this discrimination in politics, but it's actually happening within each one of us, as well. There's an unrealistic part of us that wants what it wants at all cost. Call that part of you the serpent in your tree if you're Jewish. Call it the devil if you're CHRISTIAN or *Muslim*. Coming to terms with the part of you that desires to determine what's right and wrong for you will form the foundation of your moral edifice. It will make you soulful or self-indulgent. It will leave you dying, weak and hopeless or awakened, strong and hopeful.

The YETZER HARA {evil inclination} leads us in a downhill direction. But unless you look for the ways in which you're making the world worse because of the ways in which you're stealing your own reputation out from under you, I wouldn't consider your eternal reward a given. Your theft from yourself is the greatest crime in the world. If you don't take that seriously, who will?

If GOD could use reverse psychology in Torah to make you think, GOD could use frank reproof to make you think about how you feel. And if *God* could admit what *He* believes, you should have enough sense to see the challenge in adding rather than subtracting from **HIS** WORDS.

No one in the Abrahamic faiths can afford to fight over the differences in our Scriptures. GOD told the Jews to believe only in HIM. *He* told the Muslims to believe only in *Him*. And HE told the Christians to believe only in **THEM**. **HE** refers to **HIMSELF** in the first, second and third-person pronouns. Could these correspond to **HIS** first, middle and last names? If so, your own three names could be a way of discovering the moral complexity in the way you were made.

If we don't learn to develop the inner image each of us has of ourselves with greater and holier regard, we're not going to learn much about **GOD's** designs except through gossip. Learn from yourself. You're your best teacher.

"Say:

*'It is not for me to change it of my own accord.
I follow only what is revealed to me,
for I feel,
if I disobey my Lord,
the punishment of a fateful day.'*
[10:15]

"Say:

*'It is not for me to change it of my own accord.
I follow only what is revealed to me,
for I feel,
if I disobey my Lord,
the punishment of a fateful day.'*

Guilt, like olives, is an acquired taste. I couldn't bite into either one when I was a child without being disgusted. Anyone who says, "I feel, if I disobey my Lord, the punishment of a fateful day" has a well-developed sense of guilt. For him to appreciate the benefits of guilt shouldn't be that hard.

You may claim not to be afraid of the dark, but I wonder whether you're brave enough to enter the metaphoric cave in the mountain without bringing in some sort of fire from the outside. You may still be taking and using knowledge without giving gratitude to its **SOURCE**. What good is eating forbidden fruit if you're only eating the peel, meat or core and throwing away the rest? Don't be wasteful. Eat the whole thing. ²⁴⁵ Wake up to the light all around within you.

Those of us who are faithful to **GOD's** presence in darkness {fearless} must challenge ourselves to allow ourselves to know and love **GOD** without fear of standing in the light. That can only be done with more deeply held modesty, humility and grace toward ourselves. And that can only happen with a greater understanding of guilt. Guilt leaves us nude, naked, exposed and transparent before our selves.

Anyone can read the WORDS/WORDS/*Words* on the pages of a holy book and dutifully do what he's told. Few can read the handwriting on the cave wall without seeking illumination through greater regard for himself. Granted, it's not for you to change **GOD'S** WORDS of your own accord. But shouldn't you follow what is revealed to you? Are you so fearless that you aren't afraid of the punishment of a fateful day? ²⁴⁶

"Say:
'Had God pleased,
I never would have recited it to you,
nor would He have made you aware of it.
A whole lifetime I dwelt among you before its coming.
Will you not understand?'"

[10:16]

"Say:
'Had **GOD** pleased,
I never would have recited it to you,

²⁴⁵ In the Creation story, the serpent convinced Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, which she did and then shared it with Adam. But we don't know whether they ate some or all of it. We don't know which of them may have eaten more. What Torah doesn't tell us is as interesting as what it does.

²⁴⁶ Many Muslims feel they're being punished in the external world, but few talk about the punishment they feel within. And yet it's within, that we all undergo punishments every day. Over time, suffering becomes so much worse than pain.

nor would **HĚ** have made you aware of it.
A whole lifetime I dwelt among you before its coming.
Will you not understand?”

Here we hear the words of the Archangel Gabriel melded in with the *words* of the Prophet in your own voice. Here we hear what every man would say to the world if he felt he could be heard. It's never a pleasure for a sane man to deal with other people's insanity. Not even **GOD** wants to upset us all at once with the truth.

But honesty wasn't enough. Sincerity wasn't even enough. Now we must achieve the authenticity expressed in the Quran to understand the words, “Will you not understand?” Unless we take these words personally, we'll never understand them.

Unfortunately, our parents often chose to model bad behavior in order to try to wake us up from our slumber rather than try to discuss moral issues with us directly. They were literally or figuratively slapped across the face by their parents and then literally or figuratively slapped us across the face to show us what we shouldn't allow others to do to us, too.

This sort of behavior certainly woke us up, but it did nothing to improve our mood. It only made us feel black-and-blue and bruised all over. Those who teach in this way don't realize they're scapegoating their children. And they don't realize their children will grow up to defy and despise someone, if not them. (Remember the stories of Noah and Lot! Their children were not at all happy with their father's behavior.)

It leaves you unwilling to admit that you swore allegiance under duress. That leaves you unwilling to face some aspects of reality that others can easily see.

Those who follow in the footsteps of the Prophet must appreciate the gift in being able to read and write before endeavoring to teach themselves to recite. They must begin with an appreciation of the basic education their parents helped them achieve to help them interpret their Scripture. They can't afford to skip any rungs up Jacob's ladder. They can't run up those “heavenly” stairs given by Jesus, three at a time. They can't delight in the spiral, spiritual escalator by taking it round and round unless they're going somewhere good for all in the outer world.

You should be able to demonstrate you've learned wisdom from Torah, not just attained knowledge of it or knowledge from it. You should show you've learned love from the Bible, not just attained enough feeling to feel sympathetic to the underdog du jour, like the Palestinians. Those who wish to study the *words* of the Prophet should come to the Quran prepared with wisdom in their mind and love in their heart. There's no way to achieve devotion in your soul if you don't wish to search for the truth everywhere within and around you. However painful, the truth will set you free.

If you look down the list of fonts your computer offers, you'll see many ways to write down what you want to say. These fonts are like the many languages of the world. They're like the ways you've been given the ability to express the **WORDS** of **GOD**. Hebrew, Aramaic, Latin, Arabic and Sanskrit are tools with which you can solve problems. They're like fonts you must combine to come to the discussion of the many levels of reality – like well-worn trails that are taking you up and down a mountain.

If you think like a *Muslim* terrorist, you're going to think that if you kill bad people, you'll leave here from a higher place on the mountain. If you think like a *Muslim* terrorist, you're going to think you can change the dialogue by removing fonts, like Hebrew, from the list. There's no evidence inside or out to validate that conclusion. They're acting entirely of their own accord to pay homage to a syndrome they dare not face, even though the kidnapping happened a long time ago.

*"No sooner do We show mercy to a people
after some misfortune has afflicted them
than they begin to scheme against Our revelations.*

Say:

*'More swift is 'God's scheming.'
Our angels are recording your intrigues.'"* ²⁴⁷
[10:21]

*"No sooner do **WÆ** show mercy to a people
after some misfortune has afflicted them
than they begin to scheme against **OUR** revelations.*

Say:

*'More swift is '**GOD**'s scheming.'
OUR angels are recording your intrigues.'"*

GOD gave you thoughts feelings, desires and beliefs. **HÆ** gave Moses the wisdom to seek HIM out and through HIM received the Ten Commandments. GOD {Jesus} was born in a house of bread {Bethlehem/Mary} and preached from a boat on the Sea of Galilee {the new Noah}. He brought the world two more Commandments. And *God* guided a Prophet from Mecca through Jerusalem to "heaven" where he sat with Moses, Jesus and the angels. And then **HÆ** brought him back again to tell us what he'd learned. Surely, you're knowledgeable enough now of the designs to do your part to fulfill your part of it.

²⁴⁷ **GOD**'s scheming may go contrary to the direction of your head, heart and soul, and yet concordant with the direction your penis goes of its own accord, which is only up and down. **HÆ** may give you a taste of what you're doing to yourself to wake you up to how **HÆ** made you in **HIS** image. When you accidentally bite your tongue, cut yourself or drive your car the wrong way, your penis is guiding you without oversight of your thoughts, feelings and beliefs. (You're unconsciously behaving against your better interests.) Your penis represents the mindless part of you {willpower} that acts without conscious control. The more you become consciously aware of the cravings, desires, impulses, needs, urges and wants that are inappropriate for you, the more you'll gain figurative control over your penis {or clitoris}.

Think of me as a modern incarnation of Queen Esther. She saved the ancient, Persian Jews from annihilation in the 6th Century B.C.E. Think of me as a princess, born into a new age; a girl who didn't have a clue who she was or what she was here to do. Think of me as an x² factor that might be having some influence over you. **GOD! SHE** works in mysterious ways! ²⁴⁸

*"It is He who guides them by land and sea.
They embark.
And as the ships set sail,
rejoicing in a favorable wind,
a raging tempest overtakes them.
Billows surge upon them from every side
and they fear they are encompassed by death.
They pray to God with all fervor,
saying,
'Deliver us from this peril and we will be truly thankful.'"*
[10:22]

*"It is HE who guides them by land and sea.
They embark.
And as the ships set sail,
rejoicing in a favorable wind,
a raging tempest overtakes them.
Billows surge upon them from every side
and they fear they are encompassed by death.
They pray to God with all fervor,
saying,
'Deliver us from this peril and we will be truly thankful.'"*

This passage mirrors the story of Jonah in Nevi'im, The Book of Prophets. Only, in the Quran, it's the people who've embarked on the ship who pray to be delivered from peril. They promise to be thankful if they're allowed to live, and not drown in the sea. In the

²⁴⁸ Instead of reading the story of Esther in The Book of Daniel in Ketuvim, The Book of Writings, or in the Christian Bible, check out "Esther" on Wikipedia. It was the historical reconciliation of the Jews with the Persians that made it possible for Ezra to be given permission by the Babylonians (by then under Persian rule) to take the ancient Jews from Iraq back to Israel in the 5th Century B.C.E.

Quran it was the sailors on board who were figuratively swallowed up by life and death issues. Their problem was collective, not individual.²⁴⁹

GOD admonished Jonah at the end of the story in Torah. Until then, he did as he pleased. His relationship with GOD was psychological, not sociological, and Jonah became bitter by the end of his life and had to be lectured by GOD. In the Quran the story was sociological. *God's* relationship to the sailors was collective and they became exuberant when they were saved.

Your fate and destiny lie in **GOD's** hands, both individually and collectively. You need to prove to **HIM** that you're worthy of rewards and that your tribe is worthy of rewards. You need to approach life psychologically within and sociologically throughout. You need to attempt doing that individually and collectively so the results will be evident throughout both your two worlds.

Just don't expect to receive lectures from the **PROFESSOR** while you're only enrolled in junior high school. The **TEACHER** will see to it that your experiences will be transferred to the university of life setting only if you've learned enough about yourself to pass the college entrance exam. You may not know as much as you think you do, even if you feel deeply and have strong beliefs. Your desires will beguile you all your life, whether or not you literally graduated school with a college education.

It takes many lessons to instill enough goodness in man to perceive **GOD's** intentions without reacting with self-righteous indignation to every little thing that goes wrong. Like Jonah, you may go the wrong way. You may face your fear of death before you change your ways. Or you may face the fear of others dying, instead. **GOD** will make **HIMSELF** known to you in a time and manner of **HIS** choosing.

"YONA/JONAH" means "dove." Being so spiritually enlightened that you think you can fly like a bird doesn't mean you're necessarily going in the right direction. The great advantage of a bird's eye view will only help you if you truly become like the dove that's a symbol of peace. Anyone can earn his wings and get far enough off the ground to get a good lay of the land and sea. But if you can't fly spiritually high enough to see above the clouds that block your own inner light, what does it matter? Your martyrdom will amount to naught.

It's too easy to pray to GOD/GOD/*God* to deliver you from peril. You already know yourself well enough to know that you'll be grateful for a while, and then you'll go back to business as usual. You should recognize your inner assignments in advance of your next test. Being a part-time student of life just isn't enough anymore. You should tutor yourself in school at all times. And yet, those who don't practice their tutoring skills by helping others won't be prepared to help themselves when their next test comes. No one is so

²⁴⁹ You might like to imagine for a moment what it must have been like to have been a passenger on either the airplanes that were crashed by *Muslims* into the Twin Towers in New York City or the airplane that was aimed at the Pentagon. The passengers' problems became collective. They discovered the meaning of tribalism in the most primitive and visceral of ways – alas, too late.

knowledgeable that he can afford not to learn. Your education is all that separates you from an animal.

What good is an Arab Spring if *you* don't feel that you're blossoming, blooming and enjoying the fruits of labors you can be proud of? Making babies isn't enough of a gift to this world. Making money isn't enough of a gift to yourself. Indulging you in material comforts may not get old, but it'll make you grow old faster. You should be able to say that you're the tutor of a student who's proud of his grades and his relationship with the **TEACHER**.

I say these words to everyone, but I'm particularly focusing my intention on bringing this message to the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community. Straight men are more like Adam with an inner Eve. Gay men, in particular, are very much like serpents. Our proximity to the fruits of our tree of knowledge may make us more tuned in to what **GOD** is teaching everyone. We intuitively know what the serpent told EVE. "YOU WILL CERTAINLY NOT DIE, FOR GOD KNOWS THAT WHEN YOU EAT FROM IT {the Tree of knowledge} YOUR EYES WILL BE OPENED, AND YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL." [Genesis 3:4-5] ²⁵⁰

It's too easy to promise *God* your allegiance {*Allāh Akbar!*} so long as others meet all your desires. It's too easy to shop around for a new faith like you'd replace an old pair of jeans. What will you say or do to the next gay or Jew you meet if they don't give you what you want? Why should anyone be your scapegoat? You may break your promises to **GOD** with little thought to who you may make pay a price for your spiritual ignorance. Fortunately, today's younger generation knows more about the disappointment of broken promises to themselves than their parents. Today's kids aren't going to make the same mistakes of blaming gay-Jews. Their eyes have been further opened. They live in a world that has more light.

The atheist, like the true believer, is given opportunities to work with his conscience to weigh his thoughts and feelings for others before having to do the same for himself. This helps the atheist achieve sound beliefs about better ways to treat everyone and everything. He has no moral advantage over the true believer. But the true believer has no moral advantage over him. They're perfect, study partners for one another in the nursery school of life.

When you spend a lifetime looking at yourself in a mirror, you habituate yourself to combing your hair the opposite way you'd comb someone else's hair. But when you look in a V-shaped mirror {two mirrors set up in a corner at 90-degree angles}, you see what you really look like, not a mirror reflection of your image. Next time you look in a V-shaped mirror, reach out your right hand toward the mirror and you'll see that you're reaching it out in a way that makes it seem possible to shake hands with yourself. This is your visual introduction to what it means to befriend yourself from within.

Everyone ought to view himself in V-shaped mirrors. The L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community has already figuratively made great strides in that direction. Until you can see yourself as others see you, you'll feel stuck in a container, a prisoner of a spiritual circumstance you

²⁵⁰ Literally, this refers to eating forbidden fruit. Figuratively it refers to eating semen. Spiritually, it means to know thy self. "This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man." [William Shakespeare, Hamlet, act 1, scene 3]

can't control. The way out of you is by going further in. The way through sociology is with psychology. All bricks are built upon the instructions in making one brick.

The entrance to the cave within lies in your soul, not your head or heart. It takes a lot of climbing up from the base of the mountain with an eye to the summit before you discover your equivalent to the cave the Prophet lived in. Become a cave man like the Prophet. Don't behave like a caveman.

Modesty is a humbling experience because it's so difficult to overcome embarrassment of the body GOD gave you. But humility is the result of graduating shame of your behavior that GOD alerted you to. It's humility you need in order to learn more about yourself. Humility is, therefore, the greatest learning tool of life. Humility makes every word on the page become clearer in a personal way. Humility draws you closer to every WORD of GOD. Without it, devotion to God is futile.

*"You people!
It is your own souls that you are corrupting.
Take your enjoyment in this life.
To Us shall you then return,
and We will declare to you all that you have done."
[10:23]*

*"You people!
It is your own souls that you are corrupting.
Take your enjoyment in this life.
To US shall you then return,
and WE will declare to you all that you have done."*

Apparently there's an enormous amounts of porn downloaded in the Middle East and in the deep South. Only, in the South, they're particularly interested in watching black men having sex. And, apparently, in the Middle East, it's gay men they're most interested in observing. Doesn't that say a lot about man's penis? The guy who has a tool that looks different or who uses his tool in a different way becomes another man's teacher.

Men are fascinated by the opportunity to live out their life through other men's eyes. They're voyeurs in the external world because they're so fascinated with observing themselves from within. Would that we could see the world through our own eyes and see the stranger in ourselves as someone who admires us. We'd fall in love with him in an instant. (I don't think that would change your sexual identity. I think straight dudes could love one great guy with all their heart and soul and come away from that admiration loving a woman all the more.)

The corruption of man's soul is only going to occur to men who worry about what will happen to their penis if they become more in touch with themselves. A man becomes aware of his penis problem when he cares about WHO gave him the penis he's got and why it looks the way it does. There's no spiritual evolution going on in those who insist on

remaining an unconscious slave to their desires. They were born unevolved and insist on dying that way.

What could Moses, Jesus or the Prophet Muhammad possibly have said or done that would have convinced **GOD** that unevolved people are worthy of angelic rewards? The unevolved haven't got a chance of making their way into "heaven." And they certainly aren't good enough to get into my idea of "heaven." The sign over the gate where you plan to get your eternal reward says everything about where you were headed in the first place. I'd be careful that the road to the "heaven" you're going towards doesn't end up taking you straight to "hell."

Guilt, love and self-reflection are the greatest tools in your educational arsenal. The snake moves forward by undulating from side to side, and man progresses morally the same way. He's motivated by guilt as he moves to the left and by love as he moves to the right. He's moving without arms and legs within himself. His inner forces are all that he has to guide him. He's making his way to "heaven" as though crawling on his belly. But there's one rib he's missing. Like Adam, that loss is what always reminds him who he really is and how he's going to get there without behaving like a prince of a guy in his own eyes.

If you don't think like a Jew, you're not going to progress up the mountain like a snake. If you don't feel like a Christian, you're not going to progress up the reflection of the mountain in the lake like salmon heading back to their original stream. And if you don't believe like a Muslim, you're not going to float like the clouds over the top of the mountain.

Always doing what's fair is desirable, even though that may involve some embarrassment, shame and/or humiliation along the way. But out of these three aspects of guilt are borne the modesty, humility and grace to appreciate the process. You won't be able to trust yourself or believe in you if you haven't earned the curiosity to explore these three virtues in thee.

You won't be able to put more trust in yourself until you're willing to renounce your egotistical effort to look at you as innocent and fearless. It's much too late for you to make either proclamation. That's just your penis problem talking. As you'll see in later passages of the Quran:

"None shall help the wrongdoers."

[35:41]

"The wrongdoers have none to befriend or help them."

[42:8]

"Surely, God does not guide the wrongdoers."

[46:10]

You don't need to wait until you return to your **CREATOR** to become aware of all that you've done to your conscience to protect it from being invaded and occupied by others. **GOD** will surely have much to tell you about your journey before it's all over if you're willing to give up a little space inside your soul for **HIM**.

You'd be more help to yourself by acknowledging the spiritual process, not hindering it with golden calves you'd rather stop, dance around and then need to melt down and swallow like the Israelites had to swallow their gold. Whether you're dancing around food, love or a lust for having it your way, Israel is always watching. Don't dance around your urges like a JEW, CHRISTIAN or *Muslim*. Spend your time with you more productively.

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Muslims with a conscience will someday admit that trying to destroy Israel was a bad move right from the start in 1948. Christians with a heart will someday admit that building nations overseas was just for practice in colonizing their own heart. The day will come when Christians in America will look at what they did to blacks, and they'll find the courage to heal every heart here at home. And Jews with an inquiring mind will someday admit that they're an important part of a spiritual evolution, an evolution not of the fittest, but of the finest.

Learn to interpret each lesson you're struggling with and not declare that our **TEACHER** has nothing new to say since **HE** addressed Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Muhammad, so long ago. Your boredom may not be with Them, but with you.²⁵² Find the humility to learn from you. Teach you silently. Nobody has to know how stupid you sound to yourself.

There aren't enough gays or Jews to go around tutoring each and every one of you. And, besides, we've got our own personal evolution to busy us. Listen to you and react to what you hear. If you aren't mad as "hell" with yourself from time to time, you're not living.

*"This present life is like the rich garment
with which the earth adorns itself
when watered by the rain We send down from the sky.
Crops sustaining man and beast grow luxuriantly,
but,
as the earth's tenants begin to think themselves its masters,
down comes Our scourge upon it by night or by day,
laying it waste,
as though it did not blossom but yesterday.
Thus do We make plain Our revelations to thoughtful men."
[10:24-25]*

²⁵¹ If you think I'm being a little heavy-handed on the ultra-religious, remember that I'm just putting them down literarily. Look what they've done to us literally!

²⁵² Capitalized in deference to Jesus who, Christians believe, is GOD, an aspect of **GOD**, not just a purveyor of **HIS WORD**.

“This present life is like the rich garment
 with which the Earth adorns itself
 when watered by the rain **WE** send down from the sky.
 Crops sustaining man and beast grow luxuriantly,
 but,
 as the Earth’s tenants begin to think themselves its masters,
 down comes **OUR** scourge upon it by night or by day,
 laying it waste,
 as though it did not blossom but yesterday.
 Thus do **WE** make plain **OUR** revelations to thoughtful men.”

Modern man learned to predict the weather externally but then discovered he could also upset it. Internally, he’s done much the same to take command of his nature and the whirling forces within that often get him in trouble with himself. He can make the sun shine with monetary attention to himself for a time. He may easily raise his temperature through drugs mixed with anonymous sex. But the clouds always return and the grey skies go right over the horizon.

Man’s heart, like the sun, may sometimes seem to be 93 million miles away from his soul {the Earth}. And his mind, like the moon, may seem to be 238,855 miles from his soul. But he still can’t reach out and touch it. Getting his head {moon} and heart {sun} engaged in the fate of his soul {Earth} takes daily voyages into inner space. You’re not all here if you don’t work diligently to get here.

Science is like one of your two arms, and faith is like the other. Spiritual psychology is the new invention that studies what you can do with both arms, both hands and all ten fingers when they’re working in poetic unison. Thus does **GOD** make plain **HIS** revelations to thoughtful men. **HE** gives them similes to compare and contrast metaphors and symbols. **HE** gives thoughtful men many creative ways to perceive themselves. There’s really nothing mysterious about **GOD’s** designs. What’s truly mysterious (and a little frightening) are your designs...

*“God invites you to the home of peace.
 He guides whom He will to a straight path.
 Those who do good works shall have a good reward,
 and more besides.
 Neither blackness nor misery shall overcast their faces.
 They are the heirs of the fire,
 wherein they shall abide forever.”
 [10:26]*

“**GOD** invites you to the home of peace.
HE guides whom **HE** will to a straight path.
Those who do good works shall have a good reward,
and more besides.
Neither blackness nor misery shall overcast their faces.
They are the heirs of the fire,
wherein they shall abide forever.”

The heirs of the fire are those who can go through the illumination and warmth of their inner flame without having to go through too much of the external burn of self-purification. Embarrassment, shame and humiliation are the tongues of the flame of purification **GOD** has given us in this world as a preview to the “world to come.” (You’ve been promised that you can become like a star. You have the potential of shining for a very long time in a very cold night. Don’t extinguish this possibility.)

The Holocaust was our modern Jewish reintroduction to the burn of **GOD’s** flame on Earth that the CHRISTIAN world should learn to live with for having ignited. But we both learned from that burn. And now we should be more dedicated than ever to helping everyone avoid all forms of physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual burns in the future. Our nightmare doesn’t have to be repeated by others if they’re willing to learn from us how to avoid such blazes in the future. Our mistakes are open to all to explore intellectually, emotionally and spiritually – or personally – if they so choose.

But promoting **GOD** as the only solution is a fool’s errand. And CHRISTIANS must be castigated for their severe errors of judgment since the Holocaust. They’ve dragged their feet with Civil Rights, Women’s Rights, Gay Rights and now they’re conspiring with Russians to the detriment of American values and the future of the planet.

Despite our small number in literal terms, Jews are giants in the spiritual sense. We’re tree in a garden of many plants. That doesn’t make us always right. That doesn’t mean that each of us is exceptionally good, kind or fair. But it does mean that we’ve always been an integral part of **GOD’s** designs for Christians and Muslims in the Western world. Denial of **GOD** leads to denial of many other aspects of reality including evolution and climate chaos as caused by humans.

GOD’s promise in this passage is a home of peace and a path to it. But that place and the path to it lie within. To achieve that end externally will require you to overhaul the spiritual insanity in declaring there’s only one **GOD/GOD/God** – yours. Wake up to the new age! If you’re not living in the now you’re moving downward and backward.

The road the Israelites took out of bondage wasn’t straight. There were many impediments and curves thrown at them. And they got only as far as Moses could take them: to the edge of the Promised Land. You can get into your inner Israel peacefully with the help of Joshua #2 {Jesus}.

There’s no way for *Muslims* to fight their way into Israel. Love will open our door. More fighting in the Middle East will destroy Islam entirely and maybe the world with it. They’re not going to get into Israel, the home of peace the way they’ve been going. **GOD’s** obviously got something psychological in mind.

If you insist you're the new Moses leading your people to your idea of a Promised Land, you'd better be very sure you have a democracy in place, as did he. Korach started a rebellion against Moses and Aaron in The Book of Numbers. [16-18] And Korach and his men were ultimately swallowed up by a hole GOD created in the earth. Moses even declared that would happen before it did; the only instance in Torah when Moses predicted the future and then asked GOD to fulfill his prediction.

GOD's designs can be circuitous even though **HE** promises a straight {obvious} path for those who can believe with all their head, heart and soul. Man's inner world is curved like the planet we live on. When your inner world is 3-D, what appears to be straight always ends at your horizons. What appears to be obvious always ends up mysterious.

Miracles will surely occur in your understanding of where you are and where you're headed if you watch where you're going. That will make it possible for you to use all the forces within you. You won't be limited, as are many, by having to use only the head of your penis to think with.

*“As for those who have done evil,
evil shall be rewarded with evil.
Misery will oppress them
(They shall have none to protect them from God),
as though patches of the night's own darkness veiled their faces.
They are heirs of the fire,
wherein they shall abide forever.”
[10:27]*

*“As for those who have done evil,
evil shall be rewarded with evil.
Misery will oppress them
(They shall have none to protect them from **GOD**),
as though patches of the night's own darkness veiled their faces.
They are heirs of the fire,
wherein they shall abide forever.”*

Again, **GOD** uses the simile of dressing. Moral inequity becomes a veil that darkens the face, obscuring the transgressor from the ability to see, hear or smell {intuit} where he's going. There are those for whom seeing is believing. There are others who need to hear something that makes sense before they get wrapped up in it. But the deeply suspicious – those who've been burned many times in the past – must use their intuition to decide if something is right or wrong. It's as if their intuition, like their nose, is the only part of their well-dressed, spiritual body that sticks out for all to see.

Anyone can denounce the whole world as conspiring against him. He can blow himself up with self-righteous indignation at the way his fate is thwarting his destiny. Anyone can point fingers at others as the cause of his bad luck. But the only question that makes life worth living is whether you can sometimes point a finger at yourself and, at other times,

pat yourself on the back. This is, in the end, what **GOD** is watching to see from you. Will you claim to be all innocent or all guilty; fearful or fearless? Will you bow your head in submission to **HIS** designs, or do you insist on literally standing, kneeling or prostrating yourself before your **MAKER/MAKER/Maker** without changing your ways from within? No one is so squeaky clean inside that these words don't apply to him.

The gay-Jew is the perfect example of the victim who should get past his own past hurts. If the gay-Jew can claim to be willing to work with those on the extreme political left who hate Israel and those on the extreme right who hate gays, he's offering an example of forgiveness and mercy not often seen in politics or prayer. But he should first find reason to offer those virtues to himself.

I do this for me first, not for my enemies. I do this to unite me with myself, not them. Then, what comes of it in the world around me I can see as **GOD's** will to help me help myself, not my willpower to conceal my faults unconsciously with guilt. Then, what happens in the world around me I can deal with as the next assignment from the **TEACHER**. This I intuitively learned from five Holocaust survivors about how to stay alive.

If a gay-Jew can revel in sex with his Catholic partner (and thank **GOD** for it each time they're lying beside one another after the deed is done), you can get through your guilt about the hollow in your tree, too. If sex isn't a little bad, it isn't at all good. If you don't save up your defiance and contrariness for the bedroom, you're using it in the wrong rooms in your house.

What's abominable is that most good people aren't willing to reveal more of their naked, inner world in plain sight of their nude partner. If you can't be real when you're completely undressed, how can you expect to express your truth in public fully dressed? We can see more of you than you assume we can, with or without your clothes on.

Some men parade around as though the serpent on their tree is an indication of the size of the fruits of their labors. You'd think their serpent was bigger than their intellectual boughs and branches by the way they pose and position themselves in front of others. You'd think their tree was so laden with juicy, ripe fruit that their tree hadn't been harvested for years. A rose isn't the only botanical creation that's horny...

There's so much nonsense men present to others through posturing. They know better. We all know every man's fruits are always ripe for the picking. We all see between other men's words to the truth that's throbbing in their pants, not the truth they conceal in their heart and soul. You don't have to be gay to use your imagination more creatively.

GOD knows what **HE**'s asking of you. It may not seem like you have a lot to give to others, but you know the size of the gift you were given and the gift you've got to give. Don't let anyone diminish your gifts or make you believe that theirs are bigger and better than yours. Look at yourself in the mirror. You'll certainly be disappointed with what you see. (But welcome to the club.) You're going to want to make up for your physical imperfections with goodness. Cynicism and scorn of life isn't going to change what you see in the mirror. If you think it would be easier being gay and/or Jewish, you're just projecting your self-hate rather than facing it. It's an all-too-common mistake.

Package your gifts to others with facial gestures to indicate that there's no veil across your face. Sometimes a picture on your face is worth a thousand WORDS you're not quite ready to say out loud. Using your face to describe what's in your heart isn't a sign of low intellect, as some would have you believe. It's a sign of strong feelings and beliefs. It's a sign of a heart and soul working in unison.

The reason you're stiff-necked is because you won't let the feelings in your heart and beliefs in your soul make their way up to and onto your face. You're stuck like a cork in a bottle. Pop the cork, for **GOD's** sake! Let it out and up.

GOD separated the light from the darkness. Now you ought to repeat the process within yourself to understand the effort it takes to create your inner universe the same way **HE** created the outer universe for you to relish. According to the Quran, the light of day and the darkness of night rest upon your face. Your sun {heart}, moon {mind} and Earth {soul} can be seen on your face at all times if you're really out there.

It's hard to be a mirror of the "heavenly" bodies. It's hard for a heart to shine bright like the sun without being veiled by clouds. It can even be hard for your mind to shine with its own eerie, pale and broken light, like the moon. But whatever you can do to light up your inner sky with modern beliefs to brighten your night will make the cloudiness less awful.

Don't expect your path to be only straight or gay, wide or narrow, ambiguous or obvious. Don't expect anyone else's path to be, either. If you judge people only by their desires instead of their head, heart and soul, you may make severe moral errors that you may regret later. Desires change when people are taught to see the spiritual connections of their head, heart, soul *and* genitals. Suddenly, their desires become life affirming. Suddenly, they have no problem living side by side with people like you and me.

The real day of judgment is today. Today you should break off a little more of your projection of your mountain from the way you've habitually externalized it. Today you should break your need for other people to climb *their* mountain *your* way. The real day of resurrection will come tomorrow when you get up in the morning and realize it's just you and **GOD** walking a little further on your journey together.

As your lessons unfold for you today, our **TEACHER** will create new curriculum for you tomorrow. The day of judgment and day of resurrection are at hand. Are you ready for today and tomorrow or is your head still stuck in your past? Or is the head of your penis stuck far into a future you cannot behold?

"Say:

Who provides for you from heaven and earth?

Who has endowed you with sight and hearing?

*Who brings forth the living from the dead,
and the dead from the living?*

Who ordains all things?"

[10:30]

“Say:
‘Who provides for you from ‘heaven’ and Earth?
Who has endowed you with sight and hearing?’²⁵³
Who brings forth the living from the dead,
and the dead from the living?
Who ordains all things?’”

Embrace your guilt or you’ll never learn to embrace your love. Embrace the love that dares not speak your name {your love for you}. It emanates out from within you from **GOD**. Until you love yourself as wholly as Jesus loved HIS little world in Israel, your loyalty to life will never be enough, and you’ll pay a price for your lack of love for you.

The modern world is more evolved than you may think. People aren’t better than you think, but they’ve got as much potential to change their mind as you do. The loyalty you hold to your opinion of you today may change with greater moral regard for you.

People can change, transform and transcend themselves. If you treat people like students of our **TEACHER** and not like petrified wood or sniveling brats from a different, deadbeat DAD/DAD/*Dad*, you’ll do better understanding the metaphor of life given to us by Moses; the symbols given by GOD; and the signs brought down to Earth by *Allāh* through the Prophet. When you see life as a school and **GOD** as our **TEACHER**, graduation becomes something you can look forward to if you’ve consistently done your homework, taken your tests seriously (not dramatically) and helped your classmates whenever possible.

*“This Quran could not have been devised by any but God.
It confirms what was revealed before it
and fully explains the Scriptures.
It is beyond doubt from the Lord of the universe.”
[10:37]*

“This Quran could not have been devised by any but **GOD**.
It confirms what was revealed before it
and fully explains the Scriptures.
It is beyond doubt from the Lord of the universe.”

I couldn’t agree more with the Prophet’s *words* here. But neither could Tanach and the Bible have been devised by anyone other than **HIM**. That means we should study together, talk together, work together and plan together – or none of us are going to do as well as we’d like on our final exam.

²⁵³ Sight is a combination of hindsight and foresight, which leads to insight. Hearing, over time, leads to self-reflection.

Israel isn't a problem. **GOD's** homeland for the Jews has never been more necessary since it was recreated 70 years ago. Israel is only a single example of the solution to a worldwide problem. When straights learn to pray together with their Abrahamic brothers as easily as gay men from all races and creeds can touch one another lovingly in bed, many more straight men will give up killing as a useless way of solving problems.

The issues of humanity are symptomatic of the issues magnified between the Abrahamic faiths in the Middle East. But the problem is much bigger than it looks because the problem emanates out from within. And, as usual, the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. and Jewish communities are at the center of the solution. We understand that the answers lie in Islam. But we also know the evidence lies in Christianity and the questions lie in you. You'll want to get out of yourself to come back in.

*“Indeed,
they disbelieve what they cannot grasp,
for they have not yet seen its prophecy fulfilled.
Likewise did those before them disbelieve.
But see what was the end of the wrongdoers.”
[10:39]*

*“Indeed,
they disbelieve what they cannot grasp,
for they have not yet seen its prophecy fulfilled.
Likewise did those before them disbelieve.
But see what was the end of the wrongdoers.”*

People don't face their guilt when tragedy strikes from the outside in. When bad things happen to good people, good people often are accused of being bad. ²⁵⁴ As men learn to look for new ways to interpret Scripture from within, they'll teach subsequent generations better ways of unifying all Scriptures.

*“If they disbelieve you,
say:
‘My deeds are mine and your deeds are yours.
You are not accountable for my actions,*

²⁵⁴ Never before in the history of the civilized world did you hear of a nation that makes phone calls to its enemies to warn them in advance when they were going to bomb their houses. Israelis are very measured in warfare because they believe **GOD** abhors what they're forced to do to protect themselves. Self-protection is vital to your survival. But if you can't find a reason to survive other than to survive, you haven't found a good enough reason to live.

nor am I accountable for what you do.”
[10:41]

“If they disbelieve you,
say:
‘My deeds are mine and your deeds are yours.
You are not accountable for my actions,
nor am I accountable for what you do.’”

I’ll bet you didn’t expect to find such tolerance in the Quran. But the Prophet was teaching tolerance in order to achieve a greater understanding of **GOD’s** will. He wanted his followers to realize that the *Word* of *God* would lead them to the **WORDS** of **GOD**. He must have suspected the repercussions his people would one day endure. But he must have also understood that morality requires a striving for greater perfection through greater ability to make peace with yourself. “My deeds are mine and your deeds are yours.”

I climbed Masada barefoot in my youth and took the cable car up in middle age. I’ve seen the summit of Jewish martyrdom from two ascents to the top, one as a teenager and one as a middle-aged man. No one can sacrifice himself to **GOD**. **HE** won’t allow it. Wisdom, love and devotion are given to work for redemption. Sacrifice was for animals. People are expected to achieve godliness in better ways.

More than tolerance and acceptance, we’re all going to want to learn admiration for one another. But that’s going to be difficult for all of us. It’s going to cause all sorts of friction as people struggle with their own lot in life vis-à-vis **GOD’s** designs. That will have to begin with tolerance, acceptance and admiration from within.

You can’t give something to others you haven’t received from yourself. But you can’t receive anything you haven’t earned. (You can give a lot of the things you’ve got, but if you’ve gotten them without receiving them gratefully, you’re got nothing worth anything worth giving.)

GOD’s designs are worthy of admiration, but you’ll want to earn **HIS** admiration in order to give it away. Reality is a good thing. The way things are turning out will give you ways to admire the seven major, ancient faiths and **philosophies** from the beginning of civilization to the end: indigenism, Judaism, **Hinduism**, **Buddhism**, Christianity, **Taoism** and Islam. ²⁵⁵

Without admiration for the way civilization has been developing for thousands of years, we’re doomed to try to change something **GOD** set in place long ago, something **HE** designed this way from the start. It would be far more attractive if we learned to admire our traditions, nationalities, ethnicities, genders and sexual identities rather than continue to fight over which one of them is correct.

New opinions may not, at first, leave you as attractive as you think you are now. But reducing your ego footprint will allow more space within you to invite **GOD** in. If you

²⁵⁵ This is the chronological order in which the faiths and philosophies were given to us by **GOD**.

don't believe in **HIS** presence, maybe it's because there's not yet room for the Two of you in there. Maybe there's a pagan within you still holding out for more idol worship. Maybe there's the shadow of a serpent or a worm getting in the way of what you can see.

Your ability to modernize your opinions of you will make you more attractive to some and less to others. Being able to show people that you're growing will, understandably, bring up cause for celebration in some and consternation in others. Many aren't at all curious about the mystery of growth. The bigger you get inside, the clearer it will become to somehow small they really are.

But if you stop growing, you know you'll start dying. Look around. Can't you already see what the living dead look like? If you don't want to end up like some others, you'd better motivate yourself to grow no matter how great the discomfort it causes. Just be patient with the zombies around you. Most of them will eventually realize they're holding you back and will feel guilty for it. Some grow eagerly into the light. Others grow better in shade. Some need complete and utter darkness.

When you get to know people who are different from you, you evolve. You rise from a caveman to something a little lower than an angel. People who are different from you help you grow, even if they stretch you a little in the process. They help you blossom internally whether they can appreciate you as the fruit that you are, or whether they choose to plant seeds in the ground of your being, like a parasite, hoping some aspect of them will germinate in you the coming year.

As you reinterpret your Scripture with deeper, more personal meanings, you'll become more spiritually juicy, less wooden. When that happens your good deeds will multiply naturally. You won't need to be threatened by outside forces to be good. Self-love, not fear or intimidation, will motivate you to revere **GOD**.

*“You shall engage in no affair;
you shall recite no verse from the Quran;
you shall commit no act –
but We will witness it.*

*Not an atom's weight in earth or heaven escapes your Lord,
nor is there any object smaller or greater,
but is recorded in a glorious book.”*
[10:61]

*“You shall engage in no affair;
you shall recite no verse from the Quran;
you shall commit no act –
but **WE** will witness it.*

*Not an atom's weight in Earth or “heaven” escapes your Lord,
nor is there any object smaller or greater,
but is recorded in a glorious book.”*

Your version of “the glorious book” may become your inner, personal diary, a combination of Tanach, the Gospels and the Quran, not just one of the three. You may also aspire to see your deeds recorded in passages from your traditional Scripture as examples to the angels of how **GOD’S WORD** is being learned and lived here on Earth. **GOD** will witness everything.

Only the atheists glorify the privacy they need. The true believers very slowly become more and more aware of **GOD’S** presence within them. You aren’t going to insist you need privacy from **GOD** unless you’ve got a mess inside or are scheming to do things that are immoral.

Judaism was created in Israel, but circumstances beyond our control forced us to take our belief system elsewhere. Christianity was created in Israel, but circumstances beyond their control forced them to take their belief system West. Islam was created in and around Israel, but circumstances beyond their control forced them to take their belief system East, and, more recently West.

In order to appreciate **GOD’S** designs, we need to look at how each of these three faiths has influenced the world and how the world has influenced each of these three faiths. In *Islam*, for instance, the tranquility of *God* and the influence of Eastern **philosophies** have asked Muslims to look beyond their traditional interpretations of destiny {“heaven”} and fate {“hell”}.

Not only are the ways in which you’re cheating (#7), stealing (#8) and lying (#9) being observed, but your jealousy and envy (#10) is also being closely watched by you-know-who.²⁵⁶ If you’re so good that you aren’t breaking these Commandments in ways that affect your relationships with others, then you’ve only got to look at the ways in which you’re breaking them within you.

If this is the case, then you only need to be redeemed for the ways in which you’re conspiring against yourself. You’ll need to seek redemption for the ways in which your desires and feelings have conspired with your thoughts against your most cherished beliefs. When you fantasize over incidents that would never end up in reality the way you imagine, look at the conclusions you draw. If you find the message to be about thoughtlessness, callousness and carelessness, know that you’re telling yourself what you think of you.

GOD is willing to help you develop you, using as much care and consideration as **HE** used in creating this world as described in the first passage of Genesis. But Torah only becomes available to you if you take it to heart. When you were born you were formless and empty. Darkness was over the surface of the deep in you, and the spirit of **GOD** was hovering over your waters {feelings}. On your first day, you separated your thoughts from everything else in the same way **GOD** separated the light from the darkness externally. On your second day, you separated one water (feeling) from the other.²⁵⁷ And you called one

²⁵⁶ The 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Commandments.

²⁵⁷ Ancient man couldn’t differentiate between the water in the sea and the water that came down from the sky. He had no idea how clouds were formed. He came to the primitive conclusion that gods separated one source of water {seas} from the other {sky}.

vault “sky” {spirit/beliefs}, and you called the other “ocean” {feelings}. And so you became aware that in addition to think, you could both feel and believe.

When you can take Torah personally, you can take the Gospels and the Quran personally, too. But when you fight over which of the three is right and which are wrong, you end up fighting yourself, your family, your community and innocent strangers who have no idea what you’re trying to accomplish inside.

If you don’t put your attention to *your* spiritual education, you’re not going to do as well on the tests you’re going through internally or the tests externally that will, inevitably, come. You’re going to suffer undo physical pain and the unspeakable emotional hardship we must all witness. This isn’t a prediction. This is just a commonsense appraisal of reality.

As you come to realize how little you knew about yourself before the experiences you went through in the past, you’ll become more curious about your future. More bitterness and denial over the way things turned out will only slow you down. But you’ll find that optimism, like thin air, will be hard to embrace without more faith in you. You can’t give **GOD** something you haven’t both given *to* and received *from* yourself. The more faith you’ve got, the more faith you’re going to need.

There’s a certain amount of theory you need to know about in life if you’re going to make sound decisions. If you claim to know right from wrong, but don’t take actions on the theory to demonstrate your ability to discern right from wrong practically speaking, you may end up like a pillar of salt, as happened to Lot’s wife. You, too, may look back frozen with regrets at your losses.

Let’s go back again and reread this passage:

“You shall engage in no affair;
you shall recite no verse from the Quran;
you shall commit no act -
but **WE** will witness it.

Not an atom’s weight in Earth or ‘heaven’ escapes your Lord,
nor is there any object smaller or greater,
but is recorded in a glorious book.”

This passage begins with the focus on *you* and moves to the focus on **WE**. Then it goes from *you* to **HE**, ending with every object, great or small, that’s recorded in “it” {a glorious book}. The Prophet distanced himself from his own message by using the word “you” three times to point out these relationships we all have with **GOD**.²⁵⁸

The purpose of these grammatical calisthenics is to remind you of the importance of getting out of the I/you relationship you habitually hold yourself in. This resembles the parent/child relationship that’s punitive or condescendingly flattering. You should only use this way of relating to you if you’ve done something wrong and need to be reprimanded or

²⁵⁸ “Illeism” is the act of referring to one’s self in the third-person. “A glorious book” is an ancient way of describing recordings of you that use the third-person. In modern parlance, we’d describe that as memories in video format that you create in your imagination (and should comment on) to elucidate your evolving opinion of you.

if you're extremely deflated and need to force yourself up and out that hole you've sunk down into. Otherwise, try using the I/he relationship from time to time. It mirrors the adult/child relationship. It allows you to see yourself as a wonderfully creative child given to you to shape, as does a teacher, coach or counselor with their charge.

The Prophet promises that your inner life is being recorded in a glorious book. In modern parlance, we'd say that there are cameras everywhere within you and around you. Everything you do to and for you will be videotaped for your edification at future points in time. Some of those videos may even be played back to you at times not of your own choosing by your mind's eye. Call these unexpected video reenactments the cause of late-night tossing and turning.

GOD told us in Leviticus not to sleep with men $\{y + x^2\}$. But if you don't figuratively go to bed with your thoughts $\{y\}$ and your feelings $\{x^2\}$, you'll find yourself committing unspeakable crimes externally, whether you wanted to, or not. The only way to solve this problem comes from your soul. Your soul can figuratively sleep with your thoughts and feelings $\{y + x^2\}$ in ways neither of the other two can. And the offspring of this intimate intercourse with these aspects of yourself are beliefs in **GOD** that will give your life meaning.

Who you literally sleep with or have sex with in the external world is your own business. But if you conspire against the male $\{\text{head/Adam}\}$ or female $\{\text{heart/Eve}\}$ aspect of you, your soul will need to answer to GOD/GOD/*God* for it with guilt unless you're united enough inside to consciously answer to **GOD**. You'll collude within and then develop conspiracy theories about how others should operate *themselves* in order to gratify *your* conscience. You won't be able to be honest, sincere and authentic in the ways you come before **HIM**. And you'll pay a price for your ignorance of the way in which you were made.

You should talk about self-love to learn about life. You should become curious about other people's theories about love in order to get a better handle on your own practices. Just coming to the conclusion that you ought to go in the moral direction that gays or Jews are going in $\{\text{or in the opposite direction}\}$ isn't going to help you in the least. Your knee-jerk reactions to others' theories and practices aren't going to teach you about your own.

The political left and right can both be booby traps. If you allow politics to lead you rather than spirituality, you're going to want to make moral compromises that will ultimately reveal what a hypocrite you've been. And if you choose to allow your religious leader to lead you without questioning what they know about self-love, you're the kind of person who's being given answers without a clue how to contemplate the questions.

*"Surely the servants of God
have nothing to fear or to regret.
Those who have faith and keep from evil
shall rejoice both in this world and in the world to come.
The words of God shall never change.
This is the supreme triumph."
[10:62-63]*

“Surely the servants of **GOD**
have nothing to fear or to regret.
Those who have faith and keep from evil
shall rejoice both in this world and in the “world to come.”
The **WORDS** of **GOD** shall never change.
This is the supreme triumph.”

The **WORDS** of **GOD** shall never change, but you’ll begin to see them from different places in inner space over time, with experience, if you ponder what you’ve been through. You may even hear the **WORDS** of **GOD** as echoes within you that seem to come from many places successively.

The **WORDS** of **GOD** shall never change, but the acuity of your vision and acuteness of your hearing will improve if you work at improving them. Only then will you begin to smell the odiferous delights of the “world to come.”

The **WORD** of **GOD**/the **WORD** of God/the *Word* of *God* shall never change. You can change the shape of the letters to elucidate their meaning with greater clarity, but you can’t change the profundity of any word. You can’t stop yourself from seeing many truths in 3-D, stereophonic sound. He who doesn’t embrace **WORDS** is doomed to act without them.

When you’re ready to explore a deeper understanding of what it means to have a serpent or worm, you’ll realize you can’t look down between your legs to achieve understanding. You can’t talk to “it” as though it were a “him” or “her.” When you wish to understand your heart, you can’t talk to “it” as though Jesus were literally in it. You can’t talk to your head as though your mother or lover were literally in it, either. And when you wish to understand your soul, you can’t talk to your breastplate as though the Archangel Gabriel were sitting on that bone listening to you. The Shechina, Holy Spirit or tranquility of *God* aren’t operating at physical locations in your body. They’re operating throughout your being. But don’t for a moment think you can throw away these words because you don’t like what they stand for.

You should begin your search for self in the “Reptilian complex” of your brain where your basal ganglia is located. This area of the brain is responsible for aggression, dominance, territoriality, possessiveness and ritual displays of sexual prowess. Your basal ganglia is the fruit found at the top of the spinal column, which is your spinal “tree.” Your basal ganglia corresponds to the low-lying fruit that lies in your unconscious. It’s from this spot that Moses was inspired to write down the **WORD** of **GOD**.

Continuing your search for yourself will bring you up to the “Paleomammalian complex” that consists of your septum, amygdalae, hypothalamus, hippocampal complex, and cingulate cortex. This is responsible for the motivation and emotion involved in feeding, reproductive behavior and parental behavior. This is from where **GOD** conversed with Jesus in the Gospels. This is your semiconscious.

And when you rise up to the “Neomammalian complex,” the cerebral neocortex, you come to the part of the brain that deals with language, abstraction, planning, and perception. The frontal lobes of the cerebral cortex are located behind our forehead. They have a lot to do with personality and how we act. The frontal lobes are part of what makes the brain

extremely complex and very well organized. This coincides with your conscious mind and the part of **GOD** we call *God*. This is what motivated the Prophet to awaken himself further than those who'd come before him.

The outer world isn't the way it once was. It's changed enormously. And there are those who are very upset with the fact that their GOD/GOD/*God* doesn't do more to take us all back to the way their ancestors once was. But these present-day Neanderthals just don't want to get to know themselves. They're the last person on Earth they're interested in befriending.

GOD's moving us always further forward, from past to present to future. **HE**'s moving us in **HIS** direction in the same way that the early Macintosh computer moved you toward your reliance on the sophisticated Apple products of today. Where you end up when death takes you will only and always depend on what you do now. You can't literally go back although many try to do so literarily. Discovering how to live evermore in the moment is essential because you can't know how you're made if you don't live life to the fullest.

*"They say,
'God has begotten a son.'
God forbid!
Self-sufficient is He.
His is all that the heavens and the earth contain.
Surely for this you have no sanction.
Would you say of God what you know not?"*
[10:68]

*"They say,
'GOD HAS BEGOTTEN A SON.'
God forbid!
Self-sufficient is He.
HIS is all that the 'heavens' and the Earth contain.
Surely for this you have no sanction.
Would you say of GOD what you know not?"*

GOD only had a SON if you subscribe to the metaphor of HIM as our FATHER, and then extend that metaphor to see Christians as adopted children of GOD through Christ, who they believe is HIS SON. Jews and Muslims aren't adopted into our faiths. Jews refer to GOD as our FATHER, but we don't see ourselves as children. Muslims don't use the metaphor of *God* as their *Father*. But that doesn't mean that $1 + 1 + 1 \neq 1$.

Left-brain thinking will argue over the literal meaning of Christian doctrine. Anybody whose right brain is even somewhat developed will understand what Christian mathematics

means to them about **THEM**.²⁵⁹ Christian belief brings GOD's love of HIMSELF out of "heaven" and into the family of man.

Another way of saying this is that Christians have awakened the semiconscious part of their brain, their Paleomammalian complex. They're particularly sensitized to matters of emotion through 2,000 years of focus on **GOD**-consciousness.

Arguing over the truth or falsehood of other people's faith means you're still in spiritual nursery school or kindergarten. You haven't yet made it to spiritual, first grade. **GOD's** designs are just too big for anyone to argue over the reasons why things are the way they are. Live and let live if others let you live and let live.

If people don't find ways to meet others at the spiritual table to discuss their differences, use reason to expose their foolishness, hatred and mean-spiritedness. And if RABBIS, PRIESTS, PASTORS, MINISTERS, *Imams* and *Clerics* refuse to provide you with a spiritual table to voice your grievances, use the one I've provided. Believe me, there are leaves of my table I haven't even begun to insert in place. (There's a whole other half of our brain function inscrutably hidden in the **philosophies** of the Far East.)

Isn't it ironic that Jews and Muslims don't argue about whether there is one **GOD** or three, and yet we argue about so many other things that were spelled out in Torah and the Quran? Sadly, real estate isn't our only contentious issue. We may not argue about who killed Jesus, but we secretly argue about something else that I'll discuss much later in these books, namely: Who killed the Prophet Muhammad? Suffice it to say for the moment, our **TEACHER** has many classes **HE** enrolls us all in, and it's up to us to learn how to interpret **HIS** intentions for us individually. Our spiritual curriculum lies in **HIS** hands. But the more we learn to work together, the more evident **HIS** designs will be.

Bugs in our spiritual system are easy to fix if you know how to operate yourself more than superficially. You can't just bang on computer keys like piano keys and call what happens next computation or music. People today are far more primitive than they like to admit. With a push of a button to a wall switch, they can let there be light. But I'd hardly call that a deep understanding of Scripture.

The whole world has accepted the Jewish metaphoric calendar of a seven-day week and the Christian calendar of 365.25 days beginning the New Year.²⁶⁰ And yet, most people don't realize that New Year's Day is actually the celebration of Christ's circumcision.

Jewish and Muslim men are commanded by **GOD** to be circumcised, as was Ishmael and Isaac. So you'd think we'd have more awe for this Christian holy day because it's so related to our own beliefs. (Most Christians outside the United States and Canada don't circumcise their sons.)

²⁵⁹ **GOD**, the FATHER, SON and Holy Spirit

²⁶⁰ "The Julian calendar, named for Julius Caesar, was created in 45 B.C.E. New Year's Day in the Julian calendar falls on January 1st, which comes eight days after the chosen upon date for the birth of Jesus (December 25th)." [Wikipedia] In this way, the ritualized beginning of every Christian boy's entrance into the faith corresponds to the first day of the calendar year. In effect, they all share the same day of circumcision: **HIS**.

Perhaps your relationship to GOD/GOD/*God* would be more mysteriously intertwined with all the Abrahamic faiths if you compared and contrasted the reasons for the rites and rituals of your faith without criticizing people whose beliefs, traditions and lifestyles are different from yours. Perhaps you'd find **GOD's** designs more mysterious if you didn't assume **HE's** as outraged as you about the way things are turning out. **GOD** may love diversity and difference a lot more than you do.

I need Christianity and Islam to learn about my love and loyalty to myself. I can *survive* on Judaism alone as my ancestors did for so long before the other monotheistic faiths came into existence. But I can't *live* without the other two Abrahamic faiths. I was a spiritual only-child who then received siblings. What's not good about that? I celebrate my spiritual family.

*“But they disbelieved him.
Therefore We saved Noah and those who were with him in the ark,
so that they survived;
and drowned the others who denied Our revelations.
Consider the fate of those who were forewarned.”
[10:73]²⁶¹*

“BUT THEY DISBELIEVED HIM.
THEREFORE WE SAVED NOAH AND THOSE WHO WERE WITH HIM IN THE ARK,
SO THAT THEY SURVIVED;
AND DROWNED THE OTHERS WHO DENIED OUR REVELATIONS.
Consider the fate of those who were forewarned.”

Noah represented the first man to take the tree of knowledge from the grove around him {his family} and use his imagination to cut them into planks of personal information he could then use to build an intellectual vehicle for himself against moral uncertainties that would have drowned him in an ocean of wild emotions had he not been better prepared for his future. Noah is the personification of every adolescent. This is the boy who knows he's not a boy anymore, but who also knows he's going to want to find a way to prove to himself that he's becoming a man.

If you develop your mind from “lizard” to “bird” brain without including the “mammalian” part of you, you'll become warm blooded, but you won't know why you are the way you are. You'll behave individually and collectively at varying times in life without fully understanding what's going on inside you. Your mystery will remain dark and foreboding.

Every child, late in childhood, anticipates that his passions are going to consume him in adulthood in ways he can't yet anticipate. And so he prepares for the future by keeping a sample representation of his nature deep down inside himself. He doesn't deny his nature

²⁶¹ The people on Earth at the time of Noah didn't believe in GOD.

with angry condescension of those who are already on the other side of puberty. He yearns to grow up so long as he can keep all that he's got.

Everyone in early adolescence, like a Noah, watches as his inner skies become cloudy and grey. He watches as the sorrow of having to leave childhood begins to pour down seemingly endlessly. Without the luxury of a rudder or a sail, he's lifted up on his first major, spiritual journey of life on his own. He knows he can't turn to his parents for help. And he knows friends his own age will be of no help in explaining what they're going through, either. His parents can only hope that the sun will come out after the storm, and their son or daughter will be filled with a rainbow of 'heavenly' promises after the same deluge they once knew dissipates.

"Noah" is everyman before he becomes a mature man. You were once a Noah, but you can only perceive that truth now in retrospect when you look back at your adolescence. You had to get through the storms of puberty to the best of your ability without much in the way of guidance from anyone. You had to watch as many around you drowned in a muddy mixture of hateful feelings and unwholesome desires. You could do nothing to help them because you didn't know what you were going through from a Scriptural or poetic point of view.

Although you may not remember it anymore, you, too, sent out a dove to make peace with GOD. Then you waited years until those overwhelming feelings slowly dissipated. HE then guided you to safe haven where you felt grounded in manhood or womanhood in a way you could never have known as a child. After you reached your haven in adulthood, you, too, got very drunk on the autonomy you'd finally achieved seemingly without anyone's help.

GOD did for you what HE did in the Creation story and for the descendants of Adam up through Noah. In the story following Noah in Genesis (the tower of Babel), HE did for you what HE did for everyone who tries to climb above his own inner clouds to find a way to end the sorrow of adolescence that he fears might, yet again, rain down from the "heavens" above. As you build your tower of words in early adulthood that are now replete with personal meanings, you take old words and apply them to new experiences. You discover the magical power of language as your vocabulary grows. (i.e. you make your way to other parts of your brain where you become capable of conscious awareness of how you operate.)

The story of Abraham in Genesis is preceded by four stories that recapitulate the beginning of your spiritual story:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Adam and Eve | The infantile stage of development |
| 2. Cain and Abel | The childish stage of development |
| 3. Noah and the ark | The juvenile stage of development |
| 4. The tower of Babel | The young adult stage of development |

You're on your way to becoming an Abraham. You're becoming a father of multitudes because you're going through the stories of Genesis in ways your RABBI, PRIEST, PASTOR, Minister, *Imam* or *Cleric* could never have understood without the main metaphor of Moses, the symbolism of Jesus and the ability to compare and contrast them as you can now see that the Prophet Muhammad could do from a third place inside himself.

To use these tools to analyze yourself, you're going to need faith in you and the power of Scripture, not just the one Abrahamic faith you were given.

You are the seeker, the one who says HINENI {here I am} when you wake up in the morning. You are someone who believes in **GOD**. For you, there's great promise in every day. For you, there are rainbows shining across your inner skies. You're a living promise. While you're still young, you'll only need proof of the magic of life around you to enjoy life. But when you grow older, you'll only need proof within you to perceive it around you.

Everyone denies **GOD's** revelations until he has the ability to connect parts of his brain in new ways. Everyone has the opportunity to consider the fate of those who were forewarned. The more things change, the more they stay the same. But if you separate yourself from your Abrahamic classmates, know that our **TEACHER** has lessons prepared for you that will teach you about the self-respect you'll need that the Archangel Gabriel recited to the Prophet Muhammad in the Quran.

It's so much easier to ask **GOD** to help you change than it is to pray for **HIM** to change all the gays, Jews and everyone else who irritates you. The only thing that's stopping you from doing so is your ego. And your serpent or worm is biologically connected to your ego {prostate gland in men/skene gland in women}. The more you desire to change others the more you're going to screw with your destiny from within and get stuck with your fate.

You'll see by the way things turn out for you how much you were willing to truly embrace reality as it came towards you. You can always look in the **TEACHER's** roll book for progress, but you'll never be allowed to see anyone's grades other than your own. Perhaps the time has come to unite yourself rather than divide others. Perhaps your ego is now ready to submit to higher parts of you. **GOD** knows you've exercised it enough trying to get others to submit to "it."

You couldn't have come this far in knowing yourself without considering you a multitude of inner voices that all have reasons to be heard. If you ignore even a single voice within you, you may react with resentment and spite that you may not be able to contain. If you can't use each and every inner voice to confirm or deny your truth, you'll come to believe you have good reasons to hate others and make them pay for something they're doing *to* you, or not doing *for* you. Getting your rights met can't include seeking revenge. (Employ patience with your selves instead.) ²⁶²

If you're a religious leader who's promoted the separation of the Abrahamic faiths in order to promote your own faith, you've created mental anguish, emotional turmoil and spiritual malaise. And if you think **GOD** isn't going to question your intentions with unexpected lessons sooner or later, you're seriously mistaken. There's a reason why you've been sowing seeds of discontent. There's boogiemani following you around within, terrorizing you with only a mirror in his hand. Give up your love of guns. Give up your fear of serpents and satan. It's your reflection in the mirror that entrances you.

²⁶² As I said, "composure" is the introductory class to "patience." If you don't work hard to pass your class on composure with you, you'll be lost when you graduate to achieving patience with you. You'll get frustrated and do something you'll regret. And then the feeling of regret will slow you down when composure couldn't.

There's a serpent in your tree that you're going to want to account for. But, as in the Creation story where GOD didn't speak directly to the serpent, **GOD** isn't going to literally question your penis or clitoris, either. {And **HE** certainly isn't to crawl up your rectum to talk to your ego!} **HE**'s going to look you in the eyes when **HE** poses **HIS** questions. And you're going to want to account for everything you've ever wanted, and why. You know "kids say the darndest things."²⁶³ And you know the kid in your heart is going to tell you the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So, you're going to want to earn your heart's trust, not as a mother or father with a son, but as an adult with a child.

*"Few of his people believed in Moses,
for they feared the persecution of Pharaoh and his nobles.
Surely Pharaoh was a tyrant in the land,
a man of rampant wickedness."
[10:83]*

*"Few of his people believed in Moses,
for they feared the persecution of Pharaoh and his nobles.
Surely Pharaoh was a tyrant in the land,
a man of rampant wickedness."*

Are today's "pharaohs" in the U.S. Russia, China, North Korea, Venezuela, the Middle East and elsewhere any less tyrannical? Do today's citizens feel any freer deep down inside than the ancient Israelites felt? If you can't cry today for the Children of Israel then, would you cry out instead for the poor, ancient Egyptians who couldn't afford more than one or two Hebru slaves?...

Our Jewish story wasn't over when it ended. The Christian story didn't come to a halt with the death of Jesus. And the Prophet's trip to "heaven" and back through Jerusalem will never curtain the spiritual truth of his tale.²⁶⁴ **GOD's** truth is alluded to in man's holy books. But the truth of **HIS** truth should be experienced in your inner world for you to come to believe that it's real.

*"Lord,
said Moses,
'You have bestowed on Pharaoh and his nobles*

²⁶³ "Kid's Say the Darndest Things" was an American TV comedy series from 1998 to 2000 based on an earlier feature with the same name." [Wikipedia]

²⁶⁴ Jerusalem was in the hands of Christians during the lifetime of the Prophet. But the fight over Jerusalem will never end until we can all agree on the need for an external Jerusalem and an internal Jerusalem. The crusades and jihads of your ancestors were only a mirror of the crusades and jihads within us all today.

*splendor and riches in this life
so that they may stray from your path.
Lord,
destroy their riches and harden their hearts,
so that they shall persist in nonbelief
until they face the woeful scourge.”*
[10:88]

“‘Lord,’
said Moses,
‘YOU have bestowed on pharaoh and his nobles
splendor and riches in this life
so that they may stray from your path.
Lord,
destroy their riches and harden their hearts,
so that they shall persist in nonbelief
until they face the woeful scourge.’”

Today’s pharaohs are no different from the hardhearted Pharaoh of the past. The cry for freedom from the ancient Jews that GOD heard was no less important than the cries Jesus dealt with to secure liberation for the early Jews from one another, or the cries for emancipation from the self the Prophet addressed in the indigenist, desert Arabs he dealt with.

I’m not in competition with anybody else on Earth. **GOD** loves me as much as **HE** loves everyone else. I’m only in competition with who I was yesterday. The game I’m playing isn’t against all others. I have no desire to win at anyone’s expense. I’m a winner because I’m beating me. And I’m beating me at my own game because I like me a little more day-by-day.

The Quran completes Tanach and the Bible in the same way that your last name completes your other two. You can’t complete something you haven’t started or something you stopped working your way through. You can’t appreciate the Quran if you don’t love, honor and obey the WORDS/WORDS GOD/GOD uttered before *He* uttered those *Words*.

It’s all the same **GOD**! If you’re fighting over **HIS** designs for man, it could only be because you’re blind to what **HE**’s doing for you every minute of every day. It could only be because you’re in competition with those of other faiths, philosophies or lifestyles.

If your mother was, like mine, absent in some way and therefore couldn’t be present for you, you know the feelings of the orphan who stands all by himself from an early age on. Because my mother was a Holocaust survivor, she had good reasons for not being able to hold me in all the ways I needed to be held. The flames from the Holocaust singed me through her even though the War ended in 1945 and I was born in 1952. The Nazis burned *her*, and she, in turn, burned *me*.

Because my mother lost her voice from a botched thyroid operation when I was learning to talk, she had good reason for not being able to hold me verbally in all the ways

I needed to be held.²⁶⁵ Now, when we talk as she sits in a locked ward for dementia patients, I can't understand her, and she can't understand me. But we're united subjectively in silence.

The 6,000,000 who died aren't martyrs. That would imply I'm seeking revenge for them. They're precious memories for me despite the fact that they were Jews who died before I was born. But because of them, I'm more committed to life than ever.²⁶⁶ I'm more committed to the adage "Never Again."

Because my mother was born to a Christian father and Jewish mother at a time in history when Jews and Christians weren't yet on speaking terms with one another in Western societies, my mother became the personification of a marriage of new ideas. And I am the beneficiary of my grandparents' great idea that they consummated in flesh: my mother. Her warmth and regard for me as a gay son came at a time when many parents disowned their children for being gay. She's the embodiment of modernity for me because she's had the ability to express her love for herself through me in a way I could come to appreciate.

My mother always wanted to live to be 100. She may still be sound enough to know that her desire for longevity flatters **GOD**. But I'm losing her slowly. Her head is already in "paradise," even though her body is still here on Earth. Our umbilical cord is being sawed through slowly by both of us from either side. She's moving up and away, leaving a vacuum of onliness in me for **GOD** to fill any way **HE** wants.

I am living proof that my parents married their best intentions in 1952 by making me. They divorced in 1960, and I foolishly tried to recreate their divorce with two suicide attempts in the 1970s. I've done the best I could with the conflicts that have made me who I am. I'm no different from anyone else in this world. I may have a special gift of communication, but I'm "everyday" in every other way.

*"We led the Israelites across the sea,
and Pharaoh and his legions pursued them with wickedness and spite.
But as he was drowning,
Pharaoh cried,
'Now I believe no god exists except the God in whom the Israelites believe.
To Him I give up myself.'"
[10:90]²⁶⁷*

²⁶⁵ Her voice miraculously came back a few years later. But my struggle to be heard and comprehended has never fully returned. The suffering I feel when people can't respond to me is now less excruciating.

²⁶⁶ As a suicide survivor, I'll never even be able to thoroughly convince myself that I'm committed to my life. Only with more love of life will I become more devoted to life.

²⁶⁷ The echoes of former pharaohs endure in the mind of every Jew to this day. In our heart and soul, we may wish the best for the tyrants who punctuated history, but they'll never be any more than spiritual, linguistical markers of a truth they were never going to see themselves.

“WE LED THE ISRAELITES ACROSS THE SEA,
AND PHARAOH AND his LEGIONS PURSUED THEM WITH WICKEDNESS AND SPITE.
BUT AS HE WAS DROWNING,
PHARAOH CRIED,
‘Now I believe no god exists except the GOD in whom the Israelites believe.
To HIM I give up myself.’”

In the Hebrew rendition of the Passover story, Pharaoh lost his son because of his foolish disregard of reality and his shameless disregard for moral improvement. He lost his soldiers for the same reason. And he lost the free workforce he’d grown so accustomed to, as well. But there’s no mention of how he lost his life.

In the Islamic interpretation of the Passover story, Pharaoh drowned with his men. In the great scheme of things, does it really matter how he died? Would you rather be a footnote on what not to do or a chapter on how it could be done right? Would you rather be buried under a wall of water like Pharaoh or a GOD-made hole filled with rocks like Korach? Wouldn’t you prefer to fly free into the arms of our Lord at the end of your life with joy in your heart?

The chosen people were chosen to teach the world how to choose between good and evil. We were chosen to teach you that you have the choice to choose GOD, or not. The Christians were chosen to teach the world how to choose between love and hate, and right and wrong, not between GOD and GOD. And the Muslims have been chosen to teach the world how to choose between loyalty and sedition. They were chosen to teach you that you have the choice to choose between GOD, GOD and *God*. And you have the choice to choose redemption or autonomy. But there is no GOD/**GOD**/*God* but **GOD**.

*“We settled the Israelites in a secure land
and provided them with wholesome things.
Nor did they disagree among themselves
until knowledge was given them.
Your Lord will on the Day of Resurrection judge their differences.”*
[10:93]

“WE SETTLED THE ISRAELITES IN A SECURE LAND
AND PROVIDED THEM WITH WHOLESOME THINGS.
NOR DID THEY DISAGREE AMONG THEMSELVES
UNTIL KNOWLEDGE WAS GIVEN THEM.
Your Lord will on the day of resurrection judge their differences.”

When you unite knowledge with strangers it eventually creates social unrest. Conservatives wrestle to keep things more like Torah. Liberals strive to make things more like the Quran. And the political center becomes a hot spot where people can’t stay for very long because of the conflicts caused by their belief or their disbelief in their

GOD/GOD/*God* of choice. Your Lord will on the day of resurrection {tomorrow} judge *your* differences.

When you unite the forces within you, it's as if you become the pilot of your plane, not just a passenger locked out of the cockpit, helplessly on board a flight that's been hijacked. What they call "stream of consciousness" is more like an air stream outside your window seat that you can't see, but which you know you're passing through at great speed. It's only the pilot and co-pilot who have instrumentation to measure the airstream and who can make decisions about how to control the plane.

You'll only land safely if you have confidence the pilot of your plane is you. Your soul is your cockpit. Your heart is your co-pilot. But you should get licensed to fly, and that's what these books are figuratively for. The Prophet has given you his manual. If you don't want to learn to walk like a Jew and swim like a Christian, you're not going to learn how to fly like a Muslim. And the culture wars in America and the religious wars in the Middle East and Europe will continue to rage on.

The terrorists on 911 who took flying lessons had no intention of learning how to land the plane. You can just imagine where they are now and the utter horror they're going through as they perhaps feel the pain and suffering of each person on board over and over again for a very long time to come.

Neither "heaven" nor "hell" will get you where you want to go. That will require the **philosophy** of "every man for himself." If you're not willing to strive to help *you*, don't bother to do it to strive for anything other than money... GOD/GOD/*God* won't help you. You'll be on your own until being you becomes "hell" on Earth.

I honestly don't think Moses, Jesus or the Prophet Muhammad could care less where you end up. I don't think They did what They did for you. I think They did it for Themselves. That's what good people do. If you want to do what's right, you're going to want to do better for your sake. And in some ways, that's going to be quite a unique challenge.

The night before HE was crucified, Jesus couldn't sleep. But HIS "friends" slept soundly. ²⁶⁸ Surely, staying awake in life is harder than it looks.

*"It was only so with Jonah's people.
When they believed,
We spared them the penalty of disgrace in this life
and suffering them to take their ease a while.
Had your Lord pleased,
all the people of the earth would have believed in Him,
one and all.*

²⁶⁸ "ONCE MORE HE WENT AWAY AND PRAYED THE SAME THING. WHEN HE CAME BACK, HE AGAIN FOUND THEM SLEEPING, BECAUSE THEIR EYES WERE HEAVY. THEY DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HIM. RETURNING THE THIRD TIME, HE SAID TO THEM, "ARE YOU STILL SLEEPING AND RESTING? ENOUGH! THE HOUR HAS COME." [Mark 14:39-41]

Would you then force people to have faith?"
[10:96-97]

“IT WAS ONLY SO WITH JONAH’S PEOPLE.
WHEN THEY BELIEVED,
WE SPARED them THE PENALTY OF DISGRACE IN THIS LIFE
AND SUFFERING THEM TO TAKE THEIR EASE A WHILE.
Had your Lord pleased,
all the people of the Earth would have believed in HIM,
one and all.
would you then force people to have faith?”

Jonah’s people were the Jews. And Jonah’s people were the people of Nineveh whom he was called to preach to. Jonah had to have had some heartfelt faith in himself or he wouldn’t have had the guts to run away from GOD to begin with. But, so often, we run away in fear of something we know we can’t succeed in doing until we have what it takes to get us through what we need to go through.

GOD sometimes gives people some faith, but not enough to do everything that’s right; just enough faith to test them to see whether they can do the right thing without any more clue to **HIS** designs. How would you have achieved the faith you’ve got without the trials and tribulations you’ve been through? How will anyone see the Burning Bush Moses encountered as an experience that will help them turn around and go back where they came from to mend their wrongdoing?

You wouldn’t want to force people to put their faith in **GOD**. Faith under duress only creates cruelty. Just because **GOD** gives **HIMSELF** license to challenge us doesn’t mean we have moral license to be cruel. Each of us needs to decide for himself how to get through the spiritual process **GOD** gives us. Everyone sometimes needs to learn from the outside in rather than from the inside out. None of us is so educated that we can’t learn how to develop more faith.

Perhaps you’re beginning to see the errors of judgment the Republicans are making with the Russians that was encouraged by the JEWS. Perhaps you’re beginning to see the errors of judgment the Israelis are struggling with in their society between Jews and JEWS. Perhaps you’re beginning to see the errors of judgment you’re making between the voices in you. “IF I FORGET YOU, JERUSALEM, MAY MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS SKILL.” [Psalms 137:5]

Jerusalem must never be forgotten. But neither must the spiritual concept of Jerusalem be forgotten either. As a gay-Jew, I believe the capital of Israel must always be all of Jerusalem. As someone who respects GOD, I say that Jerusalem is paramount to the vitality of Christianity in order to shine love out into the world. And as a devotee of Islam, I know that Jerusalem is only an airport on Earth that will get us peacefully from here to “there.” If the Muslims wish to be the air traffic controllers who man the control tower at the Dome of the Rock, I’m fine with that provided they can prove to us that they can fly.

This world will become much less harsh when people use their conscience as their own guide and not as a guide on how gays and women should live their life. But we’re still a

long way from that. The ultra-orthodox in all three of the Abrahamic faiths will become less and less certain over time about the viability of solving problems with dogma {sociology} rather than inner negotiation {psychology}, spiritual linguistics and prayer. Sooner or later they'll come to realize that they're saving seats for their friends on board a very short flight out of this world that they're going to be taking all by themselves.

I suppose the best we can hope for today is to ask synagogues, churches and mosques in America to fly the Stars and Stripes, the Israeli flag and the rainbow flag outside their door. This will give us a good indication who's preaching to a congregation in the new age and which JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* are still living in nightmares of their own making. We all want to see proof of who's preparing for their short flight out of here and who's preparing for a long, protracted religious war until they have to leave.

Every Jonah needs autonomy from **GOD** to discover for himself that he's swallowed up by worries of his own making. He's defiant. He's spiteful. He's contrary and he's belligerent. **GOD** told him to go one way, and he's choosing to go another. He doesn't want to consciously pursue his destiny because he doesn't give a damn yet about his own fate.

Each of us needs time to get to Nineveh in his own crazy way.²⁶⁹ Each of us is on a personal journey that has moral consequences. You can't force people to go where they don't want to go. People aren't literally fish you can net. They aren't sheep you can shepherd or birds you can cage. But people are figuratively like fish, sheep and birds. You should respect all the ways in which **GOD** made each of them. You should treat them with all the respect you wish **GOD** to treat you.

The JEWS don't want to make peace with the *Muslims*. The CHRISTIANS don't want to make peace with the *Muslims*. Not even the *Muslims* want to make peace with the Muslims. The *Sunnīs* and *Shīītes* don't want to make peace with the Sunnis and Shiites. If *Muslims* wanted to make peace, they'd open the Quran, and not open fire.

If you were **GOD**, would you decree this world should look any different than it looks today? Until people make more of a concerted effort to unite within themselves, there's insufficient evidence as yet to conclude they want this world to be any different than it is. The global warming will continue inside and out. The storms and fires will rage on. And man will look at himself in the V-shaped mirrors at the gym or department store and see nothing at all unusual about his reflection.²⁷⁰

The Assyrians were once the fiercest neighbors of ancient Israel. They vowed to destroy her and push the ancient Jews into the sea. Today, hundreds of thousands of Syrians are taking to the sea to find freedom in Europe, while millions of them are languishing in

²⁶⁹ One of the possible, ancient Assyrian meanings of "Nineveh," the name of the city in ancient, northern Iraq is "house of fish."

²⁷⁰ I once heard a rabbi conclude that Moses wasn't the first-person to see the Burning Bush. He was just the first-person to stop and take note of what it meant to him personally.

Muslim land waiting for some new Moses to free them from their nightmare. **GOD** works in mysterious WAYS/WAYS/Ways.

You can't simply change fonts to change the results of words unwisely spoken. You can't free people unless they want to free themselves. You can't liberate them for them. Nor you can emancipate them if they don't want to emancipate from themselves. They need to learn respect from the inside in so that they can apply what they've learned from the inside out.

Inspire people to pick as much fruit from their own tree of knowledge as they possibly can in their lifetime. Don't point out trees that you decree ought to be felled. Help people help themselves by instructing them in the spiritual, horticultural techniques they need to better tend their garden. The spiritually pruned, the emotionally felled and the physically warped need to learn how to grow their own way. You never know what your mission will be in helping others until you discover how you're growing.

My parents were humbled by the Holocaust. I was humbled by my own private holocaust brought on by mental illness. Living in a straight world oppressed and humiliated me until I realized I'd been planted in the city of milk and honey {San Francisco} in the state of milk and honey {California} after having lived in the Land of milk and honey {Israel}. But I'm no longer the young man I was when I came here 30 years ago. It's a though I'm a veteran of a war.

Today, everyone is being given a chance to be humbled by the way things are turning out with regard to Israeli right, gay rights, women's rights and African-American rights. Now you're going to want to teach yourself the meaning of Scripture if you're to be further humbled. Now you're going to want to use your Scripture to discover whether you're in or out of touch with **GOD's** designs.

Life truly is a school, and we're all in it alone together until each of us graduates. Those of us near the front of the room are going to see to it that religious decorum is maintained in our classroom by including everyone at the spiritual table. The gays are no longer going to sit at the back of the room with the bozos just because some say so. I believe this is what **GOD** has always hoped for. And what **HE** hopes for, let no man take asunder.²⁷¹

*"None can have faith except by God's leave.
He will visit His scourge upon the senseless."
[10:98]*

*"None can have faith except by **GOD's** leave.
HE will visit **HIS** scourge upon the senseless."*

It's a great privilege to believe in **GOD**. Many people who aren't atheists or agnostics can only believe in GOD/GOD/*God*. Consequently their penis problems and clitoris conflicts

²⁷¹ "THEREFORE WHAT **GOD** HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NO ONE TAKE ASUNDER." [Mark 10:9]

may become the cause of the destruction of the planet. I don't know if it's too late to save our classroom. But I do know that those who delude themselves into thinking their GOD/GOD/*God* will save them from "hell" are going to be sadly mistaken when the reward they anticipate turns out, instead, to feel more like a punishment.

There was at one time only one road. That road was paved by Jews for more than a thousand years until there appeared a fork in the road. And people then had the chance to take another road. Those two choices went further and further in different directions until the Prophet came along and flew over them both.

Those who insist on taking only one road are Nazis, white supremacists, misogynists and homophobes. They're literalists who can't use Torah as it was intended. They can only push Jews off "their" road. Those who take only the second road are anarchists who wish to give up all laws and traditions to totalitarians to interpret for them. Only the third road holds the secret. But it isn't a road. It's a flight path.

You have only four choices:

1. FEAR
2. FIGHT
3. *Flight*
4. Faith

The Quran speaks about fear of the Lord and faith in *His* design. I speak about fear of yourself and faith in yourself. And, believe me, you can't fear **GOD** or put greater faith in **HIM** if you haven't learned to address your feelings of guilt at your utter apathy and lack of understanding of the miracle of your life.

There are some ways you've treated yourself that have been simply abominable. Your ego has been in command of your intentions. You've had your head up your ass! And your opinions have, therefore, been myopic and opaque. Look around you. The planet doesn't look the way it does because of the gays and Jews.

You don't have to run away in fear, defiance or misplaced obedience like Jonah. You don't have to try to prove how fearful or fearless you are. Posturing only changes the impressions you make on the outside. Posturing does nothing for the feelings you're concealing from you deep down inside.

Faith must be expressed through loyalty to yourself without using violence {addictions} or intimidation {relationships}. You need to express your loyalty to the one you love, the stranger within whose behavior you cannot explain any way other than through a weird, unwanted gift **GOD** gave you. Any faith left over after that will spill over for humanity and Mother Nature.

The hottest place in "hell" is where neutrality leaves you ambiguous of your own need to know good from evil. What **GOD** would want is for you to develop more loyalty to you. But that can only come with passion. All the rest is religious window dressing, and deep down inside you must know it. You live in a glass house. Religious window dressing is obvious to **ONE** and all. We see you veiled by religiosity. It's not attractive.

I think the orthodox JEWS are consumed with disgust for the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community. I think the orthodox CHRISTIAN community is filled with disgust for L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community and non-whites. And I think the orthodox *Muslim* community is filled with disgust for L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community and non-*Muslims*. Why would anyone with an open mind, a good heart and a clean conscience wish to identify with any extremist religious community? I can only describe it as a penis problem. They've got their penis lodged firmly up their rectum. That's the sodomy I'm fighting against.

Surah 11

Hud

The prophet Hud is associated with Eber, the descendant of Noah in The Book of Genesis who refused to participate in the building of the tower of Babel. As such, Eber's speech wasn't confounded like the rest of the world. Because he didn't participate in the insanity of the time, he wasn't distracted by their conspiracy to get above the clouds to dethrone GOD in his abode. Eber spoke the truth and passed that knowledge on to Hud who interpreted it as the "word of 'god'" (to the best of his ability, using the words that could be understood at that time).

Because Hud preached at a time when people were especially contrary and defiant of GOD's design, he was treated very unfairly. And, as such, he became a symbol of the man in every Muslim generation who's scorned and bullied for speaking plainly and truthfully about **GOD's** designs for everyman.

It's important to remember that the previous surah was about the prophet Jonah who went in the opposite direction of GOD's intentions for him, and still found himself where GOD wanted him to end up. Hud, the next generation of ancient prophets in the Quran, didn't defy GOD but found he had to defy his own people in order to serve his understanding of the concept of one god. The surah after this will discuss Joseph in The Book of Genesis, the great-grandson of Abraham. Joseph didn't defy GOD or have to defy his fellow man to serve HIM. Joseph was victimized by his family for doing GOD's bidding.

As you can see, the movement out of indigenism wasn't completed with Judaism. The Prophet had to go back and complete the task Moses started. But don't worry. That, too, was all a part of **GOD's** designs.

In Surah 10, Jonah defied GOD. In Surah 11, the Prophet takes us back to Hud who defied his own people at a time when the concept of one god couldn't not be fully understood. And in Surah 12, we fast-forward to Joseph who was defied by his own family at a time when GOD was only marginally understood by the Jews.

This is how self-defiance was described out in the world from the outsider's point of view long before man was able to bring the concept of GOD to the source of his knowledge about life: within. Through your relationship with GOD/GOD/*God*, to your country and toward your own family, you can retrace your spiritual steps and heal your relationship with you. You can discover your own defiance of **GOD**.

You should look to each passage you read in the Quran as you would Hebrew or Christian Scripture, as words spoken by the Lord that are relevant at this moment in time. The WORDS/WORDS/*Words* of your GOD/GOD/*God* should feel as though they're descending from "heaven" like rain, saturating you with faith in yourself as you read them. If the *words* of any passage of the Quran seem old and out of date, you're not reading them from your soul, but from your conscience. The *words* don't need to be changed. Your appreciation of where you're located in inner space needs to be transcended.

*“Seek forgiveness of your Lord
and turn to him in penitence.
A goodly provision He will make for you for an appointed term
and will bestow His grace on each who has merit.
But if you pay no heed,
then beware the torment of a fateful day.
To God shall you return.
He has power over all things.”
[11:3-4] ²⁷²*

*“Seek forgiveness of your lord
and turn to him in penitence.
A goodly provision he will make for you for an appointed term
and will bestow his grace on each who has merit.
But if you pay no heed,
then beware the torment of a fateful day.
To god shall you return.
he has as power over all things.”*

Despite the fact that the defiance of man against his fellow man is the major theme of this surah, this passage describing indigenist times (just before the coming of Abraham) is optimistic and hopeful. If you can understand the evolution in man’s awareness of **GOD**, you can come to understand your own spiritual evolution.

Nowadays, there are those, like Jonah {Surah 10}, who’ll defy **GOD**, go the opposite way, but they later discover their mistake and repent. They realize that despite their folly **GOD** brought them just where they needed to be.

²⁷² Hud was speaking about the “lord” he understood during early indigenist times, the time of the construction of the tower of Babel. His message was true, but it needs much clarification to be meaningful today. Penitence is a healing process that cannot be done only through community. You must first determine which communities you’re a part of, such as the community of men or women, straights or gays, able or disabled, Jews, Christians or Muslims, etc. Then you must repent with remorse and regret for sins you’ve committed against those communities you’ve scorned, such as the community of children when you were growing up. Only then will you be ready to work on penitence in the modern sense of the word – with conscious awareness that you’re trying to clean up your act with others before seeking redemption before the Lord from within. This will require accessing an inner modesty, humility and grace that you’ll then be able to relay to others in words and deeds.

There are others, like Hud {Surah 11}, who are perceived of as having defied a nebulous god even though he proclaimed his moral intentions for the betterment of all. His is a god he, himself, doesn't fully understand. He refers to his god today as "the universe."

And then there are those, like Joseph {Surah 12}, who have been conspired against by their family. But from this trauma, too, they can find a personal connection to **GOD** because, thank **GOD**, it's all the same **GOD**!

The mind grows like a tree. But the heart should be cultivated like a field of wheat and a vineyard of grapes. Therefore, it's possible to say that the undeveloped conscience can produce beliefs like mushrooms that will sprout in any dank, dark place. Beliefs can be as delectable as shiitakes, as meaty as Portobellos or as harmful as mold.

Many hyper-religious CHRISTIANS who believe fervently in GOD's love hate any mention of sex and don't believe in the evolution of the species. That's because they haven't yet perceived that their own spiritual evolution requires a holy container that contains a penis or a clitoris and an anus. You can't convince them that they won't devolve with "it." You can show them how their thoughts and feelings have grown fused over time, but they may hold firm at all cost to conclusions they formed in childhood about the impossibility of a spiritual evolution because of their disgust with puberty and sex. They may insist that adherence to their faith doesn't require that they keep growing figuratively {evolving} after they've gotten to the other side of puberty. And you can see that by their juvenile behavior, believing that faith in Jesus is all they'll ever need in life. The rest of life on planet Earth is superfluous to them.

A flat-Earth, spiritual perspective is as common today as the literal flat-Earth belief held by our fearful and uneducated ancestors in Europe in the past. Such conclusions turn the pastoral metaphor, symbols and similes of Scripture into poisonous mushrooms: ubiquitous, common and deadly. These flat-Earth conclusions take people over the edge and turn them from human beings into today's "detested apes." These are the kinds of conclusions that leave them on a forgotten branch on the evolutionary tree that will be a reminder to us of where such people have been left behind.

When the Quran states, "beware the torment of a fateful day" it's really describing an inner scenario that many people endure around them in mindless projection before they come to see themselves as off-putting within. Promises of external rewards and warnings of punishment in the world we share are tools used to train children. But such rewards {carrots} and punishments {sticks} won't work on the spiritually juvenile. They're too old to be treated like children, but too young to be treated like adults.

Once a boy grows to be as tall as his father, he erroneously concludes he's just as mature. He leaves his father's house to discover how undeveloped his inner world really is. And in many instances, he goes through pain and suffering, whether or not he can see that his outer circumstances are trying to help him to evolve within. Such is the problem of those with flat-Earth, religious perspectives as they take their first steps out into the world.

This perspective on man isn't only apparent in our time; it was true in the past as well, even though science hadn't yet answered as many questions about human biology as it has today. Today we also have psychological tools to unlock the mystery of Scripture. We can use Scripture as a guide to the spiritual maturation of man.

Sadly, there are many spiritually unevolved JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* amongst us for whom dogma persists *ad nauseum*. They're psychologically arrested with a

juvenile mentality regardless of how financially successful or GOD/GOD/*God* fearing they might be. They claim this inner work isn't necessary thanks to their belief in Moses, Jesus or the Prophet Muhammad. They claim their savior has done all their work for them.

The reason they need such blind allegiance to all their leaders is because they can't get past their opinion of their own father. This is a penis problem that creates competition between father and son. It's a pissing context, so to speak. And as long as it continues in the unconscious, they're going to rail against gays and/or Jews, and everyone who wants to live a modern life in a new age.

*“We show man Our mercy
and then withhold it from him.
He yields to despair and becomes ungrateful.
And if after adversity We let him taste good fortune,
he says,
'Gone are my sorrows from me,'
and grows jubilant and boastful.”*
[11:9-10]

*“**wE** show man **oUR** mercy
and then withhold it from him.
He yields to despair and becomes ungrateful.
And if after adversity **wE** let him taste good fortune,
he says,
'Gone are my sorrows from me,'
and grows jubilant and boastful.”*

Men (and women) are like children in that they need to repeat the same lesson over and over before they internalize its message. For this reason, many relatively good men are like Jonah, Hud and Joseph: they have to live filled with defiance to learn how to internalize these lessons within. They struggle with dogma instead of the facts. They rely on stubborn insistence on *their* truth before *their* GOD/GOD/*God*.

We all go on rollercoasters of emotions because we don't question why we feel what we feel. We go figuratively up with each “heavenly” reward and down with each “hellish” punishment without asking ourselves what it all means. We experience the ride and become jubilant and boastful, but we don't consciously learn about ourselves because we don't realize what our inner forces are for.

Whether your edges lie with the concept of one **GOD**; with disappointment in your country; or your family – you can learn to appreciate your challenges as a gift to us all. You can come to see your struggle as an inner Israel that you're conquering for the sake of all life on Earth.

In the Hebrew Testament, GOD planted the seed of Spiritual Psychology. In the Christian testament the stalk and the stem grew out of the ground into a mysterious new

light. But when you read the Quran for spiritual insight into the behavior of man, every tree of knowledge blossoms into the blatantly obvious thanks to simile. Even those who haven't suffered severely can see the sight the Prophet held into human affairs and insight he had about **GOD**.

~~Jesus wasn't the greatest man who ever lived!~~ Such a statement is like a kick in the groin for a Christian. Man's ego is so great that he can't allow himself to be compared to another man, not our father; not our son; not even our FATHER's SON. When a man is compared to another man, he becomes covetous of what **GOD** gave HIM and what ~~HE~~ omitted to give him.

Jesus was **GOD** in Christian doctrine. Therefore, HE's incomparable. No man can do what HE did. And yet, every man should strive to do for himself what HE. Do your best to love your neighbor as you strive to love yourself. But it's easier to love others after you've discovered how hard it is to love you day after day for a lifetime. Don't *compare* yourself with Jesus. *Contrast* yourself to HIM. That would be better.

When we look back now on the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures eight centuries into the new millennium, we see in the Quran the religious squabbles and spiritual spats of the RABBIS and PRIESTS from yet a third perspective. This *God*-given view of reality for imams and clerics was presented to the Muslim world for the illumination, warmth and purification of every man's soul. And that's precisely what the three Abrahamic faiths have yet to achieve over time: soulfulness. Now, the only question is whether we're going to be able to live in peace in order to evolve as a species, or whether we're going to destroy the world and ourselves, one Jew and gay man at a time.

You can't think clearly if your feelings are weak and your conscience, misguided. Each of the Abrahamic faiths holds a part of the basic recipe for spiritual evolution. The stereotype of the Jews is that we're smart, but we're collectively smart because we've been evolving with the **DEITY** longer than either of the other two faiths. You'll never catch up with what we know. The best you can do would be to teach us what you know in your heart and soul.

Individually, it's every man for himself. No one can catch up with what you know. This applies collectively to Judaism, Christianity and Islam. You're only as smart as you learn from those who are older and wiser than you in ways you seek to evolve in the pitiful amount of time you've been given.

Balking at the order of your spiritual birth is as useless as balking at the sibling order in your family. Do you want to remain a remnant branch on the evolutionary tree? The Prophet's understanding of **GOD's** third message for man will eventually become obvious to all.

In the new age in which citizenship with your inner world is key, being smart in the conventional sense isn't enough. You ought to learn how to achieve wisdom. And you should be able to prove to others that you're loving and devoted to life, as well. If you can't show off your head, heart and soul, you're going to grab your gun and literally shoot someone or figuratively shoot them with your penis. But your delivery system could be used in better ways.

*“If they say,
‘He has invented it himself,’
say to them,
‘Produce ten invented chapters like it.
Call on whom you will among your idols,
if what you say be true.
But if they fail you,
know that it is revealed with God’s knowledge,
and that there is no god but Him.
Will you then accept Islam?’”
[11:13-14]*

*“If they say,
‘He has invented it himself,’
say to them,
‘Produce ten invented chapters like it.
Call on whom you will among your idols,
if what you say be true.
But if they fail you,
know that it is revealed with **GOD’s** knowledge,
and that there is no god but **HIM**.
Will you then accept Islam?’”*

JEWS and CHRISTIANS don’t want to accept Islam because they believe it contradicts their faiths. But most Muslims can’t refute those claims because they’re insufficiently inspired by the Quran to debate Scripture without dogma. Unless we learn how to reinterpret their third of the Western plan for man the world is doomed. Everyone must modernize his message.

The mystery of **GOD’s** designs for everyman must include all the evidence, not just the evidence you wish to present. Those who wish to deny the benefits of science have always been wrong. And those who deny history are also severely impaired. You should be able to talk about all the evidence of **GOD’s** designs rather than simply reject parts of it because it doesn’t fit in with *your* designs. The contradictions in the three Abrahamic faiths are evidence of **GOD’s** designs that needs to be pondered, not dismissed and discarded. Would you touch up an x-ray if you didn’t like what it revealed about you?

Accepting Judaism was a big hurdle for Christianity, historically speaking. Christians justified their prior jealousy of us with the excuse that the ancient Jews had denied, betrayed and killed Jesus: GOD. But accepting Islam is a big hurdle for many Jews and Christians today. They deny and betray *God*. It’ll take time, but Jews and Christians will pay for their ignorance along with *Muslims* who refuse to accept Judaism, Christianity and Islam as

GOD inspired. Would you betray or kill your siblings to receive the portion of your parents' inheritance they've been offered? (That question has been asked and answered. Jacob tried and failed with Esau. Jacob's sons then tried and failed with Joseph.)

You don't get to choose whom you want seated at your spiritual table for the simple reason that it isn't *your* table.²⁷³ The fifth surah of the Quran is called "*The Table*." It's a chapter in a book of 114 chapters. Would you cut the simile of life as a table out of your mind because you don't agree with what's written in this chapter? All the evidence will be brought to light, whether or not you like it.

Words are the most precious gift **GOD** gave you because with words you can find your way to **HIM**. Forgetfulness is punitive. A senior moment feels like a curse. And dementia and Alzheimer's are nothing less than forms of "hell" on Earth.

Taking Scripture to heart isn't the same as taking Scripture literally. The mind must take WORDS literally, but the heart must take WORDS emotionally. And the soul must weigh the two to decide how to take *words* personally. When you take WORDS literally, you're taking them objectively. When you take WORDS/*words* emotionally and personally, you're taking them subjectively. You're made to do all three.

From what we've seen in the past century and the beginning of this one, many haven't shown much understanding of how they operate internally. They aren't very knowledgeable about the WORDS of **GOD** despite all their vociferous opinions about them. They behave in ways that the Lord couldn't possibly approve of, while being ardent supporters of *their* third of **HIS** WORDS. That's linguistically hypocritical!

The evidence speaks for itself. If you sweep some of that evidence under the rug, don't be surprised if people notice that your rugs don't lie flat on the floor. You've strewn moral evidence under the rug and everywhere around it. Your inner house is a mess. You've got a spring cleaning to do that's as great as the Arab Spring.

Don't be surprised if the headlines continue to shock and depress you. If you don't like the way things are going in the Middle East, maybe you have a bigger part to play in changing it than you think, feel or believe. Maybe it's about time you start to contemplate your part in the problem and what you need to do every minute of every day to solve it from the inside in.²⁷⁴

²⁷³ I'm using the words "spiritual table" to also imply an internal place we all go to where you don't get to declare who's going to get to sit with you. You're going to discover all sorts of characters seated within you who are going to annoy you, too. That's life! The people in your mind are all of your own creation. If you don't question what you tell yourself, you'll never know you.

²⁷⁴ Contemplation is the spiritual process by which you perceive yourself as a spiritual cog in a universal wheel; a jewel in an eternal watch; and two hands on **GOD's** face. Your subjective participation in the unfolding of time and space will produce psychological, sociological and spiritual results that our ancestors would have described as miracles. And you'll get precisely what you deserve for as much as you chose to do to advance this spiritual process with the wisdom, love and devotion you have. If you've got a deep urge to kill people, just kill yourself and be done with it. There are people here trying to work.

To change the behavior of the spiritually unevolved masses isn't that difficult if you mentor them in how to operate themselves internally more fairly. Then they'll obey their holy text with a more headstrong head, heartfelt heart and soulful soul. Making the spiritually unevolved masses stronger requires helping them overcome their fear, anger, denial, frustration and rage in having to be the person **GOD** created them to be in **HIS** multiple images. Appealing to their rage isn't an efficient way of changing hearts and minds. The most efficient way is to help them evolve their soul. When people believe better, they think, feel and behave better.

*“Are they to be compared
to those who have received a revelation from the Lord,
recited by a witness from Him
and heralded by the book of Moses,
a guide and a blessing?
These have faith in it,
but the fractions who deny it shall be consigned to the fire.
Therefore do not doubt it.
It is the truth from your Lord.
Yet most men have no faith.”
[11:16-17] ²⁷⁵*

*“Are they to be compared
to those who have received a revelation from the Lord,
recited by a witness from **HIM**
and heralded by the book of Moses,
a guide and a blessing?
These have faith in it,
but the fractions who deny it shall be consigned to the fire.
Therefore do not doubt it.
It is the truth from your Lord.
Yet most men have no faith.”*

Most men have no faith because they denounce one-third, two-thirds or all of Scripture. Their cynicism and scorn overflows. Their disappointment in themselves can't be

Suicide should be everyone's option. If you can't stand your grades, get yourself expelled expeditiously from school. We have little room for those who don't want to learn.

²⁷⁵ Are those who say, “He has invented it himself” to be compared to those who have received a revelation? Hud received a revelation from god in his day. You are receiving revelations from **GOD** every day. How well have you been embraced in your lifetime? That's not how well you have the capacity to be embraced.

contained because their mind is a mystery they can't solve. They live in a little place in their brain while scorning those ideas that come from deep down within it. How much faith would *you* put in someone who's living on the tip of an iceberg that's moving in the direction of the equator?

Most men have little or no faith because they doubt everything for fear of believing in anything. They're terrified of investing their heart and soul in themselves. Telling themselves, "thank you" or "please forgive me" would be insane in their opinion. But they'll condemn *you* for not using these words.

They know what to do to survive. They know how to work at getting a swelled head and wallet. But putting their faith in themselves would be like gambling all their money on a single number at a roulette table in Vegas. They're too prudent to take that risk.

Good people want to share their Israel with the world because they want to survive, not because they want to tell other people how to live. The religious only want to fight over the land **GOD** gave the Jews because they're unconsciously jealous and afraid that **HE** plays favorites. Needless to say, the greatest enemy of Israel are the *Muslims*. The **Jews** who want Israel all to themselves are the most dangerous to the State of Israel. But everything you don't know about yourself becomes detrimental to Jews and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community in Israel and worldwide. The more people mindlessly help themselves to what they want, the more the thieves worldwide will consciously do the same, to the detriment and confusion of everyone.

GOD often speaks in the third-person to distance HIMSELF from *Himself*. Doing so, **HE** can remain cool in the face of the evidence of man's sickly intentions. *He* speaks in the third-person in an effort to show us how to morally heal.²⁷⁶

The hyper-religious people do is the rest of us are doing: ask themselves if they like where they're going and what they're doing to others to get there. But their answer is always "yes." They like hurting innocent people in the name of their Lord. They like taking words literally. Once, they were surrounded on all sides by their mother's womb. They had no idea they would ever come out. They have no idea what will be in store for them when they die. They leave it to their dogma to console them.

Good human beings are careful not to denigrate blacks, gays, women, Hispanics, Muslims and the disabled in the privacy of their own mind, let alone in public. Bad people couldn't care less. Bad people think they learned all they needed to know when they were introduced to solid food. They love solid food more than people. They've left the milk of human kindness out of their spiritual diet.

²⁷⁶ The best example of this I can find lies in Torah [Exodus 20] in the giving of the Ten Commandments after the incident of the Golden Calf. The first three Commandments say it all: (1) I am the Lord, thy **GOD**, who took you out of Egypt. (You didn't take **ME** along for the ride.) (2) Thou shall have no other gods before **ME**. (3) Thou shall not utter the Lord's name in vain. (Any, and every, name for **ME** says something about you! If **II** can distant **MYSELF** from **MY** own names to teach you, you can distance yourself from your names to teach yourself.)

Modern man isn't afraid of *Islamic* fire any more than he is of electric stovetops or microwave ovens. He no longer makes the connection to the fire in this world and the fire in the "world to come." But some orthodox JEWS many Republican CHRISTIANS and all *Islamic* terrorists are like unlit matches. They're spiritual pyromaniacs. They love to play with matches, but they hate to have their match associated with their left testicle. *That* burns them!

Your left testicle will tell you that smoking cigarettes has nothing to do with a self-inflicted burn. It'll convince you that guns have nothing to do with the penis, and ammunition has nothing to do with semen. Your left testicle will accuse women who want control over their own body that they don't know good from evil because their fruits don't show. Those who hold power in their hands want to squeeze you into thinking the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. is a bed of snakes and worms you're slowly being lowered into.

The Prophet is the proverbial hermit who lived in a cave. He was a loner favorite distraction in life was women. I wouldn't judge him for his lifestyle when so many judge me today for mine.

GOD already knows how man thinks, feels, desires and believes because **HE** made him **HIMSELF**. Therefore **HE**'s devised designs by which **HE** allows us to experience the burns of self-purification that **HE** wants us to go through. And there are good burns and bad.

A figurative strike, as with a match, will produce a spark that will create a beneficial flame. On the biological level of reality, this rubbing of flint and kindling is called "sexual intercourse." It produces a pleasant, fast burning firework flash of flesh called "orgasm." On the emotional level, the good burns is called "love." And on the spiritual level of reality, the good burn is called "inspiration."

But the bad burn on the biological level is called "rape." The bad burn on the emotional level is called "hate." And the bad burn on the spiritual level is called "hell" on Earth. **GOD** has designs by which **HE** allows us to experience the good and bad burns of self-purification as an aspect of redemption.

Tanach is **GOD**'s wood. Christianity is **HIS** spark. And Islam is **HIS** tinder. "Heaven" is a distant image of what will come to those who purify themselves with understanding of the Israel within. But you must learn how to operate yourself righteously by burning with lust for life rather than lust for death. JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* lust for death, just like some others, whether they know it or not. Many are "hell" bent, but they don't have a clue.

Those who are prejudiced against others have no interest in an individual Israel. The truth of their destructive nature becomes apparent over time. You never know when they're suddenly going to oppose the plan. They can't live with the dream of Israel becoming real from within. It always boils down to jealousy over what **GOD** gave the Jews. This the Prophet Muhammad understood. This is why he could so demonstrably claim again and again, "Most men have no faith."

There's a fire in us all. It figuratively lies in our testicles or ovaries. It's called, "desire." But it also burns our head with illumination; our heart with warmth; and in our soul with

inspiration. How it operates and how we can learn to use it productively is the question. Bad men and women are in competition with one another. They fight FIRE with FIRE/FIRE/*Fire*.

For the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community, sex is a prelude to “paradise.” For us, going back to indigenist times thousands of years ago with our partner in our arms becomes a runway from which we take off into an orgasm of spirituality as close to this moment in time as we’re able to cum. We don’t stop ourselves on takeoff to argue about Scripture.

Fire is the universal symbol of **GOD’s** presence on Earth and presence within us. Each of us is like an oven made of spiritual clay. How would you break bread with your loved ones figuratively if you didn’t have a place within in which to bake it? As we learn to interpret the meaning of **GOD’S WORD** as given in stages to the three Abrahamic faiths, we’re better able to address our mortality with loving, open arms.

*“We sent forth Noah to his people.
He said,
‘I have come to warn you plainly.
Serve none but God.
Beware the torment of a woeful day.’”
[11:25]*

“WE SENT FORTH NOAH TO HIS PEOPLE.
He said,
‘I have come to warn you plainly.
serve none but GOD.
beware the torment of a woeful day.’”

The adolescent mind is good at warning others and even executing orders. It isn’t good at thinking deeply and thoroughly because that takes more experience of life. Therefore the adolescent mind works at following instructions. Noah did only what he was told. **GOD** instructed Noah very carefully on how to build the ark in advance of the flood. The adolescent mind, unlike the mind of those who are like infants or children, uses the knowledge of the trees of knowledge around it to anticipate its own problems, thereby developing skills that will help it survive.

Noah was the original carpenter. He constructed an ark out of metaphoric wood. Jesus was the second carpenter. Jesus didn’t do what **HE** was told, but what **HE** felt was right. **HE** constructed an ark out of **HIS** symbolic body. A modern-day Noah may not be knowledgeable about the ways of our **TEACHER**, but he can help himself and others even with a partial understanding of **HIS** overall designs.

Not only does **GOD** transcend our prior names {infantile Adam and Eve; childish Cain and Abel; adolescent Noah} in unseen ways; **HE** changes the container our words are poured into on a daily basis. You need only look in the mirror to see the affect words have

had on your container over time. To understand the symbolism of container and contents, you must learn more about words such as fire and water.

When you were going through puberty, you probably thought you were a great tutor and mentor to others. You may not have had any idea how you were going to get away from your parents' authority, but you knew for a fact that you'd either find a way to figuratively float through the oceans of your tumultuous emotions or you'd drown along with others, trying.

Most adolescents today aren't any smarter than Noah was then. They can see the dawning of a new day, but they can't find a way to fly over their flood like a dove. Only a very few try taking a hop, step and a jump into the next story: the tower of Babel.

Life must be ascended step by step, but nobody said you can't skip to the next story in Torah to look for clues how to get yourself out of the trouble you're in now. (People who don't live on the ground floor still use the ground floor to enter and exit the building.)

“He said,
‘Consider, my people!
If my Lord has revealed to me his will
and bestowed on me a favor of His own,
though it be hidden from you,
can we compel you to accept it against your will?
I seek of you no recompense for this,
my people:
for none but God can reward me.
Nor will I drive away the faithful,
for they will surely meet their Lord.
But I can see that you are ignorant men.
And were I to drive them away,
my people,
who would protect me from God?
Will you not take heed?”
[11:28-31]

“He said,
‘Consider, my people!
If my Lord has revealed to me HIS will
and bestowed on me a favor of HIS own,
though it be hidden from you,
can we compel you to accept it against your will?
I seek of you no recompense for this,
my people:

for none but GOD can reward me.
Nor will I drive away the faithful,
for they will surely meet their Lord.
But I can see that you are ignorant men,
and were I to drive them away,
my people,
who would protect me from GOD?
Will you not take heed?"

The main argument presented here by Noah ("Who would protect me from GOD?") isn't presented in Torah because the ancient Jews had no other god than GOD to protect them. The ancient Christians had GOD before GOD to protect them. And the ancient Muslims had GOD and GOD before *God* to protect them.

Fools that they all were in those ancient days, none of them were clever enough to contemplate **GOD's** designs. None of them was wise enough to build upon Scripture to achieve an inner sense of faith using the word "We." No one wished to be like a gay stranger; an outsider: an infantile, childish or juvenile member of society who was doing his best to mature despite the trying circumstances of his time. For that reason, the Noah in the Quran spoke as though there was no other aspect of **GOD** than GOD to awaken others to their folly. Noah's plea was that of the spiritual adolescent in every generation who lacks experience in life but who can, nevertheless, intuit a greater truth.

In physiological terms, we'd say that the ancient and early believers' brain stem was behaving separate from their cerebral cortex. In psychological terms, we'd say that their external survival needs were outweighing their ability to behave rationally. In sociological terms, we'd say that their ability to form lasting social bonds was impaired by tribalism. And in spiritual terms, we'd say that their head, heart and soul were acting independently of their own best interests.

We can see ourselves today as striving to understand how we operate. We can see ourselves as angels in disguise doing our best to contribute in our own, inimitable way to the betterment of everyone.

The interpretation of the story of Noah in the Quran is a revelation called a MIDRASH" {an analysis or elaboration of Scripture that provides elucidation of **GOD's** intention.} Christians are fond of using Tanach as midrash predicting the coming of Jesus. The question, "Who would protect me from **GOD**?" is a wiser midrash since, clearly, there have been more than one manifestation of **GOD**. And yet, the Quran makes it clear that there will be no other manifestations of **GOD** by name after *God* {*Allāh*}.²⁷⁷

Those JEWS and CHRISTIANS who still maintain that Torah can only be taken literally shouldn't be bitter or surprised when they discover how they're going to get ridiculed from many directions for presuming the only valid interpretation of Torah will be theirs.

²⁷⁷ Y.H.V.H. Jesus *Allāh* is the full name of **GOD**. *Allāh* is **HIS** very last name. If you think you're going to add more names to **HIS** name, I suggest you add your own name to a long list of names that attempt to honor **HIS**.

That may happen during their lifetime as they finally evolve out of the level of the spiritual adolescent to adulthood, or it may happen after their lifetime if they remain particularly infantile, childish or juvenile throughout their lifetime. There have never been a shortage of Adams, Eves, Cains, Abels and Noahs. The shortage lies in Abrahams.

*“I do not say to you that I possess God’s treasures,
nor have I knowledge of what is hidden.
I do not claim to be an angel,
nor do I say to those whom your eyes disdain
that God will not be bountiful to them –
God knows best what is in their hearts –
for then I should become a wrongdoer.”*
[11:32-33]²⁷⁸

*“I do not say to you that I possess GOD’s treasures,
nor have I knowledge of what is hidden.
I do not claim to be an angel,
nor do I say to those whom your eyes disdain
that GOD will not be bountiful to them –
GOD knows best what is in their hearts –
for then I should become a wrongdoer.”*

Even the spiritually mature today recognize that many won’t share their rigor or enthusiasm for GOD/GOD/*God*. The humility expressed by Noah in the above passage and relayed through Moses to the Prophet via the Archangel Gabriel must have been based on personal inspiration from **GOD** through contemplation of experiences that weren’t constrained by issues of objective time. Because the Prophet could lay himself bare before us it brings deeper meaning to the phrase, “**GOD** knows best what is in their hearts.”

*“God’s will was revealed to Noah,
saying,
‘None of your people will believe in you
save those who already believe.
Do not grieve at what they do.
Build the ark under Our watchful eyes,
and with our inspiration.
You shall not plead with Me for those who have done wrong.*

²⁷⁸ Noah is speaking to his people in this passage, too.

They shall assuredly be drowned.”
[11:36]

“GOD’s will was revealed to Noah,
SAYING,
‘NONE OF YOUR PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE IN YOU
SAVE THOSE WHO ALREADY BELIEVE.
DO NOT GRIEVE AT WHAT THEY DO.
BUILD THE ARK UNDER OUR WATCHFUL EYES,
AND WITH OUR INSPIRATION.
YOU SHALL NOT PLEAD WITH ME FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DONE WRONG.
THEY SHALL ASSUREDLY BE DROWNED.’”

This passage reveals the essential circumstance of today’s believer who’s commanded to turn his back on his own people who behave badly. Like the prophet Hud, the righteous are more often subjected to social exclusion and derision in their lifetime than the wrongdoers. Popularity, fame and recognition from others aren’t important prizes for those who live a righteous life to improve life on Earth for all. They know they’re inspired by **GOD**. That inspiration is all they need to have and all they need to know.

In some way, each of us has already survived this story. In other ways, each of us may feel drowned and is now living underwater, submerged in the salty, tear-filled waters of GOD’s love and mercy. We’re like the fish Christ’s Apostles reeled in from the Sea of Galilee in advance of growing old enough to run the rapids of the Jordan River towards the Dead Sea.

Each of us is like Christ’s fish: love personified, living in an underwater world where we’re completely dependent on GOD’s love and mercy. We’re swimming in love, breathing in love without knowing it until we’re occasionally reeled out into spirit. Only then do we feel like a fish out of water in order to learn how to achieve the next miraculous step up to **GOD**’s throne. Only then do we realize that parts of us didn’t survive the flood.

Don’t bother to ask a fish what water is. It won’t know. Don’t bother to ask a fish what steps are. Every fish is caught, dragged out of the water into the disorienting world of air and then thrown back in to run the rapids its own way.

The man who realizes he’s like a fish will be raised into the realm of spirit. Only then, will he perceive the importance of loving his neighbors as he loves himself. Only in appreciating love as a GOD-given challenge will the spiritually young learn to make peace with themselves in anticipation of making peace with their **MAKER**.

That doesn’t mean we have to pray to Jesus or believe in HIM as though HE were GOD. It only means we ought to accept the Christian story of love as an aspect of **HIS** story that we all need to respect in our own way, because that, too, is a part of what is real. Jesus may be GOD to a Christian, but love is real to us all.

*“He replied,
‘I shall seek refuge in a mountain,*

which will protect me from the flood.”
[11:42] ²⁷⁹

“He replied,
‘I shall seek refuge in a mountain,
which will protect me from the flood.’”

A son of Noah who chose to defy GOD’s design sought refuge in a mountain but was caught by a wave anyway and drowned. He couldn’t circumvent GOD’s authority. Parts of you weren’t able to circumvent the ocean of your emotions, either. Sadly, the young and inexperienced often make grave errors of judgment that are so minor internally that they aren’t apparent to the rest of us. But no one can afford to avoid steps in his inner evolution.

To know what it feels like to be without a sail or rudder, you first need to get on board. Instructions on how to build an ark are something every good Noah offers his son. But defiant boys reject doing what their fathers say outright. The young male often chooses to circumvent external authority by concluding that he’s greater than all authority, including his parents’ and **GOD**’s until circumstances bring him face to face with reality.

Sometimes disobedience is a virtue; sometimes it’s a vice. You decide. But the only way to make a sane decision lies in acknowledging that the head, heart and soul of authority figures are in a similar, spiritual struggle as you.

“‘Noah,’
He replied,
‘He was no kinsman of your;
he had acted unjustly.
Do not question Me about things you know nothing of.
I admonish you lest you become an ignorant man.’”
[11:46] ²⁸⁰

“‘NOAH,’
HE replied,
‘HE WAS NO KINSMAN OF YOURS;
HE HAD ACTED UNJUSTLY.
DO NOT QUESTION ME ABOUT THINGS YOU KNOW NOTHING OF.
I ADMONISH you LEST YOU BECOME AN IGNORANT MAN.’”

When a father loses a son, his first thought is to question **GOD**’s goodness. (Even a pharaoh will react like this.) But this passage helps separate fathers’ actions from their

²⁷⁹ A son of Noah made the claim that he could avoid the literal flood GOD was going to unleash.

²⁸⁰ The defiant son of Noah who perished was an ignorant, young man.

sons' with the wisdom of appropriate devotion. Some fathers will lose their sons. Some sons will lose their father. And some will be blessed with many joyful years together.

What was previously called hidden knowledge is not so hard to reveal if you use the Quran as it was intended, a book of revelation, not a license to kill. The mountain Noah's son wanted to climb only existed in the world around him. But perhaps that mountain was figuratively a lofty precipice such as a career goal or a sexual exploit he yearned to ascend for a new view on his world from a greater height. It certainly wasn't a sign of the mountain that was approaching Muhammad. And therefore it didn't raise him above the flood that consumed the people at that time.

The mountain every righteous man should want to climb is, first and foremost, an intellectual understanding of spirituality. It begins as knowledge of the world around him. And that knowledge emanates out for the wellbeing of us all.

Those whose parents don't teach their children to differentiate between their two worlds may have to endure living longer than their children. They've made a serious mistake that **GOD** will deal with any way **HE** chooses. Look at the headlines. Look at the streets of the town in which you live. Look in your house of worship. The evidence for two worlds is everywhere.

*"That which we have now revealed to you is secret history:
it was unknown to you and to your people.
Have patience:
the righteous shall have a joyful end."
[11:50]*

"That which **WE** have now revealed to you is secret history:
It was unknown to you and to your people.
Have patience:
The righteous shall have a joyful end."

GOD is always giving us clues and carrots to keep us hopeful. **HE**'s trying to take the sting out of us having to be hit with **HIS** sticks or burned with **HIS** flames. If you don't look at the Holocaust as a clue to your future, you'll surely get badly burned, too.

GOD speaks to you as a producer would speak to actors in a theater production. But **HIS** comments may be few and far between. **HIS** recital with the Prophet Muhammad, like **HIS** external conversation with Moses and **HIS** internal discourse with Jesus, was more than remarkable. It was miraculous. These men were capable of seeing through reality in ways we ought to analyze if we're going to learn to appreciate **HIS** designs for us individually and collectively. Life is a stage.

*“My people,
seek forgiveness of your Lord
and turn to Him in penitence.
He will send from the sky abundant rain upon you:
He will add strength to your strength.
Do not turn away from Him with wrongdoers.”
[11:52] ²⁸¹*

*“My people,
seek forgiveness of your lord
and turn to him in penitence.
he will send from the sky abundant rain upon you.
he will add strength to your strength.
do not turn away from him with wrongdoers”*

The rain promised by Hud in this passage need not be literal. For anyone who feels he's wandering in an inner desert, parched and exhausted from his journey, rain for some will become manna/halva.²⁸² Rain may be spiritual love in material forms. This may even be the rain {inspiration} that makes it possible for you to blossom and bloom with **GOD**-consciousness. That may make it possible for you to feel beloved beyond the usual, literal usage of the word.

Seeking self-forgiveness is essential in moving out from evil toward wisdom. You may not see how deeply you thirst for your own love. You may not sense how you hunger for your own words. If you refuse to speak to yourself, you'll refuse to answer your own calling. You'll remain in your prison cell, afraid to come out.

You can't know better the next time if you don't apologize to yourself for the wrongs you've done to you this day. You'll not only repeat the same mistakes over and over again if you aren't aware of them. You'll exacerbate each one of them if you don't apologize and seek repentance from you for what you've done.

Only then can you go before your **MAKER** with sincere sorrow in your heart for the evil you perpetrated against **HIS** Earth and one person living on it who's abused his welcome. If you choose to wait for the “world to come” to apologize for your internal errors of judgment, you'll find yourself like a Noah in a boat without an oar and rudder or like a son of his on a cliff watching the water rising around you.

²⁸¹ The prophet Hud is speaking in this passage. He spoke well of the one god, but he didn't have the ability to separate himself from him as much as we have the ability to do. It's taken millennia for man to understand the difference between “HIM” and “him.” And Hud certainly had no way of conceiving the meaning of **HIM** in the time in which he lived.

²⁸² Manna {an edible substance that, according to Torah, GOD provided for the Israelites as nourishment during their travels in the desert} [Exodus 16:1-36, Numbers 11:1-9] The WORD “MANNA” literally means “serving.” In the Quran, “manna” is called “halva,” {a sticky cake of ground sesame and honey, relished in the Middle East to this day}.

Procrastination is a luxury the extremely, monetarily affluent are great at modeling. They think they can afford to wait until the last minute of life because they see themselves as wealthy inside and out. But none of us have the luxury of pretending to be that rich in objective time that we can afford to waste a moment of it.

The mercy and forgiveness you show yourself for others' sake will surely inspire **GOD** to show you mercy and forgiveness for the light you shine in other hearts and souls. But you should see that your light first shines through you, so that you see that you're making an effort to shine first for you and then for them before **HIM**. Give up the conclusion that anyone is here to judge you. You're here to show us that you know how to observe and judge yourself. This, those who are evil can't do. Their gaze is fixed in the world around them because they're always worried about getting caught.

If you've behaved like a doormat by letting others walk all over you, you have a lot of apologizing to do to you. You're going to need to recognize all the ways in which you've let others treat you the way you've been treating you; set new boundaries; and close doors gently on some. And none of that can be done without faith in yourself and courage.

When you can talk to yourself candidly, you become intimate enough to compliment and criticize you using self-selected words. You develop a relationship with you that raises you to a higher level.

When you were a child you began to speak in words, and now you're figuratively relearning how to use those words through a rebirth in your heart from a resurrection in your soul. Spiritual adulthood will arise slowly, just as adulthood arose slowly.

You don't have to literally kiss your hand when you do something right or slap it when you do something wrong. You'll develop more profound appreciation for your own words as you talk to yourself through each and every experience of life going forward.

This is the watering can of rain provided by the Quran that you'll be able to shower upon yourself. This rain the Prophet referred to is like manna/halva from "heaven." It will nourish you when you're parched and feeling only.

*"They replied,
Hud,
you have given us no proof.
We will not forsake our gods at your behest,
nor will we believe in you.
We can only suppose that our gods have afflicted you with evil."
[11:53]*

*"They replied,
Hud,
You have given us no proof.
We will not forsake our gods at your behest
nor will we believe in you.
We can only suppose that our gods have afflicted you with evil."*

In this passage, you can hear the scorn and derision of those who didn't want to believe in the sanctity of their own life then. And you may be able to hear the scorn and derision of one of your own inner voices with regard to such words nowadays. The ancient indigenists resisted religion while surely claiming to be as reasonable, just and righteous as true believers today. The ancient indigenists didn't need GOD/GOD/*God* to achieve their goals then. And that was their right, even if they were only expressing their belief in one god {their ego} or gods {the power of the combined egos of those they conspired with}.

To come to know **GOD** is harder than your religious leader could ever possibly have impressed upon you. I've needed four fonts and 2,200 pages to make my case. And, I, too, will give you no proof. The proof you seek can only come from within. The words you need to respond to can only be your own. These seven books will only be for practice in finding your own way to **GOD**.

Nobody knows why **GOD** created atheists from religious parents any more than he knows why **HE** creates gay people from straight parents. But killing people or passing laws against people you don't like isn't going to reveal **GOD's** best intentions for you. Not even shunning those you disapprove of is going to help. These behaviors are only going to reveal how you really feel about you. They're going to figuratively blind you in one eye, leaving you without spiritual perspective. Then you're going to reach out to the external world to actualize your own intentions, and you'll see results that will be hit or miss. You'll become a gambler, not only with *your* life, but with the lives of *others*.

This is what you see in the congregations where religious leaders promote separation and prejudice. This is what you'll see in yourself if you look more closely at some of the ways you presently operate without self-scrutiny.

"Superstitious" is the old-fashioned word for a spiritual gambler. Superstition is passé but denying how awful **GOD** can be to some people and how awesome **HE** can be to others will keep you from learning from the truth in your fame and fortune. When the prophet Hud tried to describe his god's process, the people didn't have sufficient experience to believe him. They hadn't yet been given GOD's first name, let alone his other two names. They were, after all, ancient indigenists who couldn't imagine where Hud was coming from.

We're so much better off today even though we still have only three faiths instead of three renditions of faith. It's sad that there are so many modern men who are still so blind, deaf and numb when there's so much evidence of **GOD** around them.

If you determine that someone is not evolved, begin by asking yourself why **GOD** might have brought him to you. Surely, you weren't born into this world just to teach strangers how to behave less strangely. Surely, you were born into this world to learn how to behave less strangely, yourself.

We're all suspicious. This is why suspicion is the first step in helping us evolve. And this is why suspicion, when taken personally, can be so revealing.

*"He said,
'God is my witness,*

*and you are your witnesses too:
 I disown your idols.
 Scheme against me if you will,
 and give me no respite.
 I have put my trust in God,
 my Lord and your Lord.
 There is not a living creature on earth whose destiny he does not govern.
 Straight is the path of my Lord.”*
 [11:56-57]²⁸³

*“He said,
 ‘god is my witness,
 and you are your witnesses too.
 I disown your idols.
 Scheme against me if you will
 and give me no respite.
 I have put my trust in god,
 my lord and your lord.
 There is not a living creature on earth whose destiny he does not govern.
 Straight is the path of my lord.”*

The path of Hud to god then, like every path on Earth since, appears to be straight for a while until it reaches the horizon. Then it appears from a distance to have narrowed into a dead-end. Nobody and nothing is all that straight over time. The only thing we can know for sure about every path is that it leads somewhere if you’re curious enough to keep traveling down it. Getting where you want to go isn’t about how straight your path appears to be, but about how morally clean each step you take is along the way.

When Hud said, “Straight is the path of my lord” he had no way of knowing how right and wrong he was. By today’s most modern standards, we’d have to say, “Straight is the path of my Lord.” And that final statement is only as straight as the longitude and latitude lines on a globe, not the straight lines you see on a map.

All earthly paths move toward the horizon, and until you get to your horizons, you aren’t going to see where you can go from there. Once you’ve done that a few thousand times to slowly make your way semiconsciously around your inner world, you’ll be able to decide where you’re really headed: off an imaginary edge, in circles or to your spiritual seat in this figurative school.

*“They replied,
 ‘Great were the hopes we placed in you.*

²⁸³ Hud is still speaking to the indigenists of his day.

Would you now forbid us to serve the gods our fathers worshipped?

Truly,

we strongly doubt the faith to which you call us.”

[11:62]²⁸⁴

“They replied,

‘Great were the hopes we placed in you.

Would you now forbid us to serve the gods our fathers worshipped?

Truly,

we strongly doubt the faith to which you call us.”

The non-Jews in the Middle East before their conversion to Islam were debating with one another as well as within themselves over whether or not to believe in the Jewish idea of one GOD. The GOD brought to their ancestors by the Jews, and the GOD brought to them through the Christians, only made it more difficult to convince the ancestors of today’s Muslims to accept the *God* brought to them by the Prophet Muhammad. They needed to be convinced that there is only one **GOD**. But the only way then, and since, was with wars that convinced them to believe in one *God*.

GOD may decide to twist our arm to make us believe, as **HE** had to do many times with those before us. Today we see the results of history in an Abrahamic arms race by people who are the descendants of men whose arms all had been spiritually twisted. If you can’t see yourself as somewhat spiritually sick and twisted, you aren’t ready to evolve.

People today don’t struggle with the three Abrahamic faiths to find faith in themselves. They have the freedom, liberty and emancipation to believe as they please. They believe to their heart’s content, and then they go out and grab onto the material world to see what their faith in themselves will bring them.

You’re not able to believe in yourself any more than you can reward yourself materially. Comforts of the body are imperative in developing a high assessment of yourself. But when the stock market fluctuates; your wife leaves; your children forget to call; or your health fails – you may begin to suspect you’ve been doing some things wrong.

Faith in yourself is sadly {and paradoxically} a foregone conclusion. You have faith in yourself and faith in your faith. It’s as a gay outsider to all your faiths that I tell you that your faith is inadequate. And that which is inadequate will fail you. You’re going to need freedom to think, liberty to feel and emancipation to believe in order to develop the kind of faith I have in myself. You’re going to want to open your mind to other ways until you’re mind-full.

Life will always be a school for those who loved school. They know that everyone will graduate with exactly the grades he deserves because our **TEACHER** treats each of us individually. What does it matter to you whether a gay-Jew knows more than you about some things? He surely knows less about others. Did our **TEACHER** make you a hall monitor to insure that everyone gets to class on time? Did **HE** ask you to grade my tests

²⁸⁴ The people strongly doubted the faith to which Salib, a kinsman of Hud, called them.

for **HIM**? What difference will my grades make on your report card? You're going to live your life anyway you please regardless of my standing in class. I'm not standing in the way of your success. Your own shadow is. The shadow of the man you are is stopping you.

"Our messengers came to Abraham with good news.

They said,

'Peace!'

He answered,

and hastened to bring them a roasted calf.

*But when he saw their hands being withheld from it,
he mistrusted them and was afraid of them.*

They said,

'Have no fear.

We are sent forth to the people of Lot.'"

[11:69-70]

"OUR MESSENGERS CAME TO ABRAHAM WITH GOOD NEWS.

They said,

'Peace!'

He answered,

and hastened to bring them a roasted calf.

**But when he saw their hands being withheld from it,
he mistrusted them and was afraid of them.**

They said,

'Have no fear.

We are sent forth to the people of Lot.'"

Abraham was worried about the motives of the strangers {angels} he'd offered to serve. [Genesis 18] In the Quran Abraham was worried that his hospitality was going to be returned with hostility. But, as it turned out, the hostility he sensed came only from within. The messengers of the Lord weren't hostile towards him, but toward Lot.

When we look at ourselves as an "Abraham," before we invite strangers into our home, we ought to ask ourselves whether we understand the difference between "not good enough," good enough" and "too good." Abraham was worried about being not good enough or he wouldn't have reached out to the strangers at all. {Lot should have worried about being too good to his neighbors in offering them his daughters.}

The problem I have (that you may suffer from too) isn't that I'm not good enough in every way. It's that I'm much "too good" in some ways. In fact, I'm so good that I often conclude that "too good" isn't "good enough." I'm a sucker. I'm a chump. I'm a fool, a patsy, a dupe and a stooge. I worry before and after I open my heart to strangers. And in that sense, the moral answers found in the Quran are necessities in my life that every Abraham/Lot goes through.

The pent-up hostility Abraham incorrectly wished to release on the strangers was later released on his two sons, instead. Sometimes, our suspicion of strangers isn't borne out. But what do we then do with all that unused suspicion? If you're not conscious of your intentions, you'll dump your suspicions at home rather than make strangers suffer from it. And you may even commend yourself for making that "dump site" at home rather than elsewhere.

People are just as frightened of strangers today. They're just as superstitious of synchro-mysticism. And they're just as unquestioning of their naiveté of themselves. They wrestle with the possibility that they "don't know enough," "do know enough" and know "too much." They'd love to welcome everyone in, figuratively speaking, but the feeling of fear and the lack of that feeling {fearlessness} force them to make moral choices they would prefer to avoid.

*"His wife who was standing by,
laughed.
We bade her rejoice in Isaac,
and in Jacob after Isaac."
[11:71]²⁸⁵*

*"His wife who was standing by,
laughed.
We bade her rejoice in Isaac,
and in Jacob after Isaac."*

The angels of the Lord bade Sarah to rejoice. Sarai was 90 years old when GOD changed Abram's name to Abraham; told him to address Sarai as "Sarah" [Genesis 17]. Through angels, HE told her that she was going to have a baby at her advanced age. So when the strangers {messengers/angels in disguise} predicted Sarah's pregnancy with Isaac [Genesis 18], it must have seemed a bit like not only reading Abraham's mind, but like reading GOD's mind as well.

Sarah laughed nervously because she heard the news from strangers, even though we already knew it from having read about it in the previous chapter in Torah. It's also no wonder she named her son "Isaac" which means "laughter." To open your heart to strangers fearing the encounter will turn out badly and then have it turn into a joyous occasion is truly the epitome of relief. Therefore, it could be said that Sarah laughed out of relief, not because the news was amusing.

Relief leads to hope, and hope springs eternal because hope is the universal and eternal promise from **GOD**. But you'll want to read your own last chapter to anticipate that there will be promises for you fulfilled. Every time you perceive a bit more of your big picture revealed to you, you, too, should laugh out of relief.

²⁸⁵ The "We" in this statement is the Archangel Gabriel who's speaking for the angels before the Prophet for the Lord. Ironically, it was Sarah who broke the tension with laughter when the angels in disguise told her she was going to have a child.

*“And when fear left him
and as he pondered the good news,
Abraham pleaded with Us for the people of Lot.
Abraham was gracious, tenderhearted and devoted.”*
[11:75]

“And when fear left him
and as he pondered the good news,
Abraham pleaded with us for the people of Lot.
Abraham was gracious, tenderhearted and devoted.”

In Torah, Abraham *bargained* with GOD over how many would have to die in Sodom. He didn't *plead*. He was genuinely concerned over the fate of Lot's people. [Genesis 18, 16-33] And yet, bargaining with the fate of others hardly seems as heartfelt as pleading their cause. One's willingness only to bargain over the life and death of others could be seen as calloused, even sacrilegious, since **GOD** will do what **GOD** will do unless you do more than appeal to **HIM** with logic.²⁸⁶

In the Quran, Abraham pleaded before *God* for the people of Sodom. He came to *God* from a different place in inner space, his soul, not his head or heart. When you approach GOD/GOD/*God* from all three of these places in you, you evolve.

First you bargain. Then you plead. And you do everything you can think of in between. When you approach HIM/HIM/*Him* from only one of these places, you're not doing everything possible. You're only doing what you know or feel or believe can be done. Consequently, you discover less about yourself in the process.

The concept of **GOD** is actually much harder to actualize than it is to read about. I can tell you all about the moral differences between Torah, the Gospels and the Quran. But if you don't question your own integrity, you're not going to discover anything new about you.

(1) You can't have love unless you first give it to yourself. (2) You can't keep your love unless you give it to others. (3) And you can't renew this spiritual process unless you express your inner and outer actions before **GOD** to seek assistance in improving your methods. {**HE** will, of course, give you lessons in doing so in magnificently mysterious and unpredictable ways you won't ever be able to predict.}

It's easier to be generous of spirit with others when you're relieved that nothing bad is going to happen to you. It's easier to bargain for the wellbeing of others when you aren't worried about what's going to happen at home.

²⁸⁶ Keep in mind that GOD told Noah not to pray for his degenerate son in the Quran. Surely, the desire to help those students in the school of life who aren't doing their homework and passing their tests emanates out of the right testicle of every good pupil. If you are aware of this desire to share power in you, you're blessed.

Abraham worried about the wellbeing of Lot. Therefore Abraham pleaded for the wellbeing of the people of Sodom. And Abraham knew what he was doing for his nephew when he spoke to GOD. But what was happening to Abraham at home with his own sons, he didn't have the insight to question.

Men have a tendency to get cocky when they think they're right, especially when it comes to familial matters. They project their penis problem onto the women in their life. They don't hold their desires consciously in their head, heart and soul. Therefore they look for scapegoats to blame for the unspoken x² factor in themselves they can't relate to consciously. This is why Abraham scapegoated his anger on Ishmael and Isaac.

If you're frustrated with how long it's taking to see moral progress here on Earth, just think about how difficult it would be to be a lesbian couple with children. There isn't a society in the world that respects those women and their children. Hypocrites, all, when it comes to women and children!

To get you from spiritual puberty to spiritual maturity you're going to want to bring your unconscious motives to consciousness.²⁸⁷ Once you understand how to coast through your heart like a sailboat through water, you'll be ready for the challenges of coasting through your heart of hearts {soul} like a glider through the air.

When you see yourself like a teenager trying to make your way to the age of 21 in order to be emancipated, you'll begin to see the contradictory sides of the forces within you that you can't yet separate from primitive sensations. This investigative process will not only fascinate you for the rest of your life, freeing you once and for all from boredom. It may even bring on missions in life that you'd never have considered otherwise.

You're in a rat race, but you don't have to break down the walls of the maze around you to get to the cheese. You don't have to smash windows to reach up to the light. There are secret panels that will open inner walls you cannot now see. This was the message of Ali Baba in "The Tales of the 1001 Nights" when all he had to do was say "Open! Says-a-me!" to move the rock that blocked the entrance to the cave that was filled with treasure.

²⁸⁸

You're not stuck in the hold of a boat like Noah or Jonah. You're not locked out of a cave. Your imagination will let you off the boat and into the cave. Your imagination will set you free.

Until you reach the spiritual age of 13, you're going to think and feel like a child at heart. You're going to be afraid of monsters haunting your house. You're going to be afraid of darkness and loneliness. You're going to be afraid of snakes climbing up and burying themselves in the hollow of the trunk of your tree. It's only once you take the story of Noah and the ark to heart that you're going to be able to envision yourself as an adolescent who's building a spiritual vehicle that will take you on a cruise to spiritual adulthood. (And from the spiritual age of 18-21, you're going to construct a tower to your spiritual power that will rival the height of the tower of Babel. After that, you'll become like Abraham.)²⁸⁹

²⁸⁷ "Spiritual Maturity" means "psychologically focused while moving through the sociological realm."

²⁸⁸ A Muslim collection of Middle Eastern and South Asian stories and folk tales compiled in Arabic during the Islamic Golden Age from the 8th to the 13th Centuries.

²⁸⁹ An "Abraham" is a spiritual man who doesn't discriminate between one kind of man and another. He reaches out to all men as his brother. He reaches out to all men as his

The stories of Torah come in the order they do for a reason no less profound than the order of **GOD**'s giving of our holy books historically or the order of the 114 surahs of similes in the Quran.

It takes faith in yourself to pray to **GOD** from a soulful soul, not from a scheming, infantile head or childish hardhearted heart. But once you've made it into your soul, it can take most of your life to get to the spiritual age of 21. If you dedicate yourself to growing up, you'll come to understand the meaning of becoming an Abrahamic man who's capable of giving much more of his loyalty to strangers.

There's no coincidence in the chronological order of the Abrahamic faiths. There's no coincidence in the chronological order of the stories in Genesis. You're here to prove they're all true; not to prove that all but your Scripture and faith are false. That was *God's* message to the Prophet, and that should be **HIS** message through the Quran to you.

You may not have done a very good job until now of interpreting your own Scripture if your RABBIS, PRIESTS, PASTORS, MINISTERS, *Imams* and *Clerics* weren't sufficiently sophisticated and educated in Judeo-Christian-Islamic culture. But don't feel bad about that. We live in a modern era in which new information can be disseminated very quickly.

*“And when Our messengers came to Lot,
he grew anxious about them,
for he was powerless to offer them protection.
‘This is indeed a day of woe,’
he said.”
[11:77]*

“AND WHEN OUR MESSENGERS CAME TO LOT,
HE GREW ANXIOUS ABOUT THEM,
FOR HE WAS POWERLESS TO OFFER THEM PROTECTION.
‘This is indeed a day of woe,’
he said.”

It was Lot's intention in Scripture to also help the strangers Abraham had welcomed unequivocally with open arms in Genesis. But Abraham was at first suspicious of them, while Lot was not. Although Abraham had separated his ambiguous feelings for the strangers from his loving, loyal feelings for Sarah, Lot was all consumed with his standing in those strange men's eyes. He didn't reflect on the wellbeing of his family. He went overboard in embracing the strangers. Too good always ends up being not good enough.

When Sarah laughed with relief, Abraham knew GOD was benevolently watching over them both. When the townsfolk wanted to force coitus upon the strangers, Lot became

classmates. He reaches out because he knows that in reaching out, he earns the right to reach further within.

anxious over being forced to choose to help the strangers or his neighbors. Perhaps because he was, himself, a stranger living among the people of Sodom, Lot identified with the needs of the three strangers more than those he knew well. The issue of heterosexuality was just a reuse. It was only an issue used to conceal the true issue.

Abraham and Lot were both morally motivated to do what was best for those around them, but, Abraham was more motivated to protect his family, while Lot was more motivated to put the wellbeing of total strangers before his family.

Abstract arguments over the morality of sexual preferences are worthless. Making the claim that *your* GOD/GOD/*God* is more important to you than the lives of those you love is also the height of ignorance and audacity. The issues you claim to be fighting for may very well only be issues of prioritizing issues that you aren't consciously aware of.

Ultra-orthodox JEWS are the oldest of the Abrahamic brotherhood. They should know better how to prioritize their values. If they can't get over their disgust of their children who turn out to be members of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community, they'll watch as their disgust spills over beyond their home, making them the scourge of Israel. Even their straight children and grandchildren may come to despise them, just as the children and grandchildren of the Nazis came to despise their nation's predatory predecessors.

Abraham and Lot are aspects of yourself; two extremes on one moral line of possibilities. At one end, you may care about GOD's/GOD's/*God*'s opinion of you. But at the other extreme, you may be more worried about mollifying some nebulous stranger who stands for something you desperately want to believe in. You must choose who you're going to *soothe* in you {Abraham} and who you're going to *pacify* {Lot}. Such is how words like "moral" may be leading you astray.

The characters in Torah were brought down to Earth by Moses, carried by Jesus and then presented by the Prophet Muhammad for you to take *personally*, not *literally*. If you don't look at these characters as aspects of yourself, you're going to fight over issues you call heterosexual issues that aren't at all moral. They're just issues you can't take to heart because of your own penis problem. And if you can't take something to heart, you'll never be able to bring it into your heart of hearts {soul}.

To reap the rewards of the messages from **GOD** for today, you ought to question and discuss the myriad meanings of Scripture with your spiritual advisors, giving credence to your own experiences, not proclaiming one truth forever and for all.

An Abraham is like the modern man today who welcomes strangers into his home because he believes in hospitality. He believes in soothing the man who's on an arduous journey. A Lot is like the modern man who welcomes strangers in to pacify them because of all the crazy nuts out there. An Abraham's focus is on the guests in his home. A Lot's focus is on everyone outside his home. The former makes friends. The latter makes allies.

Both biblical characters were anxious and afraid, but one for his family {Abraham} and the other {Lot} for his position in society. GOD blessed Abraham, while HE punished Lot and the people of Sodom.²⁹⁰

²⁹⁰ GOD didn't punish the people of Sodom because they enjoyed anal sex. To draw that conclusion trivializes GOD. Life is a moral struggle with **GOD**. You're not right because you prefer vaginal over anal, sexual penetration. That conclusion exemplifies my point that there are still many people out there who are spiritually very sick inside. They're cursed

If you can't see life as a spectrum of moral choices, you're going to try them all. A manic/depressive is someone whose emotions swing from one extreme to another. A "moral depressive" is someone whose beliefs swing from one extreme to another. They're related.

The story of Lot isn't about homosexuality. It isn't about whether you're a top or bottom in bed. It's about hypocrisy and the moral perversion of focusing on the wrong issue because you can't adequately internalize your experiences in life. Lot protected the strangers from getting raped by the men of the town, but he later had sex with his own daughters. His conscience was more guided by what others were doing and how he'd look as the result of that than the direction he was going in, which would ruin his reputation in his own eyes. A man who has sex with his daughters can't claim moral high ground using the assertion that vaginal penetration of his daughters is superior to anal penetration of strangers.

*"His people,
long addicted to evil practices,
came running toward him.
'My people,'
he said,
'here are my daughters.
Surely they are more wholesome to you.
Fear God,
and do not shame me by insulting my guests.
Is there not one right-minded man among you?"*
[11:77-78] ²⁹¹

*"His people,
long addicted to evil practices,
came running toward him.
'My people,'
he said,
'here are my daughters.
Surely they are more wholesome to you.
Fear GOD,
and do not shame me by insulting my guests.
Is there not one right-minded man among you?"*

Abraham offered his guests a roasted calf, not realizing they hesitated because of the future meaning a golden calf would have for his descendants. Lot offered the same guests

into materializing their idols. They're still dancing around their flesh, their bottle, their drug and their food choices.

²⁹¹ This is Lot speaking to the people of Sodom.

his daughters. Lot's desire to prove his good name only ruined his name. For the enlightened, their imagination turns a roasted calf into a Golden Calf which grows over time into the simile of a cow.

Too good isn't good enough. Only good enough is good enough. Too good is bad at the other extreme. Therefore, it's **GOD's** job to reward and punish us in order to teach us the difference between much too good and not nearly good enough. And it's our job to determine one from the other using our personal lessons with **HIM** to verify Scripture in our own way. I can't get inside you and turn you around. If you're facing the wrong way within, you're going to have to turn yourself around.

*"They replied,
'You know we have no need of your daughters.
You know full well what we are seeking.'"
[11:80] ²⁹²*

*"They replied,
'You know we have no need of your daughters.
You know full well what we are seeking.'"*

The neighbors were seeking a violent, sexual connection with the messengers of GOD. Such men today are still secretly conspiring that **GOD** is a man. We saw that with homosexual priests in the Catholic Church. They regarded every moral argument as a weighing of the needs of men over the wellbeing of boys. Because these priests cared more about the wellbeing of men, they weren't willing to serve the needs of the men, women and children of their faith. They let **GOD** down. Don't you think they should pay a price for that after their lifetime?

The story of Lot in the Quran makes more sense if you look at it as Spiritual Psychology {personally} since its message sociologically {externally} only creates homophobia and more division between men, women and children.

There may be a struggle of priorities in you if you associate only with your masculine side {y} and try to hide the feminine side {x²} of yourself in shame. If collusion in your family, community and nation takes precedence over your participation in your inner world, you're more sociologically than psychologically motivated. You're making an effort to please the external GOD/GOD/*God*, not the **GOD** of both your worlds. You're working from the outside in. ²⁹³

The stories in Torah and the Quran about Lot are really about the man who learns more from the world around him than from his world within. He'll sacrifice all that he holds dear {his x² factor} to uphold male principles {his y factor}. And when such a man finds himself in bed with his daughters (whether incestuously or morally conspiratorially), he ought to

²⁹² This is the townspeople of Sodom speaking to Lot.

²⁹³ If you decide this is sometimes true of you, it only means that you're mature in some ways and immature in others. This is what makes you a complex, modern individual.

wonder why he finds himself in a sick relationship that's going to screw him over in the end.

The rocks that rained down upon Sodom (so different from the manna that would one day pour down from the sky for the Israelites in need) correspond to the meteors that have rained down on the moon for ages, leaving it cratered and looking, from afar, like holey cheese. It's not "the man in the moon" we need to worry about, but about "the moon in the man."

This is what the mind of the autonomous looks like. Is it any wonder so many men end up late in life with a body riddled with disease and a mind pelted by mental challenges? They've chosen autonomy over freedom. They've become a slave to stinking thinking. The only "fruits of their labors" are their biological progeny and their financial estate. They may not be able to see anything they've accomplished in themselves to make them worthy of an "eternal reward." They have only their external world to comfort them. Wisdom, love and devotion to life have, for the most part, eluded them. They're only. They're very, very only.

We claim that "man proposes, and **GOD** disposes." But it's really more complicated than that. Your will {penis} may want something, and it convinces you that its reasons are good enough for you to go out and get it. Like Eve, your heart succumbs to your wants, and your head, like Adam, then goes along for the ride citing all the reasons why what you want is logical and reasonable.

Once your head becomes embroiled in the self-indulgent goals of your will, your conscience becomes powerless over the unstated intentions of your desires that started the whole mess in the first place. You become a victim of your own penis or clitoris issues. You only know *what* you want. You don't know *why* you want it because you never stated your desires in words. They remained urges and impulses that were only recorded as positive {1} or negative {0}.²⁹⁴

After you've made a fool of yourself, you may feel anxious, fearful and embarrassed, whether alone at home or in public, instead of asking yourself what it is you did this time to embarrass, shame or humiliate yourself in your own eyes. The only point in practicing being honest, sincere and authentic with others is so that you can behave genuinely at moments like that. If you can't yet speak to yourself frankly, you're going to want to be even more authentic when with others. People are for practice.

It seems as though modern man is always tense. He needs to chill. He needs to find ways to let go and let **GOD**. But his efforts to relax are quickly supplanted with more tension when he tries to solve his problems from the outside in with more distractions, addictions or endless sports competitions he takes very seriously, but not nearly personally enough. It's not about your team winning. It's about you achieving conscious awareness that you are like a team. That's a winning strategy!

A happy head; a joyous heart; and a peaceful soul require a man to return again and again to that amazing tree at the center of his garden. He must learn to ask for the fruits of self-knowledge in order to achieve gratitude to **GOD** for all that he learns about himself day-by-day. The Eve in every Adam must ask the serpent in their tree, "Why would I want

²⁹⁴ Everyone in the three Abrahamic faiths has been fighting for thousands of years over Israel, and none of them have asked themselves, "Why?"

to listen to the likes of you? What's the reasoning behind your helpful suggestions presented in 0's and 1's?" ²⁹⁵

It's not what a man goes through in life, but what he learns about himself from what he goes through that makes all the difference. Sleeping through the journey of life isn't going to leave anyone thankful to those odd strangers he meets along the way. Angels in disguise may try to wrest you from the "hell" you've gotten yourself into, but you always seems to find your way from there into another one. Is it any wonder you wake up tense in the morning, as though your daughters have been in bed with you seducing you all night?

Men whose values have been feminized are often considered moral traitors by very masculine, old-fashioned men. Easy-going straight men are accused of promoting the gay lifestyle because of their laissez-faire attitude toward homosexuality. They're accused of going down a slippery slope that will end in bestiality and/or incest.

In truth, moral discrimination between male $\{y + x^2\}$ values and female $\{x^1 + x^2\}$ values are just the beginning of a well-rounded spiritual education if you're willing to solve for x . Who's more important to you in the Creation story, Adam or Eve? Who do you blame more, Eve or the serpent? And why haven't you yet yearned to tell yourself what goodness and evil taste like? ²⁹⁶ (With all that religious education you were probably given, you'd think that question would have come up by now...)

Who's moral position is more important to you in the stories of Lot, Lot and his standing in his community; his wife who loses her family; or their daughters who lose our respect, but not their own? The Jewish tradition puts the moral responsibility of the *father* at the center of this debate. The Christian tradition puts the role of the *husband* at the center of this debate. And the Muslim tradition puts the role of the *strangers* at the center of this debate.

Once you can apply Lot's lot to your own lot in life, you're ready to internalize every moral argument personally. Do you see yourself as a father to your daughters, a husband to your wife or a stranger among strangers? Will you argue your actions before GOD/GOD/*God* from the position of a father, a husband or a stranger, or will you argue before **GOD** the spiritual dilemma in being like all three? {Forbidden fruit tastes bittersweet because the consumption of moral understanding makes man joyous, not happy.}

Once you can watch your inner child growing up morally, you'll find yourself having to question your desire to indulge you verses your need to discipline you in many little ways. All of these challenges boil down to your ability to get your inner parent out of the way so you can allow your inner adult to take over the education of your inner child.

Once you get passed the 5th Commandment by honoring your father and mother, you're free to move through the 6th through 10th Commandments. You need to earn freedom, liberty and emancipate. Taking them for granted is nothing more than autonomy.

This is precisely what the extremist institutions of JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY and *Islām* don't understand. They want you to remain an inner parent to your inner child

²⁹⁵ The serpent's exact words were, "YOU WILL NOT CERTAINLY DIE. FOR GOD KNOWS THAT WHEN YOU EAT FROM IT YOUR EYES WILL BE OPENED, AND YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL." [Genesis 3:4-5]"

²⁹⁶ It tastes like semen.

because that allows them the role of externalizing your inner adult. That allows them to maintain control over your moral relationship with yourself.

The spiritually mature man is in the luxurious position of being able to befriend himself like a younger brother with patience and understanding. He's able to talk to himself and ask himself what desire he's unconsciously pursuing. This is the brotherhood found in the inner adult/inner child relationship.

When you come before **GOD** as an older brother to yourself, you'll magically be able to befriend **GOD** like a brother, whether or not you're Christian. Jesus is the externalization of an older brother you can always count on.

*"We shall defer it only to its appointed hour.
And when that day arrives,
no man shall speak but by His leave."
[11:104] ²⁹⁷*

*"**WE** shall defer it only to its appointed hour.
And when that day arrives,
no man shall speak but by **HIS** leave."*

GOD defers Judgment Day each day for those of us fortunate enough to have lived through yesterday. **HIS** benevolence is so great that **HE** gives us this day to show **HIM** our truest colors. Each day becomes a greater and greater gift when you're willing to compare and contrast yourself to how you believed the day before. Each day only becomes a greater gift of self-assimilation when you compare and contrast you to the beliefs you still wish you'd emulate.

Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she disobeyed the strangers and looked back on where she'd been. In other words, she became defiant, morose and, finally, silent when she perceived her misfortune, not realizing she got just what she deserved. Surely she looked back on her life with disappointment and regret. Surely she looked back with shame at what she didn't do for her daughters in her deluded effort to appease her husband. Allowing Lot to offer their girls as door prizes for appropriate behavior to their neighbors should turn a mother into a pillar of salt: wisdom not actualized with action.

Wisdom externalized looks like moral action. Wisdom internalized just tastes like salt. Lot's wife was turned into salt, inferring that she couldn't do anything with her hard-earned wisdom. She was simply arrested by what she saw when she looked back at what had happened. She couldn't go any further forward in the direction her husband was taking her. She couldn't even continue with her girls. And she couldn't go back to the way it had been before.

My mother, unlike all the Lot's wives of her time, looked at how my father was treating her verses strangers' ways in the 1950's, and she divorced him. She took my sister and me away from him when we were only 4 and 6 years old, respectively, before we'd become so

²⁹⁷ **GOD** will defer your Judgment Day until a time of **HIS** choosing.

morally confused that we'd grow up to want to screw with him as Lot's daughters did with their dad.

The moral of this aspect of this story isn't about comparing heterosexual incest with homosexual sex between strangers. That would trivialize GOD's/*God's* message for today. Nor is it about GOD's love for everyone. It's not about making love at all. It's about making moral progress. It's about looking beyond appearances to perceive moral truths.

Wisdom in women and gay men is still frowned upon in society today. Divorce initiated by women is still frowned upon, especially in JEWISH, CHRISTIAN and *Muslim* society. They expect women to be seen and not heard. They expect cows to behave like cattle. Some subtly punish women for behaving independently by secretly referring to women as "ball-breakers" and "bitches" if they contradict traditional interpretations of Scripture. Women and gay men in many societies still prefer to avoid such confrontations by turning into pillars of salt instead of speaking up.²⁹⁸

Women and gay men get what they deserve if they don't use Scripture to advance their cause for freedom of their minds, liberty in their hearts and emancipation in their souls – independent of straight men, many of whose hearts are as hard as Pharaoh's. Many men aren't going to change their attitude until they slowly drown in **GOD's** disgust, like Pharaoh's charioteers.

Scripture is a living document. But because few are looking for more life out of their life, they can't see their own behavior in their Scripture. They repeat GOD's/GOD's/*God's* warnings to others, but they don't heed them themselves. They laud GOD's/GOD's/*God's* examples, but they don't live them personally. They praise GOD/GOD/*God*, but they don't use **HIS** reasoning to praise and reproof themselves.

Anyone can become figuratively petrified. Sometimes we're lost for words, unable to take verbal action on situations we find ourselves in. Sometimes we need to express ourselves through art or charity because words are simply not powerful enough to express our need to make change.

If you're a man, the wisdom of the x^2 factor in you may not yet have risen into your conscious mind. But don't think you're going to be able to capture it all on your own. You're going to need the entire world to help you discover that aspect of yourself. You have something in common with all men beyond your y factor. You even have some things in common with gay-Jews like Jesus and me.²⁹⁹

Lot escaped Sodom with his daughters, and they made their way to a cave. But it wasn't like the cave in the imagination of the Prophet where *he* resided. The cave where Lot and his daughters ended up was a cave of such moral darkness that only the light of self-pity and regret illuminated it. This is similar to the place where we all hide out from ourselves,

²⁹⁸ This is a reference to Lot's wife who didn't say a thing when her husband pimped their daughters to the townspeople to keep them from "succumbing" to homosexuality. When leaving Sodom, she turned back with regret at all that she hadn't done right the first time and turned into a pillar of salt: petrified wisdom. Today we say, "Hindsight is 20/20."

²⁹⁹ If you think it audacious of me to compare myself to Jesus rather than only contrast myself to HIM, you've learning a thing or two from my lessons for you...

not the place of refuge in our mountain where we learn about the majesty of the self. This is a place illuminated by moonlight, not sunlight. This is the eerie light of the night that only makes darkness all the more weirdly visible.

Lot's daughters concluded they were the only survivors on Earth and so decided to get their father drunk to have sex with him in order to repopulate the world. Internally, we draw the same insane kinds of conclusions from time to time. Our inner parent figuratively colludes with our inner child in unwholesome ways. But anyone who'd actualize such thoughts in the world we share is not just criminally corrupt; he's morally insane.

This takes incest out of the external world and brings it within. This personalizes the stories of Noah with Ham and Lot with his daughters. This makes you responsible for questioning everything you're thinking because, if you don't, you'll never know how perverted and depraved you really are. That personal a level of moral depravity goes way beyond who you have sex with. That makes your *sex* life much less morally important than your inner *sick* life.

Because your willpower {penis or clitoris} can only be stimulated {1} or not stimulated {0}, you can't use it to determine right from wrong. You should rely on more than willpower to guide you. You're going to need to be able to think clearly, feel deeply and conclude rationally, or you may end up making very crucial errors of judgment about your worth. The story of Lot isn't about weighing homosexuality against incest. It's a profound, cautionary tale of what can happen to any individual who doesn't address all the moral issues that arise within him.

Nightmarish fantasies by day are challenges to everyone's moral system. That's perfectly normal. Nightmarish fantasies are no more or less common than nightmares while sleeping. And the feelings that consequently arise, whether sexual, frightening or empowering, can be explored to help you understand the power of willpower: the power figuratively emanating from your penis (or clitoris).

The point of this story is to suggest that there comes a time in everyone's life when he chooses between good and evil. This retelling of the story of Lot in the Quran isn't a lesson in how to treat your children. It isn't a lesson in how to love your wife or how to devote yourself to your community. That was all said before. It's about how to treat yourself.

If you don't make your decisions with deep enough faith in **GOD** as your **TEACHER**, you're not going to live life with much curiosity or hope. You're going to react, not respond, to the moral lessons you're given by our **TEACHER**. And the subtleties of this magnificent world **GOD** gave us will elude you. You'll be a stranger you'll suddenly wake up to when you're dead.

"No man shall speak but by **HIS** leave." Many pray, but few talk to themselves.. Many ask questions of GOD/GOD/*God*, but not of themselves. Give yourself permission to speak to you. Give you permission to hear you. Give you permission to really listen to what you've told yourself for so long. And give yourself permission to answer. You'll go crazy if you don't!

You'll be in a far better position to speak to **GOD** about something that's really personal and important to you if you know what that is. Can you imagine how many prayers **GOD** has to listen to that are only about external matters or mere mention of **HIS** names?...

I strongly suspect few people are truly interested in talking to **HIM** about what's going on inside them. I suspect that you may be so much more morally frail and fragile than you imagine. You may have a very tenuous relationship with you simply because you fear being inappropriate. How sad is that?

Don't assume you deserve anything from **GOD** for being as externally appropriate as your mother insisted when you were a child. Don't assume you deserve anything from **GOD** for being as externally appropriate as your father insisted when you were as an adolescent. But do assume you have the opportunity to earn a much more powerful, pleasant and personal relationship with yourself with **HIS** help.

The JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* are far too eager to talk about matters they don't fully understand. And the Jews, Christians and Muslims are far too eager *not* to ask good questions about what they don't fully understand. You must force yourself to talk *less* if you believe in GOD/GOD/*God*. And you must force yourself to talk *more* if you believe in the universal **GOD** who created us all.

Those students of life who watch their classmates carefully see that many students don't figuratively raise their hand and wait to be called on, but shout out, as if the whole classroom were theirs. They take the unconscious attitude that they can say and do no wrong. That's morally presumptuous.

Good students of life often need to be reminded that something akin to angels are watching their education from the "heavens" above. You're never alone, not even when you're by yourself. You hold a relationship with the Lord that you've earned. The rules of conduct you learned as a child with your mother and/or father don't apply to your relationship with the Lord. You're not a child anymore. You're not your own mother or father. You're an adult who feels like an adult before the Lord. Act like it!

*"Your Lord will surely reward all men
according to their deeds.
He has knowledge of all their actions.
Follow then the straight path as bidden..."*
[11:112]

"Your Lord will surely reward all men
according to their deeds.
HE has knowledge of all their actions.
Follow then the straight path as bidden."

In other words, follow your conscience as it evolves into a soul. Don't follow the *straight* verses the *gay* path. Don't follow the *male* verse the *female* path. And don't follow the *white* verses the *black* path or the Jewish verses the Gentile path.

Remember to ask yourself why **GOD** would bother to speak about **HIMSELF** in the first-person plural {**WE**} and third-person singular {**HE**} if not to demonstrate to you new

ways of addressing and perceiving your inner selves. If your relationship with you is so consciously formal {we} or so unconsciously casual {he} that you haven't considered talking to you in various ways, just imagine how little regard you may also be giving others, and surely **GOD**. If you're probably taking yourself for granted, you can be sure you're doing the same to us all.

The Quran teaches that you are *like* a tree of knowledge. You are *like* a burning bush. You may feel illuminated in a strange way you can't quite put into words. And you may occasionally even feel burned by you without knowing what to do about it. Seeing the truth about you is something you need to experience by yourself.

You're at the center of a fire with an aurora burning brightly around it. But it's uniquely shaped. You're like a star in a solar system, a galaxy of inner, stellar space slowly coming together. You're a symbol of **GOD's** presence as **HE's** waking up a prophet in you that has been chosen to lead you in a Jewish, Christian and Muslim way into a Promised Land. That may be paradoxical, but it's poetically true.

A fish assumes there's no other world but the world in which it lives. But when you dive down into its realm, you hold a view of reality all fish take for granted. To discover the mystery of your heart, you need to convince yourself that there are other levels of inner reality that correspond to other aspects of outer reality that you haven't pondered for their spiritual importance.

The thoughts in your head are like every landmass on Earth. Every thought that settles in your mind is like a speck of dust. Every idea that rolls around inside you is like a grain of sand. The conclusions you come to are made up of hills of information that took years to amass. And the mountains of concepts that have risen up to create the contours of your intelligence are ranges you, yourself, are going to climb. This separates thoughts that express high ideals from thoughts that create valleys, gorges, basins and depressions where shadows dance daily upon them.

Your heart is like every ocean, sea and lake. Your feelings are like bodies of water made up of drops of rain that rush down hill and dale to pool into sentiments, moods and emotions. Every feeling you have quenches a thirst you have to love yourself thanks to what you know about you that you've done right that then makes you feel right with the world.

Your beliefs are like the sky, and your troubles are like clouds that block you from seeing the sun. For you to move through these "rows and flows of angel hair, and ice cream castles in the air, and feather canyons everywhere," [Joni Mitchell] you need to be able to hold onto your faith in a way that defies the gravity of every situation you're in.

Your inner world is a mirror of the world we share. As you come to discover the spirit within you that soars up to the "heavens" above, you'll also appreciate the birds that fly through the atmosphere that envelopes our planet. You'll then be amazed at what curious and magnificent creatures of the deep you'll find in your heart that you had no idea were swimming around way down there. You may even come to embrace every animal on Earth as a long, lost brother.

Don't fear the mystery of the deepest and highest parts of you. You were made by **GOD**. **HE** put a lot of care and attention into creating you. Don't assume Torah is being flippant in saying GOD created the world in six days. It was just a metaphoric introduction

to the immense amount of time **HE** took to make you. **HE** had the template designed long before **HE** brought you into this world.

Your timing in arriving here was no coincidence. You were made for today, and you'll remain here every day, as long as **GOD** needs you to better yourself in this world. We're not all one. We're all a part of **ONE**.

The problem for most people is that they're worried about the people who need them or what other people will think of them. They can't really say they need their self. Nor can they worry that they're not there for their self. They come out of their dreams at night pouring themselves back into their body like wine from a bottle into a glass. They don't question the new, emotional shape they so easily take each day. They conform to a change in chalice they don't question. They don't really know love from the inside in. They don't really know *why* they're doing *what* they're doing down here.

*“We recount to you the histories of these apostles
to put courage into your heart.
Through them, the truth shall be revealed to you,
with precepts and admonitions for the faithful.”
[11:121]*

WE recount to you the histories of these apostles
to put courage into your heart.
Through them, the truth shall be revealed to you,
with precepts and admonitions for the faithful.”

Often the most modest and humble have no idea how good their grades look in their **TEACHER's/TEACHER's/Teacher's** roll book. When you see what the prophets before Jesus went through, you should compare your lot in life to theirs. It's harder to do well in this school than it looks. But when you graduate, you'll know by the job our **BOSS** gives you to do thereafter, how well you did getting your education here in the 3rd dimension. (That's the best way I can grasp the “world to come” with the education I have now.)

I recommend you start building your resume for the afterlife now. Look at the inner skills you develop from each and every challenge you're given. There are no skills that the **TEACHER** has passed out to the students at the front of the class that haven't been passed back to the others. Your skills have been brought to you through other students, and from you they'll be given to those behind you. Only the bozos at the back of the room won't bother to take a copy.

Take heart. Take care. Then take action. Even the class clowns are being influenced by what you do. The skills they're getting are only twisted reflection of what you have the potential to do for you.

*“God alone has knowledge
of what the heavens and the earth conceal;
to Him all things shall be referred.
Serve Him,
and put your trust in Him.
Your Lord is never heedless of what you do.”
[11:123]*

“GOD alone has knowledge
of what the ‘heavens’ and the Earth conceal;
to **HIM** all things shall be referred.
Serve **HIM**,
and put your trust in **HIM**.
Your Lord is never heedless of what you do.”

My own father wasn't a man I could trust. When he was in his 60s and I was in my late teens and early twenties, I was appalled at how ignorant he was of life. His faults were blatantly apparent to me (and to everyone else in our family). But when I entered my 60s and my relatives had scorned me, berated me and conspired against me, I felt like Hud, a prophet scorned by his people. I felt betrayed by enemies of the gays and Jews.

All my life I'd been under the impression that my family weren't homophobes. But I was wrong. They accepted me as gay so long as I was maintained the passive role in my relationships with men. But when I discovered that I was much more comfortable as a top rather than a bottom, my family became threatened by me. Then they began to like my new boyfriend more than me.

Apparently, I began to take up too much space. I became too opinionated. And that's when their opinion of me switched quickly and drastically. It was especially when I started to talk about my research into the subject of GOD/GOD/*God* that I made them uncomfortable. When I spoke about the new ideas I'd gleaned about religion they scorned me as having turned into another one of those crack pots.

Another way of describing this change in opinion in them is that they weren't jealous of me when they saw me as a follower and a quiet Jew who didn't have anything to say about our GOD. But when they saw my leadership skills emerge in the spiritual realm, they associated that with an individualism, strength and personal power they couldn't match. And that wasn't the kind of gay man they wanted around them.

Some people are threatened when those around them express sudden and great improvements in their spiritual understanding of the meaning of life. Some people just want you to be predictable. Once you start moving forward by leaps and bounds, you scare them. Perhaps it brings up questions about their work habits in the school of life that need to be questioned.

Do people really think they can graduate from the The Ten Commandments to Christ's Two Commandments without taking the tenth one {not coveting} to heart? Does anyone

think he can graduate from HIS Two Commandments to the Prophet's One Commandment {beware} without loving the Lord with all your soul and with all your might?

Although my spiritual growth didn't happen until long after my father died, I remember what he told me later in life. "Remember, your father always loved you." I didn't understand why he emphasized it so often. But when I went through my spiritual growth spurt in my sixties, I realized that his idea of the word "love" wasn't what that word meant to me.

Even so, now I see I'm so much like him in many negative ways, and more advanced than him many other ways. I see him as a baby, and me as his father with him in my arms.

I see the spiritual evolution of **GOD's** designs in my own life. But even more interesting than that, I see how my negative ways can actually lead me to virtues I never imagined I might possess. If my father were here today, we'd have a lot more to talk about. I'd be able to help him through the labyrinth of his mind that had been sickened and twisted by a negligent upbringing that was compounded by Nazi slave drivers.

Because of my mother's dementia, she behaves more literally like a baby girl. When I talk to her on the phone or visit her, I try to hold her and hug her like the toddler she's become. I try not to think back to the good ol' days when I was an infant in her arms. Now I can see the difference between those who've been innocently driven crazy and those who are criminally insane.

GOD has finally allowed my mother to experience the first four stories of Genesis. But there's nothing she can do now but babble from the ruins of her tower as her mind lies broken on the ground. I never know any more if she's talking to me, to Germans relegated to history or to **GOD**. Two weeks ago, she broke her wrist. She couldn't even describe her pain to her caregivers. They noticed the discoloration of her skin and took an x-ray. Better this "hell" in her lifetime than the "hell" some others may have to go through when they drop out from this school.

As **GOD** said to Noah about his wayward son in this surah of the Quran, "HE WAS NO KINSMAN OF YOURS." It's sometimes very difficult to see our parents or children as people. We have no idea why **GOD** matched us up with them. We may all be like trees of knowledge and like trees of life, but it's hard to see why **GOD** planted us in any particular grove or pulled us out of it to transplant us elsewhere. The stump you see in others may still have deep roots. But its roots may not be functioning like yours.

You may know how to love without having reasons for this blessing. But there are those who are constitutionally incapable of loving. Jews, gays, blacks, Catholics, Muslims, the poor and/or the disabled set the teeth of such people on edge. Those who can only treat others like possessions are more like the orphan who doesn't know love or the homeless who doesn't know why it's so important to have a home. Pity those who can't pity themselves.

Many men have grave problems in obeying women because they don't love women any more than odd strangers. Women are, for the most part, projections of how they feel about the feminine {x²} side of themselves: just another hole to fill. Women are for these men just one side of an equation:

$$x^1 + x^2 < y$$

The x^2 factor in themselves is virtually missing. They haven't pondered or taken it personally. Women are nothing more than something to be solved for, a variable in an equation, not a real person or another species of spiritual tree. They cross women out like an integer in a calculation. They fell them, and like logs, roll them down rivers to lumber mills.

GOD only works in mysterious ways for people with a sense of irony. Gay people are not only queer in the sense of odd. We're queer in the sense of funny. (You could probably afford to be little funnier.) I'm the funniest guy I know! ³⁰⁰

You need linguistic intensity to devote yourself to a life built on **WORDS**. Being Jewish isn't enough. Being Christian isn't enough. Being Muslim isn't enough. None of them will be able to carry the combination of Abrahamic messages without the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community. The Abrahamic love of perpetrators, victims and martyrs is just too great to take only one level of faith to heart. The Abrahamic faiths glorify themselves for their ability to create life without sufficiently good reason to preserve it. We must all learn to glorify our ability to improve life, not just create it.

There's no one enrolled in this school who knows why anyone else is here or what anyone is going to get out of being here. Everyone's grades are in the **TEACHER**'s roll book, and his/her class schedule isn't ours to decide. If you don't want to be someone's tutor you're free to choose not to. Don't make anyone make you feel guilty for not wanting to get involved in their curriculum. Don't even vote if you don't want to do so out of love for your country. Your vote will never count enough if you don't cast it passionately.

In the same portion of Leviticus that speaks about men sleeping with men, **GOD** says, "YOU SHALL NOT CURSE THE DEAF NOR PLACE A STUMBLING BLOCK BEFORE THE BLIND." [Leviticus 19:14] Curse yourself for being deaf, and I guarantee you'll hear what you said. Put a stumbling block before yourself and watch as you trip yourself up until you learn to walk around your own stumbling blocks.

Man is incorrigible. He hears and sees only what he wants others to see and hear. His serpent is truly beguiling. But make him bend over backwards to peer up his own anus, and he'll quickly tell you he's not made that way. His imagination is stiffer than any stiff-necked Israelite in The Book of Exodus.

Wisdom grows. Generosity spreads. But love is eternally here and now. This is why Christians have taught us to measure time subjectively from the heart. Objectivity is the essence of our container. Subjectivity is the essence of our contents. Generosity is the result of our faith in ourselves.

The Hebrew expression that corresponds to the English expression "to pay attention" is "SIM LEV." It literally means to put your heart into what you're doing. Love is eternal because without love, there would be no way for us to pay attention or put our heart into what we're doing. Wisdom grows and generosity spreads only because we have the ability to love what we're doing. Unfortunately, people are easily distracted from what they're doing. Their love flashes in fits and spurts. It's not constant even though it's only nearby. And their ability to remain in the now is equally furtive.

³⁰⁰ Just this morning I spilled some Miralax on the kitchen counter and worried about ants eating it and getting diarrhea.

To see **GOD's** merciful nature in having saved my father in the Holocaust, I had to perceive myself differently. As a survivor of Dachau Concentration Camp, my father walked through a “hellish” fire spoken created by the **CHRISTIANS**. Jews like me who are the descendants of the Holocaust will see to it that the fire *Muslims* have planned for Israel will be met with much greater force. We know we’ve got **GOD** on our side.

If we don’t feel sorry for what others are having to go through, we’ll never produce the compassion we need to love ourselves more. If we don’t also feel sorry for ourselves for what we’ve already had to go through, we’ll never produce the knowledge we need to love ourselves more than we do now.

“Empathy” is your ability to feel for others’ feelings. Can you feel for Hud, a prophet who lived 2,000 years before the Prophet? Can you feel for someone who did one thing right even though he did some things wrong? Can you have empathy for someone like me and you?

Surah 12

Joseph

The WORD “YOSEF” means “to add/supplement.” Joseph was the 11th of Jacob’s sons, the only one born (at the beginning of this story) from Jacob’s second and favorite wife, Rachel. Six of the other ten sons were conceived with Rachel’s older sister, Leah. (The other four were conceived with “handmaids.”)

Leah had been dumped on Jacob by Leban, Jacob’s father-in-law (and maternal uncle: Leah and Rebecca’s father). Leah wasn’t the bride Jacob dreamed of or the daughter who’d been promised him. He’d been promised Leah’s younger sister, Rachel. From the moment of conception, Jacob’s sons through Leah and her handmaidens couldn’t receive all their father’s blessings. The apple of Jacob’s eye was his other first cousin and wife, Rachel.

These ten sons of Jacob felt their father overlooked them in favor of Joseph, which would explain, psychologically, why they tormented Joseph and eventually attempted to kill him. They were jealous of the way their father favored his mother.

Because Jacob saw that Joseph had a special gift of interpreting dreams and because Joseph treated his parents {Jacob and Rachel} with exceptional love and admiration, Jacob bought him a coat of many colors. That coat can be taken literally as a token of love, but it can also be interpreted as the materialization of the rainbow GOD bestowed upon Noah. That coat was symbolic of a paternal embrace this father enveloped this son in alone.

So, when Joseph’s half-brothers decided not to kill him, but to sell him instead into slavery, they brought back his coat splattered with pig’s blood as evidence of Joseph’s demise. But their behavior stood for far more than an unfortunate accident. They figuratively splashed tragedy over GOD’s rainbow of hope with their black deed.

We can now perceive Joseph’s coat splattered with blood as an early Hebraic symbol of heartbreak, hopelessness and despair. Ten brothers conspired and against one half-brother for no other reason than jealousy and envy at how GOD had “cursed” the ten of them right from birth. [Genesis 37]

The rainbow of promise in Judaism returned in Christianity through Christ who became the next level of YOSEF {addition, supplement} that would complement man’s animalistic nature with a godlier nature. Joseph was given a coat of many colors that symbolized his father’s love for him. Jesus was the personification of that hope in the flesh. Jesus personifies the promise of the rainbow that envelops every Christian, a hope brought down directly from “heaven” for them to wear in their own ways.

The blood HE shed on the cross is seen as a sign of the glory of GOD fulfilled, the promise of love given freely for mankind. According to Christian belief, Jesus was the willing ONE, the ONE who sacrificed HIMSELF to augment the hope and promise GOD had brought into the world through the rainbow and the coat of many colors in Genesis.

The Quran has taken us from Surah 10, Jonah {the reluctant prophet}, to Surah 11, Hud, (the bold and truthful prophet) to this surah on Joseph, {the everyday Jew who prophesized extraordinary things in his time}. Joseph wore his father’s love like a seal or a shield, but it was defiled by his own brothers. The Joseph of the Quran brings even further elucidation of the need for brotherly love.

*“Joseph said to his father,
‘I dreamed of eleven stars and the sun and the moon.
I saw them prostrate themselves before me.’”*
[12:4] ³⁰¹

“Joseph said to his father,
‘I dreamed of eleven stars and the sun and the moon.
I saw them prostrate themselves before me.’”

Joseph couldn't have known it at the time he made that prophesy, but his parents would later conceive a twelfth son, Benjamin. And it eventually did come true that all 11 of his siblings {ten half-brothers and one full brother} ended up literally bowing down before him when he later became a viceroy in ancient Egypt. In both Torah and the Quran, Joseph's prophesy of his power came true. (Whether or not a Joseph in today's world can learn to humble himself before his own power is of no concern to JEWS, CHRISTIANS or *Muslims*. Each of them sees himself as the sun and the moon in their GOD's/GOD's/*God's* eyes.)

But I would say that Jacob was like the sun and Rachel was like to moon to Joseph. I'd say his brothers were like stars that lit up his night sky. But I'd also say that he was a mystic who saw his family as “heavenly” bodies that revolved around him. (Joseph may have projected his family onto the night sky, but that still begs the question how he saw himself in relation to them.)

The irony of a dreamer like Joseph dreaming that his parents and siblings would someday prostrate themselves before him isn't new anymore. Every young dreamer fantasizes that something like that might someday happen for him. He just can't know how his dreams will become realized in the world around him, or when.

The answer to such a question lies in **GOD's** hands, our **FATHER**, not Joseph's father, Jacob. This is a tantalizing part of the mystery in being able to perceive the mystery of your life and your part in making it turn out in a way that will honor everyone. This is the mystery of identifying as a man who sees in the character of Joseph someone like himself.

³⁰¹ In Genesis, Joseph had two dreams. The first was, “WE WERE BINDING SHEAVES OF GRAIN OUT IN THE FIELD WHEN SUDDENLY MY SHEAF ROSE AND STOOD UPRIGHT, WHILE YOUR SHEAVES GATHERED AROUND MINE AND BOWED DOWN TO IT.” [Genesis 37:7] The second dream was, “I HAD ANOTHER DREAM, AND THIS TIME THE SUN AND MOON AND ELEVEN STARS WERE BOWING DOWN TO ME.” [Genesis 37:9] In my modern version of Joseph's dream, the sun {Christianity }, the moon {Judaism} and the stars {Islam} (the three manifestations of religious enlightenment) would bow down him. This personalizes the message as the heart, the head and the soul eventually bowing down to Scripture. But man's defiance of reality will always hold out for autonomy over **GOD's** spiritual system. And the whole Earth will have to suffer for it.

*“Surely in Joseph and his brothers
there are signs for doubting men.”*

[12:8]

*“Surely in Joseph and his brothers
there are signs for doubting men.”*

Doubting men today ought to make the stories of Joseph in Torah and the Quran personal, not literal, since this story began 5,780 years ago. It personalizes the process of searching for a dreamer who can unlock the mystery of your life. Without you acting as your own personal prophet who will supplement Scripture by tailoring it to your life? You must clothe yourself in your coat of many colors. You must father yourself if you wish to come to know our **FATHER**.

You should enter your house of faith on the ground floor (Judaism) and then move up to the second (Christianity) and third (Islam) stories. Only a thief would scale the building from the outside to make his way in. You must look at evolution as **GOD** having cleared the ground for his edifice of faith. You must look at the indigenist world as **HIS** foundation; Judaism as HIS ground floor; Christianity as **HIS** second story; and Islam as *His* third story penthouse with a view out onto it all.

In the story of the “Sorcerer’s Apprentice,” the apprentice takes the book of magic and uses it without knowing what he’s doing. And when the sorcerer returns, the sorcerer reverses all the spells the apprentice misused in his infantile, childish and juvenile effort to create brooms that would do all his work for him.

The lazy apprentice today relies on others to produce results for him. He misuses the metaphor of life as a skill; himself as an apprentice; and **GOD** as his master. He takes advantage of technology and science that others have created. He uses other sorcerers’ magic to advance his own ends without understanding the power of their spells. And then he gets very agitated when the brooms he’s appropriated create only worse problems for him. You can’t sweep away a flood that’s drowning you inside no matter how many brooms you use.

In every Joseph today there are signs for inquiring minds. But you must personalize the process of going from an ancient Joseph (3,400 B.C.) to an early Joseph (0 C.E.) to a Byzantine Joseph (700 C.E.) to a contemporary-day Joseph who came into the world the day you were born. You must learn how to see yourself as an apprentice before a **SORCERER**. You must learn how to spell the word “magic” from within. ³⁰²

*“One of the brothers said,
‘Do not slay Joseph;
but if you must,
rather cast him into a dark pit.*

³⁰² Hint: Magic is another word for fire. The fire around us is a clue to the fire within.

Some caravan will take him up”
[12:10]

“One of the brothers said,
‘Do not slay Joseph;
but if you must,
rather cast him into a dark pit.
Some caravan will take him up’”

You’re that Joseph. You’ve been cast into a dark pit many times. And some caravan has always taken you up and brought you to another Egypt. Surely by now you can see your fate (if not your destiny).

The name of the brother who made the suggestion to sell Joseph rather than kill him was Judah. He was the fourth son of Jacob and Leah. “JUDAH” means “thankful.” The Jewish people {JEHUDIM} are named after Judah, not Joseph because we made so many mistakes historically; then paid such a high price; and then had to learn from the mistakes we made. We’re well acquainted with the story, “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice.” We tried to take many shortcuts and failed.

Jews are taught to be thankful to GOD because HE gives us the opportunity to become wiser, more loving and devoted to life over time. The longer we’ve been students in **HIS** classes, the more obvious it’s become that *our* good name is more important than **HIS**. We won’t let anyone take our good name in vain anymore because that would mean that we’re taking our name in vain as well. We’re not thankful.

Most will encourage you to bless GOD/GOD/*God*. They’ll lecture you *ad nauseum* about who GOD/GOD/*God* is to them, and what HE/He/*He* wants *you* to do to make *them* happy with you. Few, if any, will encourage you to bless yourself.

But, I say, if you’ve got a conscience, you might as well use it on you. **GOD** only knows what you’re going to do with it when you leave here and have to present yourself before **HIM** intellectually nude, emotionally naked and spiritually exposed. Having used your life to promote GOD’s/GOD’s/*God*’s good name is the last excuse you’re going to be able to use to justify your bad behavior. Who wants compliments from a criminal who steals forbidden fruit? It would be better if you worked on promoting your own good name than **HIS**.

Joseph was a victim of his own naiveté, and he was a martyr to his own god-like ego. He boasted unabashedly about his talents instead of using them to help each of his brothers unlock the mystery to being himself. He dreamed about a destiny of superiority over his siblings, and then foolishly described it to them, which only frightened each of them into worrying about his own fate. If not for **GOD** surreptitiously helping him, Joseph surely would have been lost.

Experience and **GOD's** grace is all we really need to become someone who'll add to other peoples' dreams of achieving their destiny. ³⁰³ There's no need for us to tell others how condescendingly we look down on them. That they're smart enough to presume.

The Jewish people have proved to ourselves that we're dependent on GOD to teach us wisdom. But we're also indirectly dependent on GOD to teach us love, as well as depend on *God* to teach us devotion. How will we redeem ourselves without all the clues **GOD** gives us? Everyone's lessons from **GOD** have influenced us in the past, and our lessons have influenced them. How else could we believe in redemption without believing in "heaven" or "hell" for everyone *other* than us? Not everything we know lies in our head. There must be some good reason for hearts and souls.

We can't all be gifted like Joseph with the ability to interpret dreams, or like his father, Jacob, who was gifted in receiving dreams directly from GOD. Jacob may have had a dream of a ladder to "heaven" in Torah, but you're the Joseph who personifies the first rung of that ladder. You're the first angel in disguise to ascend and descend from his father's ladder with a dream of a better world for your offspring and for the "world to come."

*"We revealed to him Our will,
saying,
'You shall tell them of all this when they will not know you.'"*
[12:16] ³⁰⁴

"wE revealed to him OUR will,
saying,
"YOU SHALL TELL THEM OF ALL THIS WHEN THEY WILL NOT KNOW YOU."

In the same way that Joseph's brothers didn't recognize him when they stood before him years later in ancient Egypt, **GOD** conceals the truth from those whose intentions aren't fair until **HE**'s ready to reveal the truth to them. (Even Joseph had to wait until GOD brought his brothers to him before he could become a messenger of truth and forgiveness to his family.) All knowledge lies in **GOD's** hands, even if our puny head, shriveled heart and darkened soul believe otherwise. ³⁰⁵

³⁰³ I'm using the word destiny to refer to the outcomes of our inner world, the filling process Jesus and the Prophet referred to that makes our contents more valuable than our comforts.

³⁰⁴ **GOD** revealed **HIS** will to Joseph. In modern terminology, we say that people look for their mission in life.

³⁰⁵ All forbidden fruit grows out of the twigs on your branches precisely where **GOD** decides **HE** wants them to be. We usually begin with picking our low-hanging fruit, but we slowly make our way further up our branches, discovering more about ourselves as **HE** wills it.

Joseph revealed the other, older, more experienced side of himself after his trials and tribulations in ancient Egypt had taught him to look back on the Joseph he'd been as a child. Most of us achieve this perspective over time, too. We can't do better until **GOD** allows us to do better. And **HE** doesn't allow us to do better until we prove to **HIM** we're ready to grow up. We have the freewill to use our will freely or to abuse it autonomously. Without pain and suffering we wouldn't be able to appreciate these incremental augmentations in our spiritual abilities. Never complain to **GOD** about what **HE**'s putting you through. Only ask good questions of **HIM** you've tried, and failed, to answer yourself.

*“Thus We established Joseph in the land,
and taught him to interpret dreams.
God has power over all things.
We bestowed upon him wisdom and knowledge.
Thus do We reward the righteous.”*
[12:22]

“THUS WE ESTABLISHED JOSEPH IN THE LAND,
AND TAUGHT HIM TO INTERPRET DREAMS.
GOD has power over all things.
WE BESTOWED UPON HIM WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE.
Thus do **WE** reward the righteous.”

The WORD “YOSEF” becomes more meaningful when you realize that all righteous men today are Josephs who are being rewarded with wisdom if they mix love and devotion to their personal experiences before they offer their conclusions up to **GOD**.

The righteous will then ascend out of this world with more than when they entered it, and the wicked will descend with less. The next set of students will enter this world with screams of hatred at birth in having to be born that will hopefully reach a crescendo of love and devotion to life in their lifetime. And those who only wish to whimper about their homework and tests will see to it that they find some excuse to leave school sooner rather than later. And as long as they all pursue their desires quietly, I'm fine with that. If you don't like to learn, get yourself expelled from school, if, for no other reason, than to give your seat to someone who'll appreciate it.

*“Joseph replied,
‘Whatever food you are proved with,
I can divine for you its meaning
even before it reaches you.
This knowledge my Lord has given me,*

*for I have left the faith of those
who disbelieve in God and deny the life to come.
I follow the faith of my forefathers,
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
We will serve no idols beside God.
Such is the grace that God has bestowed on us and on all mankind.’
Yet most men do not give thanks.”
[12:37-39]*

*“Joseph replied,
‘Whatever food you are proved with,
I can divine for you its meaning
even before it reaches you.
This knowledge my Lord has given me,
for I have left the faith of those
who disbelieve in GOD and deny the ‘life to come.’
I follow the faith of my forefathers,
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
We will serve no idols beside GOD.
Such is the grace that GOD has bestowed on us and on all mankind.’
Yet most men do not give thanks.”*

No man wants to feel like Ishmael, a wild donkey of a man and an outcast in his father’s house. No woman wants to see her son treated poorly by his father, as did both Hagar and Sarah. We all need to force ourselves to go beyond our parents by putting our choices into new ways of behaving more civilly than they could.

We see in *Islamic* terrorists that the value of life has diminished in the *Muslim* world. But to blame the Jews for that would be ludicrous. To blame blacks because this world is filled with people with black hearts would be nonsensical. To blame women because men project the feminine, intuitive side of themselves out onto the world we share would be ridiculous. And to blame the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community because of the perverted desires of others to screw the world would be utterly preposterous. These projections of your solutions indicate that you’re blaming someone else’s GOD/GOD/*God*, in order not to blame your own GOD, GOD or *God*. And that’s really a convoluted way of not blaming yourself.

*“God does not guide the mischief of the treacherous.”
[12:52]*

“GOD does not guide the mischief of the treacherous.”

There are many foolish and hateful people in this world, and they're not all JEWS and CHRISTIANS. There are many who are treacherous without even knowing it, and not all of them are *Muslims*. Those who cut spiritual corners by avoiding self-discovery become foolish, hateful and treacherous, regardless of their faith. They become a danger to society regardless of the society they keep.

Islam is a peaceful religion that builds upon the virtues of the previous Abrahamic faiths. Those whose heads are undisciplined become radicalized by their foolishness. Those whose hearts are hardened become radicalized by their hatred. And those whose conscience is undeveloped become radicalized by their treachery. Parts of you may be terrorizing other parts of you without you even knowing it.

*“They said,
‘If he has stolen,
know then that a brother of his has stolen before him.’”
[12:77] ³⁰⁶*

*“They said,
‘If he has stolen,
know then that a brother of his has stolen before him.’”*

We're all the descendants of thieves {Adam and Eve}. We all know that knowledge belongs to the Lord. If you want knowledge, you should ask for it through prayer and earn ways to appreciate what you've been given. If you don't use knowledge for the good, either your achievements will be taken away from you, or you'll pay for what you know with pain or suffering. If you want to get back something you lost or was taken from you, you'll need to look deeply within for the cause of your loss. And then you'll want to apologize and atone for your errors of judgment. **GOD** has power over all things.” [Quran 5:17]

It's always those with little faith and even less desire to give thanks who'll corner you with hard questions that have easy answers. If your brother has stolen something, know that you've stolen, too. In your brother's literal crimes, **GOD** is giving you a clue to the figurative thefts of your own. None of **GOD's** apples falls far from the Tree.

*“‘I am Joseph,’
he answered.
‘And this is my brother.
God has been gracious to us.
Those that keep from evil*

³⁰⁶ Said by Joseph's brothers to defend their little brother, Benjamin, who Joseph accused of stealing. The brother they're blaming is Joseph who they thought had stolen their reputation out from under them. Little did they know they were telling all this to Joseph himself.

*and endure with fortitude,
God will not deny them their reward.”*
[12:90]

“‘I am Joseph,’
he answered.
‘And this is my brother.
GOD has been gracious to us.
Those that keep from evil
and endure with fortitude,
GOD will not deny them their reward.’” ³⁰⁷

Here the Quran expands upon the idea of brothers in Torah who ganged up, ten against one, out of jealousy and envy because of something Joseph was given by GOD that they were not. Their cause was unjust from the start. It was grounded in bitterness, jealousy and a desire for revenge. Granted, Joseph was a little full of himself. (All young men are.) Granted their father, Jacob, showed more love for Joseph than his other sons. (All fathers show favoritism from time to time.) But that doesn’t change the fact that even in those days, GOD had to teach man the consequences of bad behavior.

Bad behavior is a sign of a moral illness. Outwardly, we can only judge others by their behavior. But inwardly, we can all judge ourselves by that, and much more. It behooves us all to watch our behavior because it will give us clues to our moral transgressions against ourselves.

GOD is merciful because **HE** teaches everyone, without exception. (HE even taught the ancient Egyptians to open their hearts to the Hebrus, albeit with plagues.) **GOD** is benevolent because **HE** gifts us with more knowledge as we deserve to receive it – not necessarily when we think we’re ready for it or when we say we need it *now*!

“‘By the Lord,’
they said,
‘God has exalted you above us all.
We have indeed done wrong.’”
[12:91] ³⁰⁸

“‘By the Lord,’
they said,
‘GOD has exalted you above us all.
We have indeed done wrong.’”

³⁰⁷ Think of fortitude as a strength and perseverance that comes when you’re learning how to handle fire as though it were magic. Until you can manage the powers within you with greater skill, expect more in the way of precarious results. Fortitude takes practice.

³⁰⁸ Joseph’s brothers admitted that GOD had exalted him above them.

It wasn't just Judah alone who repented. It was all ten of the brothers. When a whole family goes in a better direction by repenting for their errors of judgment, the blessings of all their names are augmented. The 12 sons of Jacob were blessed by GOD, as were the names of the Twelve Tribes of Israel later. This is why *God* chose to include their story in the Quran.³⁰⁹

All attempts to destroy Israel are attempts to destroy GOD's intentions. But it's obvious *Muslims* aren't going to stop there. After that, they're going to try to destroy GOD's intentions. What good is loyalty to *God* if you lose your self-respect in attempting to give your loyalty to *Him* instead of to us all? What good is destroying the ground floor and the second story of a building if you plan to live in the penthouse? Yet some insist on building castles in the sky.

What good is cutting off a man's head or cutting out his heart to save his soul? This is **GOD's** job. And **HE** does it far more elegantly than you'll ever succeed in doing so. Let **HIM** cut each one of us off from our head, heart and soul. **HE** knows how to reattach us in ways you can't imagine.

*"He replied,
'None shall reproach you this day.
May God forgive you:
Of all those that show mercy
He is the most merciful"
[12:92]*³¹⁰

"He replied,
'None shall reproach you this day.
may GOD forgive you:
of all those that show mercy he is the most merciful"

That merciful nature was brought down to Earth by Jesus so that others could recreate it in themselves. *Muslims* aren't known for their mercy. But neither are **CHRISTIANS**. For that matter, from a gay perspective, **JEWS** aren't merciful either. Either you've been shown how to show mercy, or you haven't. Either you've chosen to express that mercy to others who aren't like you, or you haven't.

Your teachers at school didn't expect you to have the answer before they taught you the lesson. You were only expected to study until you could understand the topic and apply the lessons to the test. **GOD** shows us that **HE**'s merciful through **HIS** willingness to teach

³⁰⁹ The Twelve Tribes of Israel are named after Jacob, whose name GOD changed to Israel. The tribes were named after ten of his sons, The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh were named after Joseph's sons.

³¹⁰ Joseph replied to his brothers that **GOD** is more merciful than man.

us how to use our inner forces for the good of all. Nobody said it would be easy to learn, especially when each one of us has desires that tempt us to go in other directions. But when we personalize the Abrahamic faiths, our **CREATOR's** intentions give us greater ability to make sense of what's going on around us.

Joseph was willing to forgive his brothers because he'd been through lessons of life that brought him greater understanding of GOD than they had. He had a special place in his heart for Benjamin, who was Rachel and Jacob's 12th son, Joseph's full brother. And Joseph had a soulful regard for his other ten half-brothers. From these new allegiances, he must have concluded that **GOD** may be greater than the GOD his family believed in.

“Lord,
You have given me authority
and taught me to interpret dreams.
Creator of the heavens and the earth,
my guardian in this world
and in the world to come!
Allow me to die in submission,
and admit me among the righteous.”
[12:101] ³¹¹

“Lord,
YOU have given me authority
and taught me to interpret dreams.
CREATOR of the heavens and the Earth,
my GUARDIAN in this world
and in the ‘world to come!’
Allow me to die in submission,
and admit me among the righteous.”

You, too, have the right to be wrong. But you have no right to *do* wrong. You'll pay for your unwillingness to submit to **GOD's** will. You're not going to get away with blaming the devil for having tempted you to take out your frustrations with you on others. You become a devil in a disguise when you're in denial. You become a fallen angel who's defying **GOD** when you make dogmatic claims about your GOD/GOD/*God* in defiance of our **GOD**.

³¹¹ For Muslims submission begins with submission to the *words* of the Prophet and the tenets of the Quran. For Christians, submission begins with submission to the rights of the poor, disenfranchised and transgendered. And for the Jews, submission begins with submission to the rights of all the people living in the State of Israel. All of your submissions will precede you before **GOD**, lessening your tendency toward defiance.

We've all been tempted, and we're all fallen angels looking to earn our wings to make our way back into **GOD's** good graces. That's just another way of saying that we're all students enrolled in a school. If you hate **GOD** for making it so hard for you, give yourself a pat on the back because the atheists and agnostics don't have the heart to do even that for themselves. (Rarely, however, do atheists or agnostics kill Jews or gay people.) It's usually male, true believers who make the most egregious mistakes about **GOD**.

Many older, true believers are afraid of **GOD**, and, therefore, superstitious. Many of them are angry at the world because they intuitively know it would be a bad idea at their advanced age to get angry at **HIM**. Many secretly and sorrowfully cry themselves to sleep because self-pity is their only friend. Few of their children have the loyalty to them or devotion to righteousness needed not to raise their fist to injustice when they see their mother or father suffering.

It's hard to bear other people's suffering if you love them. It's sometimes worse to see someone you love suffer than to go through suffering yourself. In this way, **GOD** is attending to your spiritual education by making you aware of some of your misplaced priorities. The suffering of those you love is one of the greatest challenges to true faith.

That's when those of little faith reinforce their conviction that someone here on Earth must pay for their parents' suffering. That's when the crazies cut corners by blaming gays and Jews instead of catching the criminally insane and forcing them to serve justice. And when the crazies can't blame us, they're forced to blame one another. In this way, evil eats itself up. In this way political walls crack and tumble to the ground. In this way family ties are untied and people drift apart.

What if all the evil in you grows if you refrain from spreading it around you? What if when you die, **GOD** measures the evil in you and rewards you for it, knowing full well from that how much goodness you spread around you instead?

What better response is there if you love your life and those closest to you than to give all your hatred and desire for revenge up to **GOD**? What else can you do with feelings so deep that you don't want another living human being to have to suffer them – including you? Hating what **GOD** has allowed this world to turn into becomes the essential intimacy you achieve when you've come so close to yourself that you want to share everything you want to rid yourself of with **HIM**.

Don't be afraid of your devotion to those you love; but don't forget to include yourself in with that devotion. Give all you've got to **GOD** with all the emotionality you can muster to be sincere to **HIM**. Don't hold back negative feelings from **HIM** or your reasons for feeling as hateful as you do. Demand, if you must, that **HE** show you the way **HE** has designed for you to help stop the criminally insane part of yourself before it reaches through your skin to your hands. Your mental illness can be healed; your emotional wellbeing can be secured; spiritual promises made to you can be fulfilled.

Just don't excuse, forgive or exonerate society for every little thing that happens to you. Hold people accountable for what you go through mentally, emotionally and spiritually, but do so respectfully and without anger. Pray for elucidation for every stick you're hit

with. The carrots will take care of themselves in time. Now you need to know what you can learn from **GOD's** indirect sticks wielded by others' hands. Everything you go through directly or indirectly comes from **GOD**. And let's see if you learn from these assignments without creating scapegoats.

The man who has big dreams will become a Joseph until himself who'll want to learn how to interpret his own dreams to actualize them with less pain than Joseph had to go through in Torah and less suffering than he had to go through as his story was reinterpreted in the Quran. It's only in internal submission to **GOD's** spiritual process that every Joseph today can begin the pursuit of wisdom, graduate to the pursuit of love and, lastly, embrace the pursuit of self-devotion in the new light of a new age.

The man who can leave his extreme feelings of selfishness at one end of his heart and selflessness at the other will discover what it means to be self-centering from within. The man who can receive the gifts of Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Muhammad will walk in Their ways.

*"Many are the marvels of the heavens and the earth;
yet they pass them by and pay no heed to them.
The greater part of them believe in God
only if they can worship other gods besides Him."
[12:6-7]*

"Many are the marvels of the 'heavens' and the Earth;
yet they pass them by and pay no heed to them.
The greater part of them believe in **GOD**
only if they can worship other gods besides **HIM**."

Many millennia ago, men had the choice of worshipping other gods. That is no longer the case. Today, people worship their golden calves instead. They dance around idols of their own choosing. Even **GOD/GOD/Gođ** has become like a Golden Calf. In spiritual terms, we'd say they "edge **Gođ** out" with their e.g.o. In modern, religious terms, we'd say they're beguiled by their serpent or worm. In psychological terms, we'd say they've got an addictive, personality disorder.

There's actually nothing else to pursue in life besides you. Your awareness of **GOD** will grow as your awareness of you grows. But **HE**'s a witness to what you're doing. **HE**'s the only **ONE** who's known you from start to finish. Today, most men pursue more than the comforts of their body. They pursue excesses of the body. They eat too much, drink too much, shop too much, and look for sensations from alcohol, drugs and sex that their conscience isn't evolved enough to stop them from pursuing to excess.

The criminally insane dance around external powers and sensations, not realizing they've become hollow within. The devil in their underwear has made its way past their

head and heart and into their soul. And we see people doing unspeakable things in this world because of it.

Those who are criminally insane don't dare bellow like the Golden Calf when they're caught, even though they're just as hollow inside. They hire lawyers to bellow for them, while sitting quietly by, hoping their gold will speak for them.

We should bellow when the winds of unrighteousness blow through us. We should express self-righteous indignation when we perceive we're being treated like cattle about to be slaughtered. We should cry out like Abel from the ground of our being when our blood is spilled out of jealousy and vengeance. We're commanded to cry out to GOD, GOD or *God* for justice. But until we cry out to **GOD** for redemption, don't expect to understand the difference between what's unjust and what's unfair.

When you're an only child, there's no sibling before or after you to covet your parents' love. But that changes when there's more than one child in the family. Suddenly you have either admiration or displeasure for each and every one of your siblings. Suddenly you scheme for a finite amount of parental love. You develop a need to divide, control or augment what you got.

Each sibling may happily select virtues or greedily grab vices he sees in his parents that will get his existence reinforced by them in childhood. But after the passage of puberty, you and your siblings come to realize you're each on your own. What you do after your ark reaches safe haven and you've let out the animals you kept on board for all those years is up to you. Once the flood recedes in late puberty, there's no going back.

Did you ever find yourself attracted to a member of your gender because you thought that if you looked like him or her, you'd be more desirable? Did you ever bet that if you dressed or acted a certain way you'd magically have the power to plant your seeds wherever you wanted? Some fantasize about being fertile seeds {y}. Others fantasize about being fertile ground {x}. What difference does it make who you fantasize more like being? The essence of jealousy – wishing for a different container – is a minor sin. You were given the container you got to make the most of it, not to dream of being in a different one.

Although we think we might be able to achieve the power over others we seek if we looked different, we do so because we think we know what others are looking for. And to some extent that's true. There are physical types that have great influence in society. Hollywood movies and Paris fashion exist to magnify the illusion that we can change our container by dressing it up with clothing, gestures and lifestyles that will make us look more powerful in others' eyes.

The foolish think that getting the love and attention they want depends only on having a desirable container. Those who are a little smarter know that having a less than desirable container can be compensated for with more attractive contents. The wise make the best with what they've got by augmenting it from the inside out.

If you've resigned yourself to the body you were given, you're not the jealous type. But you could still be plagued with envy. Religious people are stereotypically more envious than jealous. They usually want to increase their inner worth because they hold no illusion of beautifying themselves outwardly. They're sometimes consumed with sexual fantasies in older age that they can no longer resist. It's not because their willpower has left them. It's not because satan has entered into a deal with them. It's because they never knew how they operated and finally grew out of spiritual childhood and can no longer resist the opportunity to learn about the drunken sensations that accompany puppy love.

Jealousy and envy are the essence of the 10th Commandment.³¹² If you don't get to know yourself, you're never going to look for reasons to love yourself. You're going to fight low self-esteem with self-recrimination based on disappointments and frustrations beyond your control. And you're going to seek to control others, especially scapegoats such as gays and Jews.

The Golden Calif in Exodus was hollow. It bellowed when the wind blew through it. Today's golden calves are just as shiny and bright on the outside as the idol the Israelites danced around so long ago. Such are the temptations of materialism and power over people that are followed by dramatic internal reactions to circumstances most find too difficult to control.

Addictions to people, places and things will drain you spiritually, leaving you empty inside. You'll end up dancing around yourself at a party-of-one. But many young criminals at heart think they've got forever before that will happen to them.

Generic love for yourself {selfishness} combined with romantic attachments to others {selflessness} won't heal your criminal mind, black heart and wayward conscience. Everyone idolizes greed and power to some extent, only in different ways. The only difference is that some lessons will leave you cynical, scornful and disgusted with yourself, and without experience you can't know which.

Some other students in this school become so cynical, scornful and disgusted with others that they break the laws of man; hurt their classmates; and mangle their conscience in despicable ways. This is the dividing line between frustration and exasperation.

I'm at a place now where I get up every morning with a modicum of eagerness to the blessings that will be built one upon the other in the day before me. And for the rest of that day I hope to continue that process by preparing a foundation for the next day that will make me a bit more eager to get up then. This is what hope looks like if you take it a day at a time.

Loving GOD/GOD/*God* is not the answer. GOD/GOD/*God* will sharpen your mind until the edge of your blade will make men bleed with your words. GOD/GOD/*God* will blacken your heart until it breaks others' hearts. And GOD/GOD/*God* will bend, twist and mangle your conscience until you have no soul left to speak of.

Love of GOD/GOD/*God* is the only answer the JEWS, CHRISTIANS and *Muslims* can offer you. Don't buy into it. Don't let your low self-esteem allow them to fool you. A flawed human being can hope to attain much more love for **GOD** by doing it another way.

Learn to love yourself wisely with the help of self-devotion. Then learn to use your love to redeem yourself yourself. Only then will you discover how deeply **GOD** loves you and stands by your side through every little thing you do.

If you do anything halfheartedly, you'll receive halfhearted rewards; and, in return, punishments {external clues} for the other, black half of your heart that isn't yet interested in lightening up. If you're not honest, sincere and authentic about what it is you desire,

³¹² "THOU SHALL NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S ASS; HIS WIFE; OR ANYTHING ELSE OF THY NEIGHBOR'S." Your neighbor's ass corresponds to his body and worldly possessions {jealousy}. His wife corresponds to his spiritual contents {envy}. Don't be jealous or envious of what **GOD** gives others. Covet, instead, what **HE** gave you. Eat your gold.

you're not going to make any sense at all out of all those precious beliefs you were taught to hold so dearly.

The Jews were given a garden in an indigenist desert that became the allotment on which they built an edifice to GOD. God later built a second story upon the first for all the world to enter through Torah to rise up to the Gospels. But *God*, in *His* infinite wisdom, didn't stop there. *He* built a penthouse on top of the second story where *He* gave the Muslims an outdoor esplanade with gardens, fountains, restaurants, playgrounds and theaters with an awesome view.

Anyone who breaks into your house or climbs over your fence to steal from your roof garden should be reeducated in how to enter through the front door by knocking or using the key given to them by **GOD**. We must work together to keep our Abrahamic neighborhood safe from thieves. Does it look like we're safe today? Does it look like we're working with our neighbors to add the word "respect" for others and their things to our vocabulary?

The criminally insane are all atheists, whether they know it, or not. No one who believes in **GOD** would dare do what they're doing to themselves, and others, whether or not they profess to believe in a **CREATOR**.

And the agnostics are merely baffled by all the evidence. Some agnostics refuse to believe the Jews. Some refuse to believe the Christians. And some agnostics will never be able to take the Muslims to heart after what the past 70 years have looked like. Why would you contradict an agnostic? They're smarter than you think. Give them good reasons to doubt the cynical conclusions they've come to.

Don't judge a man's beliefs by his words, gestures or lifestyle. Judge his beliefs by the way he conducts himself on moral matters. The more you excuse, forgive and exonerate others for their bad behavior, the guiltier you really feel about something *they*'re doing that unconsciously reminds you of a golden calf *you*'re still dancing around. The agnostic in you won't let you believe in you any more than you want to.

"Black is beautiful" was an idea I had to dance around until I realized that black was also the color of the guilt that envelops me every time I close my eyes. The white supremacists in America are addicted to white purity. The difference between a white supremacist and a CHRISTIAN is only one of degree. The more they dance around it like Israelites around the Golden Calf, the more they remind me to search ever deeper into my soul for that which taints my character. What little I know about my guilt shines through it like a milky way.

*"This is no invented tale,
but a confirmation of previous Scriptures,
an explanation of all things,
a guide and a blessing to true believers."
[12:112]*

*"This is no invented tale,
but a confirmation of previous Scriptures,*

an explanation of all things,
a guide and a blessing to true believers.”

Clearly the Prophet was greatly devoted to Torah and the Gospels. (He just didn’t know that much about *Nevi’im* and *Ketuvim*, the parts of Tanach that deal with the prophets and sacred writings.) He intuitively understood the subtleties of the designs **GOD** had already bestowed on us and was preparing Islam for it. He just couldn’t see the final stage of revelation for Western man. He couldn’t see what modern man would do with the fires that had been lit in the souls of the men of his time.

It was never **GOD’s** intention for *Muslims* to try to destroy the Jewish State. It was never **GOD’s** intention for *Muslims* to try to destroy all evidence of prior, civilizations before theirs. It was never **GOD’s** intention for *Muslims* to try to destroy all the magnificent contributions of Judeo-Christian society to humanity.

It wasn’t **HIS** intention to rid the Arabian lands of Jews, Christians and the Muslim scapegoat du jour. And it certainly isn’t **HIS** intention for *Muslims* to kill Muslims as is happening in the Middle East today. But when you play with fire, you’re sure to get burned. You’re going to need to learn to appreciate what you’re dealing with if you’re going to learn to atone to others and then seek redemption from **GOD** having used the fire to purify yourself.

The fanaticism of Nazism that was defeated in Christian Europe in the last century has raised its ugly head in *Islam*. As the modern-day Muslims slowly learn about the significance in avoiding certain aspects of history, they’ll see how members of their faith are recreating the same mistakes **CHRISTIANS** made in the recent past with Jews and the mistakes **JEWS** are still making with Jews.

Life is like a school. You are like a student. And your life is like an individualized curriculum tailor-made for this time in history. You are like a Joseph who has a mystical design you can’t fully see until it unfolds. But if you learn to add within, rather than subtract, you’ll see miracles unfold before your eyes.

Surah 13

Thunder

The WORD for “lightening” in Hebrew is {BARAK}. Lightening is always accompanied by thunder even though it sounds as if the thunder comes afterwards. Lightening seemingly without thunder is called “heat-lightening” because it occurs most often in the summer.

The thunder that came after “Barak” {lightening} was “Donald.” This was the sound of fury, signifying nothing.³¹³ This was the thunder after the illumination of Americans to the meaning of freedom, liberty and emancipation. This was the brief flash and rolling claps of noise that no one has been able to unite except the JEWS and the Russians. Recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel was a sign of much more importance than the sound of thunder.

As a gay man, I perceived Barak Obama as my Abraham Lincoln. He freed me. And the Democratic Party is, ironically, my party of Lincoln.³¹⁴ (As a Jew, I’m appalled at how he treated Israel, but as a gay man I feel that anyone who votes Republican is voting to put me back in chains.)

The Republicans were once worried about President Obama’s middle name, *Hussein*, but they weren’t worried enough to bother to look up what it means. It means “good,” “handsome” or “beautiful” in Arabic. What’s in a name?³¹⁵ “A ROSE/ROSE/*Rose* by any other name would smell as sweet” (even if one of them happens to stab you with its thorns).³¹⁶

Unless you find a way to entwine modernity in with your religion and personal beliefs, your fears will echo all around you like the thunder that seems to come after lightening – too late to do anything substantial about it. You’ll hear the WORDS of **GOD** after everyone else has seen evidence for them. And you’ll become more and more “frus tra ted” by a power that’s slipping through your fingers after the fact.

³¹³ “All our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle! Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.” [William Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, Act V, Scene 5]

³¹⁴ “On November 6, 1860, Lincoln was elected the 16th president of the United States. He was the first president from the Republican Party.” [Wikipedia]

³¹⁵ “‘Barack’ is an African name meaning ‘blessed.’ It is a form of both the Hebrew name BARUCH and the Arabic name *Mubarak*, which also mean ‘blessed.’ Another common spelling of the name is ‘Barak.’ Barak Obama’s given name was ‘Barry,’ an Irish word that means ‘spear.’ [Wikipedia] It’s just one of those inexplicable coincidences that he was given the name “BARAK” which means “lightening.”

³¹⁶ “A ROSE/ROSE/*Rose* by any other name would smell as sweet” From the play “*Romeo and Juliette*” by William Shakespeare in which Juliette argues that Romeo’s family origins would have no negative affect on the outcome of their love.

The criminally insane will die clinging to earthly power. The proof of **GOD** will come to them with fire after life since the fire in their own soul doesn't inspire them.³¹⁷

The key to peace can be found at the core of Christianity. Catholics eat GOD to cleanse their palette of having consumed forbidden fruit. Transubstantiation is the perfect way to avoid killing, raping, cheating, stealing, lying and coveting. If you ingest GOD-consciousness, you'll give yourself the spiritual nutrition you need to strengthen your soul. {But if you do it mindlessly, don't expect to see progress progress quickly. Rituals without righteousness produces wrongdoing.)

For all those who refuse to look at their soul as they would their body, I say if you're prepared to kill a man you ought to be prepared to eat him as well... Animals generally (granted, not always) kill only for food. Murderers are insane, but they'll tell you that they're not crazy enough to eat their victims. I disagree. I believe they're in denial of how crazy they are. If they followed their thoughts through their feelings into their conscience, they'd admit that they're almost insane enough to eat their victims to hide the evidence. Therefore, they need professional help to assist them in understanding how they've been conditioned to operate like savages.

The killing of Jesus was a useless and futile attempt to end HIS love. And the manner of HIS death spoke to the level of cruelty and vindictiveness in the Romans then; a level of hate that's still prevalent worldwide today. Jesus knew HIS death would be spiritually wasteful unless HE linked it to cannibalism. HE knew that by extending HIS murder to include eating HIS body, HE'd awaken man to the depth of his depravity.

That was a brilliant, GOD-inspired move that Catholics understand completely. The head, heart and soul of man is as hungry as his body. If we don't teach people to consume their hungers in healthy ways, we're going to see more treachery and horror. And people will conclude that the humanity of humanity will, forever, be out of their reach.

Today's *Muslim* extremists are cutting off the heads, genitals, hands and feet of their enemies. But they're not eating those parts of them. Not even the Nazis ate their Jewish captives (so far as we know). Although the Nazis were quite content to use Jewish skin for lampshades and Jewish fat to make soap, they arrogantly considered themselves too "civilized" to eat Jewish flesh. They were willing to use Jewish skin to reduce the glare of electric lighting and they were willing to wash their dirty body with Jews, but they wouldn't entertain the inevitable outcome they were moving toward. That direction signified "hell." Making this world "hell" on Earth for Jews is a recipe for eternal disaster. And it's become a recipe for "hell" on Earth.

Give me a modern-day Catholic who professes to eat GOD, but who refrains from breaking Commandments 6-10. Give me a Muslim who washes his feet before prayer because he knows his soul, not just the sole of each foot, is dirty.

³¹⁷ For those of us who believe in **GOD** the proof of **GOD's** existence comes with every stick that knocks us down. In every lesson we struggle with in life, there's the sting from something we thought we already knew that we're relieved to learn we were wrong about. The criminally insane have made a game out of playing with fire. But the masses know the meaning of the fire in their belly.

Contemporary totalitarians are spiritually insane, not evil. They're taking humanity in the wrong direction because they're crazy. **GOD** only knows what they're actually willing to do to destroy Israel; murder every Jew on Earth; disassemble democracy; and steal the "heavenly" rewards of a life well lived out from under good people. In the metaphor of life as a hospital, they're sick. And if you don't seek a doctorate degree in sound mental health, you're going to help turn this institution over to the sickest patients on the ward.

"Fake" news is only the tip of their spiritual iceberg. Real news comes from Scripture. But they're unwilling to read all about IT/IT/It.

Modern Jews aren't afraid of Islam. We know and accept Islam as the figurative, third child of **GOD**. We know Islam has been given to the world to teach us something new about ourselves. We celebrate others' faiths. Others' faith will only increase our faith. The L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community only has to worry about how they're going to interpret that faith, since we've seen how true believers can be easily tricked when they haven't been given a thorough spiritual education.

Anyone who doesn't use Torah like a man uses the ground floor of an apartment building to get to the story he lives on, will find himself scaling the building from the outside to get in. He'll cling to any drainpipe to make his way up; go in any window; and clutch any coin or architectural embellishment to get where he knows he must go.³¹⁸ Such are the calisthenics of hypocrites. The Abrahamic house is figuratively covered with gargoyles that are dying to get in. Let every gargoyle on a building remind you of what you don't want to do.

The expression "kiss me quick, I'm cuming" isn't what people say on their deathbed to insure that **GOD/GOD/God** loves them and will admit them to "heaven." Gays changed the word "come" to "cum" when referring to orgasm. Any English major who's studied Shakespeare knows that the words "death" and "dying" used to be used to refer to orgasm. Many of the proclamations of death in Elizabethan poetry were sexual, giving new possibility to **GOD**'s threats in Torah.³¹⁹ Love your neighbor because you're also a neighbor. Love yourself because you can't be anyone other than you. Love you because you're always cuming with you.

Gays are just as mystified by penises and clitorises as **JEWS**, **CHRISTIANS** and *Muslims*. Whether you're gay or straight, I suggest you take off your clothes in the privacy of your bathroom and take a good, close look at your penis or vagina and anus using a hand mirror. And while you do, give thought to what you're thinking. Give heart to what you're feeling. And weigh those thoughts and feelings in your conscience to determine if you were made in an image of **GOD** vastly different from any other person on Earth.

³¹⁸ A "coin" has an archaic meaning {corner, cornerstone or quoin}.

³¹⁹ Since Jews were given no reason from Scripture to believe in "heaven" or "hell," **GOD** chose to threaten us with death, instead. For all the edicts **HE** accused us of not following, **HE** proclaimed death would be our fate. Of course, (1) death is everyone's fate. And (2) denial of reality is a form of living death that everyone in this world figuratively suffers from and many succumb to.

Your lifestyle is just your style of living. If you want to fight over style, you know you've already lost your war with gay men. We've got more style than all of you put together...

To sit at the {SHULCHAN AROCH: long table} with gay-Jews, you're going to want to believe that every gay-Jew has already used that hand mirror many times. In fact, everyone at the table of our Lord already knows that everything under the table was created with the same care and attention to detail as everything you can see in the faces and upper body of the people seated around you. You can't hide your penis or clitoris from the look on your face. We look at one and see the other. Do you?

*"It was God who raised the heavens
without visible pillars.
He then ascended the throne
and pressed the sun and the moon into His service,
each pursuing an appointed course.
He ordained all things.
He makes plain His revelations
so that you may firmly believe in meeting your Lord."
[13:2-3]*

*"It was **GOD** who raised the 'heavens'
without visible pillars.
HĒ then ascended the throne
and pressed the sun and the moon into **HIS** service,
each pursuing an appointed course.
HĒ ordained all things.
HĒ makes plain **HIS** revelations
so that you may firmly believe in meeting your Lord."*

This kind of statement isn't in conflict with science. In fact, this statement will be expounded upon later in the Quran to create an inspired way to help true believers reconcile science and religion. There are sects of CHRISTIANITY that still defy science with a Biblical account of creation {stolen from Torah} that doesn't take Jews or Muslims into account as permanent parts of **GOD's** design. The fanatical CHRISTIANS try to use Torah as scientific truth instead of a spiritual foundation. Even many ultra-orthodox JEWS subscribe to this sort of spiritual ignorance of the universality of **GOD's** designs.

*"If anything could make you marvel,
then you should surely marvel at those who say,
'When we are dust,*

shall we be restored in a new creation?”

[13:5]

“If anything could make you marvel,
then you should surely marvel at those who say,
‘When we are dust,
shall we be restored in a new creation?’”

The Christian and Muslim concepts of “heaven” don’t exist in Judaism. We get what we need to improve our character, not what we’re told by others we’ve been promised. We hope for something akin to “eternal life,” but we have no literal evidence to support it. The only rational conclusion a sound mind can make is that our deeds will proceed us. The conclusions your heart and soul come to, will, of course, vary. But the more united your inner forces are, the more good you’ll be able to accomplish for yourself, and others.

Instead of ascribing to the idea of “heaven,” modern men and women pray to be allowed to be of service here on Earth so that they can better hope to be deserving of some sort of reward befitting them after life. Don’t let religious people tell you what you have to do to get where you’re going. Tell *them* what *you* need to do to get where you’re going. Tell them you may know better than them. Tell them that what they know of Moses, Jesus or the Prophet may be insufficient to help you and possibly even inadequate to help themselves.

The old-fashioned CHRISTIAN idea of earning chicken wings on your back and a harp in your hands as you float on clouds doesn’t appeal to many Christians anymore. And the Muslims idea of 72 virgins may sound good to horny, old, straight, Muslim men, but it doesn’t appeal to modern thinkers either. I wouldn’t even want 72 male virgins! I’m quite content to have sex only with my present partner for the duration of my journey. After that, we’ll see. Mark Twain suggested that “heaven” might be an eternal orgasm. My imagination is greater than either of these religious ideas of heartfelt and soulful options. My appetite for flying and fornicating has developed beyond the religious, narrow-minded possibilities for eternal life.

I find air turbulence nauseating. I wouldn’t want to live on a cloud. I’m not interested in being a member in an orchestra of harps. What cacophony! Modern men and women prefer to address their sex life during their lifetime, not hold off until after death to get that need met. Unless “heaven” has more to offer than flying and fornicating, I’m not planning on going with them on their journey to “heaven.” I’ll continue to use the metaphor of life as a school and imagine graduating here and moving on from this life to a good-paying job in the service of the **BOSS**. Whatever **HÆ** needs me to do, I’ll gladly do because I’ve already got most of my desires well under control.

That said, I spent an inordinate amount of time unconsciously trying to convince my mother and her second husband that I wasn’t GOD. They just adored me. I could say they even worshipped me. In a way I played Jesus, and they played Mary and Joseph. But that didn’t do any of us much good! There comes a point when you should strive to be *like* Jesus. You should give up your personification of the Lord and embrace the simile of the Lord.

If we spent less time arguing about the things we can’t prove, perhaps we could spend more time improving the things we can. The question of marriage equality has never been

more important or more pressing in Israel and worldwide. Maintaining religious dogmas in the modern era isn't going to serve anyone's interests in the long run. Catholics should be the first to call for free, liberated and emancipated love everywhere on Earth. They should hunger for love like they hunger for the Eucharist: the bread and the wine.³²⁰

*"The nonbelievers ask,
'Why has no sign been sent down to him by his Lord?
But you are only to give warning.
Every nation has its mentor.'"
[13:7]*

*"The nonbelievers ask,
'Why has no sign been sent down to him by his lord?
But you are only to give warning.
Every nation has its mentor.'"*

People are always looking for signs of **GOD's** presence, but they rarely look for signs of their own moral presence during every second of every minute of every hour of the day. They rarely try to mentor themselves. How can you be present in the here-and-now if you're distracted by your own doubts; frightened by your own shadow; and stepping on your own toes? How can you be present if you're deluded by your own dogma?

Until you answer the question of **GOD's** existence for yourself, your own existence will be a race to the starting line. Until you strive to know yourself better day-by-day, day-after-day, you're not going to discover any more about **GOD** or **HIS** designs. You're going to die screaming as loudly as you can at the injustice of it all. (You'll make a louder fuss the day you die than the day you were born. Infants in diapers from start to finish, all of them!)

You don't need to be *told* the difference between a JEW in small caps and a Jew with a capital "J." You don't need to be *shown* the difference between a CHRISTIAN in all caps and a Christian with a capital "C." And you don't need to study the Quran in Arabic or in a religious school in Pakistan to figure out the difference between a *Muslim* who's crazy and a *Muslim* who has the power to change the font of his faith from within. A WORD is worth a thousand pictures. I said it from the start.

*"God does not change a people's lot
unless they change what is in their hearts.
If God seeks to afflict them with a misfortune,*

³²⁰ You can train a dog with the Host to sit, beg and roll over. But that doesn't mean it's going to believe in GOD. A church without love for the synagogue and mosque is a waste of valuable time.

*none can ward it off.
Besides Him,
they have no protector.”*
[13:11]

“**GOD** does not change a people’s lot
unless they change what is in their hearts.
If **GOD** seeks to afflict them with a misfortune,
none can ward it off.
Besides **HIM**,
they have no **PROTECTOR**.”

The ancient Jews sacrificed animals to GOD for a thousand years before GOD was ready to allow them to sacrifice themselves through the guilt they, by then, knew so well. The ancient CHRISTIANS suffered for a GOD who’d been literally sacrificed on a cross in order to bring the meaning of love into their world. And the ancient Muslims sacrificed themselves in their own special ways to try to prove their devotion to *Allāh*. Would you tell me that the Tunisian fruit seller who sacrificed himself in 2011 and the 49 innocent bystanders who were sacrificed in an Orlando gay bar in 2016 died for different causes? Can you still not make connections from the outside in?

GOD definitely has designs. The Muslims in the Middle East are eventually going to recognize the State of Israel and the right of Muslims to have sex with members of either gender. They’re going to put a Star of David and a rainbow along with their Crescent and Star on their flags as a sign to the world that anyone who enters their borders will be welcome and protected. They’re going to guarantee the safety of Jews at one end of their social spectrum and the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community at the other. And anyone who’s elected into their democratic, Islamic state governments is going to swear allegiance to **GOD** to uphold the rights of the most marginalized and least tolerated among them, whether that’s a Sunni, Shiite, Kurd, Alawite or gay-Jew.

It’s a luxury in today’s world to be able to rely on **GOD** as your **PROTECTOR**. Most non-*Muslims* still don’t believe the Quran is part of the WORDS of **GOD**. They don’t yet understand the Quran deeply enough to make full use of it. Many would still rather pierce people with their penis or bend over to pacify others in myriad perverse positions than use their head, heart and soul independently. They’ll model any sort of spiritual contortion rather than look at what they’re doing to themselves. But that’s changing quickly. Self-awareness, not weapons, is our greatest weapon.

You’re really on your own, even if you think you have your faith, nation, community, family, fortune or social influences for protection. You never know what **GOD** might have in store for you. Good neighbors make good fences; good fences don’t make for good neighbors. If you want to get along with your neighbors, you’re going to want to build a

fence within yourself together with others. (Use the model of one man's ceiling is another man's floor.)

*"It is He who makes the lightening flash upon you,
inspiring you with fear and hope,
and gathers up the heavy clouds.
The thunder sounds his praise,
and the angels, too,
are in awe of Him.
He hurls His thunderbolts at whom He pleases.
Yet the nonbelievers wrangle about God.
Stern is His might."
[13:12-13]*

*"It is **HE** who makes the lightening flash upon you,
inspiring you with fear and hope,
and gathers up the heavy clouds.
The thunder sounds **HIS** praise,
and the angels, too,
are in awe of **HIM**.
HE hurls **HIS** thunderbolts at whom **HE** pleases.
Yet the nonbelievers wrangle about god.
Stern is **HIS** might."*

If you internalize the Quran to profess jihad on yourself, its description of the weather within will make a lot more sense to you than using the Quran to inflict jihad on others, including Israel. Don't distance yourself from the weather within you. The future of the weather around you lies within you. Stay cool. Remain sunny. Don't get hot under the collar.

Speaking in parable can be very helpful in making people understand the difference between their two worlds. ³²¹ Using the lessons of Scripture to elucidate the faults of others is only for practice before applying the lessons of Scripture to yourself. News, weather and sports, when personalized, can create miracles.

³²¹ A parable is a simple story that's used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson about others or a lesson in how to behave towards others. An inner parable is a simple story that's used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson in how to treat yourself. Your life will only become an inner parable if you can appreciate Torah, the Bible and Quran because you need to witness yourself from your head, heart and soul to appreciate the moral forces within you.

You've now passed my class on Spiritual Semantics. You now have the means {Spiritual Linguistics} and the way {Spiritual Semantics} to modify your self by yourself using Spiritual Psychology. You're now ready to learn how to fight those aspects of you that ignore the moral gravity of the thoughts, feelings, desires and beliefs that you ought to ponder as often as possible.

The Catholic Church recently decided to make the issue of inclusion of the L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community into the church a matter of individual conscience. They went through the same sort of moral evolution with the Jews after the Holocaust. Spreading the love of GOD will only occur to the degree that Christians earn the privilege of acknowledging **GOD's** reasons for GOD's ways. And if Muslims want to help unite the world along with Jews and Christians, they're going to find better ways of expressing *His* devotion.

You know that no one is going to risk asking forgiveness of anyone until they convince themselves they can be relieved of their guilt, regardless of their crime. It would be easier to sue **GOD** in a class-action suit for crimes against *our* humanity than to hope to squeeze an apology out of the criminally insane. Even those who are mentally and emotionally ill aren't going to apologize until you can convince them that they'd be crazy not to.

The pain and suffering of the planet will continue until you fix yourself and stop trying to fix people who are doing just fine without your help. **GOD** is watching you. But hardly anyone else can see where you came from or where you're headed from here. Only tomorrow will tell what you accomplished today.

The oceans and air are filling with more poison every day, and the plants and animals are perishing as good men and women try to make up their mind who's at fault and who's going to pay for the crime. No one is going to take responsibility for your crimes against your humanity.

*“To Him is the true prayer.
The idols to which the pagans pray give them no answers.
They are like a man who stretches out his hand to the water
and bids it rise to his mouth;
it cannot reach it.
Vain are the prayers of the nonbelievers.”
[13:14]*

*“To **HIM** is the true prayer.
The idols to which the pagans pray give them no answers.
They are like a man who stretches out his hand to the water
and bids it rise to his mouth;
it cannot reach it.
Vain are the prayers of the nonbelievers.”*

You're not a nonbeliever. If you've read this far in these books, it's because you're a believer who's curious to learn more about how you believe what you believe. It's because you want to achieve the power you hold in your testicles or ovaries without having to literally cut them out of your body and eat them... The literal meaning of words is only of use in science and technology. In all matters of interrelationships and faith you already know that figurative speech must be your guide.

They say we should use poetry to campaign and prose to rule. I suggest that you begin by using poetry to campaign for your own vote. (It only takes one vote to win!) And then use prose to rule over you.

I can't tell you anything about you that **GOD** doesn't yet want you to know. I can only tell you what I know about the world from what I've learned about me. If you don't want to take yourself more seriously, you won't. And if you only want to listen to yourself talk, you'll hear you, but you won't make much of an effort to listen. You've got as much of an inner audience as you need. When you deserve greater attention, you'll magically provide it.

If you cup your hands, reach down and bring water to your lips, you'll quench your thirst. But if you open your hands before they reach your mouth, you're going to end up with empty hands, dry lips and an embarrassing big spot on your lap.

Spiritually speaking, many yearn to be quenched, but refuse to see where the water has gone or what they're doing wrong in trying to receive it. We all go through the same figurative, slow, embarrassing steps in achieving our earthly education. Even believers aren't smart enough to understand **GOD's** ways without learning through trial and error. So, give yourself a break once in a while.

This brings me back to the story of "The Sorcerer's Apprentice." There's no way I can stop you from misusing your magic. But I can inspire you to put more faith in the magic you've taken without giving credit to its **SOURCE**. You can always go back to the "good book" you were given with new eyes. The more **WORDS** you learn, the more you'll be able to apply them to your faith.³²²

Like a technological appliance, you're sometimes going to run very low on juice {inspiration}. Sometimes you're even going to crash {get frustrated}. You may even suffer from viruses or other bugs {negative outside influences} that violate your integrity and mess up your operating system even more. You may find yourself having to reboot {go to sleep} and start over again. The greatest hacker {deceptive user} in your life is you. You have no idea how you've infiltrated yourself {with bad habits}, and how you're going to find ways to keep you from corrupting you {ruining your own reputation in your eyes}.

"Say:

*Why have you chosen other gods besides Him,
who,*

³²² The more linguistically and semantically powerful you become, the more able you'll be to write/right yourself. The only thing stopping you is impatience. But we'll work on that together beginning with composure.

*even to themselves,
can do neither good nor harm?”*
[13:15]

“Say:
‘Why have you chosen other gods besides **HIM**,
who,
even to themselves,
can do neither good nor harm?’”

When their energy is low, people don’t have enough memory to remember their own past when they most need it, let alone the memory of their own tribe. They seek other gods in the same way your cell phone constantly looks for a Wi-Fi signal unless you know where to go to turn off the roaming feature.

You’re not just an oral communication device like your ancestors were. Today’s modern interpretations of the Quran are like settings for your phone. We have great advancements in our spiritual hard drive that our ancestors could never have imagined in their wildest dreams. You can now customize {redeem} yourself to your personal needs. You can recharge {inspire} yourself anywhere at any time. You don’t need to wait for the Sabbath to make a trip to your inner wailing wall {the outer, inner edge of your soul}.

*“He sends down water from the sky,
which fills the riverbeds to overflowing,
so that the torrent bears a swelling foam
akin to that which rises from smelted ore
when men make ornaments and tools.
The scum is cast away,
but that which is of use to man remains behind.
Even thus God speaks in parables.”*
[13:17]

“**HE** sends down water from the sky,
which fills the riverbeds to overflowing,
so that the torrent bears a swelling foam
akin to that which rises from smelted ore
when men make ornaments and tools.
The scum is cast away,
but that which is of use to man remains behind.
Even thus **GOD** speaks in parables.”

This passage combines two metaphors, which you're expected to compare and contrast in yourself for yourself. The first is that of "riverbeds filled to overflowing." This refers to an emotional swelling of feelings. In Yiddish this feeling is called "verklemt." It physiologically refers to the feeling of being at the brink of tears, usually accompanied with a lump in your throat and a cracking of your voice. "Verklemt" literally means "so choked up with emotion that you're unable to speak" in the sense of being filled with a strange sensation you can't name. But the name of that physical sensation mixed with feeling is "joy." When your "cup runneth over" you're verklemt.

First, God send down water {brotherly love} from the sky, which filled the riverbeds in Israel to overflowing {Jesus opened the hearts of the ancient Jews}. Christians today are always verklemt about something. They're the sappiest trees in the forest...

The second metaphor refers to the spiritual process that cleanses the soul of impurities, leaving you with a sense of your inner beauty and appreciation of yourself as a useful tool that embellishes your life and the lives of others. "The scum is cast away, but that which is of use to man remains behind." What's left behind is the spiritual mettle that makes us stronger and more capable of righting every wrong.

When **GOD** created man in HIS image using the characters in the metaphor of the Creation story, **HE** placed Adam and Eve in a garden {reality}. Moses described the essence of that metaphoric process as ending in banishment from the garden. With wisdom and love, a man can appreciate the torrent of guilt he bears as a thief who continues to *take* reality for granted. He must learn devotion to himself in order to desire repentance. And he must use his faith in **GOD's** tools {wisdom, love and devotion} to actualize his redemption before the Lord. Only in this way will the promises of the life after this life, as described in the Bible and Quran, come true.

When you can see that Moses brought us the essence of metaphor in the Creation story, you'll admit that Jesus brought us the essence of parable through symbolism in the Gospels. And then you'll be able to appreciate how the Prophet Muhammad brought the essence of allegory through similes in this quotation of the Quran.

Man's mind is like a riverbed of intellectual rocks and sand that fills with emotions at certain times of year. His desires are like swelling foam that rises up out of his thoughts and feelings. "The scum is cast away, but that which is of use to man remains behind." His greatest desires are a byproduct of the spiritual process that creates tools he can use to further his understanding of how he was individually made. Such is the essence of awakening to the need for redemption.

*"Truly,
none will take heed but the wise:
those who keep faith with God and do not break His pledge,
who join together what God has bidden to be united;
who fear their Lord and dread the terrors of an evil reckoning;
who for the sake of God endure with fortitude,*

*attend to their prayers,
give alms in private and in public -
ward off evil with good.
These shall have the recompense of paradise.
They shall enter the gardens of Eden,
together with the righteous among their fathers,
their spouses,
and their descendants.
From every gate the angels will come in to them,
saying,
'Peace be to you for all that you have steadfast endured.
Blessed is the recompense of paradise.'*
[13:20-25]

“Truly,
none will take heed but the wise:
those who keep faith with **GOD** and do not break **HIS** pledge,
who join together what **GOD** has bidden to be united;
who fear their Lord and dread the terrors of an evil reckoning;
who for the sake of **GOD** endure with fortitude,
attend to their prayers,
give alms in private and in public –
ward off evil with good.
These shall have the recompense of ‘paradise.’
They shall enter the gardens of Eden,
together with the righteous among their fathers,
their spouses,
and their descendants.
From every gate the angels will come in to them,
saying,
‘Peace be to you for all that you have steadfast endured.
Blessed is the recompense of ‘paradise.’”

This may be hard for Muslims to appreciate on first reading. They don't have the blessings of the grape and grain {vine and grass} given to Christians. And Muslims don't have easy access to appreciation of their older, Jewish, spiritual brother's fruit-bearing tree.

Muslims must receive spiritual nourishment through a “pass over” of another kind. They fast for 30 days during Ramadan, eating only at night. They fast every 12 hours and then eat in the dark. Jews eat anytime they wish except for Yom Kippur when they fast for

24 hours.³²³ The nutritional sacrifice Christians make during Lent removes one kind of consumption for 40 days. They don't literally fast at all. How odd is **GOD**, and how awesome are **HIS** ways!

*"The nonbelievers ask,
'Why has no sign been sent down to him by his Lord?'"*
[13:26]

*"The nonbelievers ask,
'Why has no sign been sent down to him by his lord?'"*

GOD's signs become poetic after they've been prophetic. For Jews, the Age of Prophecy was closed more than 2,500 years ago. Today, Jews argue with JEWS over poetic rather than prosaic interpretations of scripture. No one in Israel has the stomach for any more prophets. If you read Torah as prose, you become "orthodox." If you read it for poetry, you become "conservative." If you read it as history, you become "reformed."

Many of the orthodox JEWS are literalists who hate gays. (They're no different from the CHRISTIANS and *Muslims*, sexually speaking.) The reformed are secularists who throw the BABY out with the bathwater. (But, at least they're not homophobes.) Only the conservative Jews strive to understand the seeds at the core.

Christianity and Islam have their own spiritual nourishment challenges that reflect their own dietary laws when it comes to what they will or won't consume. It's easy for Jews and Muslims to see how eating pork is a good reminder not to behave like a pig. But Christians aren't forbidden from eating pork. They see nothing wrong with eating pork. They separate their literal consumption from their moral behavior.

Islam forbids the drinking of alcohol. But no one would refuse a Muslim love. The drunken experience of falling in love can be outlawed by no man. Abstaining from alcohol or pork are only rituals. Many will assure you that you have a right to behave like a pig or a fool. And many of them are not the sorts of people who'll tell you to abstain from pork or alcohol.

You're going to want to decide how you can live with yourself without causing you undo guilt. You're going to be blessed and cursed with **GOD's** rewards and punishments when it's all over for the choices you make now. But until the last day comes, you're going to need to deal with **HIS** carrots and sticks, whether you believe me or not.

Religious Jews refrain from mixing meat and dairy (something Muslims aren't asked to do) because GOD prohibited the Jews from cooking a kid {baby goat} in its mother's milk. Would you discern a good Jew from a bad JEW by a cheeseburger?

I was a kid who was par-boiled in my mother's milk. I was subjected to her intense and sometimes, quite uncomfortable heat {loving intentions}. So I know what it feels like to

³²³ YOM KIPPUR is the "Day of Atonement" It usually falls in the month of September. It's the only day of the year that religious Jews are commanded to withhold nutritional consumption including water.

have been raised to become inedible and unkosher by Jewish standards. I may have had to ordain myself a rabbi, but that was because of my mother's blistering, sweltering and stifling love for me. I had to *heal* before **GOD** could train me to *heel*. I'm sure I'm not only not kosher in the sense of what it means to be a literalist Jew. I'm quite spiritually inedible in many other ways, as well.

"Say:

*'God leaves in error whom He will,
and guides to Himself those who repent and have faith;
whose hearts find comfort in remembrance of God.
Surely in the remembrance of God
all hearts are comforted.
Blessed are those who have faith and do good works;
Bliss is their end.'*

[13:27-29]

"Say:

*'**GOD** leaves in error whom **HĒ** will,
and guides to **HIMSELF** those who repent and have faith;
whose hearts find comfort in remembrance of **GOD**.
Surely in the remembrance of **GOD**
all hearts are comforted.
Blessed are those who have faith and do good works;
bliss is their end.'*

Bliss isn't a word we use much in the English language unless we're referring to a drug-induced state of inebriation or an attitude of utter ignorance and denial of the facts. Bliss is more associated with naiveté and foolishness than experience and wisdom. Nevertheless, most of us seek bliss because the trials and tribulations of this world are so burdensome. We're in need of something *blissful* to distract us from our *blisters*. "Heaven" is, if nothing else, advertised as blissful. And "hell" is advertised as quite the opposite: blistering.

Bliss sometimes comes at night when you dream in color and dream big. Bliss doesn't come at night after you've eaten, drunk, drugged or masturbated to excess. Modern man seeks artificial, secretive forms of bliss to approximate the promises of "paradise" when no one sees him. But he's always willing to share his wicked distractions with someone who's willing to enjoy them with him.

Sadly, these imitations and approximations of the "world to come" are always disappointing because of the inner company we keep. People, more often, create worse habits that then spur them to conclude "paradise" is always moving further out of their reach. And this exacerbates the suspicion that the longer they live, the more they're in the company of someone they truly dislike. (Expectation of others usually produces

disappointment and then resentment. Expectations of yourself without hope from Scripture often produce despair.)

The initial feelings of bliss that come with romantic love (when devoid of wisdom and self-devotion) may ultimately, break your heart, leaving your feeling *blah* a great deal of the time. More often, modern man tends to feel *blah* and *base*, not *blissful*.

The old age homes are filled with people trying to decide whether to seek eternal bliss or avoid it by clinging all the more tightly to the existence they're left with. Meanwhile, in nursery schools, little kids go from base to bliss in a moment's notice. Surely, there's something we're doing wrong when people go from cradle to grave as though descending from a hill. Surely, the journey uphill ought to be as thrilling as the trip down the other side. Somewhere, over half a rainbow, there ought to be another half where bluebirds fly.

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*“Thus have We sent you forth to a community
before whom other communities had passed away,
that you may recite to them
Our revelation.
Yet they deny the Lord of mercy.
Say:
‘He is my Lord.
There is no God but Him.
In Him
I have put my trust,
and to Him I shall return.’”
[13:30-31]*

“Thus have **WE** sent you forth to a community
before whom other communities had passed away,
that you may recite to them
OUR revelation.
Yet they deny the Lord of mercy.
Say:
‘**HE** is my Lord.
There is no GOD/GOD/God but **HIM**.
In **HIM**
I have put my trust,

³²⁴ Based on the theme song “Over the Rainbow” from the movie “The Wizard of Oz,” music by Harold Arlen (Jewish) and lyrics by E.Y. Harburg (Jewish). “Somewhere over the rainbow/Bluebirds fly/Birds fly over the rainbow/Why then, oh why can't I?”

and to **HIM** I shall return.’”

Unfortunately, even trusting your teachers at school when you were a kid wasn't enough to pass your exams. You also had to do your homework, come to class prepared and behave with a modicum of decorum.

Putting your trust in GOD/GOD/*God* doesn't work well enough anymore. You should believe in yourself as though you were a conglomeration of Abrahamic pieces you're assembling within to form one big picture {a mosaic}. You should discipline yourself and tune out what the clowns at the back of the class are doing.

The bozos will tempt you to give up your studies in favor of playing games for the sheer enjoyment of watching you bite off your nose to spite your face. They look for reasons to laugh at you, and you'll give yourself every reason to cry if you do what they say. But their grades aren't going on your transcript. Keep the faith.

You're more on your own than alone. You may die the same way you were born, by yourself, screaming with hatred at **GOD** for having brought you into this world to begin with. I hope and pray, instead, you die laughing and wishing you could stay, not like the old babies around us who hate having to be here and hate having to leave.

The *selfish* hate **GOD** for not giving them what they want. The *selfless* hate **GOD** for giving what they want to others. “Tend your own garden.” ³²⁵ Grow to become a mighty tree, and you'll be fruitful.

Plenty of civilizations have come and gone. You're not going to be rewarded for the success or punished for the failures of those who came before you if you don't allow yourself to get stuck in the past or the future. Therefore, don't take the apparent direction of our civilization today too much to heart. Much of what will happen lies out of your hands.

GOD planted you in this garden at this time in **HIS** story. Do the best you can to make your way through the brambles and briar patches that are trying to choke you and block your unique view of **HIS** light. Wherever your light shines, a shadow disappears. Your contribution to society and to the advancement of humanity will be rewarded if you civilize yourself.

There isn't a student on Earth today who's getting straight A's. And those in previous classes who've already graduated this school did the best they could in the time they had while enrolled here. You and I are the best the world has to offer at this time in history. We hold the hope we're giving children for their future. If we don't improve ourselves, the class curve will only get steeper, and fewer will graduate with high honors. From today's perspective on tomorrow, a “heavenly” reward requires a lot more work than it used to. We're older now. More is expected of us.

If you think you're going to “paradise” because you're JEWISH, CHRISTIAN or *Muslims*, I've got bad news for you. **GOD** isn't an atheist. **HE** believes in **HIMSELF**. **HE**

³²⁵ Quote from the French satire “Candide, ou l'Optimisme,” first published in 1759 by Voltaire, a philosopher of the Age of Enlightenment. It means about the same thing as the Biblical admonition to, “SEE TO THE LOG IN YOUR OWN EYE BEFORE POINTING OUT THE MOTE IN ANOTHER'S.” [Matthew 7:3-5]

has faith in **HIMSELF**. **HE** doesn't need to say, "**AMEN**" when **HE**'s through speaking to **HIMSELF**.³²⁶ And when **HE**'s through lecturing us on a topic, **HE**'s through. That class is over. Then it's up to each one of us to figure out what **HE** said and to ponder **HIS WORDS**.

Ultimately man has no choice but to learn. He accumulates more kinds of knowledge and, over time, distills wisdom from it, just as wine is distilled from all kinds of fruits. This process of intellectual sowing, reaping and distillation doesn't have to be done with spiritual intention. It doesn't matter if you embrace or reject the metaphor of man as a tree of knowledge. You'll pick the fruits of your own tree anyway. The only question left will be whether you were tempted to use the knowledge you gleaned about you for the good or for evil. You already know which fruits you have a preference for.

Adam is like the zygote you were if you choose to learn from **GOD**. If you deny the magic in the Hebraic Creation story, all the Abrahamic faiths fall apart. You can't create magic without magic. You can't create something out of nothing.

If, however, you take the Creation story literally, you'll deny the part you'll play in **HIS** story. You'll work against the Abrahamic belief system you so deeply revere. And you'll consume a lot of fruit with rot (for which you'll probably still anticipate a reward...). Stick to good, fresh fruit. If it looks bad and smells bad, don't eat it!³²⁷

The *big* bang that created the universe and the *little* bang that created you mirror one another. Your inner world is as vast as the universe. It's all a matter of scale. Therefore, think bigger.

The word "gay" means "organized homosexual." If you don't appreciate how we're evolving to help change the world for the better, that's your loss. If you don't see our rainbow flag as a sign of hope from **GOD**, that's your problem. And if you don't see something similar to a gay-Jew in you, that's your failing. The L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. community isn't here to recruit. We're here to reform. I'm just like all the others who are trying to reform this world.

"Exercise for people over the age of 60: Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room on either side. With a 5-lb. potato bag in each hand, extend your arms out to your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax."

"Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb. potato bags. Then try 50-lb. potato bag, and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb. potato bog in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level.)"

"After you feel confident at this level, put a potato in each bag." [Internet]

Spiritual Linguistics is a lot like this joke. You're going to need to take the embellishment of your vocabulary slowly. You're going to need to increase the weight on

³²⁶ "**AMEN**" is my idea of what **GOD** would say to **HIMSELF** if **HE** had low self-esteem. **HE** has no need of **HIS** own encouragement. We do.

³²⁷ An exception to this rule (in the literal sense) is the durian, the Far Eastern fruit that smells like rotting flesh but tastes delicious.

your shoulders incrementally while realizing what you're doing while you're doing what you're told to do.

But, in the end, you'll discover how simply following new directions using old assumptions will suddenly bring you to new levels of self-understanding. You're the old bag, and you're the potato you're ultimately going to be able to lift without nearly as much effort as you've put into it thus far.

There is no language that says everything you need to say. Those of us who speak more than one language know that puns aren't easy to translate. And Spiritual Semantics includes many puns – plays on WORDS. You'll find linguistic delights in every language. And if they don't translate easily into other languages, hopefully the translator will add footnotes to explain the jokes. ³²⁸ Spiritual Semantics depends on clarity of intention, not just meaning.

But the universal language is an inner tongue that will never pass your lips. Your spiritual mother-tongue is far too profound, personal and impenetrable to be poured into the primitive containers called “words.” You'll just have to do the best you can with what you've got to work with in the 3rd dimension with **GOD** by your side. **HE** works in mysterious ways.

The ram that Abraham happened to find conveniently trapped in a bush when he gave up on the idea of sacrificing Isaac to GOD bore the brunt of Abraham's disobedience and frustration with GOD's inscrutable design. Killing that ram for no reason other than to let out his resentments was still better than killing Isaac.

If you see yourself as a living acronym for “random access memory” {RAM}, you may also see yourself as an abstract object of beauty and strength wrought in an image of **GOD**. If you perceive yourself as a modern rendition of the kind of ram others tie up to sacrifice for the betterment of the world, it'll be easier for you to resist them doing so if you learn to uncover your unique combination of special attributes.

You're innocence and experience personified. You're the embodiment of every modern man who takes out his troubles on his machines {RAM} rather than on the animal kingdom {rams}. You pound your keyboard, scream at your screen – and all to relieve yourself of your anger, frustration and guilt at things not going your way.

But unless you come to understand the technical process as a mirror of the way in which you were made, you won't feel your outer antics are meaningful in the long run. You may cry out for more RAM because you want to sacrifice a part of yourself to something you can't quite put your finger on. You {Abraham} will tie yourself {Isaac} up in knots. Or worse, you'll let others tie you up without seeing why you're allowing them to do what they're doing.

Don't tie yourself up in knots mindlessly. Don't bite your tongue carelessly. Don't step on your toes needlessly. Don't screw yourself over naively. You're too nice a person to allow anyone to do to you what you'd never allow you to do to you if you knew better.

The fate of the animal world that's being scapegoated by the richest and most powerful people on Earth lies in your hands. Change can't occur until you see the lamb, ewe and

³²⁸ Translators of this work, that was a hint.

ram in the way **GOD** personally made you. You're an Adam, Eve, Serpent and forbidden fruit who grows exponentially just to understand **GOD's** designs for modern man.

*“Such is the paradise the righteous have been promised;
it is watered by running streams;
eternal is its fruit,
and eternal is its shade.
Such shall be the end of the righteous.
But the fire shall be the end of the nonbelievers.”*
[13:35]

“Such is the ‘paradise’ the righteous have been promised;
it is watered by running streams;
eternal is its fruits,
and eternal is its shade.
Such shall be the end of the righteous.
But the fire shall be the end of the nonbelievers.”

I'm sure you now realize that “running streams” is code for love. “Eternal fruits” is code for wisdom and “shade” is code for devotion. There isn't a human being on Earth who doesn't know the “fire” that will be the end for those who don't learn how to reignite the flame that so often goes out in us all. In my opinion, the fires of “hell” will be a harsh illumination, heat and burn the criminally insane will be grateful to finally receive after the onliness they're suffering for a lifetime. I suspect the rest of us will walk through it as though it were thin air.

The seven meanings of the attributes of fire are:

<u>Attribute</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1. Illumination	Wisdom
2. Heat	Love
3. Burn	Purification
4. Mystery	Mystery
5. Smoke	Self-speech/prayer
6. Sound	Calling/Mission
7. Smell	Intuition/ GOD -consciousness

The simple-minded side of you will simply warn you not to get burned in the same old ways you've heard a million times before. But there's a lot more to the concept of fire than meets the eye. Perhaps with greater illumination, warmth and burn you'll come to appreciate the full name of **GOD** {Y.H.V.H. Jesus *Alīlah*} that's slowly taking shape in your consciousness.

There's a bitter irony in one of the stories of Torah. The sons of the high priest, Aaron, died by {ESH ZARA: strange fire}." [Leviticus 10] Ironically, the man whose job it was to tend the fire of animal sacrifice {Aaron} had to endure the loss of his own sons {Nadav and Evichu} who died by a strange fire that exploded in the Tabernacle and consumed them.

The meaning of strange fire is hinted at later in The Book of Numbers when Korach, a relative of Moses and Aaron, fomented a rebellion against them. {Korach: means "ice" or "hail"}. [Numbers 16-18]

For a desert people, the burn of ice {apathy and disregard} is stranger than the burn of fire {passion}. Until you have experienced the fire and ice of the human spirit, it's not possible to take this lesson personally. You're going to get burned externally rather than internally. You're only going to feel the burn of the fire and ice of others before you realize you're capable of burning yourself, too.

The fire of "hell" is comparable to the fervent burn of religiosity, fanaticism, extremism and zealotry. The ice of "hell" is comparable to the dispassionate burn of apathy, indifference and carelessness. These are the fires burning in man that he must learn to understand.

People can run hot and cold. Most of them are snobs. But some of them are thieves, and others, rapists and murderers. Even your partner might be a cheat. Until you know about the strange fire and ice that burns you from within, you're not going to be able to protect yourself well from others. You're as exposed as Israel. There are enemies on every side of you trying to burn you. If you don't learn from your experiences, you'll die from your mistakes.

Until you understand the figurative need for blocking the sun to create shade, you aren't going to fully appreciate reality or **GOD's** need in having created Islam. You won't be able to separate passion from apathy; love from hate; or heat from cold. You'll simply cry out in pain at your burns, begging **GOD** mindlessly and rhetorically to answer the question, "Why me?"

The rabbis created the laws of KOSHROOT {consumption of clean foods} out of the laws of Torah to live out the moral difference between clean and dirty. Putting down gays is unclean. The orthodox JEWS have been putting us down long enough. We got the message. They think we're unclean.

GOD created **GOD** for Christians to eat **HIM** in the religious sense of the **WORD**. Thank **GOD** **HE** isn't here now. I think the **CHRISTIANS** would tear **HIM** apart limb from limb and literally stuff themselves with **HIM** raw, right from the bone. That's just how zealously naïve the **CHRISTIANS** are.

God created *Ḥalāl* to remind *Muslims* that there are limits to what they should bite into, chew and swallow. Some fruits have been literally forbidden. If a *Muslim* can't stomach Jews, he should simply avoid us altogether. There's no reason for him to suffer spiritual indigestion over fruits he can't stand. Live and let live. It shouldn't be that hard to stomach other people if you don't have to literally eat them. Get over your finicky tastes. Nobody's impressed with a spiritual diet that keeps you that svelte.

None of our religious ancestors could internalize Scripture. They needed fights, crusades and jihads to struggle with **GOD** in order to determine for themselves who would

claim ownership of Israel. (They weren't spiritually old enough to struggle with the meaning of the WORD.)

Today we have Israel, the universal, internal struggle with **GOD** that each of us can achieve on his own thanks to the preparation we've been given through the three Abrahamic faiths that we can now perceive as parts of one design.

Your idea of "paradise" doesn't need to match up with mine. There are very few good questions; but there are many right answers. What the Prophet described in this passage {streams; fruits; shade} sounds more to me like European topography and weather. But as the child of Holocaust survivors, European topography and weather will never be my idea of "paradise." The Mediterranean/Scandinavian exuberance for hot love and cold indifference {fire and ice} are too extreme for my American tastes. I'm a California dreamer. My summer of love was well documented in the '60's. My American "paradise" lies in San Francisco where I came out West to get a better view of the Far East. I like it cool.

Today's exodus to Europe by millions of Muslims is, in my opinion, a reenactment of a Biblical event that we, Jews, already went through many times in many places in the past in the Middle East, Europe and elsewhere. Look more closely at our history. Four times we were enslaved:

1. Ancient Egypt
2. Babylonia
3. Rome
4. Germany

And if you add the countless countries we were forced to flee to and from, you'll see that for **GOD** to shape 1/10th of 1% of the world's population into a wise, loving and devoted people must have been a lot of work for both of Us. After all the headaches **HE** went through with the Jews, I can well understand **HIM** then deciding to teach half the world about **HIS** love through Christianity and a third of the world about **HIS** devotion through Islam.

*"Thus have we revealed it,
a code of judgment in the Arabic tongue.
If you succumb to their desires after all the knowledge you've been given,
from God you will have no savior or protector."
[13:37] ³²⁹*

*"Thus have We revealed it,
a code of judgment in the Arabic tongue.
If you succumb to their desires after all the knowledge you've been given,*

³²⁹ "We" in this passage refers to the Archangel Gabriel and **GOD**.

from **GOD** you will have no **SAVIOR** or **PROTECTOR**.”

When **GOD** mercifully chose to return the land **HE** gave us after the Holocaust, Hebrew became a national language for the first time again in 2,000 years. The Prophet created that experience for the Muslims 1,442 years ago by making *His* revelation accessible in Arabic. But now Muslims are having to learn about a deeper mystery that lies in their book through a modern interpretation of the Quran as the Abrahamic faiths are being reflected in secular societies the world over.

Submitting to a new language doesn't mean you have to succumb to another belief. *Muslims* could, instead, submit to **GOD** as the Prophet intended them to through life itself. In the school of life, these seven books are merely a modern rendition of the Jewish textbook, Christian workbook and Muslim test booklet.

The rabbis divided Torah into 52 sections long ago, one section of which is studied each week. Over the course of millennia, we've thereby allowed change to move through our heads, hearts and souls into our synagogues.³³⁰ Jews became the personification of modernity in every civilization in the past. And, apart from the ultra-orthodox **JEWS** who insist on going forward sdrawkcab, the rest of us continue to keep our eye on where we're going and not only where we've been.

I pity the rightwing, ultra-orthodox **JEWS**, zealous **CHRISTIANS** and *Islamic* extremists because I, too, sometimes feel as though I'm moving forward sdrawkcab. And it nauseates me. I feel as though I was on an exodus from ancient Egypt to modern Israel for the first 40 years of my life. And I was looking back at where I'd come from all the while, instead of where I was headed.

I'm not addicted to my past anymore. I'm wedded to the future. I can turn back and forth with ease thanks to a good religious and secular education. I can even do pirouettes thanks to a good artistic education. I can remember my past nostalgically without bursting into tears now that I'm much more interested in redemption than just being right. I can treat people like adults, not parents I have to make understand how they hurt me. My power comes from within. I'd like fame and fortune, but my approval and spiritual prosperity are more important to me.

Youth is a time for making mistakes as you go round in circles like an Israelite on an Exodus or a dog chasing its tail. But after the age of 40, you're expected to begin the job of correcting your mistakes from the inside in, in addition to the outside out. If you don't enter middle age prepared to repair the first half of your life, you won't enjoy the spiritual climb down into older age. You won't enjoy the downward half of the rainbow arch of **GOD's** promises. You'll simply go up and down emotionally, turning your life into an amusement park ride that feels (for someone like me with inner ear sensitivities) like a

³³⁰ The word “synagogue” is Greek, not Hebrew. It translates as “house of meeting.” But we shouldn't go into a synagogue, church or mosque to meet with **GOD/GOD/God**, but to meet with ourselves, with **GOD** as our **WITNESS** in a public setting. Going into a house of prayer should be an exercise that helps you be with **GOD** at all times, whether you're alone or in public.

nauseating ride through “hell” on Earth. I’m too old for thrill rides or rocky roads. I like things to be smooth.

When I reached my own, inner Jordan River in middle age, I stepped into it looking west at where I’d come from. I baptized my feet before I even entered Israel. It was only then that I looked up from my reflection in the stream to see myself moving toward my previous horizon – an inner Egypt of unimaginable sorrow at what I’d had to go through ignorantly and innocently. Fear had gotten me out of my inner Egypt. Anger had gotten me out of my inner desert. But sorrow had brought me into my inner Israel]. **GOD** worked in mysterious ways to get me where I am. I have no doubt that **HE**’s taking me in unexpected directions in the outer world to arrive at the same place as all other righteous individuals in our inner world.

There are lyrics to a song in Hebrew that go, “You can’t see from here what you can see from there. Well I say, “You can’t see from “there” what you can see from here. Being here now is nothing like it once was being here then. Living in the now, now is indescribable because it’s more fluid. It’s like stepping into a swiftly, flowing river. It’s like your next piece of cake. It’s like the thrusts toward orgasm with someone you really know and love.

Going forward while facing sdrawkcab is the result of sentimentality, excuses and blame. Slaves, in particular, will look back with self-pity and tears at where they once were. (Anyone whose family has been through a history of extreme hardship has been spiritually groomed to look sentimentally on his past.) Those who maintain the slave mentality of their ancestors will only look forward to taste revenge.

Look back with regret at what should have happened differently. But then turn around and move forward with profound hope for a better tomorrow. There’s only one way for you to get “there” from here. And I can’t possibly tell you how you’re going to do it.

It’s difficult for contemporary Christians to agree on many modern challenges to their faith, such as homosexuality and abortion. They’ve done a 360-degree turn on money. They may still claim that “THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL,” but they don’t behave as though that’s the case anymore.³³¹ They’ve come to love money a great deal these days. Most of the richest people in the world come out of the Christian tradition of the love of what they can do with their money.

Christians are just now discovering something Jews have believed in for centuries. Money gives you the power to make your love real. Isn’t that the philosophy Oprah models?

“Say:
*Sufficient is God as my witness,
and your witness;
and so are those who know the Scripture.”*
[13:43]

³³¹ 1 Timothy 6:10

“Say:
Sufficient is **GOD** as my **WITNESS**,
and your **WITNESS**;
and so are those who know the Scripture.”

If you haven't studied Scripture with the intention of discovering yourself, you may have discovered GOD/GOD/*God*, but you'll abuse the knowledge you've gained with foolishness, hatefulness and treachery. Life can turn into a very strange school with some very harsh lessons for those who don't know enough. Some are enrolled in spiritual college and then go back to learn the basics. Others are enrolled in the basics and then make their way to spiritual college.

This ends my commentary on the first 13 surahs of the Quran. I've taken you West as far as San Francisco. From here you can see East thanks to an outsider's completely **philosophic** view on the Abrahamic faiths.

This book has addressed the moral implications for the first four stories of Genesis, before the introduction of Abraham, the great link between the three Abrahamic faiths. This book was subtitled LAND. The next two books are subtitled SEA. Then come two books entitled *Sky* and lastly *Flames*⁷. I'm sure these words make a little more sense to you now.

You've now confirmed yourself in the spiritual sense of the **WORD**. You've been called before the Lord in prayer. You've passed the first test with self-confirmation. You're a spiritual genius who can save the planet.

Reverse Glossary of Sacred Quotations

This makes it possible for you to see if a favorite quote or topic from Scripture
is discussed in Book Two.

(All quotations are from the Quran unless stated otherwise)

1. Genesis 1:1-5	38. Genesis 1:1-5	78. 4:80
2. John 1:1-5	39. 22:7	79. 4:82
3. 1:1-7	40. 3:3-5	80. 4:86
4. Genesis 1:27	41. 3:6-9	81. 4:103
5. Exodus 21:2	42. Luke 23:34	82. 4:104
6. Deuteronomy 22:11	43. 3:10	83. 4:113
7. Deuteronomy 21:18-21	44. 3:11-13	84. 4:125
8. Leviticus 18:22	45. 3:14	85. 4:146
9. 1:1-9	46. 3:20-22	86. 4:147
10. John 14:10	47. 3:26-27	87. 4:153
11. Genesis 2:23	48. 3: 30	88. 4:154-5
12. Genesis 3:21	49. 3:33-34	89. 4:157
13. Genesis 3:24	50. 3:37	90. 4:158
14. 1:5	51. 3:45-46	91. 4:163-4
15. Exodus 3:17	52. 3:50-51	92. 4:171
16. Deuteronomy 31:20	53. 3:69	93. 4:173
17. Exodus 32	54. 3:75-76	94. Genesis 16:12
18. 2:95	55. 3:111	95. 5:2
19. 2:116-118	56. 3:118	96. 5:3
20. 2:120	57. 3:145-6	97. 5:4
21. 6:71	58. 3:154	98. 5.5
22. 2:136-138	59. 3:155	99. 5:7
23. 2:139-140	60. 3:166	100.5:8
24. 2:152-153	61. 3:179	101. 5:12
25. 2:163	62. 3:187	102. 5:13
26. 2:168-9	63. 3:199	103. 5:14
27. Genesis 1:28	64. 4:1	104. 5:15
28. 2:186	65. 4:2	105. 5:17
29. Genesis 28:11-19	66. 4:26	106. 5:18
30. 2:195	67. 4:27	107. 5:20-21
31. 2:207	68. 4:28	108. 5:25-29
32. 2:220	69. 4:29-32	109. Genesis 4: 6-7
33. 2:232	70. 4:46	110. Genesis 4:15
34. 2:255-256	71. 4:57	111. 5:32
35. 2:263	72. 4:58	112. 5:41
36. Exodus 24:7	73. 4:73	113. 5:42
37. 2:285	74. Genesis 3:22	114. 5:43
	75. 4:74	115. 5:44
	76. 4:78	116. 5:46-47
	77. 4:79	117. 5:48

118. 5:51	163. 7:44	208. 7:166
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