

## Claimer With Disclaimer

My father chiseled my mind  
and my mother polished my heart.  
My father taught me to be proud of being a Jew.  
My mother taught me to be proud about being gay.  
I couldn't be authentically me without God having given me these parents,  
even though my mother wasn't crazy about me being so Jewish  
and my father wasn't thrilled I turned out gay.

I'd like to acknowledge  
those who've helped me find my American spirit,  
especially my boyfriend  
and his loving spiritual family at the Catholic church  
in San Francisco where he works  
and where we've prayed together to the same God.

I'd also like to acknowledge  
people of every faith and philosophy worldwide who want to live with me in peace  
in this school on Earth taught by our Teacher:  
Y.H.V.H. Jesus A L L A H  
whose assignments we all work on  
and whose daily lessons, quizzes and weekly tests  
are leading of us all toward our final exam in self-love  
in this,  
the school of life.

As an American with a gay-Jewish soul,  
I'll do my best to elucidate God's word to you  
using the Scriptures He gave us through  
Moses, Jesus and the P r o p h e t Mohammed.  
I'll use the inspiration I've gleaned from words wisely,  
inspiration that began with my study of the Hebrew Testament,  
the only book Jesus quoted  
or we know for certain that He read.

This book will elucidate to the Abrahamic family of man  
as well as to our Eastern, philosophic cousins  
how to receive God's WORD from the New Testament with personal insight  
and sensitivity to those who've been in great pain and are still suffering.

What I won't do is try to change anyone's religious, belief system  
or try to recruit anyone to be gay.

Instead, I'll describe how to find self-love.

For there's no better company you can keep for a lifetime  
than your own.

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## **A Guest At Their Table**

The title of this book doesn't visually show a photo of me with my right, index finger pointed up to the heavens above. When I say I've been a guest at "Their" table I don't mean I've been a participant at the communion table of Christianity. I haven't. I'm referring to the relationship I hold to the Christian idea of the Trinity, the three aspects of God {the general term for our Creator} which we in Judaism and Islam see as one. In Christianity this is expressed as:

1. God                                      The Father
2. God                                      His Son
3. The Holy Spirit                      {It}      The aspect of God that works through us all

I've figuratively been a guest at Their table. There I garnered great admiration for Jesus and His linguistic contribution to our understanding of God's loving role in our life. This book is about Their contributions to humanity. Some would say there's no Their there, but I beg to disagree.

This book applies a new, unifying, linguistic principle to the holy Scriptures of the three Abrahamic faiths:

1. Judaism:

Moses introduced the Jews to a metaphoric understanding of God through Torah.

2. Christianity:

Jesus then added symbolism through Himself to develop the idea of God in the Gospels.

3. Islam:

The P r o p h e t Mohammed used these two concepts to create spiritual similes in the Quran, which transformed the Holy Spirit into the Muslim understanding of God they call A L L A H.

These three linguistic insights into the nature of God are brought together in this book under a term I've coined, "Spiritual Linguistics." Metaphor, symbolism and simile had an unconscious, effect upon our ancestors' understanding of God's plan. But mankind is now ready to look at the Western religions as pieces of a puzzle we were always meant to assemble.

It all began with the main metaphor of Moses, which is embedded in the Creation Story at the beginning of the Book of Genesis. In the Story of Adam and Eve each character stands for an inner force at play in every man that, together teach man about God's moral plan. Moses described these interrelated forces using the Story of Adam and Eve to explain

why the male body looks as it does and how its appearance is a clue to its spiritual function. These forces in man are personified as follows:

<b>Character</b>	<b>Male Body Part</b>	<b>Inner Force</b>
Adam	Head	Thoughts
Eve	Heart	Feelings
Serpent	Penis	Desires
Fruits	Testicles	Power
God	Breastplate	Beliefs

The Creation Story is really an allegory meant to reveal the psychological dynamics in all men that will teach him how to behave morally toward himself.

When a man’s heart:	Feelings
Is tempted by his penis:	Desires
To discover what’s inside his testicles:	His innate powers:
	One good, the other evil
Then his head:	Thoughts
Gets in trouble with his breastplate:	Conscience

Through this metaphoric description of the forces at play in the male body we can fathom what Moses meant when he quoted God as having said, “LET US MAKE MANKIND IN OUR IMAGE, IN OUR LIKENESS.” [Genesis 1:26] In other words, let the various forces in Me come together in man to teach him how mirror My morally perfect ways.

By extending the metaphor we can perceive a baby boy as a seed sown in this earthly garden, here to learn to share his experience of growing with other males who are all metaphorically created in God’s image, too. By further extension boys are sprouts of knowledge that will hopefully grow into saplings and later mature trees that will fruit with life affirming moral choices. A metaphoric man awaits the day when God will harvest him from this orchard of earthly delights with a reward for his contributions to His plan.

Looking at the male body as a metaphor reveals man’s relationship to God as his Gardener, thus making it possible for him to take the Bible personally rather than literally. It allows him to see himself branching out in his own unique ways; to blossom and bloom in an effort to bestow the fruits of his labors on the world; and to learn about his roots,

which are hidden from view. This metaphoric rendition of the Creation Story gives men permission to seed the world with their physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual bounty. It makes it possible for men to see how they were created in God's image, and why they look the way they do.

The Creation Story began with God forbidding Adam from eating the fruit from the Tree of knowledge. And even if that was reverse psychology because He really did want Adam to know himself, God's later reaction to Adam and Eve will therefore require metaphoric unpacking to understand the depth of His psychological and spiritual intentions.

Because you know yourself through having discovered your own abilities and strengths, you, too, have disobeyed God. You know that your testicles don't just literally produce the seeds of life, that they also produce the seeds of masculine energy. It might have been different if you'd asked God permission to discover yourself while you were still a child, but you didn't. And thanking Him now for something you profited from in the past is a bit late. You're now in the same position Adam found himself in when he heard God walking toward him in the Garden of Eden after he'd consumed the forbidden fruit. Now you're at the same place in Torah Jesus was in when He realized this truth about Himself.

The linguistic importance of Jesus's message to the ancient Jews came with His understanding of Torah, and how He was able to embellish the main metaphor of Moses with symbolism rather than doing what other rabbis have always done, to restate what Moses had already said. Jesus's part to play as God {His living presence on Earth in human form} moved God's metaphoric message to the ancient Jews in a new direction, toward the idea of living bread filled with spiritual wine. This made it possible for the ancient Jews to see the male body in yet a second way, as a physical container being filled with spiritual contents.

Moses was figuratively allowed to get into God's head where he presented the ancient Jews with an intellectual understanding of man who was made in God's image here to grow like a tree of knowledge. Jesus was born out of God's heart, and presented the Jews of His time with an emotional understanding of Himself as the embodiment of love. As such every man's flesh is the fruit of the plains {wheat}, ground into flour and baked into loaves. And his emotions are the fruit of the vine {grapes}, crushed, aged and bottled as wine. This ancient, Jewish sect that looked at man symbolically later became known as Christians. They held an understanding of themselves as male containers {bread} that resembled the body of Jesus, and they filled themselves with His contents of love {wine}. They saw themselves as blood brothers with other Christians through Jesus, not literal members of God's Chosen People.

“Emanuel” wasn’t the name Mary gave to Jesus. Emanuel is the name that refers to His place in Biblical prophecy. Emanuel is commonly translated as “God with us,” but it should have been translated more precisely as “us with God.” This is the literal meaning of “EMANU-EL.” Anyone who thinks he has the ability to tell God who He’s with or who He’s against is deluding himself. Only when Christians reflect on the more humble truth, that they’re here with Him, not that He’s here with them, does the true spiritual importance and humility in the name “Emanuel” come to light.

The name Emanuel comes from the messianic prophesy, “THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU A SIGN: THE VIRGIN WILL CONCEIVE AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON AND WILL CALL HIM EMANUEL.” [Isaiah 7:14]

“Jesus” wasn’t the name He was given by His parents, but neither was Emanuel. Jesus is a Greek word that means “savior.” And “Christ” means, “anointed, a euphemism for the Messiah. Jesus’s Hebrew name was “JOSHUA.” He was named after the one and only Israelite in Torah who made the complete Exodus from Egypt into Israel. JOSHUA means “SAVIOR” in Hebrew. Those who knew Jesus when He lived in ancient Israel probably called Him “Rabbi Joshua.”

Jesus was a rabbinic scholar who lived about 1,400 years after Moses. Jesus’s contribution of symbolism was concentrated into ritual just before His death when He asked His disciples during the Passover meal at The Last Supper to remember Him after He was crucified through bread {His body} and wine {His blood}. This created a new linguistic principle by which to interpret the spiritual meaning of life. This made it possible to consume God-consciousness symbolically in addition to growing with God-consciousness metaphorically.

Symbolic logic made it possible for the ancient Jews to think of themselves through a second relationship, or covenant, with God. They perceived themselves as in physical vessels that could literally be filled with God-consciousness by ingesting the Eucharist. The way that worked is as follows:

1. Jesus was the embodiment of God’s love.
2. Therefore Jesus must have been created out of His image of His heart, not His head.
3. Therefore consuming Him through the ritual of the Eucharist meant ancient Christians were literally sharing in the feast of God’s love.

The main metaphor of Moses made it possible for ancient Jews to ingest knowledge as though it came from God. The Symbolism from Jesus made it possible for these ancient Jews to also ingest emotions, especially love, as a gift from Him.

With symbolic logic it became possible for these ancient Jews to perceive that God had actually created two worlds here for us, one within the other. The greater of these worlds is the world around us that we share with one another through knowledge. And the lesser is the world within that we must each endure alone with thoughts and feelings. And we're experiencing both these worlds simultaneously.

Moses wrote Torah, his autobiography, in the third person. Jesus had His biography written about Him, which is called the Gospels. But the P r o p h e t Mohammed was illiterate, and yet he intuitively understood these two relationships to God as they were unconsciously being discussed throughout the Middle East 2,000 years after Moses presented his metaphoric message about God and 600 years after Jesus gave His symbolic interpretation of His relationship to God. As a complete outsider to the ancient Jewish and early Christian worlds the P r o p h e t Mohammed was able to compare and contrast metaphor and symbolism through spiritual similes given to him by God. This made it possible for us to further evaluate His plan for man, giving the Abrahamic faiths of Western civilization three spiritual perspectives by which to triangulate his relationship to our Creator.

“A L L A H” is the name of God as seen from man's soul, a third view of our Gardener and His garden of spiritual delights. (Later I'll explain my reason for spelling the Islamic understanding of God as I do as well as A L L A H. but I won't delve into Islamic teaching in this book. Nor will I give examples of spiritual similes from the Quran.)

The first emotion described in Torah is Adam's loneliness. Although Adam couldn't know why he felt lonely, modern man can. With an intellectual understanding of the spiritual forces in us we can question our sense of separation from the other “trees” in the orchard and our loneliness in having been fashioned this way. We can use this absence of love to perceive its spiritual importance in yearning to grow to love ourselves and feel beloved by God.

But loneliness isn't man's only existential angst. He also suffers from a feeling of emptiness inside. With the symbols of living bread and spiritual wine a man has a secondary system by which to perceive his purpose. With wisdom a man can move through loneliness to a sense of God's presence around him through all that he does. But with inner fulfillment {love} he can achieve a sense of God's presence from within, and share himself with Him as an emotional co-creator. This secondary path is called wisdom of the heart. And with his tertiary ability to compare and contrast these two forms of self-reflection man is able to more than tolerate or accept himself. He's able to admire himself for the way he was made in God's three images, head, heart and soul. He can pray to his Maker each day with a growing understanding of His generosity of spirit.



An Abrahamic way to state these aspects of God's nature is that Judaism brought God's wisdom into this world, the aspect of His plan called the "Father." Christianity conveys His love, which brought His "Son" into being. And Islam adds the third spiritual ingredient, His generosity {the Holy Spirit} to the mix thanks to the P r o p h e t Mohammed. "Y.H.V.H. Jesus A L L A H." therefore are the first, middle and last names of God. They describe this three-step process by which each of us can move toward God if we make peace with one another from within. The Trinity isn't just intrinsic to Christianity. There is a spiritual trinity in the Abrahamic plan for man. Spiritual Linguistics is the discussion of this plan, and what I'll spend the next several hundred pages elucidating in detail.

Western man has a written record of our past called history, but we haven't yet examined history to make the connections between His story {Y.H.V.H.}; His story {Jesus's} and His story {A L L A H}. If we want to open ourselves to the big, spiritual picture of God we need to unite the teachings of Moses {head}, Jesus {heart} and the P r o p h e t Mohammed {soul} in each of us, not fight over which one of them is right.

If you think of your head as Jewish, your heart as Christian, and your breastplate as Muslim, then God makes Himself known to you through your thoughts, feelings and beliefs. He created history, and even though the people interpret history differently.

Following me on these poetic interpretations of religion will require more than patience; it'll require curiosity into how you, personally, were made in God's image(s). You can always make the claim that the fruits of my efforts are unripe, rotten or wormy. You can look back on your time reading this book and give yourself credit for having taken a nibble and a sip of what I had to offer in the way of personal communion with your "self." And if you decide you don't want to consume everything I've served as a steady diet, you might still come away with a few crumbs that'll reveal some of the meaning of your life. After you chew on my ideas you're welcome to spew any of them out if you find them distasteful. You don't have to swallow anything you don't like. But if you can stomach my thoughts and do want to digest what I'm feeding you, you may just come away more hopeful about God's reason for having created you just the way He did, and for having allowed everything that's happened to you to unfold just as it has. Your personal contribution to history is far from over. If all of history is His story and mystery really refers to my story, then where history intersects with mystery in your life figuratively becomes your cross to bear.

If you can imagine yourself as a spiritual tree with moral fruits that have been forbidden to you just to make you want to seek them all the more, you'll develop a greater appetite to eat up as much as you can learn about yourself, and you'll grow faster than you would otherwise. If you can see your serpent as the delivery system of your own, innate power, you'll give in more often to the temptations for the fruits of goodness and nuttiness in you. In doing so you'll come to understand the consequences of your actions and why God gave

you those two fruits that hang down from your tree to tempt you to learn about what's figuratively inside each one of them. They aren't just the secret to creating life. They figuratively hold within them the secret to understanding the moral meaning of your life.

When a man's feelings {Eve} conspire with his desires {serpent} his head {Adam} gets in trouble with his conscience {God}. From this inner dynamic you grow from season to season just like a tree with rings within that record your growth. From this process the infant grows into a child who develops into an adolescent who becomes a young adult with a conscience that continues to mature until his conscience is so big that it becomes consciously aware of God's presence in both the world around him and the world within. And at this point in his development a man's conscience becomes a soul. When he can see himself as soulful he'll become contemplative and aware of God's mission for him. He discovers how He made him in His image, or, to be more accurate, using His imagination. And he becomes filled with awe at the miracle of His ways.

Jesus's spiritual foundation came from "TANACH," which is the Hebrew name for the Hebrew Bible. The Christian Bible is made up of Tanach {which Christians call the Old Testament} in addition to what's called the New Testament. The Gospels are four accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus and His disciples were Jews themselves, but we Jews don't believe that Jesus was God's one and only Son. We don't believe that any Jewish man has ever been created any differently from any other man on Earth. We believe every man is God's son, making all of us brothers equally beloved by Him. Christians believe that Jesus was His one and only "Son" thus making Christians Jesus's adopted brothers with Him as their God who stands with them before God, our Father. I say it's all how you look at it even if it all sounds pretty much the same. If one of my siblings adopts children, I see those kids as a new branch of our family tree. I say it's important we share the fruits of our experiences with one another as brothers, even if we're only related through one, special Jew.

We Jews are waiting for the Messiah to come, and the Christians are waiting for the Messiah to return. I believe the Messiah has never been here and He's going to return. I anticipate that when the Messiah arrives some will see Him for the first time and others will recognize that He was already here. {I'll get into the power of paradox later when I bring the philosophy of Buddhism into the discussion.}

The core of TANACH is TORAH, sometimes referred to as The Five Books of Moses. Torah is the part of Tanach that comes on the scroll you've seen rabbis read on Friday nights or Saturdays, the Jewish Sabbath. Torah is about one third of Tanach in length when you see it in book form. The wisdom of everything presented in Tanach rests upon the foundation of Torah.

If you open a Christian Bible and use your fingers to separate Tanach from the New Testament you'll see that Tanach takes up about the first three-quarters of the Christian Bible. The core of Tanach, Torah, is situated at the beginning of the Christian Bible, but the New Testament is the core of the Christian Bible, and yet the New Testament comes at the end of their sacred text. Some say that the New Testament refutes the Old. Others say it completes it. I believe the New Testament complements the Old, just as your right hand complements your left when you put the two of them together in prayer.

Torah begins "IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH," [Genesis 1:1] But the revelation made by the Apostle John at the beginning of his Gospel describes the beginning in a very different way. "IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH God, AND THE WORD WAS God." [John 1:1] (In the next chapter I'll explain what "The WORD of God" really refers to.)

In the beginning of the Creation Story Moses claimed that God created the world in six days, and on the seventh day He rested. The Jewish Sabbath falls on the seventh day of creation, the day God rested, while the Christian Sabbath falls on the first day of creation, the day He created the heavens and the Earth. Jews prepare all week long for our time with God on our Sabbath in order to meet Him with the wisdom we've gleaned from our experiences all week. Christians begin their week with God on their Sabbath, Sundays, greeting Him with love from the beginning of their week. Muslims celebrate the Sabbath on the sixth day of creation, Fridays, the day God created humanity.

"MOSHE RABENU" {Moses, our rabbi} wrote Torah roughly 3,400 years ago, about 1,400 years before Jesus was born although the earliest written records alluding to Torah only go back as far as the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E {before the Christian era}. Moses is traditionally accredited as the author of Torah, but he's also the main character in four out of his five books.

The New Testament presents a description of Jesus's life and teachings through the Gospels written by four of His Apostles: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Torah is a description of how we got here and the wisdom in following God's laws while we're here. The New Testament is a description of why we were brought here and the love of God we profess to one another while we're here.

Christians believe in all of Tanach while Muslims believe that only the first 25 chapters of Genesis are sacred. These first 25 chapters of Genesis end with the death of Abraham who's considered to be the father of all three of the Western faiths. So these chapters are particularly important to Western civilization. They're the only written link God gave to the three Abrahamic seeds at the core of His spiritual plan as He planted it in a timely way to unfold today in a very curious way.

A crude comparison of the Old Testament to the New would be to say that the Hebrew Testament is the book of “don’ts” while the New Testament is the book of “do’s.” It doesn’t take a “MAYVIN” {GENIUS} to realize that we need to teach our children both do’s and don’ts if they’re going to succeed in life. And we generally have to teach them what not to do before we can teach them what to do so that the boys don’t kill themselves and the girls don’t get pregnant. So God made a sensible decision in creating the Old Testament before the New thereby giving us the don’ts before the do’s. And Christianity reflects that in the order of the two Testaments as printing in their Bible.

There are two words to describe God in Torah: “ELOHIM” and “EL SHADDAI.” Elohim is the fatherly attribute of God who created the universe. “EL SHADDAI” is connected to the Hebrew word “SHADAYIM,” which means “BREASTS.” Shaddai is the aspect of Himself God used when He appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to express the motherly or nurturing aspects of His (Her) presence through heart and soul. Y.H.V.H. isn’t a description of God. Y.H.V.H. is the name God used when He introduced Himself to Moses. Christians sometimes refer to Y.H.V.H. as “Jehovah,” but the sacred, Jewish name of God is actually an acronym. (I’ll discuss Y.H.V.H., God’s first name in detail later on. Just remember that God, like most people, has three names.)

A name is like the label on a can. The label tells you what’s inside even though you can’t directly verify what it says without opening the can and testing the contents. A name, like a label, must have:

1. A bold description and an attractive picture;  
Y.H.V.H. is the first label God gave to the Jews to describe Himself in the big picture.
2. A detailed and accurate description of the ingredients;  
Jesus is the second label that describes Him in glowing terms of His contents.
3. A nutrition fact panel;  
A L L A H is the third view that includes the serving size, calories and nutrients.

You could say that history is the view of God as He turned the can to give us these three views of Him, a long, circular label that describes everything about Him until you’re ready to open Him to personal self-scrutiny.

I’m capitalizing the metaphoric familial roles of Father and Son because they’re spiritual labels that refer to two aspects of the Deity, God and Jesus. I’m also going to capitalize God’s generic functions, such as Creator and Teacher, but I won’t do the same for the roles Jesus played in lives of His congregation. And I’m going to capitalize nominative, objective, reflexive and possessive pronouns that refer to God {He, Him, Himself, His} as well as when speaking about Jesus. By using the rules of capitalization in

these ways I also hope to trigger visual images in your mind and feelings in your heart that you may not have noticed before.

I'm also going to talk about "It," the Holy Spirit, the conduit of God's goodness in all people. And when I refer to "it" I'll be referring to the delivery system of man's own power to bring life into the world, his penis, which is represented by the character of the serpent in the Creation Story. The more we know about "it" {serpent} the more we can come to appreciate how "It" {the Holy Spirit} penetrates every man to help contribute to man's understanding of God. This "it/It" {serpent/Holy Spirit} relationship is a complex, spiritual, delivery system that isn't usually talked about in this way. {I'm going to talk about it a great deal.}

Evil is any choice you make that you realize needs to be corrected. This moral movement toward correctness is spiritual growth that develops your conscience. Wisdom is your ability to overcome evil by weighing your thoughts consciously against your feelings in your conscience, where you develop your beliefs. When you can balance the intellectual evidence you've gathered with more accurate, emotional weights your conscience can determine actions with greater wisdom than before. New beliefs bring with them new behaviors that allow you to branch out and fruit the world in ways that have received more light than those fruit beneath them. This struggle between old and new beliefs creates shadows in man's conscience that lead to wars in the world around us and illness in our world within.

Good is any choice you make that leads you in the direction of love. The mistakes you make and learn from in the pursuit of love teach you wisdom of the heart and how to avoid suffering in the future. Wisdom of the heart includes all the knowledge you have of every feeling you've ever felt, and knowledge of how feelings operate differently from thoughts.

Good and evil are powers given to you by God in the raw state. When a man picks the fruits of good and evil and processes them with spiritual regard to his purpose in life these powers turn into love and wisdom. Raw power is like a wet dream; nothing substantive comes of it. But when you understand the raw power of the good and evil you can use the delivery system of your desires to activate experiences that will teach you to appreciate God's plan.

Questions are figurative foreplay in the act of creating moral meaning. The serpent presented the first question in Torah when it asked Eve, "DID GOD REALLY SAY, 'YOU MUST NOT EAT FROM ANY TREE IN THE GARDEN'?" [Genesis 3:1]

Questions teach you to doubt what you've been told. When you approach morality with all the sensitivity and acumen your penis puts into sex, you see yourself as fruitful and you multiply your skills in learning about your life. [Genesis 1:22, 1:28]

This book was written about men, and I'll address men as my audience because I believe Torah was constructed upon the physical attributes of the male body for men. But there are other reasons for doing so, and they are:

1. I'm a man, and I have serious doubts about the ability of any man to understand women with the full depth and respect they deserve because they physically look so different from us. And I believe that Moses, Jesus and the P r o p h e t Mohammed realized this fact.
2. I don't believe I should speak for women. I don't think men should speak for women. I think males and females should speak for themselves. Therefore I see abortion as a woman's issue that men have no right to partake in.
3. I wrote this book for men because I believe God created men and women physically different to accentuate spiritual differences that haven't been sufficiently explored. I'm going to help elucidate the importance of that struggle by stating that I believe women are just as spiritually different from us as they look physically different from us. And for that reason they're even more deserving of equal treatment under the law.
4. I hope to motivate a discussion about the Bible's spiritual relevance in this day-and-age by presenting my views of Torah and the Gospels as spiritual and psychological operating systems linguistically constructed to help men improve themselves by advancing discussions within themselves. Although this should spur fascinating discussions between men and women, my goal is mainly to help men learn to talk about themselves to themselves.
5. Although most men are profoundly shaped by at least one woman in their life {their mother} they don't usually want to be too closely identified with her for fear that will in some way impede their progress on their journey to manhood. Although we know biologically that a man is made up of an "x" and "y" chromosome, men tend to shy away from the "x" factor for many, psychological reasons that I'll address. Man's emotional awareness of himself as a combination of "x" and "y" spiritual factors needs to be solved for in order for him to grasp the profundity of the equations:

$$x + y = 1$$

$$x + x = 1$$

$$1 = 1$$

6. Although some may considered it sexist of me to assign the male gender to man's thoughts {Adam} and female gender to his feelings {Eve}, in light of the tendency in males to underestimate the importance of their feelings I'm going to do so

anyway. When a man can separate his thoughts from his feelings he's then more likely to be able to consciously observe that he recombines them in his conscience where he determines what he believes to be true from what he thinks and feels. In this way thinking {y} and feeling {x} can be discussed historically as societal norms between the genders that may not be in vogue any longer. Although history is the written record of everyone's actions, history tells us a lot about what men thought and felt about themselves by the way they treated women. I believe that the journey from boyhood to manhood actually begins in our heart rather than our head, and I believe boys are far more willing to express their feelings candidly than most grown men. It looks to me that today's new mothers very much want to teach their sons to feel more deeply about themselves, without embarrassment or shame about any of their feelings. And it looks like most mothers want to see their sons grow up to become gentle men. I believe that this process of weighing thoughts against feelings in our conscience is a lifelong, moral strengthening of our conscience through which everyone learns to appreciate males' and females' physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual attributes. This creates a more soulful view of the self that will make men feel inclusive of others whether they outwardly present as male or female, black or white, native or foreign, straight or gay.

7. I wrote this book for men because I believe men have been, by far, the greater agents of evil in this world, and therefore we need to question our "selves" if we're going to understand why this world looks as bad as it does. But this should always bring us back to a personal, psychological process of spiritual transformation from the inside out, not remain the previous, sociological view of good and evil emanating in from the outside. This book is therefore addressed to men as a challenge for us to change ourselves by ourselves.
8. As a gay man, I'm critical of how many straight men still treat gay men as spiritual inferiors, so I'm going to address that prejudice from the perspective of male desires and male taboos. I wrote this book for men because I don't believe the majority of women need to be subjected to that criticism. I don't want women to take my reproach of straight men personally.
9. I believe with all my heart and soul that the more we understand how God created "us" {male Jews} and "them" {male Christians}, the more we'll learn together to love all the women and children in our society, as well as the men, women and children of other faiths and philosophies worldwide. As we become more aware of the spiritual bounty of the Judeo-Christian faith practiced in America we'll become more open-minded to the contributions of other faiths and philosophies worldwide.

I do hope that women will read this book. In fact, I think it's vital to their personal and sociological emancipation that they do. Women need greater insight into how men operate at the various emotional and spiritual levels of awareness that inform our actions. Women should think of me as a double agent, a spy who's reporting back to them from the other side. And, frankly, men should come away from this book thanking me for giving away male secrets they've been unconsciously keeping even from themselves.

I'm a former junior and senior high school English teacher who couldn't speak frankly about my sexuality with my students in the 1980's and '90's. Today I can talk openly about the spiritual importance and contributions of the roughly 300,000 gay-American men who died of AIDS. My fallen comrades secured for us all the liberty we enjoy today in discussing sex with the openness, curiosity and maturity we now have in our society. When I was a teacher you couldn't put a condom on a banana without sending shock waves through the room, while today's younger generation sees gay rights as a given. The reason for that change in moral perspective is of Biblical proportions, and I plan to examine that with a new, modern view of the Bible that may enhance what you already believe. I predominantly give thanks for this transformation of acceptance towards gays to American pop culture, not the institutions of religion, which, on the whole, have been sadly sluggish in moving their beliefs forward toward modernity.

I'm also a former ballet dancer who graduated my physical classes in body-building to help the Church understand the body of Christ. If you don't know your own body you'll never fathom the depth of His plan. If you don't understand His profession {carpenter/rabbi} you'll never know how to emotionally hold your hammer and how to pull out nails you drove into you. You'll become a spiritual carpenter who doesn't understand that the medium of Jesus's message is wood from the tree of knowledge. You'll continue to grow unconsciously like a tree, but you'll never harvest your timber with self-awareness to a greater cause.

When I look at America sociologically and ask myself what makes the relationship between Judaism and Christianity so special in a world where religion is synonymous with the tendency to move back in time instead of forwards, I can come up with only one word: democracy. The separation of all religious systems from our state governance has created the inseparable bonds in our (basically) Judeo-Christian culture that the rest of the world simply doesn't yet fully understand. (Look up the lyrics to the song "The Best of Times" by Jerry Herman, and imagine it as a conversation he's having with Jesus about Torah.)

There's a mystery to Judaism and Christianity that those outside our frontiers who are unaware of the bond between the two faiths may not yet have noticed or fully appreciated. This mystery is the essence of what makes our democracy so great and what makes transplanting our democracy elsewhere so beguiling. It's up to those of us who've been spiritually inspired by God's wisdom {Judaism} and love {Christianity} to promote



exploration of other spiritual relationships with Him, such as those of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, since they're also God-given pieces to a puzzle we need everyone to help assemble.

Perhaps I can contribute to bringing peace to the Middle East if I can show you how our Judeo-Christian pieces to the puzzle are being assembled in America, and how, together, they're reinforcing the mentality of individuality and creativity that Americans are known for. When you can personally appreciate the foundation of Western culture in Y.H.V.H. and Jesus, you can become an instrument of peace within yourself for yourself.

Cynicism is a conclusion about life that anticipates muddy brown in the future based upon fears {yellow}, angers {red} and sorrows {blue} mixed together in your past. Cynicism pulls you into a murky resignation away from the rainbow of dreams you believed in when you were a child. Experiences built upon empty promises you naively believed or promises that ended up not being realistic to begin with may have crushed your hope of ever building a life on dreams. The brown sludge of cynicism then became the proof you used to justify your hopelessness. And further disappointments only confirmed your conclusion that cynicism was useful and wise.

Hope requires vast amounts of wisdom, love and generosity of spirit to be realized. Faith requires huge amounts of self-knowledge, self-love, and graciousness to grow. Hope and faith are beyond the reach of those who are cynical. Until you recognize the mistakes that left you feeling cynical in the past and start over with a better plan, you'll remain stuck where you are. With a cynical view of life you'll secretly covet what others have instead of discovering what it is you're missing.

The inner process of construction, destruction and reconstruction is mirrored in the world around us. Children start over many times in their discovery of how to reuse the spiritual materials they were given. But young men generally want to forget what they learned as a child in favor of cynicism to justify their losses. Only by middle age has a man learned to accept his gains and losses. He'd rather have an inner house he can call "home" than the penthouse he thought he wanted with a view over everyone else's head. And by old age a man is comfortable enough with himself to admire all he knows he doesn't know. The child who just wants to learn; the young man who's learned to tolerate himself as he is; the middle aged man who's accepted himself as he was; and the old man who admires himself for what he can still strive to become - are seeds already planted in you. They need only be watered to germinate and grow.

Please look up the lyrics to Don Mclean's song "Vincent." (There will be several extra-curricular assignments I'll be requesting you to do. One of the secrets to patience is moving in different directions when asked to.) If you open your heart and release cynicism and scorn, it's possible to perceive Jesus as the topic behind McLean's words to Vincent Van

Gogh. “Now I understand what You tried to say to me, and how You suffered for Your sanity, and how You tried to set them free. They would not listen. They did not know how. Perhaps they’ll listen now.”

Inner space is dark, but not empty. Inner space is as hard as rock, as liquid as water and as light as air. Inner space resembles outer place. Your thoughts will ground you. Your feelings are an ocean of endless emotion. And your beliefs will take you airborne where you’ll look down and see yourself as you truly are. Once your inner world becomes as real as the world we share, you’ll appreciate the flat-Earth mentality you had in the past. That patch of land was your garden, your own Eden. This was the piece of Israel God gave you personally that will always be yours regardless of how far life takes you away from home. With this tiny piece of ground in mind you’ll discover that your inner world is actually round. And you’ll make your way around it.

Spiritual Linguistics can be helpful in revisiting what you may have concluded as a child about the words of Moses and Jesus, and why the Bible, if taken personally, rather than literally, can be more instructive now than it may have been in the past. The WORD/WORD of God is real. There are no coincidences in what happens in the world around you and your world within because God is in both places at all times. But you have to find the courage to leave outer place and enter the world of inner space to see yourself in a fresh, new way. And you have to go there alone. As every gay man can tell you that you’ve got to go in to come out.

To share Jesus’s feast within yourself and by yourself you, too, have to quietly take a seat at the table with Moses, Jesus and the P r o p h e t Mohammed. You have to learn to listen with your heart and soul. The words fashioned in your mind have intellectual length. From there they go to your heart where they’re given emotional width. But from there they continue on to your soul where they receive a spiritual depth that you may not always notice or appreciate. Learn to believe in yourself before you put blind faith in God. That’s a big part of His overall plan for every man.

If you can do more than hear these words emanating out of me, but listen to them and allow them to echo in your heart, your mind’s eye will be able to imagine the desert you’ve been wandering through inside yourself all your life. Like an Israelite on a journey to a Promised Land you’ve spent decades trying to get where you’ve always wanted to go. You’ll have no difficulty now imagining the vast, night sky full of stars above the heads of the Israelites or the mystery of their journey with God to a place they’d never seen before. You’ll be able to empathize with their doubts in ever making it through the wilderness to the land He promised them. You’ll be able to fathom the idea that all of history is a gift from God to you to help you believe in your quest.

To get a better sense of where you're going, a land of inner milk {love} and honey {wisdom} you're going to need a savior, and it isn't going to be me. I can point you in the right direction, but I can't enter your inner space to be with you inside yourself. In your inner world there's an "ISRAEL," which means "STRUGGLE WITH GOD." And that struggle is filled with promises from Him. But you must make the first move at every move. If you can find your way to this Promised Land, the world will be your oyster, and you will be its radiant pearl.

## How Many?

I can't tell you what to think, how you should feel or who to believe in. I can only demonstrate to you how I operate and co-operate with the various forces within me. What you decide to do with that information is up to you. I don't want my conscience to be your guide. But I do have some opinions on social, political and religious issues that I'm going to present along the way for you to view through the discipline of Spiritual Linguistics. You don't have to agree with them to make good use of the principles I'm setting forth.

When talking to someone in person or through a technical device such as a phone or computer you're having a relationship with another human being. But when you create an image of him in your mind and speak to that image in the silence within, you've created a relationship about him. When you think about someone you're actually only having a relationship with yourself, not with the other person.

People actually mix up these two relationships all the time. Your relationship with him is real, but your relationship about him is surreal, a mixture of fact and fantasy that has the quality of a dream you concoct. Although your real relationships in life are founded upon actual communication, your surreal relationships with the people in your mind are highly impressionable because they're founded upon communication you're having within yourself.

It's important to be able to separate what's real from what's surreal. The intellectual, emotional and spiritual consequences of your inner reality don't exist in the literal sense. Your thoughts, feelings and desires are forces within you that are influenced by surreal experiences that often have even more powerful effects on your actions.

In Torah we read about a man named Moses who either had a real relationship with God or a surreal relationship with Him that was so vivid that the discussion of it has activated the imagination of men for millennia. Whether Their conversation {God and Moses's} really happened isn't a relevant argument because it can't be proved or disproved. What's important about it is that it has influenced the way the entire Western world thinks about one Creator who made us all. Their conversation has created surreal images in each of our inner worlds that hold the combined moral underpinnings of everything we cherish in Western civilization.

The atheist will say that religion is a mental contagion that we should use our mind to eradicate. The religious believer will tell you that the image of God in his imagination, whether abstract or humanoid, means more to him than reality itself. And the believer will convey this belief using terminology that will affirm one of the Abrahamic faiths. The spiritualist, on the other hand, will tell you about his relationship with God without ideological preference for any one of the established faiths.

THISSENTENCEISWITHOUTPUNCTUATIONOFSPACESBETWEENTHEWORDS

If you can decipher a sentence without punctuation or spaces between the words you can go on the journey to know the WORD/WORD of God whether you're an atheist, true believer or spiritualist. When you use the skeptical, rather than cynical side of your mind, it becomes a lot easier to learn. You can even learn about the WORD/WORD of God if you don't believe in God.

What most people don't realize is that Torah wasn't only written down about 500 years after Moses presented it orally, but that it was written down without any spaces between the words. One letter literally tumbled into the next like a stream of consciousness. It was written this way because of the cost of parchment. The ancient Jews simply couldn't afford not to use every bit of space on the animal skins that were available to them before the invention of paper. Torah had no punctuation; no indentations to signify the start of paragraphs; and no headings to separate chapters. There weren't numbers to search for a chapter or a verse. If you weren't a scholar with an incredible and unusual love for deciphering the written word, you couldn't read Torah. It was a river of letters that flowed from start to finish in a torrential current that would drown all but the deepest of scholars. Torah was the WORD of God because it was literally all one word.

The word for "holy" in Hebrew is "KADOSH." It means, "TO SEPARATE." The Jewish people are a holy people because God separated us from the rest of the world. But Heaven taught us about the necessity of separating His message to us word by word. We are the people of the WORD. By comparison to those ancient rabbis who had to worry about their supply of parchment, I have the luxury of being able to use as much or as little space as I care to on my computer. I'm the richest writer the world has ever known because I've been blessed with virtual space, while my poor, Jewish ancestors only had literal space to work with.

It was around 400 B.C.E. that the curious, ancient (and very rich) Greeks commissioned the first translation of Torah from Hebrew. It was then that the WORD of God was separated into many words for the first time. And the rich Greeks also paid the rabbis to format Torah in the way in which we're used to reading it today. It was a huge best seller at the time, and sales have been doing well ever since... But Torah had to be rewritten in a foreign language before the ancient Jews realized that their own sacred text had universal appeal.

Breaking Torah down into many words not only allowed less educated people to read it. It made it possible today for us to question whether the letter of the law was just another myth the Greeks were trying to promote with democracy, or whether they saw it as something brought down from gods. Those of us who believe in God know that the WORD of God is not a myth.

In this book I hope to convince you that the WORD of God is really a sacred metaphor with deeply embedded extensions of meaning. Moses told us about ourselves in Torah in a

way that forced us to stretch our imagination just to understand the concept of being a man. Only then could he address the relevance of God in our life. This revelation turned ancient life from an experience of time as tumbling from one season into the next in a never-ending circular pattern into a journey with a beginning, middle and end. This makes it possible for us today to understand why the first thing Moses did in Genesis was to describe God's creation of the universe day-by-day over the course of a week, and why the seven-day moral calendar of the Jewish people has contributed to man's understanding of the spiritual importance of time. Viewing time personally gives time moral meaning. And when time becomes as precious as words on parchment become more precious over time.

Y.H.V.H. was the first name of God. This name is a metaphoric label we've been plummeting for millennia. Thanks to Jesus, God's middle name, we can also perceive Him with symbolic meaning. If we're all inside the body of Christ in the emotional sense of surrounded by His love, and God can be ingested through transubstantiation, then every man becomes a physical container with the potential of filling himself with love if he so chooses. And thanks to the Prophet Mohammed who brought us God's last name we can compare and contrast ourselves to Him through myriad similes to help us understand His plan.

Today, man is so spiritually spoiled that he not only takes his own names for granted; he takes the spaces between his three names for granted. He even takes the space around him and the space within for granted. Once he can learn to appreciate the space between him and every human being, he'll also see every man, woman and child as three sacred words from God spelling out His plan on the pages of reality in real time.

Metaphor turns God's WORD into a mystical book of sacred lyrics, a wisdom He bestowed upon the Jews that we're still learning to decipher. When Jesus read Torah He realized He'd been personally blessed with a melody from God that complimented His lyrics. Their songbook is the Christian Bible, which is made up of laws given metaphorically through Torah {with further extension of the main metaphor of Moses to complete Tanach} and the melody of love given symbolically through the Gospels {with further examples of symbolic logic to complete the New Testament}.

In a sense the Christian Bible offers God' lyrics at the beginning and His melody at the end. In truth God doesn't speak to us. He sings to us. The word "RENA" in Hebrew means, "THE SONG OF GOD." God's song is a combination of lyrics and melody, law and love, with great pauses and ties between the notes to express His generosity of spirit. The Judeo-Christian culture we enjoy in America is the tune we're learning to sing back to God, His lyrics {wisdom} and His melody {love} made manifest sociologically through our national discourse, and personally through prayer. In this way, each American has a head full of wisdom and a heart full of love with which to sing to God through every word he utters.

Each of us is like a songbook, a good book, a living Bible. Each of us holds our wisdom separate from our love, which we combine in any pattern we choose.

An infant learns accidentally. Each experience he has holds miraculous meaning, but as he ages, first with baby steps and then by leaps and bounds, he ponders the meaning of his existence with greater sophistication. A child learns incidentally. Pleasure verses pain and suffering teach him to draw conclusions about the complexity of life's experiences. But greater understanding comes with the adolescent's lessons that teach him coincidentally. Teenagers are consumed with the magic of life even though they can't yet describe this mystery in other than sexual terms.

When you reflect on the experiences of your life and how you learned accidentally, incidentally and coincidentally you're left in awe of the miracle of life - how God teaches each of us to play the instrument He gave us; how He teaches us to read His music in our own, unique way; and how He records it all for posterity. The concept of God as a Composer may not have yet taken on personal importance to you, but with further understanding of Islam's cadences, pauses and tempo rubato our Judeo-Christian spiritual song will become a great deal more musical.

A spiritualist is someone who puts his faith in himself, and later discovers a sense of greater faith that he could never have mustered by himself. A spiritualist is an adult/infant, adult/child and adult/adolescent who becomes an adult/adult. He finally enjoys being himself thanks to an increasing lack of low self-esteem (to put it in paradoxical terms). A spiritualist knows there's a miraculous timing to life that can only be explained with greater understanding of God's simultaneous presence within and around him.

The three Abrahamic religions are stages of God-consciousness He created and developed over time to be united in you, just as He gave you developmental stages of physical growth that you needed time to understand. God gave us His laws before His love and His love before His opportunity for redemption, not by coincidence, but because He knew exactly what we would need to sing with Him as though humanity were a chorus made up of many sections. His story {Moses} is the foundation for His story {Jesus}; how one man connected to his Father so that another man could connect to His Father. Some were there to see it for themselves. Others came to believe it as a matter of faith. And others will never believe it's anything other than myth created by primitive Jews who didn't have the brains to do any better then, and by people who still don't know when to stop talking about their God now.

We're all too educated nowadays to believe everything we're told without question. But we're also too cynical to allow ourselves to feel hopeful without good reason. We strive to make personal meaning of our experiences so we can appreciate ourselves as deeply as possible. And we're wise enough to know that the more we love ourselves, the

more we can love others. It takes a village to raise a child, and the voices within us are the many villagers we must learn to listen to for a lifetime. We can't give others as much as we have inside of us if we don't know about all that's in there.

It's our words spoken to ourselves in combination with the images we create in our mind that produce most of the struggles that make us human, not just our conversations with others. Reality becomes easier when there's some witness in us, some mayor inside who helps the "shtetlers" {Yiddish: villagers, town folk} learn to live in peace with one another. If we're going to improve our sociological lot in life {and our relationship with God through the institutions of established religion} we have to start by looking within to get better at acknowledging, identifying and separating the various voices within us.

Those who believe in God believe He gave us His WORD, and that He keeps His WORD. This is the essence in the resilience of the Jewish people through every civilization known to man. When every Abrahamic man will understand why he says what he says we'll all be able to admit that it's the wisdom of our heart that motivates us. If God allowed the Romans to wipe out Temple worship in 70 A.D. and the Christians to wipe out shtetle life in Europe by 1945, His heart must have had a loving reason for having done so. Every man has reasons for doing what he does that not even he understands. Find that reason and why he thinks he's acting in a loving manner, and you'll find the guy inside the guy who can learn to live in peace with a gay-Jew.

You're not just a human being; you're a human learning about being. You're a mayor with political promises you've made to a whole village of inner voices, promises you want to keep to stay in office {i.e. not go insane}. The more you can learn to communicate effectively with these inner voices the more effectively you'll be able to achieve goals that'll leave you morally sounder than you are now, including improving your ability to pray more effectively.

Before we look at the specific style of inner communication called prayer, I need to talk more about looking at yourself symbolically as a physical container learning how to fill yourself with spiritual contents. You're an "I" in an "it." You're a spiritual being in a human body on a mysterious, personal journey. You're a combination of 5,870 years of metaphor, 2,000 years of symbolism and 1,400 years of similes that have produced a race of Westerners with technical abilities, emotional skills and spiritual accomplishments you should be proud of.

You produce thoughts in your mind that you combine with feelings from your heart to create the words you string together into sentences that emanate out of your conscience. And yet your head and heart don't speak the same language. So there must be something missing.



Thoughts are the ground of your being. Thoughts are rational. Thoughts are hollow containers that come in black or white. Thought offer “0” or “1” choices. They have “on” and “off” switches that give your words their various intellectual meanings.

But feelings are liquid. Feelings take the shape of any intellectual container you pour your feelings into. Feelings are irrational, colorful, rhythmic, musical and passionate. Feelings have to be inferred from the tones, emphases and rhythms you add to the words you choose.

Thoughts and feelings are weighed separately in your conscience as though your conscience were a scale that measures every word before it’s uttered. For you to better believe in what you say and take better actions based on what you think and feel, you need to learn how to process your thoughts and feelings consciously in your conscience. The more you can use your imagination to visualize this process the stronger your conscience will become, and the more deeply you’ll then be able to believe in yourself.

The man who can imagine these inner forces at play becomes a peacemaker. He can talk to himself; hear what he’s saying; and really listens to the effect his words are having on him before he states them out loud. Sadly, most people never shut up when in the company of others and they never think to start a conversation with themselves when alone. If you learn anything from this workbook that will help you get to know yourself a little better it will be how to talk to yourself without driving you nuts. You’ll learn to change your mind, transform your heart and transcend your beliefs in ways that will help you understand your desires for good and evil. It’s those who don’t break the silence within themselves who go crazy. Normal people talk to themselves a lot. Highly successful people talk to themselves almost nonstop, and geniuses often have great difficulty in conversing with anyone other than themselves.

In every century, boys face the very same emotions their fathers previously went through, but every generation of boys goes through their feelings under different circumstances. Circumstances change because intellectual knowledge advances. But feelings have been the same since the dawn of time. Today boys are working more closely than ever before with men to express their feelings in the hopes that it’ll help them develop a conscience that will be an even better guide than what our ancestors were able to give their progeny. Today males want to learn how to become powerful enough to enjoy the experience of being themselves. Today’s youth yearn for more than the honesty of clear thinking and the sincerity that comes of a good heart. They yearn for authenticity, a soulful self-regard that proves that they’re genuine and not a cheap imitation of their parents.

Becoming male is harder than it looks when viewed from the inside out. Physically, the testicles of most infant boys descend before birth or shortly thereafter. But emotionally a boy soon discovers that it’s figuratively much better to imagine his testicles well within his

body cavity where they he can protect from all the ball breakers out there. It may not even be until a man is far beyond the prime of life before he's really ready to let his testicle figuratively descend in the deepest sense of the word.

Men and boys today aren't as shy about expressing their feelings to one another as they are about expressing them to themselves. Learning how to admit your feelings to yourself doesn't have to be a heart wrenching experience. It can actually be sobering and sane. You can be a metaphoric tree consumes your own fruit without feeling guilty about it. You can be yourself without punishing yourself about who you are.

What happened emotionally thousands of years ago when Moses gave the ancient Jews Torah is still happening today. It's still with the feelings embedded in our words that we author ourselves as the main character of our life story. It's with the feelings embedded in our words that we write and then right ourselves yet again like a good book. But it all depends on getting your hands on a pen that's mightier than a sword.

Moses wrote the greatest autobiography the world has ever known by using the words God gave him metaphorically. The essence of his message was so profound that it's provoked rabbis, priests and clerics to question the myriad levels of God's utterances. He wrote a poem, but people have read it as prose. He forced us to face our desires by deepening our understanding of the feelings we attribute to our words. Anyone who insists this sacred text, or any other sacred text, must only be taken literally and prophetically will create great suffering that will cost him dearly. If a man doesn't develop his conscience while he's here, he won't have another chance to do so. He may graduate to his next experience with diminished opportunities.

Ancient man believed that the secret to the mystery of creating life lay literally, figuratively and spiritually in his testicles. Today we know that biological reproduction is only the key to the mystery of how to create life. It doesn't tell us anything about Who created life or why. When a child learns how babies are made he thinks he knows it all. But his reproductive organs are also clues to a spiritual unification process that brings people together in ways that are much more productive than simply using his genitals to make babies. Through the main metaphor of Moses a mosaic, spiritual code was created that every Abrahamic man uses without realizing. Therefore he takes it without thanking God for it, as though it were fruits given without need for appreciation. The first 25 chapters of Genesis are required classes every pupil must account for, appreciate and receive with gratitude. The rest of Torah is for students of life who enjoy studying to achieve the material rewards that come with learning. And the graduate classes in the New Testament and doctorate in the Quran are really intended only for scholars of Torah.

Jesus, by contrast, was an orator, not a writer. The New Testament is the greatest biography ever written. It was written by Jewish authors {with the possible exception of

Luke whose Gospel was written to and for the Gentile}. The Apostles figuratively described how Jesus contributed to the message of Moses, but they couldn't say exactly how. They couldn't even remember what He literally looked like even though He'd asked to be remembered in the flesh. Today man is still in a semiconscious state of understanding His gift because love has been so tightly woven into our lifestyle without sufficient spiritual and linguistic analysis of how our feelings lead us out of God's head and into His heart.

The Jewish and Christian editors of the Quran helped the Prophet Mohammed bring the third name of God into the world, A L L A H. There is a Muslim expression in Arabic, "A L L A H k a r i m" {God is generous} which suggests that although God doesn't tell us everything we want to know and God doesn't always love us just the way we want to be held, He always gives us everything we need. I've spelled the aspect of God referred to as A L L A H this way to suggest that He brought Himself down into the lives of those like Hagar and her son Ishmael in Torah because they felt rejected and abandoned by the world around them. This is the God who's spread His name far and wide because generosity for the downtrodden is the aspect of His nature that we all identify with most deeply.

To open to God's spiritual plan, some Jews will have to move past their fear of spiritual integration with the other Abrahamic faiths. {God knows, if nothing has done so up until now, my philosophy won't achieve that end either.} Some Christians will have to move past their insecurities and competitive nature as the middle Abrahamic child that caused them to compare themselves to their older brother, which led them to think their covenant with God was the final revelation in His plan. And all of us, including Muslims, will have to submit to the notion that this world is exactly as God wants it to be today. {"I s l a m" means "s u b m i s s i o n" in Arabic.} If we submit to the way it is now we'll actually find the spiritual tools for today that will bring us a better tomorrow. For all this to come to pass we're going to need a lot more wisdom, love and especially generosity of spirit.

I'm a rabbi, but only because I say so. I'm self-ordained. I've never been enrolled in any theological institution. My ideas are fresh and innovative, not copies of something you've seen before. I'd rather train skeptical atheists and doubting Thomases who have a good imagination than fight with true believers over dogma they'll vehemently take to their grave. {I'd remind some of you that Jesus didn't graduate a theological institute either. They called Him rabbi out of respect, not out of duty.}

This book isn't sociological, but psychological in nature. It isn't a religious commentary. It's a spiritual, how-to workbook. The spiritual feast I'm preparing for you had to be served by me for me, and then given through me to others before I could be sure it was even edible, let alone tasty. Everything I claim to be true has been tested on my boyfriend. If my theory doesn't work don't try to sue me for what you paid for this book. You've read too much to get a refund. Now it's become an investment you're making without a guarantee. But I do believe my ideas will pay huge dividends over a lifetime.

In the previous chapter I invited you into my mind with some fresh, new ideas I cooked up. In this chapter I'm asking you to imagine that you have the ability to join me in my heart through your empathy for others and your interest in learning to express greater love for yourself. In the next chapter I'm going to get soulful.

The title of this chapter was "How Many?" The answer is one, two or "three, depending on how you're counting. Your place at Their table is going to reveal a very intimate account of a conspiracy you've been living through between your head, heart and penis for a long time, a story you already know, but told another way.

## **Right This Way**

To take the Bible personally you have to begin with the complexity of what it means for God to have created man in His image. God is a combination of many physical, emotional and moral forces that come together in us to teach us to recognize our individual nature through the intersection of the world we all share and the inner world each of us has to learn about alone. Therefore God chose to mirror man's nature in Mother Nature.

Man is made in such a way that as an infant he projects his feelings onto his mother. As a child he transfers his feelings from her onto others. But often only late in life does he earn the right to break these projections and consciously own his feelings when he sees them emanating out from their Source. Only as he earns self-love does he learn what a privilege it is to be able to behave lovingly toward others.

I believe Jesus was sent here in the gender of a man to show men how to struggle to make sense of their feelings for themselves. In my opinion He was the first Jewish son who broke the projection of feelings He'd reflected onto His mother in infancy, feelings that we all assume are inseparable from our own until we can give them to ourselves without giving our mother cause to feel we've hurt her in the process. This made it possible for Him to see that His love emanated out from His Father for Him before He then chose to shine it out onto the world.

But at that time the ancient Jews believed in the "devil" a personification of evil, a concept modern Jews no longer subscribe to. The "devil" was simply one of the beguiling psychological transformations of the serpent in the Creation Story projected out onto the world so ancient men didn't have to take responsibility for their actions. Today we have the psychological tools to admit there's no such thing as a paranormal force independent of God. People do bad things because they can't or won't control themselves, not because a supernatural force has taken possession of them. Those who don't hold the forces within themselves consciously become prone to obsession with desires or they draw bizarre conclusions about other people's motivations. What was once called the "antichrist," a prince of darkness and author of evil, we now know to be any man who projects his irresponsible thoughts, unkind feelings or contrary desires onto others without weaving them through his conscience.

To observe the various, psychological forces in you so that you're in a position to take yourself more personally (not seriously) you have to be willing to distance yourself from you. This is what Moses did when he created the characters in Torah beginning with the characters in the Creation Story. Adam is the first Biblical man in every man's life from a spiritual perspective. He's our spiritual forefather. But Adam isn't like you. Adam is you. The word "ADAM" in Hebrew literally means "MAN." Adam is the generic Hebrew word for man that Moses turned into a proper noun.

You are a “BEN-ADAM” This Hebrew expression has two meanings. It literally means “SON OF MAN,” a descendant of the original prototype of the first man: Adam. {When English translations of the Bible refer to Jesus as the son of man, it’s a poor translation of the Hebrew. Adam had at least five sons, Cain, Abel, Seth and at least two other unnamed boys, and Jesus wasn’t literally any of them.} The word “BEN-ADAM” figuratively means “GENTLEMAN” in Hebrew. Jesus was stating that He was a gentleman when He called Himself a ben-Adam. Whether he was literally the son of a man or the Son of God is a belief I don’t need to argue for or against. I have read proof positive that He was a gentleman.

Adam doesn’t just describe a metaphoric force that corresponds to your head and infers the thinking process that you most associate with being “you” and being male. Using your head to make a living, surviving in the urban jungle, looking for a mate, competing with others for needs, earning rewards and attaining pleasures - are all secondary ways of using your ability to think. Success in all these areas of life will help you determine for yourself whether you’re a gentleman in your eyes. Identifying with the character of Adam in the Creation Story is your first sign of a conscious, struggle between the forces within you.

Holistically, you are a metaphoric tree of knowledge; you are its moral fruits; you have a defiant serpent hanging down from your trunk; and you are the combination of man {head} and woman {heart} who can’t resist learning about yourself. From the beginning of Torah until the very end the Bible is really all about you.

God said Adam could eat from any tree in the garden, but He also told Adam not to eat from the Tree of knowledge. And when you think back to your own early childhood, you can probably still remember ways in which your parents said you could do anything you wanted, but constantly told you what not to do. The Terrible Twos were a terribly confusing time in your life because they filled you with happiness on the one hand and frustration on the other at all the restrictions and controls upon your freedoms. That time represents the first time your thoughts {head}, feelings {heart} and desires {penis} struggled with your parents {who acted as your conscience} over what you were allowed to do.

The concept of obedience is difficult for a small child because his conscience hasn’t yet had the talk with his head {Adam} and heart {Eve} about what his penis {serpent} is constantly giving him permission to reach up for and pick – even though it has no arms or legs. For the toddler, freedom is synonymous with autonomy. Freedom must actually be introduced in stages to the small child or he’ll revolt against authority. Teaching a child the responsibility inherent in freedom requires an effort of Biblical proportions. A good mother needs more than patience. She needs support from the child’s father, other relatives and teachers.

When you personalize the first story in Genesis as a metaphor you become an Adam made in God's image for a new age. You perceive yourself as a tree of self-knowledge in pursuit of morality in an Eden of worldly temptations, first learning what's pleasurable and displeasing; then right from wrong; and lastly what's wise and loving. You know that you're in relationships with inner forces that are teaching you lessons of moral importance. And as your conscience develops you see yourself growing as though you've gone from a seed to a sprout to a sapling to a majestic tree in a deep, dark forest filled with billions of other trees.

Your heart literally branches out throughout your circulatory system. Your heart is literally the center of a biological, transportation system that brings oxygen and food to every cell in your body. The process of pumping blood throughout your circulatory system is autonomic, but your heart is figuratively the center of your emotional, transportation system that circulates feelings throughout your body. Feelings, like blood, can't stop flowing. Feelings can only be contained. If your feelings aren't contained, it's as though something has ruptured inside you. It feels like you're bleeding. You experience a wound that pours out something vital to your existence.

An infant can't discern his mother's feelings from his own. His feelings are so unconsciously projected onto her, and her feelings are so powerfully focused on him, that he confuses her feelings with his own. One day, however, it was as though she suddenly appeared to him in a whole new way, separate and distinct from him, as if he suddenly woke up from a deep sleep and discovered her there.

The psychological experience of ending this initial level of projection is described in the Creation Story as a deep sleep God put Adam into to remove a bone from his chest out of which He created Eve. Every baby unexpectedly breaks through this projection of his feelings onto his mother by concluding she's "HA-ISHA" {THE WOMAN} in his life. The woman is how Eve is described at the beginning of the Creation Story well before Adam gave her a name {Eve} as they were about to leave Eden.

From a physical perspective it's at this point in an infant's life that he discovers his own heartbeat beats with a different rhythm, independent of his mother's. From a psychological perspective it's when he concludes he has feelings of his own. It's then that he calls out to her with his first word, "ma-ma" to give voice to the muscular control he's developed from suckling at her breasts.

If Jesus is the personification of God's love then the spiritual wine by which He wished His blood to be remembered becomes symbolic of the love that circulated throughout His system. When Christians say He gave His body and blood for the world they're making the claim that His body contained spiritual contents that the world had never seen before. The sensation that comes with drinking alcoholic beverages approximates the light-headed

sensation of being in love, but inebriation only crudely approximates love. To experience love you literally have to love yourself, as Jesus did, and then give that love to others, as He also did. You first have to imagine yourself as a container of love figuratively suckling at God's breast.

Adam may have been told what not to do, but if you read the Creation Story carefully you'll see that Eve wasn't given any instruction on what they were forbidden from eating in the Garden of Eden. When viewing Eve metaphorically as man's heart, the heart has no prohibitions at first. It simply feels what it feels. It's man's head {Adam} that was first informed by his conscience {God} about what he shouldn't do. God made feelings {Eve} to be easily tempted by his desires {serpent}. That means that a man's mind tends to collude with his feelings and desires when he's young and inexperienced. And every man must then face his conscience and suffer the consequences of its moral authority and separate ruling over his thoughts, feelings and desires.

The penis is the delivery system of the life-giving juice {semen} which gets produced in our testicles {fruits} and then violently squeezed out of our body cavity during orgasm. But figuratively our penis has a voice all its own. During orgasm it activates the most profound physical sensation our body can muster, but our desires also have a powerful interest in how, when, where and with whom we choose to share the joy of creating and recreating that special sensation.

Our penis figuratively colludes with our head {Adam} by way of our heart {Eve}. Some men avoid the messiness of allowing their feelings into their sex life by trying to use their desires only in collaboration with their mind. Such men sometimes become devious and even deceitful in sexual conquests in order to avoid the intimacy with sex mates that would spoil the fun of treating sex only like a sport. Other men have a tendency to allow their penis to conspire with their heart without including their head in with the experience. Such men suffer violent emotional upheavals when their heart is broken by rejection or unrequited love. Learning to love without hurting others or yourself is an art that requires great understanding of the main metaphor of Moses and application of subsequent lessons in Torah.

Moses presented thoughts, feelings and desires as separate characters in the Creation Story, each with a mind of its own, but the moral of the story is that when "it" conspires with "her" "he" gets in trouble with Him over "them." And "them" are his testicles where ancient man believed the secret to life was located.

God didn't tell Adam what the consequences would be if he disobeyed Him, but we've been told all our life in many brazen and blatant ways that we should save the fruits of this tree in the garden until marriage. Instead, what we've inadvertently inferred from our elders is that we should avoid learning about ourselves. But, of course, the more you tell someone



not to learn about his own, innate and natural powers the more tenaciously he'll try to do so.

Reverse psychology is the essence of what makes the Creation Story so successful. Once you've unlocked the main metaphor of Moses with psychological insight, the explication may diminish some of the mystery in the tale. But you then see that that mystery is replenished in Torah in myriad extensions of the metaphor beginning with the next story in Torah of Cain {head} and Abel {heart}, which I'll certainly discuss later.

At one time masturbation was a taboo subject, but now that it's become socially permissible to speak about it, men have begun to explore the various figurative extensions of the main metaphor of Moses with avid interest and without shame. And yet, masturbating isn't the only way to interpret the Creation Story with literal and personal regard. A man's actual power to make a difference in this world isn't actually hanging under his penis in his scrotum. The Creation Story will always be a metaphor that delivers insight into the many ways man is made in God's image.

And yet a boy is quite literally not permitted the biological option of knowing the sweet delight that comes with picking the fruits from this tree until he reaches puberty. It's only at that time of life that his fruits became biologically ripe. Only in experiencing his first orgasm can a boy consume this level of self-knowledge personally and thereby come to think of himself as an Adam in a new day.

In the first chapter I said that this book is for anyone over the age of twelve thereby inferring that until a boy has reached his first orgasm he isn't going to know what physically separates the men from the boys. Therefore a youngster reading this book whose mind hasn't yet discovered the conspiracy between love and desire won't be physically able to apply my ideas emotionally and spiritually to his own experiences of life.

But personal knowledge about male sexuality and orgasm is not the only message alluded to in the Creation Story. It's after Adam and Eve have eaten the fruit and then *take* a look at each other that they realize they're naked; that they conclude that taking knowledge can't stop or be reversed; and that there will be consequences for everything they take in the future. Small children run around nude all the time without thinking a thing of it, but being naked is an emotional reaction to being nude that exemplifies the first aspect of a spiritual maturation process with man's conscience and God's ultimate authority. And that begins at puberty.

When you look at the Creation Story in terms of your first orgasm, "he" {thoughts} and "she" {feelings} discovered that they are never alone in each other's presence. There's always something coming out of "its" mouth that "it" doesn't want to take credit for. This is the psychological conclusion every boy makes about the *chat* Eve had with the serpent that changed Adam's life forever. With his first orgasm a boy finally experiences the

difference between being nude and naked. And with it come questions about the meaning of life that couldn't be addressed previously.

Being human is hard because no one tells us in advance that self-knowledge also initiates unpleasant feelings we didn't have reason to fear before. This unpleasant feeling associated with pleasure is called guilt. Once Adam and Eve saw each other in this new way they instinctively chose to cover their genitals with leaves. Clearly it was only then that they knew they knew something they hadn't previously known. After you had your first orgasm you, too, may have experienced a feeling without having a word to associate that feeling with. That specific aspect of guilt is called embarrassment. You may have felt embarrassment about your body for other reasons before that event, but the reason for your embarrassment had never emanated out from your penis before.

The guilt that marks the physical separation of childhood from puberty is an odd mixture of pleasant sensations and embarrassment. But that's nothing compared to the later aspects of guilt you experienced that were much more unpleasant. Fortunately Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Mohammed understood these issues and could describe them in ways that drew their followers closer to God. That is what I'm going to elicit for you here.

In a broad sense, traditional interpretations of Torah infer that guilt is the consequence of man's evil inclination to go against God's will. But that only addresses a very superficial interpretation of the moral of this story. The inclination to do good also brings up feelings of guilt since Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil. Since they knew both good and evil and still reacted with guilt there must be more of a moral conclusion to the story than sex is good or sex is bad.

Although a strict, personal interpretation of the Creation Story as metaphor would lead one to conclude that masturbation is neither good nor evil since you have no reason to be embarrassed when alone by yourself, the story begs the question why Adam and Eve would have needed to cover themselves afterwards. If the story is a metaphor for forces occurring within the self, why feel naked and embarrassed? Why not feel manly and proud? Why would such a pleasant sensation trigger guilt?

Rabbis have a quip they like to pull out to make themselves look clever. They say, "No good deed ever goes unpunished." But that makes no moral sense either. God would never punish us for virtues actions, so clearly there's a great deal of confusion in the conscience of man about what's really good and what's crazy making. The simplistic answer given by most religious institutions is that it's *good* to marry a woman and then have sex with her, but only to make babies. And it's *evil* to have sex for the fun of it. The simple answer just doesn't work anymore because the simple interpretation of the Creation Story no longer holds anyone's interest when there are so many deeper psychological interpretations to examine if we want to know ourselves thoroughly.

As you develop your conscience and can determine right from wrong for yourself, you become able to express yourself honestly, sincerely and authentically to others. Just avoiding what others tell you not to do because they've determined that forbidden fruit is unpleasant or undesirable won't develop your conscience. Many people act in a very coldblooded, determined manner when they do things that are wrong, while it's just as common for them to express great doubts and uncertainties when they do something right. You're the tree. You decide when and where you want to cover your serpent and fruit with "leaves." You decide when you ought to feel embarrassed.

Low self-esteem leads us to doubt ourselves, and a superiority complex leads us to feel certain about ourselves. This makes God's job of teaching each of us right from wrong a personal and private matter with Him, one we can only discuss with one another in generalities. Those with low self-esteem have a tendency to project their moral power onto others, and exhibit co-dependent behaviors. They do what they're told. Those with a superiority complex tend to project their authority onto God, and exhibit Co-dependent behaviors. They tell others what to do. Therefore it's not always easy for a man to decide for himself what's right for him, and leave others out of his process. In other words, all my advice to you is bad advice. I can only tell you what's true for me. I'm a spiritual artist who draws pictures in your imagination. You're free to refer to these etchings or discard them as your conscience sees fit. It's not my intention to tell you what to think, how to feel or Whom to believe.

Although the Creation Story is a very simple, metaphoric explanation for the internal consequences of what you do and don't do, Moses didn't end his exploration of morality with the Creation Story. It was, as Moses put it succinctly, what happened IN THE BEGINNING. After that, many other things happened in Genesis that hold secret level psychological interpretations, equally rich and helpful in guiding the development of a man's conscience that don't require him telling anyone how to live his life.

The Creation Story is the foundation upon which all the other stories in Torah are constructed, but without a deeper interpretation of Genesis now that we're so much more psychologically capable of introspection than our ancestors were, the rest of Torah, especially Leviticus, will appear to be contradictory and confusing, and the relevance of all religion will come into question. The secret to the New Testament, which rests upon the Old, lies in this, the first story of Genesis. The main metaphor of Moses made it possible for Jesus to contribute his symbolic, spiritual interpretation of man's emotions. If you don't understand the construction of the basement of a skyscraper, you can enjoy the penthouse view, but you aren't going to be able to recreate the spiritual structure Jesus built in you. The architecture of all spiritual ideas is an art and a science.

Man's power doesn't lie in his testicles, but in his conscience, the voice personified by God in the Creation Story. The juice in man's fruits literally hold the seeds that bring life

into the world, but the Gardener who planted every man's metaphoric seed in this world continues to concern Himself with every man's spiritual growth. The secret of life isn't how to make life. Any prepubescent teenager can give you the answer to that. The secret you need to uncover is why you were created looking the way you do. And that's a deeply personal question that no one can answer for you. You may be a metaphoric tree that, by extension, bears living fruit. But you also figuratively infuse your life-giving seeds into your world by blossoming and blooming in many, figurative ways. Therefore, only by fully unraveling the mystery of why you're here can you learn how to conduct yourself more wisely, lovingly and generously. Only by growing with moral intention can you find God.

To conclude, as religious men did for millennia, that we offended God and are now being punished for our evil ways by having to live life on Earth makes no sense in light of the main metaphor of Moses, if it ever did. Our ancient ancestors were too prudish to say anything outright sexual or with double entendre in polite society. So they had to use innuendo and euphemism to make their point. But the answer can be as simple or as complex as you want to make it. The simple answer to the meaning of life is that "the meaning of life is to give life meaning." [Ken Hudgins]

Many men today have lost their ability to imagine. What's worse, they've lost their sense of humor. They've lost the childlike quality of being able to ponder the Creation Story's deeper meaning on their own, let alone their own *raison d'être*. Far too many of my ideas may sound like sacrilege, but that's because some men are just not interested in learning why they're here. They're content to simply tell others how to behave because they've already concluded how it's all going to end. I see life as a school and the purpose of life, to learn. They see themselves as the Teacher's hall monitors whose job is to get others to class before class is dismissed and the good students go Home. Sadly, they have to remain out in the hall to do so. They're missing His lessons. And when they do come to class, they sit at the back of the room like the bozos you remember in school who were loud and disruptive. Such students of life are not here to learn.

To discover your ability to reach orgasm may have been a gift literally forbidden to you biologically in childhood, but once you grew into adolescence the gift became freely given. The question is whether you ever thanked God for this gift, or whether you simply accepted it without offering Him any prayerful expression of gratitude for it. It doesn't seem right to receive a gift without acknowledging the One who gave it. And if you enjoy achieving orgasm it makes no sense not to show your appreciation to God for your ability to do so unless the idea of being that intimate with God embarrasses you.

Using your arms and legs becomes less habitual and more intentional and deliberate if you lose one of them. Only then do some amputees come to appreciate the limbs they've got left. The same attitude of gratitude for your penis, testicles is worth considering rather

than having to lose their function to discover their importance in your life only once it's too late to enjoy orgasm. Gifts that are taken for granted often slip through our fingers...

Man's head and heart, like Adam and Eve, are very good at taking, but it's so much easier for his thoughts and feelings to simply accept what's happening than to go out of his way to give thanks for it. It would have made more sense for Adam and Eve not to have covered themselves once they realized they were nude. It would have made more sense to seek God out when they heard Him walking in the garden and humbly apologize for having taken something that didn't belong to them, and then thank Him for what they'd learned about themselves from the experience. A combination of embarrassment at what they'd done wrong and love for what they'd received that they didn't deserve would have made more sense than what happened next in the story. But, as Moses said, it was just THE BEGINNING.

A man who didn't have a mother who cared about his wellbeing wasn't showered with a lot of "don'ts" and "do's." He likely grew up emotionally volatile or spiritually apathetic to his potential in life because he didn't receive the sticks and carrots the rest of us got from our mother that taught us not only how to survive, but thrive. If you had a strong, powerful and opinionated mother she was a precious gift from God given personally to you with good reason. Honor that gift with gratitude to Him even if you don't love everything about her. Honor her by questioning Him as to why He gave you the mirror of your heart in your mother that you have. Her faults are spiritual challenges God planned just for you.

Every mother and son who can celebrate their emotional union live in the light of the Christian tradition of gratitude to Mary and Jesus. Theirs is the archetype of the perfect human relationship of love. His birth in December is really the time when we ought to celebrate Mother's Day. Winter within comes any time you suddenly think about how much you still need and want your mother to be with you.

The Madonna and Child represent the quintessential relationship of purity that's stereotypically epitomized today in the Jewish mother and gay-Jewish son relationship that's known to be fiercely possessive and protective. That the mother/son bond could mirror God's relationship to man was an interpretation that was jaw-dropping news 2,000 years ago. But it's beyond common knowledge nowadays; it's even clichéd. We no longer need to be reminded that the need for every son to improve himself is mirrored in his mother; his spouse; Mother Nature; and his spiritual relationship to our universal Mother.

The consequences of every member of the tribe doing what his feelings and desires wanted him to do were understood (and discouraged) by the ancient Jews who were well versed in Torah. They intuitively understood and agreed that moral authority had to be rigidly held from the outside in using strict societal norms and horror stories of a vengeful God. God had to be externalized before He could be internalized. Outer reality had to teach

them through pain and suffering to move within for evidence of God's presence. And inner reality had to be divided into several spaces, not places {head, heart and soul}. And each of these spaces had to be explored and understood before Abrahamic man could go on the journey in search of self to discover he's not alone on the inside.

A conscience becomes a soul when it's been ignited with self-love. And, although love conquers all, without a thorough understanding of the importance guilt plays in developing your conscience you won't be able to use the light of love as your guide. You'll be doomed to looking for your love in an inner darkness that can be very dark indeed. Those who are Co-dependent will talk about God's love, but it'll always sound like they experience Him around them, not within. Their superiority complex will always leave you wondering how much they really know and like about themselves.

When you view the male body as a metaphoric tree, every man starts out as a seed planted in his mother's garden: Eden {womb}. The pain of being born is like a rib being ripped out of his body, forcing him to breathe. And out of that waking up experience God gives the baby boy his very own "ISHA" {WOMAN} to call his own. What was previously for every Adam an internal experience of being a seed in his mother's garden becomes an external experience of being beside her in a new garden called ADAMA {THE EARTH}. The newborn was banished from his mother's internal garden, only to find himself out in another Eden {Earth} surrounded by an orchard of tall, metaphoric trees. This cycle of gardens and banishments continues into childhood, adolescence, young adulthood and old age when God finally fells each tree still standing and it's returned to the earth.

Without the benefits of science Jesus understood that his mother's husband wasn't His spiritual Father. He understood that the love emanating out of Him was the result of God's doing, not Joseph's. Jesus is the Adam planted in His Father's garden without need for Eve to have conversed with the serpent. He had a unique ability to understand the metaphoric forces within Him and explain Himself in Mosaic terms other men couldn't yet do.

After Eve picked the forbidden fruit and shared it with Adam the character of God stated, "THE MAN...MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO REACH OUT HIS HAND AND TAKE ALSO FROM THE TREE OF LIFE AND EAT, AND LIVE FOREVER." [Genesis 3:22]

Each of us is figuratively like fruit in this world growing from green to ripe to rotten as we dangle precariously from the Tree of life. To know our mortality is easier than to express our feelings about the precarious hold we have on life. Those who've been through a life-threatening experience face a reaction to death that often transforms the way they feel about life. It's as though they realize they're hanging by a stem (not a thread).

You'd think that only the most physically attractive individuals would want to remain in the youthful body they were given. You'd think that those who feel the most empty inside, the most uncaring and least aware of how much they rely on God's good opinion of

them would be in need of an eternity just to change their low opinion of the moral importance of life. Heaven sounds a lot less appealing if you think about all the ugly people who'll be stuck forever with the container they got or its unfulfilled contents.

God then “DROVE THE MAN OUT. HE PLACED ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN CHERUBIM AND A FLAMING SWORD FLASHING BACK AND FORTH TO GUARD THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE.” [Genesis 3:24]

Perhaps God decided to keep man away from the Tree of life for good. Or maybe He just defended the way to the Tree of life after expelling Adam and Eve because He devised another way for humanity to find its way back into paradise.

First God forbade man from achieving intellectual understanding of himself which led him to discover he was a metaphoric tree of knowledge all along. Then He seemed to know man would eventually want to learn the secret to that second Tree {life}. God not so subtly revealed that the Tree of life grows in the same garden in a place where the path to it is surrounded by angels and a sword to keep man from even coming close to this second secret about himself. No doubt this was more reverse psychology intended to make him curious about unlocking the secret to life as well.

Of course the secret to life isn't knowledge. Jesus figuratively made His way down this second path past the guardian angels and flaming sword. The blade that cuts and burns us all is guilt. But once we've overcome guilt the secret to life {love} is ours for the taking. Man isn't just a metaphoric tree that grows with intellectual knowledge. He's also a metaphoric tree that grows with emotional understanding of himself. The Tree of life fruits with myriad forms of love for those who know the meaning of life.

Men have always malevolently assumed Eve shared the forbidden fruit with Adam to implicate him in the crime. But what if she learned so much about goodness that she knew self-sacrifice is a great virtue? Only the child who loves his mother for her sacrifice for his sake can appreciate this conclusion.

The man who's had a positive, loving relationship with his mother picks out the seeds of her goodness in himself and plants these aspects of her in others to honor her. This he does with love for what she did for him, but also because doing so honors his Father. Self-knowledge brings with it the potential for good as well as evil. But admiration of your mother for giving that portion of the forbidden fruit to you that she didn't consume herself {just as Eve did with Adam} brings with it a desire to share your love for her with the world.

If you hoard what your mother gave you with the intention of only giving it back to God you're a fool. God doesn't need you to give to Him what she gave you. The world needs to know about her sacrifice for your sake. What will you bring into the world to come

if you haven't sowed the spiritual seeds your mother planted in you and reaped the fruits of those labors in this world? The answer is nothing at all.

Although anger, joy, grief, mourning, sadness, fear and terror are emotions mentioned in Torah, the first feeling described is the complex emotion called loneliness that Adam experienced in Eden when he was there all by himself. A mother relieves her baby's loneliness. A father relieves his son's loneliness. Friends relieve an adolescent's loneliness, and a mate relieves the young man's loneliness. But the modern American male knows that his mother, father, friends and mates are only emotional treatments. The only cure for his loneliness is to become his own best friend.

Today man uses his conscience not only as his guide, but also for soul-searching. His conscience used to be a scale that weighed his thoughts against his feelings of guilt to determine the beliefs he had to hold out in the world. To improve the accuracy of this scale, Jesus added the weight of love and all the other wonderful feelings in man. This reset the moral balance of the meaning of life thereafter. The added load of love to the moral scale transformed life from how it had previously been perceived as dutiful to how it would forever more be appreciated as loving.

Although Moses made himself the main character in Torah, the character of Joshua, not Moses, was the only Israelite born in Egypt who Moses chose to make it all the way into Israel. Joshua was first described in the Book of Numbers as one of the twelve spies sent into Israel to scope out the land. [Numbers 13:1-14]

To become a savior; a Joshua {savior} unto yourself; a spy who can sneak into your inner Israel; someone who can ultimately lead you across your inner Jordan River into the inner space God created just for you – this personal journey must take you out of your head into your heart. This crossing will be easier for you than it sounds since you already have Torah to describe this journey in metaphoric terms.

But it may also be hard for you because God will take you on a journey through family challenges, career, artistic endeavors, friendship, good deeds for others, politics or some other thread in your life that holds Biblical importance. I can do no more than describe this spiritual process in general terms. You have to develop the insight to see it in your own circumstances. I can't give you a way to measure your progress. I can only encourage you to continue moving toward your inner, Israeli ideal and not to lose hope or want to turn around and go back to the bondage of your inner Egypt.

The Israeli born Rabbi Joshua {Jesus} was able to make this journey 1,400 years after the Egyptian born Joshua in a way that has transformed humanity. Jesus's journey was a charting of the first Joshua's journey in a profoundly and totally unexpected story that Jews and Christians are still reeling from 2,000 years later. Joshua #2 takes everyone over his



Jordan River into His Promised Land peacefully because no one can enter His Israel except with love.

The first Joshua helped the Jews achieve freedom. The second Joshua showed the world the need for liberty. Freedom is a rational move from one place to another that's achieved when you use your head. Liberty is an irrational, but equally beneficial, figurative move because it takes you out of outer place into inner space.

In America we seek both and more. Our culture is based on the pursuit of happiness, which is a combination of physical freedom, emotional liberty and spiritual emancipation. Our history has given us the independence to seek God by pursuing His ideals through a secular society rather than forcing everyone to seek Him with the religiosity previously witnessed in Christian Europe.

Man takes his ability to converse with himself even more for granted than he appreciates his ability to reach orgasm. Talking to yourself is harder than you might imagine. Introduce you to yourself, and I'll help you steer the conversation to awareness of the various voices within you later.

In these first few chapters I'm just presenting you with spiritual vocabulary that you're going to use later to explore Spiritual Linguistics on your own. For the moment, just remember that when you're alone thinking about your relationships with other people you're also exploring moral issues with yourself that you're trying to resolve. Those people in your mind are acting as placeholders for moral concepts you have strong feelings about.

If you look around when you're on a bus or in an elevator, you'll notice that people are a lot shier than you otherwise experience them to be. People often get quiet when in a restricted space amongst strangers. They spend that time observing others or lost in thought because that close proximity to strangers makes them a little uncomfortable.

You shouldn't feel overly shy about becoming more intimate with yourself. You're a stranger in a restricted space who needs a formal introduction to you on how to become a better human being using the Bible as your guide. My goal isn't to tell you what to say to yourself, only to restate the operating manual procedures the Bible enumerates in language anybody can understand.

You were made in God's image and if you don't know very much about how He made people in general, your conclusions about your relationship to Him aren't going to be very personal or insightful. You're going to think you're extremely special or radically different from other human beings, and neither opinion is going to help you learn how to operate yourself more effectively.

The three Abrahamic aspects of God are mirrored in every man's relationships to his head, heart and soul, his sense of "me," "myself" and "I". The more he understands these individual aspects of himself and what it means to have three divine forces at work within

him, the more he can understand what a Christian is talking about when he uses the term “God” or “Trinity.” The more you can understand the mystery and importance of self-love the more you’ll be able to build upon guilt with positive reasons for self-awareness.

When we look deeply into the nature of words we see that we don’t just think about other people. We have feelings for them that can be both positive and negative. But these thoughts and feelings are also emanating out of us and therefore affecting us. And this makes being human a much more filtered and strained experience than it looks. God wants us to become aware of His presence through people. But you’re a person, too. People will give you keys to His plan for you, but you then have to unlock the door within yourself to let yourself in. People can help you look inside to better perceive your head, heart and soul as spiritual components to the way you were made, but you have to become a willing student of the self. The humility to make your life personal and precious to you is the difference between a pupil who wants to know none of this and a student in the school of life who’s willing to learn everything he can about himself.

Jesus intensified the experience of being human by taking everything Moses gave us to ponder in our mind and recreating it in a separate location within us. He was a rabbi born and raised in Israel. {Palestine was the offensive name given by the Romans to our country in 135 A.D. when they decide to cleanse the land of Jews.}

Joshua #1 of the Old Testament had to struggle to make his way into Israel from Egypt. Joshua #2 {Jesus} unlike Joshua #1, made the journey from Egypt to Israel with His family when He was a child. Jesus’s journey to Egypt and back lends poetic justice to Jesus having recreated the path of His Biblical forefathers to reenter Israel in a way that no “SABRA” {CACTUS/NATIVE BORN ISRAELI} today can possibly fathom emotionally until he, too, leaves the country of his birth and returns home.

From the time of Jesus until 1948, most of the Jews were sufficiently schooled in the wisdom of Moses to understand that what they were doing was for their sake, not God’s. With the luxury today in having Jewish children once again born in Israel comes the responsibility of teaching them what a gift they’ve been given in being born in the Holy Land, as was Jesus. Today’s challenge in Israel is to become a Jewish light unto the nations with even greater wattage. “LEARN AND OBSERVE {Torah} FOR IT IS YOUR WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING IN THE EYES OF THE NATIONS, WHO WILL HEAR OF ALL THESE LAWS AND PROCLAIM THAT THIS IS TRULY A GREAT, WISE AND UNDERSTANDING NATION.” [Deuteronomy 4:6] “IT IS TOO SMALL A THING FOR YOU TO BE MY SERVANT TO RESTORE THE TRIBES OF JACOB AND BRING BACK THOSE OF ISRAEL I HAVE KEPT. I WILL ALSO MAKE YOU A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT MY SALVATION MAY REACH TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.” [Isaiah 49:6]

Jesus was the genteel Israeli of His day who added to these underlying Biblical principles from God. And the P r o p h e t Mohammed supplemented the metaphor of Moses and symbols of Jesus with similes given to him by God so we could all compare and contrast these ideas for greater moral insight into our nature. The P r o p h e t Mohammed was the outsider to the Judeo-Christian world. He is described as having gone with the Archangel Gabriel to Heaven to discuss these matters with Moses and Jesus directly. The wisdom of the Jews and love of the Christians cannot be fulfilled without the generosity of the Muslims. We need one another for God's plan to be fulfilled.

People pray for money, love, health and peace because these are the usual priorities they want from God. They rarely pray for answers to why the world is the way it is because they shy away from discussing their fear and anger of Him with Him. God becomes the elephant in every room. I like to think of Him as an elephant wearing a "KEEPA" {JEWISH PRAYER CAP} and wrapped in a "TALLIT" {JEWISH PRAYER SHAWL}. In my imagination God looks like an Orthodox, Jewish elephant.

I also like to think of God as the Indian elephant in the Hindu story about the blind men who each touched the elephant, and came away with differing impressions of it. If you were blind and touched an elephant's trunk, belly, leg, ear or tail, you, too, would come away with a different impression of what a whole elephant looks like. God is our Abrahamic elephant, and each of the world's faiths is like a blind man insisting he sees all of Him.

Few people mature out of the metaphor of God-as-our-Father with us as His children to arrive at the Teacher/student model where every moral question is answered if asked with interest rather than rhetorical rebuttal. Few ask God how He's going to satisfy Jews and Christians by sending us a Messiah who's never been here and one who came, went and will return. People don't ask God such questions because they don't want Him to sense their frustration with Him. They don't want to ask our Teacher questions that are paradoxical, mysterious and difficult to solve. Far too many men would rather kill, main, rape and ridicule others than work on their issues from the inside out.

When you use the metaphor of life-as-a-spiritual-school, natural calamities, illness, war and personal losses become ways our Teacher challenges individual members of the class and study groups to improve their intimacy with themselves through the class assignments He gives them. Some students advance in their personal curriculum with the Teacher as the result of these challenges; others are graduated early. The class curve goes up as we work together to make the world a better place, while, at the same time, working independently to make our own inner world a better space.

Everyone is being graded on his wisdom {ability to judge fairly}, love {ability to feel mercifully} and generosity of spirit {ability to demonstrate loyalty faithfully}. Touting the

importance of these virtues for others without applying them to yourself becomes the height of hypocrisy. In the metaphoric model of life as a school, the pupil simply goes to school to be with his friends, and makes up answers as he goes along. The student strives to look for things to be learned in life that will reward him with money, power and prestige. And the scholar seeks answers to the mysteries of the universe that will make him wiser, more loving and generous of spirit. Every man has a pupil, student and scholar in him that needs to solve problems at every level of his curriculum.

A play on words isn't just a clever trick. A play on words expresses a mystical relationship in a new light. A play on words is a way for poets to connect ideas that have no other way of being connected. I don't need to remind you that people kill each other over the words they utter. The pen was once mightier than the sword, but today's poets go to battle equipped with an arsenal of deadly weapons on their keyboard. If you underestimate the power of poets you cheapen the importance of words, including the WORD/WORD of God.

Jesus was the Messiah who's been and gone, but that doesn't mean the next Messiah has to have been here before in order to return. When you go home to visit your family at Thanksgiving what your family sees is someone they only think they recognize. Even though you once lived with them and only return now at holidays, you may not be the person you used to be. Who they see isn't necessarily who you are anymore. And even when you did live with them, it's possible they couldn't fully acknowledge your presence even then.

Jesus may have been the one and only one chosen from among all those God originally chose, but that doesn't mean we Jews have to pray to one of our own. When the Messiah comes, those who chose not to fight over the literal meaning of words will be rewarded with the power that comes through the figurative importance of words.

God never turned His back on those He first chose to Father: the Jewish people. He simply had a second marriage with a Jewish woman by the name of Miriam through which He brought an additional Son into the world. Jesus was able to make his way back to the Eden of infancy where He found His way to the Tree of life, ate of it, and shared its fruit with the world. Those who are adopted by Jesus are metaphoric trees in the pursuit of another kind of wisdom, one from the heart, called love. It may not be the heady wisdom we Jews pursue to relieve us of our guilt, but it's a God-given form of wisdom we all need to learn about, nevertheless.

Ancient Israel was occupied by the Romans for about 150 years from 63 B.C.E. until 135 A.D. at which time the Jews were conquered and disbursed into the Roman empire as slaves. The Romans were a barbaric, bloodthirsty race of men that couldn't be influenced with intellectual answers as could the Greeks a few hundred years prior. It wasn't just the

Roman cruelty and ferocity that led to the death of Jesus and the dispersion of the Jews into the Diaspora. Roman anti-intellectualism defeated and demoralized everyone they came in contact with.

Four times my Jewish ancestors were slaves: Egypt, Babylonia, Rome and Germany. Three times God emancipated us and gave us back our homeland: after Egypt, Babylonia and Germany. The ancient Jews of Jesus's time had to find a way into the barbaric Roman heart where cruelty was the only teacher. My father was a slave in a Dachau concentration camp and saw a similar barbarism among the Germans, so we know teaching the world how to love is difficult, but not impossible.

Even though my Hebraic ancestors were masters of metaphoric thinking they couldn't understand the spiritual importance of the symbolic logic Jesus introduced. They could empathize with the loneliness Moses described in his description of Adam, but they couldn't relate to the emptiness Jesus imparted to the Christian world when He left.

Early Jews {and even early Christians} would never have been able to understand the modern claim that "life is a bowl of cherries." {song by Rudy Vallee, 1931} Expressing the idea that everything is going well using the combination of a metaphor and symbol would have baffled them because they couldn't conceive of their body as a bowl they were filling with spiritual fruit.

Ancient Jews certainly knew what it meant to live and let live, but they were too primitive to understand what it means today to "love, and let love." They could argue about how they loved God and how their enemies hated them, but they couldn't love themselves. Although they had a vague understanding of themselves as metaphoric trees, they couldn't, in their wildest imagination, have figured out the meaning of not being able to see the forest for the trees.

When God blessed us and told us to "BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY" [Genesis 1:28] He wasn't speaking literally. People aren't literally trees. He was figuratively telling us to augment our intelligence with wisdom of the heart in order to discover His ways. You can't expect to produce new human beings who demonstrate generosity of spirit if you haven't first taught them how to act in ways that are both wise and loving.

When Jews and Christians come to understand the metaphors and symbols that link us to God, we'll be in a better place to prove to Muslims that the similes that were entrusted to them will give everyone in the Abrahamic traditions greater signs of God's presence in our lives. When Muslims will come to see themselves as contributors to this spiritual process Western civilization will be rewarded more beneficently; peace will come to the world; and the Eastern philosophies will find the keys in their traditions that will unlock their own linguistic gifts to God's universal plan.

God fashioned the Jews into realists. We don't even believe in Heaven or Hell because there's no physical proof for either. He made Christians into idealists. They believe that the best is yet to come {Heaven}. But I believe He made Muslims with the potential of becoming pragmatists to avoid the worst to come {Hell}. Unless we include their drive for God's blessings in with our own we're not going to move humanity forward as fast as we could otherwise. We need Jewish spiritual realists, Christian spiritual idealists and Muslim spiritual cynics.

Thanks to modern extensions of the metaphor of Moses, we don't have to consider literally eating our testicles to discover the secret to knowledge. Thanks to modern extensions of the symbolism of Jesus we don't have to literally consume human flesh and drink human blood to discover the secret of life. We can use our metaphoric understanding of Torah and symbolic understanding of the Gospels to arrive at the following claims:

1. The fruits of good and evil lead to self-knowledge.
2. The more you associate goodness with the emotion of love and evil with the feeling of guilt the more you'll learn about wisdom from the heart.
3. The seeds of self-knowledge, planted in yourself, are germinating and growing into orchards of potential experiences that will lead you down the path to the Tree of life where you, too, will discover that you were created by God with the potential to be beloved.

If you seek the reward you really know you want, self-love {not just self-knowledge} you won't only be judged by what you learned in life. You'll be judged by how you feel about yourself. And isn't that really more important in understanding why you're here acting in the ways you do? What's the good of all the morality in God's world if you can't use it on yourself?

Good things happen to horribly bad people because bad people are pupils in this school, too. God judges each of us symbolically. That's why Jesus said that no one could come to the Father except through Him. Imagine that when your life is over you're immersed in God's love, and then measured by the run off to determine what you accomplished with only time, space and the body He gave you. It's the volume of love you've amassed, not the length, width or depth of your other emotions that will determine how much you grew from your experiences down here. Trying to answer this question using only metaphor would never have been possible. When you can combine metaphoric thinking with symbolic logic, secrets you're holding inside will be released and we all become to beneficiaries of your wisdom.

Before we explore the depth of Jesus's love for humanity and the symbols He presented to understand Him, we must explore the words of Moses in greater detail to glean more from his massive, main metaphor. You won't be able to understand why men oppose God's

will as well as His love if you don't understand the depths of the guilt each of us has to find the courage to face in ourselves.

There are three levels to guilt: embarrassment, shame and humiliation. Adam and Eve were embarrassed when they looked at one another and realized they were nude. Then, when they heard God walking in the garden and realized He was coming toward them they were ashamed of themselves and ran and hid amongst the trees. They instinctively knew He knew they were emotionally naked and didn't want Him to see them that way. And when He called them out from among the trees each felt exposed to His questions and humiliated himself. In doing so Adam and Eve experienced the depth of their guilt.

You can't transcend a guilty conscience simply by learning from your mistakes. Apologies and atonement is necessary. But you also can't love yourself just for eradicating your guilt. You have to earn your love by raising your self-esteem. And then you have to use that increased self-esteem to express gratitude for all that you've learned about yourself.

You'll eventually come to esteem yourself just for engaging in emotional intimacy with yourself. You'll yearn to give God signs of your ability to express gratitude to Him. More than you'll need others to approve of you, you'll need to approve of yourself.

Living life outside Eden staring in at the two metaphoric trees growing at the center of the garden won't be enough. You'll want to reenter your garden, but each time with great emotional sobriety to find your way to the scene of the crime to pay your overdue tuition in the school of life. And then you'll want to make your way to the Tree of life, past your guardian angels and flaming sword to feast on the fruits of self-love growing on your tree of life.

Some think they can simply change their mind and all will be forgiven. That's simply not true. Changing your mind will do nothing to transform your feelings. You'll still feel guilty; you'll simply live in various states of denial about how you really feel. Atonement with gratitude is the only cure for a guilty conscience. But if you don't know about the three levels of guilt and how each is magically transforms into a tool of self-love you can still try to feel grateful for your misfortunes, but you probably won't succeed. You'll be left with bitterness and confusion.

The physical forces of the world such as gravity, light, inertia, electricity, wind and water are real. They affect your container. The inner forces of the world such as thoughts, feelings, desires and beliefs are surreal. These forces affect your contents. When you use the physical forces of the world to create metaphors, symbols and similes it allows you to plummet the mysteries of the inner forces at play in your life. A "tree of knowledge" is a metaphor. A "storm in a teacup" is a symbol. "Like a light from God shining within you" is a simile. A metaphor requires knowledge. A symbol requires knowledge and emotion.

And a simile requires knowledge, emotion and belief. Employing your thoughts, feelings and beliefs in these distinct, linguistic ways will help you understand what you're doing when you think you aren't *doing* anything.

When looking for spiritual answers your body is the first and foremost place where you should look. Self-hatred comes from guilt three ways:

1. Embarrassment about what your body looks like
2. Shame about what you've done
3. Humiliation at what you believe to be true about yourself.

You weren't made physically perfect, and as you age you become exceedingly aware of just how physically imperfect you've become. But it's only on certain occasions that embarrassment of your body is triggered. We're all stuck with what we were given physically, on the one hand, and we've all got to make the best of what we've done with what we've got, on the other. And even if you're gorgeous now, life is still going to slowly steal your looks out from under you over time. You can't avoid the feelings that arise from embarrassment. You have to learn to deal with them. And the only answer to this emotional problem is self-love.

The process of learning to get comfortable in your physical container is life long, but the fact that it's a spiritual process intended by God only becomes apparent over time as you get familiar with your body. And yet, the experience of embarrassment is only the skin of the forbidden fruit. As you bit through, chewed and swallowed this level of guilt you became modest. Modesty is one of the great rewards of a spiritual education.

The first three things you notice about people's container are their gender, ethnicity and age. You may prefer men to women, or blacks over whites. You may like spending time with adults more than children. But your preference for certain containers may cause you to act hypocritically and unfairly unless you're consciously aware of your tendency to play favorites. Treating some people better than others just because of their body is unjust and unkind to the person in that body. But as long as your preference for certain body types resides in you consciously you can keep your prejudices under control. It's when you take unfair actions on your preferences that you trigger a moral, laboratory setting in which you will have to account for the way you behave. You'll eventually feel embarrassed about your actions or you'll be accused of behaving badly and blamed for not teaching yourself to feel embarrassed on your own. The only way to deal with this level of guilt whether it arises internally or externally is by recognizing that gender, ethnicity and age preferences are projections of how bad you feel about your own container.

The first thing Adam and Eve noticed about one another was their gender. The next thing they did was to cover up the organ that corresponded to their gender. They were



embarrassed being nude before one another. Embarrassment once woke you up to the way you looked physically different from your mother. You became embarrassed at being nude in her presence.

Embarrassment is the first emotional reaction to knowledge of the self. Embarrassment is like turning on a dim nightlight inside yourself. With that shadowy light you can move about in the dark. Thanks to your childhood embarrassment, your mother could guide you through the dim inner world when you were little to teach you to dress and feed yourself, use the toilet, etc. She helped you move through embarrassment to modesty by training you to behave like every other civilized human being. The light of embarrassment, this first stage of guilt, eventually led to the heightened, painful relationship with your body in puberty that caused the struggle between the immodesty you wished to express instinctively and the modesty your parents had put so much effort into instilling in you when you were a child.

Modesty doesn't open you to conscious awareness of your inner authority. That's far too sophisticated a revelation for someone at that early stage of self-knowledge. Modesty is a spiritual digestion process of the first level of guilt you unconsciously learned to swallow. Today when you feel embarrassed about something about you, it may leave you feeling alone, separate and different from others. You may not have enough modesty to overcome all of your embarrassment.

Considering looking up the lyrics to the song "My Funny Valentine" sung by Ella Fitzgerald {music by Richard Rodgers; lyrics by gay-Jew Lorenz Hart}. It describes the issues in overcoming embarrassment with modesty.

Guilt occurs on three levels corresponding to the peel, the meat and the core of an apple. The peel corresponds to embarrassment, and the meat of the apple corresponds to shame. When you do things that are hurtful to others you should strive to overcome shame of your character by seeking the wisdom of those who can teach you how to apologize and make amends in a timely manner; and then be kinder in the future. Many people ignore having eaten the meat of the apple altogether because they think their personality is beyond reproach. They never apologize or feel sorry about anything they do because they never experience shame, the motivation for self-improvement of man's character. "Sorry seems to be the hardest word" {gay-Christian Elton John} because people use excuses and denial to expunge their shame. Check out the lyrics to this song, too.

The spiritual core of guilt {humiliation} is the most private level of guilt. Humiliation occurs when I realize I've done something to that compromises my relationships with myself within myself. It occurs between me, myself and I (and God) if the three of us feel so bad about ourselves that we feel the need to bring Him in on our discomfort. In the past humiliation forced me to compromise my life by giving up my search for answers in favor

of dismissing this level of guilt entirely. Today it motivates me to pray. I'm no longer desperate for answers or insistent that I'm innocent of any and all crimes against my own humanity. Today I'm just resolved to grow out of each childish belief I hold in an effort to blossom and bloom in some wonderful, mysterious and as yet unknown way.

After Adam and Eve concealed their genitals with leaves they heard God walking in the garden. God certainly didn't have to let them know He was there. He obviously made a sound to let them prepare for His arrival. But they childishly chose to run away from Him and hide among the trees. {The irony of being a tree of knowledge hiding from God amongst other trees like yourself describes apery, imitation, impersonation and mirroring} But in so doing they triggered the second emotional level of guilt that comes with knowledge of good and evil: shame.

When in public, adults literally conceal their genitals and physical imperfections with clothes to express modesty in the way God made them. But they also find ways to blend in with others so that their shame of their opinion of themselves doesn't leave them standing out from others. Trees that hide among other trees create a forest. Children's stories often talk about getting lost in the forest because children intuitively grasp this Biblical extension of the main metaphor of Moses and have the sincerity and candor to take it personally through fairy tales. They also know that there's no way out of this kind of forest until you're curious to learn more about the one tree that's different and special from all the rest.

In learning modesty, your parents had to teach you how to treat them and your siblings respectfully because you got angry and frustrated with the process. Overcoming shame is a lesson that begins during the terrible twos. In struggling with shame of your character for wanting revenge against your family when you couldn't get it your way, they taught you how to move through this second level of guilt and receive the spiritual reward called humility.

Humility is just as spiritually nutritious as modesty, but humility tastes much sweeter because it's got a more meaty, spiritual texture. Modesty teaches you how to get past self-ignorance by biting through embarrassment to learn about all things physical. Humility teaches you how to chew on your persona, all those voices within you that can often contradict one another and that lead to behaviors that are inconsistent, unpredictable or even defiant. With modesty you learn how to look good. With humility you learn how to behave well.

But these two levels of guilt aren't enough to give life spiritual exigency. You still have to experience humiliation to discover the third reward of learning: loyalty. When your relationship to yourself is unbalanced, you do things for others they don't deserve. You indulge people rather than instruct them. When your loyalties to yourself are projected and unclaimed, you humiliate yourself, and it's unlikely anyone's going to see you that deeply

except God. In fact, it's often questionable whether you humiliated yourself or He humiliated you.

The internalization of morality is a lifelong spiritual task. The infant lies nude on the diaper-changing table before his mother, but he has no idea what embarrassment is. The child plays hide-and-go-seek with his playmates, running away from them to experience the thrill of being discovered, but he has no idea that he's emotionally naked. For him shame is but a game. And the adolescent is spiritually transparent. He doesn't realize how much he's projecting his conscience onto the authority figures around him, and then defies them, not realizing they're mirrors of himself, unclaimed.

The adolescent-stage lesson of guilt {humiliation} is ritualized in Judaism with a "BAR MITZVAH" {RITE OF PASSAGE} to help prevent teenage boys from humiliating themselves to excess. When a Jewish youngster's defiance grows so great it can no longer shield him from physically, emotionally and spiritually destructive behaviors toward his elders this new relationship with God is added to teach him the importance of loyalty. The Bar Mitzvah doesn't mean a boy has suddenly become a grown man. It doesn't mean he's physically ready for sexual intimacy or financially ready to strike out on his own. It simply means he's old enough to stand fully and foolishly before God, come what may.

The Bar Mitzvah is the passage of life when a boy's errors of judgment no longer rest on his parents' shoulders. His parents get out of his way spiritually. They no longer stand between him and God to receive His blessings for everything he does right and curses for what he does wrong. At the age of thirteen, as he moves into puberty, a Jewish boy steps forward and agrees to stand before God on his own. He agrees to take moral responsibility for the conspiracy between his urges {serpent}, feelings {Eve} and thoughts {Adam}. He commits to standing nude, naked and transparent before God, even though, practically speaking, he doesn't usually have a clue what he's agreed to.

Jesus wasn't the first man to eat His way through the meat of the forbidden fruit to the core. He was the first to understand that loyalty to God is still a projection. A man must discover loyalty to himself. The seeds of guilt, like the core and the seeds of an apple must be consumed despite cultural norms or personal preferences. Self-loyalty for the sake of devotion to learning is the spiritual reward that holds the potential for love that every fully grown man yearns for. But at the tender age of thirteen a boy practically has to hold his nose to swallow this spiritual remedy.

Those who are impatient plant loyalty in those who don't deserve it, usually physically, by making babies. Those who are foolish plant loyalty only in God, and come away hateful toward humanity. Only those who are wise plant their seeds of loyalty in themselves where they can water them and watch them safely grow to maturity. The young scholar who's

committed to planting his seeds of loyalty in himself will be taught the lessons in pruning his own tree and harvesting his own fruit.

When God called out to Adam and asked him if he'd eaten from the Tree of knowledge Adam said, "THE WOMAN YOU PUT HERE WITH ME – SHE GAVE ME SOME FRUIT FROM THE TREE AND I ATE IT." [Genesis 3:12]

In other words, Adam projected his guilt onto God and Eve, not realizing what a fool he was making of himself in blaming Them {Him and her} for what he'd done. He couldn't take responsibility for his own actions. He humiliated himself. It was as if he had no idea that there even had been a serpent involved in the crime.

The reward for enduring humiliation and learning to appreciate its effect on you is called חֶסֶד {CHESED}. This Hebrew word is commonly translated as "loving kindness," but it literally means "LOYALTY." When you move elegantly through the humiliation you've suffered in having to be you, you receive the CHESED that no one can take from you.

There's no force on Earth more powerful than your own love, but loyalty to yourself is the last step in achieving it. A man has to convince himself he can demonstrate loyalty by first being willing to offer his loyalty to others before he can earn it for himself. The loyalty he presents to his family, friends, career and community, as well as his allegiance to his country – and even the fanatical devotion he may give to his favorite sports team or political persuasion - are all evidence of chesed, the loyalty he bestows on others. But his loyalty to them is just for practice.

Young men have a particularly egregious habit in choosing objects of loyalty {forbidden fruit} promoted by their penis {serpent} and agreed to by their heart {Eve} and head {Adam} even though their conscience {God} knows better. The Middle East is a favorite *garden* where these young men like to go to work out their issues of having been deeply humiliated in life. They're really not in a struggle with gays {personified by the political left} or Jews {personified by the political right}. They're just chewing on the core and seeds of guilt before allowing themselves to swallow it and achieve self-loyalty, making it possible to get on with their quest for self-love. By the bitterness you can see in Palestinians, you can imagine how unsuccessful they are in this regard.

As much as you've cultivated yourself with questions and fertilized your inner ground with guesses to the answers of those questions, it takes time to see yourself growing with regard to the bigger spiritual, botanical picture. Adolescence may have been that time in your life when farming your mind produced a great burst of creative growth. But it wasn't until adulthood that you were able to reap the rewards of your efforts with a sense of inner congruity. Look now inside yourself for better answers to the questions the infant, child, adolescent and young adult in you quickly asked and answered then. And thank God now

for guilt. Without it the hard-earned self-knowledge you've garnered wouldn't mean a thing.

“MATZO,” {UNLEAVENED BREAD} the Israelites hurriedly baked as they were escaping bondage in Egypt is the bread served every Passover in remembrance of the Israelites' impatience to leave their Egyptian slave drivers. Matzo was the bread Jesus asked His followers to eat in symbolic memory of the body He was going to sacrifice the next day for their cause. Whether you're Jewish or Christian, you planted a wheat field and vineyard in yourself many years ago and have been reaping the rewards of the grain you gathered, milled and baked, and the grapes you've gathered, crushed, bottled, fermented and aged.

In the past people were simpler than they are today. They projected their power onto gods that lived on mountaintops, under oceans and in woods. They had no idea there was an interior landscape they could till to cultivate themselves with good questions that would grow into living bread and wine. The answers they didn't have were seeds they sowed in their children that they then watered with modesty, pruned with humility and harvested with loyalty so that their children would reap answers the parents couldn't give them.

Our ancestors couldn't love all three of the Abrahamic traditions as clues God was giving us of His presence. And because they didn't have the tools to understand the fundamental, figurative nature of words, they sought answers from only science and technology. They reaped the rewards that come with an understanding of the world around them. They pursued the prose of language because they weren't yet ready to question their beliefs with the poetry of spiritual discourse that's always emanating out from within mankind.

Modern, secular man is willing to go through embarrassment of his body for the sheer excitement of sleeping with strangers he's curious to see nude. He's willing to do shameful things that stain his character for the thrill of hiding amongst cool friends he feels emotionally naked with. He isn't afraid to humiliate himself by ignoring the shallow opinion he has of himself in the early morning hours when nobody else is around because he can easily acknowledge his own authority by midday.

The spiritually well to do man of today will find himself mirrored in Torah in the Story of Abraham, and all his family problems. Abraham's wife, Sara, was originally named “SARAI,” which means “QUARRELSOME” in Hebrew. She was a serious woman who only lightened up late in life when she finally got what she prayed for: a son. When God decided to bless her with child He changed her name to “SARAH,” which means “PRINCESS” in Hebrew. If you see your mother as a “Sarai/Sarah,” an “argumentative princess,” don't be surprised because this view of women goes all the way back to the Bible.

Abraham named their son “ISAAC,” which means “LAUGHTER” in Hebrew because Sarah laughed when she was told she'd get pregnant at her advanced age. And if your father

tried to sacrifice you to fulfill his twisted understanding of his duty to God, as did Abraham with Isaac, you, too, may have come away from childhood with a nervous laugh of your own.

Muslims are the descendants of Ishmael, whose mother, Hagar, was the handmaiden of Sarai. “HAGAR” means “FORSAKEN” in Hebrew. The three Abrahamic faces of the original mother, Eve, are Sarai, Hagar and Sarah. These are the three feminine faces Moses created to describe the anger, sorrow and regality he saw in women. Whether a woman today feels quarrelsome or forsaken doesn’t change the fact that she’s still a princess in God’s eyes. For a man to be blessed by God he has to treat a woman like a princess so she tells our King in her prayers that he’s a prince in her eyes.

There’s little hope that straight men will learn to treat women better in the future unless gay men show straight men how. It takes those of us who can distance ourselves from women sexually to perceive straight relationships in a different, less passionate light. The modern man who’s intimidated by physical intimacy between men should let his fear of men remind him of his emotional alienation from himself. Gay men don’t want to sleep with straight men because straight men can’t be passionate and loving with men in bed. Gay men want to help straight men become more passionate and loving with women in bed because we know God will reward us for our efforts in wonderful ways we can’t yet put into words.

Life is a course of study too difficult to graduate in four seasons. It takes repetition year after year before we’re able to pass our hardest classes. We’re all students demoted to the first grade to repeat the lessons of simple addition from time to time. We’re all Jews scratching our head and Muslims struggling in our soul to accept the simple sum God gave the Christians with the Trinity:

$$1 + 1 + 1 = 1$$

The concept of {1} Father, {1} Son and {1} Holy Spirit have now been set up like a wardrobe mirror inside you with your head, heart and soul. Each of these forces corresponds to one of three panels. This is the personal reflection of me, myself and I that you’re going to need to appreciate yourself for a lifetime. This is the image of the man you’re going to learn to love.

Most devout Christians forget that Jesus was a man because of what distinguishes every man from a woman: his genitals. Christians have millions of pictures of Him on the cross almost nude, but they really only think about Him from the waist up. They don’t want to concern themselves with His gender. Doing so might bring up embarrassment that they might not find they have the modesty to handle.

If a man can get out of his head, past his Adam’s apple and into his heart he eventually comes to see that the secret of life figuratively lies in his soul, not his testicles. He’s the

metaphoric spiritual meal on his plate. He doesn't have to literally eat any piece of himself. But most men are obsessed with literally planting their seeds in others' gardens. Few have a taste for the life-giving forces given them or any desire to figuratively plant their seeds of love in themselves.

The word for "husband" in Hebrew is "BA-AL." It literally means "OWNER." Some men today still think of people as property. They think of a woman as they do land: a place they have a God-given right to plant their seeds. The only real, real estate a man is born to own is the Israel in his soul. But he has to learn how to plant his seeds with gratitude in himself to get there. Such a spiritual farmer may be described as meek, but he will inherit the Earth. All others will struggle only in the world around them, which they'll only come away concluding has far too many landlords or far too few serfs.

There isn't a grown man on Earth who hasn't literally tasted the seeds {semen} that come out of his own fruit, and yet when it comes to the emotional and spiritual meaning of what it means to be a man, most men are hesitant to ask serious questions about the spiritual plane of self-inquiry. They want the physical fun without God's spiritual games. They want to physically plant their seeds in others, but they're appalled at the idea of planting their spiritual seeds in themselves. Suddenly they get shy, prudish or defiant.

No man is immune to Abandonment, Betrayal or Conspiracy {the ABC's of the heart}. We've all felt abandoned down here on Earth and have had to figure out what to do about it. Although others have abandoned us, someone we love very much betrayed us: ourselves. And our body is slowly conspiring with God against us over time, as well. No one avoids the ABC's of the heart, not even the cynics. But only the true believer knows what to do about it.

Being a spiritual being in a physical form is harder than it looks because people can be so cynical and thereby tempt you to become vindictive. In truth, life is like a school. You have to fill your time with activities that are like a class schedule with courses that will lead to what feels like an education. And to the extent that you're aware of what you're studying you'll grow to become like a tall tree, like a humble blade of grass and like impassioned vines that entwine. But you won't be guaranteed a thing.

Your moral conduct toward yourself tomorrow begins with behaving better toward strangers today. Jesus taught you to love the stranger. Was a Jew not strange enough? Did God have to bring you blacks to enslave to teach you how to behave toward oddness? Did He have to bring you gays to persecute to teach you about queerness? When will you come to love the strange, odd, queer man you are yourself? Is the shame of our shared history not yet enough to motivate you to love yourself? That guilt was hard for the Jews to teach the world, I can understand. But I wouldn't have thought teaching Christian love would be even harder.

Jesus's wisdom of the heart was transported posthumously to Greece where the Greeks embraced His teachings thanks of their introduction to Torah 300 years prior. His unabashed love for His Father spoke to the Greeks in a way that made sense to them. They turned their back on mythology in favor of the combination of metaphor and symbolism; something the main metaphor of Moses obviously couldn't move them to do alone.

Today's modern day Adam lives in in an Eden of information. Modern man has found his fruits of knowledge through yet another projection, but this one he calls a device. He can pick whatever he wants to learn thanks to the orchard of information provided by the worldwide web. His phone is his forbidden fruit and the Internet, his tree of knowledge. "Apple" is the company that reveals his innate powers. Silicon Valley is his garden of delights, and technology is his god. For modern man, God has gone from an art to a science. Moral authority has been turned into a machine in which feelings are nowhere to be found. But in his effort to relinquish guilt, modern man has had to renounced his own love. And that, my friend, is a price you don't want to have to pay.

Modern man is like a smartphone in that he, too, runs on an operating system that's incredibly sophisticated and complex. He's an "I" in an "it" machine. He's the other apple product, and he needs to learn to operate himself with spiritual insight because every time he freezes and doesn't do what's right, the Webmaster has to interfere with his operation.

Your inner technology is no more difficult to use than your phone, but without metaphor and symbolism, you can't plummet your own applications. The Manufacturer wants you to get good use out of the spiritual device you've been given and are going to be using for a lifetime. But if you don't bother to refer to the manual once in a while, you're not going to be able to keep up with new developments and applications. Think of the Old Testament as your "getting started" file, and the New, as breakthrough technology you can download daily to keep your system up to date.

Dreaming is the unconscious upgrading process that reorganizes your thoughts at night. Daydreams are conscious upgrades you make to yourself that give you insight into those aspects of your operating system under your conscious control. Therefore, filter your fantasies with moral scrutiny and berate yourself with amused ridicule for daydreams you wouldn't want your mother to have to see if she got a peek at what you're watching. Many violent thoughts and twisted desires can be consciously trashed if done so with a bemused sense of self-concern for keeping your screen clean. Don't assume you can change the world any more than you can change your inner world.

Most people are pretty neat and organized externally, especially when it comes to the organization of data in their electronic devices. But if they were to look inside they'd be shocked at how they collected beliefs about themselves from infancy through adolescence that are now slowing down their operating system, beliefs that need to be upgraded or



discarded. All sorts of hypotheses and theories could be removed from your applications folder if you knew how to trash opinions you collected from previous and now outdated operating systems you no longer use.

There are new, more morally creative ways of interfacing with yourself that are coming into the world all the time. There are cool ways to spiritually network within yourself that will turn you into a more highly tuned instrument of inner peace. You are a do-it-yourself technological project that could be a lot more fun to run if you didn't freeze and have to restart yourself every time you had to do something your heart wasn't into.

Let's begin this process now. There's nothing you need to do. There's nothing about your head, heart and soul you can break. Just read the following words on this page and let your imagination visualize what I'm describing. It's as simple as that. Your imagination will store this picture for you for future reference, and it will pull it up in your memory whenever it's needed and useful to you. Or it will trash it. You don't have to make an effort to remember the image I'm going to draw for you in words. It'll stay in your mind naturally if it makes an impression on you. Make an effort to remember these words or don't make an effort to remember them. It won't make any more difference than applying more or less pressure when you tap the keys on your computer keyboard.

We're now going to take a spiritual look at the expression, "a train of thought." It's a metaphor comparing "thoughts," (an abstract concept), in terms of something you're familiar with, "trains," using language in a way you completely understand and take for granted. If life is a journey then every "train of thought" is one way you progress on this journey. But think about having presented this metaphor to a Jew at the time of Jesus. It would have been a futile endeavor. Only a modern man can appreciate this metaphor.

We describe thoughts through the metaphor of life-as-a-journey-by train rather than by car or airplane because trains are the method of transportation that runs on tracks rather than roads or skyways. By extending this metaphor you can envision that the tracks in this metaphor are the feelings on which your trains of thought are running. The wheels of your mind aren't just turning; they're pulling boxcars of data over tracks of emotion to very special stations that your conscience wants you to deliver them to.

By having extended this metaphor, we've now expanding the concept of an inner landscape to include a transportation system by which you can traverse your inner homeland. These tracks inside you aren't floating in midair in your imagination. The ties of your tracks were hammered into the landscape of your inner world in infancy before you consciously realized what was happening. That made it possible for you to forge railroad bridges to get you across the raging rivers of sorrow that were fed by the torrential rains of fury caused by experiences in early life you couldn't then comprehend. But once you had this linguistic infrastructure in place, your trains of thought could climb the mountainous

challenges around you that had previously kept you imprisoned in a valley of infantile views you always yearned to leave.

Thanks to this inner railroad system you were able to go west across vast plains inside yourself and arrive at the western frontier of an inner continent where you saw an ocean of pacific emotions you never dreamed existed. To imagine this inner topography and to appreciate this panoramic view of yourself makes you a California dreamer. An American's inner world is a land of great beauty he shares with other Americans through history and culture; something we make available to the world through our language, our dialects and our slang.

Although your feelings were artfully hammered into the ground of your being by your parents it was relatively easy for your public school teachers to pull up their tracks and lay them down in different directions. As Americans, our Judeo-Christian cultural roots make us suspicious of other peoples' intentions if they don't speak as we do. It's not our ties to this land that make us who we are, nor our wealth, history or heritage. It's our ties to the land within us through language that makes us who we are. We may be an immigrant nation, but it's the children of every immigrant who receive the gift of being American.

As you imagine railroad tracks interlacing your inner landscape and trains crisscrossing from one coast to another, remember that your greatest asset in life is this early transportation system you built in infancy, which made it possible for you to traverse your inner world in English, although the same thing is done in every language through metaphors of their own. Your imagination goes as far as the horizons your mind envisions, but some people you meet in life still hold a flat Earth view of themselves that's as limited as the transcontinental railroad of the 1800's that connected the Atlantic to the Pacific. Such people are land-locked. And they're everywhere.

Rejection is a very real part of life. But every rejection from others is a reminder of an inner harmony you may not yet have achieved with yourself. There's no one who's rejected you as deeply as you've rejected yourself. People in mental institutions, prisons and jails are examples of those who have severe problems of self-rejection. Those in drug rehabilitation centers and weight loss camps are also examples of people who've been brought together to learn about the metaphors that restrict their ability to make their way all the way around their inner world. Self-rejection limits your ability to think, feel and explore the world within you, not just the world around you.

As you consider this view of the world inside of you, allow your imagination to zero in on you sitting in a train compartment looking out the window noticing the panoramic view around you as it rushes by. Now get up out of your seat and make your way from one passenger car to the next. That will entail going across the couplings that connect the cars, hearing the frightening noise and seeing the tracks rushing beneath your feet. Continue

until you arrive at the locomotive where you can look out at your inner world from the very front of the train and where you can see the tracks before they're seemingly swallowed up by your train of thoughts.

While in the locomotive take the seat of the engineer, and as you look out the window observe the optional tracks that sometimes appear before you that you could switch to, to take you in other directions to other destinations. This image of many tracks to choose from corresponds to the different emotions you have the ability to move onto if you had reason to take your thoughts in a different direction. Of course, different tracks would also take you to different stations where the boxcars of ideas you have to sell to the world would reach new and different markets.

If you now identify with the engineer rather than as a passenger of your inner transportation system, you might appreciate the mystery and joy of traveling a little more slowly by train. Your thoughts don't have to get you to your destinations at the speed of light. As you entertain this 19<sup>th</sup> Century mindset of moving your thoughts across your feelings to traverse your inner environment you might discover that thinking and feeling are more fun than you expected. It's how you get there, not when you arrive that counts when traveling within.

Your inner world could more positively influence your experiences in life if you learned to enjoy the ride from the vantage point of the conductor rather than a passive passenger with nothing to do but stare out the window. The more you question where each thought is going, the more you'll come to realize the feeling that's getting it there.

Today's inner electric rail system is run on an inexhaustible fuel source called wonder. Most people in the past preferred using the now antiquated inner "I think I can" locomotion run on willpower which people have since discovered doesn't get you far. Wonder is modern, but wonder must be mined and processed from self-love. I'll go into how to produce great quantities of wonder when I speak more about Jesus's message about living like a child. [Mark 10:16]

The more extensive a man's proficiency in the language arts of the heart, the more he's be able to produce good ideas that others find attractive. The more imaginatively and extensively he's able to explore the world within him, the more creatively and productively he's able to solve the problems he has to face around him.

Constructing bridges over the rivers of sorrow you've cried and blasting tunnels through the mountains of disbelief that rose a long time ago within you will vastly improve the efficiency of your inner transportation system of words which are linked together like cars on a train. When you hammer new tracks into the ground of your being it will make it possible to transport any cargo to the markets where your ideas might even change the world.

Once you can visualize feelings as things your mind uses to transport your thoughts on, you gain the tools of a metaphoric system of transportation you can build any way you like. Even though metaphoric thinking is common to us all, once you can get onboard this theory as an operator rather than a commuter, you'll be able to use it consciously. You'll be able to ask yourself why you always seem to take the same seat you habitually occupy in the passenger car of your trains of thought. You'll be able to see the dogmas and doctrines you've lived by as rides between stations you now know by heart. You'll be able to question whether you're going where you really want to go, or whether there are new destinations you could head out for to see your inner world from a new point of view.

Observe. Don't judge, unless you absolutely feel you have to. Watch within, and you'll learn more about yourself on each trip you make, even if you're certain you're going the wrong way. You're a mystery and the fun lies in watching what you see, not always in getting where you've always insisted on going. Since it's all happening in your imagination you don't have to worry about where any of this is taking you on the outside.

Some days you'll see yourself as the engineer looking out with amazement at the vistas before you. Sometimes you'll feel like you're spending the whole day going through a tunnel. It doesn't really matter where you are in a train of thought or what you see, so long as you remember the valley of death and mountains of disbelief in infancy that you're now able to move past thanks to your command of the English language.

You can't unlearn what you erroneously believed to be true about yourself when the first tracks were laid down in infancy. You'll never forget the train wrecks you've been through inside that destroyed so many of your expectations. But if every inner station you roll into only reaffirms your cynicism and hopelessness about the future, remember that your trains of thought are taking you there because there are no other tracks laid to take your thoughts elsewhere. Either that, or the conductor is asleep at the wheel.

Extending metaphors unifies your head, heart and soul {trains, tracks and landscape} with communication tools {bridges and tunnels} that will expand your ability to see your inner world as a mirror of the outer world we all share. In this way you'll develop an appreciation for your inner world whether you choose to call it Israel, America, or fantasyland.

What's scary about modern man is that those people who consider themselves most civilized and sophisticated rarely spend time observing themselves. They don't discuss where their thoughts are taking them and the feelings that are forcing them to go in a particular direction. And then they look back in wonder at why life was so much harder than they thought it should be.

In a world where speaking from your heart was once considered a taboo, it's no wonder Jesus didn't live long. He was crucified for communicating in a new and profoundly

different way. It wasn't what He said so much as where He was coming from that rubbed the Romans and Jerusalem Jews the wrong way. He was the first man who loved Himself enough to sit down for 40 days and talk to Himself even if He chose to describe that conversation as one in which He triumphed over the "devil" rather than His talking serpent. In a world of talking heads who don't dare travel south of their Adam's apple (let alone go below their Bible belt), you could say that Jesus knew His way around Himself. He was a man with a divine calling, but, then again, in our own small ways, aren't we all?

Rebellion, dissention and despair came to the Israelites in the 39<sup>th</sup> year of their wandering in the Book of Numbers, the fourth of The Five Books of Moses. It started when Aaron's two sons, Nadav and Avichu, were killed by "strange fire" when they entered into the holiest of holies, the inner sanctum of the Tabernacle. The story that comes after that in Numbers is about a man named "KORACH" {ICE} who started a rebellion by insisting that the Israelites should rise up against Moses and go back to Egypt rather than continue onward toward the Promised Land.

The strangest fire of all is ice. Ice burns in a way that can be just as destructive as fire. And just as there are many properties of fire, there are many ways to interpret the attributes of ice. To know what Korach personifies spiritually we first have to look at what fire represents to mankind.

Fire is a mystical combination of seven properties, and they all hold spiritual attributes:

1.     Illumination    Wisdom
2.     Heat            Love
3.     Purification    Atonement
4.     Mystery         My Story
5.     Smoke           Prayer
6.     Sound           A Calling
7.     Smell           Intuition

Ice is the antithesis of fire. Therefore ice exhibits the opposite properties.

1.     Cold rather than heat  
       {Apathy rather than love}
2.     The burn of frostbite {impurity} rather than the burn of purification.
3.     A terrible silence in place of the sound of being spiritually called.  
       {Repulsion of rather than an attraction to God's plan}

Everyone is frozen in certain places inside. Ice doesn't just represent apathy, a frozen disregard for how others feel. It's also a sign of a man's denial of the importance of matters

of his own heart. Those like Nadav and Avichu who are burned to death with strange fire are spiritually frostbitten. They don't care about themselves, let alone demonstrate the ability to care about anyone else. They're consumed with the principle of revenge. The frustration in being a human being has overwhelmed their judgment.

People don't associate familiarity with themselves with an inner warming, and distance from themselves with an inner cooling. But they should. If love is like fire then guilt is like ice. The embarrassment, shame and humiliation you've been through that you can't talk to yourself about distance you from everyone and make you feel cold and uncomfortable inside if you don't use words to describe what you're going through. This inner fire and ice create inner weather patterns that you can add in using your imagination to your inner landscape. And your trains of thought will take you to the myriad climates within that mirror the climate and seasons you're familiar with around you.

Moses anticipated God's wrath because Korach's actions were so obviously self-serving, and Moses even predicted the outcome that would befall him and those who followed Korach's leadership. This was the only time Moses told the Israelites what God would do to Korach in advance of Moses having spoken to God. But 3,400 years later, it's now up to each of us to melt our own ice with our own fire. Today we have to listen to all the voices within us, even those that disparage us or rebel against our own norms.

I once did volunteer work for the Lighthouse for the Blind. There I met a woman who was blind from birth. When I came to know her well enough to know she wouldn't be insulted by a question that was intimate and personal, I asked her what the word "yellow" meant to her. She told me, "Yellow is warm like the sun. Yellow is embracing." But then she said something very curious that I'll never forget. "But what yellow had to do with bananas I have no idea."

Those of us who can literally see what yellow has to do with bananas hold a view of reality we can never explain to my friend who was born blind. Atheists who haven't been touched by God can still fathom what yellow, in the emotional sense, has to do with bananas by using their imagination. Yellow is the color of fear, and what fear has to do with bananas isn't difficult to comprehend when you consider the shape and association of the banana with man's penis. If you're unconsciously afraid of your own penis, you won't personally be able to perceive what yellow has to do with bananas either. And you, too, will laugh at the idea. There are those who are literally blind; those who are emotionally blind; and then there are those who are spiritually blind.

Where you're at, at this moment in time will become more meaningful if you take the time to look back at "now" later. Imagine your next life in 4D with you traveling through time cleaning up the moral messes you made here in 3D. This might be accomplished, not by changing the world around you, but by going through a movie of you moving through

your life from another vantage point to observe your moral questions and answers from another perspective. The more you can imagine your life from many points of view the more you may better prepare yourself for the moral challenges in the fourth dimension. Seeing yourself from your head, heart and soul might help you live out your desire for power in the third dimension, but you might like to give a little thought to whether you're making your future easier or more difficult today.

This kind of inner inspection is called contemplation. It's the Western compliment to meditation. With meditation you empty your head. With contemplation you fill your heart. We need people to learn to do both, to balance the two hemispheres of their brain before they try to connect the two hemispheres, East and West, of the planet. Trade is a good excuse for coming together, but the mystery of God's plan is an even better one.

Loyalty to God has been made more intimate by each successive generation of believers. History is the record of faith through good works combined with mistakes made along the way that we've acknowledged and learned from. Therefore from an Abrahamic perspective:

history = His story + his story

Our Teacher gave us fire and ice in the world around us so we'd come to equate them with how He made us within. He presented Himself to Moses as a bush that burned without being consumed, and the Jewish people were the first class of spiritual students associated with His eternal flame. It's no wonder Jesus saw this flame burning in Himself, not only elsewhere, and was associated as the personification of this flame.

Strange fire is a naive way of describing ice. Water can be found in three states, ice, liquid and steam, but it's most prevalent in this world in the liquid state, which is also how it's found in our body. In the liquid state, water holds a particular property not seen in many other substances, the ability to be separated and reunited without leaving a seam or a scar. The word for "water" in Hebrew is "MAYIM," a word that's always in the plural. You can't say "WATER" in Hebrew. You can only say "WATERS" because ancient Jews were so fascinated by this unique property of water.

The characteristic of water to separate into smaller quantities and be reunited in larger quantities is what Christianity excels at doing. This is the heart's way of using emotions to think deductively {to separate} and inductively {to unite}. Water isn't just a necessity of life for survival. It's a metaphor for two parts of a spiritual process that are essential in giving life emotional meaning.

If you look for God from the outside in, history looks public and objective. But if you look at it from the inside out, it becomes personal and subjective. If you look for God from within yourself out onto your faith, your faith will lead you to greater faith in Him and His plan. Your faith in the revelations of Moses and Jesus will lead you to believe in Their faith

in the coming of new revelations from the Prophet Mohammed to complete the Western tale of how God came to us face to face, and introduced Himself to us by His first, middle and last name. It's not how individual believers act out their faith with a sense of superiority over others, but how each of us learns to apply the inspiration from these three incredible, spiritual tutors that will change your view of history and the mystery of your own story.

In the Book of Exodus, Moses inadvertently became a prince who later had to run away from the good life in Egypt, not only from fear of reprisal for the murder of a slave driver; but surely also because of the feeling of fear and guilt that unexpectedly overwhelmed him. It wasn't until the 80<sup>th</sup> year of his life that he had his confrontation with God at the Burning Bush.

Fear and guilt are very effective emotions in motivating us to pursue greater God-consciousness, but they require an inordinate amount of time to surface for most people to take righteous action as the result of their mistakes. The spiritual effects of fear and guilt change your mind; transform your hear; and make it possible for you to transcend your conscience with new faith in yourself. Just don't expect all that to happen as quickly as you might like. It took Moses 80 years to go back and make amends for the hotheaded emotions that made him do what he did without needing to rationalize his behavior when he was a young man.

In Genesis, God changed the name of Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah and Jacob to Israel. And these Biblical characters were simply content to communicate with Him without ever bothering to ask Him His name. Seeking a heartfelt, positive connection with someone you don't know begins with curiosity about his name, the label that states what you'll find inside the can.

The name of the Book of Exodus in Hebrew has nothing to do with departure. The second book of Moses is called שְׁמוֹת {SHEMOT, which means "NAMES."} In this book God gives Moses His name because Moses bothered to ask. "SUPPOSE I GO TO THE ISRAELITES AND SAY TO THEM, 'THE GOD OF YOUR FATHERS HAS SENT ME TO YOU,' AND THEY ASK ME, 'WHAT IS HIS NAME?' THEN WHAT SHALL I TELL THEM?" [Exodus 3:13]

Y.H.V.H. is the unpronounceable name of God given to Moses that we Jews utter out loud as ADONAI." But ADONAI is a euphemism that translates loosely as "MY LORD." In truth, Y.H.V.H. isn't even unpronounceable. It's an acronym. You could argue that pronouncing "I.R.S." is unpronounceable because if you pronounced it "iris" that utterance would misrepresent the meaning of the word. Pronouncing Y.H.V.H. "Jehovah" misses the point as well. Y.H.V.H. is an acronym that stands for "I-HE-E ASHER I-HE-E."

These Hebrew words are easy to enunciate, but hard to fully describe. The literal word-for-word translation is "WILL BE, RICH, WILL BE." The inference is that what will be, will be. The conclusion you might make from God's name is that the beneficence of your life



lies, in part, in His hands. He decides what will happen to you. He decides how your story will mirror His. The harder you work the luckier you'll get. But He reserves the right to teach you anything He wants you to learn along the way. History, therefore, like Torah, is open to interpretation. Both are fluid. History will change depending on how much you're willing to change.

Even if you're doing your utmost to advance His story He will allow misfortune to befall you if He decides the direction you're going doesn't contribute to His plan as He wishes to see it unfold at any particular moment in time. His sense of morality can't be compared to our own.

The Creation Story will attest to the fact that our Teacher has been a tough grader from the first day of school {Genesis}. If you want to do well on your final exam you'd better think about how long you can cozy up to Him with empty words if you're coming to class each day without having done all your homework. He may allow Teacher's pets to motivate the rest of us by crying out His virtues, but don't for a New York minute think He lets them off easy at test time. You wouldn't want to be a Teacher's pet. Many of them are spiritually, poorly prepared with an attitude of ingratitude when anything doesn't go their way. They may come to class looking good, but they learn very little from His daily lessons in modesty, humility and grace. They take their seat in the front row and never look back.

You can use your outer eyes to peel off a man's clothing, but that's as far as they can penetrate his container. To perceive what's inside of him you need to use your ears, not your eyes. So many men have 20/20 vision when it comes to the color of another man's skin, his ethnicity and his economic station, but they're emotionally deaf to what's going on inside him.

If you want to get a good look at yourself you have to use your inner eye. Think of your inner eye as an onion and each day is an opportunity to peel through a layer of its scaly lens. Then you'll begin to see visions that will elucidate your progress in growing more intimate with yourself. Then you'll talk to yourself and really listen to what you have to say.

God's glorious intentions lie so far beyond our best intentions because He can see right through us. He can overhear the whispers within that we can't even make out ourselves sometimes. We have to influence history with our best guess as to what He'd like us to do to advance His story more accurately today than we did yesterday. Appreciating your brief time on Earth and the seat He gave you in society is an important part of doing well on your tests. You've got to look back from time to time at those seated behind you whose view is less fortunate than your own. You've got to turn around and give them the answers to the questions they're struggling with without giving advice. Don't worry about interrupting the Teacher and making Him mad about all that you know. He likes it when

we tutor one another with wisdom, shower one another with love and lift one another off the ground with senseless acts of kindness.

Moses was a Jewish prince who murdered a man. Jesus was a Jewish middleclass professional who was the victim of a murder. And the P r o p h e t Mohammed was a terribly poor man who may have been murdered by a Jewish woman who was hired as his cook. Surely these questions deserve more comparison and contrast than the Abrahamic religions have given them thus far.

Moses had the task of describing his feelings of guilt to a generation of slaves who were so consumed with oppression and poverty that they couldn't take the time to consider his feelings. His anger and upset is confirmed in his own words for allowing his frustrations with the Israelites to bubble over. But Jesus had nothing to feel guilty about. His task in tutoring the Jews in Israel 1,400 years after their ancestors arrived from Egypt was vastly, emotionally different from that of Moses. Jesus wasn't just a scholar who advanced to the front row in class. He was a tutor sent by the Teacher who turned around and helped His classmates pass new assignments that will forevermore be included in with our Teacher's curriculum. As the personification of love in the flesh, it was Jesus's job to prove to the descendants of those slaves born in the Promised Land what the rainbow God gave Noah would look like personified, internalized and expressed through a man's heart.

The P r o p h e t Mohammed died in 632 A.D. following his attack and conquest of the Jewish settlement of Khaibar just north of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Immediately following the fight, he may have been poisoned by a Jewish woman who prepared a meal for him. He died three years later. The loyalty of women for their tribe should never be overlooked, but the lesson from this story is greater than I'm prepared to discuss at this time. My next book will address this issue with the emotional and spiritual insight needed for today's world and inner worlds.

The word for "work" in Hebrew is the same word as "worship" {AVODA}. For a Jew, work and worship are inseparable. So Jesus's work was, as we say, a labor of love. But that didn't mean it would be any easier for Him. Helping people who couldn't figuratively perceive themselves as rainbows in the flesh wasn't an easy assignment from our Teacher.

Although many were emotionally colorblind when Jesus arrived a few could finally tell what yellow had to do with bananas by the time He left this world. Many today are still colorblind or color challenged. Today correcting for poor, spiritual vision isn't exactly a science. Careers in spiritual optometry aren't yet burgeoning. Many are walking around boldly, but still in the dark.

Jesus took the Temple in Jerusalem, a place that had become rife with graft and corruption, and democratized it by turning it into an inner house of prayer where each of the ancient Jews could burn their animal instincts on the altar in their heart to bring their

desires to God in their soul. He transformed our view of the human body into a movable tabernacle, a place where God didn't have to reside; a place where He could visit those He chose to grace with His presence. We call that grace today faith. Some have faith in God and want to learn how to achieve more of it. Some don't have it and couldn't care less about putting their faith in anyone other than themselves. Knowledge of the self differs greatly from student to student.

The metaphoric trees planted in Western civilization by Moses and then pruned and trimmed by the ancient Jews for 1,400 years were ready to be harvested and cut into the spiritual lumber to be used to build great nations when Jesus arrived on the scene. For the Jews of His time to see God's plan for their future they had to see "AAMISRAEL" {THE SOUL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE} as a spiritual resource for the whole world, not just for their small tribe in their little corner of it. They had to learn to teach the world to respect each human body as a temple always under repair and expansion so long as a person lives.

The modesty in the metaphoric tree Moses gave us and the humility of the symbolic grain and grape given by Jesus produced a new view of the importance of the human condition. The modesty and humility of these two spiritual leaders would be later augmented with the loyalty to the Lord as presented by the Prophet Mohammed. Together the Abrahamic faiths would explore the guilt inferred in the Creation Story. Together we'd all come to see love as our *raison d'être*, and spread the WORD/WORD/worship of God far and wide.

Just because you may have been formally introduced to God through only one of His names doesn't mean He doesn't answer to the other two. God is a trinity of spiritual forces in the third dimension described by Christians as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He created everybody with the potential head of a Jew, heart of a Christian and soul of a Muslim. If you were to describe God's nature in psychological terms you'd want to think about Him, feel for Him and believe in Him as He does in you. Your evil urges and beneficent impulses make it possible for you to act any way you want. In that sense you, too, are one of the chosen people whether or not you're Jewish just because you, too, have been given the ability to choose who you want to talk to.

Mankind has finally become intellectually convinced that there can be only one God. Humanity has finally become emotionally convinced that He must be a loving God who's merciful, and our conscience tells us that He must also be so generous of spirit that He has a place for each of us in His plan. What we're bickering about now is His name and the moral choices that name implies. Why we haven't been successful up until now in unifying our views of God is because we can't unify ourselves. The reason why we can't all agree on the interpretation of the first 25 chapters of Torah is because we give these stories only to children to read.

It's easy to use your two eyes in tandem. Because of their distance from one another you have depth perception that you wouldn't have if you only had one eye. Your inner eye blesses you with a third perspective by which to focus on reality. It's the use of all three eyes God gave you that's harder than it looks because it requires that you unify figurative speech with poetic insight.

The Islamic view of God sees Him as the Creator of the universe and as the giver of life. Muslims don't formally prohibit using the term Father in reference to A L L A H but neither do they encourage it. Perhaps the truth is that they have negative feelings about the family model of God's relationship to humanity because of how Abraham treated Ishmael. It's not the metaphor of God-as-our-Father that upsets many men. What's so upsetting is that so many don't behave like a father, but like a wild child.

Every male in the Abrahamic faiths should question the metaphor of God-as-our-Father and the extension of that metaphor with Jesus as His only Son. If He's His "only" son, then, by extension, are the rest of us His daughters? No man wants to be deprived of his masculinity just for Christ's sake. But it also makes no sense for men to kill, maim, kidnap and rape rather than question their own inner issues. Masculinity is something men need to share with other men to more accurately grasp their place in God's plan.

It's the task of the spiritual linguist to explain how God's three names are meaningfully linked to and through the Scripture. Spiritual Linguistics approaches the Elephant in the living room of all three of the Abrahamic traditions by inferring that each of us is a psychologically blinded man touching himself to compare what he knows of himself to the Elephant.

If Jesus was the Messiah, it's important to remember God chose Him to be here as a male Jew. It's important to note that He was circumcised in our tradition. And it's important to note that the Church is called the Body of Christ because that body is Jewish. If the Church is too squeamish to discuss all the parts of His body then pop culture will. We'll embrace our own body using the teachings of the Church. We'll declare our body holy and off limits for anyone to defile with ungodly views of any man having no private parts whatsoever.

Touching yourself physically and emotionally, and opening yourself to being touched spiritually by God doesn't mean you have to believe dogma about this world or the next that makes no sense. Open your mind to include your imagination. Extend the metaphors you live by. By allowing the light of skepticism to illuminate the pitch darkness within where cynicism descended upon you a long time ago, you'll be able to see yourself with this inner light, however dim. This will bring you into the shadowy world Plato described as a cave with a fire inside it. In this inner, environmental space in your head surrounded

by seemingly solid rock you can watch shadowy figures dancing on the walls. You can see these shadows in your mind because you stand between the wall and your inner flame.

But you're talking to a wall most of the time. Smell the fire in there. Turn around. Talk to the flame burning brightly inside you. Watch as your words rise with smoke to your God. See how He illuminates you. See how He warms you. But watch out or you'll burn yourself. Listen for His call to you. You come off a spiritual assembly line where you were manufactured almost identically to every other man on Earth. God's time and attention in making you is a sign of how important you are to Him. He created you for a reason that has nothing to do with using your penis to make babies or screwing people over to make money.

The primitive Israelites Moses had to deal with had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years about 1,000 years before Plato was even born. When Moses shook his head in frustration with the Israelites and lifted his hands to God in exasperation with them, God told him, They are "KSHE OREF," {a "STIFF-NECKED" people.} [Exodus 32:9. 33:1]. The Israelites had become so stubborn from slavery that they couldn't figuratively turn their heads from side to side to see, hear and smell new ideas coming from a direction they weren't literally facing. They couldn't turn around inside to see the flame God had ignited in each one of them before they were born.

It's only the man who turns one cheek to see something new who then can "TURN THE OTHER CHEEK." [Matthew 5:39, Luke 6:29] He perceives new opportunities because they come as the result of an opening of his heart. God won't allow you to turn around to see the fire He started in your cave until you prove to Him that you love yourself. Only then will you be allowed to see it. You have to earn brilliance and warmth.

Jesus was the greatest Jewish disciple of Moses the world has ever known. Jesus was the "sun" of man. If you approach His teachings as a skeptic, you'll open yourself to this second point of view of the fire in you, its warmth. You don't have to forgive the past or forget anything you suffered in life. You just have to entertain the idea of seeing the world one way using your head and another way using your heart. As that becomes easier, you'll then be able to graduate to using the inner eye located in your soul where that lost, little man in a cave will endear you. From your soul it'll be much easier to perceive what's really going on inside of you.

Every newborn literally moves out of the blindness of the womb into the light of day. Figuratively a baby also moves out of intellectual blindness into a world of learning that doesn't end until he dies. But a baby also moves out of the emotional colorblindness of the womb where he has no idea that his mother loves him, into a world where he experiences myriad forms of affection and positive regard. Babies are the most judgmental creatures on the face of the Earth. Everything they conclude gives them black-and-white opinions about

this world that are based solely on their own wellbeing. But over time they learn to dabble in the emotional color that makes life more memorable and less selfish.

You learned about the rainbow in your heart so early in life that you took it for granted. The association of fear with the color yellow, anger with red, and sorrow with blue were sophisticated conclusions that came late in childhood even though nobody literally spelled it out for you quite in that way. If you tell a toddler that he's green with envy it makes no sense to him. When you tell most people that lavender is the gay color they have no idea why. It doesn't occur to them to combine the emotional attributes of red {anger}, blue {sorrow} and white {purity} to create lavender. The rainbow in your heart is an artistic endeavor that describes life in Biblical terminology that you unconsciously learned to appreciate without an emotional color wheel to reference. Jesus was the first spiritual artist to imply that these emotional associations are spiritually meaningful.

By adulthood you probably sensed that you might be emotionally colorblind or at least color challenged. By then you'd dabbled in every color in your heart. But each and every time it rains inside and your inner sky went gray, you should have consciously reminded yourself of the rainbow of hope God gave Noah that you had to teach yourself to look up and see. By now you should know down deep inside that if He gave a rainbow to the Jews He obliged Himself to give you one, too. You can't blame the Jews for any anxiety you have about your psychological vision. You're your own spiritual optometrist. Nobody else will ever really know exactly how well or how poorly you see yourself.

A paradox is an inscrutable problem that Eastern philosophy excels in solving. But in the East when you flip a coin it can land both head's up and tails up. That's because they're accustomed to taking their attention off the coin to observe their own internal point of view. You can recreate this versatility for yourself by literally looking down on a coin resting on a glass table and then getting under the table to look at the same coin from the other side. Your change of physical position in outer place is equivalent to your existential possibilities in inner space.

For a Buddhists to relinquish his suffering, he puts all his attention on moving himself from within while taking his attention off his money. It's not the love of money that is the root of all evil, but the obsession in the West with the power of money that's intoxicating the world and making men so rigidly fixed within themselves. If you only knew how to love yourself you could even love your money.

Despite the fact that the world faiths and philosophies ask us to be hospitable to strangers, xenophobia never seems to go away. Hopefully you can admit that God created one stranger who's stranger than all the rest; stranger even than a gay-Jew; and that's you. When you point your index finger at anyone, watch for the three fingers of guilt:

embarrassment {middle finger}, shame {ring finger} and humiliation {pinky} because they'll be pointed back at you.

Devote your life to facing yourself from the inside out and you'll forgive yourself for not knowing everything you need to know about yourself at this point in your life. The Hebrew word for "patience" {SAVLANOOT} comes from the verb "to suffer" {LIZBOL}. Life requires learning patience with yourself, and learning anything requires some suffering. You had to go through the stage of a pupil who knew it all, and then a student who felt he was all by himself, to become the scholar you are today who loves learning to believe in himself. Your head is blending its black and white intellectual efforts with all the colors in your heart. For your conscience to judge your inner illustrations as works of art requires you to become a critic who can tolerate, accept and even admire your own critiques.

In Torah Moses told the Israelites how to treat their own slaves one day. But the heart of a slave who becomes a master will always want to end slavery entirely regardless of what's written in Torah. Our American reinterpretation of Torah began in earnest during the Civil War, but it didn't fully become apparent until the Civil Rights movement in the 1960's. Separate but equal was just another way to hate, so we blacked out those passages of Torah as morally repugnant to us. We said, in effect, we didn't want to learn anymore about Torah's moral position on owning slaves.

Today we're learning to take Torah more personally. We're learning to interpret it psychologically rather than sociologically. Each of us is learning to end his self-imposed bondage so he can enjoy freedom from within, liberties from the heart and a personal emancipation from his past. The man who doesn't convince his heart to allow his head to believe in his soul will struggle with bondage in an Egypt of his own making. His exodus out of a life of sociological prose into spiritual poetry will seem hundreds of years away. A man's inner Israel can become a personal STRUGGLE WITH GOD. But if he forces people to live Torah as he wants them to, it's going to impede his personal progress.

Moses told our ancestors in Torah to stone disobedient children [Deuteronomy 21: 18-21]. When modern man realized he couldn't celebrate the rod more than the wellbeing of his child he looked for wiser ways of raising children than using corporal punishment. The teachings of Moses combined with the teachings of Jesus challenge us not to take every line in Torah literally, but personally.

Some of the Jews at the time of Jesus argued for setting up many temples around the Mediterranean so they could copy the barbaric, animal sacrificial practices in Jerusalem in their new homes abroad. They didn't want to have to return once a year to Israel to make their bloody sacrifices of animal carcasses at the Temple. But the Jews in Jerusalem argued for maintaining the status quo with one centralized Temple to maintain power domestically

even though head priests were being murdered even when praying in the inner sanctum of the Temple.

Opinions on both sides of the argument were influenced by money, power and personal convenience, but the argument over where to destroy animals raged for over 200 years until God finally took the question out of our ancestors' hands entirely. It simply was time for the outrageously cruel and barbarous practice to end. Soon after the Romans murdered Jesus they destroyed the Temple and expelled all the Jews from Israel thereby ending the Temple practice that had been in existence for over 500 years without interruption. Jesus became the final sacrifice. Fast forward about 700 years and the Muslims built a mosque on the site of the ruins of the Temple where the P r o p h e t Mohammed is also reported to have ascended to Heaven, leaving only a remnant of the Temple mound remaining, the Wailing Wall. Such is His story.

If we don't get out of the classrooms of our country, language, culture and faith to experience life in the other classrooms down the hall in the school of life we won't be able to say that our education, whether religious or secular, served us well enough. Travel is better than a college education if you're humble enough to use people, places and things to learn everything you can about the world. But getting out of your house to pray with people who look or believe differently from you would be a perfectly adequate way of getting a worldly education without going far from home.

In the Creation Story, God forbade Adam from learning the difference between good and evil, but the first man, like modern man today, couldn't help himself. The temptation to take knowledge absentmindedly rather than receive it humbly is still prevalent in us today. You won't be able to love yourself if you don't desire to give back in your own special way for all that you've unconsciously intellectually taken. Knowledge isn't free.

Jesus is the personification of another part of the spiritual process called love. To imagine God being simultaneously alive, dead and resurrected you need only look at the equivalent happening when you make love. Your own power rises, penetrates, releases and falls, only to be repeated time and again. A straight man's fear or disgust of penises isn't rational or helpful, particularly in light of the fact that he has one of his own. He doesn't have to love every serpent that dangles from the trees in God's orchard of delights; just his own. Get to know that one serpent in that one special tree figuratively and you'll learn a lot about them all.

Self-knowledge brings an inner intimacy and regard that endears us to ourselves, but self-knowledge also gives us a universal knowledge called wisdom. Giving other men privacy may be desirable at times, but privacy from yourself only leads to self-ignorance, naiveté and denial. It's those who ignore themselves who demonstrate just how ignorant ignorance can be.



Everyone tries to give the impression that he knows what he's doing. Everyone tries to give the impression that his thoughts and feelings are under the control of his conscience. It's only when you get to know someone more intimately that you begin to see what parts of him are really in his conscious control and in what ways he's ignorant of himself. A man may overeat, drink, drug, smoke, gamble, work, take senseless risks at play or shop compulsively to distract him from knowing himself. But he may also seek a political position in government, chair a corporation or buy a seat on the stock exchange as a distraction, too. These can all be ways in which man's desires, urges and cravings act out what his penis is telling him. Two heads are definitely not better than one when the head of your penis is doing your thinking for you.

If you watch yourself, you'll see that you're the puppeteer high above the stage that no one can see. You're pulling all the strings. The other puppets on stage and stories you see unfold are all part of a great plan. In addition to being the puppeteer of a puppet on a stage, you're also the engineer in the locomotive of your trains of thought. Just as you don't have to be a passenger on your trains of thought you don't have to be a helpless puppet exposing yourself on stage. You can question yourself with metaphors. But if you're so cynical that you don't believe you have the ability to expand your ability to see yourself through extensions of your own metaphors it's hardly likely you'll ever develop enough faith in yourself to receive answers directly from God. His language is poetry in motion. His language is figurative. You can pray to Him in prose, but when you come back to the world we share, you have to resume your lessons in learning to find rhyme and reason in yourself.

Therefore it's spiritually important that you pursue an ideal relationship with yourself, not just one that's realistic and pragmatic. Idealism verifies that you hold a heartfelt relationship with your conscience. It expresses your moral intentions through loving feelings for yourself. The problem with gun lovers, mass murderers and suicide bombers is that their fantasies have found no way to be expressed internally. They express their frustrations with themselves on others. They paint the world with blood to express their anger with life itself. Their ambivalence about loving the serpent on their tree has to be brought to consciousness, so they don't express their desires through socially destructive means. Men who are taught to relate more honestly, sincerely and authentically to their penis contribute more effectively to the moral evolution of mankind. This spiritual education in life doesn't make them gay or morally perverted. It makes them Christ-like in their ability to deal with their penis personally. If He could wrestle with the "devil" for 40 days in the desert you can consider the figurative importance of the snake in your own bush.

Relating to your penis as a delivery system of desire that you sometimes project out onto others, turning them into the personification of evil, is an issue that centers around cynicism. If you can't trust your penis how can you trust the rest of you? You're all one

person even if different parts of you have been assigned different characteristics. Worry, anxiety and frustration aren't unrealistic feelings to have. They're part of an emotional process that leads us all in the direction of love if used wisely. Negative emotions are only bad when you don't add them in with your thoughts after first measuring them out in appropriate quantities. Too little feeling is as bad as too much. Only your conscience can be your guide as to how much emotion is just right. But if you don't use your thoughts {Adam} to challenge your conscience {God} with good questions about what you're feeling {Eve} how can you ever be sure that your beliefs are valid?

We're all guilty of distrusting some groups of people other men have no problem putting their trust in. Examples of such classes of people are women, blacks, whites, Hispanics, Chinese, Russians, Muslims, Jews and gays. When you look at the worry, anxiety and frustration that may come up when asked to trust someone who's a member of one of these groups you'll notice how cynically you may have to react with self-assurances that insist that your cynicism is justified. A darkness comes over us we can pierce with fear, anger or sorrow when asked to trust someone from the group(s) we disdain.

These prejudices aren't irrational. They're based on cynicism we developed concerning strangers, friends and family members who disappointed us in the past. The closer disappointment comes to us from the world around us, the more our defense mechanism needs to project the anticipated threat of further negativity onto whole populations in an effort to keep ourselves emotionally safe from harm.

The essence of our distrust of religious institutions, nationalities, ethnicities, genders and sexual preferences comes back to our distrust of ourselves. Your projection of your distrust onto "them" is the only way you can hide from "him." And "he" is the clever way "you" unconsciously hide from "me." Your inner "I" sees itself in everyone around you.

People will tell you, you should thank your parents and God for the way your life is turning out. But they don't go into detail to explain why. So let's take a quick look at your duty to everyone other than yourself, beginning with God. He gave you your parents and He brings the people into your life that you struggle to get along with every day. He also gave you the internal apparatus by which it's possible for you to struggle within yourself for a greater, moral understanding of the issues you have being you from a personal point of view. This makes God a participant in the world around you and in your world within.

Your parents gave you simple answers to how to operate the spiritual vehicle you're in. They taught you the basics about right and wrong. They responded to your embarrassment and shame by teaching you modesty and humility. And in doing so, they unconsciously influenced the way you handle the humiliation you feel at times in just having to be with yourself from birth to death.

Nobody's perfect. Your parents disappointed you. They emotionally dropped you and your siblings did so emotionally, too. Over time you saw that even you couldn't be trusted in holding yourself ideally. The depth of the truth in this belief was psychologically hard to hold when you were very young and in need of so much assistance from others. Therefore you created emotional shortcuts to round off corners you didn't want to get stuck in. By cutting these corners you protected yourself from the stark truth about the enormous difficulty in trusting others, yourself and even God.

Spiritual Linguistics is the field I've created that will teach you how to learn to trust yourself by breaking the projection of the prejudices you were forced to create in the past in order to defend yourself from your low opinion of you in some ways now. Spiritual Linguistics will help you overcome cynicism, or at least turn you around so that you're facing the darkness at its source within.

Jews pray standing. Christians pray kneeling. And Muslims pray crouching down on all four. Until you can see yourself doing all three dutifully in your mind's eye, it's doubtful you have all that it takes to communicate successfully with all those of other faiths and philosophies. Politicians obviously don't yet have the skills for this, and religious leaders certainly haven't shown the leadership to model what it takes, either. Faith must begin with faith in yourself not God. You've got to give Him {or Them} the trust you've earned from you. You can't give trust if you don't have trust to give.

A child begins on all four and learns to sit up and then stand. A grown man has to show God he's learned the spiritual importance in being able to stand, sit and lower himself back onto all four. He has to humble himself before himself before he can humble himself before God.

When you can demonstrate to yourself that you can bow your head, kneel and crouch before yourself, you've developed the humility to learn from yourself. You've developed the ability to trust yourself. By the same token, in order to talk to yourself you have to humble yourself to yourself as well. You have to be willing to contemplate what you have to say. Your opinions about others are emotional clues to how you feel about parts of yourself. Therefore scorn and derision of others should always make you a little suspicious of yourself. Look for what you can learn from others' mistakes by vowing to hold higher standards than you see in them. Feel sorry for pupils in the school of life who are making mistakes you stopped making in childhood. Feel sorry for students making mistakes you stopped making as a teenager. If you want to treat yourself like a scholar in the school of life, you're going to have to learn to laugh at other people's mistakes like an adult. There but for the grace of God go I.

If you let other people use their guilt to make you doubt yourself because of your gender, religion, nationality, ethnicity or sexuality, you won't trust yourself enough. Then

you should thank God for bringing them into your life to challenge you in the ways they do. If not for the struggles God gives you to learn to raise your standards of yourself, you'd maintain the same low self-esteem for a lifetime.

The characters in the Creation Story must be gleaned for personal insight if you're going to discover why God allowed that story to make its way into all three of the Abrahamic traditions. If a story like that can survive and thrive for 3,400 years I wouldn't discard it as a myth. I'd look for the metaphor in it. And then I'd take that metaphor to heart.

As a man grows out of the spiritual infancy of his inner Eden and into the next generation of inner voices struggling within him, he discovers that there's always going to be a struggle for control between his head, heart and penis. In the next story, Cain and Abel, Cain kills his brother out of jealousy when Abel's sacrifice to God is chosen over his. [Genesis 4] When taken personally this story is about man's head {Cain} denying its responsibility and relationship to his heart {Abel} because his desire {serpent} is to achieve God's favor. Rather than trust in his own sacrifice to God, Cain killed Abel when God chose Abel's sacrifice over his. Getting rid of the competition is one way to get what you want, but that action isn't going to develop self-trust. In the Creation Story the serpent literally colluded with Eve. In the second story of Genesis there were two serpents {penises}, and neither of them had to say a word to make their presence felt.

When taken personally a man's head {Cain} colludes unconsciously with his desires {serpent} to eliminate his feelings {Abel}. This is very essence of denial, repression and oppression.

The Story of Cain and Abel is the story of revenge you'd expect every Adam to hold in the back of his mind after he feels screwed over. If the Creation Story is an allegory of the infantile level of the psychological/spiritual process, then the Story of Cain and Abel tells about the childish level of vindication and revenge for the sake of winning the race for first place.

The third story in Genesis describes the spiritual adolescence of man in the Story of Noah and the Ark. Noah becomes the last man on Earth after God floods the world to cleanse it of evil people. [Genesis 5] "NOAH" means, "COMFORT" in Hebrew. The spiritual adolescent feels selected by God for a great reason, but he's hardly comfortable with His choice. He's afloat, adrift, aimlessly rocking out of control, cruising an ocean of emotion as though going through a tempestuous storm. Someone who's juvenile seeks outward comforts from those around him to compensate for the emotional pitch and roll he's experiencing within. He builds an intellectual boat of wood to save himself late in childhood while still prepubescent in anticipation of a flood of feelings he intuitively knows

is coming, a flood he presumes will drown him if he doesn't listen to the voice of desire inside him telling him what to do.

That voice tells him to build a boat for himself and take onboard a sample representation of all the animal instincts in his inner world, those wild, untamed emotions he was never allowed to express in his parent's home – and save them up for his future when his ark will end up elsewhere and his inner world will return to a new norm. He sees himself as the most righteous man in his time, chosen by God for a special mission that no man has ever held. But those of us who've been through this pubescent flood see it as just another one of the Biblical tales we went through half-asleep a very long time ago.

When the rains stopped, Noah perceived a rainbow of hope that he interpreted to be a promise of clear skies to come. And he made his way to shore. Then he planted a vineyard, got drunk, and was raped by the last person he ever expected to hurt him, one of his own sons. [Genesis 9:22]

The spiritual adolescent can observe himself in various undignified forms of self-abuse, but he never expects that one of his own inner voices might ever be the cause of his humiliation. Like Noah's other two sons who were there to honor their father after the violation, every teenager likes to think his inner voices will cover up his indiscretions with reasons and good behaviors that conceal his desire to know it all.

The spiritual adolescent can't imagine that the metaphor of man-as-a-tree-of-knowledge could be extended so far. He can't believe that what he thought was God talking to him was really the voice of his desires, the serpent in the Creation Story that really does turn out to be so beguiling that it would actually imitate God's voice in an effort to get its way.

The revenge God takes out on the world is His serpent, His desires made manifest. Such are acts of God.

You can't really love yourself if you don't know yourself very well. You can stare at yourself in the mirror for a lifetime, but until you get to know that person you're looking at from the inside out you're not going to love yourself as much as you'd like to. A man can't love or even like himself just with his eyes. He's got to listen to what's going on within and compare what he hears himself saying to what others who came before him have said. He has to humble himself to learn from others before he can humble himself to learn from himself. And this requires a great leap of faith because he has to believe what others tell him and trust that they're right. If not, he'll end up cynical and bitter or mindlessly happy like all the others.

The realization that Moses knew what we'd all be going through at these various stages of our psychological and spiritual development brings Torah to life generation after generation. But to add to the metaphoric secrets of Torah as Jesus did can't be done without

symbolic logic. There'd be no way to appreciate the Story of Noah and the Ark personally unless you could identify with the first and last man of comfort, the wild animals, the ark without a sail or rudder on a tumultuous ocean and the people drowning around him. Unless you could take this third story of Genesis to heart you won't be able to make the connection between the boat you find yourself in in puberty and the tree of knowledge planted years before in infancy. You won't be able to identify with those animals in the hold you've got locked up inside you in adolescence that remain there throughout your life unless the rains stop and your boat finds a safe haven. Unless you can let out the wild beasts in you with conscious regard for what you're doing {two by two} you're going to wreak havoc on the world. Unless you can look back and imagine God behind the clouds raining down struggles upon you to cleanse your inner world when you were a child, you're not going to understand why you had to go through what you went through as an adolescent. And you're going to react childishly to life's lessons and even question whether or to what degree you're your brother's keeper. Unless you can discern the difference between the voice of your serpent and the voice of God you're going to continue to conclude that you've been screwed. And, what's more, you're going to feel humiliated on top of it all.

When you were a teenager you'd grown into a big enough tree of knowledge that your lumber could be used to construct a wooden boat to carry you over the rough seas of puberty and beyond. In puberty you intuitively saw yourself as a container with one male voice in it surrounded by a passive inner family of voices and a boatload of wild animals to contend with. But with that story behind you in young adulthood, you could make greater progress in becoming emotionally and spiritually mature.

No one can love a story he can't take personally. If you insist on retelling your own story over and over again, year in and year out, without more insightful interpretations of who you've become, you're going to make people gag if they have to hear about what you went through one more time. Maturity makes it possible to condense your past into metaphors we can all relate to. The universality of our experiences helps to make God's presence all the more apparent.

The darkness of cynicism that painted the world around mankind as black as night for so many thousands of years shouldn't stop us now from uniting with our caveman ancestors who brought fire into their caves to warm them. Theirs was a literal experience of life that we can turn into a metaphor to explain the incredible journey of man, one that Plato understood and conveyed in a classic style that comes to life for every generation through his story of man looking inside at shadows on a cave wall. If you don't enjoy the inner warmth and mystery of your mind as a cave with a fire burning in it, casting shadows on your inner walls, superstition and paranoia will envelop you. You'll be frightened by your own thoughts. Today we have metaphor, symbolism and simile to thank for the physical

comforts we enjoy around us and speech in spiritual story form to unlock the mystery of humanity from within.

Wisdom dictates that we ask ourselves why the experience of eating the metaphoric fruit from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil didn't bring Adam and Eve closer to God through apology and redemption. Common sense begs is to question why God would protect their son Cain from the vengeance of the world even though he murdered their other son and lied about it. Simple logic would make us wonder why God would seek out a man like Noah {the most righteous man in his time} who then watched silently as his neighbors were drowning around him. Thoughtful regard to the intention of Torah will give us the questions we should ask, but it won't bring us the personal answers we need.

Many a man doesn't vote, even though he knows he ought to. He doesn't pay all his taxes if he can hide his money from the government and not care if society is cheated out of its due. He won't give to charity if he'd rather help himself to as much as possible. Whether a modern man considers himself a part of a couple, family, institution, corporation, governmental body or faith-based system, they're all just made up of people like himself. A rising tide will raise all arcs, but if the guy inside each one of them is still juvenile in his spiritual awareness of himself, he's only going to be the most righteous man in his own mind.

The fourth story in Genesis, the Tower of Babel, corresponds to the level of spiritual awareness equivalent to the young man in his twenties who's immature but only in comparison to older, wiser men. The story describes a point in time when all of humanity became a victim of God's wrath, and so He decided to protect Himself from humanity by destroying a tower men from around the world conspired together to build to get into Heaven. [Genesis 11] They built this tower with the intention of usurping God from His throne and stopping future floods at their source because they couldn't believe Him when He promised never to flood the world again. They didn't think His word was good.

From this fourth Biblical story of Genesis we see that the young and immature become spiritually divided in early adulthood. They unconsciously struggle with people against God. They take some actions that are good, such as working together with others, but they still make choices based on the unconscious intentions to get what their penis tells them it wants. But rather than confuse the voice of their penis with God's, they project their desire out onto the world and build a penis {tower} they can literally climb. Man's desires must be made manifest for the young man to see for himself what he's doing.

Unless you learn to look back on your own behavior to see how you may have conspired to get what you wanted from society, you're going to be left with doubts about why God would allow communication problems between peoples. The different languages He created to keep the world then from completing the Tower of Babel describe the

communication hurdles today every young man faces in feeling understood by those around him.

The young, immature man who cynically insists that God doesn't have a hand in his inner world doesn't understand the big picture. His trials and tribulations in life may make him pessimistic and bitter, but cynicism is the only emotional claim to wisdom he can hold for such a blind conclusion about God's role in his life.

The young are restless because they can't yet see themselves as part of a big picture. If they don't get what they want, whether that's material, emotional or intellectual, they bruise, spoil, fall from the tree and rot on the ground. They feel like a failure. The headstrong young man becomes emotionally challenged because he can't pierce his own cynicism. But he's like fruit that's picked green, packed safely and allowed to ripen on its way to market. He may believe the best about the worst and the worst about the best, but his opinions will change. He might fear the Jew getting him from the political right and the gay guy screwing him from the political left, but even that will change. He has a head full of wisdom and a heart full of love, but his conscience is still too weak to balance the two.

After the Tower of Babel story Torah introduces us to Abraham, the man God made His Covenant with, a man who twice threw one son out of his house, and then tried to kill the other. If this is the sort of man God picks to be the father of three great nations, either His plan is flawed or this, too, must be a metaphor for an inner struggle that every man must unpack internally to avoid literal outcomes that would otherwise be morally damaging to his reputation.

If we don't explore Biblical questions with a desire for personal insight, the stories don't make sense. It's too easy to conclude, as Christians did in the past, that Torah is nonsensical foreplay that only predicts the birth of Jesus. It's absurd to think that God's Chosen People were cast aside as irrelevant after He chose one from among them. You don't cut through and discard the peel and meat only to enjoy the core of an apple.

Picking fruit from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil is a metaphor for coming to know yourself as a moral agent of God's goodness. As you learn to distinguish right from wrong through every circumstance you go through in life, you grow into a mature tree of self-knowledge, one that has a serpent hanging down from it that doesn't tempt you to fill yourself only with fruits of your basest desires, the low hanging fruit. The higher you climb within yourself and use your mind's eye to reach for the fruits of wisdom that blossom on the uppermost branches of your tree closest to the heavens above, the more you come to understand the mystery of your part in His plan. And the more you choose to desire what's best in each and every circumstance of life.

Loaves of fresh, French bread you want to stuff in your face; mentholated cigarettes that dangle from your glossy lips; joints made of the finest weed they can cultivate; bottles



of empty beer bottles you line up with a glow of self-achievement on the bar; and the gun you take with you to go shopping at the mall – are all projections of a serpent still beguiling you. Loaves, cigarettes, joints, bottles and guns are projections of your penis. You're trying to get a grip on them with your mouth, lips, lungs, belly and hips because the delivery method of desire is still in projection out on to the world. You'd rather not have to think about that's undulating serpent between your legs that's initiating all your bad habits.

The young Adam who allows his heart to consciously engage in casual conversation with the crafty serpent within him or his son, Cain, to unconsciously engage with it is going to continue to learn about God's plan through a boat ride and a construction project that will teach him a lot more about himself.

Whether your inner Adam or Eve conspire with your serpent, your conscience will always secretly know what the two of them are up to. And until you raise the volume of the voice of your intuition, you won't be able to listen and heed your own excellent advice. Whether your heart and penis are in a game of self-betrayal or the two of them decide to engage your head in a ménage à trois conspiracy, your conscience will always know what's going on, whether or not your conscience is developed enough to assist you in correcting and learning from your mistakes. Some may have to drown in misfortune or watch impotently as God knocks their little tower to power down. Others may be allowed to move on in Torah to learn about the mistakes Abraham made.

Every young man thinks he's innocent of all the evil that came before him. He relinquishes responsibility for anything he didn't do on the grounds that he didn't do it. The fact that he's secretly glad he has what he has and knows what he knows is something he won't tell you. The fact that he doesn't feel guilty for the ice in his veins isn't something he thinks anyone can possibly see. You don't have to have done the crime to pay your part in it for not accounting for the knowledge you've taken without asking.

Nobody has better expressed what his mother once told him than Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Mohammed. And nobody on Earth has done a poorer job of bringing the wisdom of the Jews, the love of the Christians and the generosity of spirit of the Muslims together with conscious self-regard than Abrahamic man.

Those in old age look back at their life as though from a mountain peak onto the valley floor. They see where they were born and the path they took from there that got them so close to the summit. They see it was no coincidence God planted them in that particular family grove and that He helped them when they transplanted themselves into that stand of trees where they chose to root themselves higher up the hill. Every gnarled and twisted old man reaches the tree line where the fierce, freezing winds from the mountaintop sweep down on him, and there he stands shivering unprotected and alone. There he claims a view of himself that, rightly so, no young man can hold. But what can he say to those tall, young

trees whose branches are teeming with fruits {or nuts} in the orchard in the valley far below?

The idea that God could be everywhere was so profound a concept that the Israelites couldn't absorb it all at once. They literally thought they were carrying God in the Tabernacle as they wandered for 40 years in the desert. The later Jews literally thought they'd left Him behind in the Temple when they were vanquished to Babylonia. And their offspring later thought they were literally appeasing His wrath with food when they made sacrifices to Him at the Second Temple for 500 years, thinking that if He isn't hungry, He won't get angry at them.

Today's Jew is vastly more complex than the ancient Jews even at the time of Jesus. He can think metaphorically. He can use symbolic logic, and he can compare and contrast himself to the world at large. But today so can everyone else.

Consuming your own testicles to achieve God's power over life or eating God to become godly makes no literal sense whatsoever. But sexual appetites, like physical and spiritual appetites do have to be appeased. When a man has sex it's like eating food and eating god with every bite. A man has a particular taste for handsome men or pretty women. He gorges himself on lust, and after he's had his fill, he needs to rest and digest the experience. Making love is a lot like preparing a meal. He has to stir up his partner's feeling without letting them boil over. He wants to serve his partner's needs and see to it that his are served just the way he likes it. It isn't farfetched to say that sexual communion teaches you about a level of life with people that mirrors religious communion with God. People are sophisticated these days because they know as much as they do about food, flesh and faith. And they aren't afraid to talk about them respectfully through metaphor.

Words change meaning depending on where inside you utter them. Jews are traditionally trained to live in their head; Christians in their heart; and Muslims in their soul. Until you learn to listen better to where you happen to be coming from in a particular conversation, you aren't going to do a better job of communicating with friends and family, let alone with strangers in other faiths. And since each word can have more than one meaning depending on where it comes from within you, each of the Abrahamic traditions must learn to recognize that when we come together it's as though we're auditing one another's spiritual classes in His name. Our Teacher has a different curriculum for each and every class, as well as separate assignments for each of us in every study group. His devotion to our individual education is so personal and private that it lies beyond our imagination to see His entire plan. And yet, through metaphor we can try.

Start a bromance with yourself and you'll be amazed at how gloriously you'll come to see our Teacher's role in your life more clearly. Learn to love the brother within, and you'll do a far better job of getting along with every spiritual sibling the Teacher seats beside you.

God may be everyone's Father, but He's been the Father of a dysfunctional family for a very long time. We've about exhausted the family-of-man metaphor as the reason to make peace with one another. Use that metaphor instead for personal insight. Make peace with the siblings in yourself and you'll make your Father happy.

The old, gnarled trees found only above the forest line near the summit have the best view of the peak as well as of the valley below, even if their fruits are small and virtually inedible. The trees in valleys are laden with the fruits of worldly knowledge, but they haven't been replanted at high enough altitudes for their branches to seemingly scrape the sky. The trees of the valley bear fruit that grow from season to season, fruits that repeat the process of going from unripe-to-ripe-to-spoiled-to-rotten. But their bark isn't knotty and their trunk bent from so much time in the harsh elevation high up on the mountaintop.

The young man who devotes himself to self-knowledge early in life and cares how God feels about him becomes tomorrow's moral scholar in the school of life. He thinks back to how he unfolded like a leaf with embarrassment; he sees the blush on the peach in photos of his past, and it reminds him to explore what he has at his core. He doesn't scorn the young for their lack of years or experience. He becomes more realistic and pragmatic in worldly affairs in an effort to grow idealistic while he can. To keep his dreams alive he limits fantasies to his bedroom rather than be impractical when it comes to dealings with his fellow man.

When a young man tells you he's hopeful that it'll all turn out well in the end, clap for joy for this is a man who's willing to defy his own cynicism. He's committed to weaving his thoughts and feelings consciously through his conscience to determine for himself whether he's becoming bitter or soured by those around him. A Sunday celebration in his heart at the beginning of each spiritual week coupled with a Friday celebration for all of humanity in his soul will give a man a Saturday Sabbath regard for himself that brings him a better new week from month to month, year after year.

When a Christian says he's been born again he shouldn't be ridiculed for claiming a second birth that isn't physical. There's an emotional rebirth of hope for those who, from the start of every week, devote themselves to the quest for self-love. The question every good man should ask himself isn't whether he's been born again, but how his emotional rebirth at puberty was a preview to the spiritual rebirth that transformed his ability to love himself before God. All the rest of his opinions about lovemaking are mere commentary, pillow talk he's taken out of the bedroom that shouldn't concern you.

The physical journey may be cut short for some with an untimely death. The emotional journey for others may move far too slowly or include great suffering. But the spiritual journey of every old soul begins early in life when he sees that someone has figuratively stolen fruit from his tree. This is the personal loss that makes him see himself as a victim

and teaches him to protect himself from further crimes against his being. You're still reading this book for one reason, and one reason only. You want to catch a thief.

Torah is really the psychological training manual of life through metaphor. Reading Genesis for personal insight will give you examples of all the stage of life you've already been through. The other four books of Torah will tell you about the adventures you've already participated in on your way to your inner Promised Land. God has chosen each and every one of us for a mission, and even if you, like Moses, don't get to your destination by the end of your trip, your journey will never be forgotten. Hundreds of thousands of people are going to be freer in some way despite of you or thanks to you. All the rest of the Old Testament will retell and foretell what you still need to know about yourself metaphorically if you want to make your way through the Old Testament to the New and from there to move on to the secret meaning of the Quran.

The New Testament is another psychological training manual of life that reveals how the world around you could be viewed from yet another point of view. Most people strive to see the world as realistically as a Jew. They know they have a duty to the law, but they also strive to feel the world as idealistically as a Christian. That's why you should read and cherish both sacred texts. If you do, the scholar in you will yearn to read the Quran to find pragmatic answers through similes in how to stand before God like a "mensch" {German: ben-Adam, gentleman, a fine human being}.

But you're going to need courage to take these three aspects of truth to heart. The Jew needs to overcome his fear of participating in the symbolic lessons of life God gave Jesus {love}. The Christian needs to overcome his fear of the metaphoric lessons brought to him by God through Moses {guilt}. In our Judeo-Christian society we're all doing our best to pass God's tests, but the future will require a level of honesty, sincerity and authenticity that isn't as yet common today. Just telling yourself you want what's best for everyone isn't enough. You're going to have to prove it by doing what's best for everyone, beginning with those aspects of yourself in your inner world. And generally speaking, men have earned very poor reputations in both worlds.

Stolen fruit can't simply be glued back at the stem to the branch. You've got to find the courage to move forward in your quest for self-knowledge not go back in search of reliving the way it was with cynical insistence that you already know the outcome of everything. If you do go back into your past, look for proof that it was you who determined that nice guys have to finish last. Look for evidence that you're responsible for the way your life turned out because of the ways you feel about being a good guy who made a few mistakes. Look at the seeds of self-loyalty you planted a long time ago and what you've harvested until now with skeptical regard for the conclusions you hold today. Scrutinize your past from the moment you left your inner Egypt in childhood till you entered your Promised Land as a mature adult. Submerge yourself in your Jordan the way Jesus did with loving inspiration

and expectation of revelation and you'll realize that you, too, were also born in a "house of bread" {BETHLEHEM}.

The first Joshua literally led my ancestors across the Jordan River using knives and swords to conquer the land God promised them. Jesus {the second Joshua} was baptized and saw the poor fish on their perilous flow down to the Dead Sea. The story of how the Prophet Mohammed got into Jerusalem by night, and from there up to heaven where he was a guest at Their table is a miraculous story worthy of being retold in a way that's personal, not political. It all once happened in the same place, and it's all being repeated in inner space. The world around us is God's mirror for us to perceive the world within.

Those Christians who truly believe in the words of love uttered by Jesus teach themselves how to sow the seeds of self-knowledge to reap the harvest of self-love. They learn to cut down their spiritual timber with modesty, humility and grace, and fashion their logs of love into planks of tenderness and affection. The transformation of spiritual timber into lumber is a miracle we've already seen from many men who've learned how to receive the fruits of self-love and find friendship from within. Wisdom of the heart is nothing new, but without it you'll never be able to consider yourself a moral person.

The Hebrew word for "orchard" is "PARDES." Because the vowels in Hebrew aren't letters as they are in English PARDES is written "PRDS." These four letters correspond to the four levels of understanding in Hebrew that come with knowledge:

1.     PSHAT:            simple meaning;
2.     REMEZ:           hinted-at meaning
3.     DRASH:           derived meaning;
4.     SOD:             secret, or hidden meaning.

This book is an exploration of SOD, the secret, deepest meaning of the Bible.

Christians who read the Hebrew Testament and quote "PSHAT," the simple meaning are losing their audience. Modern man can't accept the simple meaning of Scripture with hardline conclusions that only hint at deeper meanings. If God created gay people then the simple meaning about homosexuality in Leviticus 19 where it states that it's an abomination for a man to sleep with a man can't be taken literally. The simple, hinted and derived meaning of Torah are pushing modern men toward to the secret, deepest meaning. Jesus could and did reach the level of SOD in His reading of Torah. Ironically those who stop at the literal level of meaning end up sounding more like the ancient, rich Jews at the time of Jesus than like modern men who can carry a rational, spiritual discussion.

Guilt becomes an emotional reward when you glean the modesty, humility and self-loyalty to admit your mistakes, atone and do what's right from then on. How can anyone love himself as Jesus intended if he doesn't have the rewards of guilt to motivate him? If

modesty, humility and self-loyalty aren't leading you in the direction of love you're obviously going the wrong way. Christian insolence and Muslim arrogance are offshoots of Jewish chutzpah. When you're intent on seeking revenge as Adam did when he exonerated himself by blaming "THE WOMAN YOU PUT HERE WITH ME" [Genesis 3:12] you're going to pay for that mistake. You're going to kill your feelings with diabolic thinking, as Cain did literally with Abel. Modern man is known for his psychotic tendencies to deny his feelings in favor of using his head to get his desires met at any cost to his mental health.

There's method to God's madness. Christians aren't better than Jews, and Muslims aren't better than Christians. God didn't throw away the mold as He enrolled new generations of pupils in His student body. And Jews aren't better than everyone else just because we've been in this school the longest. We're all doing the best we can with our individual studies even though each of us comes to his classes prepared in different ways and moving toward different goals. And yet, in the end, everybody graduates.

The Israelites followed Moses across Egypt even though everyone, Egyptian and Jew, knew that the Israelites would eventually end up at the shores of the Red Sea with no way to get across. Moses must have decided to cross that bridge when they came to it. He knew he was working with God not against Egyptians. God always provides a path we can't now see, just as the waters divided then to reveal the land bridge at the bottom of the Red Sea that no one had any idea was there.

The spiritual infant looks ahead at what seems subjectively like 400 years of bondage to his parents. The spiritual child embarks on a journey to freedom believing that answers will come as he runs out of childhood even though he fears being dragged back to the bondage of his formative years. The spiritual adolescent miraculously gets out of his parents' house alive and celebrates being on the other side of youth as the Israelites did on the eastern banks of the Red Sea. But the young immature man has to endure the hardships of a 40-year journey in which he dies wanders in circles in a desert of uncertainty. Only Joshua {savior}, the one Israelite born in Egypt who survived the journey from start to finish got to go the whole way. Therefore become a Joshua unto yourself. Emulate the leader you already know succeeded.

The journey of life is just as circuitous and beguiling if you're not schooled in Torah. But if you're willing to entertain these ideas as set forth by a gay-Jew you may raise your opinion of Jews and gays from cynical to skeptical. You may be able to question yourself when you hit a particularly dark spot within, and in so doing shine a bit of light where there hadn't been any before.

Few have the financial capital needed to live 120 years like Moses, let alone the emotional containment to avoid his mistake by getting as angry as he did at others. Most

aren't told to look for a secret meaning in their everyday existence. Some find themselves on their deathbed looking back on their life like a tenth and final plague, as though the angel of death were malevolently approaching them with a Passover into who-knows-what. Only then do they entertain the possibility of having tried all their life to live like pharaoh only to end up like his son.

There's a Jewish joke about the crew team at the University of Jerusalem that lost every match they played, and so the president of the university sent the coach to Oxford University to observe the crew team there. The Israeli coach came back excited, and told the president he discovered the secret to the sport: everyone on the Oxford crew team was rowing in the same direction... I'd add to that joke my own observation that everyone on a crew team is rowing backwards (as well they should) except for the coxswain who sits at the back of the boat. The "coxswain," {also called the "cox"} is responsible for the crew's safety. Along with steering the boat, the cox acts as the coach throughout the race. {Coxs are traditionally thrown into the water after a regatta win – a sort of honorary baptism...}

The message to take away from this story is to identify as the whole team not just a single player if you plan to row with, rather than against your teammates. You should see yourself as a spiritual infant who watches the race in wonder and fascination, laughing in glee over who wins. You should identify as a spiritual child who gets excited about every member of the team who becomes a hero in his effort to play with others well. The spiritual adolescent in you should put your imagination in the boat doing the hard work of rowing in sync with the others. And as the spiritually young and immature coxswain facing the direction the boat is going by steering it and motivating your crew, you shouldn't feel ashamed just because all eyes are on you.

There's no part of you that can afford to behave like a bad sport. To win the game of life, you have to realize that most of the views you hold of yourself in your head are facing the way you came, not the way you're going. You're rowing as hard as you can, but you can't see where you're headed. You need a coxswain in your heart as well as others looking down from the stands in your soul to cheer you on. Each and every one of these views you don't take personally will create a spiritual dark spot in your soul that will cause you to react cynically rather than questioningly or hopefully to the way your life turns out.

Israel wins when the Arab nations get their own houses in order and celebrate the Jewish people as Semites who belong in their midst. Arabs win when they turn their countries into spiritual Meccas where their citizens are in an inner state of struggle with A L L A H rather than distracting themselves by trying to show a unified face against the Jews. The Arab spring turns its back on winter and faces summer when the Sunnis and Shiites end their 1,400 year-long feud with one another. And the Christian wins when the world realizes that without God's love none of this could happen.

Jesus asked His disciples to eat with Him at His table, so it isn't outrageous for a Jew to ask you to seat yourself at His table, too. Remember, it's not your table. It's Theirs. He's seated with the other two aspects of Himself that God chose to make manifest in this world of three dimensions. We're all guests at Their table. If Moses hadn't given us his perspective on God, and Jesus His view of God, the P r o p h e t Mohammed wouldn't have been able to triangulate yet his third outlook on God. If you think you're too good to sit with Him at Their table, you're going to be very uncomfortable should happen find yourself seated next to someone like me.

More than you need to take communion in a Catholic church you need to commune with yourself. Get a taste for the greatest guy you'll ever literally or figuratively meet. Squeeze out a bit of the juice from the good fruit inside yourself - some of the life-giving elixir you made just right – and figuratively sip it slowly despite how potent and powerful the thought of the mystery of giving life to yourself might be. There isn't a thing you have to do except use your imagination without disgusting yourself. The WORD of God and WORD of God were written just for you. The only thing now keeping you from enjoying them is the resistance you may be feeling about loving yourself before Them.



## Today's Specials

The main metaphor of Moses describes this world as an orchard and you as a metaphoric tree. You have the right to reach out to pick anything you find interesting or attractive around you, anything sweet enough to make you conclude that being here-and-now is a gift from God. Whatever you learn, be it positive or negative, can help you explore the radical idea of liking yourself. But it must all start with the words please and thank you.

You might discover that you already like that one special tree that's so unique and different from all the rest. But the fruits of it are so impossibly hard to reach that most people who try, quickly give up. Even you must have grown very tall and proud before you could reach up to the highest branch of your own tree to decide to pick yourself first on the odd occasion. The secret to being genuine will look hard if you vacillate between loving and hating yourself, but liking yourself is really not that big a deal if you learn to like each part of yourself separately.

Self-knowledge is a feast you have to prepare many times for practice before you're invited to sit down with our Host. First you need a secure foundation in your mind built upon knowledge of people, places and things. In Spiritual Linguistic terms that means you need to know about nouns. Once you've learned to appreciate your emotional connection to the names of the things around you, you'll realize the importance of asking God questions about stuff with more heartfelt intent. Most people either ask Him questions they already have the answers to or they ask questions He can't answer given the knowledge they've gleaned thus far about themselves. So He brings them people who become the bridges they need to seek the answers they ask.

Most prayers are questions about "who," {people} "what" {things} or "where" {places}. And of these three answers to the question of "where" are, by far, the most important because they mirror where it's all emanating out from within. Your problems originate from your penis, the delivery system of all your desires, impulses, urges and cravings that, like a milky soup, are figuratively discharged from this one spot in you.

The scientific evolution of the species makes the claim that our body is descended from animals that lived in trees. Spiritual evolution makes the claim that our soul is still descending in conscious awareness of once having been an animal that lived in a tree. Therefore it's in the urban jungle where you'll prove how evolved you are and how committed you are to your spiritual evolution before the Lord.

There are plenty of young men today who believe that the evolution of the fittest was just a preview to the evolution of the finest. These are the meek, modern men of today who'll inherit the Earth. Self-knowledge leads them to the self-understanding of the moral importance of life that opens them to self-forgiveness. Only those who are connoisseurs of the metaphoric forbidden fruit given by Moses develop an honest appetite for the grain and

the grape Jesus added to their meal. Only those who learn to love guilt will come to love, love.

You can't be a Christian without admitting that your floor is the Jewish ceiling, and that your ceiling is the Muslim floor. Christians and Muslims may have covered up every Jewish religious site in the Holy Land with a church and a mosque back into our distant past, but the Jewish tradition will always remain the foundation of the other two.

The man who can take the character of Eve to heart can go on the journey from boyhood to manhood in his head where he can decide to treat women better than they've ever been treated before. But the man who has feelings for Mother Mary holds a sacred place in his heart for all Jewish women, and by extension for their Jewish sons. Such a man can see that the serpent hanging down from the trunk of his tree is the Judas who's betraying him. And he can then learn how to overcome a good deal of his embarrassment and shame with gracious self-reflection on the poor decisions in his past.

Don't let your problem with serpents {penises} or your problems with worms {clitorises} overwhelm you. You might find women more enticing than men sexually, but if you lose your erection every time you think about having to be your own bedfellow, you're not sexy enough for yourself. In the end, regardless which gender you have sex with, you'll scrutinize yourself with an unkind, inner eye when you realize you're always going to have to have sex with one guy. And you'll judge yourself as abominable unless you discover the secret side of Torah. [Leviticus 18]

There were two issues Moses and Jesus agreed upon unequivocally: the protection of the orphans and widows. But it's you who once was the orphaned seed planted here that looked up at the spiritual soil it had to grow through alone. And it's you who once was the widowed branches that shivered without leaves in the winter wind. If you can't see yourself in the fate of the orphan and the widow your problem isn't visual. It's emotional. You'll always feel like an orphaned child and a widowed woman. But you may deny it.

At the end of Torah as Moses neared death, he told the Israelites that God would be their Rock. But by that point in a rabbi's reading of Torah, he should realize from the physical exertion that comes from turning the right scroll until it's almost full, in tandem with releasing the left that's then almost empty, that there's more to Torah than meets the eye. The retelling of the story may, once again, be near an end as another Jewish year comes to a close, but Adam will be reborn shortly. The metaphor has physical consequences that unravel, rewind and begin anew year after year, generation after generation.

God doesn't just reside in a rabbi's conscience, turning him into a soulful person. He's in his arms as he turns the scrolls. He's in the wooden table that the altar is made of. He's everywhere now and was everywhere when Jesus read His words the same way. To be

reborn you have to see yourself as two scrolls that are being unwound and rewound. Life is a mysterious parchment, and the portion you're encountering now is called "today." Year after year you'll unwind and rewind yourself as you reread the story of your life anew, seeking greater depth to the metaphors that live in your soul.

A rabbi should look for the wealth of wisdom and love in all his spiritual predecessors, especially the wisdom of Moses and love of Jesus. The wisdom of Jesus will help him turn himself tighter without undo twists and need for re-raveling – as when winding parchment on a scroll. Moses gave us Torah, but Jesus taught us how to simultaneously wind our head while unwinding our heart to perceive today as it passes before us, giving us the opportunity to make ourselves soulful. This is the living calligraphy on that little patch of time given personally to you to read and right.

There are millions of ways to come to know your nature and find ways to link your nature with Mother Nature and God's nature. Eden is a concept that was given to man in inner space before Moses described Eden as a garden in outer place. Torah is still meaningful today because the main metaphor of Moses is still alive and growing greater in man's consciousness through every successive generation.

Moses could only do what was humanly possible with the uneducated slaves he was entrusted to lead at that time. Jesus fared slightly better 1,400 years later thanks to a citizenry that had put literacy laws in place around 200 B.C.E. for all Jewish children, including girls. Virtually everyone could read the Bible at the time of Jesus, and did.

After covering himself with a leaf and running away from God when he heard Him coming closer, hiding himself among the trees, Adam had no choice but to come out and face God when He asked him directly, "WHERE ARE YOU?" {a question that only reveals God's psychological intention in making man think about himself since He obviously knew Adam's literal location}. There was no need to waste good parchment on God asking Adam where he was except to promote psychological insight into Adam's nature. God asked that question for Adam's sake, not because he'd successfully hidden from Him.

Adam responded by unconsciously addressing his physical dilemma rather than his emotional discomfort, saying he had hidden from Him because he was naked. Although this prompted God to ask him if he'd eaten from the forbidden tree, obviously God saw the whole thing from the start. So the picture Moses is really presenting us with is exactly how and when God interfaced with Adam after the "misdeed" in order to describe how Adam reacted. Adam had already expressed his embarrassment by that point by covering himself with a leaf. He'd already expressed his shame by running away when he heard God coming. Clearly, the only emotional expression of guilt left was in describing to us how Adam humiliated himself before the Lord, thereby taking guilt to its furthest extreme.

Once Adam was cornered with the real issue at hand {the depth of his guilt} since there obviously was no severity to his crime, he blamed God for having given him that woman who tempted him. In other words he blamed the two of Them {God and Eve} for a decision he wouldn't take responsibility for having made himself.

You should use the voice of god {your conscience} to guide you when your desires and feelings get you in trouble. Your conscience will begin by asking you where you are, and you, too, will probably first react by blaming others, and only later realize how guilty you feel. You, like Adam, may claim to be unaware of your emotional discomfort. You may even deny your part in the incident entirely. But your figurative banishment from an inner Eden will distance you further from yourself just as it did to Adam. But your scroll will be rewound and you'll be back. The eighth day of creation comes back around any time God wishes you to relive the journey to the beginning of the story about how you developed a guilty conscience.

What can begin as an Eden of self-discoveries if you take the Bible personally can turn into a living Hell if you don't. The less you know yourself the more violently you can feel damned to a place in inner space that you don't understand or want to have to endure. Hell hath no fury like a man scorned by himself. Sooner or later he refuses to identify as Adam, Eve or the serpent. He starts to identify only with the forbidden fruit that can never be glued back onto the tree. He identifies with the victim and as the victim. He becomes a martyr to misery. And the only way through the feeling of victimization and martyrdom is with the feeling of self-loyalty. But forbidden fruit can't describe what they're going through.

God needs nothing from you. He isn't keeping you away from yourself to hoard your harvest. Other people need the good you have inside you, but it's you who needs to pick the very best you have to offer. Give humanity the milk of human kindness, but keep the cream {self-love} for yourself.

How powerful could your conscience really be if you're exercising it only to tell others how to behave? How clever could your mind be if you've trained it to make excuses for yourself? How open could your heart be after it was broken so badly in the past? And what's your beguiling penis, the delivery system of your desires, for if not to yearn how to become powerful enough to give only what's good?

Unfolding the mystery of being you isn't a right; it's a privilege. And God isn't going to allow you back into your Eden unless He feels you deserve it, based on what He sees different about you now from how you were before. The Sabbath may be the only day you choose to reconcile your efforts with Him, but you could be reconciling your efforts with yourself every minute of every day if you humbled yourself to learning about you every chance you get. You have to first become your own soul mate before you can find a second

soul mate out in the world. You have to become an inner parent with your inner child before you can behave like an grown up amongst others.

It's understandable if you're skeptical of the tactics organized religion has taken in the past. Many religious leaders today hold an antiquated position on their own relationship to love and guilt, life's "do's" and "don'ts." Their ability to lead themselves is an art they're certainly going to need to refine if they're going to promote the Bible for a new age.

Spiritual Linguistics isn't only the study of the words Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Mohammed gave us to unravel. It's the study of the words you're using every day to express yourself. Your interpretation of your thoughts, feelings, desires and beliefs determine how you're going to behave. If you think like a martyr you're going to program yourself like one, too. And you're going to see yourself act like a victim of circumstances instead of a victor over them. You're going to become the bully who's always bullied, and you're going to claim crusades are being called to conquer your Holy Land.

We no longer live in a world that's evil. Today we live in a world that's crazy. We can only forgive people for their horrible behavior if we can tell ourselves they're insane. It's a little easier to love your crazy neighbor than it is to love your evil neighbor. This is therefore the perspective we've achieved in America toward our next-door neighbors. This, ironically, is the policy that needs to be extended to the Middle East. They're all crazy, not evil.

You're not the only one in this world with feelings. God has feelings, too. He made you in His image. He gave you the ability to think, feel, desire and believe, but don't for a moment think He's going to excuse you for stealing from yourself, rejecting yourself and ignoring yourself. He didn't give you the miracle of life to waste it or to blame Him for what you have to go through. He gave you life to cherish and for you to bestow His gifts upon yourself and then others.

God hurts those who hurt themselves and He helps those who help themselves. It's hard enough to get people to add to what they know. Imagine how hard it must have been for Jesus to transform the way the ancient Jews felt about themselves. A transformation of the heart simply can't be accomplished without transcending your opinion of yourself, and that can only happen if done from a third perspective in inner space.

You've got to be able to acknowledge from your soul that God is always helping you learn the reason for your feelings. You should admit you've always known in your heart that He believes you can learn to believe in yourself. You've got to tell yourself, and really listen, when you declare that everything you've been through in life has always been His way of getting you to look at yourself from various, new perspectives. Only from your soul can you see your head and heart from God's perspective. Only from there can Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel come together as the first metaphoric family of man.

Surely God allowed Jesus the freedom to pursue His emotional quest on Earth despite the danger to Him in doing so. Surely God refused to stop the crucifixion of Jesus despite how it made both of Them feel. There hasn't been a man alive who hasn't, in some way, forsaken himself without having also been given the opportunity to learn how and why he did so. God didn't forsake Jesus. That was the human side of Him talking while under terrible duress.

There's no word in Hebrew for peace. The word "SHALOM" comes from the verb "LISHALEM," which actually means "TO FILL." What Israelis are saying to one another isn't "peace, peace, peace," but "FILL, FILL, FILL." This filling process is our way of reminding ourselves of what we're still learning from the Tree of knowledge and the importance to fill ourselves with as much goodness and as little craziness as possible.

"Lonely" is the failing grade in man's head that he doesn't enjoy getting from our Teacher. "Empty" is the failing grade of his heart that he doesn't want to have revealed to the class. And "meaningless" is the failing grade in his soul that he doesn't want to receive as the grade on his final exam. The unexamined life may be fun while you're living it, but it isn't worth dying for. The consequences after this life may be severe when we move into the fourth dimension and have to discover God's moral plan when we'll have to master time in addition to length, width and depth.

Coming to the peace table after having made peace with yourself is no different than coming to the Passover table or the Communion Table. At the Passover table Jews figuratively consume the metaphor of Moses that leads man to freedom. At the communion table Christians consume the symbols of Jesus that lead man to liberty. Thanks to our Judeo-Christian culture we've produced many generations of Americans who've learned to eat together in peace and with an inner sense of tranquility. The tension we feel today in the body politic is a continuum between heads and hearts we haven't yet come to view from our soul. When you experience emancipation from within, know that you had to master freedom and liberty to do so.

Whether you see yourself as selfless or selfish; merciful or just; Jew or Gentile; gay or straight – is your business. Nobody wants laws telling you how to behave if those laws were crafted through a perception of you as a child. Laws are created to protect children from adults, not to turn adults into children.

We need Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, pagans, agnostics and atheists in our pluralistic society even though they underrate the importance of their penis as much as the rest of us do. The first thing any man thinks about when he meets another person is whether or not that person has a penis. Every society teaches its members how to differentiate, first and foremost, between those with a penis and those without. Gender is the first characteristic we look for in others. Whether you treat women better or worse than you treat yourself is

a matter of conscience, not just culture. If you're going to learn to respect your penis for its figurative importance in your life depends on whether you respect all those who have one as well as all those who don't.

When God asked Eve whether she'd eaten from the Tree of knowledge she first blamed the serpent, but then she took responsibility for her actions. "THE SERPENT DECEIVED ME, AND I ATE." [Genesis 3:12] But before that, God had been grilling Adam, giving her time to think of a better answer than he'd come up with. Our heart listens to the chattering in our head, and then our heart decides how it can respond differently. From Eve's answer it's easy to tell she was defensive, but at least she couched her answer with a modicum of shame, unlike Adam who simply deflected his guilt onto the two of Them.

The serpent was never required to account to God. After listening to Adam and Eve, God cursed the serpent without bothering to question it. {What good would it do for you to start a conversation with your penis about how it's to blame for getting you into trouble? Your penis crawls around in your pants without regard to your reputation. Talking to your penis about your problems is a waste of breath. Man milk, the juice of your fruit, is spit out of the mouth of your penis. Your milk isn't sucked out of your nipples as in a woman. It's forced out, not extracted. Don't bother to talk to your penis. Your penis is chatty. It loves to start conversations {sex}, but it always ends up exhausted and speechless once it can get the last word.

The character of God in the Creation Story began by creating the Garden of Eden and then man. God then came to Eden to check in on His creation. When a male child has been properly schooled in moral conduct with metaphors that are meaningful and spiritual interpretations of religious stories that make sense, his conscience can then welcome God into his heart and soul with open arms during each and every one of His visits. Such a man experiences the feeling of not just being a guest in God's worldly kingdom here on Earth, but also being a host to God in his own soul.

God may seem closer some times and farther away at others. It's not that He literally comes to Earth from Heaven, but that we experience His presence with greater or lesser intensity. The man who learns to prepare for His unexpected visits through pray, and appreciate His vacillating proximity and distance through spiritual study, will be grateful when he senses His presence, as though His presence means his prayers have already been answered within, regardless of the outcome in the world he has to share.

God doesn't literally speak to us, but He does make Himself known to us through matters of the heart. Acknowledging His rod {sticks} and His staff {carrots} should be of comfort to you. If you're only praying for His staff to lean on, you won't ever learn to appreciate the value of Him taking time to guide your moral education through misfortune as well as good fortune.

When a morally mature male realizes that God is always present within him, he can consider himself soulful. God has entered his conscience, which is what has then turned it into a soul. He experiences God inside as in His home away from Home. If he's Christian perhaps he also experiences Jesus as in His house of bread by feeling filled with His fine wine.

Every man who experiences God's presence does so in three ways which are described in Hebrew using three different words although we only have one word for this idea in English. The word is "here." In Hebrew the word "PO" means "HERE" in the geographic sense of the world around us. PO pinpoints where something is located in outer place. {This book is "here" in your hands.} The second word for "here" is "KAN" which refers to the general sense of time and space. {You're reading this book "here" and now.} But the third meaning of "here" in Hebrew is "HINENI." HINENI is what Adam and Abraham both said each time God called to them asking them where they were. HINENI means "PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR" in the world within. HINENI means you realize you're standing here before God simultaneously in the outer world and the world within.

Those who've had the experience of sensing God's presence within realize that the difference between conversing with yourself in your mind and praying to the God within lies in your experience of the word HINENI. When you know in your heart and soul that He's entered into you, you have a sense of Him in two places at once. You host Him while at the same time being a guest in His house.

The best analogy I can find for the experience of HINENI is feeling apart from the class in the school of life having a conference with our Teacher during His office hours for the purpose of learning more about your individual curriculum and grades. When you've experienced the feeling of HINENI, it's as if you're alone with a professor you admire who knows more about the subject {you} than you could ever imagine. It's a feeling of awe and grandeur. Occasionally, it can even be so awesome that it's awful.

To love yourself more, you have to spiritually eat more, not less. Your problem may be that you lack an appetite to nibble more at yourself. If a little of your own love goes a long way, you should force yourself to consume more of you to get past the bitter rind to get to the sweetness within. Regardless of what Americans look like on the outside, on the inside most of us are as skinny as rails. That's not spiritually healthy. If you're Christian, your Jewish Mother, Mary, would want you to eat more spiritually. If you're not Christian or nonsectarian all your gay brothers are asking you to do the same. You look hungry. Eat more spiritually! Force yourself!

Life is a school in which your Teacher gives myriad lessons, homework and classroom assignments. His presence is intrinsic to every subject you're enrolled in during the course of a day. Learning about guilt is an elementary part of your spiritual education. Guilt is part



of the basics you've got to master if you're going to graduate to the lessons of self-love. You should take your time in coming to the WORDS of Jesus spiritually prepared or, as with the Old Testament, you won't be able take the New Testament personally.

The emotionally immature can admit Jesus once walked the Earth, but they can't admit or imagine He had a crotch just like other men. They refuse to ask themselves what Jesus could have possibly learned about being a man just from having male genitals and an anus. They see Him as having been here only to teach, not to learn, and so they can only emulate the role of the teacher, not the student. That creates a superiority complex. That indicates they can't move through their own shame to humility. That means they're looking down in judgment on their fellow man.

What goes in must come out. Open your eyes and you'll see. Open your heart and you'll love. Open your mouth, though, and you'd better be careful about what comes out of it. You may be biting off more than you can chew in just being you. You may make a mess of what you're trying to say if you don't first swallow and digest what's comes to you. Not everything you eat your body can digest. And not everything your spiritual system takes in needs to stay with you. If you don't appreciate your physical anus for its role in eliminating food you no longer need, you may also end up emotionally and spiritually constipated. A man who doesn't want to have to think about other men having an anus usually behaves like an asshole.

The people in your life who you think about become aspects of your conscience that bring up feelings for you to wrestle with. The more honestly, sincerely and authentically you deal with these cardboard characters in your imagination, the more God will reward you with emotional and spiritual insight into yourself. Think of the mental pictures in your mind as twigs with leaves that are growing on your tree of knowledge in order to bud, blossom and flower in as yet unknown and miraculous way. To grow like a tree of knowledge you have to flower with the intention of learning about yourself. Your thoughts about other people are twigs at the edges of your tree.

When God created the woman {HA-ISHA} for Adam, she had no name. She was simply his woman in his eyes, and nothing more. He never bothered to wait for her to name herself. He simply gave her a name when they were about to be banished from Eden. It wasn't until then that he appreciated her for being separate and real from him. This emotional growth led Adam to name her "Eve" {CHAVA, which means "LIFE"}.

An infant sees his mother and himself as one and the same. He thinks that everything he thinks she should know, and if she doesn't know what he's thinking, he's furious with her. It isn't until he reaches a greater level of awareness through experience that he slowly gives up his mistaken conclusions about her as literally a part of him. He then gives her the name "ma-ma," to indicate they have separate identities, which allows him to break free

from the Eden of infancy. His subsequent possessiveness and insistence that his authority is the only authority on the planet leads him into the terrible twos. But by then he's well on his way onto the obstacle course of spiritual life that leads to more in the way of self-discovery.

Just as Jesus had to go through psychic separation from His mother, each of us has to figuratively do the same. We first experienced the grandeur of God's plan when our mother's umbilical cord was physically cut off of our body. But we've gone through many more emotional wounds that repeat that process internally. Jesus had a belly button. But He also knew early on that He was the prototype for a new human being. He later learned the Romans had been crucifying Jews for decades before He was born, and discovered they were determined to continue doing so if any Jew got out of line. He might have wanted to give His life for His country, but God, in His infinite wisdom, used His sacrifice for an even greater cause.

Christianity states that Jesus fought death, and won. Christians claim He didn't just die for our sins, but that as the result of Him sacrificing Himself, death was defeated. Literally that's not the case, since He died and everyone else since has died, too. So for that statement to be true there must be a truth beyond the literal meaning of these words that's emotionally and spiritually greater than the literal truth.

There was no way to change the barbaric Romans of 2,000 years ago with reason. They had to be transformed into the heartfelt Italians we know and love today. The only way to bring the scope of God's plan to Europe, and from there to disseminate it to the world, it had to be couched in a different way of expressing faith. The early tribal societies of Europe were too entrenched in survival issues to stop and study Torah. European history was so bloody and cruel that love, not wisdom, had to lead them to the richness of spirit they enjoy today. You could say that the wisdom of Judaism was secretly folded in with Christian love. The spiritual inheritance Europeans hold today is founded upon the wisdom in loving their neighbors, a feat that's taken them two millennia to realize.

We, Jews, have been waiting 2,000 years for Christians to be able to appreciate our Testament and hold it with the respect we do rather than burn the scrolls of Torah as they did in the past. Christians can now learn how the secret wisdom in the WORD of God can lead them to greater love and gratitude for the New Testament, their second covenant with God. Today the WORD of God and the WORD of God go together better than they ever have before. With tomorrow's Muslims the three of us will spread the WORD/WORD/w o r d of our God.

There are four negative emotional forces that, when combined, create hatred. And each of these forces needs to be discussed before we can understand God's path to love. These negative forces are jealousy, envy, vanity and conceit. Jealous and envy are negative

emotions that arise when you assume others have been given a container {jealousy} and contents {envy} you wish you'd received instead of what you got. Vanity and conceit are negative feelings that come up when you assume you've been given a container {vanity} and contents {conceit} that are better than everyone else's. Jealousy and envy create low self-esteem. Vanity and conceit create a superiority complex. When you have an unrealistic view of your container {bread} and contents {wine}, hatred ensues and you either bully yourself or others.

God gave the world a Son to personify His love, but mankind was too emotionally immature to understand Jesus's ability to overcome these four aspects of self-loathing and other-loathing with His love for Himself. Before you can love yourself as He did, you have to discover these four chambers of your own heart, one by one. You have to do battle with the jealousy of not having been given the body of your dreams. You have to fight against the envy of seeing others filled with virtues that keep you separate from them. You have to resist the vanity of concluding you're better because you were created as good looking as you are on the outside. And you have to wrestle with the tendency to lord your intellectual gifts over others {conceit}.

These are the four emotional chambers of the heart of that God bestowed knowledge of by creating Jesus, a man with a good heart. This may be your STRUGGLE WITH GOD, too. When, like Jesus, you achieve conscious awareness of your negative, emotional tendencies, you can embrace the four chambers of the heart God gave you, and then you, too, can make the claim that you're good hearted and that you really know what you're talking about when you employ the wisdom of your heart.

The emotional challenges you've struggled with brought you to this day. You're part of the reason why this world is a little less *crazy* than it used to be. Therefore, encourage yourself to keep going in this direction.

Jewish life was cheap at the time of Jesus. A Jewish body was seen then as an empty, physical shell made in God's image, but without emotional meat or spiritual seeds. Israel was more of a literal homeland than a spiritual jumping off place. Such was the limited understanding of the ancient, Jewish homeland in this world at that time. The story of how their perception changed is woven in with Western history.

In terms of the metaphor of Moses, the ancient Jews at the time of Jesus were just beginning to chew through the peel to nibble the meat of forbidden fruit. Prior, their sense of themselves had been skin deep. They sacrificed animals to assuage their guilt, but they had good reason to be incensed that their enemies, the ancestors of the same peoples who surround Israel today who brutally try to killed them. Without deeper consideration for the deeper, spiritual meaning of life and the importance of living in peace with your neighbors, peace will elude everyone.

To love life you have to willingly go on the journey of life. You have to face those who set themselves up like pharaohs who lord over Israelites like slave drivers. And you have to leave their employ and refuse to dance around golden calves that tempt you to do what's not in your best interest. You can't kvetch {Yiddish: complain} for the next 40 years of your life because of what you went through as a child. There isn't any emotional evidence to support your claim that you're any better than anybody else because you were a victim of circumstances at one time that were beyond your control. Your life has to become a journey of the heart for you to teach others that we all have to learn about love whether we like it or not. And you have to teach yourself in order to know what you're talking about. The cost of your tuition is covered by what you learn about yourself that you can share with yourself, not with others. The more you know about yourself the more you may come to the conclusion that you need the Teacher's help to graduate with high honors.

When comparing modest, humility and loyalty, humility is, by far, the most important. With modesty you can achieve a reliable vehicle for the journey, and with loyalty you can keep yourself pointed in the right direction. But with humility you can learn to appreciate the process. Humility makes it possible to educate yourself and thereby grow in every way. What use is it to have a powerful car and a map that lays out the way to your destination if you don't arrive better off than when you started? If you don't appreciate the driver you won't appreciate the drive.

Abrahamic man needs to look at the life of the Israelites on their way to Jerusalem before he can go on the journey from Jerusalem to the next higher Promised Land with Jesus. He has to be able to appreciate the Prophet Mohammed's ascent and descent from Heaven, and be able to compare and contrast it to his own. Until Abrahamic man can discern God's divine hand enmeshed in the writings of Moses he isn't going to glean enough from the Gospels or Quran of personal importance to him. He's going to make huge mistakes of judgment along the way that are going to seriously slow down his progress and his hopes of getting to his destination.

All mistakes emanate out from thinking knowledge is your right. It's not. Learning is a privilege. Many people have learning disabilities that might become more meaningful to you if you were to give thanks for your ability to learn all that you can.

Learning how to learn is pure luxury. Many take that for granted, too. Nobody deserves to know. Nobody is on a needs-to-know basis with our Teacher. All knowledge is bestowed. Muslim terrorists, governments that spy on their people and hackers who steal knowledge and think there'll be no repercussions for doing so have a very poor relationship with the Teacher, and they're going to find that their fate will be sealed. Knowledge is God's business with man. Only those who approach Him with the attitude that they'd love to know more will receive His blessings. Taking the attitude that you have to know or have a right to know is an abuse of power.

Jesus spoke about love in parable form to elucidate how to plant seeds of love in everyone. He especially demonstrated how men could plant seeds of love in other men. Whether you do that physically, figuratively or spiritually is merely a question of the inner location you're coming from. Matters of the heart are particularly difficult to speak about if you view them only through the lens of heterosexual love. Straight, religious scholars have been working to understand Jesus's message for 2,000 years with great successes and horrendous failures. So it's about time they allow gay scholars to their table to discuss brotherhood from a different outlook. Straight scholars need experts on penises to teach them how to figuratively plant seeds wisely, lovingly and generously. It takes real world experience to make inner world associations.

A man shines the light of his awareness onto his mother in infancy. In childhood he shines it onto his father. As an adolescent he shines it on strangers. As a young man he shines it on one special someone. It's only when he becomes fully mature that he's ready to shine his light onto himself.

It would be a pity if a man turns his back on his love for other men just because his own sexual preferences got in his way. Just because a gay man is attracted to other men doesn't mean he's going to be attracted to you. To conclude otherwise would be very vain and conceited. And that, too, would seriously hamper such vane straight men from achieving spiritual success.

You could multiply the fruits of your labor if you could combine the wisdom of your head with that of your heart. You could intensify all your experiences in life if you could come to conscious awareness of the spiritual importance that your feelings play in harmonizing the lyrics in your head with the melody in your heart. "RENA" {THE SONG OF GOD} isn't a song without the New Testament; it's just a lecture. Love brings words to life. It's taken 2,000 years for the Christians to appreciate our Jewish "love of wisdom" and for us to appreciate their Christian wisdom of love. The spiritual ancestors of today's Christian may have once been Jews, but Jesus is still figuratively suffering on the cross within those who refuse to see the potential for all men to receive the revelations from the New Testament in themselves, and stop trying to sell them on others.

When we Jews talk about Jesus today we should remember we're speaking about one of our own. We should remember that Torah is the WORD of God, given to us to raise the world out of spiritual bondage. And we should consider with an open mind the possibility that God gave Jesus a second story to build upon our foundation with a spiritual plan God intended from the start. There are no mistakes in the way things turn out, only mysteries as to why they needed to be the way they were.

Acts of God, accidental deaths, murder, rape, kidnaping, corruption, cheating, stealing and lying are all allowed to happen to teach the lessons of the heart that will overcome

jealousy, envy, vanity and conceit. Suffering isn't optional, as many would have you believe. Suffering is imperative. That's why it's so important that we learn to help each other when we're suffering and teach one another how to avoid such severe lessons from our Teacher in the future.

Hospitality was very important to the ancient peoples of the Middle East because they depended on strangers in order to survive when traveling through the inhospitable deserts around them. A good host then, like now, has the skills to make his guest feel he's not a burden, but a blessing. When you develop your conscience in a way God approves of, He allows you to become His host provided you don't give Him the impression that He's a burden. God-consciousness comes to those who are truly hospitable to Him because their inner environment is hospitable to the idea of God entering into them.

But you can't become a good host to God if you're treating yourself like an unwanted guest. If you stop from time to time to listen to your incessant kvetching {complaining} you'll see that not even you enjoy being around you a lot of the time. Why would God want you to host Him all that often if you haven't spent time practicing hospitality on yourself?

The anti-Semitism of the past was a crime against humanity that will be forgiven, but never forgotten. Anti-Semitism hasn't been discussed as much since the State of Israel was founded in 1948 out of respect for the children and grandchildren of European Christians. Muslims have since lost a great deal of standing in the world community; first by the way they've treated Jews in their home countries by expelling all the Jews there; then with their conspiracy against the State of Israel; and now in how they're treating one another with the same venomous hatred. Because Muslims are Semites too we can now say that anti-Semitism has truly reached universal proportions. Anti-Semitism has reached the psychological contagion level we associate with the self-loathing of the mentally deranged, not just the criminally insane European leaders of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Because anti-Semitism originates in the mind of every individual, it's now become a psychological disease that's reaching global proportions.

Self-love is the only cure for anti-Semitism because self-loathing is man's greatest problem. Excusing others is a far cry from needing to forgive them. People are far more willing to excuse their own hateful behavior toward themselves than look at their tolerance of it as a serious problem. When you have to listen to yourself criticizing those cardboard characters you create in your imagination, remember they're self-made marionettes you dangle before your inner audience even though they may physically look like the people you loathe. Their desires to oppose you in your mind are placeholders for your struggle with yourself. They're not really real. Your enemies are real. Your enemies aren't puppets dangling on strings of your making. But if you treat the enemies in your mind with greater regard, you'll find more creative ways to win over the enemies around you.

You have to learn to excuse yourself for the little things in your physical nature that embarrass you. You have to learn to forgive yourself for the moderately large things in your character that shame you. And you have to learn to exonerate yourself for the huge aspects of your spiritual nature that humiliate you as you stand before the Lord.

What you don't like in others is a spiritual mirror of something you may not see in yourself. If you can't stand people who are physically fat or sloppy, you may be emotionally fat or sloppy. If you don't like people who are emotionally fat or sloppy, you may be physically untidy or unclean. And if you're physically and emotionally as clean as a whistle you may very well be a spiritual mess inside. There's a frontier for everybody when it comes to cleanliness and its proximity to godliness.

The vicious circles we see around us through addictions to substances and obsessions for revenge are repetitions of physical and emotional habits men have to endure and relive for the sake of self-discovery. Men could love themselves more if they learned more about guilt than they now know. They'd trust themselves more if they used their two eyes to look at the world around them in conjunction with their inner eye to perceive the Teacher's hints about their world within.

Love is a moral obligation of the heart you must earn to learn. Do not love anyone other than you; love everyone through you. This is the essence of self-love that will give you the power to excuse, forgive and exonerate others for being human beings learning to become godlike. You don't have to excuse their behavior, but you could learn about yourself from it.

This is what Jesus advocated to our spiritual ancestors that they couldn't hear because they were so consumed with Roman rule and Temple corruption on top of poverty and disease. We can't go back and solve those problems for them now, but we can look back on history with gratitude for tests in life we don't have to literally take. Ancient Jews were dealing with a spiritual technology equivalent to the invention of the telegraph when compared to today's Jews who are using the equivalent of a worldwide, spiritual web. The next generation of spiritual communication skills is just around the corner, but you've got to learn how to use today's spiritual technology if there's any hope for you keeping up with tomorrow's magic.

If you live in your head you'll go insane with rules and regulations you'll never be able to perform perfectly. If you live in your heart, you'll elect a moral dictator over your feelings who'll outlaw cynicism, disgust, contempt, disapproval and dislike of you entirely. Without your head and heart you'll lack the tools you need to fight for your sanity.

Laughter isn't enough. It's a step in the right direction when the tension gets high, but laughter emanates out from your soul when a thought and a feeling pull your conscience in opposite directions. Laughter is life's spiritual, Charlie horse.

Sarah named her son ISAAC {laughter}, but when Abraham tried to kill Isaac to prove to God he (Abraham) loved Him, Isaac became forbidden fruit in the flesh who didn't find being picked for a sacrifice to be very funny. He turned into a nervous type who lacked confidence.

Making the sign of the cross on their body is a reminder to Christians of the crime against humanity committed against one very special Jew a long time ago. It was a crime committed by the Romans, but a crime probably overlooked by the ancient, rich Jews who weren't able to see their participation in a spiritual crime they were colluding in against their own humanity. Such Jewish apathy towards Jews must never happen again. And the Christian apathy towards Jews we saw in the last century and prior must never occur again either. But apathy will only be overcome if each of us overcomes apathy from within. Self-apathy, not self-hate, is the opposite of self-love.

The Israelites carried God for 40 years in the Tabernacle, which was a huge, moveable tent. The tabernacle found in a synagogue is the cabinet where the Ten Commandments are kept. In a Catholic Church the tabernacle is the cabinet where the "HOST" {THE SACRIFICIAL WAFERS THAT HOLD CHRIST'S BODY} are kept. The word for "tabernacle" in Hebrew is "ARON." But the word ARON has a second meaning in Hebrew. It also means "CLOSET."

The coming-out-of-the-closet metaphor in the gay community is a sign of God's spiritual plan at work. We're really coming out of our own tabernacle. Coming out makes manifest our gay, curious kind of love for men in a spiritual context. Coming out is a universal expression of man's loyalty to the male body and woman's loyalty to the female body. This spiritual love for our own body is what we, as gays and lesbians, are here to teach straight people. Being gay isn't an illness or a perversion. It's a gift to humanity that, like Moses and Jesus's messages, is still being scorned by some because it isn't understood in a spiritual context.

Coming out gay feels like an emotional weight is no longer on your shoulders. Sexual authenticity is a way of expressing intellectual honesty, emotional sincerity and spiritual genuineness in a way we gay people can now make manifest in America and Israel through everything we do. It's the way we resurrect ourselves from the burdens of a persona that, heretofore, felt like crucifixion. Christian gays have had to carry their cross secretly for many centuries because their message of love was so terribly misunderstood and scorned. Muslim gays still dare not reveal who they are in Muslim countries.

Religious wars aren't new, but they are tedious. After we Jews lost ten of our twelve tribes in civil wars circa 700 B.C.E. we learned a big lesson about Jews killing other Jews. Religious wars, as it turns out, aren't as good a teaching tool as religious arguments. In today's world most spiritual men prefer to argue, but some are still itching for a manly fight



to prove their point. They're unskilled in the art of argumentation because they haven't learned to challenge themselves. They need to discover the struggle going on within themselves before they'll be ready to address God with greater depth of expression. Real men try to avoid fights.

“TORAH” means “TEACHINGS” in Hebrew. What makes Torah so magical is that it teaches us as individual Jews how to participate in our family, communities, nation, and with the other world faiths. Torah is every Abrahamic man's inheritance. Therefore the individual importance and foundation of Torah in life also apply to the New Testament and Quran. If you don't view all the descendants of Abraham as spiritualists working out God's promises to three clans of related families you're not seeing the big picture. Your ego is blocking your view of you, casting shadows on the walls of your cave that are only scaring you and then making you angry.

What Adam and Eve did was presented in allegorical form to describe man's guilt without Moses having to use the word guilt. People may be sent to you by God to try to make you feel guilty. They may embarrass, shame or humiliate you, sometimes just for the fun of it. They may try to make you feel bad about the way you look, the way you exhibit your love or the actions you take to demonstrate your loyalty to those you love. They may claim to be far more concerned with your wellbeing than their own, and they may even swear they only want to teach you a lesson you'll never forget. But that doesn't mean they understand what they're doing for themselves or to themselves.

Don't ever let anyone take anything of yours. Explain to them how what they're doing is only succeeding in magnifying a greater, spiritual theft they're perpetrating against themselves. The more they see how much they're stealing out from under themselves, the more humble you can hope they'll become. To catch the thief you want to catch, you sometimes have to teach the other thieves how to catch themselves. Only then will God grant you that trip back to Eden to enjoy the fruits of the tree that tempts you so dearly.

If you can't believe God really parted the Red Sea just in time for the Israelites to get across it, that doesn't mean the story isn't metaphorically true. It just means you haven't yet found a way to savor that marvel personally in your own life. If you can't believe He gave Moses Ten Commandments three weeks later, that doesn't mean these moral forces aren't in play. Seeing isn't believing; believing is seeing.

If you stop looking at your body as only a biological machine and start to reconsider it as spiritual bread that's soaking up more and more sacred wine all the time, you'll appreciate the miracles Jesus performed with personal insight even if you weren't there at the time. If you look at the illumination of your life through your heart; feel the warmth of your own love; and perceive the mystery of your existence through all the spiritual burns

you've received – you'll fully awaken to the fire within you before you die and it's extinguished.

God literally gave Israel to the Jewish people with His first Covenant. He figuratively gave an individual Israel to every Christian with all His heart through His second covenant. And He allegorically gave an Israel soulfully to each and every Muslim as a mysterious map into themselves because A L L A H k a r i m, He's a g e n e r o u s God. Legally and literally it's our Jewish homeland. But emotionally and spiritually it's where Christian and Muslim roots are entwined to the same Rock as us. The more you can feel for the Christians and believe soulfully about Muslims, the further you'll be able to go on the journey to your own inner, Promised Land.

Crusades will never end. They'll only become personalized within each of us in future generations so we can continue the struggle within ourselves that our ancestors had to fight with one another. When each of us in the Western world learns to look at our inner Western hemisphere in this way, we'll then be prepared to embrace the East without the fear and scorn our parents had of an "Asian invasion." The contribution of everyone's humanity is necessary to achieve man's spiritual evolution.

The little strip of real estate given to the Jews is a constant reminder of the inner world God gave each of us. Israel must be democratized within every individual, not in a two-party system or a parliamentary political system, but with a three-party spiritual system of head, heart and soul: land, sea and sky. Even your desires have a place at this spiritual table if "it" can deliver the goodness that wants to come out of you. In this way an inner sense of ownership will be achieved from the way we feel about one another as members of faiths, philosophies, ethnicities, cultures, nations, communities, neighbors and clans.

Eve could have defended herself by telling God that Adam should have stopped her from tempting him. She could have reminded God that His agreement was with Adam, not her. {Nowhere is it written that God ever told Eve she couldn't eat from the Tree of knowledge.} She could have blamed Adam in front of God for him having ratted on her to God. Of course you could also argue Eve didn't have to blame the serpent. You could point out that she might have disclosed to God that she tempted Adam; that it was therefore more her fault than his. You could even argue that whatever knowledge she gleaned from the forbidden fruit was greater than what Adam learned since he only ate the leftovers she gave him.

Jesus's parable of the Prodigal Son is meant to deliver the perspective of God, our Father, toward us all, not the myriad views of man on man. We should try to look at ourselves in this story from the perspective of the father and both sons. We are the one son who spent his inheritance as well as the other who hoarded his. And we are the father who tried to bring peace to the two of them. The longer each of us lives, the more we'll be able

to work through our issues in spending and hoarding to identify with our heavenly Father who uses His conscience to guide us perfectly in all ways. The last lines of the story are the most telling: “‘MY SON,’ THE FATHER SAID, ‘YOU ARE ALWAYS WITH ME, AND EVERYTHING I HAVE IS YOURS. BUT WE HAD TO CELEBRATE AND BE GLAD, BECAUSE THIS BROTHER OF YOURS WAS DEAD AND IS ALIVE AGAIN; HE WAS LOST AND IS FOUND.’” [Luke 15:11-32]

When you take God’s job to heart you achieve insight into His challenge in guiding you without literally lecturing you. You should celebrate yourself because once you were unaware of the struggle between your head and heart and now you do. Once you were blind to the symbolic importance of this story, but now you can see it.

The miracle of Jesus’s message was, in part, the miracle of God’s timing in bringing Him to Earth to present it. You can’t look at any man in Western civilization without looking at His effect on history. Without Jesus I suspect we Jews would still be sacrificing animals in numerous temples worldwide instead of praying in “synagogues,” {Greek: houses of learning}. We might still believe that God is separate from us in Heaven and angry with us here on Earth; that we don’t host Him within us; or that He needs to be appeased with gestures of guilt through animal sacrifice instead of positive, emotional regard through our love of life and respect for one another. We might still imagine Him as an old man who’s out of touch with today’s generation and therefore not able to inspire some to be intermediaries of His good will.

The history of the concept of “satan” becomes the history of man’s ability to get a grip on his delivery system of goodness and crazy intentions without being tempted to dismember those who frustrate him. The history of the concept of “satan” has taught man to face the embarrassment of reaching beneath the leaf to what man is really concealing metaphorically between his legs, something that has embarrassed him since the beginning of time. Modern man isn’t any less guilty than his spiritual predecessors; he’s simply more modest than they were. He’s learned to be more natural, more able to talk about himself with dispassionate self-regard and genuine self-interest. He can laugh at all the trouble that little snake down there gets him into with its constant clamoring for you to penetrate the mystery of mysteries at any price. The history of the concept of “satan” has taught man to promote wondering about the way he was made. The growing intensity of that wonder is what every man should measure, not the length of his penis when fully erect.

The secret to not insulting others by judging them comes with distancing yourself from yourselves. God demonstrated that in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment when He said, “THOU SHALL NOT USE THE LORD’S NAME IN VAIN.” He could have said, “Thou shall not use My name in vain.” But He spoke about Himself in the third person {He} rather than the first person {I} to send a message. This third person discourse turns the concept of me, myself and I into three places in inner space where you can address yourselves. It allows you to speak to

your heart and listen to it in the second person {you}. And it allows the two of you to converse with your soul where God interfaces with you in the third person {He, He or he}. And all the while this will give you conscious regard for your process.

When you speak about yourself in the third person, as God did, you gain greater perspective on the beliefs you hold. It becomes a courteous way for you to gain insight into yourself without offending any part of yourselves. Not swearing isn't nearly a good enough interpretation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment. What difference does it make what word you use to describe God if you're treating yourself disrespectfully? Your tendency to be vain and conceited can only be pierced when you perceive yourself with some emotional distance. Only by observing your habitual behaviors as you would another person can you perceive the awe or arrogance in your tone of voice and attitude.

Today we can see that the "devil" was once perceived as a supernatural force that would enter into a man if he didn't protect his anus from intrusion. They saw the rectum as the black hole in man that not only created great embarrassment because it was physically unclean. It was the way the "devil" would enter a man's body cavity and dirty his soul. In psychological terms "satan" was a projection of the now passé stereotype of the gay man, a man who'd dare to go up the down staircase – in the door marked "Exit Only." Sodomy was once seen as equivalent to cavorting with the "devil." Good men in the past were subtly taught to cover their ass in the sense of not being naïve or gullible so that the unholy force of evil personified couldn't violate them anally and corrupt their head, heart and soul from the most unexpected of directions.

Today we realize that sodomy isn't a form of "devil" worship for gay or straight couples. The anus isn't a porthole to dirty, evil, spiritual inclinations that God frowns upon, and the penis isn't the delivery system of evil intentions that corrupts man's heart and soul when the penis is used in anal copulation. All these ideas rest in man's mind, not behind. His imagination is far sicker than any bacterial culture that could ever be inadvertently planted in his rectum.

Sexual preferences don't make you good or bad if they're consensual acts between adults who are either married to one another or both single. Evil doesn't enter you from below your waist. Wrongdoing is figuratively determined by your conscience where you weigh thoughts against feelings and desires to determine the consequences of your actions (hopefully before you take them). Today man's anus is associated with his seat, not the seat of universal evil.

Covering your ass in the figurative sense is a life lesson that will never go out of fashion. Naiveté and gullibility are stages of growth that we all have to go through to achieve greater wisdom. But to use psychologically outdated, supernatural fears of repercussions from God as a way to keep men from avoiding certain sexual practices isn't

going to work on the educated populous. Smart, young people are only going to laugh if you use such an argument to intimidate them. They're sincerely going to want to know why you're so obsessed with men's anuses and not women's?

Universal, heterosexual, sexual relations aren't going to solve the moral crises of today. Who you sleep with may improve your conscience and make you more soulful if you choose your partners well, but your spiritual growth will be determined by factors other than that person's gender. Your spiritual growth will be, by and large, based on how you esteem yourself while in the company of others, not on whether you're attracted to males or females.

It's no coincidence that our founding fathers constructed a governmental system that mirrors our inner governance. We have the executive branch {mind}; the Congress {heart}; and the judicial branch {conscience}. American Democracy mirrors the way man is made. The right to the pursuit of happiness is really acknowledgement that our desires are an inextricable part of our American reality. The question for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is how to teach people to teach themselves to desire what's best for them, not to tell them what's right and wrong.

You'll esteem your country by voting. You'll esteem your community by electing the finest of the finest to public office, and you'll esteem yourself by recognizing that as goes your head, heart and soul, so goes the nation. Every politician who embarrasses his political party embarrasses us all personally. It doesn't matter whether or not you voted for him.

A penis is a terrible thing to waste. Every man should pray to God for more enlightenment on why He gave him the particular penis he got. Every man should acknowledge the intimacy and potentially powerful relationships he could hold with the world if he could see through his own projection of the delivery system of his desires.

Men are often in denial of their urges, both evil and good, because they're afraid of having to face the truth about the "shmuck" {German: penis, figuratively; obnoxious, spiteful} person that God already knows He's dealing with. Rather than be embarrassed by the way God made them, they elect to remain defiantly nude, naked and exposed before others for reasons that are unfathomable except perhaps to prove that they have the free will to behave as they please.

After man descended from trees in the physical, evolutionary sense, he made his home in caves where he painted animal gods on the walls. He later moved those gods up to mountaintops and down to the bottom of the sea before the ancient Jews brought the world the message that there's only one God. It's God's nature we see in everything around us. The mature man who wants to play "god" should begin by parenting his inner child, not by ignoring the evidence for guilt in his own natural tendencies.

After the ancient civilizations around the Mediterranean got onboard the idea of one God who created everyone, they then started to compete with one another over whom God loved the most. The jealousy and envy in ancient man over God's attention to each of them can still be seen today. Unless you learn to put your faith in yourself, you'll likely project your jealousy and envy out onto gays or Jews or some group of people your parents told you were inferior to people as polished as they claimed to be.

Not everyone who's superstitious is afraid of saying things out loud for fear their words may come true. Many have internalized their superstition and are more afraid of talking to themselves honestly about uncomfortable issues in the privacy of their own mind than they are about talking about negative possibilities publicly. Talking to yourself could become a revolutionary tool because doing so might destroy superstitions at their source.

Jesus's parable of the Prodigal Son is a retelling of the Story of Cain and Abel. The father {God} in the story looks for a way to make peace with both sons, but instead of it being a life and death issue as it was with Cain, the issue is, instead, emotional – one of jealousy verses envy that their father has to elucidate. The wisdom of the father in the Prodigal Son is the insight you should aspire for from your conscience. But to do so you must perceive both sons as aspects of yourself you hold in your heart. You'll have to identify the feelings of jealousy and envy in you, your desire to get out of the body you were issued and far away from the scant, spiritual rewards you may believe you've achieved. Until you see the challenge to the father to teach his two sons different lessons of the heart you won't appreciate the difficulty in you striving to be like God. Being like God is harder than it looks if you really do try to use your conscience to emulate Him beginning with the different ways He dealt with Adam and Eve.

Few hold a personal relationship with God. Nowadays most people are agnostic. They want it proven to them that He's there and cares. They want the evidence brought to them, when the evidence can only be experienced within them. Your human body is the only evidence you were given that there is a God, and still many believe their body isn't good evidence of God's existence because it's so imperfect and fragile. Most men would easily turn from agnostic to true believer if they looked like Superman and had his powers. It's the way they are that makes the thought of being created in God's image so implausible for them.

No man on Earth, gay or straight, wants to think of his penis as the source of all his problems. Whether it's long or short; fat or thin; hard or soft; circumcised or not; in working order or hanging limply from the trunk of his tree – a man's penis speaks volumes about his relationship with himself, not about his relationship with God. It's not necessary that every man on Earth be circumcised to experience the humility in achieving manhood in his own eyes. Nor does every man need to be acculturated by the Hebrew Testament to live out its universal, psychological truths. The sacred texts of Moses, Jesus and the P r o

p h e t Mohammed are insights into the universal plan God has for humanity, but pop culture will always carry His tunes to those who just want to sing along without having to learn the lyrics. Pop culture loves your body just the way it is, even if you don't.

Every man has a penis he can be learn to use in many fine metaphoric ways, and every man has an anus he can decide to use as an entrance or only as an exit without coaching from society. Men need to be taught how to use the body God gave them responsibly, and it shouldn't only be old, straight, white men who make these moral decisions. Old, straight, white men have shown a tendency in the past to spend too much time making their conscience other people's guide.

All men like to think they learn from their mistakes. They like to think their head and penis are taking orders from their heart in deciding how to behave. They think themselves very clever and self-righteous at those times when their conscience is in agreement with their head and penis. But they don't realize that in an unconscious effort to keep Eve from conversing with the serpent, they often sacrifice expressing their most tender feelings entirely. God gave man a heart and a brought a Jewish rabbi into this world to teach him how to use it.

The problem some Christians have is that they only cross themselves on the outside. Inside, they operate straight up and down; nothing is happening from side to side. If you don't engage your heart and soul, you're just a talking head.

Joshua #1 literally brought the Jews across the Jordan into the Promised Land, but Joshua #2 figuratively brought them across their own Jordan to keep them from feeling like fish in a downstream current from birth to death without a chance to be netted and brought into the Promised Land of the spirit. Men whose lives parallel the north/south journey of the Jordan {head to penis} don't use self-love to catch themselves and pull themselves out of a spiritually meaningless existence. Their inner life often looks unfulfilled, and worse, their afterlife options often look equally disappointing.

Torah brings God's wisdom to the table in extraordinarily discrete ways. And the Gospels bring God's love to the table in equally, extraordinarily delicate ways. But gay men from all ethnic and religious traditions are learning how to bring God's magic into play so everyone will be able to use language with artistic inference and innuendo in ways that will bring His love to light.

Self-love is the greatest luxury of life, but God dispenses awareness of it sparingly. Self-love is the hottest, blue tip of your flame. It's more likely you're getting warmed or burned by others than you are being purified by the power of your own flame. When you warm or burn yourself, you may not even realize what's happened. First-degree emotional burns come from those outside your ethnicity or social strata. Second-degree burns come

from family, clan and friends. But third-degree burns come from yourself. These penetrate the deepest and leave the worst scars and disfigurement.

Guilt isn't the only currency of the heart. The more we teach our children to acknowledge their feelings of guilt and commend them for doing so, the more quickly they'll learn to make their own conscience, not others', their guide. If we want our children to seek God with love, we first need to teach them to use their guilt on themselves. They need to be able to tell themselves "no" and really believe that they mean it. Hearing yourself isn't easy; listening to yourself is hard; but obeying yourself can be very, very difficult.

Don't make claims to others about how much you love yourself. Tell yourself that, and then prove it by showing others how much nicer you can now be to yourself than you were in the past. Obey yourself and you'll love yourself all the more. And rather than act out your anger and frustration on others, save your harsh feelings for God. Tell Him how upset you are with others, and ask Him why He brought them into your life in the first place. Focus your feelings more competently on yourself by asking God why He's allowing you to feel the way you do. His answers will amaze you.

God works euphemistically in our lives. He gives you metaphoric choices such as life as a game you can win or lose; life as a tree growing or dying; life as a gamble that requires good luck; or life as a fight for your rights. Only when you wake up to these metaphoric options underlying your intentions can you make better choices about your future. But this can't happen if you're not on speaking terms with yourself. Most people don't know when to think of life as a game to win, a seed to grow, a wheel of fortune to spin or a war to fight. You have to discover which metaphor is driving you if you're going to get into the driver's seat and take hold of the steering wheel.

A play on words in the field of Spiritual Linguistics should be more than relational. It should be revelatory. Puns are God's way of keeping poets in business. Going beyond the literal meaning of words to their figurative and spiritual intentions is more than an intellectual word game; it unlocks the emotional and spiritual interplay between God and His living WORD/WORD/w o r d. What some in the Abrahamic faiths ignore are the many meanings words make manifest. Those who hate the idea of words having more than one meaning may be worried that they have to go back and learn each word by heart. They may be in denial of how guilty they feel about the decades long, unsatisfying relationship they've been missing with themselves by having refused to communicate with themselves by speaking from the heart. They may find it difficult to admit that they never learned how to enjoy their own company. They may not look at themselves in the mirror charitably, let alone listen to themselves kindly. And they may be terrified of being in the company of those who can and do for fear that might trigger jealousy and envy.



The clever fellow learns to do well with strangers. The smart man gets along well with family and friends, but a wise guy can get along with himself. Whether or not you're the cleverest, smartest or wisest guy on Earth, self-love is the only philosophy of life that makes sense once you realize you're stuck with you for the duration of the cruise. You're the captain in charge of the ark despite the shenanigans of all the animals inside; notwithstanding the weather; and in spite of your rudderless regard for yourselves. Even after you sail back into port, you're still Noah, the most righteous man in your life at this time.

Nobody knows or cares much what Moses looked like. His body isn't what we imagine about when we think about him. He didn't even reveal in Torah where he died. But Jesus is different. It's his nudity, nakedness and transparency that make Him so figuratively and spiritually compelling. People didn't used to associate gays with modest, humility or loyalty. We were considered perverts who diluted the efficacy of the spiritual meal of every faith and philosophy. We were the "Jew du jour." We were looked down upon for our queer manners, odd behavior and vile practices.

Gay people have destroyed the prior meaning of marriage. We've proved that a man's union with himself is first and foremost. The gender of every union he holds with another person is immaterial if he hasn't created a wholesome relationship with himself. Gay men admit they have commitment issues with themselves that precede any ability to express intimacy with another man. We, too, have difficulty talking to the guy inside we're married to for a lifetime through flesh and blood. Don't expect us to do any better than other men in expressing our feelings for others. Just because we're men who love penises doesn't mean we necessarily have a better relationship with our own.

Franz Kafka, the Jewish existentialist writer of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, wrote a story called "Metamorphosis" in which a man woke up one morning looking like a cockroach. The man who hates himself so much that he makes his own skin crawl could just as well *literally* be a cockroach in light of how he feels about who he has to wake up to every morning. If you secretly terrify and disgust yourself and you don't know it, how will you learn to turn your feelings around? If you see yourself as a filthy pest that you'd like to step on or exterminate, you're going to have to face your embarrassment, shame and humiliation in being you before you can believe the Lord would want the likes of you in paradise.

God gave you the gift of life as a man, and if you humiliate yourself by living with feelings for yourself that more resemble how you feel about bugs, you're going to have to evolve your opinion of yourself. "Metamorphosis" means a change in structural integrity. To change your sense of internal integrity you might want to begin by admitting to yourself that you're not in denial of your self-loathing. Mother Nature is always trying to mirror you in some way. If you're afraid of insects and reptiles, their places in the animal kingdom

could be the starting point in your metaphoric search for yourselves. Letting these creatures off your ark and into conscious awareness of your nature might be a good place to start.

The verb “LA-AKIR” means “TO KNOW” in the English sense of “TO MEET.” The verb “LADA-AT” also means “TO KNOW,” but in the sense of having “SEXUAL RELATIONS.” To ‘know’ someone in the Biblical sense of the WORD refers to carnal knowledge {LADA-AT}. We know this to be true in Hebrew because the relationship between characters in Torah who’ve had sexual intimacy with one another are described using LADA-AT rather than LA-AKIR.

To know yourself in the Biblical sense of the WORD you have to meet {LA-AKIR} yourself before you can know {LADA-AT} yourself with carnal intent. Every boy goes through childhood before he arrives at puberty. This meet-and-greet process with yourself is compelling and mysterious because once you’ve begun the experience of meeting {LA-AKIR} yourself you then yearn to know {LADA-AT} more and more about yourself for the rest of your life through sexual relations first with yourself and then with others.

For Adam and Eve to realize they were without clothes in front of one another, they would have first had to look at each other and then take a look at themselves to know how different they looked from one another, just as very small children do when they observe themselves and their elders nude. And even though Adam and Eve appeared to be created different on the outside, they surely must have felt the same way within, embarrassed at having colluded with one another against God. Being nude in front of one another only triggered their embarrassment. If you look at the three levels of guilt you trigger in yourself, you’ll discover that it has nothing to do with gender or sexuality. It’s about knowledge you’ve colluded with others in taking from God without including Him in with your desire. If you choose to befriend God and appeal directly to Him, it will change what you know about yourself. If you choose to befriend God it, will transform how you feel about yourself. And if you do both you’ll transcend your understanding of your part in Their plan.

The father in Jesus’s story the Prodigal Son is the personification of the moral position you’re in every time you hold two feelings like two sons simultaneously in your heart. When that happens you’re left with ambivalence, a state of holding two feelings at once. You then have to explain to these two chambers of your heart {son #1} and {son #2} what each is doing right in feeling as it does. Sibling rivalry begins within. The two emotions that are held with equal love in your heart must be understood for you to be able to accept and admire the wisdom of your heart. Life can be bittersweet; sweet and sour; or salty and hot to name but a few of the combinations of feelings you comfortably hold inside from time to time.

Children are great mirrors of adults because they give us the opportunity to get to know aspects of ourselves we wouldn’t otherwise come to know. Their emotional candor is

refreshing because they aren't ashamed of their character. They express their feelings openly, something adults can't do until they learn to appreciate their inner child while he's growing to adulthood.

Jesus was in a terrible, linguistic predicament with the ancient Jews. His parables addressed general, spiritual dilemmas rather than the dutiful regard for family and tribal dynamics depicted in Torah that the ancient Jews were trying to adhere to. And although he didn't have biology or psychology to lean on, He took what the Jews then knew and gave it new meaning that's still moving the spiritual evolution of man into the future today. He was a spiritual rabble-rouser whose dream of love is still coming true.

It's too easy today to become cynical about your life when you don't see how you're creating the emotional shadows within you by blocking your own light. It's easy to become bitter, resentful and soured on yourself when you aren't serving your spiritual needs. You can use your head and heart in tandem to conclude the worst, that life's meaningless, painful, full of suffering, and then you die. But it's more heroic to conclude that your life makes sense just the way it is at this time, and that you therefore only need to discover why in order to move on to the next lesson.

Today's challenge in the world around has to do with facing terrorism. But this is a mirror of a fight each of us is having when using words unconsciously on ourselves. We terrorize ourselves at times to push us to do what needs to be done that we can't get ourselves to do any other way. When you see the bully in you frightening you with half a pound of worry when the situation really only requires a spoonful, you'll begin to use your head to overcome knee-jerk feelings that don't help you. Some people strike out, but most of us strike in. When you seek love from the inside out you overcome your unconscious, terrorist activities, and you find yourself in a far wiser position to manage the world around you.

Why didn't Moses make it possible for the forbidden fruit to speak up for itself? Surely if the serpent could talk to the woman in the Creation Story, and Adam and Eve could converse directly with God, there's no reason why Moses couldn't have given the fruit at least the ability to groan a little when it was picked, even if it didn't have the ability to lash out in self-defense for the way it was being treated. God ended up lecturing Adam and Eve about the serpent. Why didn't He say anything to the serpent? And why didn't Adam and Eve exchange even one word to one another in the whole story?

Nobody wants to think about the Creation Story from the fruit's point of view. People think taking the fruit's side of any argument unnecessarily complicates and may even pervert the moral of a story. People are quick to see the tension in Eve having betrayed Adam, and Adam having ratted on Eve. Men and women still love to think of themselves as victims in this world. But whenever and wherever you see a moral tug-of-war between

men and women know that there's always a snake and a fruit on a tree coming between them. And even if you ignore the snake, and if the fruit in you doesn't want to complain about the way it was treated, know that God is watching it all.

For the world to improve, men are going to have to stop identifying *with* the widow and the orphan and start identifying *as* them. And that's not as difficult as it sounds when you move out of metaphor and into symbolism. For a man to identify only *with* the plight of a widow requires that he think about her situation. But for him to identify *as* a widow, he has to put aside the rivalry between Adam and Eve, head and heart, and combine their morally reasonable intentions into a bigger picture. In doing so, he becomes the widow emotionally. He can see that the widow in Torah personifies everyone who's known love and lost it.

The orphan God talked about is the personification every man's inner child who never really got to know love at all. As you speak to yourself, even if you have to admonish yourself from time to time, you're raising that little boy with tough and tender love. Your inner world can change for the better even if you can't do a thing anymore about the way things turned out in the past in the world around you.

Most men wake up in the morning with an erection, but they rarely see it as a sign of how excited they are to give of themselves generously throughout the day. They know that the way they make their bed in the morning is the way they'll sleep in it at night. But they forget that how they feel when they wake up reveals the first assignment of the day from the Teacher. Morning "wood" is a reminder of the spiritual wood Moses gave us metaphorically that makes God-consciousness both real and surreal.

God had to create a Jew who understood Torah well enough to personify it with His whole body. He had to create someone who could literally bring Torah to life. He had to make His WORD come alive to take us to the next level of self-understanding. Jesus didn't appear on the Jewish landscape because the ancient Jews had done something wrong, but because they'd done something right. He was a big part of God's plan for man. Whether or not you believe He was the Messiah shouldn't keep you from emulating what He had to offer.

There's one person in this world who must become your emotional bridge to all other people on Earth. That's your mother. If you don't love her like Jesus loved Mary, you won't make your way out of guilt to the kingdom of love. Mother love is the key to Mother Nature. The mother/son relationship is what Christianity seized and has held so well. Love your mother even if she drives you crazy. She's the Eve who taught you not to be naïve. She's the personification of your heart. Don't ever let it go. Reproduce all her virtues and do the exact opposite when it comes to her faults.

Every man steals glances. He seizes the day, appropriates good ideas and takes his education as though it were a given. We all use our eyes, ears and nose to grasp meaning from the world around us, but none of us can use our lips to kiss ourselves on the cheek for a job well done; that you can only do using your imagination.

After inspiring the one man who could plummet His plan sufficiently to turn men into trees of knowledge through metaphor, God had to find another who could plant the seeds of self-knowledge in Himself to thereby cultivate the world's first symbols of His love. As you read Christ's words here later on, I hope they'll affect you in ways no other form of communication can approach for emotional accuracy and spiritual clarity.

As you read this particular sentence no one else can hear you, but you can hear yourself. What's more, you're not only drawing closer to yourself through the feelings my words evoke. You're restating something I said some time ago across a chasm of time and space. Words are magical creations from God that verify His existence. Words defy gravity. They defy time. They allow us to penetrate one another in ways that no penis can ever literally do. To give birth to a good idea is as great as giving birth to a child. It's a way God chooses you to convey a part of His intentions.

Being Jewish wasn't my choice. A Jew is chosen to be Jewish. Being gay wasn't my choice. Gays are chosen to be gay. These are decisions God makes on our behalf. We're given no choice in this selection process any more than God discussed with us His choice of the parents He gave us. What you do with what you were given will be how you'll be judged. God doesn't help those who simply help themselves to whatever they want. He helps those who help themselves help themselves given what He gave them.

Once you see how beautifully and intricately God made you, you'll instinctively want to share your surprise and delight with Him. But the depth of His presence in you will only be further revealed through even greater unification of the voices within you. This requires an ongoing, internal dialogue, a relationship with yourself even if you imagine you're talking to a wall. Even a wall in your imagination is a part of you. Even if there's a voice inside you that claims that wall isn't you, that voice is also a part of you. You have to convince your inner selves that living together in peace is more important than living in peace with those around you. When your mind agrees with your heart your conscience then has evidence to agree that they're both right. But then God comes from the outside to interject His opinion of your opinion, and that can change the course of your whole life even if you're certain you were right about what you believed to be true.

The religious traditions of your ancestors were given to you as rewards for their lessons learned, even though each successive generation chose to reinterpret those traditions in more and more modern ways. You don't have to like yourself, date yourself, engage with yourself or marry yourself for God to love you as a human being. You may enjoy the feeling

of dating and engaging with yourselves, but only a few voices within you may choose to marry themselves for better or worse, in sickness and in health, until death when they part from the holy union He made in you in this world. The rest of you may choose to enjoy or suffer through commitment issues with others in place of with yourself.

For this select, few, inner voices your relationship with yourself is the first thing you'll always question when you wake up in the morning even before you open your eyes. And even though you may choose to divorce yourself even before your feet leave the bed and touch the floor, you'll know deep down inside who you're striving to be in self-communion all day long.

You may choose to leave you out of your relationship with yourself and focus entirely on the needs of your spouse and children, or you can recognize that we live in an age when men are doing more with their life than our parents did by only being a husband to their wife and father to their children. Growing up to become the little ben-Adam {gentleman, son of man} your mother wanted from you when you were four or five may have been your expression of obedience at that time, and it had an emotional cost that may have been necessary later in life, but it isn't necessary to be that obedient to her any longer. When you made it through to the other side of adolescence your experience of you changed dramatically. Your serpent started talking, which activated the relationship between your heart and head in a whole new way. You became sexual, maybe even romantically inclined, thanks to a conscience that had developed spiritually, leaving you with options that had been previously unimaginable.

All historic definitions of marriage were societally based on the level of self-awareness society had at that time. Today marriage is much more becoming the reward of a psychological union with yourself that you then share with another person. Every marriage must have spiritual overtones if it's going to teach you about intimacy with yourself. If you were arrested at the emotional age of four or five when you married your spouse, you won't have completed spiritual kindergarten at the time you chose that union. And if the two of you don't work hard to help one another through spiritual grade school together, you're both going to have a terrible time when you hit emotional puberty and new emotional needs come along.

God's wants us to go through changes in our thinking and transformations of the heart in order to transcend what we believe to be true about life. The more deeply you pursue yourself, the more you're going to be in awe of what you'll see in yourself and Him.

Infantile men steal other people's fruits in the form of hymen, money, land, resources and social rungs on the ladder of popularity and success before learning about the mysterious lessons of self-love that they once stole out from under themselves. What you

send around comes back around. There's no other way for you to learn that God is watching everything you do.

The spiritually childish are jealous of themselves when God picks the gifts of their heart {Abel} over their head {Cain}. The spiritually childish delight in their intellectual power. They're fiendishly thrilled to discover there really is something mysterious in those fruits that they didn't know about before. But they don't realize that covetous feelings begin within when their head has to prove it's right and their heart has to concede that it was wrong.

The goal is not for the Jews to convert to Christianity. The goal is for your head to resign itself to equally important wisdom of your heart. The goal is not for the Muslims to be crushed under the thumb of Christianity. The goal is for your soul to weigh the merits of your pursuit of wisdom and self-love. The mountain will come to Mohammed, but the mountain is Judaism and the peak is Christianity. Whether every Mohammed greets that mountain hospitably or resists its approach is a test every Muslim has to take. Modernity will continue to get more and more modern.

The spiritually juvenile watches casually from the deck of his ark as others drown while he {Noah} sails on by. He may think he's God's gift to humanity because of the seaworthiness of his boat and the menagerie he's got hidden inside it. The spiritually juvenile sails into his own harbor; grows his own grapes, makes his own wine and enjoys his free time any way he chooses. But when he gets screwed by someone he loves, he turns toward Heaven in disbelief to remind the Lord that he was supposed to have been the most righteous man of his time.

Then comes the young, spiritual adults who conspire with science and technology to climb their tower to power. The rise and fall of their tower of Babel coincides with the stock market, their 401K and their bank account. They think they speak a universal language: money. They think all those doing the same are on the same team.

They all know just what they're doing, but they don't yet know about the conspiracy they're feeling until God knocks a piece of their tower down. They don't want God getting in their way as they inch their way toward Heaven where they secretly hope He won't be when they arrive.

It's not until you evolve your relationship with yourself that you're able to embrace the concept of evolution as something spiritual occurring to you and within you. It's because you're able to appreciate your nature that you're able to love Mother Nature. God is watching you as your nature changes to help you more clearly mirror His. He's listening to you whether you're only thinking about what you're thinking about or only thinking about what you're feeling.

Every decision He makes on your behalf is based on what He can do to help further your approach to Him in a righteous manner. Don't be frightened by your fear that you won't make it. Don't be angry at your fury because you can't try harder. And don't be sad about your sorrow in having concluded that you shouldn't go there. Ask Him what He's got planned for you. Your feelings are very important to Him. All His feelings are represented in your flesh. It never hurts to ask Him what for.

The Story of Abraham is the first Biblical story with a main character admirable enough for us to want to identify as him. Abram, as he was called before God changed his name to Abraham, was willing to bargain with God for the sake of others' wellbeing. {He tried to convince God not to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah in order to save the righteous living there.} But Abraham was only able to express his love and charitable desires for strangers. He couldn't show kindness to his own sons.

God said to Abraham, "I WILL MAKE YOUR DESCENDANTS AS NUMEROUS AS THE STARS IN THE SKY AND WILL GIVE THEM ALL THESE LANDS, AND THROUGH YOUR OFFSPRING ALL NATIONS ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED." [Genesis 26:4]

Abraham is like spiritual pollen produced by the first mature tree of knowledge ready to release its life-giving force in plain sight of the Lord. Figuratively speaking, Abraham was the first, conscious stamen on the first, conscious flower on the first, conscious tree that was mature enough to produce a spiritual product capable of fertilizing others with righteousness. Abraham was led by God to a new place far away from his father's house, just as pollen is taken wherever the wind blows it. Abraham replanted himself in a new home, later called Israel, where he started a family that produced two sons, the forefathers of Islam {Ishmael} and Judaism {Isaac}.

Bringing life into this world is easy. You don't have to be good to create life. Bringing spiritual life into God's world is a lot harder. You do have to be good to have a spiritual influence in the world we share. But bringing life into your inner world creates the magic that makes the mystery of life easier to perceive.

Jesus was a Biblical gardener chosen from among the chosen. He gave the field of dreams in His heart to all men. He planted His seeds first in Himself, then in Israel, and then in everyman's heart. He didn't save His love for a spouse, a son or a congregation, as would most other rabbis. He planted the seeds of His love first in Himself for Himself to have a bountiful harvest to share with those around Him. He blossomed with the first fruit given freely, unapologetically and without guilt. After learning how to give and take from His mother He then learned to give and receive from His Father.

Jesus was the sacrificial lamb who substituted Himself for the ram Abraham sacrificed to God in place of Isaac. If you don't give God something that's really valuable to you, how will He know your gift means a lot to you? But if you give Him something that means



more to you than you mean to yourself, have you given too much? This was the topic of discussion for 2,000 years between Jews and Christians. This is the topic of discussion with suicide bombers today. Sacrifice was a hot topic when my ancestors were slaughtering and sacrificing animals they would have otherwise eaten. Today each of us must decide for himself how selfless, selfish and self-centering he's going to be with the greatest gift God gave him: his own body.

Talk to God about starting your week with love for others on Sundays. Talk to him about ending your week on Fridays, keeping in mind the sanctity of mankind. But be prepared to talk to Him about your progress in the school of life on Saturdays. What you give all week and what you hope to receive in return is a personal reward that should concern you greatly.

Gay men are the epitome of the gentlest of God's gentle men. Gay men are a peaceful and gentle sub-tribe of every tribe. We are the gentle men who teach self-love and share self-love with one another. We come out of the Tabernacle to spread God's WORD/WORD/w o r d and bring it to life. We're the men who'll teach every straight man how to find the love in himself he'll need to teach his sons self-seeking.

"CHET" means, "SIN" in Hebrew. CHET literally means, "TO MISS THE MARK." An arrow that isn't aimed well will miss the mark. Although the target is life, the bulls-eye is love. The positive results you get from questioning what you think and feel can't be overstated. Every question you literally ask yourself you ask in a particular tone of voice that reveals an emotional mark you're aiming for. When Cain asked, "AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?" his skepticism was apparent in the tone and timing of his question - in contrast to Adam's cynicism in blaming "THAT WOMAN THAT YOU GAVE ME!"

Each story in Torah holds an aspect of self-awareness you're borne into if you begin by addressing the Creation Story cynically and grow from it. When you begin Torah with cynicism you've got nowhere to go but to skepticism in the Story of Cain and Abel; doubt with regard to Noah; uncertainty in the Tower of Babel tale; curiosity about Abraham the father of all faith; hope in the laughter personified by Isaac; and then love for the scoundrel Jacob who, like blind Mr. Magoo seems to land safely wherever his feet take him.

Once you've moved through the kindergarten class in cynicism and elementary school classes in skepticism you find yourself in the middle school of uncertainty. The light of uncertainty is much brighter than what came before it. The agnostic is enrolled in spiritual, middle school. Hence he can see more of himself as a student in a school even though that may leave him feeling uncertain about what he's supposed to learn here. Never put a man down for being uncertain about who he is or what he's here to accomplish. He has to find his way to clarity from within.

God's Covenant isn't just with the Jews; it's through the Jews. Our Covenant is with Him through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but our Covenant with God also requires us to honor our spiritual half-brother Ishmael and his family, as well as Jesus and His adopted kin. God doesn't need that many Jews as Christians and Muslims to make His plan work. And, as you probably already guessed, He needs very few gay-Jews.

God described Ishmael even before he was born, saying "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 TOWARD HIS BROTHERS." [Genesis 16:12]

This relationship of defiance is something we all need to explore. We can see it in some men projected out onto the world, but it's an aspect of every one of us when we view ourselves from within. To be a citizen of the world we all have to become an "ISHMAEL" {MAN OF GOD}.

And yet, without the composure of the Prophet Muhammad, it would be impossible for anyone to escape self-denial. We must inch our way slowly forward replacing fear with patience, regardless whether death is simultaneously knocking at our door.

The Ten Commandments were given to Moses 3,400 years ago. God carved them in stone, but Moses impatiently smashed them within minutes of receiving them. Then he had to climb back up Mt. Sinai a second time. But the second time God met him with a variation of the first plan. He had Moses carve the second set himself. He made Moses chisel His words in stone so that he'd have to use his whole body to learn what He wanted him to know. With the sweat of his brow Moses carved the second set of Commandments. And then and only then did they really mean something to him.

None of our ancestors were as wise, loving or generous as we are. They had to carve their beliefs about themselves out of the rock of reality just as we're doing today. But in those days reality was as hard as marble. Those of us today who've lifted ourselves out of a psychological stone age realize we broke the finished set of commandments our parents gave us long ago. We carved our second set into the reality of adulthood in a modern age with the sweat of our brow. And we know that we're much stronger than we were before because we have the tools of psychology to measure our progress. God, in His infinite grace, has replaced the marble with soapstone. It's so much easier than it was in the distant past.

Any religious, belief system that requires you to put aside your questions will force you to leave your mind at the door when you enter their house of prayer. If they give you prêt-à-porter, off the rack dogmas cloaked in darkness know that you're going to end up looking like the emperor did in his new clothes. Any moral conclusions given ready-to-wear should be tried on before you buy it.

The more questions you ask of yourself the more you'll come to see the boughs, branches and twigs that make you a unique and a very special tree in this orchard. It's then that the fruits of the grain and grape will become easier to appreciate for how new and insightful they really are. It's then that you'll bless God for the roots you have that run deep and are securely wrapped around yourself before they entwine with Him.

Ignorance of yourself isn't bliss; it's blasphemy. God-consciousness begins by picking the fruits of others' trees, But the grain of your flesh and the grape fermenting in your veins are symbols of God's love given through Jesus to you. If you like the feeling of love, grow it, whether or not you give credit to God. That shouldn't be hard to do.

People in romantic, political and business relationships forget that their partners are really just for practice. They forget that learning to love God and the life He gave us requires us to find reason to increase our love for ourselves incrementally day-by-day. We're always being rewarded for our efforts even if we occasionally slip by telling ourselves it's not worth the effort. As we share our wisdom and love, we come to see ourselves doing so, and then the day comes when we honestly and sincerely are able to commend ourselves for the generosity we didn't sell, trade or barter away. That makes us feel more authentic, which in turn makes us even more attractive to ourselves.

Men love to talk about love; they just don't want to equate it to the way they live their life moment to moment. They look at the verb "to grow" as an intransitive verb, something that happens to them and maybe through them. But they don't realize that growing is something that happens from the inside out. We don't want to drag the boulders off our inner landscape; plow their field; sow their seeds of wisdom to reap the rewards of the intellectual crops necessary for self-sustenance. We often only want to sow our seeds of physical love, as we watch "it" grow.

We've now completed our look at Spiritual Linguistics from the viewpoint of the space between nouns. There's a lot happening inside of us between each and every word we utter. You've now earned the privilege of spreading the WORD/WORD/w o r d of God. Soon you'll be bold enough to spread God's WORD/WORD/w o r d with linguistic insight into His spiritual plan.

We're now going to take a quick spiritual look at the definite article {the} and indefinite articles {a/an} that come before nouns in sentences. There are no indefinite articles {a, an} in Hebrew. In other words, you can say "the" in Hebrew, but you can't say "a" or "an." It's assumed that if you're not describing a definite relationship {the} between a noun and another part of speech there's no reason to signify otherwise.

My maternal grandmother was "a" Jew, and my maternal grandfather was "a" Christian. When the War broke out, however, the Nazis turned my grandmother into "the" Jew while my grandfather remained "a" Christian in their eyes. And this unfair difference

in spiritual parts of speech remained with my mother all her life. Learning about the difference between the definite and indefinite articles in Spiritual Linguistics was essential for her.

In everyday speech we refer to this as calling people names. If you were called names at any time in your life, it leaves you with a heightened sensitivity to the use of definite articles before nouns. But this sensitivity should also be addressed internally since the people who called you names at one time are surely long gone from your life. The image you might have of them in your mind has now become that part of you that's wrestling with you in daydreams and ruminations. Now those bullies who once lived around you live within.

Name-calling against yourself erroneously adds to your cynicism about others. If you work against that projection you'll become skeptical. Your uncertainty about how you really feel about yourself will diminish. You'll address opinions of you at their source.

It's very painful to discover that others actually taught you how to become your own worst enemy. But it's pleasant to perceive that you can teach yourself how to become your own best friend. Becoming your own friend by standing up to the voices inside that have contributed to your low self-esteem is the only way to move out of that inner space of uncertainty to clarity. Nothing happening around you will ever be as important as your relationship to yourself.

The hysteria we saw in women in the 1950's can now be addressed in men, and gay men in particular. When you put people down who are naturally kind and nonviolent they tend to internalize their frustrations with hysteria. The terrible twos return, often in a man's twenties. Twenty-two seems to be the poetically perfect age to repeat the terrible twos. What we see in society – terrorists, suicidal maniacs and mass murderers – are just emotional children who come from parents who knew very little about matters of the heart. We often discard our feelings for them by calling them privileged.

We have to make peace with ourselves before we can realistically expect to achieve peace between political parties and other nations. Make peace with the synagogue in your head, the church in your heart and the mosque in your soul before you make the claim that you seek peace with everyone.

If you see yourself as in pieces, divided like Jerusalem was historically fought over by Christians and Muslims in the past, you'll eventually realize that Jerusalem is the key to Heaven on Earth, not the heavens above. There in Jerusalem stands the Wailing Wall, the wall that separates the Jews from the Muslim Dome of the Rock where the Prophet Mohammed rose to Heaven hundreds of years after the ancient Jews had slaughtered millions of animals on that spot. Look for that wall within. It separates your mind into two hemispheres. Look down the Via Doloroso of your imagination past the Fourteen Stations

of your Cross as you make your way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in you where you crucified, buried and resurrected yourself. Make your faith surreal. Practice your Abrahamic belief system on yourself before you put down peace loving people for what they believe.

The political right loves the Jews and hates the gays. The political left love the gays and hate the Jews. Could it be that they're both projecting aspects of themselves onto peace loving people they want to emulate? Self-loathing comes with self-ignorance. The less you know about yourself the less you know about me.

Talking to yourself is much more informative than talking to others. If you don't give up the silent treatment and begin a civil discourse with yourself you're never going to overcome your fear of going crazy. The homeless people who talk out loud to themselves have actually found a method that's quite sane. There's just no one inside them to respond to their rhetoric, so they have to keep raising the volume. Sanity can only be achieved through an ongoing dialogue within yourself. And if you see or hear something about yourself that you don't like in one of these conversations, do raise the volume, but do so internally. Only you need to hear your disapproval, and only you can act on it.

Don't "should" on yourself to keep you politically small or spiritually petty. Don't tie yourself up in "nots" that make you see only one side of the tapestry of your life. Don't "no" yourself; become the "yes" man who can include his conscience in with the conversations his penis is having with his heart that his head is so fond of going along with. Your body is the only gift God literally gave you. It would make more sense if you contemplated its purpose in with its design.

God gave you an inner world, a land, sea and sky to call your own. But you'll never believe the miracles that Jesus spoke of if you don't visit the Galilee of this Promised Land. You won't be able to really believe any Jew if you can't begin by believing the messages of just two {Moses and Jesus}. You won't receive the bounty of Their promises if you're always talking to others, but never on speaking terms with yourself. The words of Moses and Jesus are in your head and heart, respectfully. Start a conversation between your head and heart and you'll begin to understand what They were really saying.

Your inner weather isn't unpredictable even if it's unavoidable. The emotional storms and floods you suffer seep through the roof of your inner house and grow mold on your inner walls that makes you sick of yourself from time to time. You're in great need of self-cleansing, but don't begrudge yourself this psychological repair and cleanup just because you're so vain and conceited that you believe there's nothing you can do to change yourself. Of course you're not obliged to make upgrades to your inner dwelling; after all you're not going to remain in it forever. You can, instead, remain a victim of the variable, internal, weather patterns others go through rather than deal with your own. You can ignore the

global warming within you in the same way that some choose to ignore the global warming around us all.

If you expected to have been given a palace in paradise with nothing but sunny days and warm summer nights all year long, imagine the inner environment others have to deal with because of their circumstances. Do you think their inner world looks like a postcard place you'd want to visit? You might as well get used to the idea that there's nowhere to go inside that won't physically, emotionally or spiritually remind you of places on Earth that have weather you don't care for. People can be as cold as ice. They'll swamp you with their need for attention; freeze you out if you disagree with them; and drown you with momentary affections. They'll desert you. And you've learned to do the same to them if you're as subjective as they are.

Every gay-Jew will tell you that you don't have to treat yourself like the Jew du jour. You don't have to allow you to disrespect yourself. You can make peace with yourself as you are. You can love yourself if you try. And you don't have to be Christian and straight to do so. Hope for a better tomorrow only comes when you behave like a better friend to yourself today. Self-love isn't a better answer. It's the only answer.

You can receive the bounty of your inner Israel and commit to God's plan without being Jewish. You can believe in the gifts God gives to the Jews without the spiritual paranoia of worrying whether He's forgotten to bring you gifts, too. You don't have to be our Father's Son to feel like our Father's son. You don't have to be one of the Chosen People to believe that you, too, have been chosen. You can lust over any gorgeous tree you wish your snake could crawl into, and still love the one you're with.

Judaism is real. Israel is real, and even if Jesus was ideal, some will find that comforting and others won't. You can't control how people feel. A man may come up with powerful arguments to reinforce his feelings with intellectual reasons for his beliefs, but, by and large, it's his heart that determines how he acts, not his head. God took the bone from Adam's chest, so He could shine a light into his heart. Maybe He should have taken a part of his skull instead, to shine a light into his head.

Although your mind can be realistic, idealistic and pragmatic, your heart cannot. When you get out of your head, past your stiff neck, and look out over those twin peaks capped with nipples you realize that it's your chest, not your genitals, that holds the secret to being you. Your chest is a hope chest where you hide your most treasured possessions, not your scrotum.

The reconstruction of the next Temple, the third temple, will be a sign of a new time. But it must never be literally built. It must be built metaphorically, symbolically and with signs from within that come from above. The third temple will be reconstructed consciously in every man as the place he goes to express his devotion to God's personal

plan for him. Many are already doing this today externally through their career, their passion in life, their family or their politics. They're already personifying the third temple in the flesh through the embodiment of Israel metaphorically and the embodiment of Christ symbolically. But they don't yet see the need to internalize their efforts.

The Muslim argument over Jewish real estate in the Middle East is trivial and without spiritual relevance. They'll give up their struggle against God's plan with joy when they realize how He's going to gift them instead with an Israel inside.

Your moral view of yourself should mirror the Old City of Jerusalem. When you visit the Old City you should feel as though you're entering your inner world made manifest in the world around you. The Old City resembles the awesome mystery of being you there where your Jewish head, Christian heart and Muslim soul create an eerie combination of forces that you can experience in Jerusalem as nowhere else on Earth. In the Old City you experience what you look like inside: ancient and eternal. The Old City mirrors a labyrinth of inner alleys and pathways that connect the inner spaces in you. You have gates and ramparts inside yourself. You're a fortification with many well-defended walls; a space roughly divided into three sections that may never desire to become as one. You're a group of holy sites that those without faith in themselves will have to appreciate externally only.

The difference between leavened and unleavened bread symbolizes the difference between an arrogant and a humble man. The yeast {self-importance} that's added to a man's dough that makes his opinion of himself rise to great heights signifies an arrogance he doesn't usually want to have to face. But this is what it means to be full of hot air.

Eve may not have cut the forbidden fruit in equal portion before she gave some to Adam. She may have humiliated herself by not mentioning to God that she knew more than Adam or that she knew before he did. It appears that women, like men, either don't know everything they think they know. They may be concealing some of the truth from themselves.

Teaching boys to become men shouldn't be left in the hands of one or the other gender. Growing up should be everyone's spiritual chore. But it seems a great mistake for men to continue in their old ways of "teaching" women how to be good women when men have so little evidence for being good at teaching themselves how to become better men.

Yeast makes dough rise, but it's also yeast that ferments grape juice into wine. The spiritual equivalent of this yeast is wonder. Wonder makes us rise like bread before baking. Wonder makes us potent and powerful like strong wine. "TRULY I TELL YOU," SAID JESUS "UNLESS YOU CHANGE AND BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN YOU WILL NEVER ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN." [Matthew 18:3] Unless you learn to wonder about your life like a child uses its imagination, you'll never discover why life is called a miracle.

The magical process by which spirit is added to the grain and grape requires a learning environment in which a boy can exercise his imagination freely. Every child knows this, and every adult has to be reminded of it because adults tend to become embarrassed around other adults. They forget they're just children at heart. Wonder transforms you from an animal into a human being striving to become divine. Wonder makes everything you think about rise in importance and bubble up with mystery. If you aren't in awe of life, you're snoozing through it. If you aren't amazed by your own wonderment, you're sleepwalking as you approach the spiritual starting line.

And yet, you should also wonder why you sometimes get depressed. You should wonder why you sometimes feel as though you've hit a brick wall. You should wonder why nothing goes right at times and whether wonder will be able to change a thing.

That may be a cynical view of life, but as long as you're aware of your cynicism it can't hurt you. Sometimes you see a dark spot, but the only reason you can see it is because there's a dim light around you. When the Teacher asks you a question He knows you don't have the answer to, you just have to follow along with the rest of the class as best you can wondering all the while when a light inside will go on.

Feelings, not thoughts, rule our lives even if we see ourselves as extremely intelligent and well educated. It's because you're still a child at heart that your feelings dominate your spiritual, operating system. And if you were trained in the past to turn off your feelings in order to get a job done quickly, know that you only turned them off consciously.

Most men take muscle literally, and forget that the word can be used metaphorically in an emotional and spiritual context. Most men build their arms up with muscular weaponry to show off their physical strength in a tank top. But they forget to work on their golden calves and feet of clay that make them so human. They want their upper body to look physically powerful, but they give in to the temptations of life that get in the way of them working on developing the emotional strength that would come in handy in a personal crisis. They'd love to have washboard abs, but they forget the importance of intestinal fortitude. They'd like a straight back that isn't bent in any way, when they know every guy is endowed with at least a couple of cute curves. Some men have to build physical muscle first and then use what they've learned from that experience and apply it to their feelings.

For most men life is an emotional obstacle course they run without realizing it. They're Ninja-warrior-would-be's getting through each emotional challenge as best they can. But they forget to commend themselves for their endurance when under an emotional strain. Many would be a lot less suspicious of flattery, distrusting of compliments and apprehensive about praise if they could learn to commend themselves while going through every day's emotional obstacle course. A man deserves self-flattery when his heart changes for the better. He deserves self-compliments when he feels he's emotionally transforming



thanks to self-love's motivating influence on his life. And he deserves self-praise for having transcended his previous feelings about himself while still honoring the best his parents had to teach him.

It may be difficult for a man to imagine himself physically nude, emotionally naked and spiritual transparent whether at home alone or in public, but the more he can use his imagination to perceive himself as a champion running this emotional course on the gym field of life the more he'll be able to contribute in class to what others think are just intellectual discussions.

Many of the richest, most powerful people in society are spiritually petrified wood, rock that only resembles wood. Petrified wood looks alive, but it isn't. Petrified wood is heavy and hard. It makes a good doorstop or paperweight, but it's good for little else. Some people are frozen with fear inside and don't even know it. They're terrified of the thought of loving themselves. They identify with cave walls and the paintings on them, not the fire that made it possible for Neanderthal men to paint pictures in the dark in the first place.

Such people want to maintain the ruse that Bible stories are children's stories without personal importance to adults. They'd much rather believe in Sunday school renditions of the Bible for children than take these stories to heart. They're too smart to go back to their own beginning to figure out who they are. They don't realize that their problem is one of humility, not intelligence. They never realized the Bible was really telling them that they needed to know themselves in the Biblical sense of the WORD. That they think's nasty.

To go from petrified wood to a living tree can't be done with a pill, a toke or a bloke. It can't even be accomplished with metaphor, symbolism and simile. It requires moving through the terror of being you to come to greater sanity with God's help. It comes by touching yourself from within and loving you as you are. The process of going through the emotional distress of turning "sin" into "insanity" is more than some can bear because they don't have figurative speech to apply to the experience. They're too terrified of going crazy to use their communication skills to relate to themselves.

It isn't possible for me to initiate a discussion of the wise WORDS of Jesus without having this lengthy introduction concerning the double entendre of words. Everything Jesus had to say rests on the premise that He was coming from His heart to discuss God's plans for the Jews from a different perspective. You won't succeed in appreciating the man who asked to be remembered symbolically if you don't first believe in the power of coming to know yourself metaphorically. If you can't see yourself as a proud tree you won't understand what it means to be ground down like grain and crushed like grapes. You won't have the emotional containment to understand how this, too, is a part of God's spiritual plan.

Rather than think of Mary's suffering in having outlived her Son as Michelangelo idealized in the Pieta – his sculpture of Christ's lifeless body lying in His mother's lap – we should think about Jesus's effect on us from a new point of view, Him reuniting with His mother at their reunion in Heaven when she rose to meet Him there. We should think about the duty of every son to help his mother live life peacefully and leave life peacefully. The world has suffered enough mothers crying over their lifeless sons. Let's get today's boys to cry over reconnecting with their mom while they're both alive. Let's keep the child in us alive, and our parents safe from harm.

As I already stated that evil is an antiquated concept that no longer fits in with modern views of life today. Today we refer to those who hurt themselves or others as crazy, a condition that occurs when someone's thoughts and feelings aren't being spooled through his conscience with conscious regard for everyone's best interests. We're all in this alone together.

Today we consider wrongdoing a medical issue. Today we try to correct for insanity in new, more sophisticated ways that address the underlying emotional and spiritual causes for moral illnesses without resorting to violence if at all possible.

Gays will be helpful in this endeavor because the cardinal "sins" in gay society are boredom and lack of imagination. People who are boring are really bored with themselves, and don't know it. People without a vivid imagination have lost their inner child. They've lost the wonder that makes them interesting to others and interested in themselves.

Maybe in the American, judicial system you're innocent until proven guilty, but in God's realm you're guilty until proven innocent. And you've got your whole life to prove your case. You were given the gender and body you got; you were born into the family God gave you; you have the ethnicity and sexuality you have – all as potential virtues you have to learn to appreciate. If you don't, you're going to have to defend your position before the Judge, and you'll be your only witness. Don't expect others to plead your case for you. Your life is a personal matter that doesn't concern anyone as much as it should concern you. But it's also a spiritual matter in the general sense that concerns each and every one of us.

The infant questions his guilt by looking for answers to the question what by exploring everything around him. The child seeks answers to why by constantly asking questions. The adolescent wants to know how things could be different. The young man is interested in who he can find to help him overcome his loneliness. The mature man seeks to know where he can go to fill his emptiness. And the old man is preoccupied with when it'll all be over. But whether is the question we all entertain. Whether we're going to get what we think we deserve is the human condition.

This question doesn't emanate out of your head, heart or soul. Don't believe that your brains are dull. Don't believe that your heart is hard or your soul, uncertain. The problem of whether you get what you deserve and desire figuratively lies in your penis. The great thing about your penis problem is that it can actually bring you to life rather than lead you away from your participation in it. If not for your unreasonable desire to know everything you can, you wouldn't want to learn any more than you do. Once you understand how the forces inside you operate, you'll see the penis God gave you as the ideal tool for determining whether you're going to get what you need.

Whether your penis is large or small, it's the spiritual home of your desires. Love your penis for what it represents, not what it looks like. Don't be superficial about this important appendage.

When you extend the metaphors you live by, you're given the power to take action on your own behalf. Whether you have the knowledge of your operating system to make wise decisions isn't the question. God gives power to those who evolve. Whether they use their operating system wisely or foolishly depends on their desire to exercise their conscience in tandem with their powers.

When you acknowledge that God is the Parent behind your parents, you realize that the power you've been given is a personal test from God to see what you're going to do with it. The power you hold in your hands comes from His Hands. If you believe in God, it's inferred from His laws, His love and his generosity of spirit that you're going to learn how to operate yourself as a moral agent for the good.

Since Jews and Christians are the only faiths bound by the Ten Commandments, the rabbinic scholars of Talmud {Jewish writings between the time of Jesus and the Prophet Mohammed} devised the Noahide Laws a set of moral imperatives given by God as a binding set of laws for the children of Noah – that is to say, the rest of humanity. Accordingly, anyone who doesn't believe in the Ten Commandments who adheres to the Noahide Laws is regarded as a righteous Gentile, and is assured a place in “OLAM HABA,” {the world to come}, the final judgment and reward for the righteous. These seven laws correspond in part to the Ten Commandments, but are presented in a different order. The number after each prohibition below refers to its place in the Ten Commandments:

- The prohibition of idolatry. {#2}
- The prohibition of murder. {#6}
- The prohibition of theft. {#8}
- The prohibition of sexual immorality. {#7}
- The prohibition of blasphemy. {#3}
- The prohibition of eating flesh taken from an animal while it is still alive.

The requirement of maintaining courts to provide legal recourse.

The order of the Noahide laws infers that all men must acknowledge God first {idolatry}. Then they must recognize the moral order in the prohibition against murder, theft and sexual indiscretion; followed by the importance of remembering to respect God's name; cruelty to animals and lastly the importance of courts to judge all the above mentioned offences.

The power God gave to man that he figuratively emits from his testicles must be understood and contained. Man's power must be used discriminately, not absolutely. Nothing in man must be considered absolute. There's one who has His hand on your crotch at all times, ready to squeeze. He may let you get away with murder, but, more importantly, He can choose to allow you to seek to reform.

Learning how to use power requires that you take the opportunity to achieve righteous deeds. Although our Teacher gives us a limited amount of power, the purpose in doing so is for us to use it to develop our conscience, not play god. Each of us is like a strident snake and silent fruit in His school to discover the miracle of potential for moral growth.

Some will learn to appreciate how God created them and why. Some are always wondering whether they're going to get what they deserve. If you're lucky enough to see yourself in an Eden of God's creation learning to move through embarrassment, shame and humiliation toward modesty, humility and grace, you're actually already a very advanced student in this school despite all the daily, class assignments that we all find so tedious and small.

As the delivery system for all power, both moral and immoral, your penis hasn't always been discriminating enough in terms of when to rise to the occasion and when to hang low. Your desire to get what you wanted may have overridden your good judgment on occasions in the past, and your conscience may be fond of reminding you of that. But with sufficient home schooling on your part, you can improve your grades and move your seat closer to the front of the room.

If you think the Teacher's got His back turned to the class, that things are happening down here that have no rhyme or reason, you're deluding yourself. He sees it all as it happens and allows it to be this way to teach us to use our powers more and more wisely, lovingly and generously. If you want a secure learning environment around you, you're first going to have to consciously create it within.

If you think all the religious institutions are morally underwater, you may be right in some ways. But none of them are bankrupt. They all have something more to offer humanity if they can find a way to modernize the Teacher's message for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century student body. The penis problem for most men, young and old, is that they can't penetrate themselves emotionally and spiritually. You have to love the one you're with before you

can love all others. That doesn't require your penis going up your own anus. That requires infusion of your life-giving substance figuratively speaking.

Jesus and His Apostles may have been rabble-rousers, but most of the Jews at that time just went about their business after Jesus was nailed to a tree. They couldn't quite connect the wisdom of Moses to their love of Christ. And that must have been confusing without Him there to model what they needed to do next. The spiritual construction tools to assemble new beliefs like a mosaic, using Jewish wisdom as their tiles and Christian love as their grout, had not yet been created. For God to develop great artists and leaders He had to teach our ancestors many things. Man wasn't civilized in a day.

When you look around at the sex and corruption scandals of politicians, you can see what a nude, naked and exposed penis can do to a man if fully erect when and where it shouldn't be. We need statesmen with a heart and soul, not politicians who act like puppeteers who pull strings to get the power to do as they please.

Every man was issued a penis before he came here and has to learn how to use it or lose it. Some men want to rid themselves of their penis literally. Others choose to do so figuratively. It's really not a question of whether you were issued a serpent or a worm. Either way, you need to learn about the modesty that can come in having been issued a tool that will spiritually deliver life or death depending on what you do with it.

The serpent was described as beguiling because every man's penis has a mind all its own when it comes to delivering what it wants in the way of urges, impulses, cravings and desires. Most men wish they'd been given an assault weapon with unlimited rounds of ammunition between their legs. They want a penis that's not realistic, idealistic or practical. And the only way to deal with a desire for unlimited desire is for them to use their head, heart and soul, not their penis, as their guide.

Man's imagination is so invested in being powerful that some can't think straight. Others can't feel sincerely, and there are those who can't make decisions that are sound or long lasting. Most of what we think is coming from our head is really coming from between our legs. To determine which of our fruits to pick {good or evil} to achieve the best results possible, we need to learn how to concentrate on all the forces going on within us.

But that can only be done if you talk to yourself. If you don't make comments to yourself on what you think, feel and believe, your own penis will screw you over. That's abominable. When you sleep through your life and inadvertently end up screwing yourself, you've done something to a great guy who really should have known better. We all pay a high price for misinterpreting the stories of Torah.

If you claim to be a Christian, but you don't read the New Testament for insight into what Jesus figuratively did with His penis, you're going to cut out the most important reason for God sending His Son to Earth and not His Daughter. God chose to show man

how to morally use the physical tool He gave him that He created and maintained such a unique relationship with Jesus.

A question mark is the sign of a seed that was planted in your mind that germinated. A question mark is the most important punctuation in Spiritual Linguistics. There were no question marks before the Greek reformatting of Torah because there was no punctuation at all in Torah. To recognize the seeds Jesus planted in the hearts of His followers, you've got to imagine them looking like this: “?” You've got to imagine His seeds planted in every man's heart since. If you don't see such seeds sprouting doubts, uncertainties, misgivings, qualms, worries and even rhetorical questions you're not able to connect personally to the principles that unite metaphor and symbolism. Skepticism is the first sign of love emerging from your inner world.

If you don't feel the least bit curious about what you may still learn from your personal relationship to God despite all the doubts and worries you might have over His existence, you're planting periods in your mind not question marks in your heart. An idea that ends with a period will never germinate. Thoughts that don't bring up questions about how you feel lead to dogma. Without question marks in your heart you're here only to have a good time, get what you can or prove your innocence. You're not yet curious enough about how you feel about yourself. You're an anti-Christ.

The age of animal sacrifice is long gone, but the age of self-sacrifice will never end. We're now moving through self-sacrifice into the age of self-seeking. Young people want answers to who they are, and they know they have to earn those answers with rigorous self-scrutiny.

Questioning the existence of God is a waste of time if you aren't consumed with questions about your own existence. It's the reason for your existence you should question, not His. Even questioning your faith in God is useless if you're unable to question how you could develop greater faith in yourself. Without the strength of character to use curiosity, awe and wonder to plant question marks in your heart, God becomes a meaningless principle too far removed from your daily life to be useful.

God gave you two worlds, and He's the Lord who reigns over what's going on inside and out. You're just the master of the manor, the host He comes to, to experience your hospitality. If you don't welcome Him like an honored Guest entering and leaving your home there are emotional reasons why you behave like a king in your castle. That's something worth questioning.

Despite the mess religion has made of the world around us, religion has lasted this long because it was always intended to help us explore the world within. Science has given us the tools to become stewards of the world around us, but because we're such terrible

stewards of the world within, we can now understand a little better why we're failing on both fronts.

In Genesis 18:23, Abraham bargained with God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah. "ABRAHAM APPROACHED {GOD} AND SAID: 'WILL YOU SWEEP AWAY THE RIGHTEOUS WITH THE WICKED?'" Although Abraham questioned God with reproach and indignation, this was only the third question posed in Torah. {The first was when the serpent questioned Eve about what God had told them about the Tree of knowledge. The second was when Cain rhetorically asked God if he was his brother's keeper.} Abraham's question was the first sign that man had spiritually developed his conscience sufficiently to ask moral questions about the wellbeing of others.

Abraham continued by saying, "WHAT IF THERE ARE FIFTY RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE IN THE CITY? WILL YOU REALLY SWEEP IT AWAY AND NOT SPARE THE PLACE FOR THE SAKE OF THE FIFTY RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE IN IT?" [Genesis 18:24]

If your conscience isn't at least on close enough terms with God to bargain with Him directly, it may be a sign that the wooden frame of self-knowledge you've constructed out of what you know is too small for your own canvas. It takes effort to ask God with the innocence and wonder of a child who really wants meaningful answers.

If you really want moral answers to the way it is, you're going to have to be willing to go out on a limb to reach for them. If you're too afraid to ask God good questions because you think they'd put Him on the spot how can He prove to you that He's a good Teacher? (Or maybe you're just superstitious.)

The man who says he believes in God should begin by studying the examples set in Torah by the characters who conversed with Him. Abraham didn't argue with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah over how they should live their lives. What difference would that have made? It would only have led to an arm wrestle over opinions. God only discusses moral matters with those who approach Him with moral questions asked in earnest. If you think God isn't willing to discuss your questions with you, you have a very low opinion of one of You.

Nobody cares if you love gays or Jews. Nobody cares if you love God. And, frankly, nobody cares whether you love yourself. You have a moral obligation to learn to love yourself, but how successful you become in doing so is nobody's business but your own. To the extent that you do love yourself, you'll be able to love gays, Jews and God because none of Us have anything against you. Of course, you can insist that unless gays and Jews agree to live their life your way, you're not going to fulfill your moral obligation to love yourself. But that attitude will only compromise your love of yourself. Ultimatums diminish your self-respect.

What's the point of having survived childhood if you don't peruse your past for examples of behaviors done to you that you can now vow not to do to others? What's the point of having unfulfilled dreams if you sweep your disappointments under the rug and do nothing to make those dreams metaphorically come true?

Cynicism may have started out like a brilliant sunset at the end of the day in childhood, but it turned into a very long, dark night. And your sarcasm has been nothing more than brightly twinkling stars that look very fetching from afar, but they never come close enough to illuminate your sky like the sun. If you don't ignite the tinder in your inner cave, there'll always be someone to blame for the darkness you perceive.

If you think you can have sex without God by your side you're mistaken. If you think He isn't with you when you eat between meals, you're wrong. If you think you can hide amongst the trees like Adam and Eve who ran away from Him, you're as lost as Hansel and Gretel in a German forest. And if you think you're better than the rest of us because of the jewelry you wear, the portfolio you've amassed, the automobile you drive, or the tattoos and piercings on your body - you're humiliating yourself in plain sight.

You may be a Noah, a most righteous man in your time. You may be moored in a safe harbor where you're growing a vineyard of passionate experiences to enjoy God's promise of hope given just for you. You may even remember that sense of grounding in childhood before the emotional flood that changed everything during adolescence. You may even have conscious memories of having built a lifeboat according to God's instructions in late childhood to save yourself from this corrupted world of adults. You may not be one of the unlucky ones who drowned in a maelstrom of emotions that left them oblivious to God's love. You may even be so lucky that you're as far along as Abraham in self-awareness, a man who can say "HINENI" {PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR} every time the Teacher calls your name.

Adolescence is the time of life when a boy's penis and testicles have grown to their full, adult size. It's the time when he sprouts weeds around them as reminders of the spiritual forest and metaphoric tree where he was born into being. Adolescence is the time when a boy will bemoan or celebrate his genitals because of what they look like. But it's very difficult to convince an adolescent that the obstacle course of life is an emotional challenge that will eventually bring him more spiritual power than he has the ability to imagine at his age. It's at that time of life when the penis begins to raise its head and cry out with physical urges that only have spiritual implications later in life. An understanding of the metaphoric importance of an adolescent's penis is rare because few youngsters are spoken to in this way.

The wandering a Judeo-Christian man endures on the other side of the Egypt of infancy and his Red Sea passage into adolescence can last from 40 years to a lifetime as he makes



his way toward his Promised Land. This journey from boyhood to manhood is a humbling experience he'll share with other men, but usually only through sports or politics. Men don't see God giving them personal, moral direction with every step they take. And they rarely look back to consider how they behaved when they were a boy or how they could use their past to enhance their future.

All sacred texts are consciously created with God's time in mind, not the time you need to literally sow and reap. You can find yourself living one page of your sacred text for a decade, and then suddenly find yourself living out a character in one of the other stories. It doesn't matter whether you can quote the Bible by chapter and verse so much as it matters that you remain faithful to the humbling process of learning about yourself through all that you experience.

Everyone on Earth learns about the subjectivity of time, over time. Everyone's life is a personal and intimate series of moral lessons that others can't fully perceive. Just because someone is financially poor doesn't mean he's any less rich in the moral classwork we're all receiving. Just because he's Jewish or Christian doesn't mean that the Noahide Laws don't give him reason to pause at God's awesome plan.

Patience with yourself may only come after you've demonstrated it for many other people. Adam died at the age of 900, so imagine how long his life must have seemed to him subjectively after the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation when God created him and the 8<sup>th</sup> day when he had his little run-in with the law. Every son of Adam {BEN-ADAM: gentleman} has to build up his self-worth with patience and hope. He has to learn how to learn to like himself. Patience with yourself is a personal struggle that achieves very private results.

Ishmael is an important part of Torah because he, not Isaac, was there to see their father welcome in the three strangers. He, not Isaac, watched as their father demonstrated what it meant to be chosen by God for a great legacy. But to ask a firstborn son to tell the world that his baby brother was prophesized by angels to become the Patriarch of a people might be a bit much to ask for until the firstborn can see his little brother as a gift from God in his life, too. God's generosity of spirit began long before the P r o p h e t Mohammed identified with the WORD/WORD of God and was given the honor of spreading the w o r d of God.

After God admonished Adam and Eve, He gave them clothes made of animal skins to wear. Once they were clothed in His presence, He said, "THE MAN HAS NOW BECOME LIKE ONE OF US, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL." This is a linguistically interesting passage because it brings up several questions:

1. Was God speaking to Eve about Adam?
2. Was He speaking to others about Adam who couldn't hear Him?

3. Was God speaking to others in Adam's presence because He wanted him to overhear His concerns?
4. What was God's motive in saying this just after giving Adam and Eve clothes to replace the leaves they'd fashioned themselves?
5. If this message was indirectly intended for us, what does it mean today?

Jews don't have to pray to Jesus to reap the rewards of love or to plant the seeds of love. Jesus is spiritual family to us. He's a member of our tribe. We share the same blood, whether it's figuratively still crying up from the ground as did Abel's at the injustice that was perpetrated against him, or whether He's sitting at the right hand of our Father.

Jesus shared His desire for justice through love predominantly with Jews, as brothers would do. But His love doesn't rest or lie in our hands. Although love is the spiritual summit of all emotions, love, like all feelings, is universal. The feeling that only human beings experience is guilt.

Men will have to act out all their feelings in life not just their feelings of love. The wisdom of man's heart will depend on his ability to justify the wisdom of the feelings that motivate his actions. Not every feeling may hold a morally appropriate response to the circumstance he's facing. People must always seek wisdom of the heart; never rely on it.

If Christians look at their history and think love has been a hard sell, they should try marketing guilt! Ours has been an uphill struggle for 3,400 years, but we've managed to stay in business despite a defiant clientele who've always insisted they have no reason to feel guilty. God's strategy of piggybacking guilt in with love is perhaps the best way to get people to swallow their medicine with a spoonful of sugar.

Now that Muslims have opened franchises of their own worldwide to spread the Noahide Laws through Islam, it's questionable how our family businesses will do in the years to come selling wisdom, love and redemption. But until all the nations see the results of these divine principles in the lives of women and children, sales aren't anticipated to rise significantly. And without the help of gay men the adult-child's perspective will never be appreciated.

The process of learning about life eventually turns every fresh plum into an old prune. Aging is a holy process through which each of us should learn to feel made whole. But it seldom works that way because penis problems always seem to digress into anal issues. Vanity and conceit don't mysteriously disappear as you get older. And money, power and prestige won't soften the lines on your brow. People will worry about what will be, whatever happens. Even corpses have to be painted to look like they're at peace.

Embarrassment of our body separates us from other men emotionally, but the modesty we learn from embarrassment then reunites us with them. The physical and mental tension

between men creates sports, dance and gymnastics that makes the metaphors of physical life so exciting.

Shame of our behavior separates us from every other human being emotionally, but our shared humility then reunites us with all of humanity. The tension between man's mind and his heart created science and religion, the two teams that could be working together if people were more evolved.

Humiliation before the Lord separates us from ourselves spiritually. It produces impatience, denial and belligerence. But loyalty to ourselves then reunites us with ourselves. This inner tension creates spirituality, rewards and the metaphor of life-as-a-school in which each of us is in competition with himself. Learning as much as possible about the most important person God ever created {you}, makes life meaningful and worthwhile.

When religious dogma is used unwisely, it separates a man from himself, which, in turn, separates nation from nation, and produces cynicism and sarcasm in great quantities. We need the world's students to continue to major in one of the five departments in the university of life: wisdom {Judaism}, love {Christianity}, generosity {Islam}, cooperation {Hinduism} or tranquility {Buddhism}. But we need experts in each who can audit all our Teacher's classes to help make us whole.

The Judeo-Christian world we've forged in America is a combination of separation and unification that the whole world should take note of with awe and interest. Our success is remarkable because it's based upon personal growth and experience that defies history as it reveals it. Our achievements have universal applications even though our Judeo-Christian democracy can't easily be transplanted to other countries. We haven't just created a political system. We've unearthed a spiritual system we've set in place politically. America is the most spiritual country on Earth, thanks, in part, to the fact that we're not overly religious.

The fourth book of Torah, the Book of Numbers, is called BAMIDBAR in Hebrew. It means "IN THE DESERT." There, in the desert in the 39<sup>th</sup> year of the Israelites' wandering between Egypt and Israel, the sons of Aaron, Nadav and Avichu. {who were priests like their father} offered God "strange fire" which blew up and killed them while in the Tabernacle. Those devoted sons who'd followed in the footsteps their father, the high priest who was in charge of the animal sacrifices, were, ironically, themselves sacrificed and died by fire.

If you feel burned because of disappointments in life; if you're cynical, hateful, vindictive or covetous of what others received that you didn't - you've been burned from the spiritual ice called "strange fire," and you may be suffering from spiritual frostbite without even knowing it. You may have lost feelings in parts of your world within. Those

who burn with hateful intent, such as misogynists, racists, homophobes and xenophobes are actually feeling the numbing pain of being frozen somewhere inside. They're spiritually bipolar, moving from one ice cap to another without learning about the balmy, inner, South Pacific where most of us yearn to reside.

Such men aren't able to describe what they're going through using Biblical language, but they secretly identify as Nadav and Avichu. They want to freeze others out in an unconscious desire to make others know how they feel. They're exclusive, select, limited and elite. They want to restrict the advancement of the class in some way to prove that their pain and suffering are real, especially the advancement of working class women.

This is accomplished with apathy. When you can see that you don't care about others, you're apathetic. You've been burned by strange fire {ice}, and denial of your predicament is the first sign of your condition.

God allows every man freedom of self-expression, but it's up to each of us to express our inner experiences with heartfelt intentions that will instruct, not injure, our classmates. God is our Teacher, but it's up to each of us to tutor our classmates with wisdom, love and generosity of spirit. Only in this way can we be redeemed for our mistakes. Play it cool, but stay warm.

Seeing yourself as a sacrificial lamb like what the Israelites nailed on their doorpost during the 10<sup>th</sup> plague and what Jesus allowed to be done to Him may motivate you to entertain the idea of not sacrificing yourself, but start seeking yourself instead. By imagining a block of ice placed on your inner altar, you'll visually expose that frozen part of you to your own flame, and you'll thereby begin the process of thawing out emotionally despite the hissing and crackling sounds that you might make inside. It may sound harsh to think of yourself as fire consuming ice, and ice, fire, but the outcome will bring your spiritual process to consciousness. The volcanic eruptions in Iceland most mirror this spiritual process out in the world we share.

Any discussion about matters of the heart should bring a curious Christian back to the question of why God brought Jesus into this world in the first place. Why would God have wanted a Jewish rabbi to personify His love as a compliment to the main metaphor of Moses? Why would God first tempt the world with metaphoric forbidden fruit and then offer us symbolic bread and wine in human form to add to our spiritual meal? Why would He bless us as Americans with a spiritual, daily diet of all three for so long without waking us up to what we've been consuming? It's ironic that some of the most materialistic consumers the world has ever known have been out of touch with what they've been spiritually given to pass on.

To appreciate the spiritual transition Jesus made from tree to grass and grape you have to explore the main metaphor of Moses with personal interest, or at least entertain some

awe at how the Jewish Creation Story has pervaded every culture in the Western world since the beginning of civilization. Until you can see yourself as a spiritual tree that's growing in knowledge that reveals the meaning of your life – love – you, too, will unknowingly crucify the innocent around you with yourself-ignorance. Grow with self-knowledge and then donate your spiritual lumber to the cause of your choosing. It would be a sin to waste good wood.

Whether you're a Christian who crosses yourself on the outside isn't important if you know what the cross signifies. If you have a sense of the psychological support of your head {N}, desires {S}, heart {E} and soul {W} that you promote with each sign of the cross you make upon yourself, you'll understand why God allowed that rabbi to be nailed to a cross and His story told for 2,000 years.

Christ gave you an inner compass. Where that compass takes you will determine the guilt or love you used to get there. Don't turn your back on Jesus just because the Christians do or don't. Don't turn your back on Him just because He was Jewish and may have been a little fay. Who isn't a little pretentious and precious?

Sadly, most of us would be dead if the evolution of the species were still a part of our selection process. Man has evolved as far as he's going to physically. Now is the time for him to evolve emotionally and spiritually if he's going to make spiritual progress from now on. All the pain and suffering you've been through was necessary and useful in bringing your evolution to consciousness.

{To augment your understanding of this spiritual process through another medium watch my video, "It takes a good Jew within to make a good Christian throughout." It can be found on YouTube under my full name, Barry Emanuel Zeve. 1 hour/40 minutes in length.}

You know too much about yourself to claim you're spiritually innocent and beyond reproach. You know you're in a process of becoming that will end with death. You can see that your life is like a school, but you can also see that your inner world more resembles the elementary school classroom you attended with one teacher all year than the university you may have graduated from as an adult. Your skin is the fence that you can't go beyond. The quad is where you meet your friends to share unconscious conversations too deeply embedded in metaphor for you to know what you're really saying. And the playground where you exercise your body is an outside class where you learn more than you know. You can't go Home until your day in school is over.

To move from the metaphor of life-as-a-garden to life-as-a-school you have to leave the Eden of infancy and make your way through millions of past experiences to look at your life through metaphor. You had to gorge yourself on an orchard of stolen, forbidden fruits before you could admit you'd taken knowledge without acknowledging its Source.

You'd been stealing from God, and although you'd been told so, you may have claimed you didn't know it. What's more, He let you have all you wanted in the way of knowledge for a time, knowing all the while that the debt you'd been incurring would have to be paid back. Call that tuition. Call it atonement for sins done to others. Call it redemption of yourself. It doesn't really matter what you call it until you feel the guilt for what you've done and wish to do something about it.

The spiritual Catch-22 of wisdom of the heart and its importance in your life is that you can't like yourself once you realize you've been stealing from yourself all along. Stealing from God will probably never bother you unless you can correlate your theft with losses you've already incurred. It's only when you realize you were keeping secrets from yourself that you may decide to focus more of your attention in class. Becoming humble enough to receive self-knowledge from yourself is hard. But doing so consciously will make you even more curious to learn as much as you can about yourself to pursue the morally best outcomes for yourself and all others.

God won't just allow you to thank Him and move on. First you're going to have to appreciate yourself. You're going to have to recognize your full worth. Then you'll want to compliment, comfort and commend yourself in addition to thank yourself. Only then will God probably allow you to express your gratitude to Him. Learning to love God will be as hard as you choose to make it. The more you learn to love yourself with tough and tender love, the more meaningful your gratitude to God may be.

During the early period of my conscious self-exploration of myself through metaphor, I became like a toddler who explores his world seemingly without limits. I felt a freedom I'd never known before, as if I'd been lying around all my life waiting to get strong enough to stand on my own two feet. But as I grew more knowledgeable about myself I realized I'd slowly become my own inner parent as well. Then I found myself with two voices inside myself, and I advanced to the next higher class where I got to learn from a kinder, more empathetic, authority figure, {my conscious} who was more in tune with my needs than those who literally raised me. And when I wanted to discuss my thoughts {inner parent} and feelings {inner child} with my Creator, I discovered the Parent behind my inner parent, my God and Father.

You may see your relationship to yourself as an experienced, inner, older brother with a younger brother who admires, even worships, this wiser part of himself. This brotherly love with yourself is modeled on the relationship of Jesus to every Christian male, his older Brother. Whether you prefer a parent/child or Brother/brother relationship with yourself will depend on many factors. What's important is that you recognize what you've got and use it to develop intimacy from within.

Jesus encouraged His followers to eat the bread and drink the wine of God-consciousness that His body and blood symbolized. His promise in remembering Him in this way implied that the innocent would achieve redemption from the Lord. But His promise was by-and-large to Jews, members of the same tribe. Christians are adopted brothers of Christ while we're spiritual family. We have no need to pray to Him.

Today's modern male has a head that may seem older, wiser and more accomplished than his heart, but his head must make peace with his emotions before he'll discover there are four chambers in his heart that correspond to containers that can hold the negative emotions jealousy, envy, vanity and conceit with wise and rational regard.

To ask the question whether God is "real" is a waste of time to those of us who experiences Him working in our life. God is just as real as Israel is real, and He's just as real as He's ideal and pragmatic. Don't bother look for evidence of God through miracles and coincidence around you. If you look for them within you, you'll perceive them around you. Look for God in those everyday experiences that make up 99% of your life. Look for Him there and the miracle of your life will be revealed to you in being just as it is.

My life is a fairy tale adventure full of wonder and awe. But you don't have to be a fairy to enjoy what I've got. The magic in my life can't be sprinkled over you. You have to create it for yourself. You have to end your penis problems by rebuking yourself for all the things you want that you shouldn't have {including a different penis}. You have to rebuke yourself for all the things you believe that you shouldn't believe, and all the feelings you feel you shouldn't feel. Clean up your desires and you'll be able to penetrate yourself with goodness and wonder. Clean up self-indulgent urges day-by-day and your conscience will get a great workout in the process. That's the way to grow spiritual muscle, not by scrutinizing what others are doing in bed at night or how the Jews are running their country.

Rapture is the feeling that comes with insight into the big picture. Those who see the big picture without gays or Jews in their future are in a state of denial caused by some aspect of themselves they project onto us and wish to eliminate. God doesn't waste a one of us. God didn't enroll Jews and gays into His school without a reason. We're a part of His plan just the way we are. Get used to having us around. We're not going anywhere. The only thing going is prejudice, apathy and hatred.

Not all of man's problems originate in his penis. After all, the penis is just a tool for the delivery of man's power and intentions. In the physical realm the testicles of most male babies descend shortly before birth or in the first six months of life, but, figuratively speaking, a man may have to wait and watch for his testicles to descend to see his inner power become realized out in the world. And that can take a lifetime. There are some men for whom conscious, moral discrimination between what's right and wrong hasn't yet

occurred. They strut about implying they've got "a pair" when, in truth, theirs haven't figuratively descended yet.

People talk a lot about the passage from Torah, "BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY." [Genesis 1:28] but they don't give the concept enough personal regard. After you became a sapling in the spiritual sense – a Noah who'd been initiated by the physical and emotional transformation of his male body in adolescence – you became a tree of knowledge with sexual knowledge of yourselves. You fruit for the first time.

And over time you further inseminate yourself with your own spiritual seeds thereby creating an inner child who you raise to produce the Father/son relationship that makes the Father/Son story personal and meaningful. Most men have achieved this bond metaphorically if not symbolically. But many who endorse it religiously haven't yet achieved it spiritually. Most good men are already in a brotherly relationship with Jesus and a Father to son relationship with God. You can see it in everything they say and do. Going through religious rituals only actualizes what's already been accomplished.

It makes perfect sense to protect your personal power. But don't be surprised if others try to cut you down like a tree and use your timber for their nefarious schemes. If you want to admire your own power, start small by voting at each and every election. Becoming powerful is a mysterious spiritual process everyone knows he should do. Voting will leave you in awe of your ability and give yourself the courage to overcome your weaknesses. Men have died so you could vote, so don't tell me your vote doesn't count. If you can't give your opinion to your country don't for in instant imagine your opinion matters to you.

If you look at the determination Jesus had and the courage it took for Him to express Himself so candidly, you'll see what awesome power comes from God through man. It wouldn't have made much sense for our Father to bring His one and only Son to Earth if His Son never learned the concept of "growing a pair." To love as Jesus loved, you've got to grow up in every way. You've got to have first been a boy who grew to become a man. You had to develop the strength of character that grown men associate with their testicles. Timidity isn't any more attractive than aggressivity. Jesus was assertive because He had a pair and knew it.

When you accept the metaphor of life-as-a-school, a game and then a party {in that order} you'll want to look for a way to combine these metaphors into a philosophy of life that will unify your actions. This is what Moses must have asked himself, and why his autobiography {Torah} begins with his main metaphor in the form of a story that described the creation of the religious emotion we call guilt. Moses presented the feeling of guilt as a godly gift inherent in the way God made man, thanks, in part, to His use of reverse psychology. With dedication to the consumption of forbidden fruit with the intention of bettering yourself with self-knowledge you don't have to fear the beguiling serpent hanging



down over your fruits. It may rise up from time to time to speak out with the supercilious, egotistical airs of self-importance that we all construe as pushy. But you'll be able to assert your power and shut it up if it becomes insolent and overbearing.

The association of power with genitalia can be taken even further. Your right testicle becomes symbolic of the power to do what's right, and your left, emblematic of what's wrong, gauche, clumsy, foolish, self-indulgent etc. Your right testicle represents a sign of the life-affirming power in you to produce good, and the left, your desire for death, destruction, arrogance, jealousy, envy, vanity, conceit and revenge. Man's struggle with himself then becomes how to get his beneficial desires met without allowing his serpent to beguile him. Nobody wants to be all good or bad. To the extent that you can connect your power to do crazy things with your desire to do good, you'll create a persona that will interest you and a personality that will interest others.

Because you're the literal fruit of your parents' loins, you're a combination of their seeds and can therefore see much of yourself in them. But you're also a new ray of hope in the flesh for unanticipated possibilities. You've already eaten so much fruit from the tree of self-knowledge that you're in a wonderful position to reach up with gratitude to God to learn all the more.

Without metaphor, symbolism and signs you'll get the impression that the material world is all there is to negotiate for in this world. But there's more to life than news, weather and sports. There's history, mystery and the magic created where the two intertwine. Life on Earth is miraculous. Can you stand being a part of a miracle?

You must already feel a little guilty for wanting to learn more about yourself than you know now or you wouldn't keep reading. You must already feel curious about knowing more about yourself in the Biblical sense of the WORD than you were told by others, or you wouldn't feel a sense of wonder at what might come next.

Don't let anyone embarrass you for having learned about your body through masturbation and sex with other men or women. Don't be ashamed for all you've learned about your character through the self-knowledge that has opened you to the complex truth about human nature, Mother Nature and God's moral nature. You're going to want to defend yourself before God for knowing what you know, but to do so you're going to have to be able to discuss what you've done with your life to better yourself morally.

The ABC's of the heart were Abandonment, Betrayal and Conspiracy, but surely Denial came shortly thereafter. And after you denied what you'd done to yourself, you probably found you were Expelled from some aspect of this world you wanted to learn about. If you think you were abandoned, betrayed, conspired against, denied, expelled and then in some way Failed, you're not alone. It's easy to come to those conclusions. After going through the A, B, C, D and E of life who wouldn't suspect he's getting an F?

But what if the “F” you feel inside is an “F” in faith, not failure. What if you’ve done something right and you just don’t know what it is? What if your penis problem is that it just doesn’t want to give you credit for your efforts? What if self-love what you’re missing, and “it” doesn’t want you to have it? What if Christ’s message of love has been received and personalized by everyone except you? What if you’re better than you think; better than you feel about yourself; even better than you believe possible? What if you simply don’t know yourself well enough to judge yourself as harshly as you do?

Before we entertain the idea of how wonder “full” you are, let’s take a closer look at your ignorance, the degree to which you’ve ignored yourselves. Now that you understand the Creation Story well enough to take it personally, you realize you identify with your mind more than any other part of you. To become an honored guest at “Their” table, you already know yourself well enough to know you’re not going leave “it” at the door. “it” is coming with you. If you’re transgender you’re going to bring “it” along figuratively, but for the rest of us we’re going to bring “it” along literally and figuratively. All the experiences we’ve had were opportunities for us to grab ahold of “it” figuratively to learn to appreciate the important part “it” plays in our life.

Men in the ancient world treated women as objects of desire, not subjects in their own right. They believed women to be spiritually inferior to them because Eve had allowed herself to be tempted by the serpent. They didn’t question the fact that Adam had been tempted by a woman, not a serpent. They didn’t ask themselves why she openly admitted that to God, and how that information was important to every Adam then and since. The modern man today who claims there isn’t a serpent beguiling enough to tempt him is a hypocrite. It was precisely because men in the past had been so beguiled by their own serpent that they were as cruel as they were.

Women were the first class of people on Earth to be treated as inferior to men, and women are still the most discriminated class of people on Earth. Only as you become more subjective in your concerns for yourself will you become more sensitive to women’s rights, gay rights, Jewish rights and the rights of everyone else. Straights are going to need gays of faith to help solve these gender issues because God has given us a unique ability to look at men with an insider/outside’s perspective. And Christians and Muslims are going to need Jews of faith because we, too, have been given an insider/outside’s point of view.

The man who doesn’t trust women, doesn’t trust his heart. The man who doesn’t trust gay men doesn’t trust his penis. And the man who doesn’t trust Jews doesn’t trust his own mind. All three are projections of yourself that you have to strengthen. There isn’t a woman, gay man or Jew on the planet who’s perfect. If you react for or against any of them based on your inner weaknesses, you may have to go through personal lessons in who you think you are.

Most American men already see women as much more than receptacles given to them to be filled with a few precious drops of their life-giving semen. Most white, American men already see black, brown and Asian men as special in ways that contribute to the wellbeing of our pluralistic society. Most straight, American men already see gay men as warriors fighting by their side. And most Jewish-American men see their circumcised penis as the Covenant with God that they intend to continue to promote for the wellbeing of the world.

Until the Renaissance the idea of cutting open a human body to explore the biological world inside man was not only illegal; it was considered immoral and offensive. We, therefore, have to use our imagination today to understand the supreme, spiritual effort Jesus had to make to help the Jewish society in His day see the spiritual differences between males and females, given their complete lack of understanding of human physiology and psychology. The Jews in His community were too ignorant of the differing intellectual, emotional and spiritual properties inherent in all the peoples God had created.

Never could the Jews of 2,000 years ago have conceived of the Creation Story as an allegory that presented the psychological forces within all male, human beings. Their spiritual operating system was exactly the same as ours, but their understanding of it was primitive by comparison to what we know today. The words metaphor and symbolism didn't even exist. And although there was a word for "signs" {SIMANIM}, it was understood that signs from God came from the outside in, not the inside out. The ancient Jews were still deep in the discovery process of what it meant to be a holy people with God only around them. They needed thousands of years and science mixed in with religion to produce the modern mind we have today that can perceive God from within us.

The world of inclusion and love that Jesus advocated was inspired by a universality in God's plan that He was personally privy to, but which wasn't common knowledge then. The ancient Jews couldn't envision the wisdom and love that would come with God-consciousness from a head and heart that could work in tandem in man's conscience. Even today, 70 years after the Holocaust, a time in our recent past when half the Jews in the world were massacred by people who claimed to be Christians, Jews are only cautiously beginning to see a need to unify their spiritual understanding of God's wisdom with Christian understanding of His love.

In the past Jews who prayed with Gentiles often felt a loss of their Jewishness. As someone who prays on occasion with Christians, I'd argue my Jewishness has only been heightened in the best of ways by praying with Christians. At church I pray as much as I can with my fellow believers, and then I continue on my own by praying alone. I only return to shared prayers when again possible without praying to Jesus directly. When I'm in church I know there are two Jews in the room, and I don't pray to either one of Us. I pray to Y.H.V.H. as my ancestors have always done. I pray with our God in the midst of

their prayer with our God and their God. And this I believe is not idolatry, but God's plan in action.

The real estate riddle {Israel} is the least of the problems in the Middle East. As Muslim learn to appreciate Jewish wisdom and Christian love an Abrahamic solution of hospitality and philanthropy of spirit will eventually come to pass in the Western world. The only answer that makes any sense for the future is the assurance from every nation on Earth that Israel will always be a safe homeland and a nation for the Jews. And as that becomes more of a reality, the whole world will benefit from God's benevolence as our dream comes true. Today's Muslims are having an extremely hard time embracing other Muslims, let alone people of other faiths and philosophies. Although embracing Jews and Christians might still a bit of a stretch for them in the Middle East, the religious parties that pray together will progress together.

Jesus found a very special way to describe His dream of unification of the world by embracing God's love, not just His laws. Needless to say, as popular as His ideas were, only a small percentage of the overall Jewish population at that time followed Him. And even fewer have converted to Christianity or Islam since. Most Jews have continued faithfully forward on our path of wisdom throughout the ages.

But today we know that love without wisdom, and wisdom without love remains a hopeless fantasy. Hitler proved that to us all. In the future Muslims will have to prove to themselves that loyalty to A L L A H without genuine respect for wisdom and love for the world as He created it will prove equally futile. The Arab Spring will only bud and blossom into summer when Muslims turn around and learn how to yearn for a bountiful autumn harvest. Without the main metaphor of Moses and symbols of Christ, the Sunnis and Shiites will continue to hurt one another in their effort to embrace a nuclear winter. And all the while the world will look on in wonder at why they've turned into such rabid anti-Semites, when they are Semites themselves. Self-loathing is a penis problem that women don't suffer from. That's why gay men put more faith in women than straight men.

Separation, alienation, discrimination and division are wise actions to take within yourself, for yourself and by yourself. But it makes no sense to work out these psychological challenges sociologically on others. By describing your thoughts and desire, feelings and beliefs as a spiritual cross within yourself, you create a psychological separation from others with God that will lead to a far greater unity with your own humanity in the long run. It makes your faith in Him as personal as your faith in yourself.

Judaism will never go out of style because separation, this first form of holiness given to us by God, will always be a spiritual requirement for every man, woman and child. Unification and integration within yourself can't happen if you haven't first learned how to separate yourself into the holy parts God used when He glued you together during the

initial, manufacturing process. The irony of the message Jesus brought to the ancient Jews is that an eternal love of life requires an attitude of awe for the eternal laws of life.

“Man is the only creature that blushes, or needs to.” {Mark Twain} But the reason he blushes is because he’d really love to graduate school as early as he can {and *maxima cum laude* if possible}. It’s much more pleasant to think of ourselves as already having aced the school of life because we’re so good at taking our Teacher’s tests than it is for us to consider the incredibly difficult challenge to become a real “*mensch*” {German: upstanding human being/BEN-ADAM}.

The very idea of describing man metaphorically was hardly sacrilegious to the Jews at the time of Jesus. The poetry of the Psalms in the Hebrew Testament attests to this. It was the Romans who’d invaded and brutally colonized our country who couldn’t conceive of themselves as a living, breathing metaphoric tree of knowledge. They nailed Jews to trees to mock the WORD of God, and it’s taken 2,000 years for Jews to seed the world with our sacred text to spread the WORD of God despite the barbaric practices we saw then and still have to endure from our neighbors today.

The Roman barbarians came and went along with countless other brutal dictatorships, but we’re still living in a spiritual forest where men run away from God rather than towards Him. Some men still can’t see the forest because of their desire for vengeance against the other trees. Vengeance only makes sense in an inner world where God has not yet made Himself known.

Jesus gave His followers just enough insight to move them in the right direction {toward love} without giving them so much information that they’d feel even guiltier than they felt before. He expanded upon the metaphor given by Moses, but He did so in a way that both His followers could understand then and future followers of all faiths and philosophies could come to appreciate. Neither poets nor priests should underestimate the enormity of His contribution to humanity. It took especially precocious Jews to follow Jesus in His day. Such were the extraordinary lives of His disciples and faithful congregation. But it takes especially precocious Jews to appreciate the contributions of Jesus and His Jewish disciples today, and to hold them proudly as Jewish visionaries who profoundly changed the world with love while the rest of AAM ISRAEL {THE SOUL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE} continued our crusade for the world to perceive the wisdom in God’s plan.

You can’t learn to swim by having someone describe the sea to you. Sooner or later you have to jump in. But you also can’t learn to swim and then tell the fish down there that there’s a world above the one they’re living in. People have to discover the truth for themselves, and if that means they have to flop about in distress at those times when they feel netted and removed from the comfortable world they’re accustomed to, so be it.

Foolish, old people look at young people with envy at holding down a job and enjoying the life they once led. Old people peer down from their glass-bottom boat into the sea and see the fish and the sea floor so clearly. They wish they were young again to appreciate life more fully instead of turning around, peer up at the sky to face their future.

Jesus wasn't a Christian in the modern sense of the word. He was an ancient, Jewish visionary. The Christian world celebrates their New Year on January 1<sup>st</sup> eight days after His birth on December 25<sup>th</sup> without giving much thought anymore to the fact that New Year's Day is the day of His circumcision. January 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of the Gregorian calendar precisely because that was the day Jesus entered into God's covenant with His people. The new year's day for every male Jew is the day of his circumcision, not his birthday. This is the day he spiritually began life. The renewal of the Christian covenant with God comes every January 1<sup>st</sup>. If you're going to celebrate that day and make resolutions for the next year that are meaningful, remember that you're doing so in the sight of your Lord.

Jesus didn't die a Christian. He was born and died a Jew. The new covenant Christians make with God through Jesus is affirmed with water through baptism, not the pain and blood of circumcision. This is thanks to the influence of John the Baptist another very special Jew whose birth coincided with the life of Jesus. John's mother, Elizabeth, and Miriam, the mother of Jesus, were friends when both boys were still in the womb. There are no coincidences.

I've already associated the philosophic fears of the ancient Jews with the life of the fish in the Sea of Galilee. Like fish in a lake, man swims through youth thinking the world is enormous and his options unlimited. It's only as the current carries him downstream with age that he sees himself in a downhill rush that inexorably leads to death. Baptism is the physical reminder of that metaphor, and the wetness of water, a reminder and consolation to each Christian that he's been spiritually netted and no longer needs to worry about his fate. A Christian may flop about and feel like a fish out of water from time to time, but he knows his life isn't going to come to an end in a Dead Sea. He's reminded of his faith every time he gets wet.

A good Jew, Christian or Muslim today would do better to give thought to his destiny than worry needlessly about his fate. But to do so requires more modern, metaphoric extensions than we're given in Torah. Although the Israelites toiled for 400 years building the pyramids in Egypt, building a house for their gods was never satisfying, not even metaphorically. What would God need with a house, a Tabernacle or a Temple?

Today we have the American dream, which includes a house, a two-car garage and money enough for a two-week vacation each year. A man's home may be his castle, but he can never truly compare himself to the King. No man should think his actions so righteous

that he's a god in his own eyes. He may think of himself as living in a palace here on Earth or a gilded cage, but these are just container metaphors that will never suffice for him to truly conceive of God's heavenly abode. When he leaves his earthly abode, his body, there's no evidence of what comes next.

A man's imagination is an important field to plant, but it's not the only place where he wants to see his seeds germinate, sprout and grow to fruition. Masturbation plows the mind with seeds of sensuous possibilities, readying the mind for sowing his oats realistically. But the seeds of self-love have to be very precious planted in a man's heart for him to want to share his bounty with just the right person all the days of his life.

As men become more confident about their sexuality and sensuality, they realize they can't have sex with another person if they don't have a healthy and happy relationship with themselves. The more relaxed straight men become with the way God made them, the more likely they are to succeed in learning intimacy. A man must seek a mysterious part of himself; call that "the 'x' factor." But he's also going to want to know "y." In spiritual mathematics, a subset of Spiritual Linguistics,  $x + y = 1$ . (I suggest you look up the lyrics to the Richard Rodgers/Oscar Hammerstein song, "We Kiss in a Shadow." This song from the musical "South Pacific" makes great spiritual sense today if viewed through the modern lens of your relationship with yourself.)

The religious in the centuries past used the serpent in the Creation Story to project the attributes of their penis and testicles onto an angel of darkness who created a world of evil that intruded upon the world of love. This fight between light and dark was literally associated with the winter solstice when the longest night of the year recedes and more sunlight returns each day. The ancient peoples of the world worried that spiritual darkness {evil} would literally engulf and overpower mankind. The mythical concept of evil is a darkness that swallows the sun, (our source of light and life). This gave men permission to blame others for the sun's decline in the winter sky because of our Father's disappointment with man. This poetic interpretation of astronomy cynically assumed there was no point in man taking personal responsibility for his actions, including sexual discretion, if God were going to punish him with hunger and cold every winter, year after year in perpetuity.

This was a beguiling trick religion played on man's construction of morality from the outside in, thus spreading their psychological mistake far and wide until science finally brought fact to their fanciful thinking. Today we're in a position to correct that error of pessimism through a higher-level understanding of the spiritual meaning of darkness and light when viewed from within, making darkness personal and internal rather than public and eternal.

To ancient man semen was an all-powerful, magical substance. If a man could ejaculate, he was considered fertile and whole. If a woman couldn't conceive a child or

miscarried it was considered her fault for not being able to hold his child in her womb. It was never his fault. Torah is filled with stories of female characters who were barren and desperate, beginning with Sarah, Abraham's wife. But there isn't a single male character in the Bible who worried about his infertility. And although we've since discovered the scientific error in that conclusion, mankind is still struggling to accept the emotional and spiritual truth that underscores biological reality.

God won't judge you for needing to eat. But He will judge you for eating too much or too little. Your mother is no longer responsible for your food intake. You're expected to know how to feed yourself. And you're responsible for learning to appreciate what you put in your mouth. Food is the primary, moral issue of life.

Some men struggle with their penis while others struggle with their anus. Some have to worry about what comes out one end, and some have to worry about what comes out the other. The anus is the delivery method for the evacuation of food, but many men think discharging their bowels is a dirty experience unfit for discussion. In truth, it's a cleansing process. When you haven't been taught that eating is an emotional and spiritual method of growth, you can't conceive of defecation as a part of that process. Elimination is intrinsic and vital to growth and development. The man who doesn't want to have to think about the purpose of another man's rectum has got his head up his own.

The irony of life is that we claim to know ourselves, but we don't want to look for ways to love ourselves as God created us. I believe that few today can say that they like themselves, let alone love themselves. They only like certain parts of themselves. Few men will admit that masturbation led them to the love they now have with another person. Few will admit that they've explored their anus to see if there are sensations there that interest them. Men are often embarrassed about discussing how much they've learned about themselves and now know as the result of self-intimacy.

Most people turn their nose up at some part of themselves. They hold a bad attitude about some physical part of their anatomy that corresponds to deeper conflicts they're unwilling to explore. They're happy to show off their intellectual branches and the emotional flowers in their life that they find so appealing. They're proud to share the fruits of their labors with you that got them where they are today. But they get very shy when people point out their roots or some hollow in the trunk of their tree that they haven't yet fully explored.

Jesus was human. That means He probably played with other children. That means He probably played with Himself. That means He probably faced all the inhibitions that have kept the rest of us from intimacy with others, let alone the inhibitions that have challenged us when it comes to achieving intimacy from within. Clearly He knew Himself very well or He couldn't have achieved the superhuman feats He's credited with.



The temptations Jesus faced and rejected when alone in the Judean desert for 40 days were as follows:

1. Making bread out of stones to relieve His hunger
2. Freeing Himself from a pinnacle by jumping and relying on angels to break His fall
3. Worshiping the “devil” in return for all the kingdoms on Earth.

If we admit that the “devil” is the projection and personification of man’s penis problem then the temptation to give in to our desires exists in us all. What’s more, we all succumb to our temptations every day. It’s human, and if we remain conscious of our thoughts and feelings the problem of temptation can remain manageable.

The difference between turning stones into bread becomes easier to understand if we use our modern vernacular to interpret Jesus’s words. “Stones” was a euphemistic term that referred to “testicles.” “Bread” referred to flesh, and in this instance refers to making a “baby.” For Jesus to turn “stones” into “bread” to relieve His “hunger,” He would only have had to satisfy His sexual desire by creating a new life in the literal sense. This was the first temptation He avoided.

After refusing that, defying gravity became an extension of that first premise. Making your way up into the spiritual realm toward God in the heavens above {the pinnacle} was seen as a daredevil feat of spiritual ingenuity since men then had to earn their wings by having a family. Assuming angels would always be there to cushion their fall would have been an act of chutzpah. A man in those days who refused to have a family and wouldn’t rely on God to save him from breaking with this tradition marked Jesus as a revolutionary Jew at that time. He relied on His love of the Lord instead. That really branded Him a heretic by the standards of those days.

But Jesus noted that there was an even greater temptation, and that was to worship “satan,” to work for the cause of bringing evil into the world rather than the goodness wise men seek. A man who wouldn’t use his penis to make babies; a man who’d rely on love to guide him instead of his duty to the Lord like the other Jews - might succumb to evil as a way of life. He might idolize Himself or His Father.

Obviously Jesus wasn’t tempted in that third way either. In a sense He more resembled the modern man of today than a man at that time. He was a man whose love of life was His guide, a man who didn’t allow Himself to be led by penis problems.

Modern man is finally smart enough to see through himself. He’s smart enough to conclude that, in the beginning, original man was in a spiritual garden within himself while surrounded by an urban jungle. In the beginning there was only Moses and his incredible

imagination, which had been inspired by God to view civilization, such as it was at the time, in a whole new way.

Much later in Tanach in the Story of Jonah and the Whale, we're introduced to a man who was tempted by evil in a novel, new way. Jonah ran away from God rather than fulfill His edicts intended to heal him of his arrogance. Jonah defiantly went in the opposite direction from Nineveh where it was God's intention he should go to preach to the people to repent. There was no word in ancient Hebrew for "whale." {The word "leviathan" refers to a sea monster mentioned in other stories in Tanach.} But in the Story of the PROPHET Jonah, the whale is described as a big fish. Rather than give God reason to capsize the boat and make those onboard suffer for his sins, Jonah jumped overboard in a storm and was swallowed up by a big fish. Guilt motivated him to behave righteously, even though it surely spelled his demise.

But the word for fish {DAG} sounds very similar to the word for worry {DA-AG}. And so the story is an allegory in Hebrew that's lost in translation. It was intended to be a play on words read on two levels simultaneously.

The Story of Jonah describes every man who leaves the land of ideas in his mind where he's secure and grounded and takes to the sea, the emotional realm where his feelings of autonomy transport him even further away from his intention to do God's bidding. When God seeks a man out at sea, his emotions become rough and turbulent as well in a storm.

A good man will jump overboard out of guilt into an ocean of wild emotions to save others from his fate, and he'll drown in his worries if he doesn't find a way back onto dry land (intellectual grounding). Like Jonah, modern man is swallowed up by worries, but, also like Jonah, we're miraculously carried to the place where God wants each and every one of us to be. In this way, here and now are always mysterious parts of God's plan.

The Story of Jonah and the whale is the story of man's arrogance for thinking he's autonomous and all alone in this world. No man can sail away on apathetic feelings of disregard for his divine purpose here on Earth. No man is so far from God's intentions that he can't be found and dragged unwittingly to his destiny.

No man can remain submerged in the cold, dark currents of his fate like a man in a big fish. From inside he can see where he is, but he can't yet see where God is taking him. What he must do if he's wise enough is to see himself in the Biblical stories he always thought were meant only for kids. Hope springs eternal.

The child who's programmed by his parents to fear God rather than motivated to learn to love Him will only learn to do as he's told. He'll become mindlessly obedient believing he should take orders without wrestling within over how that makes him feel. Becoming like a lamb is a feature. Becoming like a sheep is a failing, If a man reacts to his fate

mindlessly and hopelessly, he may become a wolf in sheep's clothing that then preys on other sheep.

Most of us choose to get swallowed up by our worries rather than look for God's participation in every problem He gives us. The moral reminder in the Story of Jonah is that we can't do God's bidding or see His part in the way our life unfolds until we get some of our overly disobedient and antiauthoritarian urges out of our way. The young man who doesn't sow wild oats will be weeding his garden in later life without an understanding of how those oats got there in the first place.

Thanks to that whale {vehicle of worries} Jonah ended up in Nineveh anyway, even though he'd refused to go there when God asked him to. Once there, however, he discovered the inhabitants of Nineveh had already repented without him. God had brought him to the place to do his work, but that work had already been done. God brought him to Nineveh to witness the results accomplished by others.

When he saw that the people of Nineveh had already repented, Jonah left and wandered in alone in the desert where the heat became unbearably oppressive. When he couldn't escape the noonday sun, God provided shade in the form of a tree. But when He allowed a worm to destroy the tree, Jonah was again exposed to the heat of the sun and then wished he were dead. He was unashamedly angry and upset for the way things had turned out, very similar to how Adam felt when God questioned him. God admonished Jonah for not realizing how important it was for Him to care about everyone.

Jonah ends up being the PROPHET of the Old Testament who personifies how not to be selfish. His defiance of Authority and insistence on doing what he wanted rather than questioning what would be good for everyone took him through guilt, worry and alienation until he found himself alone with God under, what can only be called, humiliating circumstances.

Homophobes use this argument to infer that gay people will pay a terrible price for emulating the PROPHET Jonah by going in the other {gay} direction. But "spite" in Hebrew is an everyday word {DAFKA}. Israelis use the word DAFKA to describe infantile, childish and juvenile behavior regardless the biological age of the perpetrator.

We see the issue of spite in every story of Tanach. Jews in general have always interpreted Christian hatred of us as spite, not love for the teachings of Jesus. And we see the Muslim unwillingness to accept the State of Israel as spite for the charity we exhibit towards them despite of the fact that we aren't commended for our charity, when charity is precisely what the teachings of the P r o p h e t Mohammed are all about.

If you were never taught that this Biblical story was a spiritual pun meant to be explored on two levels of reality, you were told this Bible story with an emphasis on its literal

meaning for children. You could never have been expected to take the Story of Jonah personally.

The problem with taking the Hebrew Testament literally is that you miss the opportunity of developing the wisdom of the heart that Jesus was teaching. You find yourself in an intellectual, ivory tower of conceit where you can't discern fact from allegory, and you therefore end up promoting fiction instead of moral insight into your own behavior.

The secret to learning about love isn't only to become powerful in your ability to help others, but in discovering the real reason for having been given that tower to power between your legs. What you have there is not just for sex. It isn't there to give you the right to be pushy. People who are overly ambitious in an area of their life are compensating for something they can't see and may want to learn: the spiritual power of their penis. You're here learning to use "it" as a delivery system of power that will maximize wisdom, love, generosity, cooperation and tranquility in yourself. Using "it" to make a lot of money or to convert people to your faith is a misuse of your penis. Your penis is your key to your kingdom. Keep it out of me emotionally and spiritually. And if I want it in me physically I'll ask for "it." Once you know that about how "it" works for you, you can look for the lock in life for which it's the perfect fit. This is something doctors, nurses and teachers already know. Their dedication to others is but a preview to the spiritual glory inherent in their mission in life.

Torah is the blueprint for the moral edifice God is building on Earth. Torah begins with God's creation and organization of His world in one week, the spiritual unit of time He chose to measure time for moral insight, not for knowledge of when to literally sow and reap. The Jewish moral calendar of seven-day increments that the world now uses describes the spiritual process by which you could come to know and love yourself consciously and incrementally from birth until your final day on Earth if you took yourself more personally, less seriously, and the Bible less literally.

When you see the spiritual merits in keeping Saturdays holy, your inner rhythms will resonate differently from those who keep only the day before or the day after Saturday holy. When you can give yourself a spiritual three-day weekend, Fridays through Sundays, to learn to give yourself enough spiritual space in God's kingdom, it'll change your life for the better. If you start each week on Sunday with the intention of loving life and ending each week on Saturday a little wiser than you were before, you're more likely to thank God it's Fridays and what it means to be born a man who's here to learn to love one man deeply. You'll surely become wiser, more loving and generous over time. You'll become more hospitable to God as you host Him entering and departing you. And you'll behave more soulfully toward everyone else in your world.

If you're a tree in a forest and you fall will there be anyone there to hear it? The answer is that you've fallen many times, and whether you had to pick yourself up by yourself or whether there were others there at the time, you heard yourself as you went down. What matters is what you said. Were you angry at yourself or did you feel sorry for you?

God heard you. He hears you now every time you cry out when a part of you cracks, splinters or falls. The sound of you collapsing isn't deafening to His ears. If you take the fruits of knowledge personally you'll realize how concerned you are over whether you can hear yourself., and what you say. Self-silence is anything but golden.

God heard Abel's blood crying up from the ground. He heard Hagar crying for Ishmael's sake. He heard Jesus beseeching Him on the Cross. So you know deep down inside that when a tree falls in a forest and there is no one around it still makes a splintering sound that God can hear.

You were never meant to behave like dead wood. You're not a bump on a log. You aren't petrified. You should never see yourself only as someone else's lumber to construct pyramids to their glory. You hold an importance in a forest of people that no other tree can see.

Jesus was a carpenter who took timber and shaped it into useful possessions. This is what every teacher does. All your teachers are carpenters. Some may be more skilled than others in whittling you down into something valuable. Some know just how to nail you, while others use tongue-in-groove joints and glue to keep it all together. You may not even see yourself as a metaphoric woodworker. But you're trying to carve your name onto some other trees to leave a lasting impression that you were here.

Jesus tried to advance the metaphor of Moses without injuring the fragile ego of the ancient Jews and inflated ego of the Roman barbarians. He tried to present His symbols without instigating a mass abandonment of spiritual decorum. He didn't contradict those who said He was the king of the Jews. He realized the truth had to come from within them, not around them. He knew the Romans were baiting Him with that question because it was a play on words. The king of every Jew at that time was Caesar. The Romans were not only asking if He thought He was greater than Caesar. He was also being baited to see if He thought He was greater than the "SANHEDRIN" {THE COUNCIL OF 71 JEWISH SAGES WHO CONSTITUTED THE HIGH COURT AND LEGISLATIVE BODY IN JUDEA DURING THE ROMAN PERIOD}. He knew He was being asked whether He was a king over His own people's judges. He knew there was no answer that would suffice everyone.

With personal propriety in mind and social decorum at the heart of His message, He took the symbolic importance of Torah beyond guilt to its next level of revelation: love. He personalized wisdom with His own feelings of mercy and forgiveness. His answer to

the question of His royal heritage was “IF YOU SAY SO...” [Mark 15:2, Matthew 27:11, Luke 23:3]

The difference between “helping yourself” in the sense of picking fruit from someone else’s tree and “helping yourself” in the sense of getting braces for your teeth lies in intonation only. But the difference between a “blackboard” and a “black board” isn’t just intonation. It’s also the space between the words that gives language its differing rhythms, meanings and rhymes. And

History, from the point of view of man’s humanity to man was changed dramatically when the Greeks requested spaces between the WORDS Moses wrote that made it literarily possible for every ancient Jew to read Torah for himself. It even may have changed the meaning of some of the WORDS. Today Spiritual Linguistics gives us the opportunity to look at the precious spaces between words and meanings of words for subtleties in interpretations that makes all the WORDS/WORDS/w o r d s of God easier to perceive.

Thanks to Jesus we now have the WORD of God emboldened, and thanks to the P r o p h e t Mohammed have the w o r d of God that he spread throughout the Middle East. The P r o p h e t Mohammed figuratively contributed to Spiritual Linguistics by adding greater space for God to enter between the letters of language than the ancient Jews and emboldened Christians could ever have imagined at the time.

Jews should never forget what was done to Jesus’s body; nor should we ever forget that His blood was spilled while calling out to God for help. What each of us can learn to do today is appreciate the importance of guilt and love in overcoming our own errors of judgment and mercy. Without guilt to motivate us to apologize and atone for our mistakes, what good is there in professing our preference for our own faith or philosophy?

Those spiritual farmers who are ready to plant seeds of guilt and love more wisely where needed are able to share in the hope of a more bountiful harvest in years to come. Our Judeo-Christian solutions to the problems and paradoxes of our lives will become spiritually meaningful to Muslim if we continue to teach what we know and believe is true in our head and heart. Those who point fingers of ridicule, scorn and derision at peace seekers in every faith who sincerely put their faith in the brotherhood of mankind will eventually have to confront their own spiritual hunger.

There are millions of men worldwide walking in the footsteps of Moses and Jesus who don’t consciously know it. They don’t use Biblical terminology in everyday speech or quote the Bible chapter and verse to express what’s in their heart. They keep their balance on the tightrope of life by remembering right from wrong while taking tiny steps cautiously forward to get them where they want to go. They see where the world is headed, and in doing their part to make their own dreams come true, they’re helping the cause of freedom just by going in the right direction inch by inch.

The Jews 2,000 years ago weren't sophisticated enough to understand this kind of psychological lingo. It would have sounded like blasphemy to them. All they knew was Tanach and what little they could glean from the world through war and trade with their neighbors. They may have been the most literate group of people on Earth at that time (and they may still be), but the Teacher can't teach the class any faster than the whole class can go. Therefore we all have a duty to help those who oppose gays and Jews. The gays will help the men, and the Jews will help the women.

If you squeeze a loaf of bread and then your forearm, you'll feel a similarity between flesh and dough. Ancient Jews didn't know how their body was organized physiologically; they only knew that matzo was the spiritual bread of their forefathers' affliction and manna, their spiritual gift from God. That they could identify with. They couldn't understand the psychological concept of man as bread rising and becoming inflated with ego. Even if they might have been able to see themselves as living bread, I doubt they had the intellectual capacity to extend the metaphor to understand that their testicles were stones that they were turning into new loaves of bread just by making babies. That was, for them, taking a metaphor too far. Until the science of physiology gave them the vocabulary to build a poetic bridge to self-understanding, all men in the Western world were stuck either on the bank of Christianity or Judaism with no way to get across the waterway that divided them.

Seven-grain breads are like European cultures that are coarse and chewy. Wonder Bread is the soft, doughy, white bread enjoyed on our American shores, a bread that's as porous as cotton with a crust that's often removed. Pumpnickel people are coarsely ground, rye and dark throughout. Sourdough is the bread the pioneers created during the Western expansion that's so popular here at the City by the Bay, a people who were gay but, by and large, but seen as skeptical and sour. Tortillas are New World matzo made of crushed corn that sustains Latin America spirituality without need for leavening. Rice buns are the Far Eastern recreation of the Western staff of life. Armenian lavash is thin, but large enough to wrap anything in it. And pita is flat with an unexpected pocket and a crust that's as thick and impenetrable as the people of the Middle East. The world is made of living bread. Just talking about bread brings up feelings for many people.

To remember Jesus through bread is an idea that has enormous ramifications because each of us is a unique recipe for bread that makes us a loaf of trouble unto ourselves. To remember His body with bread requires us to remember the pain He was subjected to and the suffering He endured. Imagine a dinner roll with a carpenter's nail hammered into it. Imagine a loaf of bread being slowly ripped apart as it's fought over with one hand by ancient Romans and with the other by ancient Jews. We all had a hand in killing Christ and tearing His body apart.

Learning to love your own loaf requires you to learn to develop a taste for your own body. For me, I always associated caring for my body with effeminacy. And because I

didn't want to be associated with effeminate men, I tried to treat my body with casual disregard. Only as I reached older age, did I realize how much I needed to treat my body respectfully.

So many are queasy about blood when they see it coming out of others, and yet so forgetful of what it means to be filled with blood themselves. To like, let alone love, yourself you have to consume yourself in the Biblical sense by coming to know yourself in small, daily symbolic portions of bread and wine, regardless of how distasteful to you, you may be. If you imagine yourself as bread that's soaked up wine, as did the ancient Jews, you'll come to enjoy symbolism as a gift from God.

Imagine primitive Jews without scientific knowledge of the human body 2,000 years ago who had to look at countless human beings impaled with swords, crushed with stones or busted open with fists. Imagine how surprised the Apostles must have been when Jesus presented them with an image of Him inside them as a paste of matzo mixed with wine. His two interlocking symbols are as exquisitely simple as the allegory Moses constructed using the five characters in the Creation Story. Jesus's symbols can seem intellectually messy and easy to misunderstand if you don't see the greater farm and vineyard He created out of the Garden of Eden to unite His vision of grain and grape.

The Passover journey to freedom {Jewish} and the Passover ascension to liberty {Christian} are ways of expressing these spiritual achievements of man. If you take your free will for granted, you won't appreciate your spiritual emancipation. Aging wisely is a gift only given to those who live life deeply. You should feel as though you were born dead and are coming to life thanks to the intellectual changes and emotional transformations that have helped you transcend yourself over your lifetime. Your last word in life should be "timber!" before you discover what will come next.

Caring for your body is a precious task your mother once did for you that you should now do with spiritual intention. As you celebrate cleaning your body and caring for yourself, realize that God is watching you washing yourself. You won't feel embarrassed about standing before Him nude if there's a moral message from you to Him in how you're cleaning the skin of your fruit literally each day before going out into the world to cleanse the meat of your fruit and then home at night to clean out your core.

Moses began his journey with God at the age of 80, and spent the next 40 years on His payroll, learning to serve. He died at the age of 120 proving that even the modesty, humility and grace learned by a murderer can be turned into virtues that will be rewarded by the Boss.

Jesus came into this world with a desire to serve His father right from the start, and God answered every question posed of Him with an eye to love and forgiveness. If His Father chose to have Him leave life early with the intention of expanding Their, then,



Family-run, Jewish business, that was only because business was about to become so brisk that He needed Him with Him to run it at the top.

God then took His message of love north to the Mediterranean, and later expanded His territory and sales force east to the Arabian Peninsula to confer His generosity of spirit another way through the promise of redemption for those who seek to become soulful.

We should appreciate these two well-educated rabbis and the illiterate camel driver for promoting the Western traditions of God-consciousness. All three of His messengers were tremendous contributors to His full name {Y.H.V.H. Jesus A L L A H} and His plan. If you believe that only one of these traditions is right, you've got an agenda that's going against His story.

Feelings make men feel clumsy and weak, especially feelings of guilt. Most men's minds are much more adroit and agile than their hearts. As a rule, knowledge of the heart doesn't interest most men at first as much as knowledge of the world around them. The sensuous arts of making love with their penis are what most males strive to excel at, not serving the Lord with adoration. Few strive to use their head to open their heart and then to use their heart as the key to opening their conscience to the concept of evolution of a soul. Most don't really have a spiritual plan in mind at all. Underneath it all they're seeking freedom from life instead of freedom in life.

At the end of his life Moses said, "HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE; THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIGHT." [Deuteronomy 6:4-5]

In the New Testament it's written, "THEN ONE OF THEM, WHICH WAS A LAWYER, ASKED HIM A QUESTION, TEMPTING HIM, AND SAYING, 'MASTER, WHICH IS THE GREAT COMMANDMENT IN THE LAW?' JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, 'THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND. THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT. AND THE SECOND IS LIKE UNTO IT, 'THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF' [Leviticus 19:18]. ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS HANG ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS." [Matthew 22:35-40]

Jesus's knowledge of Torah wasn't uncommon in those days, but His application of it was. He quoted Torah not only because the Jews were so familiar with it. He quoted it because His interpretations of Torah were thought-provoking and unprecedented. It takes a rabbi to appreciate a rabbi. Therefore you should become a rabbi unto yourself, and then make the claim that you're devoting your life to learning to love yourself. Only then will you appreciate the words of Moses and Jesus, and learn to take them personally.

Although Jesus proposed that wisdom of the heart would reduce all Ten Commandments to His two, He didn't intend for us to forsake the original ten. Those who can't remember all ten in the order they were given are allowed to make the easy substitution of making their conscience their guide. They can approach every moral decision as Jesus suggested by {1} remembering the Lord and {2} remembering their neighbors. That's His easy shortcut to righteous action.

The three greatest Jews in the history of humanity were Rabbi Moses, Jesus and Sigmund Freud. Moses brought justice into the world. He gave man a way to fill his head so that it would give him eyes, ears, nose and a mouth with which to face God. Jesus brought mercy into the world through a universal message of forgiveness. He gave man a heart by which he could respond to God's presence with loving intentions with his Brother by his side. And Sigmund Freud, a Jewish, self-proclaimed atheist, united man's heart and penis with conscious understanding of them as inner forces through the science of psychology. Freud gave us the tools to analyze ourselves with moral scrutiny without the need for religious dogma. He gave us a way to organize thoughts and desires into a scientific system that would explain why we feel the way we do about ourselves.

The Egyptians experienced all ten of the plagues. The Israelites only experienced the first three, the Nile turning to blood, the Nile infested with frogs, and gnats throughout the land. God made it clear from the 4<sup>th</sup> plague on that only the Egyptians would suffer the plagues. "AND I SHALL INDEED SET A DEMARCATION BETWEEN MY PEOPLE AND YOUR PEOPLE. TOMORROW THIS SIGN WILL TAKE PLACE." [Exodus 8:23] Because of the coming of the Prophet Mohammed, we're all His people now. Now we plague one another by playing god.

"BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH."  
[Matthew 5:5]

We speak so much about the overbearing, the pompous and the arrogant around us without also reminding ourselves how much their rude behavior is dying away day-by-day. If we use each other's spiritual majors in the school of life to remind us of the lessons in love we're all undergoing, we'll be able to guide ourselves with modesty, humility and grace as well as open ourselves to God's teachings of love and hospitality.

What makes the poor today so set apart and worthy of sanctification is their understanding of the importance of working together collaboratively, not conspiratorially. The meek know they have little power unless they unite cooperatively to make this world a better place for future generations. They appreciate the strength that comes in numbers. They're learning the spiritual, to say nothing of the political, importance of casting their vote. The poor depend on hope in a way that the rich won't understand until they use their secular education to enlighten themselves spiritually.

Those today who parade like Egyptian masters lording over their servants and slaves are being spiritually separated further and further from the rest of us. The gap between the arrogant and meek is widening. Worse than losing the confidence of the people, the oligarchs of the great nations are losing their own vote of confidence. They're beginning to see that they're unworthy of their positions of power because they insist on deterring instead of inspiring their enemies. Their own high opinion of themselves is waning because they don't see a place for themselves in history. Most of the rich and powerful men in power around the world these days need to be inspired to inspire. They need to learn to give something to themselves that money can't buy.

The "fruit" juices in man come in three forms:

1. Semen	literally	life-giving
2. Blood	emotionally	life-giving
3. Water	spiritually	life-giving

These three liquids in man correspond to the three levels of guilt:

1. Embarrassment about semen:

A man's need for a woman to help him create life

2. Shame about blood:

A man's relationship to his tribe; his need for others to help sustain his existence

3. Humiliation about water:

A man's need for God to help him make living with himself an admirable experience

To serve God you've got to understand these three liquids forms of love in you before you can contemplate the significance of the spiritual wine Jesus was referring to. Some people love to talk about semen and what ejaculating means to them. Others slow down when passing an accident in the hopes of seeing blood spilled. Others go the beach and stare out at sea, to see what they can dream about what's just over the horizon. These three liquids create very personal reactions within each of us.

It behooves every Christian to contemplate the spiritual intention of the body of Christ. His body was filled with these three forms of liquid love:

1. Semen	God	the Father
2. Blood	God	the Son
3. Water	God	The Holy Spirit

Christ's body may be the church, but His blood vessels are filled with a symbolic liquid that's much more powerful than just the institution of the Church. The priesthood may be made up of servants of the people in the same way that the heart is the servant to every cell in man's body. But for the most part the body of Christ refers to the laity.

To fill yourself you've got to know what you're filling yourself with. The reason why people can't decide if their cup is half full or half empty is because they haven't questioned what they're pouring into it. You can't measure all the love you have inside of you if you don't know what kind of love you're filling yourself with, semen {life}, blood {love} or water {generosity}.

Science is the branch of knowledge by which man grasps the world around him for universal comprehension. Religion is the branch of knowledge through which he grasps the world within for personal perception. But both these worlds can be bridged with poetic license for universal, spiritual insight. Spirituality is the interaction between science and religion that gives personal meaning to all that we do. Spirituality is the study of soulfulness, the concentrate of metaphor, symbols and signs that makes it possible for you to become all that you can be.

Atom bombs and creationism are the two worst ideas man ever came up with. When science uses war to solve religious problems, and religion uses dogma to solve scientific questions we find ourselves working against peace, not for it. If you want to see the dance of life that the Hindus speak of, just observe your ten fingers next time you tie your shoes. This is a metaphor for the power of the Ten Commandments that lies at your fingertips and the cooperation we could be gleaning from the hands of science and religion if you gave yourself permission to incorporate poetic license in with how you were spiritually, not literally, made in God's image.

The real affront that Jesus presented the Jews of His day with wasn't an intellectual premise they rejected, but a poetic perspective on Torah He held up for them that they couldn't quite grasp. No man's head can fathom his heart rationally. Poetry is the only art by which words can be used to make sense of yourself emotionally. Poetry is morality liquefied in your heart and then poured back into your head to fill your mind with rich thinking.

The idea of building more temples around the Mediterranean to sacrifice animals to God would have been a thoughtful gesture for those of our ancestors who lived too far away to return to Jerusalem once a year to make their sacrifices at the one Temple in Jerusalem. But the idea of preserving that Temple to the exclusion of creating copies of it elsewhere in order to maintain the status quo also held merit. After 200 years of acrimonious debate amongst my ancestors both sides lost their argument when the Romans

destroyed the Temple, and all the Jews were shackled and deported as slaves to distant Roman outposts throughout the Mediterranean.

Everyone is a participant in history without being able to state in words God's ultimate plan. Anyone who thinks he's read God's mind and knows what He's going to do next is sadly suffering from a spiritual illness that mirrors mental illness. He may not be out of his mind, but he's not in his heart and soul either. He's lost in inner space.

The age of animal sacrifice that ended 2,000 years ago was a religious system that acted out the guilt of each man's sin by buying God's favor through gifts in the flesh of animals. Although the meat was divided up between the priests and other important religious players a portion was literally served to God on the altar with much splashing of blood and religious fanfare. That practice symbolically came to an end soon after the death of Jesus who gave the ultimate, willing sacrifice of one of our own to God. With His conscious, spiritual sacrifice, the Temple cult ended and a new age was ushered in, the age of self-sacrifice in place of animal sacrifice.

Martyrdom then became a sign of devotion to God for all three of the Abrahamic traditions. But that idea was founded upon the desire of each individual to choose to sacrifice himself for God in contrast to human sacrifices, which were imposed upon the native Americans against their will to appease their gods. Indigenous peoples from Mexico to the tip of South America are aware of the horrendous abuse of power from the Spaniards and Portuguese, but they're also aware that Christianity ended obligatory, human sacrifice in the New World. The Europeans believed that God had earlier created the pantheon of gods to help human beings describe their moral priorities in the form of myths. But these Europeans later learned to spread the idea of one Ultimate Authority.

The answer to all arguments is, of course, debate for the purpose of moral inquiry, not murder to make your point. People don't learn anything from their own death, and their relatives don't learn to express their feelings lovingly if they're traumatized by the loss of innocent, loved ones. The solution to societal problems emanates out of psychological insight. The spiritual answer to all men's problems lies in the universal answers every man has the capacity to look for in himself. If you can learn to talk to yourself and visualize your prayers in written form, you'll be able to pray with greater accuracy and intention.

The success of democracy lies within each individual. Democracy depends on spiritual insight, not religious tensions. Societies that haven't yet created inner governance based on the rule of law and love are going to have more difficulty in expressing generosity of spirit to their people. If your head votes one way and your heart, the other, you need to develop a very powerful conscience before you're going to be able to convince yourself you know how to make moral decisions that are real and ideal. Only then will you be able to claim to be pragmatic.

There's no dogma in Judaism about the afterlife. We leave it to God to judge our life incrementally during our lifetime and to use us in the best ways possibly to improve the world for future generations. We hope that our moral choices will be a credit to our loved ones and our faith, but we abhor the idea of any Jew having to die to prove his point. We are one-tenth of one percent of the world's population, but we make more noise than most because of our commitment to morality above the fulfillment of desire.

Man's STRUGGLE WITH GOD for an understanding of the differences between good and evil should be a moral struggle within each individual as much as possible. Physically having to struggle to survive is always the least good option if you have the opportunity to spend your time and energy struggling with God within yourself rather than with Him in the world around you. But convincing people that this inner struggle will literally produce beneficial, material results is difficult to do. It's hard to show the correlation between how the world within us changes, transforms and helps us transcend ourselves, and how the world around us then improves for everyone. But the evidence for spiritual change from within is real.

Jesus is called the "LAMB OF GOD" because He's the human reenactment of the ram Abraham substituted for the sacrifice of Isaac and the lamb the Israelites posted on their door to keep the Angel of Death from visiting them during the 10<sup>th</sup> plague in Egypt, commonly referred to as the Passover. Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice, the human sacrifice that was voluntarily given by Him at a time when the ancient Jews were still spiritually young and very inexperienced by today's standards. Since then we've mastered self-sacrifice and vowed never to go back to animal or human sacrifice. Jews, with few exceptions, no longer kill other Jews or conspire against our brothers. Modern Jews have gone even further by replacing self-sacrifice with self-seeking.

Today civilized human beings are learning the lessons of the self-love that come through seeking ourselves in the sight of the Lord. Today modern men have more reason than ever to reread Christ's words for personal insight. Today Israel is that little Abrahamic light shining onto Christ's lighthouse so that the world will see not only the light from afar in the night, but the illumination of the lighthouse as well. Today love has become the guiding illuminating force behind man's moral authority, and we Jews are wise enough to acquiesce to this important part of God's plan. Today the Judeo-Christian goal is to work together to shine a light on Islam to help Muslims find their way off the rough seas and onto dry land without drowning themselves in self-loathing.

The cynic might say that Jesus's death ushered in the age of selfish-sacrifice. The hopeful might claim instead that today we're finally working on selfless-sacrifice. What we can hopefully agree on is that the idea of self-love - pride, self-respect, self-esteem and self-worth - are today's best tools for moving mankind toward greater God-consciousness. You can't love the Lord who made you in His image if you denigrate any part of yourself.

Judaism is the reasonable path that the mind takes to allow God to decide our place in the world to come. Islam is the hospitable path of the soul that raises them up to Heaven with inspired intentions. But Christianity is the sensible path of the heart that brings all of us into Heaven by lining up as civilized human beings at St. Peter's Gate.

I can imagine that the lines at Peter's Gate have gotten very long of late, and since I really doubt that the gay men who died of AIDS had to wait in separate lines when they reached Heaven because straight people were allowed to cut in front of them, I imagine other gates have since been opened to meet the needs of white Christians who think they should be able to get in before blacks, Hispanics and Asians; all Christians who think they deserve to enter before Jews, etc. I have to assume there are at least as many gates into Heaven as there are gates into the Old City of Jerusalem {eight}. I think that will keep crowd control from being an issue.

My Jewish ancestors schlepped {Yiddish: dragged} God for 40 years through the desert in the Tabernacle {the moveable tent} until He was ready to be enter Jerusalem where they built Him a Temple. When Harvey Milk, the first openly gay {and, coincidentally, Jewish} man elected to public office in America told San Franciscans to come out of the closet he probably had no idea what a sacred act from God he was performing. He probably had no idea he was calling us out of a tabernacle, too. All gay men have Harvey to thank for convincing us to come out of the closet. Although what he advocated was honesty, sincerity and authenticity, this translates into the power of God's truth, His love and His plan as we watch it unfolding for us all day-by-day. Gay people are a manifestation of God's loving intentions in the flesh and for marriage to be a union of love between two people, not just a union of laws that don't take all people's feelings personally.

We don't have to take away rights to uphold rights. If you want to enter Heaven through a gate for heterosexual couples only I'm sure that, too, can be arranged. (But I suggest you look up the lyrics to Josh Groban's song "Home to Stay." It can be interpreted with a Christian spiritual connotation to suggest Jesus's understanding of the feelings of being misunderstood and far from God.)

Jews and Muslims don't have to major in love in the school of life; we can simply audit Christian classes. We've been appraising their lessons in love for a long time now, and it's not difficult to love a good Christian once you've audited his classes and learned about love directly from his Teacher. Access to Christian values wasn't previously available to Jews and Muslims in the same easy way it is today, so I suggest anyone interested in a well-rounded moral education learn about Christian love, and apply it liberally in his own life.

I, myself, pray with gay and straight Catholics in San Francisco on Sundays because their celebration of life is inclusive and respectful of my tradition and lifestyle. Their

inclusivity makes me even more loving of myself, my roots and my religious tradition. The good people I pray with can't wait for the day that Muslims come to pray with us, too. I recommend such spiritual classrooms where wisdom, love and generosity are models of respectful, Abrahamic traditions.

When non-Jewish men come to synagogue they're expected to wear a KEEPA {PRAYER CAP}. When I pray at church I stand and hold hands with the parishioners to show my respect for their tradition. And when I begin writing my next book on Islam I intend to respect Muslim traditions when in their house of prayer.

Many use feelings of self-righteous indignation and condescension to try to convey their proximity to the Lord. I prefer gay pride over arrogance. Pride is an expression of love for myself that allows others to feel good about themselves, too. Gays who are proud of themselves make space for more happiness to fill every room they enter. Gay magic is infectious, bringing the opportunity for greater goodwill and self-expression to everyone.

Some straight people are incensed by gay pride. It makes them unhappy and dispirited to see us both gay and happy. But their displeasure is really caused by their own guilt, not our misuse of our loving intentions. Trying to make us feel guilty for the way we love is only a clumsy attempt to magnify their own defiance and errors of judgment. We shouldn't take their self-loathing personally. Their embarrassment, shame and humiliation will never be transformed into greater modesty, humility and grace without pride, but that's precisely what they can't achieve.

Black power could give enormous power to white people. Gay pride could give enormous pride to straight people. Women's rights could magnify human rights. All you have to do is identify *as* that person and stop trying to identify *with* that person. This is the miracle of symbolism Jesus was trying to express in a world of Romans and Jews. This is the gift of symbolic logic.

The nice thing about sex is that after a day of working off embarrassment of your body with modesty; working off your shame of your personality imperfections with humility; and working off your humiliation for not treating yourself with greater self-loyalty overall – you can let your hair down in bed with the one you love. Unembarrassed, shameless and unapologetic sex is, by far, the best kind. It's the best way to let God know that you've spent every heavenly penny you earned that day for a roll in the hay before Him, and you're ready to go out the next day, pauper that you are in His kingdom, and do it all over again.

Life is a school, but little children test their parents, and adults do the same with God. Grown men think they think our Teacher has no recourse when they misbehave. But God let the neighbors you have move in next door. He gave you the boss you have, the traffic you dodge, and your in-laws. Face it. The game is rigged.



Making money is the only game some people want to play, but it's never about the money. Read the Bible again if you don't believe me. God cares more about one little piece of fruit than all the wealth in the world. He's playing with you to teach you, while you're probably playing with Him to cash out with more than you cashed in with. You can't take it with you. Even your penis will be left behind. Give thought only to the order of your priorities and your behavior will change naturally.

Your feelings are like liquids; they take whatever shape you pour them into. Your feelings need to be contained and properly poured out or they'll spill, spot, stain, tarnish, warp and corrode those around you. Your feelings leak out because no human container was made to be perfectly sealed. Exposure to your own toxic emotions won't kill you; in fact it will teach you to see how emotionally powerful your effect on yourself can be. Hire you to do your own emotional housekeeping and you'll discover what it takes to clean up the mess you may have inadvertently made inside you.

Moses used many plays on words especially in creating names for the characters in Torah. Here is but one example: The name "Adam" holds many inferences that hold poetic meaning in Hebrew. The feminine form of "ADAM" is "ADAMA." "ADAMA" mean "EARTH." "ADAM" is a part of "ADAMA." {God fashioned "man" out of "earth."} The word "DAM" means "BLOOD." There is DAM in every ADAM." {There is blood in every man.} The word "ADOM" means "RED." From within, ADAM is ADOM. {If you look inside every man you'll see red.}

When God breathed life into Adam He introduced the spark that set Adam aflame. This gives rise to the comparison of man to a spiritual clay oven with a fire inside it. Moses began his Creation Story with a character he named "Adam" after having given it much poetic license.

Thanks to Jesus; His obvious fluency in ancient Hebrew; and His choice in giving us the symbols of bread and wine that give rise to the container/contents concept – we can decode the more sophisticated interpretation of man as an oven with a fire inside him. Man is a clay oven with a fire inside in which he bakes spiritual bread with which he spiritually feeds himself and others.

Fast forward the "bread/wine" concept 2,000 years and we can claim man's thoughts as trains and his feelings as tracks being drawn by a steam engine. Without conscious understanding of the importance of symbolic logic and how we all adapt Jesus's message to our life, life is intolerably confusing, especially for children and those who are mentally challenged. For some God's message for today is simply too good to be true. For others it's just what they need to hear.

Until you can look at yourself from within and perceive all the intellectual trains crisscrossing your inner landscape, fueled by a fire that burns on a mysterious, invisible,

odorless gas called spirit, you'll never fully appreciate that model train set you had as a kid. Traveling on tracks of emotions, these inner trains take their cargo of facts to myriad destinations including the station called self-love. Without a personal experience of the modern metaphors and symbols that rule your life, you may not see the unfolding mystery of God's plan personalized just for you. Until you come to think of yourself metaphorically as a physical vehicle running on a spiritual, power source you'll never truly believe that the Jewish people and the land God gave us will be a light unto the nations.

The world must have this one country to remind us of the Hebrew meaning of Emanuel, that we're with God, not that, He's with us. His lessons are always teaching us more about our holy relationship to Him regardless of the pain or suffering it may cause us. And still there's enough wiggle room to say that there's more than one good way to get from partially holy to wholly holy. If the Jews were created as a light unto the nations, than surely one of our greatest, spiritual tasks must be to become the humble light that shines upon Christ's lighthouse of love that illuminates and protects all those still floundering in rough seas.

Outer beauty is the last layer of what makes you beautiful, the glaze that protects your spiritual clay. As important as your skin is as the filter that separates your inner, biological world from the physical world around you, without inner beauty you'd be indeed ugly to behold. What makes you really attractive isn't the glaze God gave you – your earthy, clay figure – but the fire within that He ignited. You should be amazed when you discover the passion in the common man, whether or not he can quote the Bible chapter and verse; whether or not he's even a believer in God. There is some wisdom in the heart of everyone. You only have to listen for it and you'll hear it.

Christianity holds no monopoly on Christ's love. The spiritual tower He constructed with His desire is the lighthouse of love that shines out unto the world. It's not a tower to earthly power, a conspiracy against God – a fallacy early Christians projected out on to the world. It's the duty of everyone, Jew and Gentile, to shine his light upon that tower to make sure His light is always shining out for the world to see far out at sea.

Jesus understood the spiritual challenge of adding His symbols to the metaphoric mix Moses motivated in us. He knew He had to present His message in a way that would lead all mankind toward self-understanding without souring the individual on himself. He had to give His followers the time and space to appreciate love as a spiritual force that moves from its source in inner space outward toward outer place. And He must have known from the betrayal of Judas that most would have to explore His path from the outside in. Loving ourselves isn't hard once we've proved to ourselves that we can love others.

The question Jesus asked at the very end of His life, "GOD, WHY HAS THOU FORSAKEN ME?" should be explored from a more loving perspective than our ancestors could envision. If love is the supreme emotional goal for all of us to achieve, then all other

positive feelings move us in the direction of self-love. Concern for all others; caring for friends; consideration of strangers; esteem of colleagues; respect for partners; and honoring aging parents are all proof that you require love from yourself.

If love is the combination of all the colors in the rainbow of hope then not everyone is going to be so gifted as to be able to express the full spectrum of loving light observed when white light is broken up as it moves through a prism. Everyone will exhibit color vision deficiencies in himself that mirror the atomic emission spectrum unique to each element. Every man allows white, spiritual light to pass through his uniquely fractured prism, and what he perceives on the other side is a spectrum of emotional colors interspersed with absorption lines. The lack of love in each of us becomes the signature pattern of who we are and why we are the way we are.

Every man on Earth is lonely. It doesn't matter how great his parents were or how many friends he has. His loneliness can't be wipe away with money, trophies or accolades from his peers. The depth of man's loneliness can't be bridged with sex, marriage or children. Loneliness is man's inner awareness of his unique spectrum signature, the rainbow he uniquely shines into this world that should motivate him to help manifest his hope in his own special way.

Your life isn't something you invent. It's something you unfold. Your signature is unique. The more you recognize your own process, the more your self-love will grow and the more you'll see how deep God's intention was in having created you.

The unique signature Jesus left on this world was a heavenly model of what a spectrum of love can look like. His rainbow of hope in the flesh was the first rainbow asked for and received in man's heart. But each of us has our own signature that's part human and part divine that also emits a powerful spectrum of loving qualities that we must learn to recognize and appreciate in ourselves, and through ourselves in all others.

There was a big difference between our patriarch father's sacrifice {Abraham} of his son {Isaac} and a Son's {Jesus} choosing to sacrifice Himself for His Father {God}. Jesus's gift was willingly given and gratefully received.

Wisdom illuminates love, and love warms wisdom. But generosity of spirit is the cool, distant light in the dark night that casts a dim, stellar glow. To see the reason for God having created a third Abrahamic faith you've got to learn how to discipline all the forces within you. Thoughts going one direction and feelings, another, require a moral authority that can spool them through your conscience. This makes it possible to discern between self-conspiracy and self-help. This will either add self-love to your story or merely further your practice of self-indulgence.

This world is a laboratory of love. If you read the textbook on love {New Testament} but don't go to the lab class {reality} to test out your theories, you're not going to get

enough out of your assignments. Everything you feel in your heart your head should test in your conscience before you believe it's a sign of God's love for you. If you don't copy the tough and tender strategies God used on the characters in Torah you're only going to spoil yourself and others. You won't prepare yourself for love.

Jesus was actually very Jewish. He was a peacemaker who looked for as many ways as He could to make love and avoid war. To identify as this Jew and not just with this Jew, you must graduate from the Creation Story to the Story of Cain and Abel, and listen to God's words from a new place in inner space:

“WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? LISTEN! YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD CRIES OUT TO ME FROM THE GROUND. NOW YOU ARE UNDER A CURSE AND DRIVEN FROM THE GROUND, WHICH OPENED ITS MOUTH TO RECEIVE YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD FROM YOUR HAND. WHEN YOU WORK THE GROUND, IT WILL NO LONGER YIELD ITS CROPS FOR YOU. YOU WILL BE A RESTLESS WANDERER ON THE EARTH.”

“CAIN SAID TO THE LORD, ‘MY PUNISHMENT IS MORE THAN I CAN BEAR. TODAY YOU ARE DRIVING ME FROM THE LAND, AND I WILL BE HIDDEN FROM YOUR PRESENCE; I WILL BE A RESTLESS WANDERER, AND WHOEVER FINDS ME WILL KILL ME.’ BUT THE LORD SAID TO HIM, ‘NOT SO. ANYONE WHO KILLS CAIN WILL SUFFER VENGEANCE SEVEN TIMES OVER.’” [Genesis 4:9-15]

The first thing to notice in this passage is that it ends with God addressing someone other than Cain. If He had been addressing Cain He would have said “ANYONE WHO KILLS YOU WILL SUFFER VENGEANCE SEVEN TIMES OVER.” This passage is yet another example of how God suddenly changes audience in His interactions with the characters of Torah. This passage is intended as a warning for the spiritual adult in us to discipline our spiritual inner child if we hope to avoid the harsh lessons that come from killing others in an effort to give of ourselves to God.

Cain wasn't just a murderer. He was also a liar. He knew where Abel was. And by avoiding God's question with a rhetorical question of his own, he demonstrated that he was a hypocrite as well. Adam personifies the spiritual infant who did the opposite of what he was told in defiance of God's ultimate authority. Cain represents the spiritual child, the head that conspires with desires directly, not via his heart. Once a man eliminates his heartfelt intentions from the equation entirely he becomes diabolical. He turns into a murderer.

The first son of man {Cain} was no gentle man. Cain questioned his Father rhetorically to avoid the truth not to discover it. All children are hypocrites with diabolical intentions who have to be taught to see through their own avoidance techniques. Children have to be taught to respond rather than react to authority. A child will use his head to get himself into trouble. And then he'll use his head to try to get himself out of trouble. A child will first

do something destructive and then something manipulative to conceal his destructive tendency.

Abel did nothing intentional or conspiratorial to hurt Cain. The fact that God preferred Abel's gift over Cain's was what really motivated Cain to kill his brother. That which you do from your heart will always be preferable to that which you do from only your head.

The helpless heart that's been stopped dead in its tracks from doing good can do no more than cry out to God for justice. Fortunately, God hears the cries of the innocent. But He also protected the guilty from the world taking out revenge. It's too easy to identify as Abel and justify unmerciful retaliation from those who've done us wrong.

Children need to be consciously taught to identify as both of these Biblical brothers. Before you can send a child to school you ought to teach him to acknowledge his undeveloped inner, little brother {Abel} and inner, big brother {Cain}. You should teach him how to differentiate between thoughts and feelings.

This second story of Torah teaches us to see ourselves as a god who has the task of raising two young sons without allowing one to hurt the other. Until you can internalize the Story of Cain and Abel as an inner struggle with yourself the New Testament sacrifice of God's Son for man's sins will make no sense to you.

God's initial response to Cain, "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?" becomes all the more interesting when you realize God knew all along what he'd done. God asked that question for Cain to reflect upon it, not because He was surprised or didn't Himself know what had happened. His second response, "LISTEN!" is equally telling. When someone is literally murdered, there's no voice coming from the victim any longer. There's nothing to literally listen for. But when these characters are interpreted as inner voices in you, it's very possible for you to listen and hear what your thoughts have done to your feelings. Once society has turned a boy into a talking head by condoning the repression of his emotions, it becomes almost impossible for him to listen more deeply for the voice in his heart, let alone to the wisdom of those around him.

Today, modern men are spiritually old enough and psychologically sophisticated enough to identify as both Cain and Abel. Because we can take the Bible personally, we can see ourselves mirrored in both boys. What makes the Torah brilliant and timeless is the subtlety of the character of God behaving differently in each story, and how God deals with each character like a parent who knows what's best for a developing child. Such wisdom is divinely inspired.

Around 1200-1050 B.C.E. the Twelve Tribes of Israel led by the descendants of the sons of Jacob {whose name God had changed to Israel} left Egypt and returned to the land of their ancestors, the territory known today as Israel, parts of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. During their civil war {931 B.C.E.}, those ancient Jews killed many of their own brothers

for which they received some harsh lessons from God through neighbors who waged brutal wars upon them. The spiritual lesson they derived from that was that when Jews kill other Jews, they abandon themselves in the sociological sense, even though God promised through His Covenant never to abandon them.

This lesson of loyalty to our tribe, however, wasn't yet in their bones. You could say that it was only skin-deep. About 1,000 years later some of the ancient, rich Jews of Palestine probably did conspire with the Romans to have Jesus crucified, thus repeating the mistake of Jew killing Jew.

The moral needs of each and every member of our tribe must be taken into consideration. When we separate ourselves spiritually from one of our brothers, we suffer until the lessons of unification have been learned by one and all. If Christian anti-Semitism taught us anything over the course of the past two millennia, it's that the lessons of unity among Jews will continue until we have it in the marrow of our bones. Even if our head can insist that a Jew has done us wrong, our heart must never abandon him. This applies to family, strangers and even deceased Jews like Jesus. Jesus did nothing any Jew should have any reason to be ashamed of.

Today we have the third dilemma facing the Jewish people. Because the recreation of the State of Israel has forced us into the position of having to defend ourselves from the Muslim world, and because Jews sometimes regrettably have to die in the process, God has involved everyone on Earth in our spiritual lessons. Everyone must take the death of every Jew personally because it brings into discussion the moral dilemmas of our time. For the world to come to believe in the sanctity of all life, the love of God for mankind must be brought into question even if Jesus wasn't literally our Creator. Only in questioning His motives in this way will man perceive every man as having a head, heart and soul.

Although Jews are living better today than ever before in history, the separation between rich and poor Jews is a moral issue the whole world must indirectly address as well. Only today, now that we have a nation of our own again, we can interpret class-consciousness worldwide as rich Jew/poor Jew issue.

As a light unto the nations, we've never been richer within than we are today. Therefore we have a moral responsibility to find ways to help poor Jews help themselves. {We must identify as the poor, not with them.} This must begin with Jews teaching each member of our own tribe how to spiritually thrive, so each one of us can participate in this plan. Peace in the Middle East is a Jewish duty to reveal the wisdom of Adonai. It's a Christian duty through their love for God. And it's a Muslim duty in bringing the generosity Mohammed mirrored in A L L A H who is their understanding of God.

Loyalty to yourself must come before your loyalty to your tribe. Faith in yourself must come even before your faith in God. God works through others to make Himself known to

you in order to teach you to love yourself. You can't invest your love or hospitality in a cause unless wisdom supersedes all other expressions of your allegiance. Your moral position can't take precedence over your heartfelt intentions, and your feelings and desire to do good can't override your wisdom.

You have the mark of Cain on you whether you know it or not. You have scars from God and your fellow man that proves you let your brother down. This mark isn't a scabby wound you hide with smiles so others won't know it's there. It's a guilty gash that reminds you of your debt to yourself. The Story Cain and Abel describes what should have happened between your head, heart and conscience when you were a child. Your head struggled with your heart over gifts you gave yourself, and your conscience chose to allow your head to win the argument. That's why you're as smart as you are. But today you have to decide for yourself who's going to win each argument and why. You have to develop your conscience as though it were a god holding power over a whole world, a world that lies within you.

The ancient Jews revolted against the Greeks a century and a half before Jesus when the Greeks tried to tell them how to pray. But the Jewish homeland was the only nation at that time that did so and won for which we celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah. When the Greek-Jewish children were forbidden from studying Torah, they took four-sided spinning tops {Yiddish: dreidels/Hebrew: SAVIVONIM}, which they spun when the Greek soldiers approached to make it look like they were playing games. But when the soldiers left, the children took out their Bibles and resumed their studies. Hanukkah is really the celebration of every child who loves learning. The miracle isn't literally about the oil in a lamp lasting eight days when it was only filled with enough oil for one.

Get real! What difference would that make to anyone in this day and age when we have electric lighting? The miracle of Hanukkah is about the light of learning that miraculously illuminates a child when you add love to learning. Learning is the force for good that evil cannot master.

There was no way my ancient ancestors could have won against the barbaric Romans who, unlike the Greeks, were so unreasonable. The Romans were at best unresponsive, at worst reactive. They were a barbaric race of men who couldn't conceive of love mastering man. But God, in His infinite wisdom, gave us a rabbi who started a movement that not only made it possible to defeat the Romans with His love. He was able to make the ancestors of ancient Rome world leaders of the Christian movement.

If God had really been that angry with original man for eating from His forbidden and sacred Tree in Eden, He surely would have abandoned, betrayed and conspired against each and every one of us, tortured and punished us without end. He would have made life a living Hell one generation after the next without hope for improvement.

But through the main metaphor of Moses, He gave every Jew, Christian and Muslim the free will to examine his actions to thereby come up with his own inspired reason for being. That struggle didn't end with the birth of Jesus; His presence only intensified God's notion of the importance of emotion.

Metaphorically we can know ourselves in the most Biblical, intimate sense of the WORD. But symbolically we can come to love ourselves just as God made us. That doesn't make the Hebrew Testament an unfinished work. Nor does it make the Christian Testament His final masterpiece. Yet, sadly, most Christians in the past looked down disrespectfully on the Old Testament, and most Jews held the same view of the New. Until we teach everyone in our Judeo-Christian culture to look up to both Testaments we're going to find it increasingly difficult to balance justice and mercy in ourselves.

Imagine God as not having to wait and see how you turn out in the end. Imagine He can judge you every moment and change your spiritual options in life second by second. Imagine He's not limited by any of His laws to wait until you die to reward or punish you. Imagine your parents as the first, great sculptors He brought you to shape you into who you are today. But imagine He's also helping you grow through layers of fear, anger and sorrow revealed indirectly in the Bible stories in the Book of Genesis you may have assumed were only for kids.

God has never forsaken His first chosen people. He guided us into becoming the sophisticated, spiritual tribe of teachers we've become today. Today, Jews and Christians are no longer working separately on the spiritual meaning of their lives. At last we're working together in getting the best possible grades in class by combining the knowledge we've gleaned about God from our separate departments in His school. This is a reward of faith from our Father that's bringing mutual cooperation and respect into our spiritual school despite the many pupils who prefer to lie and cheat their way to what they think are good grades.

Today, corporations are the cause of most environmental disasters. And political corruption wouldn't add to this problem if we all cared more about ourselves as scholars of life and less as amassers of money. You'd think it would be obvious to the entire student body that not even our religious leaders can solve the problems we're facing without greater insight into how we operate as human beings. Until our all our leaders come in off the quad and settle down in their seat to learn about themselves along with the rest of us, we're not going to really be able to say to our Teacher that we're ready for Him to send us another tutor as great as Jesus. We're going to have to continue to suffer many kinds of catastrophes that will only accentuate the moral difference between cooperation and conspiracy, self-love and selfish indulgence.



Our Teacher allows us to know as much as we need to know about the big picture to get the job done He wants done. He trusts us with as much knowledge as He wishes to reveal. The class curve has been made much harder this century because the intelligence of the student body has risen so high. Most everyone nowadays brings matters of his heart into his classroom discussions thereby increasing the frequency of quizzes in matters of the heart and heightening the moral meaning of His tests for one and all. Never before in the past 2,000 years has the message of Jesus been less talked about and more taken to heart than now. But there are still many in denial, dragging their heels by presuming science isn't the most important tool in our toolbox.

God's message can be discussed using psychological terminology rather than with religious dogma. His message has finally been democratized. Now, if only everyone would go inside and vote to say, "Know!"

The problem with secularism is that those who aren't willing to speak to God by name {Y.H.V.H. or Jesus or A L L A H} may not be giving themselves enough credit for their intuition and the synchronicity of their affairs. Intuition is the level of God-consciousness that has reached the auditory level of whispers within you. If you're hearing voices that are loud and clear telling you to do unkind things to others, see a doctor. You need medication and other forms of psychological assistance. But if you're hearing whispers within that wish to help you heal, that's normal. In fact, it's healthy.

Intuition lies beneath the everyday, conscious level of awareness. Intuition is comparable to the bump on the branch that eventually grows into a leaf or a bud. These bumps occur in the springtime of each day. You may not be aware of them until they unfurl into thoughts, impressions or a vision that there's something blossoming within you. But these transformations on your tree are spiritual opportunities to watch your nature grow. You don't even need to act on these minor awakenings. Just observe. The more you observe your nature, the more evident it will be when to prune, when to water and when to reap.

Jesus never gave anyone the impression that life was a game. He never said who'd be the winner and loser. From the outside, life should be a celebration with others, but from within it should be a Sunday school in session at all times. The better you do in the school within, the more joyously you'll be able to celebrate the world around you. If your life doesn't look like that just yet, ask for office hours with the Teacher to discuss what you can do to improve your work habits and cooperation. The subject you're enrolled in is always you. But how your attitude can change about each and every topic can always be up for discussion.

Jesus never forsook the ancient Jews, and He still stands in churches as a constant reminder that there's a rich, lazy Jew in each one of us conspiring to keep us from loving

ourselves. He reminds us that everyone is a potential scholar in this school and that school is always in session. Instead of using your conscience to remind the world about negative Jewish stereotypes, use it to remind yourself that that hook-nosed Jew lives in you. It's not the "devil." It's not your penis. It's not a serpent hanging down from the trunk of your tree. The beguiling voice in your head that's leading you away from yourself is a part of you that you've projected onto Jews or gays or blacks or women or whatever authority figure you despise.

If history has taught us anything, it's that Jesus graduated with the best grades ever from this institution of higher learning. When every Jew recognizes His importance to the whole class, we'll each do a better job of tutoring our classmates in other faiths and philosophies instead of kvetching about them under our breath.

The Passover meal we Jews celebrate in the spring is called a "SEDER." "SEDER" means, "ORDER" in Hebrew. We put the symbols of the Passover meal in a particular order to make sense of His story. But many Jews only go to the Passover meal physically prepared to eat. They don't come spiritually ready to consume something new about their relationship to the Jewish people that they didn't know before. To put the events of our ancestors in Egypt in order we have to learn to create SEDER in ourselves. Belittling the length of the Passover meal only exposes a deep laziness for greater meaning in life.

Jews who live only to eat; Christians who live only to die; and Muslims who live as though life is all already over - are missing the metaphors that give life greater meaning. Anyone who doesn't ask the important questions of life on a daily basis is going to be unprepared with the right answers when the Teacher gives him his final exam. It's easy to graduate. What's hard to do is leave with an enviable transcript. The spiritually lazy can't possible hope to achieve their dreams after life if they haven't achieved them day-by-day. Making your dreams come true forever is harder than it looks.

When you start out like a grape and the harsh heat of the Son turns you seemingly overnight into a raisin there's nothing about that experience that every other raisin can't see or identify with. The problem doesn't lie with the nature of grapes or raisins. The world is full of grapes hanging in bunches from vine, and they all think they're destined to become fine wine. The truth is that not every grape makes it into the vat. Not everyone is destined to be picked, crushed, fermented, bottled and savored. In some ways we all have to get used to the idea of being stuffed into a box with others like ourselves. We have to face our fate in particular circumstances. Sometimes you get to be a grape destined to become champagne; other times you have to be a lowly raisin. God has many plans for the fruit of His vines.

The same can be said of amber waves of grain. Sometimes you feel ground down with everyone else into social flour that mixes well and bakes up into loaves of CHALLAH {bread

baked for the Sabbath and holidays} that everyone loves. At other times you feel like you're being cut into uniform slices of white bread to sandwich others' interests. Jesus brought us answers so that we'd use them. Don't blame the gays or the Jews if you aren't practiced enough in using the symbolic logic He gave you.

Blasphemy {using the Lord's name in vain} is no different than calling people names. God gave us words to construct ideas we could bring to Him to discover the moral meaning of our lives. Using words destructively goes against His plan. If you denigrate individuals by associating them with groups to whom you've assigned negative stereotypes, it's not much different from pulling off the cloth that covers Christ's loins. It's disrespectful and distasteful. He didn't give His body to the world to see it dishonored, any more than God gave us language to use it to express our loathing of life.

Marriage equality is an argument that isn't worth having until you marry the various parts of yourself into one unified, mature, adult male. What's the point of spending your life trying to love someone else if you hate yourselves? You have to prepare yourself for marriage to another person by recognizing the need to first marry the forces within you. Debating the gender of your spouse is a red herring.

Trying to control others legally, socially or morally is motivated by not yet being ready to control yourself. Once you get started on managing all the feelings others bring up in you, you'll realize that managing others' expectations is just for practice.

Most Jews are scarecrows with enough brains that they know they really want the wizard to give them a heart. Most Christians are tin men with enough heart to secretly hope to be endowed with more in the way of courage. Most Muslims are lions with plenty of courage who really would rather trade it all in for some of the wizard's magic. And most wizards are like Dorothy. They just want to go Home. It's hard to use the brains you were given to perceive the heart you've already got and the brawn you're using that will give you the patience to stay put and do what needs to be done. Little girls and wise, old wizards could team up and get a lot more accomplished if they weren't in such a hurry to get out of here.

You can't simply appreciate what you have. You have to *learn* to appreciate what you have. Once you can accept the way you're becoming, it will be a lot easier to accept God's presence in your life. And once you can accept His presence, you'll be in the right place to forgive Him for what He had to do to you to get you to get onboard His plan. You're becoming a certain way to accomplish a certain task. The more you watch the process, the more you'll appreciate the mystery of your transformation. You won't have to be jealous or envious of what others have once you can perceive all that you're receiving.

Imagine that your life has a GoPro camera connected to it. Imagine that you're being recorded at all times and then given the opportunity each day to go back and review the

memorable moments using your mind's eye. From the vantage point of the observer, not the participant in your life, every vision of your day that comes to mind is selected by your conscience for you to view yourself through the lens of a stranger with a third-person perspective on yourself. Looking at yourself through this inner lens will give you a picture of yourself that may offend you, but you can still learn from it. If you ask yourself why your imagination chose that particular scene to bring to mind, you'll find that there's usually a quotation from your heart that goes with that picture that will reveal something about yourself you didn't know.

Memories of the past come to mind to give you the opportunity to see yourself as you once were to compare it to how you are now. If you don't use your memory to give yourself credit for how much deeper you feel about yourself now, you may lose your memory entirely. What's the good of having a memory if you don't use it? I've lost some of my hearing in middle age. But at least I now know it's because I never wanted to listen.

Pride is the gift God gave to gays to teach everyone the importance of being proud. It's a lot better than being arrogant. Your body is your closet. To come out of it at the end of life you must practice coming out every day with honesty, sincerity and authenticity. The more genuine your relationship with yourself, the easier it will be to come out of the tabernacle you find yourself in at the end of your days. And the easier it will be today to be frank with yourself. You don't have to be born handsome on the outside. You have to become attractive within. And nobody works on himself as diligently as a queen.

The King doesn't enlist the help of queens and Jewish princesses in His court without good reason. The lords and ladies should know that and do their best to respect the royalty in their midst. We're all here to teach tenderness. Even the court jesters strive for tender, not tough, love. (You might like to look up the lyrics to the song "Tenderness" by Paul Simon for his wisdom on the topic.)

Praying is a misunderstood concept because people either pray so infrequently or so routinely that they really don't give good consideration to where they're coming from. By asking God for a way to get you through a particular class He enrolled you in without discounting the importance of your overall spiritual education, you have to understand the complexity of the subject you're studying. When your head {I} talks to your heart {you} about your conscience {he} the three of them have developed an inner conversational style that will make prayer truly meaningful to all of you.

Knowledge of the self led Jesus onto the path of the wisdom of His heart. In the Hebrew Testament it states, "FOR WISDOM WILL ENTER YOUR HEART AND KNOWLEDGE WILL BE PLEASING TO YOUR SOUL." [Proverbs 2:10]

The man for whom knowledge is pleasing to his soul is in the process of learning that learning about himself is the essence of creating self-love. To know you is to love you.

Most people do want to do the inner work that transforms the way they feel about themselves. They just haven't had tutors who understand the Teacher's lessons with personal enough understanding of our three great Tutors {Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Mohammed}.

It's takes longer to transform society when the self-ignorant are determined to tutor everyone other than themselves. Don't be someone like that. Lecture yourself, not others. Point the finger at you, not them. Discipline yourself, and then watch as you see yourself move out of neutral into drive and your vehicle jumps forward. All you have to do to change gears is to ask yourself questions rather than simply sit inside listening to your thoughts drone on without end.

Distance from yourself produces loneliness, which eventually turns into self-loathing if you don't treat loneliness at its source. Only the joy of self-love turns your loneliness into solitude. When you enter and occupy your inner world with curiosity, you discover solitude; you discover there's someone beautiful there inside with you in your head, and it isn't God. Questioning begins a conversation between your head, heart and soul. Questioning what you're thinking brings "I," "you" and "he" from the outside into "me." That's how you relieve loneliness from the inside in.

When the feeling of loneliness that leads to self-loathing is ignored year after year, you eventually experience emptiness. Emptiness is the awareness that you're a container you haven't filled with love. Emptiness is a hollow feeling that leaves you hungry for something to fill the black hole you created inside yourself.

You can't live outside yourself in your own backyard and convince yourself you're at home. You're outside yourself. You're locked out of you. You're close, but oh so far away.

People who don't use metaphor and symbolism consciously are more likely to suffer from mental, emotional or spiritual uneasiness. They're more likely to assume they're all by themselves in this world when they're really homeless inside, just far enough outside themselves to feel the utter frustration and angst of not having the key to get back in. You don't have to literally be a homeless person to feel like one.

Cynicism and scorn of poetry is the greatest cause of suffering in the world. Life isn't as prosaic as people like to think. Now is the time for you to glean the most you can from each and every word in the Bibles and Quran. These are the greatest poetic resources given to the Western hemisphere. Poetic justice is the way God teaches us everything we learn about our true nature. He speaks to us in rhyme, and we translate that into prose thinking simple sentences would be easier for us to understand. We depend on science and throw away religion. Only once you have the key to Torah from the main metaphor of Moses will the symbolism of Jesus and the similes from the Prophet Mohammed orient you to seeing how much this world makes spiritual sense.

People are becoming a lot smarter, passionate and productive as they expand their inner transportation system with faster trains of thought and slicker tracks of feeling. The spiritual riches you're earning will help get your spiritual goods to market in a timely manner. You'll suddenly see that nothing is coincidental. The loyalty you're achieving from using the spiritual marketplace of ideas isn't only the consequence of the deeds you do for others. You're growing more loyal to yourself as the result of your inner effort to engage with yourself.

Society is rapidly changing, and money alone isn't going to help you keep up with these changes. A new smart phone isn't going to make you smart enough if your inner operating system isn't being served. Today's technology is a mirror of advancements that are taking place in everyone's spiritual device. The world's religions are the last place they may be talking about this, but if the leaders of the Abrahamic faiths do upgrade religion from the outside in to the inside out, these institutions will be in a position to serve the spiritual needs of their people better than they did in the past.

Love is associated with the human heart because the experience of our heartbeat is an inner throb that began when we were fetuses in the womb. Birth brought the first spiritual question into your life, "Where did that second heartbeat go?" Your birth was your first experience of separation anxiety from your mother when you rediscovered her heartbeat outside her womb. The cutting of her umbilical cord was the next cause for inner disorientation due to an outer trauma. In addition to creating a physical scar, separation from your mother at birth also created an emotional scar, a worry about getting your emotional needs met in this world after her heartbeat became intermittent.

This is standard operating procedure for all of us. The first tabernacle was your mother's womb, and coming out of it physically happened a lot more quickly than getting out of it emotionally and spiritually. You're still working on those challenges, as are we all.

Love from one Jewish Son may have been recorded historically as a gift to the whole world, but His love of life surely included assisting His mother who was so human. The mother/Son relationship glorified by Christianity has been democratized to every mother and son today. And that relationship is nowhere more evident stereotypically than between a gay, Jewish son with his mother. If you're ashamed of looking gay or Jewish in the ways you treat your mother, don't be surprised if your mission in life suffers for it. It's not only a gift to treat your mother as though she were a Jewish mother. It honors you to treat her as though you were her gay son.

If you need to look grown up in other people's eyes, don't project that onto gays or Jews as so many are fond of doing. The truth is that if you're not helping your aging mother

update her spiritual, operating system, you're not doing a spiritual job that needs to be done.

A conservative should be someone who wants to move forward cautiously. A progressive should be someone who wants to move forward more quickly. The difference between the two should be speed, not direction. Those who oppose helping the poor have ground our government to a halt and would take us in the direction of destruction if they could. Money is not the object. Your penis is the object.

Jesus brought the emotional component of mercy into the religious sphere of justice. Mercy hinges on self-sorrow. Without conscious awareness of yourself having to drag your sorry self through life, you won't be able to make morally sound decisions about each step you take. Being a modern man is a deeply sorrowful experience for many reasons, not least of which is because feeling sorry for yourself is so scorned nowadays. Being honest about your feelings for yourself will make you more of an individual and less of a consumer of the canned or frozen emotions society brings to market. Some days it's a piece of cake being you. Other days it's like swallowing overcooked spinach.

Give yourself permission to tell your heart that you're nicer than some of those you see around you. Give yourself permission to feel sorry for yourself once in a while when you just don't have the love to give. There are so many feelings you could permit yourself without letting a word escape your lips. Give yourself a little wiggle room by allowing you to feel some of those feelings society tells you are forbidden, undesirable or weird, like self-intimacy and self-love.

During the terrible twos the infant begins to express his disappointment with his mother and expresses his need to find another way of behaving other than the paths she's presented him with. Over the course of the next few years, he confirms his theory that there's something he's looking for that's elusive that he concludes no woman will ever be able to give him. It isn't usually until he's an older adult that he discovers that the source of his yearning wasn't male or female. It was something personal he had to find from within. It was a pathway inside himself that was there all along.

This creates the tears you shed for yourself that no one can shed for you. It isn't usually until very late in life that most men admit that what they were always yearning for was a feeling they'd refused to give themselves. Call that feeling joy. Joy is a combination of happiness and sorrow, rapture and regret.

Nobody would think of buying himself a box of chocolate on Valentine's Day to celebrate his self-love. No man wants to be his own prince charming, especially not a gay man. No gay man wants to have sex with a guy whose idea of foreplay is kissing himself all over.

Male vanity is more odious to us than the female variety. And yet there are many men who woo themselves with material temptations that they're eager to show off. They'll buy themselves boy toys such as sports cars, tickets to sports games and cool electronic devices that reward them with things that act as symbols filled with feelings for themselves.

You're already engaged with someone special. You're already with the one you want to be with for the rest of your life. But you may have doubts that this is your match made in heaven because *he* can be so difficult to live with sometimes. It's not about who you take to bed, but who's there with you in bed when you're alone that counts. You have to move past the desire to be handsome, and discover whether you find yourself attractive, instead.

After you've charmed yourself with expensive gifts; enthralled yourself with nights on the town; and captivated your senses with good food and fine wine - remember that a good opinion of yourself is what you're working for. Vanity is something we all have to deal with.

Vanity, conceit, jealousy and envy are the four chambers of every man's heart. We all have a bad heart that we're learning how to make good. God created us this way, and He only sent Jesus to teach us about wisdom of the heart once we had the basics in place.

You have to allow yourself the luxury of feeling sorry for yourself once in a while. Being you without a break for a whole lifetime can get tiresome at times, especially when you find yourself in pain or suffering. The lessons of life just keep coming, and that can be dispiriting. Every day there's more drilling going on in your head to get further through the granite wall. There's more diving down into the depths of your heart to get to the deepest part of you. There more evidence all the time that what goes up must come down because we all fell into this world, and we're all trying get back up out of it.

Wisdom is hard to achieve. Feeling sorry for yourself is reasonable when you take responsibility for everything that happens to you. And becoming soulful is a natural consequence of life. Children should be made aware of these universal truths at an early age.

Sadly, society has turned self-sorrow into an emotional taboo because it involves guilt. When men will learn how to feel sorry for themselves because of all the assignments they've missed, homework undone, quizzes failed and tests they never came to class to take, they'll be better able to discipline themselves without dipping into denial. Wisdom of the heart begins by solving emotional problems with self-sorrow rather than anger and frustration with others.

As a rabbi versed in Torah, Jesus must have sympathized with the terror of utter abandonment baby Moses experienced in his ark on the Nile when his mother was forced to abandon him. Jesus knew that God doesn't abandon or betray anyone. He doesn't



conspire against us. He doesn't get angry or incensed with us for our behavior toward one another or over our opinion of Him when things don't go our way. He isn't vindictive when He forces us into physical, emotional or spiritual experiences that leave us with new, negative impressions of ourselves. Vengeance is His because He doesn't use it. He teaches us instead. He gives us lessons that are meant to enlighten, warm, purify and provide answers to the mystery of who we are. No matter how we choose to respond to each lesson of life we're given, they're all intended to enlighten and improve us.

Unless you learn to include matters of your heart in solving your challenge in being yourself, you'll never appreciate the depth of Jesus's WORDS. His WORDS have echoed over the course of the past 2,000 years telling us that anyone can overcome the Roman barbarian within him with self-love. There is an Italy in everyone. His message is timeless, and although all messages that are timeless are eternal, all messages that are eternal come from a place not everyone is willing to acknowledge as ideal: the heart of man.

His story is the history of love learning to work together with the laws of man, a right and left hand experience that are part of a ten-finger embrace of the moral intentions of God's universe. The fracture of Christianity into three big pieces, and the crumbling of Protestantism into very tiny pieces is historic evidence of what happened to Jesus's heart. This is the personification of the heart of the Jewish people that was broken, then fractured and then crushed for the sake of humanity. His heart is our heart. His story is a big part of our story. If you love Him your love is as universal as it is personal. If you like what He said, His message is as real as yours. But if you dislike Him, your dislike of Him could only be a projection of something you disdain and disown in yourself.

Whether or not you happen to love or loathe yourself in any given moment, you still have the opportunity to watch as both grow. It's only when you're apathetic to yourself that you turn into petrified wood. It's indifference of you that breaks, fractures and splinters your heart. It's boredom with yourself that sours your opinion of you like bad wine.

The word for "water" in Hebrew is "MAYIM." The word for "life" in Hebrew is "CHAYIM." Both words are in the plural suffix form for nouns in Hebrew {IM}. These words therefore should literally be translated as "WATERS" and "LIVES." The ancient Israelite realized that waters could be divided and reunited without leaving scars. Waters could be poured into any container and they would take the shape of that container. The same can be said of life. Your life is made up of many lives that can be separated and reunited in your imagination as seamlessly as this physical characteristic occurs with water. You reshape your lives as naturally as you pour waters into a glass.

The Star of David is a symbol of your struggle with yourself. The arrow pointing to the heavens {father} is your struggle for wisdom, and the arrow pointing toward the Earth

{mother} is your struggle for love. The Star of David is the emblem of every child because every child is a new combination of Heaven and Earth, male and female, wisdom and love.

The crucifix takes you in all four directions within yourself: head (N), penis (S), heart (E) and soul (W). Your struggle being you and loving you is like a Star of David with a crucifix inside it.

To appreciate the symbols of Islam, the crescent and star, you must first see this world as bathed in God's light directly by day and indirectly by night. The sun's light is reflected at night in a consistent pattern on the face of the moon to remind us that the sun is always shining. The poetic importance of the crescent and the star is a reminder of the various ways God's light comes to us at night, directly from the stars and indirectly from the sun. It asks us to imagine the sun, Earth, moon and stars from a distant place in inner space.

Seeking God in the light of religious practice isn't enough. Seeking Him in the darkness of your personal struggle is the real challenge. It's only the illumination of the wisdom and warmth of your love that enlightens you to the challenge to seek His presence from within where it's dark indeed. Only men who love God from within will be able to put down their guns and make peace with their brothers. The rest will continue to find reasons to fight for their piece of the light.

The Muslim name for their religion "I s l a m," means "s u b m i s s i o n." Submission requires a universal view of a plan that includes Y.H.V.H., Jesus and A L L A H. Until the Muslims enter the world of spirit humbly to learn from their older brothers (as did Mohammed), they'll continue to receive the terribly tough-love lessons they're dealing with in this, the springtime of their year. Submission to being the third son is a unique and special, spiritual task that shapes Western man into an Abrahamic man.

Of the seven Noahide laws that describe God's covenant with those who don't believe in the Ten Commandments, the sixth is profoundly troubling. {The prohibition of eating flesh taken from an animal while it is still alive.} The rabbis clearly saw ancient man as barbaric, savage and wild. For it to have been necessary for God to bind man to such a law exemplifies how primitive a man's nature could be. We saw that utter disregard for the sanctity of life with the Romans at the time of Jesus. We saw it with Christians during the Holocaust. And we see it today with Muslim terrorists who torture and behead their enemies to get closer to Israel where the Jews are. Those of us who love God and love life let the animals disembark our inner ark two-by-two. We learn to embrace each creature in the natural world by coming to identify as it. We're symbolically united with the world around us. We see ourselves in every animal on Earth, and we wouldn't want to hurt a fly.

On the other hand for God to have given the world the seventh Noahide law {The requirement to maintain courts to provide legal recourse.} we see His optimism shining through our darkness. To go from one law prohibiting eating animals while they're alive

to another requiring legal systems to try offenders who break the law is a sign from God that He's got a plan based on hope, and that that plan is in place.

If not for the symbols of bread and wine that Jesus gave His Jewish disciples who so capably conveyed them to posterity, it's doubtful the world would be as spiritually advanced and as emotionally heartfelt as it is today. Needless to say, we still have a long way to go because of all the misshapen hearts out there. But we have to give credit where due for the enormous progress we've made thanks to Rabbis Moses and Joshua. If not for Them it's absurd to think we'd create a beautiful world with only the words of Mohammed as our guide.

It's intellectually easy to agree that you're a spiritual substance infused for a period of time in a physical container. It's emotionally easy to see that your feelings are an emotional substance you have the ability to pour into imaginary vessels that keep your feelings contained. It's easy to compare man's spirit to an invisible gas and his feelings to a semitransparent liquid. It's far harder to learn to control your instincts, urges and desires through faith, believing that there's a method to God's plan being elucidated through you.

We all intuitively know there are three parts to life:

1. Our physical life, which often doesn't become precious until we experience the separation from it called pain.
2. Our emotional life, which often doesn't become precious until we experience the separation from it called suffering.
3. Our spiritual life, which often doesn't become precious until we experience the possibility of separation from it called death.

Knowledge of these three physical, emotional and spiritual states of life {pain, suffering and death} can be separated and reunited in your imagination as seamlessly as the three states of water {steam, water and ice}. But even though these three states of being don't always leave physical scars, they frequently leave psychological scars that must be healed in a unique way that God has planned just for you.

God has inconveniently projected your loneliness, emptiness and exclusion onto the natural world. Watch the fog crawl; listen to the brook babble; and ice crackle - and you'll witness the suffering waters make as they move through these three states of being. You don't have to experience pain, suffering or death alone if you learn to see the poetic clues to your purpose. God is with you at all times. If you could have used science to appreciate that the sun still shines at night, you can discover the poetry and purpose in His plan.

Every hard-working spiritual scholar of life gleans wisdom from pain; love from suffering; and loyalty to God - when he sees how his story intersects with history. John baptized Jews in the Jordan where the fish from the Sea of Galilee were making their way

to the Dead Sea. He submerged the Jews in water to identify with the world below the world of spirit, the world of feelings. But, like the fish in the Jordan that seemed to sense the gradual salification of the water as they neared the Dead Sea, every man begins to realize that death is only the end of life in the three states of being we're familiar with. If you identify as having once been like a fish in the Sea of Galilee that swam downstream through the Jordan River to the Dead Sea, you can use your inner Israel, your personal STRUGGLE WITH GOD, to replicate that spiritual space within yourself now, and leave the hereafter for after.

Curiosity is the process of questioning with your mind. Wonder is the process of questioning with your heart, and marvel is the process of questioning with your soul. The more you question life from all three inner spaces, the more you'll desire to do your part to achieve a more useful place in His plan.

Salt is associated with wisdom and awareness, but salt is also a sign of the end of life's journey. As you shrivel up with age, you become spiritually dry and salty. You see for yourself how every plum withers up and slowly turns into a prune. The loss of water {life} isn't the end of hope, provided you can preserve yourself with salt {wisdom}. Salt was once a monetary commodity in and of itself. It was once an unwritten rule that the older you got the saltier you got. The truth is that the more time you spend within yourself drinking up the beauty of your life the saltier you get.

If you're Christian you live in an Israel whether or not you live in Israel. If you're Christian you're in a diaspora of your own, a journey outside Israel and at the same time in Israel. You're compounding His story with your story, and you're coming to believe in our Land of Milk and Honey with a personal conviction as great as ours.

Live like there's a rabbi inside you who's fishing you out of your inevitable fate into conscious awareness of your destiny. The real kings of the Jews never were our kings, but our rabbis. If you put yourself in the place of the Roman governor, Pilate, and ask whether Jesus was the king of the Jews you'll first have to admit that the only title Jesus ever answered to was rabbi. Rabbi Joshua was, ironically, the greatest king of the Jews, not David or Solomon. There are no synagogues where we Jews pray to our kings or our rabbis, but that's what makes us different from Christians. They pray to God; His Son, the rabbi; His mother; and countless saints. They've created a spiritual arch with the base in this world and God as the keystone.

Hell is no longer a place some go to after life. It's become an inner psychological state we're all earning our way out of consciously day-by-day. Hell is the darkness visible that we sense inside where we're overwhelmed with fear of guilt. Hell is the process by which our conscience turns into a soul. Hell is necessary for inner ripening. Self-scrutiny leads to

curiosity. Curiosity leads to wonder, and wonder, to marvel. Hell becomes heaven when you face your fear of guilt and you reveal to yourself what you're really thinking.

When you admit you were never handed any answers, that you had to face the three stages of guilt {embarrassment, shame and humiliation} to learn what you now know about modesty, humility and grace, you should be able to admit how hard you've worked for every answer you got. You should question the principles of the Principal with curiosity rather than with contempt for our school.

Sometimes you have to struggle through the wrong answer in order to replace it with the right one. Sometimes you can have the right answer, but self-doubt and uncertainty keep you from enjoying the truth. And sometimes you just have to admit to yourself that can't do it alone. You have to raise your hand and ask the Teacher to come over and give you a hand.

Any problem you can work out on your paper at your desk will save you from having to go to the board to work it out in front of the class. This will avoid public humiliation, which is a very painful way to learn. It's ultimately *your* conscience you have to experience ripening into a soul, not *mine*. There's no such thing as plastic fruit in the spiritual sense. Everyone is real, even though many are wooden and tasteless.

God brought our Muslim brothers into our spiritual classes 1,400 years ago, giving them many good seats in class from which to see the board. As the youngest class in His school they've needed to be under our watchful eye, but we've done very little to help them consciously understand the school of life from our spiritual perspectives. That's why there's so little patience and understanding between the Abrahamic faiths today. When Judeo-Christian men in America will start exploring our young Islamic brothers' curriculum with greater spiritual curiosity, we'll all get a better look at the metaphors, symbols and signs we live by, and our classroom will become more pragmatic, ideal and real. Each of us will become more soulful, loving and wise. The wars will end and the questioning will begin.

The power Jesus possessed may have come from God, but modern Christians don't yet want to talk about Him as a Jew with a circumcised penis, a scrotum and a bottom his mother had to wipe clean for the first few years of His life. Pictures of Him on the cross politely cover up His crotch, and Christians have avoided considering the body of Christ in its entirety. They want to identify with His pain and sorrow, but they don't want to have to identify with those parts that made Him as human and male as the rest of us.

The question to ask isn't, "Who killed Jesus?" The better question to ask is "Why?" Christians know so little about His tribe; the Jewish scribes He chose to write His story; and the traditions the Jewish people have faithfully held for millennia. Christians are missing the source of His importance, the sacred feelings of embarrassment, shame and

humiliation He transcended with ideal modesty, humility and grace to reach our Father's heart in a way that had never been achieved before by any Jew before Him, or anyone since.

Promoting others to love their neighbors as themselves isn't worth doing unless there's something in it for you personally. You've got to discover something about yourself in the process that makes it spiritually worth the effort and personally rewarding if you'd like to get others to choose to behave better. That reward can only lie in self-seeking, not the arrogance of succeeding in controlling others' behavior to your own.

If you want to reward yourself for what you're personally doing for your neighbors, it makes sense to use the model of self-love Jesus created to improve your opinion of yourself in your own eyes. That means, in part, you ought to give yourself credit for what you do for your neighbors, and not wait for them to get around to crediting you themselves. Those who use only the letter of the law to determine their actions may claim to believe in the importance of the Hebrew Testament as the source of their illumination, but they don't yet know how to use the WORD of God to manifest and express their own warmth to and for themselves.

Jesus's interpretations of our Hebraic teachings and traditions weren't a departure from the WORD of God but a deepening of them. Many men are like fish in the Sea of Galilee in that they're unconsciously swimming downstream. They don't realize how submerged they are in feelings of hatred and vindictiveness that are slowly pickling them. They're unconsciously ashamed of having to be human at all, as though having been enrolled in this school is a stain on their good name. They have no idea why they're really here and too terrified of the feeling of guilt to find out. They need to catch themselves with nets and fish themselves out as the Disciples did. They need to repeat Jesus's WORDS to themselves with a depth of communication with themselves they haven't yet heard within. If they could think about the honey of life, conscious awareness of the wisdom of their own heart, they could make their way across their Jordan without literally holding His hand. If you've seen it, you know it's not a wide or deep river, but more like a stream. Then, like Jesus, they, too, could be borne into a Holy Land filled with promise.

Man's heart is a vineyard, while his body is a great plain. The fruits of his vines become especially intoxicating when shared with himself. He can get drunk on being alive; on being in love; on becoming a parent; and on making a good living - but a man must discover the wine cellar within before he can open a bottle and share a glass of joy in being himself with the Lord. It's one thing to make the claim that you know God. It's quite another to be able to say you enjoy a drink with Him in an inner happy hour you have at the end of each day.

God isn't always with you. By that, I don't mean that He's against you. I mean that your sense of His presence may come and go. Like a small child, your mind sometimes

wanders away, and when you get lost or scared, you instinctively look around and run back to Him for comfort like a child out on an adventure with his father.

Fear of the Lord comes from fear of guilt. You must admit to Him how you feel about gays, Jews, and everyone in between. Tell yourself everything that irritates you about people in the privacy of your heart. Let your conscience have the day off {so long as you give your mouth the day off as well}. Don't judge yourself too harshly for how you feel; only how you behave. Allow yourself to celebrate the liberty of feeling freely. Nobody needs to know how you really feel, and God will never tell.

Once you've earned the freedoms of spiritual adulthood it's time to learn about liberty. Once you liberate your heart from your head you'll never be able to thank yourself enough. You'll be able to tell yourself how you feel without having to tell another living soul. And with that appreciation of self-intimacy, you'll seek greater emancipation in the sight of the Lord. You'll yearn to become genuine in what you think; how you feel; and what you believe to be true about every individual you meet. You won't need to use stereotypes to judge your classmates for the study groups God assigned them to. You'll be able to judge each and every one individually. You'll be able to keep your opinions to yourself.

Terrorists don't understand this process. They haven't been given permission from God to liberate more than their negative emotions. Terrorists die without ever knowing joy. They're born spiritually deaf and blind like the rest of us, but they leave the same way they came. They're terribly tragic people who, I fear, will never get a second chance. The world to come will be a reward for awakening, not a consolation prize for your negative opinions about others.

God's participation in the life of the ancient Jews before the time of Jesus was as real as it is today, but there were so many then who had to be emotionally carried by stronger, spiritually wiser Jews than themselves. They weren't emotionally old enough yet to walk on their own. Today's scholars of life know they have no right to be emotionally or spiritually carried. And they know there isn't a pill, a swill, a smoke or a toke that will carry them to their destination. They're learning to get there by themselves.

The point of leaving Egypt was that the Israelites were going to go with God. They could have left the land of pharaohs without Him had they tried. They could have gone south or east if they'd wanted to avoid the seas. And the point of having been given the choice of staying or leaving Babylonia 500 years later was that those Jews then realized they'd be with God whether they were in Iraq or Israel. The message that Jesus brought another 500 years hence as the Jews were facing slavery under Roman occupation for the third time in History was that they would be doing God's work wherever He chose for them to go.

Jesus brought us a message from God that hadn't been previously considered: love as an emotional bond to ourselves that purifies us in a way different from wisdom. But Christianity is the bread and table wine of a spiritual feast; it's never going to be the whole meal. There's more to God-consciousness than can be found in Christianity even if you add Judaism in. Islam holds a third of the recipe.

“ADONAI” means “MY LORD” in Hebrew. Adonai is a euphemistic name that refers to Y.H.V.H. ELOHENU means “OUR GOD” in Hebrew. The name of God when He introduced Himself to Moses {Y.H.V.H.} and the generic name of God in Hebrew {ELOHENU} who we all share are one and the same.  $1 + 1 = 1$

The Shama Prayer is considered to be the most important part of prayer for observant Jews. It comes from Deuteronomy 6:4 and is linked with reaffirming a personal relationship with God's rule. The entire prayer is only six words long {SHEMA ISRAEL, ADONAI, ELOHENU, ADONAI ECHAD {Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one}. This prayer makes the odd claim that ADONAI/ELOHENU/ADONAI are one.  $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$

The iteration of:

- |                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1. God's name                 | ADONAI  |
| 2. His function               | ELOHENU |
| 3. The repetition of His name | ADONAI  |

infer a three-step spiritual process that brings God-consciousness to you through personal awareness of His presence:

1. From within
2. Out into the world
3. From the experiences that you then assimilate within

When you measure God's effect in your life in this way you can watch yourself grow. This is a measurable, spiritual process that improves with practice. It doesn't have to remain a mystery controlled by religious dogma. This spiritual process, expressed mathematically as  $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$ , holds a different mystery from the message inferred in the Christian idea of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

There are plenty of people today who look with scorn at physical love between two men. They see this form of love as something that can never literally bud and blossom fruitfully with the creation of a child. But man's desire for children has been greatly influenced over millennia by losing children to accidents, wars, disease and pestilence. Today, thanks to the field of medicine, there are so many more children in the world, and many more of them are well protected. Today we need people who can interpret the meaning of being fruitful and multiplying in other ways than by making babies. We need



to severely reduce the number of people on the planet and dramatically increase the quality of life that each produces.

A man's thoughts grow like branches on trees. His love grows like vines. And his physical reliance on society grows like a field of wheat whose undulations can be seen in the breeze. But the fruits of each of these botanical metaphors are quite different. A man needs an orchard, vineyard and field to be spiritually enlightening to himself. Babies, children and adolescents learn naturally, but even they need to learn that all knowledge is given for spiritual self-scrutiny. If you teach children that knowledge is only needed to make money or gain power you're doing them a disservice.

The physical love of men for other men is actually a miraculous, spiritual achievement. It's not a new attraction, but newly acknowledged as real, personally meaningful and even sacred. The idea that a man would love men so much that he'd become physically attracted to them is an advancement in the nature of man's spiritual ease with God, not a perversion from it. Granted, not every man is going to love his brother the same way, but attraction to men comes in many forms. Some straight men are attracted to men who are athletic. Others are attracted to men with special skills. Some find a man attractive based on his intellectual prowess or skills in attracting a mate. The love of man for men is different for each one of us. It doesn't have to be a physical attraction to be attractive. Any man who'd rather celebrate life with his brothers than kill them is moving in the direction of self-love.

If you don't agree that God allows this world to be the way it is you're only going to conclude that either we've lost control or that He's lost control. It's only when you entertain the idea that God lets things happen that happen so we can learn from the way it's turned out, that you can decide for yourself how you're personally going to behave in the next moment in time.

"Do unto others what you'd have others do unto you." Just don't use The Golden Rule to rationalize being a busybody. If people want to live their life differently from the way you do, that should be none of your business unless it physically threatens you. Your emotional or spiritual angst is nobody's business.

We can regulate, standardize and set healthy patterns for others to emulate using the moral rights of society over the religious conventions of members of society. We can live and let live, and love and let love. If we believe that our physical survival will be negatively affected by other people's behavior, then we can create laws to limit their behavior. But if you believe that your spiritual life will be negatively affected by other people's behavior get over yourself. Their grades aren't going on your report card. If you believe the Teacher is going to punish you for what they're doing in class, discuss your assumptions with Him. We all have the right to learn at our own pace unless we're physically affecting the class curve.

Get the best grades you can, graduate with honors, and be well. You don't have the right to tell others how to live their life just because your nose is offended by the way they smell. God allows this world to be the way it is so we can use today as a foundation upon which to build a new today, tomorrow. If you want your tomorrow to look different, place more of your faith in God. Don't try to force a change of beliefs on others.

It says in Torah that pork is unclean. "AND THE SWINE, BECAUSE IT DIVIDES THE HOOF, YET CHEWS NOT THE CUD, IT IS UNCLEAN UNTO YOU. YE SHALL NOT EAT OF THEIR FLESH, NOR TOUCH THEIR DEAD CARCASS." [Deuteronomy 14:8]

And yet, if I choose to break that law by eating pork does it become your job to outlaw pork? If you don't want me to eat pork who's got the problem? Get your eyes out of my plate. What I eat literally and spiritually is between me and God unless my intake has a physical effect on your wellbeing. Only those who try to stop me from eating my spiritual meal, whether that's forbidden fruit or the Lord's Supper, are crossing a line that infringes on my right to consume whatever I please.

The AIDS epidemic was the unfortunate consequence of gays playing with fire. We didn't realize we could be burned so badly just by having a little fun with our friends. But that lesson taught us how to care for our buddies in times of need in a way that had previously been relegated, by and large, to women. Loving a man sexually, with only casual regard for the essence of his being and all that lies beneath a skin-deep attraction to him leads to a burn from your own flame, a level of pain and suffering that gays of a certain age know all too well. We didn't know better then, but we do now.

The illumination and heat of the flame of gay love holds spiritual attributes and worldly experiences that are applicable lessons for all humanity. We can teach men how to appreciate the essence of male love without a straight male having to fear becoming queer. I wouldn't want to end up straight, so I can imagine a lot of guys would just hate it if they thought they had to become gay. Like the Jews, we gays are a minority that has a responsibility for scrutinizing the behavior of own tribe while working with everyone for the good of us all. Like the Jews, we don't like when outsiders come in and start telling us what we can and can't do. And like the Jews we're here to stay whether the world likes us or not.

Gay men might be able to teach you more than you now know about self-knowledge, and that might bring you through a wider range of emotions you already feel for yourself. If you only rely on women to nurse your emotions when you feel sad or depressed, you're outsourcing a job that could and should be done in-house. Until you can contain your feelings for yourself, you'll look for love in all the wrong places. Gay men could teach you more about self-acknowledgment through pride, and we could do so in a way that would lead you into your heart, not ours. Loving the man that you are will be a new experience,

one that's renewed with wonder and excitement every day. With pride from self-seeking, you'll find the courage to come to class, stay in class all day and return to class the next day. Playing hooky from the school of self-love is the first game you have to resolve to no longer play.

We're not here to recruit your penis or anus; we're here to recruit your soul. When you can stop fearing for the safety of your private parts, you'll be able to open your heart to a more manly love that doesn't require a Bible belt to protect you from us. We're not perverted. Most of us don't sleep with members of both genders or with men in committed relationships. And the claim that we would sleep with an animal or a dead carcass is simply insulting. Why would we do anything you wouldn't do? What makes our moral conduct any less discriminating than yours?

Using your head and penis to form a bond with another person {lust for sex} is just as potentially shortsighted as using your heart and penis as your guide {lust for power}. Once you've been taught to recognize where these different urges come from within and how they come together in you to create your particular brand of temptations, your conscience will get plenty of exercise deciding what and what not to do to extricate you from the moral contortions you put yourself through. Strive for healthier relationships with others, and God will reward you with a healthier relationship within yourself. Don't accuse people of willingness to do despicable things you wouldn't do just because they do one thing you wouldn't do.

Until you become a man who fondly remembers the body of the boy you once were and the joy of life the teenager and young man in you once knew, you'll progress spiritually by competing with those around you. You'll move through jealousy and envy, possibly without even consciously knowing it.

The outer world is the laboratory where you do the experiments you bring to class to discuss with the Teacher within. As you grow more in touch with your past emotionally, you see that you're only competing with who you once were, not anyone else.

Your car isn't the only vehicle that gets you where you need to go each day. Your body is also a vehicle. Therefore you shouldn't make your automobile the love of your life. That's a fantasy Madison Avenue taught you that your heart must twist in order to turn that love of cars in onto yourself. You won't get where you want to go in life unless you appreciate the vehicle God gave you.

Time is the best teacher in helping you perfect this process. When you're a young adult, you hold time objectively in order to keep a job. But as you age time becomes more subjective. Months go by in what seems to be days, and an afternoon with nothing to do but discover yourself can be more precious to you than a whole year. Time on your hands becomes more valuable as you learn to love your hands for what they can do.

Self-control starts with self-appreciation. You've got to be able to look back on your past with happiness mixed with sadness and guilt at how you spent time then compared with how you're spending time now. Life is a bittersweet experience that requires the wisdom of self-love to make life meaningful. But love shouldn't be confused with happiness. Jesus never told anyone that love would make him happy. We don't even know if He was a happy man Himself.

Don't expect happiness to emerge from loving acts for others. It's by comparing yourself today to yourself in your past that you'll be able to see what spiritual classes you've passed and determine why you're in the classes you've now been enrolled in. As you learn to acknowledge this spiritual process, peace and contentment will surely come into your life little by little. The reward for seeking happiness from the inside out rather than the outside in is like a gold star God will give you every day for coming to class having done last night's homework.

Very few scholars graduate happy from the school of life. They graduate with tranquility. Happiness is what you yearn for when you look at the world from the outside in. Tranquility is what you'll seek from yourself when you look at your life from the inside out. If you want to die happy, you're going to have to get very busy. But if you want to die tranquil, you can get active inside now without lifting a finger.

Pupils in this school only want to be happy and get very busy to make that happen. The students often don't know what they want. And the scholars are so lazy that they know tranquility is all they're willing to work for.

The painful experiences that come from having lusted and loved others without having loved yourself creates an addiction within, an urge for satisfaction that Madison Avenue is always gleefully willing to tap into to get you to substitute things for the knowledge you need of yourself. You can fill your life with trophy brides, award ceremonies, plaques, job titles, letters after your name, gifts and prizes. But none of these things will change your opinion of yourself. That, you have to do for yourself.

Man's fixation and preoccupation with desires for people, places and things around him is what the Buddhists are talking about when they refer to human suffering. And those of us raised in the Judeo-Christian culture know that suffering is another way of describing Hell on Earth.

Suffering shouldn't lead Christians to think that Jesus isn't God or that His method doesn't produce God-consciousness that's genuine. Quite the contrary, Christ's methods are so effective that I only wish to applaud them and explain how they could work in your life whether or not you're Christian.

Modern man understands that pain and suffering are never incidental, coincidental or without a godly purpose. Suffering is an entire department in the school of life, a major

you can graduate with honors. There are still many for whom self-seeking is of no interest. They're deeply committed to suffering as exemplified by how self-sacrificing they are. Suffering is a combination of feelings and desires that achieves guilty results in the short run. But over time suffering can produce wisdom of the heart if you use your suffering to seek self-love.

Suffering is something God allows us to experience to learn from suffering how to love. If He didn't allow suffering, there'd be no end to suffering. When people choose self-seeking over self-sacrifice, suffering leads to God-consciousness. Pain and suffering are as much an individual issue as a class struggle with the Teacher.

Man has come quite far in ameliorating pain and suffering. But avoiding them in future will increasingly become more the job of every individual from within where pain and suffering originate. To the degree that you can learn to live your promise not to make others suffer, you'll be doing the most you can to do to avoid pain and suffering being unleashed upon yourself.

The freedom you can achieve from learning how to change your mind honestly, transform your heart sincerely, and transcending your beliefs authentically will lead you to greater intimacy and caring for yourself. But this will only happen unconsciously unless you begin to ask yourself in more than a knee-jerk, rhetorical style what you learned about yourself from the pain and suffering you already went through. The man who chooses pain and suffering through self-sacrifice will become a martyr, but the man who learns to avoid pain and suffering with acts of self-scrutiny will become a maestro. That doesn't mean you can't help those in need. It only changes your motive for doing so.

Without becoming an ethical engineer who's transporting you across your inner frontier, you'll never make your way from the passenger car to the locomotive where you can make sure you always stay on track. You don't want to end up like the 600,000 Israelites who wandered around and died in the desert during their 40-year journey. You don't want to go in circles with thousands of others doing the same thing day after day, looking back on where you came from, wondering why God took you to Hell without giving you a clue to why.

You've got to become a Moses unto yourself to get yourself started, but there will come a point in time when you'll have to become a Joshua unto yourself to get yourself over the finish line. If you don't make a choice to change leaders inside {your motivation} you'll die like one of the nameless Israelites under the auspices of Moses who probably looked back at the best time of his life as the time when he got to dance around a Golden Calf.

You need more than a mission in life in helping others. You need more than God to get you where you're going. You need yourself, a man with a personal plan. God helps those who help themselves, but if you're not even willing to hold a conversation with yourself

for fear of how some voices inside you might make you feel embarrassed, can you really expect Him to succeed in getting His point across to you? This is the very definition of superstitious.

I used to be thin-skinned, not because I was so sensitive about what others would say to me, but because I couldn't speak openly and honestly with myself without worrying about the guilt that would stir up. Today I frequently don't agree with myself, but "we" always get a good debate going in the process. I can't tell you how much I've learned from me. Although there are those in my life who come up with some incredibly good ideas when it comes to how I might manage me, I've turned into the wisest man I've ever known. And I did so by having made an enormous number of mistakes.

What I used to refer to as prayer was not much more than a diatribe of kvetches {complaints} I poured out to God in the hopes He'd solve my problems for me. You could hardly call that a love of learning. I came to His table to talk, not listen. Until I learned to listen to myself, and stop kvetching to God about my pain and suffering, there wasn't any reason for Him to come to me with insight into my part in His plan. To become a guest at His table, I had to sit down and listen within for the WORD of God in my head, the WORD of God in my heart, along with the awesome silence of the Holy Spirit in my soul.

Don't take the words you utter out loud so literally that they become hard and brittle; you'll only break them that way. God gave you a way to bend words with hyphens and double entendre to ease you through your insistence on the one meaning you want to hear. Use a hyphen to unite two disparate parts of yourself such as I've done with "gay" and "Jewish." Start a discussion between any two polar opposites within yourself, and you'll be amazed at how your inner world will become three dimensional and real.

If you want to take a belated picture of what Hell Jesus had to go through, watch people today rail over their interpretation of love's link to Mosaic law. We see people today who resemble 2,000-year old Jews fighting over how there are too few temples or one too many. We see people turning their back on the principles of love for a heartless loyalty to literal interpretations of laws that only make life harsher than it need be. Today some of the most adamant Judeo-Christian Americans who claim to be deeply devoted to God act more like moneylenders at the Temple than poor Jews trying to keep the Romans at bay.

Social reengineering and spiritual reengineering began during the Exodus, but Jesus extended God's plan while fasting for 40 days in the desert. What was then described as a temptation by the "devil." But thanks to modern psychology it has come to be understood as a confrontation with inner demons. Nowadays these issues fall under the general psychological category of a desire to learn right from wrong in an effort to become more ethically powerful in making a man's conscience his greatest guide. Today's world needs many more shepherds and far fewer sheep.

The Bible will always be revolutionary because it addresses the secret to life in more poignant ways so each successive generation can build upon the last. God isn't a theoretical concept a man can keep in his head. To admit His presence he has to perceive that his knowledge of Him is budding, blossoming and growing to fruition in ways that are teach him to become proud of himself. But if you refuse to develop self-knowledge, cynicism and sarcasm will guide your actions instead. And if self-loathing overtakes your heart, it will be impossible for anyone to reason with you. Once your heart is so broken you don't want to mend it, it will require a miracle to be fixed.

There are enclaves in every faith who believe what people believed hundreds of years ago about sex. They live in pockets of the past that haven't reached "now." They reinforce their opinions with empty rituals that have lost all meaning. They insist on reminding us of the virtues of the past, while themselves banished from morally perceiving history as a tool for self-evolvement.

Gays aren't going to ruin marriage any more than we've ruined the military. We aren't going to ruin the churches and mosques any more than we've ruined synagogues. Our gay presence in all houses of worship in the Abrahamic tradition will lower the Bible belt just slightly to accommodate that bulge around the middle that humanity now has to live with in middle age. But we can make religion hip. We'll give grace her good name back. God sent gays to take the "s" out of "sin."

Men have a history of not wanting to express the real source of their strength, their conscience, not their testicles. Some expose the bulge in their pants to look strong. Others work to show off the bulge of their biceps. Some try to make sure everyone knows how big and thick their portfolio is. Others walk with a characteristic gait, vocal pattern or hairstyle to make the same point. But the real spiritual exercise is a soulful, solitary experience that develops a good conscience. This is the fruit from the Tree of knowledge that Adam and Eve ingested that's been ripening within ever since.

Modern men who make their conscience their greatest guide aren't as tempted to use things extraneous to themselves, like cars, guns or drugs to express their self-love. They aren't as likely to make fools of themselves by dancing around the golden calves that Madison Avenue wants them to buy into. They aren't as likely to project their penis envy out onto the world.

A man's body is his only spiritual vehicle. His penis is, in truth, a reflection of the delivery system of love he has to use to penetrate himself. His imagination is his best and unending drug supply. Forbidden fruit, bread and wine are Judeo-Christian symbols of law and love everyone's been given that can be explored personally. But only when a man improves his attitude with curiosity about himself does he discover more about his life that

he could be proud of. Gays don't hold a monopoly on pride any more than Jews hold a monopoly on law or Christians hold one on love. We are only vehicles of these notions.

Your feelings are your keys to the Kingdom. The fear that keeps you frozen in place; the anger that makes you storm the gate; and the sorrow that leaves you feeling helpless outside looking in – have led you to a challenge to love that only you can achieve.

Forgiveness of others will only take you so far. You've got to forgive yourself for what you've allowed yourself to do to you before you'll be able to see the bigger picture. You're not expected to be emotionally perfect now any more than you're expected to be physically or spiritually ideal. You only need to apologize to yourself, and mean it. And that requires a liberal dose of regret and some sadness mixed with a tinge of guilt at how little you previously wanted to know more about you.

God didn't create Jesus as a fully-grown man. He created Him as a zygote that was born like every other baby. He had a Jewish mother who toilet trained Him, as does every other Jewish mother in this world with her infant children. And when He reached adolescence, He became sexually mature, as does every other male on the planet. Jesus became a rabbi thanks to a stepfather who was a carpenter who could afford to give Him a solid, middleclass education that afforded Him the time to study Scripture. Jesus didn't start out as a man. He became one, in the same ways every other boy becomes a man. He went through the experience of being human so He could relate to it in His own special way.

Man's dreams are the culmination of the gifts of two Jewish rabbis, one born in ancient Egypt where he was raised like a prince, and the other, in ancient Israel who lived the working class life. The poor, illiterate, camel driver from Mecca later shed light on these two rabbis' spiritual achievements, making it possible today for us to entertain provocative, new ways of looking at ourselves.

A Jew like Jesus wasn't invented; He was predicted. There are so many ways to see His persona emerge from Torah that I won't bother to mention more than one here. Joshua #1 didn't just take on the job of leadership after God told Moses he wouldn't be allowed to enter the Promised Land. What Joshua did for us literally, Joshua #2 did for Christians figuratively. Jesus brought Christians across a figurative Jordan into their own emotional land of milk {eternal love} and honey {wisdom of the heart}. The waters in and around Israel are the inner manifestation of the Christian landscape of love that believers in Christ hold so dear. Their Joshua #2 did for them what our savior, Joshua #1, did in completing the job Moses couldn't finish by bringing our ancestors into the land God promised us.

The title of this section of the introduction was "Today's Special." But there's really only one someone special in this world, and that's you. It's you who's serving at Their table, and if you don't love who's serving, you'll never love what you serve.



**Appetizers:**  
A Sabbath Prayer

My definition of a prayer is a question or statement addressed directly to God. But there are questions and statements you make in the quiet of your mind that aren't addressed to anyone. These are rhetorical prayers in the sense that God hears them emanating out of you without His name attached as the addressee on the envelope. He may respond to mail that isn't properly addressed in an indirect ways that may keep you from experiencing His constant presence. But would you consider that enough?

It's these prayers you send unaddressed that I'm going to talk about now, not the well-written letters on the Sabbath you write that go directly into His in-box. I'm going to show you how to write an envelope and attach the proper postage so that these funky prayers don't come back, "Insufficient Address: Return to Sender."

Every uncomfortable, inner experience you have emanates out of a struggle between a thought and a feeling. And these inner experiences bring up a moral dilemma that's automatically routed through your conscience and forwarded unconsciously to God like mail delivered with postage due.

But you can teach yourself to stop struggling with these inner conflicts (that always seem to deal with your self-worth in one form or another) by bringing them to full consciousness. Then you can weigh them in your conscience; pay the appropriate cost to deliver them, regardless of how heavy the issue may be; address them properly to God; and rest assured that your prayers will arrive and a response returned in a very timely manner.

This is done through improving your listening skills, so you can empathize with the anguish in your heart. If you don't learn to listen and really hear what you're saying to yourself you're not going to know when you say something that even you recognize isn't true. You'll allow yourself to lie to yourself, especially through exaggeration. You'll allow your feelings of low self-worth to get in the way of your logic. You'll allow your sense of the dramatic to outweigh your desire for accuracy.

This is what's meant when they say someone is in denial. Therefore, you've got to empathize with what you're feeling, by amplifying the emotional discord you hear in you, and really listen to it. Only then will God hear your blood crying out from the ground of your being with surprise, shock, indignation and wonder.

Believe me when I say that empathizing with how you feel is extremely important in improving the rationality of what you're trying to say to yourself. How you feel about yourself deeply affects what you believe to be true about life on this planet. As unpleasant as my advice may sound, you've actually got to increase the volume of your negative

feelings and then feel more sorry for yourself if you're going to improve your thinking skills. Strong opinions may be strong, but that doesn't mean they're true.

Most of the time these tiny, moral struggles within yourself are happening in whispers at a level so low that you can't quite even hear the issue your inner voices are discussing from myriad points of view. But the more you perk up your ears to hear these discussions occurring between your head, heart and conscience, the greater your ability will be to become uncomfortable in your own skin.

Now I know that doesn't sound like good advice, but it actually is because you can't empathize with yourself if you can't hear and respond to how you're feeling. This is why most people react instead.

Suddenly you'll hear the banter between your head and heart as though it were vicious gossip, and you'll realize that the dish you hear is what created the conflict you've had all your life that lowered your self-worth to begin with. Listening to this inner gossip consciously is a lot different from participating in it. Listening in may increase your inner discomfort at first, but it will give you a chance to empathize with and criticize yourself. It'll give you the reasons why you've felt so bad about yourself for so long. And it'll give God a chance to help out, which will eventually make you much more comfortable in your own company. When you can hear the gossip about you on the most sensitive of your issues from your conscience instead of your head or heart, you'll finally be blessed with someone inside who'll never run out of things to say about you.

Some people unabashedly love other people. Others love themselves, but they feel guilty about having to do so much work to earn their own approval. Even if you were never popular with others, there's always that one, someone special inside who always comes back to criticize you while claiming to be your friend. But if your heart is too timid to tell your head the truth about how positively you feel about yourself and your head is too dull-witted to contradict your vicious gossip with logic, you're going to humiliate yourself over and over again.

If true, let God clean up your mess from time to time for you. He's a great housekeeper. He knows just what and when to clean. He doesn't sweep anything under the rug, and His rates are phenomenal. Don't be so proud that you don't want to host Him because your place is a pig sty. That's precisely the time when you should ask Him in. Don't keep Him out until you've cleaned yourself up by yourself. Let Him in, and don't try to put up a show in front of Him. He's seen it all before. Be real. Stop trying to be ideal, and you'll become a lot more pragmatic

For those who think it's their fate to be disliked by everyone, or their destiny to be loved by the world, self-love will prove to be refreshing and unexpectedly delightful. Everything bad that happens to people who think that they're good, and everything good

that happens to people who think they're bad happens for a reason. God is our Teacher teaching all of us self-love regardless of whether we're stuck in the mud of our fate or doing the backstroke through our destiny.

The written word is not the last WORD. Torah is just God's first WORD. Language can only approximate God's intentions. Not even poetry is concise enough to convey God's plan. Sometimes only paradox can express a situation precisely. And sometimes we just have to wait in silence and see what happens. Only time will tell.

Prayer is a letter you write to God that you send Him by Instant Messenger in the hopes that your words will convey your heartfelt intentions and desires. But the more you realize how deep your intentions are, the more you discover the challenge in communicating with yourself, not God. You're deeper than you think. Therefore, your prayers have to convey that depth if you're going to get your point across to Him.

Solutions to classroom management problems on Earth between nations must begin with learning to see yourself in class at all times with our Teacher. The Teacher gives each of us as much insight into ourselves as we can handle without driving us any crazier than He needs to. He reveals to us more and more about who we are each day, and then we have to use our conscience to decide what to do with that information given. We call this process of using knowledge to achieve self-love maturation or growth.

You can see how gay rights is one such challenge to grow in the school of life. Most Americans have learned to tolerate, accept and even admire gay people. The Germans were once so sure they had a solution to the "Jewish Problem" when it turned out it wasn't a problem at all. The "gay problem" in America, like our "black problem" has turned out not to be problems so much as a challenge. The problem all along was with the people who thought there was problem when their own maturation was the issue all along. As soon as they realized that that problem lay within them, not around them, the problem went away.

Life often more resembles a high school setting than a university. Our leaders are like football players and cheerleaders who've been blessed with a charisma that makes them attractive to the sophomoric. We give them the chance to lead us, so long as they remain popular and positive. But that requires that they give us what we ask for.

Unfortunately many kids in this school don't want what's best for the whole class, only what's best for them. And they therefore do what they can to keep people in power who look like winners when they're really very bad for the country and the spiritual game we're all learning to play. They're liked because they're popular and powerful, but they aren't chosen because their conscience has transformed them into a helpful soul. This juvenile and puerile view of American, political life as a high school view is real. In fact it's so real that many people don't vote because they don't want to be a part of it just for this reason.

But as we raise the consciousness of the nation, we'll witness those earning their spiritual G.E.D. and watch them enter into the university setting of their world from within.

Scholars vote. Students don't. And students don't because they don't want to be associated with high school antics. The lower our politicians keep the spiritual, learning environment, the greater the money and power they get to control.

Getting your desires met becomes easier when your desires parallel your intellectual curiosity and emotional yearning to learn about love. The pursuit of tranquility is the journey of thoughts, feelings and desires working in unison to increase your belief in yourself. Another word to describe this process of achieving emotional contentment is joy. Once you're well on your way to joy, the pursuit of happiness in the world around you becomes a piece of cake.

Wanting is human, and wanting loneliness to end is a common human desire. Wanting hardship to end is equally understandable. But, in the larger scheme of things, we're all social creatures who need people to overcome loneliness and hardship. Much of who you are you may reject as untrue and then project it out onto others. Certain people will mirror these aspects of yourself back, leaving you with negative thoughts and irritations that could be personally valuable if you paid more attention to how these individuals make you feel. The world around you is made of individuals who challenge your world within. You don't have to try to fix everyone who's broken. We're all broken. But when you see the crippled part of them, remember that it mirrors the crippled part of you.

God took the Israelites on a class outing from the quad in Egypt where they were assembled for 400 years to their new homeroom in Israel. On that trip there were three class monitors:

1. Moses
2. His brother Aaron
3. Their sister Miriam

Joshua developed leadership skills along the way and was therefore assigned the job of leading the class into their new classroom after the hall monitors {Moses, Aaron and Miriam} had completed their tasks even though they didn't make it into the Jewish homeroom our Teacher promised them.

This move off the quad into the schoolroom was the first march to freedom, but you could just as well call it the Teacher's first class outing because He brought His first class into their own learning environment. Our classroom became the site where the creation of the next class {Christianity} occurred. And then the Teacher went back out onto the quad where He gathered other students together with the help of the P r o p h e t Mohammed to create His third class {Islam}. These separate classes in the school of life grew to become

the spiritually departments, colleges and conservatories every scholar is familiar with in today's university setting here on Earth.

To understand and contribute to the Teacher's plan, you have to be able to use metaphor, symbolism and simile righteously, or your selfish intentions will be exposed by the illogical, hateful conclusions you come to about your classmates. Healthy thinking is expressed optimally when you have a good nature, a sound mind and a healthy body. As you complete your assignments in outer place, you discover that you're also making progress in inner space. In other words, to come to know and love yourself you have to recognize that the history you're participating in around you is always a clue to the mystery of His story unfolding within you.

Hatred is a very powerful feeling, and God gave this feeling to mankind with good reason. But it's not other people's hatred you should kvetch about so much as your own. Although we all reject our own self-hatred by projecting it onto others, only those people good enough to want to discover and rectify the record are willing to fight themselves to reveal the pattern with which they scatter their guilt unconsciously before others to hide it from God, and, inadvertently, from themselves.

Without tolerance of your own shortcomings and acceptance of the guilty trail your shortcomings have left behind you, you're not going to find good reason to ask God for the inner orientation skills to find your way across the quad, into the building, through the hallways to your own homeroom of self-love where you'll be able to admit everything you need to know about yourself in the presence of our Teacher.

Granted, it's extremely difficult to stop thinking about your enemies or imagining that they're as evil as they are. But what your enemies are doing to you on the outside, you're surely doing to yourself within. We're all Israelis and Palestinians swearing our innocence before God. Until you become soulful enough to throw missiles at yourself to teach yourself to duck, you'll be consumed with self-loathing rather than self-love. Teaching the enemy within is the only permanent way to end enmity. You can't kill others to end your enmity with yourself even if they never seem to give up seeking a new way to try to kill you.

Granted the Muslims are killing Jews, Christians and other Muslims in the Middle East and elsewhere. Granted they don't know how to stop or they surely would have done so by now. But this is a spiritual lesson from God that concerns us all. The Jews know they have the right answer. The Christians feel they have the right answer. And the Muslims believe they have the right answer. We're like hear-no-evil, see-no-evil and speak-no-evil. But these three monkeys have to come down from the trees they're in and metaphorically become them and stop swinging around by their tails in them.

Don't excuse, forgive or exonerate yourself for the way you're treating yourself. The more you challenge yourself to look for your own shortcomings, the more you'll come to like yourself for all that you're willing to do to break your projections. Use guilt where it's most meant to be applied {on yourself}, and you'll be healed with the balm of self-love. When you make your conscience your guide and stop telling other people how to live their life in accordance with what you know; how you feel; and what you believe - you find it easier to break projections you've held for a lifetime.

Two of these projections can easily be pierced just by looking at four prepositions in Spiritual Linguistics: "of," "for," "to" and "from." As a child you were probably afraid "of" your mother and father. But as they aged you became afraid "for" them. When you were young you wanted to break away "from" having to create healthy habits. And in older age you saw that habits are something you wanted to hold on "to."

The emotional movement away from being afraid of people toward becoming afraid for them reflects a deepening in your relationship with yourself that you unconsciously begin to express for others. And the movement "from" one desire "to" another is a reflection of the life-as-a-journey metaphor that becomes more and more personal with age.

The Ten Commandments are on two tablets to separate God's law from His love. The first five describe our duty to follow His laws using our head. The second five describe our commitment to learn about His love using our heart. The second tablet ends with His commandment not to paint the world green with envy. {God already painted the world green with nature.} He needs your help both keeping this world literally green and keeping your inner world green and not letting that emotional color spill out onto others. The more you realize how much you covet yourself, the more you'll see people's inner world as the greening of an Israel that they have to do themselves.

Coveting what others have ends when your rage ends over the body you were given that isn't the one you wanted. When you cried out at birth with your first breath, an emptiness inside was created that you couldn't fill with food. If you want to fill yourself now you're going to have to recognize the spiritual nourishment God is feeding you with self-knowledge you're earning day-by-day. You're going to have to learn the joy of spiritually suckling yourself. There are no free, spiritual lunches in the school of life. For the spiritual infant, suckling and swallowing are AVODA {work and worship}.

It's work to create habits, but it's a form of worship to honor good habits as you age. This movement from an inner Egypt of chaos to an inner Israel of self-discipline is a journey you're probably going to make many times, and a journey you're probably going to appreciate only over time. The Israelites only had to make the journey once. You and I

make this 40-year trip in four days. And then we take Friday, Saturday and Sunday to reflect on where we are by Monday morning and where we'll arrive by Thursday night.

The first of the Ten Commandments "I AM THE LORD, THY GOD, WHO TOOK YOU OUT OF EGYPT" isn't even a commandment. But it did present the attitude God wanted to convey in addressing 600,000 Israelites who suffering from a slave mentality, an attitude of enslavement we're still learning to emancipate ourselves from today. Until you realize you owe yourself your allegiance, you'll remain in an Egypt of bondage to you. If you like the idea of ending all dictatorships on Earth, start with the one you know so well.

If you're an American rebel still fighting an Englishman inside for a land you've come to love that he only wants to exploit, liberate yourself from your European roots. The War of Independence got us our freedom. Now it's your turn to make that journey personally meaningful. If you're a southern gentleman the time has also come for your inner Abraham Lincoln to defeat your Jefferson Davis. There might well be a civil war going on inside you that you didn't even realize was raging. And if you think you're going to turn the tables as Jesus did in the Temple in your own way and then accuse yourself of overturning everything your inner Moses accomplished, you're not ready for liberation. You still struggling inside for freedom.

By comparing yourself to a tree, and by further extension, a tree that was planted here to learn about the mystery of growing morally toward God, you learn to love the way you grow. All you'll ever truly have in life will be a harvest of what you believe to be true about yourself. When you look back in time on your beginning, you'll discover more you didn't know about the seed you were when you were planted here and how you grew into who you are now.

There is no one answer to the mystery of your faith. Greater faith comes after you do what's best for yourself each day, and not before. Faith is a reward you can never anticipate because faith in yourself will always come from unexpected directions. Without this mystery, life would be intolerably dull. There's definitely a method to the madness in the way your faith as grown that you can already appreciate, but you can never anticipate how or where it'll bud and bloom next season. That makes each year surprising and fresh. That makes growing old delightful. *Lucky* is the feeling of reward given to the spiritually unconscious. *Fortunate* is what the semi-conscious feel about their rewards. And *blessed* is what those who believe in God feel for every little thing they learn about themselves, for they know it's all leading toward greater self-love which they can then share with others in myriad productive ways.

The only way to change your life is to live for a better tomorrow today. Eat through the skin every morning, making your way through to the flesh of your fruit by the midafternoon, and you'll get to the core of who you see yourself becoming by nightfall.

Cultivate yourself each night, and you'll have a new fruit to pick from your tree by the next day. The greater your appetite to know more about you, the greater your rewards will be. If you have the curiosity and courage to consume your thoughts and feelings for moral nourishment, you'll reach the life-giving seeds of transcendence from within.

Eating was the verb chosen for the Creation Story to imbue intellect, emotions and spirituality with knowledge in life. The same verb was employed in Christianity in remembering Jesus through the body and blood He donated to the spiritual process we in the Judeo-Christian world employ today to bring knowledge of self-love into the world. In terms of Spiritual Linguistics, the verb "to eat" is the most important verb in the world. And yet most people don't eat out of hunger. Either they eat for medicinal reasons {to heal something broken} or they eat to forget {not to be reminded of something that makes them feel bad about themselves}. They often sit down at the table eager to get away from God rather than to come before Him.

Sex is a figurative consumption process as well. Sex involves appetite, feeding, being fed and finally feeling physically full and sensuously satisfied. Sex is a planting of literal seeds that leads to a physical harvest in the creation of new life, as well as a planting of emotional seeds in another person that leads to an emotional harvest of contentment in both individuals. But sex is also a planting of seeds that leads to a spiritual harvest by learning how to approach the Lord with naked intimacy, excitement and wonder in all that you do.

Making babies doesn't insure that you're going to feel emotionally or spiritually sated in life. Making babies can be a deeply disappointing or even tragic experience for some. And sex between unmarried individuals of either gender should never be spoken about as forbidden or as something that should leave you with guilt.

Eating is, therefore, the most moral of all activities provided you don't eat to excess or unhealthily. If you waste food, literally, emotionally or spiritually you're eventually going to be sorry you did. And if you deny people food or the opportunity to learn about figurative forms of consumption there will be a price to pay, too.

Your conscience may tell you that you're forbidden from knowing yourself more than you get the impression others feel about doing so. But if you look around at what they seem to know about themselves, you may conclude that they don't appear to know all that much that you don't know. They often seem blind to their physical imperfections; myopic when it comes to their character defects and spiritually shortsighted when it comes to the direction they're going in on their journey.

But how certain can you be that you see yourself any more clearly? It's easy to judge others with 20/20 vision if you're looking only at their outsides. {It's impossible to ascertain the taste of a piece of fruit just by looking at its skin.} It's hard to see yourself with insightful self-regard unless you also observe yourself with hindsight and foresight.



To know you isn't necessarily to forgive you. In fact, the more familiar you become with you, the more you may conclude you are contemptuous.

But you didn't know yourself any better before now and therefore couldn't do any better until now. Judgment of your reward or punishment after life must be put in God's hands. But that doesn't mean you can't hold yourself firmly; give yourself a squeeze to determine if you're ripe yet; and use your intuition to smell whether you're ready for personal consumption. You may find that you're just not ready for self-consumption.

If you don't treat yourself well enough, that's your problem. But if you don't treat the rest of us well enough that's ours. And we're going to see to it that we make you feel as guilty as we decide you deserve. We're not going to embarrass or humiliate you. We're going to peel you; remove your core; and cast all that aside for you to deal with. We're going to slice up the meat of you with shame and pass it around for everyone to decide just how rotten you are. Your relationship to your body and God will be your own business, but we're going to shame you in front of everyone if and when your character defects hurt others in some egregious way.

We have special newspapers and online sites that excel in just this sort of spiritual kitchen preparation. Those in the news who are rolled-over-the-coals are first prepared in the method mentioned above; then cooked in the hot ovens of public scrutiny; and thoroughly grilled until all others involved have been exposed.

Police who try to embarrass or humiliate offenders are now being shamed into using body cameras because of their misuse of social power. Men who try to embarrass and humiliate women with rape, violence and by making them have a baby they don't want will be shamed for this misuse of sexual power. Religious nuts who try to embarrass and humiliate fruits will be shamed for their misuse of spiritual power. And Muslims who try to embarrass and humiliate Jews, Christians and other Muslims for their religious beliefs will discover that what's happening in the West is moving East. The march the Israelites took out of Egypt was just the beginning of a march to freedom that history has been documenting quite well.

Each of us must defy the traditional, Biblical convention of avoiding forbidden fruit. We must force ourselves to nibble away at ourselves consciously and slowly. Throwing this opportunity away is worse than throwing edible food in the garbage. If you avoid this modern interpretation of the conversation between the serpent and Eve regarding the value of forbidden fruit, you'll surely cringe at the thought of eating the Lord to achieve God-consciousness. Without metaphoric insight and innovative examination into yourself, the Bible will remain the curse of mankind.

You can't believe you have a soul unless God has blessed you with that aspect of self-knowledge. And He doesn't bestow that awareness on just everyone. To go from

conscientious to soulful isn't that easy. The fruits of your psychological labors create a holy communion within yourself that lead to self-knowledge, and the fruits of your spiritual labors create a holy communion within yourself that lead to God-consciousness.

We see the formation of these inner relationships in children when a toddler expresses the parent/child bond by pushing his empty baby carriage; helping other children; pointing out his parents' mistakes, etc. An adult only discovers that he's in a holy communion with himself before the Lord as he comes to see his parents' training finally taking shape on himself. The more a man learns to reward and punish himself over his lifetime to learn more about himself, the more grateful he becomes for the process. This then turns life from a mishmash of experiences into a miracle.

Moses presented the spiritual challenge in learning God's process in metaphoric terms, and the Jews ate through the skin of his metaphor in the first 1,400 years of their existence. Jesus presented the ancient Jews with the emotional flesh beneath the peel, and Jews and Christians have been nibbling on that for the last 2,000 years. Today, now that so many people believe that self-love is the highest form of knowledge there is, we can say that we've made our way down to the pit of the peach, so to speak.

Matters of your heart may take you from apathy to guilt and from guilt to love, but unless you can name every feeling you're feeling in between when you feel it, you can't say you know yourself well enough to love learning to love you. Self-love is a vast subject, and your love for you goes well beyond taking care of your survival needs. You're probably more concerned about people liking you than loving you. But after all you went through growing up and the pursuit of romantic love when you were a young adult, you've earned good reason to want a humble, relaxed relationship with yourself today.

Carol Jung said that "God" was anything that got in his way. And I think that definition works well at those times when you're employing the metaphor of life-as-a-journey and, by extension, your body as your vehicle to get you to your destination. Everything that gets in your way can be seen as an accident or incident that God has had a hand in.

The true believer should never assume that he'll look back on his life as a trip down memory lane. He should, instead, look at every unexpected event that slows him down or gets in his way as a traffic jam intended to heighten the importance in reaching his destination with composure and patience. Like the wandering of the Israelites who went around in circles, a life that's too linear and uneventful may seem less interesting without an occasional hard turn one way or the other. Getting to your destination is really not as important as the views and thrills you get along the way when you surpass your problems.

There are no rehearsals on the journey of life. When you come on stage you're "on" until the curtain comes down. Everything you do is a performance in a desert. Everything you think and feel, even if you're not doing anything at all, is a performance under God's

watchful eye. It's all being recorded like Torah. Unlike the Israelites who's story has been told, you can go back and improve your performance, But not even you can change a single word you've said, even if you said it only to yourself. Words are the essential building blocks of life given to us by God. They're moral forces that can be neither created nor destroyed. You can only choose to learn to use the words in your imagination to construct new and different ideas or watch as your tower comes down leaving you babbling about what you didn't know about the tower of words you'd previously constructed.

Jesus's verbal choices become much more interesting and morally meaningful when you can equate them to a modern one-man show in a Biblical, desert setting. If you've seen the hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee where Jesus gave His Sermon on the Mount you know what a magical and mystical setting He chose in northern Israel for His miracles and messages. Our Father may have produced His performance, but He directed and performed his plays on WORDS for a small group of people in a corner of the globe that was relatively remote and distanced from the great civilizations at the time: Rome, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, and Greece, the West End, at that time. His name became famous because, in part, where and when God situated Him, putting Him in a unique position to become the spiritual lodestar for much of the Western world. If you want to learn how to present your superhuman powers of love to your world, you're going to have to learn how to act as well as He did.

The problems facing the Jews at the time of Jesus were so complex and the solutions He gave were so simple that we're still reeling at how to apply His spiritual arts to our daily lives today. As you progress through this book in the discussion of His message you're going to get a new perspective on His WORDS, as though you've been given a seat up close without anyone else's head in the way of you seeing Him directly. And you'll be able to decide for yourself whether you want to apply His teachings to your life another way. And if you're not fully satisfied with the results of the spiritual education you achieve here, you already know who to go to for a refund... You're the scholar standing before our Teacher. I'm just a spiritual tutor doing my utmost to help you with your assignments. But you're entirely responsible for your success or failure in my class on acting. You won't be able to sue me for promises I made that I didn't fulfill. Your career as the producer, director, actor and stagehand of your life are in your hands. My job is to help you see that you're already a star. How much fame you want is entirely your own business.

The fact that I'm a spiritual linguist with an unusual ability to describe the power of WORDS/WORDS/w o r d s doesn't mean that I'm infallible. My conscience is in development, too. Even though I can see a great deal when I peer down into the depth of words, I'm really only looking at myself. Therefore you must remember that you're always doing this spiritual work alone, just like the rest of us. We're all in this alone together.

I've discussed the human condition using several metaphors. One is the metaphor of thoughts-as-trains; tracks-as-feelings; and Israel-as-the-inner-landscape in your

imagination, a tiny sliver of the world God gave to the Jews to share one way with our Abrahamic half-brothers {Muslims} and another with our adopted brothers {Christians}. The even bigger challenge for today is how to share our land of milk and honey with our distant cousins on the other half of the globe, the Hindus, Buddhists, Confucianists and Taoists, so they can enhance this spiritual transportation system with the knowledge of God given to them through indirect means.

The second metaphor I used to describe every man's personal association with the human condition is through nature using the skin of *forbidden* fruit as thoughts; the meat of this fruit as feelings; and the core of it as beliefs. We're all figurative trees that consume our own fruit over our lifetime, and we're picked from this miraculous orchard God planted us in when He decides it's time for us to be felled. Through this metaphor each of us was like a seed of knowledge planted by our Gardener. We grew out of the ground of our being, and as we grew, we dug down through that ground using our ancestral roots that entwined us with God who is our Rock.

The third metaphor was life as a journey with each human body a physical vehicle on a spiritual road to a destination all his own. This makes you the chauffeur who has to take responsibility for being in the driver's seat. It also puts you in the death seat, as well as in the back seat from where you may be barking orders in your mind to *the man* behind the wheel who never seems to answer, turn around or go where you want him to take you. In this metaphor your conscience is your inner navigation system, the G.P.S. device that automatically maps out where you need to go. In this metaphor you don't have to be straight to go straight. God takes the role of the highway patrol officer in this metaphor who pulls us over when we've broken the law. In this metaphor bad luck is a ticket you've got no choice but to pay. And yet it seems that the worse your crime, the lower the fine.

I used the sports metaphor to suggest that winning is more complicated than it looks, especially for all those who think life is a game. Those who play at life take it just as seriously as those who prefer other metaphors. A good sportsman never breaks the rules. He knows that it's how he plays the game, not whether he wins or loses, that counts. He understands that our Umpire won't always rule in his favor, and to win he has to be able to show moral superiority over his opponent by becoming a team player.

Each religion today must return each week to the written WORD/WORD/w o r d of its sacred text to prepare its congregants for the spiritual depth of God's WORD/WORD/w o r d in new ways for a world renewed day-by-day. But reading has become a skill taken by many for granted. Turning black symbols on the page into sound is truly a magical experience. It's as miraculous as watching your ten fingers tie your shoes without you having to give what you're doing a second thought. Your reading skills are an unprecedented example of God's care and attention in having created you. Just consider the following three sentences:

1. tha FYUchr uv umERika dePENDZ an tha REEDing skilz uv ar CHULdrn
2. the fyucher of amerika depends on the reading skills of our childrn
3. The future of America depends on the reading skills of our children.

The number of rules needed to decode the second sentence is far greater than in the first. And the number of rules needed to apply the rules of spelling, grammar and punctuation to the third sentence is enormous. And yet we don't teach native speakers of American English these rules in logical steps that allow them to use their ears in conjunction with their eyes to learn these rules more intuitively. We bombard children with a list of words with approved spelling that often dates back more than 800 years. This only teaches them that the truth is so imbedded in symbols that there's virtually no connection between the two. The word, "knife," for instance, was pronounced "cnif-e" when Chaucer wrote the Canterbury Tales in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. But is that historical pronunciation really a good enough reason for the way we spell "knife" today?

The field of "saicalagee" also has deeply impeded spiritual rules we unconsciously decode and expect our children to be able to decode, too, without teaching them the basics. We take the literal levels of psychology for granted when exploring religion because we divorce the basics from matters of faith. We assume others already know these unwritten rules of faith because we take them for granted ourselves.

Other languages, like Hebrew, don't have such horrendous spelling challenges, thus making learning the written word less taxing on the mind and on their emotions. Because other, older cultures may be more entwined with religion they may also hold psychological inquiry more rigidly than we do. This makes American ingenuity a double-edged sword.

Pop culture spells out its message using the simple rules found in sentence #1 above. Secular education is comparable to sentence #2. It applies more of the rules of intellectual engagement. But religion is like sentence #3 which assumes you hold vast amounts of knowledge with which to decode God's message to man.

This is simply not the case in today's world. If you were to close your eyes and listen to what people are telling you, you may discover you understand their message better than when you read about it. Sometimes your ears can see better than your eyes.

The laity already has the curiosity and desire to learn more about themselves if their religious leaders could only lead them with greater psychological insight toward matters of faith without all the rigid dogma of the past. Judaism and Christianity are losing members to Buddhism and other forms of philosophic inquiry because these two Western faiths haven't found better ways of making God more meaningful to their congregants pursuit of self-inquiry and self-awareness. Many people would like a combination of faith and philosophy. They'd like to see a universal system of inquiry that includes perspectives that

will leave them with wonder and amazement about the miracle of being. Without psychology to unite faith and philosophy all three may be doomed.

The Muslims are the only Western faith that aren't losing their members to Buddhism and other forms of philosophic inquiry. They're killing one another instead. For them to avoid the mistakes of the Judeo-Christian world, they're going to have to embrace our secular adaptations to religion with greater wisdom and love than we've demonstrated. They ought to learn from us and with us, or the pain and suffering they're imposing on themselves will become unendurable.

God has given Muslims the direction to embrace the new age. Now we're all just waiting for the Palestinians to show the modern, Muslim world that they can take the hint. The future of Islam lies in the hands of Muslims on the West Bank and Gaza. They don't have to give up their faith in God in order to embrace Israel. They only have to include the God of Judaism and God of Christianity in with their own.

The key to appreciating God's WORD with an open mind lies with Spiritual Linguistics. If you don't believe that God created words to teach you how to relate to yourself, you'll never be able to thank Him for your ability to communicate with anyone, let alone with yourself. Prayer will become meaningless rote that will put you to sleep intellectually, not awaken you spiritually.

Unless the WORD/WORD of God prepares you for God by teaching you to communicate with yourself, it will become useless to man's future. We've come to a point in history when we have to choose between tolerating, accepting and admiring God's plan. I predict that the Abrahamic faiths will tolerate it. The business world will accept it. And the masses will admire it.

If you want to upgrade your belief system to become more spiritually accomplished through prayer, your first step should be in praying for understanding in why things have turned out the way they have. You can't change something God has allowed to be without learning about the way it was that led it to turn out the way it is. But to do so there's much you must learn about your past before you start wondering about our future.

Apathy is as an emotional, eating disorder that, if untreated, leads to the spiritual anorexia commonly called atheism. Atheists are apathetic to receiving God-consciousness. Spiritual bulimia creates disgust of people of faith, a condition exacerbated by those of faith who are self-righteous and dogmatic. Those who are apathetic to the pain and suffering of this world or disgusted by it generally report no conscious symptoms of spiritual malaise whatsoever. Their spiritual disease usually continues untreated until something awful happens to them. Often that then becomes the first time they realize how calloused, depressed, defended and bored with themselves they really are. Many people who are figuratively dead are perfectly comfortable just existing. And many who are on

the brink of coming alive wish they were dead. Having faith and keeping faith inside where it belongs is harder than it looks.

Learning to eat normally is as difficult to do literally as it is spiritually. But the more you grow a healthy appetite for God-consciousness through metaphor and symbolism, the more aware you'll become of the connection between the reality you see around you and your world within. But it all starts with figuratively eating forbidden fruit and the Lord. If you don't include Them in your spiritual diet you're not going to grow figuratively tall at all.

When you attempt to allow yourself to feel a little embarrassed or ashamed in the privacy of your inner world, you nibble your way through the peel to the meat toward the core of all your own taboos. You may experience some disgust in expressing yourself so candidly to yourself, but that's perfectly normal. In moving through your fear of guilt and all the self-disapproval that comes with it, you come to a new place in inner space where you may see yourself in a new, stronger way. You'll be able to acknowledge the thoughts that judge others. You'll be able to acknowledge the feelings that tell you that others are worthy of forgiveness. And you'll be able to acknowledge your belief that they're doing the best they can under the circumstances they've been given.

Greater self-consciousness occurs once you demonstrate the courage to persevere in these three ways. You discover a new form of intimacy you've never known before. Viewing others as an Abrahamic challenge to love yourself with both tough and tender love will help you take others more seriously, because it will help you take yourself more personally.

Jesus never tried to come up with a greater or grandeur metaphor than Moses to unite man's nature with Mother Nature. He simply read the Old Testament and extended its metaphoric message to His life in as personal a way as possible. And by doing so He transformed the lives of those around Him in ways they'd never considered before. Today the fruits of His endeavors to love life are becoming more evident than ever. The bounty of His gifts now seems limitless.

Moses constructed a freeway from here {Cairo} to there {Jerusalem}. Jesus built a highway to get Christians from here {Earth} to There {Heaven}. And then the P r o p h e t Mohammed flew from Mecca to Jerusalem, and then took Jesus's highway to Heaven and back.

Self-intimacy is needed for prayer. If you don't talk to yourself to learn about yourself, talking to God isn't going to tell you much about His plan for you. Knowledge begins as information that's turned into data, which is stored within you for future use. You then see little bits of this data rise to consciousness as your mind tries to inform you what it thinks about you. But you probably ignore these hints if you don't know how to interpret them. If

you're not humble enough to want to learn about you from you, you'll miss an important opportunity to achieve self-love.

When you just happen to think about an event that occurred years before, it's not without a reason. Your mind is trying to get you to compare and contrast how you felt then about yourself to how you feel now. Watch what you're telling yourself; listen to yourself; and you'll see the spiritual progress you're making.

You've been trying to converse with yourself all your life and didn't know it. Compare and contrast visions from your past to your present, and you'll be amazed how you've changed. Looking at your past and listening to your analysis of it in comparison to your present is actually more valuable than trying to tell yourself what you want to hear. Most people think that knowledge can only be attained from the outside, when, in fact, the deepest, most useful knowledge is coming to you from your mind telling you what it thinks about the development of your heart. These inner revelations are meant to improve your opinion of yourself, and they will when you make self-intimacy your top priority.

If you think of your mind as a grandparent and your heart as your adult child, then your conscience is your grandchild. When you realize that the child in you (heart) has grown up to become an adult who still wonders about the meaning of life, you'll be more eager to become childlike again. And you'll discover that now the child in you is your conscience who's eager to learn from your head and heart to make balanced decisions about how you should act out in the world. The fun of learning begins with three generations under one roof; three generations in you.

Prayers of gratitude for being you begin with the one Hebrew, prayer WORD you already know, AMEN. AMEN comes from the verb LA-AMEEN which means "TO BELIEVE." AMEN literally means, "I BELIEVE." Each time you say amen, you're attesting to the fact that something has occurred to you that gives credence to the existence of God. As these amens add up, you'll discover more about God's special way of conversing with you, through you, and for you.

Suffice it to say that you can't converse with God unless you perceive evidence of His presence. Otherwise you're just talking to a wall. If you try to carry on a conversation with Him when you're not properly prepared for His presence, insincerity will fill your heart, which would be psychologically unhelpful. A voice inside will tell you that you're simply talking to yourself, which will make you feel like a fool, and you'll have no evidence to contradict that thought. Therefore, just wait for evidence that inspires you to use the word amen, and leave it at that until you can argue with yourself about God's existence more effectively from another place in inner space other than your head {or the head of your penis, which often pushes itself up through your neck and into your brains}. Amen is the



shortest complete prayer there is. You can always squeeze an amen in between the voices inside you that insist otherwise.

Jesus chose Jewish fishermen who already knew how to compare the fish in the Sea of Galilee to the predicament of man. He chose them because He saw they knew how to catch fish and were ready to catch men. You can learn how to catch yourself and thereby prove to yourself that reality includes an emotional component that's quite different from the perspectives you were given in your early training from your parents. If you only listen to the voices in your head from your heart, you can heal your relationship with yourself. And if you listen to them from your soul you can heal (or improve) your relationship with God.

Sadly, people generally only try to catch themselves during a financial crisis or when they're facing the brutal consequences of an act of God. When their ability to survive {money} or thrive {love} is seriously challenged they feel like a fish out of water. Then they suddenly realize how unprepared they are to operate themselves skillfully from the inside in because they've only been accustomed to acting from the outside in.

Desire {symbolized by your penis} isn't always wrong. Sometimes your desires connect us with your feelings to bring your thoughts on board to do what's right. Desire is portrayed in the allegory of the creation of man's STRUGGLE WITH GOD as a serpent. But in the Creation Story God never questioned the serpent, only Adam and Eve. In fact, He went out of His way to tell Adam and Eve how differently maligned each of them would be by the serpent.

Only those who find the strength of character to question the whispers of their desires will be able to imagine the effect their penis {or clitoris in the case of women} is figuratively having on their conversations with themselves. Painting your whole inner world black just because it's literally dark inside when you close your eyes isn't sensible. You don't have to be afraid of the eternal night you see inside. Your desire to think good thoughts, feel good feelings, do good deeds and perform well enough to admire yourself are bright, white-light ideas that your heart breaks up into a prism of hopeful colors that shine a rainbow even in that dark night inside of you.

Sometimes a mouse can frighten an elephant more than a pack of lions just by threatening to run up its trunk. Sometimes you just have to get up on the jackass and ride it into town, rather than walk in, for people to agree that you're just what they were waiting for. Sometimes an old goat can teach old dogs new tricks. You don't have to be cynical and sarcastic. You don't have to prove to the world that you've lost your optimism and sense of humor. What you have to prove is the opposite.

Prayer is your opportunity to ask good questions of the Teacher if you know how to phrase your questions with a request for emotional insight into the wisdom of your ways. If you've spent a lifetime in prayer practicing the word "gimme" or "get 'em" you're not

going to be able to ask very lucid questions about why your life has turned out so differently on the outside from within.

Starting over to learn the depth of the words please, thank you, and amen will give new meaning to your prayers. Gratitude mixed with copious amounts of guilt for having made huge mistakes in life {as have we all} will improve your grades in the long run and prepare you more thoroughly for future tests from the Teacher {and those tests just keep comin'}. But you can start now by owning the mistakes you've made and stop criticizing others for theirs. God allowed it to turn out the way it has for each of us. Let's move on.

When you can get up in the morning and feel joyful instead of resentful, anxious or afraid, you've given yourself a gift that surpasses any monetary reward your boss could ever give you. When you work for the wisdom of your own heart, that AVODA will reap rewards in the long run that will add enormously to your inner wealth. And, no doubt, that reward will eventually strengthen your portfolio as well.

Many Americans are overweight because they associate fat with inner wealth, and the only way they can express their inner wealth is with cellulite. Many Americans are overweight because they feel so empty inside and don't know how to fill themselves with anything other than food. They'd love to be able to express their spiritual wealth, but they substitute fatty foods for forbidden fruit. They choose sweets to replace love, and turn their noses up at anything bitter, telling themselves deep down inside that life has been disappointing enough without them having to consume anything bitter.

Spicy food is physically hot, but why consume hot foods to compensate for trying to look cool all the time? Americans are soured {angry} and spoiled {undisciplined}, but they don't see themselves as immature {green} in the least. Improving your spiritual diet is as important as including vegetables in your nutritional diet.

It's important to learn how to put more faith in poetic justice. Your life is a poem, not a narrative. You have to look for the rhyme and reason in every stanza of your life. You have to learn to read and right yourself. You have to learn to author yourself consciously, as Moses did, by making himself the main character of his story. You have to find a group of voices within that will laud your life, as the Apostles did with Jesus. If you seek the consul of Moses and Jesus, as did the Prophet Mohammed, you'll turn your life into a tapestry; a magic carpet that will take you from Mecca to Jerusalem, where, there, you, too, will be able to catch the highway to Heaven and come back to talk about having been a guest at Their table.

With generosity of spirit you, too, will walk this Earth resurrected. You'll see yourself, but you won't recognize you. You'll be amazed at what a miracle of love you are just by standing again on your own two feet of clay. You'll *right* your life like a Gospel as you witness the grandeur of God's plan for you. You'll understand what Jesus meant when He

said, "I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME." [John 14:6]

If you don't follow the path Jesus created that exists in every man's heart, you'll go up and down between your head and conscience without ever learning to go from left to right to love yourself and believe in yourself. You'll avoid carrying your own cross. And if you don't carry it, you'll never earn the right to ascend or descend from it. If you don't take Christ's life to heart, and you come out of the Christian tradition, you'll only have been given a job in His P.R. department. You'll be unconsciously selling a spiritual product you never owned or operated.

In the school of life our penis is like the class clown at the back of the room who talks incessantly, thinking the Teacher doesn't hear or notice anything from the front of the class. You may not identify as that troublemaker who hangs between your legs, but the trouble this world is in is, in part, due to you. Don't feel guilty about the material needs that make you want what's best for you. Feel guilty for not wanting what's best for others and for opposing them trying in their own righteous way to get it because you disapproved of the way they look or behave without seeking to understand their motives.

Don't feel guilty about your desire for sex because that's not a problem. Don't feel guilty about your desire for sensuous comfort at night after you've worked the whole day helping others. But making babies is the last, good reason for having sex. Feel guilty instead about the excuses you used and irrational impulses you relied on to avoid loving every lesson of self-love the Teacher brought your way through others who look a little odd or queer on the outside.

It really takes much less money and much more goodwill to live well in this world. Generosity was God's gift to the Muslims, but they don't have a monopoly on that any more than the Christians have a monopoly on love, Jews, on wisdom, or gays on pride. You could show solidarity with all of these spiritual causes by taking the low road to your soul via your heart rather than the high road in your head that always brings you crashing down to reality.

The road to self-help is paved with good intentions. Start thinking more horizontally with heart and soul and less vertically oriented between Heaven or Hell, and your inner world won't seem quite so flat and tiresome.

The difference between Jewish life before Jesus and after can be described through our modern understanding of the dilemma we have with the pronoun "it." Before Jesus "it" didn't hold personal, sexual innuendo. Previously the problem the ancient Jews had with "it" was solely directed at the idolatrous, barbaric infidels in their midst. But once Jesus claimed to be related to God personally "it" became a ticklish, spiritual inference within the Jewish community for every male Jew. Suddenly they had to ask themselves what they

were going to do now that “it” was always there in the room while they were praying to God. How were they going to account for “it” when “it” was there when they worked and worshiped? Jesus brought “it” out of Jewish pants and into their heart. He recreated the Creation Story in the flesh by making “it” personal. He confronted His problem with “it” euphemistically as a confrontation with the “devil” while the rest of the ancient Jewish community tried to decode His message below their belt. Until Sigmund Freud brought religion out of every house of prayer into the psychiatrist’s office, there was no way to solve for “it.”

Today “it” is on everyone’s mind whether he’s religious or not. No one today can simply leave “it” at the door of his house of prayer like an Asian leaves his shoes at the door of his house. And those who think God is ignoring “it” just to be courteous and polite are spiritually delusional. If you can imagine God having created the Milky Way as poetic expression of His semen, you can be sure He’s got “it” on His mind, too. He gave you a penis. You might as well use it metaphorically, and not just to think up more and more phantasmagoric ways of getting “it” into others for a quick trip to the stars.

When your penis stands up at the back of the class talking incessantly, “it” literally has no leg to stand on. When “it” grabs the limelight “it” has no arms with which to do so. Your serpent is truly beguiling because “it” can only convince you to act on “its” behalf by using beguiling words that you can’t even literally hear. “it” doesn’t even literally speak English. When you’re summoned before God and you feel like a middle school pupil called into the principal’s office, you can’t pull down your pants and point to your penis as the instigator of your errors of judgment. You have to take responsibility for everything “it” convinced you to do whether you like “it” or not. You can’t use Eve’s excuse {“THE SERPENT BEGUILED ME AND I DID EAT”}. [Genesis 3:13]

Once you can see that God has a plan and how He’s nudging you to discover how He really made you, you can develop the grace and aplomb to treat yourself morally accordingly. This is how you become soulful, not just conscientious.

There isn’t a man on Earth who wouldn’t figuratively want every other man on Earth to envy his penis. But that will never happen. You’re the only man who has to love your penis. Most men have projected their penis envy onto women, unconsciously accusing them of wanting what they have. That’s just ridiculous. Most modern, young men would love to be able to go penis shopping or even body shopping if they could, the way women can now do with breast implants, tummy tucks, liposuction of hips and Botox of foreheads. Learning to love the shmuck you’re with is harder than it looks. You aren’t going to get another.

If you’re miserable because you hate any part of the body you were given, and then you compensate by overindulging yourself with the pleasurable sensations that come from

food, drink and drug, you're not going to become less miserable over time. You're going to become distracted from the *thing* that's really upsetting you. If you wonder why you get depressed, worried, anxious, irritable and downright obnoxious at times, it's because you're not crazy about the one you're with.

Most men have a clever way of getting around this problem. They go into denial. They become fearless instead of more faithful. It's not that they need to overcome their fear of men. It's that they need to overcome their fear of guilt at not loving the serpent in their own tree. Man is odious to himself on the inside, but he doesn't know how to get in there to clean himself up because he's spent his life living from the outside in. A colonic won't help him clean up this mess, and parading around with exaggerated, male mannerisms won't look attractive forever. The problem is more beguiling than he thinks.

Misery and despondency with yourself mixed with easy access to disapproval from others will eventually shut down your emotional system altogether if you're not aware of what's happening. You'll turn into sour dough filled with vinegar instead of wonder bread filled with wine. There'll be no joy of believing in Jesus or waxing poetic about His contribution to the world if you can't take His WORDS to heart.

There's no point in having negative feelings if you aren't committed to looking for spiritual answers to what's causing them. The essence of all faiths and philosophies, despite all the evils perpetrated by them, is self-love. But self-love isn't a luxury of life. It's a necessity of life just like food {Judaism}, water {Christianity} and air {Islam}.

Others may instigate or trigger negative feelings in you, and those feelings may be perfectly appropriate to the circumstances that caused them. But what you do with those feelings is the test. You can choose to strike out or strike in. But without Jesus's advice on such matters, you're not going to be able to respond with spiritual understanding to why your Father let it happen in the first place. You're going to react out of ignorance in matters of the heart. You can't control your feelings of abandonment, betrayal and conspiracy if you don't look for a personal answer to the question "Why did this have to happen to me?"

People want to know why the Holocaust happened, but there were hundreds of millions of living answers to that question then, and there are billions of them today. The only answer that matters is the one you find for yourself that makes good sense to you. Granted, there will always be Aryan idiots who'll go back to Hitler's reasons for a Holocaust. But even these people could move through their self-loathing to self-love if they were willing to make the effort.

We lock people up for their penis problems when they steal things and kill people who they relate to as things. What we don't do is teach them to see how they operate because we don't care about them once they're off the streets. The criminal mind doesn't interest us because we're not curious to learn about our tendency to steal from ourselves. We deny

any similarity to criminals and then wonder why wisdom of the heart is more difficult for good men to achieve than technological acumen. Sometimes in order to catch a thief you have to learn enough about the art of stealing to describe how it happens. Isn't that what Moses did by describing forbidden fruit? And didn't Jesus follow his instructions in order to catch Himself before He taught others how to catch men?

Overeat or don't overeat, but you'll always be the forbidden fruit you're going to have to pick. Take drugs or don't take drugs, but you'll always be in the state of mind that you're going to have to live with. Make a killing in the stock market or live on the dole, but you'll always be the moral arbiter of how your life turned out. Kill snakes, hate snakes or worship snakes – it won't make any difference if you don't associate snakes with the mystery of you having been issued a penis on God's spiritual assembly line. Only once you know what "it" means to you with Biblical insight can you, as did Jesus, open yourself to self-love.

They used to conclude gays were criminally insane. Then they decided we were mentally ill. Today many religious people still believe the "devil" has taken control of us. They lament what's happening to all of society because "it" has gotten out of control, and they blame us, and people like us, for that. But the problem of developing a healthy relationship with your penis is every man's spiritual responsibility. Gay men simply remind straight men that straight men don't like "it" as much as gays do.

Gays have to show those who exhibit paranoia over "it" that we're not bent on dismembering the red-blooded American male or castrating him. Today's young men, like every generation in the past, think they know all about masculinity, when, in truth, they know less about "it" than any other part of their anatomy. And the more fanatical and paranoid the man, the less he hears when his penis penetrates his heart, upsetting his thinking, and making his conscience have to make choices that will require intervention from God to teach him to discover right from wrong.

There's nothing more dangerous than a man with a highly stimulated penis that he's got unconsciously pointing at the world instead of first and foremost in at himself with good desires. The more you see every part of you as male, manly and well-endowed with the qualities that make you pleasing to yourself, the less you're going to turn other people into moving targets to relieve your inner frustrations. You have to develop the desire to use your power to get to know and love yourself. But you also have the power in your hands to deny your relationship with yourself and end up hating others over what you had to do to them to survive.

Experts on the male psyche in D.C., Madison Avenue and Wall Street predict the outcomes of penis envy in politics, shopping patterns and financial investments. But if you're an average guy who wants to get to know yourself in the brief time you have here

on Earth, all you need to know is what would make you happy on the outside and tranquil within.

Although some people feel deeply, others feel conscientiously. That's why it's so important for your feelings and desires to be routed through your head so you know what you're doing, and then through your conscience so you can change your behavior if you feel the least little bit guilty about it. The general point that Jesus was making was that Jews then didn't think with their heart. They thought about God with their head and then they fed Him sacrifices at the Temple to assuage their guilty conscience. Two thousand years ago it was big news when the Temple sacrifices ended and men had to face their guilty conscience through internal means. It made men scramble to create societies that would understand how the common man really felt inside.

Today the problem for Christianity in general, and each sect, specifically, lies in communicating the profundity of the Trinity to a modern world in a way we, as outsiders, can understand. The people Jesus was preaching to (Jews for the most part) saw no reason at that time in our history to fight for their feelings to be included in with their thoughts to decide the right thing to do. Doing what was right was easy because their loyalty to God was based on duty, not emotional insight. {When the country you've been living in for 500 years has been invaded and colonized by cruel, outside powers, it's hard to believe that that's the time to start exhibiting feelings of love for anyone, especially for your enemies.} For those ancient Jews to use their head and heart in tandem wasn't easy then, and it isn't proving to be any easier for modern man who has to include his soul as well. He'd rather wait with loving his problems until they're very far behind him.

Life is a school of moral assignments that only get more difficult the older you grow spiritually. If you don't use the basics given in the Creation Story and apply them to the rest of the stories in the Bible, you're not going to grow from your reading of the Bible. You're not going to correlate the rainbow Noah received with the coat of many colors Joseph received from his father and the rainbow that Jesus personified. Hope won't come out of the sky and down into your life. The complexities of your curriculum in the school of life will confound you. You'll make bad choices, and your spiritual grades will suffer.

Anyone can pull out passages from Torah and shoot them at you as though from a gun. But the fact is that the Book of Leviticus wasn't given to Jews and Christians to be used as a weapon against gay men. Each section of Torah is one section of a five-part operating manual on how to become a man from the inside out. The word "Leviticus" is Greek, and refers to the Levites who were the priestly class of Jews. The Book of Leviticus originally dealt with the priestly functions needed to guide the Israelites through the desert and the Jews through life thereafter. Today its modern meaning is to teach you your priestly functions in guiding yourself through your life. Doing what it says in Leviticus just because

someone said so is a little silly. You've got to learn to use your own head, not somebody else's.

The Hebrew word for the Book of Leviticus is "VAYIKRA." VAYIKRA is the first word in this section of Torah. VAYIKRA roughly translates as "CALLED BY GOD." To hear God's call to you turns you into a priest in your own temple. It challenges you to study the laws of Leviticus to learn how to make these laws personal and meaningful in the age in which we live. This alone will make Torah a living testament to God's participation in your life. If you don't go forward into the future you'll find going back to reclaim the past painful. God's plan moves us into the future with good reason: you can't go back.

Moses wrote Torah only for one man, himself. Jesus took Torah to heart and used it to live His life as a model for everyman. Torah is pure psychology. The Gospels are pure sociology. If you can't see the Five Books of Moses {Torah} as the five seeds at the core of you, and the Gospels as the meat that surrounds it, you're not going to be very attracted to the Quran, the peel that protects us all from God's wrath. Religion will remain your forbidden fruit, and you'll either avoid religion religiously, or you'll try to move from the peel to the meat to the core when history is taking us the other direction: from the core to the meat to the peel.

If picking forbidden fruit was forbidden because God said so, then the only reason for recreating the "crime" Adam committed in coming to know himself despite the reverse psychology inherent in God's decree, lies in the miraculous and unexpected rewards in the wisdom you discover emanating out of your heart. Knowledge leads to self-knowledge. Self-knowledge leads to wisdom. And wisdom leads to loving acts of kindness.

If you don't spend more time accounting to yourself for what you know and love about yourself, you won't even get to the starting line to begin your race in learning new ways of learning to believe that life is a school and God is our one and only Teacher. You won't be in a position to make claims about how individuals, businesses, institutions and governments are doing with *their* accounting practices if you can't account to yourself for your *own*.

Atheists are wrong in concluding that religion has only had a negative effect on the world. Religion opened man to the mystery of himself. But the power that lies in a man's heart and soul, like the mysterious physical attributes of water and fire, have been difficult for men to put into words they could use on weekdays as well as on the Sabbath. Nowadays, it's in discovering our nature every day of the week that we discover God's nature. There's nothing wrong with religion that you couldn't help heal with self-awareness. Why go against history when there are so many good ways to bring history out of the past and into the future with you?



Whether you leave the world we share to go into your world within using a violin, a paintbrush, ballet slippers or pen and paper, while you're in there you have the opportunity to explore self-imprisonment verses containment, poetic justice verses revenge.

Our inner world was first described as a garden, but many have had to pave it over and build a ghetto, jail or the locked ward of a mental institution on that site to keep themselves from killing themselves or to keep the voices inside them from suggesting they kill those around them. Hell is very real in the poetic sense. We all have one. Slum landlords don't just exist around us; everyone has one in his Jewish ghetto within.

We all want a sense of freedom from within, independence from others as well as a sense of being judged on our own merits by God. We all want to be able to say that life has taught us to see and be seen. Although you can never know what's right around the corner, faith in yourself will put greater faith in your future. It takes hindsight, insight and foresight to say that you can perceive the truth realistically. Those with 20/20 ocular vision may still have an inner eye that's myopic. Although everyone is moving through darkness visible, only some can see that they can't see. Most are moving through darkness invisible. They have no clue what they can't see because their inner eye lacks the clarity that comes with self-scrutiny.

Religious rites and rituals focus on spiritual purification as the way to cleanse your relationship with Y.H.V.H. Jesus A L L A H. But metaphor makes it possible for you to clean your inner home while you may be literally dusting or vacuuming your house. All forms of cleaning around you are forms of inner purification if done with self-awareness of what's going on inside. Whether you're washing your body or your car, you could be gleaning spiritual insight into yourself if you made the spiritual connection between what you're doing to your "vehicle" in both worlds.

Those who trade in their car every two years for a newer model may be in love with safety, comfort and the feeling of keeping current with style. But the fancy upholstery, shiny paint job and dashboard filled with buttons and dials should also be a reminder of the importance of having made those upgrades within themselves during those two years. There's little joy in driving a new automobile if you feel like a wreck inside. Replacing your old things with new ones will only feel like an upgrade if you're always doing two things at once, one in each of your two worlds.

The question why the Jews needed to be given back Israel after the Holocaust has been answered religiously, politically and legally, but it should also be argued for emotionally. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century Christians needed to learn not to trespass on any man's heart. That emotional property in man is not theirs to encroach upon. God gave every one of us an inner Israel to call his own. It was the Christian world that convinced the rest of the world to give Israel back to the Jews. It was wisdom of their heart that made them realize they

had to learn to protect and cherish that holy place in their own inner space. And they couldn't do so without a visual example from the Jews in how that would be done.

Evil intention penetrates man from within, violating his heart unconsciously with desire for religious expansion and political domination. The territorial, behavioral patterns we see in animals in the occupation and defense of what they perceive as "their" space is a powerful force of nature that also exists in man. {Animals were given penises, too.} The wellbeing of Israel has been a struggle since God gave that land to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And the wellbeing of Israel during the time of Jesus gave us the gifts of symbolic logic, the tool we've all needed to expel invaders from our own inner shores.

Israel will eventually become a personal struggle that Muslims will engage in when they reunite with themselves in awe of God's plan as it's unfolding for them, too. The existence of the State of Israel creates lessons for the world in how to use every place on Earth more righteously and gratefully. The existence of Israel teaches the world how to respect other people's property in both the literal and emotional senses of the WORD. And it will teach the Muslims how to defend their inner space from Muslims thanks to the greater, moral sensitivity to both worlds revealed to them by Judeo-Christian man. The feeling of being encroached upon by Jews is a projection of something some Christians and Muslims are doing to themselves. The WORD/w o r d of God are extensions of the WORD of God. When they break their projections, they'll be amazed at how quickly their problem with Jews and gays will disappear.

Man's search for God prompted God to reveal Himself to Moses and to describe Himself to him as the Creator of time, a container we're all in that we can only get out of once {when we die}. Moses's confrontation with God at the Burning Bush blessed my spiritual ancestors with more than physical freedom from bondage in Egypt. It provided them with a moral path of exploration that they were privileged to share with the world thereafter. The Jewish people aren't here by accident. Our presence is a constant reminder that there are no accidents or coincidences.

But Moses was 80 years old and reticent to comply with the challenge God gave him because of his guilt in having killed a man and fear of reprisal from the Egyptians if he went back to help his tribe. As a murderer (the most reviled member of every society), Moses saw himself as unworthy of the God-given task before him. He suffered from the lowest self-esteem possible. He couldn't imagine he, of all people, had been picked for such a sacred task. {You don't go from a prince in palace to the lowly rank of herder of sheep without feeling punished for a crime.} But if God could have chosen a man like Moses to help Him, surely there must be something those with low self-esteem can do today to make this school a better place for those who'll be enrolled in it tomorrow.

To make Moses feel more emotionally invested in His plan, God introduced Himself to him by name. Although it's said that this, God's first name given to humanity {Y.H.V.H.}, is inscrutable, it can be loosely translated in three ways:

1. All the tenses of the verb "to be" {I am, I was and I will be}
2. I am becoming
3. What will be will be, a conditional sense of time

God's first name is abbreviated as Y.H.V.H. in English, but it's pronounced "Adonai," which is a euphemism. "Adonai" literally translates as, "My Lord."

From a moral point of view God's first name reveals the mystery of man's journey. What will be depends on what actions we take individually and collectively. What will be depends on where we choose to go to do what we choose to do. The more we expand our knowledge of the world around us {who, what, where, why and how} and apply that knowledge to the world within, the more we learn about the meaning of His first name. In this way we receive a sense of the answer to the question "whether."

We think of God as the Father of time, the One who created the one container we can struggle with, but never exit and enter all on our own. The meaning of the name God used when He introduced Himself to Moses was a challenge for him because he saw that, unlike the Egyptian gods that were fashioned out of stone, God asked Moses to think of Him as the Creator of time, something that can't be encompassed with a visual image.

It's easy to understand outer place, but it's more challenging to apply what we know about outer place to inner space. And time is even more difficult to perceive than space. Time is something we can't control by moving the hands on the face of a clock. Time is like a fire that has an endless supply of air and wood upon which to feed. Time is something you can ignite with your penis by making a baby or extinguish with a gun by killing someone. But the moral use of time is a mystery that each of us must discover for himself.

For a man who felt guilty about having killed a human being, it must have been a relief for Moses to realize that he'd never be able to kill the Creator of time. Perhaps because Moses never had to worry about killing time, God chose him at the Burning Bush. Over time, God would eventually kill him, too. But this is something He does to us all.

God returned to the meaning of His first name later in Exodus with the giving of the Ten Commandments. The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment {honoring the Sabbath} separates ordinary time from the sacred time He created on the last day of the first week. Spending time thinking about the moral meaning of time is like using a lit candle to light another candle. It spreads the fire without diminishing the flame. God-consciousness is an illumination, warmth, purification, mystery, smoke, sound and smell that infuses our world with His

holy flame. Time can never be contained. We're subjected to subjective time within and objective time around us. But we can't make either move at our own pace.

Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, is like a candle that lights every other day of the week including Sunday, time of Christian love as well as Friday, the Muslim Sabbath that celebrates the creation of mankind on the last day of His workweek. Saturday is the ember that ignites the next week with a new sense of time with a greater infusion of wisdom in the pursuit of love. And love is the flickering flame that ignites the following Friday with a philanthropy of feelings of gratitude to God for having created life on the sixth day of creation.

We have to learn to share time with one another, as well as space. The brief period of time we have here on Earth is meaningless without a love of time and space as perceived subjectively. We were all enrolled in this school to share this time together. The moral lessons that come to us with our objective knowledge about space and time is meaningless without the subjective appreciation of God's plan that comes from a personal relationship with Him.

Our collective future will only be as hopeful as each of us can glean hope from our own past. Our collective future will only illuminate God's plan for our children depending on what torch we pass on to them.

You have a unique and subjective sense of inner space and time because they're personal, private, intimate and sacred when you perceive their effects on you alone. When you observe the effect of objective time and place on you, you're drawn into the mystery of being rather than the habitual acts of doing. This personal and private view of life draws you out of the sociological, and into the psychological view of this world. It turns the world outside in, from a surreal circus into a sacred school.

Looking in the mirror year after year becomes a personal revelation of God's effect on you over time. Looking at old people and seeing them as beautiful or horrifying is the result of your subjective sense of what time is doing to you. "Wrinkles should show where the smiles have been." {Mark Twain} But if they show where your frowns and disappointments with life have been expressed instead, obviously you're going to feel embarrassed by what time is doing to you. Here again, a modest regard for how you look on the outside is the only behavior that will improve the way you look at yourself when erroneously presuming that beauty is only skin deep.

Jesus spoke to His congregation about forgiveness, but we know that forgiveness has to begin within. If you still look at the poor with disdain, see and smell only their dirtiness, you already know you're blind to their struggle for self-love. You'll never improve your spiritual vision until you look back with sorrow on your own struggle for a love you couldn't always fathom. You'll never be able to like yourself any more than you do today

until you make an effort to see your outer wealth as one stalk of wheat in a field of wheat and your inner holdings as a vine that entwines with everything it finds.

You have to be rich to be powerful, and you have to get rich to become more powerful. The only thing you don't have to do is measure all your wealth in money. That's an option you have the right to refuse. That's even an option you have the right to refuse to allow anyone else to judge you for as well. All that talk about rich Jews and stingy Jews has to be internalized.

If you don't question your motives in being here, you'll die feeling crucified on petrified wood. Your pain and suffering won't give you moral satisfaction. You'll only see the world slipping into evil, not evolving. The man who doesn't take the Hebrew Bible as personally as Jesus did won't be able to take the Christian Bible as personally as He might like him to.

He is a part of You. Jesus is God. He is the personification of God-consciousness. History proves that Christianity is real, not an imitation of Judaism. Therefore Jesus is a God-given aspect of Him that 33% of the world believes in and prays to. Believe what you will, but respect others' beliefs.

According to a breakdown of the global religious landscape in 2010 there are 5.8 billion religiously affiliated adults and children around the globe representing 84 percent of the 6.9 billion people on Earth.

32%	2.2 billion	Christians
23%	1.6 billion	Muslims
15%	1 billion	Hindus
7%	500 million	Buddhists
6%	400 million	African traditional religions
		American Indian religions
		Australian aboriginal religions
		Chinese folk religions
		Other folk or traditional religions
0.9%	58 million	other religions including Zoroastrianism
0.02%	14 million	Jews

{Statistics from Wikipedia}

Moses was given an awesome introduction by God at the Burning Bush. He got to see wood burn without being consumed. God's metaphor of man is that we are spiritual trees made of spiritual wood, something growing through time and space that has the potential for burning forever if ignited properly and maintained righteously.

You were instructed in how to enlighten yourself spiritually in the traditions given to you by your family. But to grow the flame once you became consciously aware of the spiritual fire within you, that you did on your own. You're a burning bush that could grow into becoming a metaphoric tree over time if you saw yourself as in a spiritual process. Like the character of Moses that the author {Moses} described in Exodus, you may realize that you don't yet see yourself as whole and complete.

You'd think everyone would love the miraculous flame of flesh on fire that they are. You'd think the first thing everyone would want to do in the morning even before brushing his teeth would be to kiss his reflection in the bathroom mirror just in appreciation for the miracle of life. You'd think everyone would want to make his bed as perfectly as possible in the hope of returning to it at night with wonderful memories to add to those of the beginning of that day.

Some infants and children may live with that kind of exuberance and naiveté, but by the time most people hit puberty, their fantasies sour with cynicism and they become too worldly and complex to maintain the magical relationship they may have once held with themselves at times as a child. When a boy becomes more interested in checking out the plush interior of other people's vehicles, he forgets to look under his own hood to figure out how he runs. He forgets to get under his chaise to see out how his own spiritual transmission works. He becomes more consumed with sharing flames than figuring out how he was designed with a spiritual, combustion engine that's taking him on a journey to a whole, New World.

Self-preoccupation is what you learn in life before you learn about self-occupation. The order of these classes in life is no mistake. It's not easy being you. God knows you know that much about yourself. And although you hold a mystery that links you with history, I wish I could tell you what the mystery of being you is all about. I wish I could tell you why God created you. Nobody knows the answer to that riddle. That's something you're going to have to discover for yourself.

AVODA {your outer work and inner expression of worship} is your Israel, your struggle in getting to know and love yourself with God's help. He will reward you for self-occupation with personal revelations that will come from the two pieces of His puzzle {Judaism and Christianity} commonly referred to as wisdom and love. Whether you're folding laundry, doing dishes or thinking about last night's dream while eating your breakfast, you should marvel at the thoughts and feelings that arise inside. They produce moral messages that will inform you of the inner edges you're connecting to the outer pieces of His puzzle.

Although you should assume it flatters your Creator to know that His creation is in awe of His work, don't explore yourself for His sake. Get to know yourself regardless of what

He decides to teach you. If you interest yourself, that will help you grow faster and stronger. You don't know from one day to the next what you're going to learn about yourself or how you're going to apply that to your understanding of your world over the course of a week. Don't make any plans at all when it comes to your inner world, but do make long-term plans when it comes to the world we share. The rhythm of your life is complex and unique.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Descarte said, "*Je pense donc je suis.*" {French: I think therefore I am.} But in today's world, I am, not just because I think, but because I feel. It's my feelings for me that make me so much more than a 17<sup>th</sup> Century man. My feelings make my moral journey like Christ's, not my native affiliation with His tribe {Judaism} or friendship with His followers {Christians}.

I don't need to promote Jesus as God because I can promote His teachings as spiritual imperatives for a life worth living. If the Christians living in Europe of my parents' generation had followed His teachings instead of trying to become like gods themselves, there wouldn't have been a Holocaust. If Christians would follow His teachings today, there wouldn't be the culture clashes we see in society.

Blackmail, extortion and hostage taking are behaviors some do to themselves until they hate themselves so much that they blackmail, cheat and take others hostage just to magnify what they're doing within. Bad behaviors toward others are ways some people play god to help them see what they're doing to themselves. It's only once they take note of what they're doing to themselves that they can change their behavior. We all have to do some things wrong before we can get it right. Many straight men had to stop screwing themselves over before they could let gay men screw one another without getting *their* knickers in a twist over it.

Needless to say, men who play god have a penis problem. They may claim to be tender hearted, but they don't know much about what's really going on inside themselves. Such men often appear charismatic on the outside, but they can't connect what's happening above their waist to what's happening below it. Their desires have so colluded with their feelings that their head can only come up with more and more devious reasons to screw someone their conscience has deemed undeserving of their idea of self-righteous love.

The desire for the rich to be loved is just as real as the poor's. To expect the rich and poor to get together to create a fairytale kingdom where everyone will be treated like royalty will only be possible when every man becomes the king of his own castle. That's true for everyone, except of course, the queens...

## **Appetizers:** In The Beginning

The first word of Genesis is “BERASHEET” which means “IN THE BEGINNING.” But with poetic license and stretching the grammatical rules of Hebrew, BERASHEET could be interpreted to mean “AT THE ROOT OF IT ALL.” For a holy book whose main metaphor is ‘man as a tree of knowledge,’ the subtle inference from the very beginning that there’s a mysterious connection between the tree and its roots thrilled me when I began my personal exploration of Torah.

The fourth Gospel, the Gospel According to John, begins with the WORDS “IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS THE WORD.” And when I separate the word “WORD” from the rest of John’s declaration that excited me, too. The “WORD of God” is the beginning of the Christian faith. Perhaps that’s why the Hebrew Testament is what you get when you open the Christian Testament to the beginning. For them the “WORD of God” {Torah} is the beginning of all faith. The Quran begins with the words, “In the name of A L L A H.” Their faith begins with their name for God. But their distinction from the Jewish and Christian names for God, accentuate their connections to us.

Before appreciating Jesus’s message of universal love, you need to imagine the psychological insights He must have received from the clues given to Him by God from the Hebrew Testament, the only sacred text He ever quoted. He surely must have become personally interested in His Biblical name, Joshua, and how His name became so prominent in Torah. But He would have also been interested in the name given to His mother, who was named “Miriam” after Moses’s sister who set her baby brother adrift in a basket on the Nile at their mother’s request. Miriam #1 joined her brothers, Aaron and Moses, on their journey, and upon her death God opened a spring for the Israelites to drink from while wandering in the desert. The death of Miriam #1 will forever be associated with the life-saving flow of water that quenched the thirst of the Israelites on their journey.

The association of this life-saving water with Jesus’s mother’s name may have been revealed to Him in His reading of the book of Exodus. His mother may have been the personification of water for Him; the woman who’d forever be His wellspring, the oasis that nurtured Him with her love, just as Miriam #1 nurtured her brothers and sisters more than 1,400 years prior as they were crossing the same desert Jesus and His family crossed twice to get to and back from Egypt. Mary may also even have been the spiritual inspiration for Jesus seeking the assistance of fisherman to help Him.

Your name and your mother’s name are no less profound or important to God’s plan. If you never bothered to question the spiritual importance of these two names in your life, the time has come to do so. You are the contents of your mother’s container. You are a



symbolic message in the flesh. This is the simple logic derived from Jesus's symbolism that anyone should be able to understand and apply.

Public opinion today on gays in America has changed, in part, because of the stereotypes most of us talk about when it comes to mothers. Gay men often claim greater resonance with women in general and our mother in particular. "Faggots" {Vulgar Latin: bundle of sticks} are now appreciated for more than the stereotype of a people with various forms of artistic knowledge bundled together with no real roots. People are beginning to see we have a wisdom and spiritual purpose in being here all our own. Americans have asked and answered the question how men who love men could possibly be a positive influence on the spiritual destiny of those who don't, in the same way that European Christians once asked themselves how Jews could be a holy people if they didn't believe in Christ.

If peace is going to come to the Middle East, the constant crusades over the Holy Land will have to come to an end. The fight between Christians and Muslims has always been, and still is, over Israel. In the last century some Christians decided that the best way to wrestle Israel away from the Jews would be to kill all the Jews. And most Muslims heard that message loud and clear. For the Christian message of love to be universalized, it's going to take a linguistic understanding of the nature of love as a God-given property and how every man can learn to love all men without having to have sex with them as gay men do.

A Jew who can say, "I love You" to God ought to then ask himself if he can repeat the words, "I love you" to himself. A Christian who can't yet say, "I love You" to Jesus, should first challenge himself to imagine what it would mean for him to say, "I love you" to another man. How will a Muslim say "I love you" to his son if he can't practice using these words on the P r o p h e t Mohammed? The words "I love you/You" have to be learned many times in many ways until men can see the personal challenges given to them by God.

We already know that literal interpretations of Scripture appear to have gone horribly wrong. Torah, the Gospels and Quran have been used to enslave, subjugate and foment hatred. Indifference and apathy have been the only responses to revenge. The Abrahamic faiths must be unified in spirit if we're going to separate them with individual admiration.

God may have given Moses His first name {Y.H.V.H}. His middle name may have been Jesus. And He may have given the P r o p h e t Mohammed His last name, A L L A H. But He gave Them for you to know about Him through all proper nouns. The actions you take to believe in yourself are based on 3,400 years of religious civilizing that has developed God-consciousness to where it is today. If you refuse to use all of that wisdom you're doing yourself a disservice. You won't appreciate the God-consciousness brought to us by Christians. And then you won't understand the everyday godly ways promoted by

Muslims. And if you don't bring the three names of God into your life you may not be satisfied with the results you're getting in making a name for yourself.

As you learn to care more about yourself as a good book in the making, you'll author yourself differently. You'll care more about others doing so, too. As you deal with the frustrations of editing yourself, you'll appreciate the pain and suffering others have to go through to do the same. Our Publisher can be very critical of the way we right our life. Each and every negative emotion you experience is a message from the Teacher that holds a moral meaning. Sometimes entire pages of your good book should be deleted.

If you'd like to improve this world, you could add your suggestions to His plan. This happened twice in Torah, once when a group of workers petitioned for better working conditions and once when a group of women asked Moses to intercede on their behalf before God to secure women's rights. [Numbers 9:1-14, 27:1-11] Your desire to make this world a better place for your children and grandchildren must include the children and grandchildren of everyone else as well, thus creating monumental, moral conflicts you must write out on the board of reality for the Teacher to critique.

You don't have to live your life like a character in someone else's tale. You could co-author yourself with every person you meet if you added a little feeling for him to the mix. Your beliefs make you soulful, but your negative opinions about others only make you irritable. Soften your opinions. They are, after all, just opinions. Your goals should rise above your opinions.

We know words hold power, and we intuitively believe that the power of words is so great that God listens intently to what we tell Him in our prayers that we want Him to accomplish. But what we don't realize is that prayer requires practice in everyday speech. Practice your prayers on yourself and others, and your prayers to God will start to sound a lot different.

When you finally reach the level of awareness of the spiritual adolescent {Noah} you'll be able to watch and witness your daydreams in a new way. You'll be able to see the messages your soul is sending you in metaphor, and you'll have the head and heart to deduce their meaning for yourself. When, like a narrator telling a tale, you describe yourself to yourself as a righteous man in your time who walks with God you, too, will be a man named after comfort. You'll then be powerful enough to question your daydreams, fantasies and whims.

What's going on in your mind is more important than you think. Your daydreams, fantasies and whims reveal the marvel of the head of your penis when "it" lodges its self in your brains. Your daydreams, fantasies and whims will tell you about "its" desire to deliver the power of your love to you. If you think only about superhuman powers in order to control, possess and dominate others that's because you're focusing on a part of you

that's wounded and defended against self-love. This desire to protect yourself figuratively comes from your left testicle where evil leads to the wisdom of hindsight. If, however, you seek the mystery in not knowing, learning and the delight of discovery your desire is being figuratively delivered from your right testicle. This is the forbidden fruit of good that always leads you to love and insight.

You can't trust others unless you can trust yourself. And you can't trust yourself if you can't find a way into your operating system to observe the collusion of your feelings and desires from an independent point of view. To be fully sincere with yourself, you have to listen to yourself and ask yourself whether you're being fully sincere. It's just that simple, and it's just that difficult. Emotional candor is key to you trusting yourself. Your sincerity isn't something you have to prove to everyone; it's something you have to prove to that one someone you care the most about. When *you* can see your sincerity, you'll have found your way into your heart.

The psychological issues of emotional birth, growing up emotionally and moving toward emotional maturity are described abstractly in the first four stories of Genesis:

1. Adam and Eve
2. Cain and Abel
3. Noah and the Ark
4. The Tower of Babel.

But these stories are then compounded psychologically in the dysfunctional family model of relationships through the next four stories of Genesis:

1. Abraham and his crazy nephew Lot
2. Abraham's behavior toward his sons Ishmael and Isaac
3. The sibling rivalry of Esau and Jacob
4. How Joseph survived his ten envious half-brothers.

When you see yourself as a part of a dysfunctional family, repeating the dynamics in these four stories of Genesis, you'll understand why you needed to graduate Genesis in a hurry to become a Moses unto yourself on your journey with God.

In Exodus, Moses {the author} introduces Moses {his main character}. There, we read the story of a man who was literally raised as a prince who then killed a stranger without premeditation, an act of passion motivated by a sudden revulsion of injustice. But we're asked to form an emotional bond with Moses by connecting everything that happened in Genesis to how he came to be the way he was. There would be a lot to ask in the way of forgiveness if you were an Israelite. But if you were a relative of the slave driver, it might be even harder.

The message of Moses who committed murder; the Moses who encountered God at the Burning Bush; the Moses who led the Israelites out of Egypt; and the Moses who died without having reached his own goal - can only be fully understood with illumination into the way you're emancipating yourself from a world that's as ageless as it is modern. Torah is your story. Torah was Jesus's story. Torah is everyone's story. And unless you're willing to look at the messages of Jesus and Mohammed through this lens, you'll allow your negative feelings about having to be alive to get the better of you.

Observation of man's spiritual process through Eastern philosophic inquiry is accomplished through meditation. Meditation is an emptying of the mind that allows you to see the spiritual process in action. The compilation and practical management of the spiritual process in the West with wisdom is called contemplation. Contemplation is a filling of yourself with moral intention through positive, emotional self-regard. To become a fully integrated human being, you have to learn to both empty your mind and fill your heart. This combination will bring you the experience of soulful regard with your Maker. This is done with a combination of Western faith and Eastern philosophy, a lifetime of prayer and silence.

When Moses described the creation of the universe in six days, he was really describing the way in which every infant moves out of the maelstrom of inner chaos into a world organized by speech. This differentiating process of sound and sight is the supreme expression of creativity in every human being that begins at the moment of birth. The separation of the firmaments, as described in Genesis, is the separation of light from darkness that the infant experiences when he opens his eyes outside his mother's womb. The separation of his thoughts from feelings is then made manifest when the infant is placed in his mother's arms and he recognizes his mother's heartbeat from outside her body. So long as he lives, a boy will associate the reproduction of this rhythm with the calming effect he'd previously experienced within his mother. This is what Moses was, in part, describing poetically in his description of the creation of Eve {mother} out of one of Adam's ribs {heartbeat} while he was in a deep sleep.

For a man to give birth to a woman makes no sense at all. But for a baby to recognize its mother's heartbeat when first put in her arms does. Taking Torah literally will drive you crazy. But learning to use it as a tool to bring you out of your head and into your heart and soul will heal you and make you saner.

Christians are in the habit of speaking about Joshua #2 through His role as their savior using the Greek word "Christ" which means "savior," even though His title in Hebrew was that of rabbi, a term most Christians don't fully understand. Traditionally RAV {RABBI} is translated from Hebrew as "TEACHER," but that's incorrect. This Hebrew word is an endearing term for a teacher who can convey the meaning of life in many ways. "RAVI" literally means "MY MANY."

To kill a rabbi by nailing him on a cross is a moral issue that requires an emotional reaction, not just a thought about its immorality. Christianity created the emotional, moral response to that injustice. It's not enough for a man to learn right from wrong. He must also learn to love justice and hate injustice. A man who can't feel offended by the death of Christ isn't yet morally mature enough to consider himself a man who has the ability to love another man.

Men make love to women. They make babies thinking they'll love them, and then they're suddenly shocked to discover that they don't know how to love. Love is a moral emotion that most men believe they possess, when the evidence isn't there to substantiate their presumption. You have to learn to love. And you should learn to do so before you make babies, not after. And the way to prove that you know how to love is to strive to love the man that you are.

I'd now like to ask you to look up the lyrics by Ira Gershwin to the song, "The Man That Got Away," music by Harold Arlen. If you think of this man as Jesus you'll find the message {by two Jewish songwriters} to be very unexpected since it's always sung by women, the most famous having been Judy Garland. But the song will be even more personal and moving if you imagine him as having been you.

When you get to the last line, you'll probably find yourself in a bit of an emotional quandary. "There is nothing sadder than a one-man woman looking for the man that got away." You should ask yourself why you've always resisted identifying as a woman. When you were an infant, you couldn't separate yourself from your mother emotionally, thinking the two of you were literally one. But all your life you've probably done everything in your power to prove to yourself that you're not a woman.

When a man identifies as a woman, that doesn't mean he necessarily needs or wants to cut off his penis or develop breasts. It doesn't mean he wants to dress like a woman. It doesn't mean he necessarily wants to gesture or use mannerisms that women use. It doesn't even have to mean he wants to have sex with them. It just means he identifies with their feelings. When a man identifies as a woman, he's only making the claim that he's able to feel as they feel.

And when a man can feel like a woman, he can identify with both Adam and Eve, He can identify with Moses. He can even identify with Jesus. He wouldn't even need to learn how to read and write because he can achieve the generosity of godliness that makes it possible to spread his own word to everyone.

## **Appetizers:** Faith Healer

A faith healer really ought to be someone who helps those whose faith in themselves needs healing. A doctor of the soul should instruct people in how to patch themselves up spiritually and go on their way. But when it comes to faith and spiritual healing and you don't do the work yourself, you're only going to learn how to put your faith in others, and then you'll always have to rely on them. That only produces faith addiction, not a healing of your faith in yourself.

God told Moses to think of Him as the Creator of time because a man in his eighties is well aware of all the effects of time by that point in his life. Even if you don't give much thought to the passage of time, time is always having its effect on you. The dreams you have at night are eroding you, gouging out mountains of expectations with invisible fingers that leave chasms you have to traverse with precipitous, hiking trails no one but you will have to learn to climb. Time moves through you season by season changing your inner landscape as it goes. When you look at time like drops of water rushing together down a raging stream, cutting ragged rocks into smooth pebbles, and pebbles into sand, you learn to appreciate the speed and simultaneously sluggish pace by which time is eroding you. You may have memories stored in your mind of inner eons of seasons that shaped your imagination as a child.

But if you were to look at the intricacies of your persona as a pattern {like a snowflake hand-carved by God}, you'd get a sense of the enormous inner landscape He gave you and the time He invested in making you this way. Man is a mirror of the meteorology around him. When people comment on the weather, know that their words are mirroring their feelings about the "whether" in themselves.

Jesus used all His time on Earth to give Himself to others. He died young, but He left a legacy that taught others how to help themselves. You can give all you have to others while you, too, are young. But you should also give as much as you can of yourself to yourself at all times. Spend 40 days in your inner desert a few minutes at a time with your inner demons. Time is the most precious resource in the world. But if you prioritize subjective time in your heart, you'll invest yourself in yourself in order to use your time here efficiently.

You can learn to open your heart without opening your zipper. Your penis can participate in this process by desiring to deliver what will be only for the best. And your testicles can give you the power you need for that to happen, whether you have the wisdom of mistakes corrected to offer or the knowledge of which way is the right way to go.

You should always listen in to the conversations between your heart and penis. But you can, and should, always question what they're chatting about as they whisper secretively to one another. When Eve conversed with the serpent, she told it that God had told them {Adam and Eve} not even to touch the Tree of knowledge. But that was simply not true. We know from the written account that God had {1} only spoken to Adam, and {2} never said a thing to him about not touching the Tree of knowledge. He only prohibited him from eating from it. Your heart, like a naïve Eve, may yearn to be heard, but you should listen very carefully to what it feels is right and true. It makes mistakes.

The ideal person you're dreaming about does exist, but only in your imagination. And when you develop your imagination enough, you'll realize that that person is the part of you that you don't yet fully know. What makes others seem so enticing and forbidden is that they're mirrors reflecting the fruit you wish you were picking from your own tree. The more you reach out to them, the more you realize they were sent into your life to reflect that part of yourself that God wants you to discover from within. Temptation is working simultaneously in both your worlds. You have to decide whether you're more interested in the orchard around you or that one fruit from the tree within.

Adam learned about the disappointment of a marriage made by God in Heaven when he and Eve got into trouble. In blaming Them {God and Eve} for his own indiscretion, Adam insinuated he wanted a divorce from Eve. When a man blames others for his bad luck, it's a missed opportunity to learn about taking personal responsibility. The moral lessons of life are always intended to improve your relationship with yourself.

Adam named Eve "CHAVA" {LIFE} after he humiliated himself before the Lord and before they were banished from Eden. Assumedly, he appreciated life a bit more after he realized he'd made a fool of himself and would have to pay for his outburst with harsh experiences in the future. Men have been blaming women for their own mistakes of judgment, and so the value of life has only risen slowly for thousands of years. The modern man who gets up in the morning feeling good about life and spends quality time with himself throughout the day discovers he's got no reason to blame women, gays or ethnic minorities for what he concludes they've done to ruin his life.

The fruits of self-knowledge, whether they smell good or evil, never taste quite the way they appear to attract you. Familiarity with others may have taught you to watch and listen carefully to them, but familiarity with yourself will teach you to see that your cynicism and scorn {and even your contempt} began within you with the ABC's of the heart - feelings of abandonment, betrayal and conspiracy you concluded about God's attitude toward you personally when you were disappointed in the way things turned out.

This world probably isn't what you expected. You might even be a bit of a surprise to yourself. You're much more complex than you realized, and you probably haven't turned

out nearly as sweet as you thought you'd be. If you don't take big bites out of yourself while you're young and still somewhat sweet, you'll surely gag later when you have to swallow what you look like on the inside as the outside starts to spoil.

Learning with God is the greatest gift of life, but He's learning about you at the same time that you are because your choices are determining His opinion of you as you go along. Fortunately His ability to see all sides of you makes His opinion more complex than you can possibly imagine. If you want to impress Him with how tall a tree you're growing into, you'd better be able to prove it with sweet, ripe fruit.

High self-esteem feels like those cool, crisp spring days when you saw yourself growing by leaps and bounds. Then you felt natural and in sync with God's plan. Then you saw yourself budding with hope and blossoming with joy in a timely manner. When you sowed self-knowledge in the early springtime of your life and watched as your spiritual farming techniques improved, rewarding you year after year with a more bountiful harvest, you told yourself that you were capable of reaping spiritual rewards. But what about now?

This spiritual appetizer was called "Faith Healing." The importance of healing your faith in yourself requires, above all, honesty from your head. But to become a good person, you'll also need to be sincere. Being sincere about your feelings without being honest about what you're thinking will create frustration in being yourself.

Healing your ability to have faith in yourself requires honesty in all that you say; sincerity in all that you feel; and a sense of authenticity in what you believe. This asks you to ask yourself if your intentions are improving God's opinion of you day-by-day. This self-scrutiny will make you feel genuine in your own eyes, which will make it a lot easier for you to be frank.

Halleluiah! I can see they're bringing the soup.



## **Soups:** Spiritual Math

America is the home of spiritual assimilation not just religious tolerance. We're a soup of faiths and philosophies. We don't glorify each difference of opinion as you would in a spiritual salad; we amalgamate them into a spiritual stew. As people of every color and confirmation come together here in America to share the revelation of the compatibility of our souls in reunion, each of us receives a feeling of being spiritually integrated in our society, thanks to one another.

This is the secret to American ingenuity and imagination. This is the secret to our greatness. This is the spiritual mettle with which we'll build a New World order with God's help. This is what we have that will tempt the Muslim world to go into spiritual business with us, and stop insisting they're in competition with us. When they realize they need us as much as we need them, the State of Israel will become an honored Jewish place, a Christian emotional space and a Muslim spiritual base from which we can all ascend to the world to come.

That said, I'm afraid we may have to say goodbye to some of our guests at this table. You were welcome to enjoy the appetizers and taste the soup, but you're not going to be able to complete the meal unless you do a little something for yourself at this point. It's not much, but it really will make the difference between resonating with me and leaving, at least for now.

You have to apologize to yourself for having taken advantage of advantages that were presented to you that you didn't give a second thought to at the time. If you're not able to humble yourself to yourself in this way I'm afraid you can't continue. I can't do all the work by spoon-feeding you what you didn't know until now. We've come to a point in our relationship where you're going to have to do something to prove your commitment to this course of self-study. All I ask is that you give thought to the Eve in you, the "x" factor that had it so easy when it came to simply taking knowledge that was there for the taking. Opportunities were there and you took them. I'm not saying you're not a victim of many circumstances you never asked for. I'm just saying that you need to admit to yourself that you were presented with knowledge and you consumed it without a second thought. I'm obviously not in a position to tell you exactly how and when that happened, but you know it's true, and you know you need to do something about it from a moral perspective.

You should anticipate that apologizing to yourself is going to bring up feelings of guilt, but I'm asking you to do so anyway because it's the right thing to do. Your guilt at not having done this sooner will also bring up feelings of sorrow, maybe even tinged with a

little guilt. You're going to see yourself seated at a personal place at the spiritual table if you do, a seat reserved just for you.

Oh, you may still see the spiritual food I'm serving, smell it and gorge yourself in your imagination until you feel full inside, but you won't fully enjoy the information I'm providing if you don't acknowledge that there's some knowledge you never thanked God for {despite the reserve psychology He used to get you to do so}. It was simply there for the taking, and you took it.

Nor have you thanked yourself for your curiosity in learning all that's interested you in life.

You've therefore suffered as you have for what you didn't do. Like Adam was figuratively fed by Eve, and like you were literally fed by your mother, now you're ready to feed yourself thanks to your ability to be grateful to you for all that you know. Now you're ready to receive more spiritual soup.

The great crusade of man has always been, and still is, against woman. Not until men move through their resentment at once having fed on a woman in infancy will our other issues with women end. {We'll never be able to give back to women in the same way our mother gave to us.} We first began the journey to manliness when we were weaned off of our mother's breast and onto solid foods. Now, the question is to what extent each of us is prepared to do so emotionally and spiritually to achieve full interdependence with women. Granted gay men don't need women sexually, so it's ironic that we treat women so much better than the men who'll always need them in ways we won't.

Acknowledgment of the "x" factor in straight men isn't going to make women physically, intellectually, emotionally or spiritually obsolete despite childish macho views to the contrary. Acknowledging that all men are biologically half female is simply going to give fully mature men the capability of emitting soft and tender feelings for themselves that they'll then be able to give to others. It won't pose a penis problem except to those whose spiritual vehicle has broken down somewhere on the road of misogyny.

Your ability to thank yourself for your curiosity about you and your desire to satisfy that curiosity doesn't make you gay. It makes you human, which is a combination of manly and womanly traits. Your curiosity about you doesn't make you vain. Nor does it make you conceited. Your curiosity keeps you spiritually fit and young. You should be proud of what you know about yourselves. But you should also be proud of all you still want to learn. Now that you know knowledge isn't free, and you know you've earned what you already know, you only have to find a safe way to get more knowledge about yourself without paying too high a price for it.

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

God created us using His imagination. We're a blend of all His virtues. Every individual literally looks different from every other person on Earth on the outside, but on the inside we're all combinations of Him. We're on to His clever trick of putting us in two worlds at once. Metaphorically we're all the same: trees of knowledge growing in the same garden. And symbolically we're all the same: bread filled with wine. It's only when we compare and contrast ourselves to one another through similes that we begin to fight over what we perceive.

Behind any cynicism you may have of the autobiography of Moses may lie great blame and anger at the biography of Jesus for not having magically turned you into who you always really wanted to be. But skepticism brought in the light of self-questioning that led you to learn how to see yourself differently from how you saw yourself before. Behind any blame of others today still lies tremendous frustration and rejection of yourself in not being just the right combination of God qualities you'd hoped for. Such a cynical view of yourself can only be achieved when you're standing in the way of your own light. The darkness you see is a self-created shadow. You can move around inside yourself. You're not stuck where you are in either world. You can view yourself from a different place in inner space. You can become skeptical, and move from there to become uncertain, doubtful, hesitant, cautious, guarded, and from there even go to safe and secure.

It's hard to speak about self-rejection without rejecting yourself just by saying the word. Yes, indeed there is a spiritual flame burning within you that you can get between. But the shadow in your mind's eye that produces cynicism can be understood with reason. You can learn how to turn around and look into your own spiritual light to see it with your own eyes. This is the bright light people who go through a life-threatening experience are seeing. Hopefully this spiritual meal will give you the courage to make that move in inner space.

Nowadays some people are even willing to die taking others with them in order to recreate the self-rejection they've had to endure from themselves. If we can teach them to tolerate themselves, it's more likely they'll come to accept themselves. And once they can accept themselves as they are, with the godly combination of characteristics God gave them that they have to live with for a lifetime, we might even be able to help them learn to admire themselves that way so long as they develop a sense of humor to distance themselves from their own insanity.

Getting into a human body was easy when you only had one cell to worry about, but once you've got 37 trillion cells to deal with, I'll bet anyone would need help getting out of his body if he didn't learn his way around it.

Jesus spoke about the experience of being a spiritual being in a human condition His entire life. He just spoke about it using the pop culture of the time: Torah. And when His

death was imminent, He made it clear that consuming His body and drinking His blood symbolically would be the only way to ingest His message personally. Today we have metaphoric inquiry, symbolic logic and analogies to help us interpret these spiritual messages using our own conscience as our guide.

If you try pouring some table wine into a dinner roll, you'll see that it's really not that difficult to do it without leaking any onto your plate or the tablecloth. But try getting the wine out of the dinner roll! That's a different story. And that not just true about Christian bread and wine. That's true of all physical containers with spiritual contents.

If you're a Christian or a Muslim thinking about committing suicide and taking others along for the ride, whether you prefer bullets or bombs, you're going to have to account to Jesus and A L L A H. for the mess you'll make after life with the bodies you destroyed during your lifetime. The innocent people you kill are going to need God's help to get out of their body just as the slave driver did that Moses killed. If you make a mess you can't clean up, you're going to create a debt with your Creator that you may not be given the opportunity to pay back.

Moderately sane people find it easy to be so consumed with the needs of their body that they forget about the passion for the life that lies within them. But emotionally unstable people have an even greater challenge in respecting their physical bread and spiritual wine without doing something they'll really regret. Since we're still using ancient religious recipes handed down by Moses, Jesus and the P r o p h e t Mohammed using the vernacular of their days, we have no choice but to translate Their words into the colloquial speech of today. Taking even the WORD of God literally is a recipe for disaster. You've got to become schooled enough on the topic of spiritual consumption to discuss Scripture employing your own personal experiences, or you'll find yourself swallowing the dogma others swear by.

Looking back on the dough and grape juice you were at birth, it's difficult to tell others exactly what they need to do to contain their frustrations with the spiritual process they're going through. Telling people to accept Jesus Christ as your savior isn't a recipe for success unless you can teach them how to relate to the Bible using modern elucidations of Scripture.

Without the modesty, humility and grace needed to attract you to wisdom of the heart in the first place, your own guilt will get in the way of your love for yourself. You'll draw shadow puppets on your inner wall that will terrify you instead of intrigue you. Just as you needed the word "wonder" to describe the yeast that made your spiritual dough rise and the yeast that created the fermentation process that turned the juice in your veins as a boy into the fine wine of a mature man, you must now look for words to reach people who are suffering inside without their own love. Those who take Christ's words literally grow physically stale and moldy over time and their juices turn to vinegar or dry up entirely. To recreate His recipe 2,000 years later requires an active imagination.

The whole point of Spiritual Linguistics is to realize that words are the building blocks of life. Without the foundation given to us by Moses, the architectural plan of Jesus and the penthouse view from the Prophet Mohammed we're not going to be able to see the power in the words given to us by God. We're going to continue the wars of semantics. We're going to fight over the meaning of words instead of admitting God gave words with more than one meaning to teach us how to tell the truth better, not to lie to ourselves better.

Frustration is a physical sensation, like being pulled in two directions simultaneously. But frustration creates emotional reverberations. Frustration arises in your body, for instance, when you want to be both physically young again and spiritually older. Frustration requires emotional poise and composure until you can use frustration to achieve patience. The noun "patience" {SAVLANOOT} comes from the verb "LIZBOL", which means "to suffer." It can be agonizing when your head wants to hold onto youth and your heart wants nothing more than to grow as old as possible. This is an example of how wisdom of the heart can help you overcome a physical sensation with insight.

Self-rejection is caused by frustrations we don't have the patience to endure. Self-rejection is humiliating because we're so determined to learn how to accurately operate the human vehicle we find ourselves in. And yet we already know that rejecting others often comes from a dark place inside ourselves that we can't always see. Jesus was well aware of the frustrations the ancient Jews were under, and addressed it from a spiritual perspective. He had a unique way of describing mastery over being human with divine insight by using the wisdom that bubbled up from His own heart like an eternal spring.

If you take the Bible literally, you'll be left with scientific contradictions that make the Bible seem antiquated and outdated for today's world. But if you take the Bible metaphorically and symbolically it suddenly opens, and the mystery of its message becomes clear in a way that makes sense to you alone. Being a human being today is absolutely no different than it was 3,400 years ago when Moses wrote Torah, or even 2,000 years ago when Jesus contributed to his writings in a whole, new way.

The details of this divine process will be discussed in passages attributed to Jesus later in this book, but there are no easy answers, especially for people who are very frustrated and impatient about the way their life has turned out. Answers must be presented as parables, and parables must be decoded using the most refined spiritual techniques of this day. This turns the Bible into a spiritual cookbook you can use to make the kind of dishes you'd be proud to serve your family. Eating out isn't all it's cracked up to be when it comes to beliefs. It's far more pleasant to have guests at your spiritual table, especially if you're a good cook.

The words on this page are literal, but they carry more than the black-on-white literal weight of ink on paper. If you love to read you already know that words have length, width

and depth that go beyond anything you can literally see with your eyes. What gives words power are their emotional width and spiritual depth. It's only when you infuse words with these attributes that you witness from within that your words can come to life.

Words are literally objective. They only achieve subjectivity as you imbue them with feelings from your heart and beliefs from your soul. If you insist only on the literal meaning of words, you're insisting on keeping words in your head. You're actually doing the opposite of what Jesus and the Prophet Mohammed wanted to achieve with the metaphors given to them by Moses.

Whether or not you love to read books, everyone loves to read people. It's likely you already read faces better than letters and bodies better than words. It's likely you read social clues better than sentences, and draw conclusions about people quicker than you get the point by the end of a paragraph. There's nothing more enjoyable than reading a living good book. People are fun to pick up and peruse after looking at the cover and wondering what you'll find inside. But when you have to read the fine print in every man on Earth, it becomes as legalistic and impersonal as a contract.

The literal words you learned to repeat back as an infant, beginning with "mama," was just the first step on a journey you went on to learn to read as much as you could. For Moses words were mountains, boulders, rocks, stones, pebbles and sand he used to describe the Promised Land he was taking his people to. For Jesus words were seas, rivers, streams, showers and drops of rain He used to describe the waves and currents of the Promised Land. And for the Prophet Mohammed words were winds, gales, storms, gusts, breezes and puffs of air he used to describe the heavens above it. If you unite the words of these three men, you discover a whole world you never imagined existed.

After learning to speak, reading was the next greatest miracle of your life. Reading is now a great way for you to learn about yourself. When you can read yourself, you're really learning about the best from the best. God isn't just Anyone. He isn't just Whomever. You can't just dismiss Him with impersonal disregard for your creation and expect the meaning of your life to be given to you on a silver platter. The meaning of life is to give life meaning, and you were given all the tools to do so.

But without giving spiritual meaning to the concept of learning, you can't discover the real you. Being human rests on believing in the magic that comes with speaking and reading. Reading is a process of turning visual symbols into measured sounds that have meaning. Those who don't love reading, whether we're talking about books or people, will try to kill themselves one way or another. And they leave a message behind, we can all easily read.

If you give yourself credit for your ability to read books, you'll soon realize you need to give yourself credit for your ability to read faces and body language, too. And before

you know it, you'll start giving yourself credit for your sixth sense in being able to read the thoughts and feelings that others trigger in you. Reading is an outward manifestation of an inner process.

The literal level of words spoken from your mouth is only a sneak preview to the emotional impact your own words can have on you from within. Most people seem to talk to themselves without reflecting on how deeply their own words affect their wellbeing. But when you tell yourself to listen to what you're thinking, it gives you the power to debate your thoughts. This builds confidence because when you can argue with yourself, you simultaneously give yourself hope that you also have the power to change the way you feel.

The literal word will become the tip of your spiritual iceberg. And your emotional world will become all you can see from the iceberg as you gaze down into your ocean of emotions. The spirituality in existentialism is what you discover when you dive down deep into the frigid, dark depths of yourself to discover what can live under great pressure. Then your thoughts suddenly become reprioritized, and you find yourself magically safe on your shore looking up at a clear, blue sky.

For your faith in God to grow, your faith in you must grow. Until you can imagine how grateful He is to you for you trying to use His time and space productively, you'll cynically assume the worst of Him and those around you. You'll look at life objectively. You'll see the crescent moon and the single star, but you won't connect their meaning to how some learned to read about the Son that's always shining somewhere in their inner sky.

The poor Jews at the time of Jesus were ready for His lessons in love and the mysteries of living life subjectively. They understood Torah and tried to use it wisely by arguing with one another and not killing each other. But they couldn't quite understand how Jesus had created parables and twisted them like braids of dough to make spiritual "CHALLAH" {SABBATH BREAD}. Taking Jewish law and giving it emotional life was something these poor Jews ate up, but others were appalled by what God was serving them. Then, as now, those who are most immersed in the objective world – worried about their safety or security – find themselves repelled by subjectivity. At that time it was the ancient, rich Jews who were the most materialistic, sacrificed animals to appease God. They gambled on the Romans not doing to them what the Babylonians had done when they'd conquered them 700 years prior.

Today we've all been turned into consumers, not materialists. Those who *know* they have the most to lose are the abject poor, but those who *feel* they have the most to lose are the filthy rich. Israel is and always will be the emblem for the middle class struggle.

Jesus was a mysterious Jew. He could strike and ignite a match underwater, like molten lava can do, just so we could imagine the eternal flame burning in our own heart no matter

how submerged our heart might feel in all our other feelings. The heart doesn't have to be rational for our feelings to be real. Our heart only has to be rational for us to be loving and kind. Although our feelings once burned inside us like the molten lava at the center of the Earth, when our love broke through the crust of our being, deep down beneath our ocean of everyday emotions, it built islands within us that became a paradise of inner beauty, giving each of us a South Pacific archipelago of volcanic memories of nostalgia and sentimentality that now support a wiser way of life.

The secret to love is not to retaliate against others for the way they make you feel. You can blame them for the way they make you feel, but you shouldn't retaliate in like kind. You can't stop the flame that erupts from time to time in you, but you can turn down your desire to start a conflagration with a controlled burn that will teach them not to play with fire in the future.

In other words, sorrow is superior to anger. Feel sorry for those who don't know what you know. The pain and suffering you've been through that's taught you to do better may have to come to those who don't know better. It would be arrogant to get angry at the ignorant. Sorry seems to be the smartest word.

God gave Israel to the Jews, but that was just a clue to the magnificence of His plan for man. The good earth is a gift from God to us all. You are the beneficiary of thousands of generations of meek individuals whose legacy you've inherited along with us all. The world we've been given is a paradise for us to create and recreate with heartfelt intentions. The future is a gift to our children that they'll only appreciate to the extent that we teach them to appreciate the forces within themselves.

Teach your children to love Israel gratefully, and they'll learn to love themselves wholesomely. Teach them to love gay people, and they'll learn to love their own family. Tell everyone you know about those humble gays and Jews who've brought promises of God's rainbow into your heart with their deeds. To become a peacemaker, look to the peacemakers God brought you for inspiration. All of us will prevail if we share our inspirations.

But it wouldn't kill you to speak about yourself in the third person singular from time to time... When I talk to myself about "him" it gives me a distance and perspective by which to introduce a bit of humor into my conversations with me. And when I talk about myself as "her," I'm reminded of the frustrations I went through raising a gay "inner child" who can as easily identify as "her" as she can as "him."

Speaking to myself in the third person makes me more aware of how sensitive I can be to disparaging remarks I make about myself when my guard is down. When I tell "him" to talk nicer to "me," it's like my inner parent {I} is stopping my inner teenager from treating my inner child disrespectfully. And then when I say, "thank you" to myself for making



peace with myself, I know those words have come from my heart. You can't thank God from your heart if you haven't learned to thank yourself the same way.

Because today's young people use their head to speak more honestly than we did; their heart to express themselves more sincerely; and their soul to believe in themselves more authentically - they present a formidable force for good in the world. Their communication skills have given them the courage to speak boldly even if they don't have the experience yet to speak as wisely as we'd wish.

Expect more dissent from the masses in the future and greater intervention from minorities in the running of governments worldwide. Religiosity is moving into the backseat, and modern, spiritual activism is becoming the driving force of this century. Christians with a well-developed heart will desire to make peace with gays, and Muslims with a well-developed soul will to seek to make peace with Jews. Nobody wants religion to herd him like sheep. The rod of the shepherd is meant to guide his sheep, not hit them over the head with dogma from a bygone era.

Today, technology is making it easier to start wars, but more difficult to end them. It's become feasible to wage civil disobedience using the Internet and to teach people to see through appearances that reveal the childish motivations the externally rich and powerful are unconsciously using to get their mouton to market.

Clearly, God gave man technology with many motives. Technology changes the world from the outside in, but technology is also a mirror of the spiritual operating system we're all learning how to program and operate from the inside out. It's erroneous to believe that mankind is becoming more technologically sophisticated without also alluding to all the hopeful signs of his spiritual progress. A smart phone is a metaphor for the democratization of smartness. A tablet is a sign of a man's spiritual table.

The title of this chapter is "Spiritual Math" because God's plan can be described using the Abrahamic model of history and reducing it to an algebraic equation. The equation looks like this:

$$1 = 3 = 1$$

1 = The Jewish God of wisdom	Adonai
3 = The Christian God of love	Our Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit
1 = The Islamic God of generosity	A L L A H

In this crude algebraic representation of the unfolding of God-consciousness in a worldwide movement of peace from within, we Jews gave the world the concept of one God, [1=1]. The Christians gave the world the concept of three aspects of God that were necessary for personalizing His process within every one of us, [1 = 1/3 + 1/3 + 1/3]. And the

Muslims have an infinite number of analogies to make about God when we learn about Him through the language of God-consciousness after having compared Judaism to Christianity, [1 ≠ < >1]. A prayer is harder to compose that you might have thought when you put all of yourself into it.

How many places in the world can a gay-Jew go to nowadays without being ridiculed, scorned or even physically threatened if he's wearing a Star of David embellished with the colors of the rainbow flag? Is it any wonder people like me choose to live in San Francisco despite the scorn some here hold toward Israel? Israel has demonstrated unwavering support for gay people and all organized religions that seek peaceful means of coexistence. How many Muslim countries today can make that claim? We can't even make that claim in many places in America!

If a voice deep down inside of you tells you that gays and Jews aren't worthy enough to be a part of God's plan, you were just given a look at your penis problem. Your desire to eliminate scholars from the school of life is based on fear that *your* grades are going to look bad by comparison. But life isn't a spiritual competition with others. If you're constantly comparing your penis to others' you're not yet able to deliver the goods God gave you.

The kind of political and social peril people like me live with will lead future generations who feel like gay-Jews to seek greater freedom from physical threats and political injustices everywhere. And it will lead everyone to use their new, found freedom to liberate themselves from others and emancipate themselves from themselves. Today, we stand on the threshold of universal tolerance and acceptance of gays and Jews, but only if each person learns to tolerate and accept himself. Only then is there any hope of you admiring yourself. And, as you already know, that's a far bigger job than it looks.

If every man could learn to love his penis for the metaphoric depth of goodness it can deliver, we could improve the whole human race in record time. The serpents hanging down from our trees are saying something in unison about man's desire for the power of good that many more than gay men today can hear.

An open mind only allows you to question freely. An open heart and a penis trained to deliver the best you have to offer will lead you to love mankind as Jesus intended. The more you love the penis God gave you without excessive pride, the more you'll come to see yourselves as a spiritual tool of the Lord bringing goodness into His world. Your desire for your love to conquer your world is the most optimistic attribute you have in bringing love to life.

Circumcision is the tearing of one leaf off of your metaphoric tree. It's your personal reminder that embarrassment is a real state of being that leads to greater modesty and spiritual self-regard. When a Jew or Muslim is physically separated from his foreskin, he's

emotionally and spiritually reminded of his unity with himself before our Lord. And when a Christian is circumcised, as was Jesus, he remembers His pain from the eighth day of life and every day thereafter. Fortunately there's no conspiracy between Jews and Muslims to tear this leaf off every tree. Religious conspiracies of world domination are always absurd. They're not in the Plan.

I have no idea what the breaking of a woman's hymen means to her. I have no idea how her vagina could be a delivery system of love or what her menstrual flow means to her spiritually. Nor would I ever dare suggest that I have answers to something I can't possibly, personally know. Women are the second greatest mystery in the life of a man after himself. May I suggest we stay out of their business altogether, and let them get on with discovering their moral importance to God's plan without conspiring to make them do as we please.

Sometimes our penis stands up without reason, ready to open its mouth as if to let its life-giving words gush out even if it has nothing of value to say. At other times it hangs loose and limp without concern for the juicy fruits hanging nearby. Desire is an important motivating force in man, but learning the importance of detachment from other people's sexuality, while keeping sensuality alive, is also important. If we learn to listen to our thoughts and contain our feelings, we can come to understand how detachment from our desires {as the Buddhists recommend} is possible without sacrificing vitality.

Puns are an aspect of Spiritual Linguistics that isn't easily transferable from one language to another, but when you consider Jesus as God's Son and His sun then the play on words in English takes on a poetic license that can be inspirational. (The last line of the lyrics to the song, "I'll be Seeing You" {music by Sammy Fain and lyrics by Irving Kahal} employs this spiritual pun {sun/Son}, perhaps unwittingly, to create the spiritual astronomy that gives poetic meaning to Jesus's love through the English language.)

"I'll find you in the morning sun  
And when the night is new  
I'll be looking at the moon  
But I'll be seeing You."

In Christian terminology, the light that illuminates a Christian is the light of love, the Son's light. The illumination of His mysterious Father's wisdom is so difficult for them to live only because it requires poetic insight. The various phases of our Father's plan from our point of view should be of no concern to men of faith because God's Son shines His love onto the man in the moon with regularity even if there are some nights when he reflects back little or no light on us at all.

God doesn't make it easy for us in this school of His. The infant has to be carried. The child has to walk hand in hand with his parents. The adolescent has to come home to his

parents' house, a place he can't call his own. And the young man has to feed and shelter himself from the storms of adulthood that always seem to rain on his parade.

Those who take everything that happens to them personally will find better answers for their existence than those who take life too seriously. Those who spend their life in class making *themselves* their major rather than roaming around in the halls of knowledge, will develop a more meaningful relationship with our Teacher. They'll become scholars of life who'll be able to demonstrate a love of learning that will bestow poetic answers on the questions they ask of themselves. They'll plummet self-knowledge with the gift of self-perception, which will allow them to do more than simply see.

Now I know how taxing it must be to read so much about penises, but I have something else to say about them in relationship to a man's milky way. A small boy doesn't question why he has a penis or what else he's going to one day be able to do with it. He can have the Milky Way pointed out to him at night, but he can't see it with an adolescent's sexual gaze. Until a boy has reached his first orgasm, it's simply not possible for him to know what rapture might mean to him personally, or how he'll one day be able to give thanks to his penis and its unexpected participation in helping him see the light.

The Milky Way is an outer world mirror of God's personal promise to you. It's His universal sign of a rapture you have a chance to be a part of if you can be inspired. With every ejaculation you should learn a little more about the spiritual implications of physical orgasm. Loving to ejaculate is the essence of physical rapture. But ejaculation is a sensation that has emotional and spiritual implications you may not yet correlate with God's plan. As your semen is disseminated into someone who cums with you, it spills chills that recreate the Milky Way figuratively within the two of you, and you share space in God's universe from within. This is the poetic purpose in God having needed to create such a big universe. He doesn't want to cramp your style.

Orgasm is the rainbow that comes out at night. Orgasm reminds you that God's love is a promise you can literally experience with your whole body. *Making* love is a recreation of the creation of the universe. It's your little bang that mirrors God's big bang.

As a child, a boy's penis inspires him to play with trains and ride a tricycle at top-notch speed. Later it inspires his mind to eat through volumes of information, as would a bookworm. With enough education a man's penis can inspire him to build skyscrapers, want to start a family or prove to himself in myriad, abstract ways that his desire for good is greater than his desire for evil. A grown man's penis can be the delivery system of all the infinite varieties of goodness that desire and love can imagine as they whisper to one another within you.

Love isn't the only reason for living, but love is the only rational reason for living that makes emotional sense. Wisdom of the heart is the study of God's whimsy, the senseless

acts of kindness that make Him so much greater than the institutions of religion would have you think.

There's no other feeling worthy of you infusing into this world than your love. While wisdom is the fruit of the Hebrew tree that make sense of this world, Love is the fruit of the Christian vine that gives pleasure and passion to being alive. Judaism doesn't diminish Christianity, and Christianity shouldn't consider itself new and improved Judaism. Christians don't have to subtract Judaism from their faith, and Jews don't have to add Christianity to theirs. Judaism will always teach the world not to take this world for granted, but Christianity will complement our lessons by teaching the delight of having received life. We are as two hands, so different from one another, and yet so complementary.

You actually can compare apples to oranges. What you can't compare are apples to grapes. You have to contrast them. Apples and oranges are both the fruits of trees. Grapes are a fruit from a vine. Your mind is like an apple. Your heart is like a bunch of grapes.

Those who can't accept the spiritual, algebraic equation inherent in the Abrahamic traditions  $\{1 = 3 = 1\}$  become petulant, juvenile and delinquent students who aren't interested in going to spiritual math class. They're K-6 religious classmates who aren't ready yet for spiritual secondary school. They're still consumed with jealousy and envy over who Father loves best. They covet Him. They claim there's no room in His plans for Jews or even the state of being Jewish in this world.

To the Jew, Father knows best. To the Christian, Father loves best. And to the Muslim, Father gives His best. Only once the elementary kids graduate to spiritual middle school do they begin to show higher spiritual traits and give up their childish squabbles with their classmates over what our Father has in store for others.

Now please take your left arm and hold it up high in the air in a bent position to form an "L." Now imagine your left arm as a street and your elbow as the street corner that takes the street you're walking down in a whole other direction. Now imagine going on a detour that will shorten this trip immensely, by creating an invisible line between your fingernails and your shoulder. Granted, you're using your imagination to cut through thin air, but the spiritual ideas I'm presenting you with are no more difficult to connect to than by creating this invisible path you've just made simply by being curious enough to take direction for the sheer pleasure of discovering what you might learn from having done so. This shortcut may not literally be real, but it's a good example of how new ways of solving old problems is real.

The way in which Jesus asked His followers to remember Him is just such a spiritual shortcut. Because our imagination has been so developed in the last 2,000 years, we've not only used this shortcut to increase our spiritual understanding of life. We now understand that transubstantiation is a spiritual act that can affect a man's heart and soul in ways

Judaism and Islam aren't meant to do. Transubstantiation isn't a physical act in consuming a human being. Symbolic logic has so permeated Western civilization with spiritual insight that we take it for granted unless we take a second look at transubstantiation for poetic insight into what we already think we know about it.

If you can see yourself as a physical vessel with spiritual contents that's because the disciplines of science and religion have worked together in you to teach you to look inside yourself to discover what literally and figurative can be found in there. The more you learn about your physical container with the help of science, the more your imagination will be able to stretch with wonder at what can be figuratively contained within you as well. Religion is the science of looking with your inner eye.

Your emotional contents are just as intelligently organized as your physiological organs. Your heart is the organ that symbolizes your ability to love. It holds the physical delivery system {blood} to pump love throughout your body. The spiritual nutrient in your blood is literally oxygen. But that corresponds to spirit, the invisible substance from God collected in your lungs.

Oxygen in the physical manifestation of the Holy Spirit that moves in you and through you, giving you the energy to perform your physical tasks. The body and blood of Jesus corresponds to this physical, operating system made manifest in the way God made every animal and human being.

Your stomach figuratively makes it possible for you to digest the guilt {embarrassment, shame and humiliation} that come with the knowledge you take away from this world. And your intestines move that guilt through you so you can absorb the modesty, humility and grace gleaned from your experience of being alive.

The taboo of cannibalism is second only to the taboo of sex with our mother. And by extension of these prohibitions, man is the only animal that knows better than to eat his own kind or have sex with family members. These prohibitions are physically easy to uphold thanks to 10,000 years of civilization reinforcing these taboos on us from the literal plane of reality. But these prohibitions are equally important emotionally and spiritually in keeping you healthy and sound.

Unfortunately some boys are figuratively forced to marry their mother to serve her emotional needs as a husband replacement. These youngsters grow up to feel consumed inside with disgust that can lead to physical ailments or acting out against other women. The Hebrew word "SATAN" which means "ADVERSARY" or "SOMEONE WHO PLOTS AGAINST ANOTHER" has come to be associated with the personification of evil. The word "SARTAN" means "CANCER." Those who feel preyed upon or plotted against by their mother for forcing them into an emotionally unhealthy union might unconsciously act out their feelings by allowing themselves to be literally consumed by disease or "dis ease"

figuratively. The more you can bring negative feelings to consciousness with words the greater your chances of dealing with the force of revenge before anyone has to suffer for it. This will alleviate conspiracy theories where none exist.

Incest and cannibalism are unthinkable acts in the literal sense, but they're not only common when viewed poetically; they're tragically commonplace. A shrink will help you if you have a swelled head. But what do you do if you have a shriveled heart? Keeping yourself holistically healthy can't be accomplished without Spiritual Linguistics. You must give yourself poetic license to diagnose yourself if you're going to heal emotionally and spiritually.

Religion will never die, but the institutions of religion must be reformed to teach people how to help themselves with God's messages to man. The literal meaning of God's WORD must be measured using the poetic insight that brings words to life. If not done correctly the three Abrahamic faiths will continue to behave as we saw so eloquently exemplified in "The Three Stooges," with Moe playing the role of the bossy Jew, Larry as the cantankerous Christian in the middle, and Curly performing the part of the childish Muslim who just loves to see what mischief he can get into.

Teaching people to become aware of potential conflicts between their physical and emotional systems before they spill out into society should be a joint effort on the part of religion and mental health agencies. But that can only happen when metaphors and symbols are extended with poetic insight to bridge religious beliefs with psychological insight. Such healing techniques could turn mental health into life games people would love to play with themselves. This internal exercise could be the intestinal cleanse every man needs to give him the guts {fortitude} to get the job that needs to be done, done.

For millennia the vast majority of Jews, Christians and Muslims were able to teach their children to honor their parents without having sex with them. Taboos are still important in every society, but as our society relinquishes its taboo on homosexuality, the greater taboos of incest and cannibalism will need to be reinforced in ways that dignify the religious bedrock upon which society was created. Today's freedom to behave more liberally should give conservatives even more reason to review their underlying principles because those principles rest on the main metaphor of Moses and the two symbols given by Jesus. That can easily be accomplished if everyone recognizes the difference between a lifestyle and a taboo.

When you explore taboos without rational emotionality you realize that refraining from eating people and refraining from having sex with family members are moral decisions that have nothing to do with sleeping with a member of your gender. As society becomes more and more liberal and the gay lifestyle becomes seen as more admirable, gays will prove to the world how everyone could live his life with more personal conviction and spiritual

purpose. The antiquated view of man as being the opposite of a woman is a conclusion about God's plan that will be discarded, and we'll be able to look at male and female body types as uniquely distinct from one another for many good reasons that God anticipated when He made us the way we are.

Jesus asked His disciples to love one another under the horrific circumstances they were facing then, and that had to have sounded shocking at the time. But His message was based on the premise that all roads will eventually lead to God's love. The bread they broke together and the wine they shared that Passover night before He had to die was obviously not literally His flesh and blood because He was still with them while they consumed that bread and wine. Reality made it possible that night for His disciples to anticipate that transubstantiation would only begin once He'd literally left them. {You can't present people with a photograph of a car at the same time that they're look at the car and expect them to see the same thing. One is a car, and the other is a reproduction. The photograph only takes on symbolic importance once you've driven the real car off the lot.}

Jesus's disciples could not have foreseen that the ritual they were partaking of with Him during the Last Supper would have the psychological and spiritual consequences for future generations that we've seen since. In the Gospel according to Luke, after Jesus's resurrection "WHEN HE WAS AT THE TABLE WITH THEM, HE TOOK BREAD, GAVE THANKS, BROKE IT AND BEGAN TO GIVE IT TO THEM. THEN THEIR EYES WERE OPENED AND THEY RECOGNIZED HIM, AND HE DISAPPEARED FROM THEIR SIGHT." [Luke 24:30]

In taking the sacrament of the Mass with Jesus after He had died, they unknowingly and fearfully participated in the creation of the symbolic remembrance that would come to be known as transubstantiation. This spiritual process became symbolic infusion of His consciousness into food and drink for future generations who never literally knew what Jesus had looked like.

For the eyes of future generations to open required a figurative, not literal, awareness of His presence in their life. They couldn't literally see Him and recognize Him because there was no literary account of what He'd looked like. His followers would come to acknowledge Him through His teachings and love Him through their heart.

What Jesus accomplished with His special request doesn't change the mind of the person who consumes His body with the eating of the sacramental wafer because he can't literally know what Jesus looked like. It transforms his imagination. Love is blind in the literal sense of knowing. Only by opening a man's mind to the power of eating something he can't literally see is a man's imagination stretched.



Although all containers can be filled with the same contents, each produces a very different outline of the truth in the same way that glasses of different shapes and sizes can be filled with the same wine while giving the wine in each glass a different appearance.

They say that the Mass is meant to be lived, but it can only be lived outside the church if you understand what's accomplished in going to church to receive the Mass in the first place. Going to Mass must stretch the imagination of Christians in ways that make them smarter, more sensitive and more spiritually fulfilled if they don't leave their brains at the door. I highly recommend non-Christians go to church with their Christian friends. The point in doing so shouldn't be to be converted to Christianity but to stretch your imagination in the hope that it will help you find God who, after all, shaped you uniquely in His imag{ination}.

The soup prepared for this course of the meal doesn't become a spiritual symbol until you can serve it to yourself without spilling it. To turn soup into symbolism asks you to use your imagination to apply the rites and rituals of religion in your daily life. If you don't use your knowledge of religion by applying it individually as well as generally to your life, what's the point of having an imagination?

The notably out, gay-American artist Andy Warhol painted pictures of cans of Campbell's tomato soup, which became an iconic commentary on the power of religious symbolism for the modern age. Warhol didn't literally splash soup over his canvas. He repeated the image of soup contained in a can. The Campbell's Tomato Soup labels Warhol painted represent Jesus's message of love reproduced many times without the necessity of paying homage to what His body literally looked like. Each label and each can was identical. It's the memory of the taste of the soup that comes to mind. That's what's and important and so comforting.

But people aren't cans, and Christians don't all share an identical label. What Warhol did was attempt to describe the religious soup that people were being fed at that time. And although he may have been contemptuous of the uniformity of the experience then, many modern gays have moved to a place of greater charity. We now know that the soup is still good, even though it's contained in cans and labeled so differently today.

Too much tomato soup has been needlessly spilled to make this message real. Every picture of a Campbell's Tomato Soup label is a reassertion of Jesus's universal presence in body and blood through pop culture. His opinions on transubstantiation are brought to life by his art. His remembrance of Christ's bread and wine is a statement of faith that's tremendously inspiring – and, of course, oh so gay!

But wait. There's another serving of soup coming up for you to sip...

## **Soups:** Myth or Metaphor

Those who believe in one religious story to the exclusion of all others claim the others are myths, not metaphor, false symbols or simply similes, not God's truth. It took a man like Galileo to make the Catholic Church face its religious misunderstanding in claiming God made all the heavenly planets to orbit around the Earth. And it took the Catholic Church 500 years to publicly admit that they were wrong about that. The Catholic hierarchy had to humiliate themselves by admitting, in essence, that the sun doesn't revolve around the Catholic Church; the Catholic Church revolves around the Son. The church had to swallow the bitter truth with a sweet spoonful of poetic justice. This is just one more indication that God's truth isn't Christian. His truth is a universal truth which includes Christian truths. The fact that this has been revealed to you by a gay-Jew proves that we all need outsiders to show us things we can't perceive for ourselves.

Truth stems from forbidden fruit consumed and paid for with guilt. Jesus had to study the wisdom of His forefathers before He could contribute to their wise efforts with His observation of the necessity for and insistence in the inevitability of love. No man is so exceptional that he can dismiss those who came before him. Poetry makes faith more real by magnifying truth until people can see it from a universal perspective. The symbols of the love Jesus embodied are held high by the WORD of God, but the WORD of God rests upon the main metaphor of Moses. Fields of grain and vineyards of grapes must be sown and reaped, milled and crushed, baked and aged. And this work must be paid for somehow. It's not free. The guilt from forbidden fruit must be bartered for love. This is why God went into business with every Abrahamic man.

Call that business "religion," and scorn, if you like, the institutions that keep trying to rake us all in. They're never going to go bankrupt. Rant and rail as much as you want against God's affairs with man, but you can't buy wisdom, love and redemption elsewhere. {An atheist is a consumer who uses Daddy's credit card, thinking he can stick Him with the bill. But sooner or later the bill will be paid by the man who's got the goods.}

The forbidden fruit in the Creation Story refused to speak its truth out loud. It was the real victim in the story. It died when it was plucked from the tree and was consumed so that moral truths, not merely earthly knowledge, would have a chance to be replanted in man. The forbidden fruit was audaciously and thoughtlessly picked and eaten without consideration for what its life meant to it. The serpent weighed in with its opinion on the power of knowledge, but it overlooked the spiritual purpose and emotional importance of truth, which is to teach humanity that God is giving us moral lessons through a living experience. The serpent could only speak to the power that comes with knowledge based

on facts that lead to science. The power of this form of knowledge will produce happiness, but not the joy of insight.

When you look at how audaciously and thoughtlessly man consumes the resources of the planet without regard to his spiritual purpose and emotional importance in being alive, you can see the process of banishment before your very eyes. If we don't learn to receive the gifts of God's blessings, and only continue to take them, we're doomed. He's not only a loving God; He's a patient God, but I get the impression that His patience may be running thin. It's time for us to unite against spiritual ignorance.

Whether men today can marry other men is ridiculously unimportant if you look at the spiritual, big picture. What really matters is that we can teach a man how to marry himself before he makes big mistakes that will affect others, especially children who, like the rest of us, never asked to be born.

You can't tell from the seedling what the fruit of the tree will taste like. Life is a mystery you must explore humbly and appreciate slowly. The more garish the flower the more it's trying to tell you its future fruit will taste amazing. But don't believe its promises! Nothing has to turn out the way you predict. Wait and see. Taste the fruits of your own labors and decide what you think. Watch for the flowers you produce before you make unsubstantiated claims about your fruit and how sweet they'll someday be.

People aren't born apathetic or uncaring. They're born furious – crying out with indignation at being where they are. They immediately rely on denial as a coping mechanism to manage feelings and beliefs about life that are bathed in pain and disorientation from the start. It takes a long time for an infant to integrate the world around him with his impressions from his world within.

Those who look for poetic justice in the stories of the faiths and philosophies will advance man's understanding of the WORD/WORD of God. None of the world's sacred texts are mere myths. They're all metaphors we live by. Poetry doesn't have to agree or conflict with science to be spiritually true. Poetry only has to be poignant enough to move you emotionally. The son of man doesn't have to revolve only around Catholicism for His message to be catholic {universal}. Good poetry enhances truth with spiritual illumination. Your big picture becomes bigger when poetry expands your vision by way of your heart.

When the Abrahamic traditions of the West will be poetically united with the philosophic beliefs of the East, together they'll reveal psychological aspects of the spiritual whole that will help us map man's relationship to every aspect of his self. Man was created in God's image for us to use our imagination poetically, artistically, truthfully and faithfully. Only in all these ways will we come to understand ourselves thoroughly. But that will take Jewish wisdom, Christian love, and Muslim redemption as well as Hindu cooperation, Buddhist tranquility, the social elegance that comes from Confucianism, the

awe of the Tao and the psychological input from the world's indigenous beliefs. To assemble these divine forces like inlay into a mosaic pattern of universal proportions will require everyone's input provided everyone is sane enough to accept gays and Jews in their life, who are, by historical default, the lowest common denominators in spiritual mathematics.

The miracles described in the Abrahamic tales can't be recreated in the scientific or literal sense, but it's possible to recreate them poetically in your life every day. If you're ready to learn about God's preference for poetic justice over the unmerciful eye-for-an-eye we were taught to fear from Him as a child, life will begin to rhyme with reason like a sonnet.

No man should expect to literally hear God speaking to him, and yet every man should listen within to hear himself being called by Him. No man should expect to literally see God walking by his side, and yet every man should perceive His presence around as well as within him. Only if you choose to look for God without using your eyes and listen for Him without using your ears will you discover He's right under your nose. Common sense tells you that if you can't see God, hear God or smell Him then you must be touched by Him to know that He's here with you.

What I particular enjoy about church services is the frequency with which they read the Hebrew Testament from the pulpit. If Torah is pure psychology, the Book of Isaiah is pure insight into the psychology of God's plan. Here is a typical passage from the Book of Isaiah [52: 7-10]

HOW BEAUTIFUL ON THE MOUNTAINS  
ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS,  
WHO PROCLAIM PEACE,  
WHO BRING GOOD TIDINGS,  
WHO PROCLAIM SALVATION,  
WHO SAY TO ZION,  
"YOUR GOD REIGNS!"  
LISTEN!  
YOUR WATCHMEN LIFT UP THEIR VOICES.  
TOGETHER THEY SHOUT FOR JOY,  
WHEN THE LORD RETURNS TO ZION  
THEY WILL SEE IT WITH THEIR OWN EYES,  
BURST INTO SONGS OF JOY TOGETHER,  
YOU RUINS OF JERUSALEM.  
FOR THE LORD HAS COMFORTED HIS PEOPLE.  
HE HAS REDEEMED JERUSALEM.

THE LORD WILL LAY BARE HIS HOLY ARM  
IN THE SIGHT OF ALL THE NATIONS,  
AND ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH WILL SEE  
THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD.

The MOUNTAIN in this passage is a simile for God. God is like a mountain. The challenges you face in life are like treks up the mountains He raises before you. The hills of grievances behind you will lead you to climb ever higher for a panoramic view of your past. You'll see that God is like a mountain, and from Islam we learn that all mountains will come to the Prophet Mohammed. Every Muslim awaits this mountain miraculously coming to him through simile. And if *they* can, *we* can, too.

Those who bring GOOD NEWS come from the three Abrahamic traditions. Each of our three faiths is a separate, spiritual path up the mountain God gave us. The first path was given to us Jews 3,400 years ago. Fourteen hundred years later God presented His second path up to Him, one that diverged from the first at the fork in the road where wisdom of the mind diverged from wisdom of the heart. Christians fought for 2,000 years trying to convince the world that the panorama they held as they climbed closer to the top was the only view possible. They might have been given the best view of Earth from Heaven, but not the only one.

Muslims officially began their climb with the Prophet Mohammed more almost 700 years after the Christians from yet a third direction, a road that branched off from the ancient place where Isaac and Ishmael went their separate ways in the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis. And their view from the mountain has been almost entirely internal. But their view of Heaven is located in Hell. You'll want to strive for one and avoid the other.

All three of these spiritual outlooks on life have been as curiously different from one another as they are expansive. None of these vistas is wrong. Each looks out from a different place, a place much closer to the summit than our fathers could ever have imagined. Each got this far up the mountain to the summit by another path, but the sight we can all see from where we are now is incredible to behold, for now we can also see one another.

The mist at this spiritual elevation shouldn't obscure our collective desire to look out with awe at the vistas our other Abrahamic brothers were given through faith. From this dizzying height you should be able to see the Valley of Death below us where all our ancestors are buried. The history of Western civilization is something we should celebrate by praying together three days a week. The peoples who pray together stay together.

Those who'll be the first to PROCLAIM PEACE will be the Jews, for we're the smallest in number and because our spiritual homeland is literally at stake. But the minds of all wise

men will agree with what we think when we can, at last, proclaim peace with all those throughout the ages and today who swore to defeat us.

Those who'll bring GOOD TIDINGS will be the Christians, for love is the greatest of all good news. In the heart of all those who know love there will be a chorus of Christians in agreement when peace of mind fills everyone's heart with goodwill.

And those who'll p r o c l a i m s a l v a t i o n will be the Muslims for whom redemption in the eyes of the Lord is paramount. God chose the first son of Abraham {Ishmael} to be brought into the covenant with Him through circumcision, but He chose Muslims to be the last in line to receive His w o r d historically. When salvation comes, it will come to Israel, but it will come for everyone, including those last in line.

Those of every faith who've reached the awesome summit of the Lord within themselves know that the ground beneath all men's feet is sacred. God, in His infinite wisdom, began His story by giving the Jewish people a stretch of land. He later gave Christianity spiritual bread and wine, and then blessed Islam as witnesses to both bounties through scented herbs.

Each of us will come to know the importance of peace on Earth, feel the importance of peace in our heart and believe in the importance of peace in our soul. God is moving all of humanity in the direction of developing a Jewish head, a Christian heart and a Muslim soul. We're becoming a conglomeration of the best of all spiritual forces. As we get closer to the summit, gay men will hold hands with our straight brothers, and lesbians will hold hands with their straight sisters. And together we'll all make our way to the top.

In terms of the spiritual family tree, Muslims are related to the Jews through Ishmael who was the half-brother of Isaac. We have the same ancestral father, Abraham. The Christians are related to the Jews through Jesus. He was the one chosen from among us. Jesus adopts all those who accept our faith in God through Him. The Christians are our adopted brothers, and therefore brothers with Muslims through us Jews.

Muslims are our spiritual half-brothers on our father's side. Christians are our spiritual stepbrothers on our mother's side. Therefore Christians and Muslims are bound to share their love and generosity with one another because they're both branches on our Jewish, family tree. This is the truth about spiritual tribalism from the Abrahamic, family tree.

All of us in the West are spiritually related through Abraham. Christians and Muslims are our brothers and therefore should treat each other as brothers and like brothers. These are the similes the Muslim faith require them to use to compare and contrast themselves to their brothers with goodwill. In terms of the WORD of God, Muslims are profiting from the main metaphor of Moses as well as from Christian symbolic logic through the WORD. Jewish wisdom and Muslim generosity make it imperative for us both to endorse Christian love. Israel is in a love triangle with Christianity and Islam.

Those of us in the Abrahamic family hold spiritual family values through God-consciousness that we forget to express first within ourselves for ourselves. Our cousins in the Far East may not understand our religious squabbles, but we won't be able to explain them without introducing poetic license. Those in the Far East will be able to understand and help with our spiritual family issues if we can find ways of describing ourselves without ending up laying blame for how it's all turned out up until now. God has allowed it to be this way. If we want things to turn out any better, we have to learn to describe our problems differently.

If you're a man of faith, it's arrogant to think negatively about our Abrahamic brothers and Eastern cousins. It's arrogant to forget that God created everyone in His image. Men have been playing hide-and-go-seek from one another in the spiritual orchard for so long that they forget God is watching them, waiting for them to come out from amongst the trees and humbly admit their shame to themselves without further humiliation.

WHEN THE LORD RETURNS TO ZION we'll all BURST INTO SONGS OF JOY TOGETHER because we'll be able to personally perceive the ruins of Jerusalem within ourselves, and stop laying siege to the city literally. We'll ascend to the highest summit of God's mountain together. From the peak we'll see the same, exact and awesome view because it will have come to each of us from within even though the world around us will continue looking just as it does.

We'll be able to conclude that, "THE LORD HAS COMFORTED HIS PEOPLE" and "HAS REDEEMED JERUSALEM." "THE LORD WILL LAY BARE HIS HOLY ARM IN THE SIGHT OF ALL THE NATIONS." We'll be able to see His hand raised in the shape of an "L" over His shoulder. And we'll be able to cut His corner in our imagination and perceive the magnificence of the ways He triangulates. We'll be able to see the line that separates the Far East from the West and, "ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD."

The panoramic view presented in Isaiah will help us believe in Him through each and every hymn. Each of us will personalize God in his life with His WORD, symbolic song and the poetic license that makes every simile smile with knowledge of ourselves.

When we can do all this we'll be able to see through the metaphoric fog we live in today that's as thick as soup. We'll give up the myth in favor of the metaphor on Their menu.