

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Book 3

Fowl: The Gospel According to John

Truth or Deceit?	563
Born Again and Again	588
The First Person Plural	598
The Eternal Well	611
The Third Person Singular	621
The Popularity Contest	671
Bread From Heaven	695
The Soul of Humanity	760

Desserts:

The Book of Revelations	775
-------------------------	-----

Beverages:

The Aroma of Truth	801
The Chalice On Their Table	805
A Sip of Their Wine	807

A Prayer at the End of the Meal	808
--	------------

Fowl: The Gospel According to John

Truth or Deceit?

Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards Him and remarked, “NOW HERE IS A TRUE MAN OF ISRAEL; THERE IS NO DECEIT IN HIM!” [John 1:47]

A man who STRUGGLES WITH GOD is evident to all by his humble ways. You can see the lack of deceit in him, and you can feel the awe in you that draws you closer to him. A man who is true to self-love is on his inner journey to Israel regardless of where he might be going out in the world.

A man is an Israel, a STRUGGLE WITH GOD. A man is an Israel, a tiny piece of land bordering other lands while always facing the open sea. A man is an Israel, a land of milk and honey with deserts that surround him on three sides. He may die trying to get to his Jerusalem, but if he uses the inner, real estate bequeathed to him by God to make the most of his life, he can graduate school here on Earth tranquil. You can't take Israel away from any man. This is the Jew in you. This is the promise that God gave us that will be fulfilled by you.

You may be truthful to others, and still in denial of the greater spiritual truths about yourself. Truth begins at a far deeper place than the sound of the words that comes out of your mouth. It's possible never to tell a lie and yet to live a lie. It's possible to be so consumed with the facts in your pursuit of truth that you have no idea what the facts are as you surround them with your most intimate feelings and cherished beliefs.

Jesus saw the poor Jews in northern Israel like fish in the Sea of Galilee. And the fishermen who came to know and love Him ultimately realized He had caught them and had reeled them in. Giving a man a fish will feed him for a day. Teaching him to fish will feed him for a season. But these are still the physical application, not the symbolic application of fishing. The man who has been hooked and pulled out of his habitual, emotional element is then able to see and catch himself. He'll do better for himself by himself for his entire life. The man who has proved to himself that he can fish himself out of the stormy waters he's been submerged in all his life comes to know God *through* his experiences rather than *despite* of them.

Some men are emotionally spawned in placid streams and know nothing about the tides that rule their seas. Others swim through life in a school, always together with those they know and who look just like them; such men know nothing of the pressure, vastness, depth and loneliness at the bottom. Some are accustomed to tidal pools near the shore where the crash of the waves is rhythmic; the fierce pull of the foaming water, constant; and the sharp rocks, an ever-present danger to them. Even though they're accustomed to this life, they

live in constant fear, with their wits always being tested, and for them that's "normal." Such men know where their inner rough sea meets their shore, but, emotionally, little more.

Deceit begins in the heart of every man who's so accustomed to the water around him that he has no idea that he's swimming through feelings that are giving him the sense of being alive. He's convinced he'll drown emotionally if he's dragged into deep feelings even though, all the while, he's been underwater. He doesn't want to flow down the river out to sea. He doesn't want feelings that pull him in any new directions. The sea is synonymous with birth, but he confuses it with death because it makes him feel, and he doesn't like to feel.

Some men are thrilled with the rhythmic tides that pull them one way and then the other. Some are so used to the currents within themselves that they only get scared when the waters suddenly become calm; they need excitement to keep them moving. So when Jesus told Nathanael, a total stranger, that he was a true man of Israel without deceit, it demonstrated not only a great, spiritual achievement on the part of Nathanael; it showed the greater insight of Jesus into the hearts and minds of men.

For a man's words to be literally true, they must pass the test of truth called science. For his words to be emotionally true, they must pass the test of truth called trust. But for a man's words to be true to himself and for himself, he must be able to believe that which emanates out from his soul. This is the test of faith that God gives us all.

Faith in yourself isn't all that difficult to accomplish. Faith only requires that you see yourself as a NATHANIEL, whose name in means "GIFT OF GOD." The challenge in trusting yourself enough to see that you're a gift to us all from our Maker lies in being able to go through the negative emotions you have that you were previously unable to see as spiritually meaningful. To begin to trust that you're special starts with asking yourself what you're feeling before you start moaning about why you feel the way you do. Identifying your feelings by name makes them more manageable in your mind. Always begin your conversations with yourself by asking yourself what the name is for what you're feeling.

The Jews want Christians to behave more like Jesus, with love. And the Christian wants the Jews to act more like Moses, wisely. Meanwhile both the Jews and Christians want the Muslims to act more like the Prophet Mohammed, with generosity of spirit for the sake of redemption. Yet how are any of us to succeed in avoiding disappointing others if we don't see that what we're asking of one another is a projection of what we want from ourselves?

Gay men didn't make friends with straight men by having sex with them. And our ability to understand our feelings didn't come by having sex with women, either. Our sensitivity to our emotions came from having been made to feel like outsiders to ourselves. Despite the cruelty of so many, this must have been part of God's plan, for now we know

so much more about wisdom of the heart than those who persecuted us. And the ways in which we relate to one another in our community should be a model for how all men should relate.

We can be girlfriends with our men friends. We can take the role of an older aunt with a young nephew. We can play daddy, grandpa and son to our partners. We have the emotional fluidity to be whomever the other person might need. This makes us like the joker in the deck, the blank tile in the game of Scrabble. If you think this doesn't make us powerful and important to God's plan, you're in deep denial.

Once you fully enter into matters of the heart, you may be surprised at how mystical and mysterious your perception of yourself becomes. It's like diving underwater to see a whole new realm of reality you never knew existed. You enjoy the guilty pleasure of feeling any way you like when you can communicate your feelings to your mind before you open your mouth. Your mind can then process your feelings through your conscience with questions, analyses and further data to bring your feelings to even greater awareness. This becomes the slo-mo experience that feels like you're swimming through your experiences rather than zipping through them like a jet in the jet stream. Your feelings become an integral part of your spiritual process.

Because your thoughts may have been trained to move terribly fast, you may miss the emotional aspect of being. Man has become very sensitized to his outer environment, but not sensitive enough to the environment within. As you learn to watch your thoughts more carefully you may notice that you're moving from answer to answer rather than from question to answer. Forcing yourself to put your questions into words will bring this function of thinking out of abstract impulses into verbal discourse. This will give you pause at how automatically you trained yourself to operate you, and it'll allow you to question your answers and the feelings that arise with those answers.

The more you get to know you, the more you're going to fall in love with what you perceive about this marvelous instrument you've been poured into. And if you see something you don't love about yourself, you can let that part of you that's emotionally older and wiser deal with the matter. You don't have to come down on you like your parents may have done. For instance, you may decide to let the 15-year old boy in you buddy the 10-year old kid inside who acts a little unruly. Or you could let the six-year old child in you carry and console the two-year old who's going through a tantrum. In this way every emotional age within you gets to come alive and become useful.

Regardless what your relationship with your own parents might have been, you can heal yourself by parenting the whole host of inner family voices that are yearning for conscious awareness of your attention. This is the waking up theme we see in folk tales.

You can become a family man without ever having to make a baby. You won't have to blame your parents for what they didn't teach you. The more you learn how to operate yourself with today's new generation of spiritual insights, the more effective you'll become, and the more your worth in others' eyes will increase as well.

Gay men are experts on hiding our feelings because of the dangers we once faced in expressing them. But the gift we received from that challenge is ready for fuller expression now that we're receiving protection under the law. Our ability to inform ourselves of what's going on inside of us makes us valuable tutors. What once made us seem weak and ineffective is making us emotionally powerful and useful to others in preparing us all for a better tomorrow.

Because God decided to make gays and Jews in such small percentages to the overall population, it's important that we make ourselves seen and heard. If you're gay or Jewish, don't think for a moment that you're falling under the radar of the masses. They sense your presence. They observe your behavior. And they question everything they find curious or unexpected about you. Like the character of Joseph in the Torah you may have lost your family, but you've gained a great place in society. If God should choose for your family to meet up with you when they suffer from hunger of some kind, remember the coat of many colors your father once gave you. Remember you're still wearing it within. It can never be taken away from you. Your inner rainbow never fades.

We know that science is one arm of life, and religion, the other. But people don't look for wise and loving ways to use both. They first use one arm, and if they can't get a grip on the problem at hand, then they try the other. They fluctuate between law and love. They try a philosophy of justice or mercy, and if both fail, then they throw their arms up into the air, not understanding that it's only when you learn to use both in tandem that your generosity of spirit with yourself will get the job done.

Many who claim to know the most about matters of the heart seem to be the most cynical about solving their problems with self-loyalty. They get shrill and strident with others when things don't go their way. They bite off their Jewish nose to spite their Christian face. They wash their hands of hope in our government solving our problems, and resort to the ridiculous Hail Mary passes of creationism, personhood and hyper-masculine heterosexuality. Such people aren't peace lovers. They're terrified of peace coming from a direction they can't predict {within}. And although the leaders of the religious right are slowly coming to realize that Christianity will never be the one and only "true" religion, they hold tenaciously to the erroneous belief that "corporations are people, too." Corporations are made up of people, too.

Inner governance through faith in yourself that you then use to illuminate your religious beliefs makes it possible to put your faith in government, evolution, the sanctity of your

life and the personal choices you make about whom you wish to love. Religion has to be the tail, not the dog. If you let your religion wag you, God will get involved by humiliating your religion.

Look at how Islam is wagging Muslims. Look at history to see how Christianity wagged Christians in the past. If you think the history of the Jews was harsh and cruel, you're right. But it taught us the difference between the dog and its tail. Jews aren't martyrs anymore. We abhor killing. And our communities are the safest, most productive in the world. It doesn't make sense to be anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitism is self-loathing projected onto us. And we don't deserve your insanity. Keep it. Heal it. And come to us in peace.

“JESUS SAW NATHANAEL COMING TOWARDS HIM AND REMARKED, ‘NOW HERE IS A TRUE MAN OF ISRAEL; THERE IS NO DECEIT IN HIM!’ ‘HOW CAN YOU KNOW ME?’ RETURNED NATHANAEL. ‘WHEN YOU WERE UNDERNEATH THAT FIG TREE,’ REPLIED JESUS, ‘BEFORE PHILIP CALLED YOU, I SAW YOU.’ AT WHICH NATHANAEL EXCLAIMED, ‘MASTER, YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, YOU ARE THE KING OF ISRAEL!’ ‘DO YOU BELIEVE IN ME,’ REPLIED JESUS, ‘BECAUSE I SAID I HAD SEEN YOU UNDERNEATH THAT FIG TREE? YOU ARE GOING TO SEE SOMETHING GREATER THAN THAT! BELIEVE ME,’ HE ADDED, ‘I TELL YOU ALL THAT YOU WILL SEE HEAVEN WIDE OPEN AND GOD’S ANGELS ASCENDING AND DESCENDING AROUND THE SON OF MAN!’” [John 1:48-51]

Jesus's use of the third person singular when speaking about Himself is again striking, but what's even more striking is Nathanael's sudden conversion. Although Jesus promised Nathaniel he'd see Heaven open and God's angels ascending and descending around Him, Nathaniel was convinced that a miracle had already occurred without further evidence. So far as we can determine, his faith in Jesus was the result of having felt seen in a way no one had ever looked at him before.

But I say to you that the angels Jesus was referring to ascending and descending around Him were no Jacobean dream. The angels ascending are your feelings, and those descending are your thoughts. As you personalize the Bible it comes to life through you. Every man is a Nathaniel {a gift from God}. Every man can undergo a sudden conversion to see Jesus as the model of spiritual individuality. Every man can be a son of man as a gentlemen.

In the Creation Story God used the first person plural {We} when speaking about Himself to demonstrate that He wants us to think of ourselves in the plural just as He did. If we have a sense of the “we” within {the voices of our head, heart and conscience} we're more likely to treat others with a sense of inclusion as well. When we apply the spiritual importance of the pronoun “we” to ourselves, we're better able to overcome our feelings

of alienation and separation from the inside out. When “we” see the “he” in “me” “I” become powerful. When you’re in a better position to feel seen by yourself not being seen by others becomes less painful and disappointing.

Plurality, unity, integration and inclusion begin within. It’s as if Jesus’s own sense of “We” had become evident to Nathaniel. By referring to Himself in the third person it triggered the “he” in Nathaniel that made him more aware of himself. Perhaps this explains the psychological distance Nathaniel had for himself that suddenly seemed bridged in meeting Jesus.

Jesus then compared himself to the Patriarch Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, who dreamed about angels ascending and descending a ladder to Heaven at a time in Jacob’s life when he felt particularly lost and upset at how he’d treated his brother Esau. “I TELL YOU ALL THAT YOU WILL SEE HEAVEN WIDE OPEN AND GOD’S ANGELS ASCENDING AND DESCENDING AROUND THE SON OF MAN!” But Jesus referred to this scene in the Hebrew Testament in the third person, implying He could see that the heavenly messengers that Jacob could only dream about. These angels would heretofore go up and down around Him. As we copy His example, we can perceive this internally through the science of psychology and thereby universalize the process. It doesn’t have to remain in the religious realm where Christians can abuse it by denigrating Jews and gays as they’ve been prone to do in the past.

When we treat ourselves insightfully and respectfully, it feels as though the heavens do open wide for us. It’s as though God’s angels ascend and descend around us. If you could see the gift of God {Nathaniel} in you, waiting patiently under your own fig tree, you’d be able to appreciate his instantaneous conversion to this heartfelt method of perception.

The guilt you cover up with a leaf from that fig tree will always remind you of Torah’s first cautionary tale when Adam covered himself with a fig leaf. But with that leaf in place, today’s modern man is free to carry great loads of love up to Heaven and descend with a new weight on his shoulders in how to make each day better for everyone around him.

Jesus is the gentle man who inspires Christians to get up and change their location in inner space to be closer to Him, in other words to model Him. And Nathaniel is the average man who finds his way to an inspired new way of living life. You must become the observer of the inspiration that enters you from above as well as a full participant in your spiritual process down here with the rest of us. In this sense God’s intentions for you bubble up out of your head, heart or soul depending on the training you received in how to respond to Him.

Why bad things have to happen to good people is not hard to see. Training an infant can’t be done with lectures. Instructing a child can’t be done without setbacks. Educating an adolescent must allow him some autonomy. Coaching a young man must include

freedom. To become a professor you have to be liberated. And to become a rabbi, preacher or cleric you have to emancipate yourself to know your subject matter subjectively if you're going to be able to teach it to others thoroughly.

Diversity is a big part of God's plan. He seems to be in love with differences, perhaps because they always seem to point out how similar we all are despite our differences. Variations underscore similarities. Diversity highlights uniformity.

To expand your mind enough to see this large a big picture requires not only seeing, but feeling seen. You can't just visualize the scene with Nathaniel sitting under a fig tree. You have to experience an emotional epiphany about yourself from what happened to him. You have to take this scene the Apostle John painted personally.

Unfortunately that can't just happen with a snap of your fingers. You have to do the inner work to get the personal results. You have to meditate, contemplate and scrutinize your thoughts and feelings about this story and every Bible story. And even then God will allow you to perceive what He wants you to perceive as He decides what you deserve to see next. In this way He allows you to earn knowledge of yourself, so you won't have to feel that you're stealing it.

You're allowed to grow closer to yourself as though you're being allowed to take steps that bring you closer to a tree. I can't give you a money back guarantee on what you're going to experience as you get a closer look at this tree. What I can assure you is that my words will help you develop patience, inner orientation skills and curiosity about God's presence from within.

When it comes to your head, heart and soul, it's all about LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. If you're not at the right place at the right time keep trying. Where you are is just right for now. You can move through self-disappointment with God's help. It's hard. It can be time consuming. But it's not impossible.

It's not just the Christian who doesn't easily identify as Nathaniel in this story. We all have to work at seeing our feelings as gifts {not punishments} from God. Stand too close to another man's fire, and you only feel the glare of his illumination, the discomfort of his heat or even the burn. Stand too far away and you forget altogether that he's aflame and burning inside just as you are. Like the Earth you have to remain just the right distance from the sun to discover the miracle of your own, special orbit.

The essence of what Jesus saw in Nathaniel {that he was without deceit} was the result of His spiritual foundation from Torah as well as His unique place in God's plan. Jesus wasn't inspired by reading the Gospels. What He saw went beyond visual sight; it went beyond hindsight, foresight and insight. Jesus did more than merely visually observe Nathaniel. He saw him in a way that triggered Nathaniel to see himself. And that's a form

of healing that few attempt to emulate. That's why the Gospels are so important to the healing of the planet.

Religion makes the promise that God sees you and He loves you. Spirituality makes the claim that you must learn to see and love yourself if you want to see and love God back. It's not enough for Him to do His part; you have to do yours. If you reach the end of your life without having experienced the joy of watching yourself grow, you behaved as though you were petrified wood, dried wheat grass or plastic grapes. Seeing yourself grow is the only experience that brings life alive.

When Jacob woke up from his dream in which he saw the ladder to Heaven, he realized that the place he was in was holy. But in the moment when Nathaniel met Jesus, Nathaniel surely realized that the inner space he was in was holy. What else would have motivated him to say, "MASTER, YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, YOU ARE THE KING OF ISRAEL!" Nathaniel must have seen that he literally had turned into his namesake, a gift from God.

Some of the ancient Jews at that time were emotionally ready to internalize Jesus's message in their heart. Most were not. Some Jews today have internalized His message, but most do so unconsciously or using the generic word "love," not through His name. Jesus only had to open the door to let my Jewish ancestors in. We don't have to perceive Him as our Father's Son to know we are our father's son and one of God's Chosen People. We already know that every Jew in the past has contributed to making this world as beautiful as it is today. A good Jew strives to treat every Jew like Jesus and all our forgotten ancestors in order to set an example of respect that gives his own life dignity. A good Jew today, like every Jew in the past, is an angel in disguise.

After Jacob deceived Esau by stealing his birthright and then deceived their father by stealing Isaac's blessings on Esau for himself, Jacob ran away from home to live with his uncle. While on his way to this uncle Jacob went to sleep in the desert and had a dream in which he saw angels ascending and descending from a ladder to Heaven. Here is that passage from Genesis 28:13:

"AND, BEHOLD, THE LORD STOOD ABOVE IT, AND SAID, I AM THE LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM YOUR FATHER, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC; THE LAND WHERE YOU LIE, TO YOU WILL I GIVE IT, AND TO YOUR SEED;"

"AND YOUR SEED SHALL BE AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH, AND YOU SHALL SPREAD ABROAD TO THE WEST, AND TO THE EAST, AND TO THE NORTH, AND TO THE SOUTH; AND IN YOU AND IN YOUR SEED SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED. AND, BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU, AND WILL KEEP YOU IN ALL PLACES WHEREVER YOU GO, AND WILL BRING YOU AGAIN INTO THIS LAND; FOR I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU, UNTIL I HAVE DONE THAT WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU."

“AND JACOB AWAKENED OUT OF HIS SLEEP, AND HE SAID, “SURELY THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE; AND I KNEW IT NOT. “

“AND HE WAS AFRAID, AND SAID, “HOW DREADFUL IS THIS PLACE! THIS IS NONE OTHER BUT THE HOUSE OF GOD, AND THIS IS THE GATE OF HEAVEN.”

“AND JACOB ROSE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND TOOK THE STONE THAT HE HAD PUT FOR HIS PILLOWS, AND SET IT UP FOR A PILLAR, AND POURED OIL UPON THE TOP OF IT.”

“AND HE CALLED THE NAME OF THAT PLACE BETHEL {house of God}: BUT THE NAME OF THAT CITY WAS CALLED LUZ {unknown meaning} AT FIRST.”

“AND JACOB VOWED A VOW, SAYING, ‘IF GOD WILL BE WITH ME, AND WILL KEEP ME IN THIS WAY THAT I GO, AND WILL GIVE ME BREAD TO EAT, AND CLOTHING TO PUT ON,’”

“SO THAT I COME AGAIN TO MY FATHER’S HOUSE IN PEACE; THEN SHALL THE LORD BE MY GOD:”

“AND THIS STONE, WHICH I HAVE SET FOR A PILLAR, SHALL BE GOD’S HOUSE; AND OF ALL THAT YOU SHALL GIVE ME I WILL SURELY GIVE A TENTH UNTO YOU.”

It isn’t until the end of this tale that Jacob speaks to God in the second person singular {THOU}. Until that point he speaks about God’s presence in that place. The sense of being in the presence of God while not speaking to Him directly is a commonplace occurrence among men today. Before Jacob addressed God directly he set up the stone he had used as a pillow and poured oil on it to represent his crude, first step in the construction of a home for God here on Earth.

“ISRAEL” {STRUGGLE WITH GOD} is the name God gave Jacob when He chose to change his name. And Israel is the first indication of evidence of Heaven here on Earth. Jews STRUGGLE WITH GOD. Christians LOVE Him. And Muslims s u b m i t to Him. You can, and do, do all three. If you’re only doing one of the three, you’re not consciously engaged in the entire, spiritual process with God. You have to struggle with Him to learn to love Him. And you have to love Him to be willing to submit to Him.

For the ancient Jews living in Israel at the time of Jesus, Torah was a more intimate part of daily life than it is for most people in the Abrahamic traditions today. God’s presence was thought to be literally situated in the Temple in Jerusalem where they believed He lived here on Earth. They thought His presence literally emanated out from there throughout Israel, and beyond. But they insisted every Jew come to Jerusalem at least once a year to make his sacrifices at the Temple because, in a sense, they believed that the closer a Jew literally got to the Temple the closer he got to God. Approaching God literally was an important part of religious life then.

The idea today that each of us can communicate directly with God at His permanent Residence {Heaven} regardless where we are physically located in this world was a revelation that hasn't yet been achieved by everyone on Earth. Christians and Muslims believed that Israel was holier than any other place on Earth. Why else would they have fought over it for hundreds of years? Why else would Muslims be fighting with Jews over it today?

Israel is a metaphor for the forbidden fruit, the temptation that Christians couldn't steer clear of and now Muslims can't circumvent. They want what they know they must not take. They want what God gave us because we struggled with Him for it and now they think they can struggle with us for it. As happened with the Christians, the Muslims will grow from this experience.

People who are emotionally balanced agree that everyone on Earth has equal access to God regardless of his geographic positioning on Earth. Normal people don't associate their spiritual proximity to God with their physical proximity to the State of Israel. Israel is the living record of man's struggle to believe in God's existence. The moral reasoning for Israel remaining a Jewish state will be revealed through metaphors, symbols and signs that have previously, unconsciously controlled people's thinking, feelings and beliefs.

The idea that God could not only reside anywhere on Earth, but also within every human being had not yet been conceived of at the time of Jesus. And the idea that God is making His presence known to all three of the Abrahamic faiths precisely as He wishes to present Himself is still a challenge for some today.

If the Christians could get through their loathing of the Jews in the past, the Muslims can, too. If most of the Christians can recognize, tolerate, accept and even admire gay people today, the Muslims can, too. It's not that hard. And not doing so says more about a man's self-loathing than it does about us.

There is a potential for a one-state solution in the Middle East once Muslims stop fighting over Israel and start questioning why they can't recognize, tolerate, accept and admire Jews. It's not the Jewish state they can't stand, but the Jewish people; and gay people; and Christians; and the Western world; and the East; and themselves. When are Muslims going to admit that the only one they really loathe is themselves?

If there were a one-state solution that included Gaza and the West Bank, that would work very well if Muslims could acknowledge that God gave that land to us. They could live among us, provided they agreed that they were guests at our table. And given the need for trust and cooperation in the world, this would be a wonderful way for Jews and Muslims to demonstrate that their faith in themselves before God to accept the test of skepticism over cynicism.

Jesus may have been the first Jew to make the claim that He was in a unique and special relationship with our Father, but today everyone makes the same claim. Everyone struts around like he's a gift from God. The idea that God literally lived inside Jesus gave His congregation hope that He might also reside in every other, ancient Jew through his proximity to Him. They saw God's presence as contagious. Once Jesus was figuratively infected by Him, the dis-ease spread. God, like forbidden fruit, was something that could get into a man, but once in, it wouldn't come out. God was the original germ before the germ theory. Spreading religion was once a fear comparable to spreading germs today.

Germs are fought by the body's immune system. And by what it looks like, many people struggle against God, rather than with Him. When you think of God as an invisible force that attacks your spiritual system, your attitude become completely backwards. And yet, when you look at how some people behave as inhumanely as they do, this theory of perceiving God as like a germ is not unreasonable.

Jesus became the personification of the moveable Temple: the Tabernacle. He was the man with God within Him. Today the Catholic Church keeps the host, the body of Christ, in the tabernacle. But those who fill the tabernacle with the consecrated Hosts are no more holy than others just because of their physical proximity to Jesus. Today we take it for granted that all people have God-consciousness and that their spirit has an effect on the whole world. Today people of faith see God-consciousness through the metaphor of God-as-a-seed that's planted to teach us to be fruitful rather than a germ that contaminates that we must eradicate.

At one time Christians looked at Jews as germs. There are many today who still look at gays as a dirty contamination that has infected society. And in the South they've even passed laws to quarantine themselves from Sharia Law. They fear that Islam will spread through America like a cancer. The disease model of faith has got to stop. This is a metaphor that's unkind and unhelpful.

Every son today can say there's some of his father in him – even if he never met his father. Jesus said, in effect, that His Father was in Him. He never said He was His Father. He said His Father was in His Son. We're all living with the extensions of His metaphors without thinking them through.

All men suffer from a spiritual disorder called “gender dysphoria.” We have an “x” and “y” chromosome and each has had an effect on the way we've turned out. Spiritual Linguistics makes these distinctions visible through the extension of metaphors. If you want to fight with me over the capitalizations I give words or the extensions of my metaphors, perhaps discussions of these distinctions are having an effect on you. Perhaps your eyes aren't deceiving you. Perhaps seeding is believing.

Muslims are required to study Torah through the 25th chapter of Genesis, but this chapter doesn't end with the death of Abraham, but with Esau {Jacob's twin brother} despising of his birthright. The educated Muslim will see the correlation between the Islamic loathing of their relationship to Judaism and Esau's foolish rejection of his spiritual inheritance just because he allowed it to slip through his fingers. The Muslim who doesn't care to explore the meaning of Jacob's ladder will also reject Christ's personification of that ladder in the flesh, thus leaving the P r o p h e t Mohammed's ascension to Heaven without spiritual precedence.

If Christians could get over sitting at the same table with Jews, and Jews could get over eating "TRAIF" {UNKOSHER} food with Christians, then Muslims can learn to respect the P r o p h e t Mohammed for sitting at a table with Moses and Jesus in Heaven. If he could share himself with those two Jews, the rest of the Muslim world can do so, too.

If you try to understand Islam without a foundation in Judaism and Christianity, you're jumping up to the third story of a three-story building. You're not giving yourself the advantage of going up one step at a time. And this incredulous jump to conclusions isn't going to give them a rational footing or emotional stability. It will only lead to needless pain and suffering. Until Muslims learn enough about themselves psychologically to teach the whole story of God, they'll do a terrible disservice to their children and children's children.

When we look at the life of Moses, we don't see how he ascended from the world of murderers to that of the first, spiritual, world leader. When we look at the life of Jesus, we don't see how He could have begun His life in a barn, and from there become the personification of the world's greatest edifice of love. And when we look at the life of the P r o p h e t Mohammed, there's no way to imagine how an illiterate, camel driver could make his way into a conversation with Moses and Jesus in Heaven. That much doubt is hard to hold unless you're willing to exercise your suspicions of the possibility of life after life. Without cautious regard for everything you experience, cynicism will overwhelm your thinking and revenge will engulf your motivations. This world can be described metaphorically, as can the world to come. But real estate in Heaven can't be purchased There anymore than God's real estate down here can be bought and sold when it's been stolen.

If we look at the very famous 23rd Psalm in the Hebrew Testament from the point of view of spiritual direction the force of hope in man becomes almost physical and substantive:

"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT.
HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES;
HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS.

HE RESTORES MY SOUL;
HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME SAKE.
THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL; FOR YOU ARE WITH ME;
YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.
YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES;
YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL; MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.
SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE,
AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.”

This psalm begins in the third person singular {HE} and ends in the second person singular {YOU}. The Lord is described as a Shepherd and the speaker implies that he is His sheep. Both God’s “ROD” {STICKS} and “STAFF” {CARROTS} comfort him because they keep him moving in the direction his Shepherd wants him to go.

Only after the speaker compares and contrasts his relationship to God in these ways does he address God directly in the second person. Only after humbling himself before the Lord as one of many sheep in His flock does he dare speak to Him about his optimism regarding his own future in His flock.

When you emulate this sort of discourse with God by speaking about yourself in the third person before speaking directly to yourself in the second person - you set up a relationship of personal dignity that you can then recreate in your relationships with God and others. This gives meaning to the word “grace.” This gives words the fluidity, refinement, elegance, poise and agility that turns a simple conversation, like one foot in front of the other, into a dance.

The results of a relationship with the Lord have several consequences we can clearly see in Jews and gays today.

1. “I WILL FEAR NO EVIL; FOR THOU ART WITH ME.”

We aren’t afraid because we feel His presence.

2. “YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.”

We’re disciplined and resigned to our fortunes and misfortunes.

3. “YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES.”

We learn from our enemies rather than hate them.

4. “YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL.”

We feel blessed.

5. “MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.”

We experience a sense of overwhelming gratitude for our life lessons.

6. "SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE."

We conclude that we're doing His AVODA in all that we do.

7. "AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER."

We conclude that this life is just a preview to coming attractions.

The Jews not only take it for granted that God lives in us; we go so far as to assume God even lives in those who don't welcome Him in. We see everyone on Earth as *affected* rather than *infected* by God. Today we believe everyone holds some God-consciousness in him whether he's consciously aware of it or not.

The question for modern man isn't how to stop others from fighting one another in religious wars out of jealousy and envy. The answer is how to help them break through the projection of self-possession that's unconsciously being cast onto the strangers in their midst. This is what gives them the erroneous belief that they have the right to use their conscience as another man's guide.

We should see every religious person, regardless of his faith, as a sort of spiritual hotelier who claims God as his Honored Guest. The taking of communion is the only, literal way of bringing God-consciousness from the outside in through ritual, but there are, of course, many other ways of doing so figuratively. Marrying yourself is a recreation of the brother/Brother relationship that you could be having with yourself if you don't want to have it with Jesus.

The Christian accusation in many sects of gays being piggish and the Muslim accusation of Jews behaving like monkeys is still a far, too common practice. What we see in such loathing individuals is a lack of willingness to break through a projection of self-loathing to face their own warped principles. What we see is a desire to exclude others, and that will surely have a detrimental, spiritual effect on themselves.

Man is an eating machine. He spends most of his time thinking or talking about his next meal. Moses used this principle in his creation of the metaphor of forbidden-fruit. And Jesus used man's obsession with food to request that His memory be honored through bread and wine.

Good Catholics are reminded of the taste of Jesus every time they consume the Eucharist. But what if God were to have come down here instead of sending His Son? Would we would have tried to eat Him? And what would God taste like: sweet, sour, bitter, salty or hot? {I assume He probably would taste like chicken...}

If the poor and spiritually uneducated were to associate what they eat with their consumption of God-consciousness, I'm sure they'd improve their diet. What could be more spiritually delightful than eating a piece of fresh fruit; enjoying a piece of bread; or

sipping a bit of wine? If you're always wondering "Where's the beef?" maybe you haven't yet reached the meat and potatoes of your spiritual meal.

Those who judge others as less spiritually educated and emotionally polished than them refuse to pierce the projection of their self-ignorance. Their prejudices reveal their paranoia of themselves. They have penis problems that create desires based on very little rational thinking or goodwill. Such highly emotional and irrational conclusions about the worth of others are based on a desire for revenge in having been issued a penis to begin with. Such men hate men because our gender reminds them of how deeply they hate the serpent in their own tree.

Men who think they were created through a superior system from all others are wracked with jealousy and envy of women; they aren't really attracted to them. Their religiosity masks their loathing of life and the humiliation they feel at having been enrolled in this spiritual school to begin with. Penis envy is their problem. Penis envy is far more common among men than women. They envy other men's penises. They hate their own.

The N.R.A., like the cigarette industry before them, are stuck on the projection of their penis onto phallic symbols. The fag they have in their mouth allows them to fume like a fire-breathing dragon. The gun in their holster allows them to ejaculate death and destruction at will. Such men are wedded to death because they loathe the tool of life God gave them. The principles of the Constitution are of no interest or concern to them. They just want the right to kill themselves with cigarettes, and others with guns. And they've convinced the religious right that they love Jesus. How long would they love Him if they thought about the fact that he wasn't just Jewish, but gay?

Moses was the only PROPHET who claimed to have literally met with God on Earth. Jesus was the only man who claimed to hold a relationship with Him that was as intimate as a father with his son. And the Prophet Mohammed was the only one who claimed to have discussed His intentions with the two of Them. Therefore it's important that you build three spiritual homes for yourself: in your head, heart and soul. You're going to need three places to serve your intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs. Only with joy and gratitude to yourself will you be able to prepare a guestroom to share with God. Only by becoming a host to the Lord will you learn to serve all other guests who enter your home.

When you look at the American flag, you should see hope for the whole world in the stars and stripes. When you look at the Israeli flag you should see hope for yourself. If you look at the Israeli flag and feel mean and nasty about Jews, know that that's just a reflection of how you feel about yourself. You can overcome your feelings toward the Jewish state by delving into your own state.

Imagine showing Jews at the time of Jesus a can of frozen concentrate orange juice, a package of beef jerky or a jar of instant coffee and asking them to equate these products

with their sources in nature. Thanks to symbols that remind us of the source of objects and concepts, we can unconsciously equate the cow to the jerky; the orange to the tree; and the bean to the bush. In the modern and manufactured world we live in, we take symbolic thinking for granted. We eat without conscious awareness of the source of our foods. We use water as though it comes out of the tap without ever thinking that it comes out of the sky. We don't live directly off the land. We live in castles in the sky that hover above the land and sea we depend on to survive. And then we wonder why we aren't as realistic as we should be.

Our religious traditions have been produced and packaged in ways our ancestors would never recognize. The metaphor of Moses has been frozen and concentrated. The symbols of Jesus have been dried to give them a longer shelf life. And the signs of Islam have been ground down to powder so we can simply add water to them and mix. Your faith must be constantly challenged to prove it's a kosher and clean derivative of Judaism that doesn't distance today's spiritual products from their original sources. Your head must strive to be kosher and your soul, halal. God knows your heart yearns for a wide-range of exotic tastes to pig out on.

The subtle distinction between symbols and metaphor don't lie in the mind of the beholder, but in his heart. The bread and wine of the communion feast is a symbolic concentration of God's spiritual metaphor given to Moses and made manifest through a new level of awareness in man. Transubstantiation is powerful, but it's only as powerful as you have the ability to plummet the depth of God's WORDS with positive feelings for yourself. If you don't engage your imagination in this spiritual process, communion will become a very small snack of wine and crackers that you'll come away from feeling unfulfilled.

To change the institution of devotion where you pray takes "CHUTZPAH" {NERVE, GALL, IMPUDENCE} because it requires you to reassess your own devotional practice in the process. The more nerve you have to change yourself, the more you'll find yourself interfacing differently with the faith you belong to. If you're praying in a place that's all white, all straight – all anything – you're sleeping with a strange man you don't know. And that's abominable!

It's easier to serve lamb at Passover than to identify as the lamb that went to slaughter. Jesus wanted to show the Jews of His time what self-sacrifice looked like. He allowed Himself to be sacrificed to teach men to use more imagination to find God. {Socrates allowed the state to kill him 400 years before Jesus, in order to teach the Greeks to use their mind to debate authority.} It would have been self-destructive of Jesus to go to Jerusalem without assuming the rich Jews were in league with the Romans, and the Romans were going to kill Him. By symbolically turning Himself into the ram God provided Abraham to replace Isaac, Jesus reenacted the "AKEYDA" {THE SACRIFICE OF ISAAC}. By choosing to

be the sacrifice given up to God so the nation could see self-sacrifice in action, Jesus expressed His thorough understanding of the nature of man.

Suicide is a voluntary, spiritual recreation of the Akeyda where the individual acts out the role of the perpetrator {Abraham} and victim {Isaac} for the sake of pleasing God and himself. Suicide is self-sacrifice with the unstated hope that God will receive your gift of life with sorrowful understanding of your reasons for doing so. A man's willingness to offer up his life isn't much of a gift to God if he's depressed, discouraged, forlorn or feeling hopeless.

If you must end your life, make sure you do so with a somber self-regard for your life after life. It's *your* body. It's *your* decision. Now that the government can't come into your bedroom to arrest you anymore for who you're having sex with, it won't be long before it will have to give up its assertion that your life lies in its hands. The right to death as well as the right to life should be in your hands, not the church's or the state's. Self-love will continue developing until the individual has the right to make all moral decisions for himself – and by extension for herself.

Today there are men who are enraged, feeling inadequate, ignored and unloved, who then go on a suicidal rampage. There's no connection with what they do and what Jesus did because their feelings are so obscured by their bitter disappointment that life didn't turn out as they'd hoped it would. A man who can't figure out why God gave him the father and mother he had and what he can do to lift himself above their station in life is going to humiliate himself instead. His conscience is going to rip itself apart trying to determine right from wrong until he has no psychological choice but to project his moral struggle onto others. He's going to kill others and himself instead of healing the moral questions at the source of his struggle.

Every man is an Abraham, a father of a multitude of inner sons, each with a point of view of his own. Every man wants to show God how much he cares and how much he desires to demonstrate that he believes in Him. But every man is also an Isaac. He unwittingly participates in a sacrifice of the self that's often beyond his conscious control or spiritual understanding. This Biblical father and son is a mirror of your spiritual relationship with God. You, too, have to find a gift more precious than life to give to your Father. That gift must be love of your life.

Men have tried to catch many rams to sacrifice instead of themselves. Jews were the rams caught by the Christians, penned in, in ghettos, and sacrificed to God whenever their guilt became unbearable. Blacks were rounded up in Africa and forced into servitude like animals to be sacrificed at the whim of the white man. Recently the dignity of gay people has been bound and gagged, placed on the same altar where all the other scapegoats have died. But we escaped the grasp of the irrational, religious right. And when psychologically

unhealthy, religious men run out of scapegoats among men to sacrifice to God to appease Him of their guilt, they've never hesitated in using "their" women to do so instead.

The Golden Rule, to "DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE OTHERS DO UNTO YOU," [Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 7:12] has become a Judeo-Christian process.

If you give people enough space to be themselves, they'll discover themselves. The freedom they'll have won for themselves won't just be expressed through political rights. They'll apply their new-found freedom with emotional and spiritual devotion. They'll turn freedom into liberty with which they'll emancipate themselves. In moving from freedom through liberty to spiritual emancipation, the institutions of faith will earn back their congregations.

God gave us Israel so we'd tell the world there's nothing here on Earth you can call your own. Everything is earned, borrowed or taken. Everything must remain here when you leave, including your body. We need the rule of law to keep people from stealing those things that aren't rightfully theirs. God keeps track of your spiritual earnings. Your real treasure is with Him, and His loyalty to you is unquestionable. What you're really questioning is your own.

Only after you can perceive these truths will you be able to come to matters of the heart ready to learn about the 10th Commandment. Then you'll see how jealous you are of other containers and how quick you are to envy what they've gathered inside themselves. You'll never get out of here with dignity if you kill yourself out of anger, not even if you bring dozens of people along for the ride.

The Jews figured out the futility of martyrdom long ago. Today no Jew believes he has to be afraid of what comes next if he's been a good human being. He doesn't need Jesus to hold his hand or the Prophet Mohammed to promise him 70 virgins as a reward for his goodness. Goodness is its own reward. Goodness is the only reward because you can only love yourself when you can acknowledge {to yourself} how good you are.

Sharing what you know, who you love, and how to appreciate God's generosity toward you requires constant practice. God gives us people, places and things to learn about ourselves. But if you think you know all about God, His plan and your place in it because of the fraternity {Judaism, Christianity or Islam} you were born in to, you're not yet a very advanced student of life. What did you learn when you were in a fraternity in college? How to drink? How did that help you with your studies?

If you think you're smart because some institution gave you a college degree, I've got bad news for you. College is a mill. You go in raw timber and they turn it into social lumber. You go in a log and come out a 2x4. And with this socially prepared wood you do your part to build a better world. If you decide not to go through this mill, there's so much you can still do to show your appreciation of each and every tree. Even a faggot {bunch of

sticks} is precious to God. There isn't a spiritual tree He didn't plant here. A tree is a terrible thing to waste. Felling 6,000,000 of them is beyond abominable, not sex between men.

With awareness of your spiritual education, Israel will become more precious to you as three countries in one:

1. A Holy Land in the literal sense: a homeland for the Jews
2. An emotional homeland in the heart of every Christian, a river from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea in which you'll be baptized, netted and fished out for a land of milk and honey for all eternity
3. A spiritual heaven for every Muslim that will make him soulful, a preview to the world to come, a heaven on Earth that he must learn to fly over and look down upon with tolerance, acceptance and, yes, even admiration for the way the Jews live, and the way they could learn to live, too.

Your inner horizons end where they are in your inner sky until you learn how to fly higher. The "mile high club" has a spiritual connotation as well. It's the club of Muslims who can see so much further in every direction than their brothers. It's as if these educated Muslims have been given a magic carpet that keeps them afloat over land and sea. From their spiritual height above their brothers, they need to describe what they can see to their religious leaders.

The right of return under Israeli law gives every Jew the legal right to move to Israel to live. The right of emotional return gives every Christian the right to run the rapids of his inner Jordan without fear of ending up in a Dead Sea. The resurrection of Jesus is neither a myth nor a metaphor. It's a symbol of the world becoming. Through His body love has been concretized into being. Thanks to the State of Israel that many good Christians encouraged and helped to create, we've been given the inspiration we need to make this planet a loving place for everyone.

But the right of return for Muslims must be earned spiritually in God's realm from their soul through their efforts to discourage others from ending up in Hell. They must expand their imagination to perceive the magic of WORDS/WORDS/w o r d s as gifts given to them from their older, spiritual brothers and God. Their spiritual thefts must stop. To get from here to There, they must study Scripture for a better understanding of the past and present. A good future in paradise after their studies on this planet is harder to get into than it now appears for most of them. They're going to have to invest in life to realize their investment after life.

Most men are in competition with others. It doesn't occur to them to compete with themselves. If you're not trying to outdo yourself today in contrast to how you were

yesterday, you'll have no plan in place for tomorrow. No one wants to live like Noah in an arc, helplessly adrift on a tempestuous sea. Even when the weather is calm, a man wants to make his way to dry land. A houseboat is no place to spend your life unless you have a way to moor it in a safe haven. A man wants to feel grounded. He doesn't want to feel like a flying Dutchman who can only make his way to harbor once every 25 years. Every man wants to get his hands dirty planting a vineyard, making spiritual wine and filling himself with the awe and wonder of life until he's completely inebriated with his own love in the sight of God.

Emotional houses will always rock and roll. By definition, it isn't possible to build a houseboat on a firm foundation. Some men won't want to plant themselves like grapes and turn themselves into a vineyard for the Lord. They won't want to entwine themselves with others. They won't want to feel interconnected with others. Such men will inspire mankind to live a more contemplative way.

Today's American skyline is a sign of hope in the heart of every American, a hope that holds Biblical proportions. Americans are the most civilized people on Earth. We've created a civil society in which the pursuit of happiness has become our national pastime. But our citadel of culture in the New World isn't grounded in any one faith or philosophy.

Sadly, it's grounded in money, not honey. And therefore Americans are virtually unprepared for the future economically or spiritually. Most of them are a paycheck away from bankruptcy and an illness away from death. If an epidemic or, God forbid, a pandemic were to erupt, how would they survive?

The spiritual insight of Islam gives every Muslim the tools of intellectual reason and emotional rationality with which to promote respect for the rights of his Judeo-Christian brothers. If he wants to build a world within himself that's civilized, a world for his children and grandchildren that will be filled with hope, he has to give up the ideal of nomadic, spiritual life in a desert. He must build great, modern cities that mirror the spiritual Home he strives for, even if that leaves a hole in his soul. (Better in his soul than his head or his heart...) Like his Abrahamic brothers, he must pay a price to let God in. There is tuition in this school. Even though you may, at times, enjoy free lunches, your education will never be free.

The mind of man is no longer choked with weeds. His heart is no longer an unexplored sea, and the soul of humanity is no longer a vast sky empty of man's presence. His mind has become a cityscape with freeways, vehicles zooming ideas every which way, and tree-lined gardens surrounded by farmland that irrigate his hunger for self-knowledge. His heart is now traversed with submarines of self-scrutiny and cruise ships that make it possible to explore every inch of the seven seas of sensibility. And his skies are filled with airbuses and rocket ships to distant worlds thanks to a vision.

Make it easy on yourself and use the wisdom Moses gave you; the love Jesus provided; and the charitable spirit of the P r o p h e t Mohammed. They'll get you where you want to go without making your business with God into everyone else's business. You can leave your head right where it is on your shoulders and let your heart keep beating in your chest until the day it stops.

But when it comes to your soul, you might like to think about transcending yourself another way. There is no word for "soul" in Hebrew. The ancient Jews saw every part of the human body as parts of the soul. To be soulful you have to see every part of yourself as a reflection of God's place in your life. You have to consider all of yourself, everyone else and the whole planet as a mirror that together will reveal the secret of God's plan for you.

If you're missing an arm, you must teach your brothers about the consequences of bearing arms. If you're missing eyesight, you must substitute that with a vision for this world. If you're deaf, you must teach the world the language of silence. But if you have a body that's whole, you must teach the world to dance. Dance is gratitude to God in motion. If you're afraid to dance, you're very afraid.

You're going to have to repeat the trip Moses made from Cairo to Jerusalem in your mind. You're going to have to repeat the life Jesus went through in Israel in your heart to resurrect yourself His way. You're going to have to open yourself up to the flight the P r o p h e t Mohammed made from Mecca to Heaven via Jerusalem in your soul if you want to learn to submit to Him. God {Y.H.V.H. Jesus A L L A H.} is here and There to help you turn life into an inside job without unhappy ramifications around you. You can enlist His help in making you soulful if you get past your fear of feeling all your feelings and talking to yourself in the privacy of your mind.

Atheists obviously want to go it alone. Agnostics are skeptical of God and are busy looking for reasons to bring Him along on their ride instead. Only true believers are consuming the external world while simultaneously looking for ways to see it as a confirmation of what's going on within them. If you make your life into a moral journey with emotional consequences that you can live with, you'll have no reason to fear living life your way.

Moses revealed the spiritual metaphor that Jacob dreamed up of a wooden ladder between Heaven and Earth. Jesus used symbolism to teach the world how to turn that dream inside in. And the P r o p h e t Mohammed added simile to create signs around you that will teach you how to make your dreams come true by turning your dreams inside out.

The victim in you willing to suffer for your heavenly reward has to be taught that he must learn from suffering, not only to endure suffering. The voice inside crying "Why me?" is the voice of the forbidden fruit your spiritual ancestors metaphorically consumed a long

time ago. Nothing happens to you without God allowing it to happen as a teaching tool. The question you should ask yourself when anything goes wrong is “Why me?” The difference between “Why me?” and “Why not me?” will become evident when you learn to use your desires to find answers. This will turn your questions from a perfunctory, rhetorical rebuttal into a question that contains real curiosity and interest. The wonder of “why” is an aspect of the child’s life we all need to recapture.

Nothing occurs to you without a reason; absolutely nothing. It’s only as your head grows as the result of senses that perceive more and more of the world around you that you learn to engage yourself in the discovery of the mystery of your life. As you change your mind, and your mind transforms your feelings, visions from within will begin to help you transcend the place you’re in now in the world around you. You’ll discover the subjectivity of your time here on Earth. When you think about things from your past or future, you’ll see them as existing in the now within you. The world of thoughts understands the meaning of the tenses of verbs that mark differences in external time. But when you look at these ideas through the filter of your heart it’s all happening here and now. It’s all subjective.

For a man to feel threatened by Jews and gays is irrational. We’re the most pacific peoples on Earth. No two groups of people have a track record of more peace loving intentions. If there’s a voice in you arguing otherwise, that voice is the voice of paranoia, not fear. Gays and Jews are the most highly educated minorities on Earth. We’re the most self-aware and self-motivated to live in peace with our neighbors. The more you analyze what you think about gays and Jews, the more you’ll be able to distinguish between what you think; what you feel; and whether your thoughts and feelings are morally sound – or whether they’re projections of parts of you that you haven’t yet been privileged to see.

The Dead Sea isn’t a dead end. The Jewish fishermen from the Galilee knew the fish in that sea well enough to follow a new Fisherman in their midst who convinced them He could help them catch themselves. Jesus convinced them they’d been thinking like fish. What started out as a very small experiment in Israel has become the world’s largest, spiritual movement. But the time has come to teach every man to catch himself and teach himself to live in the world of spirit above his seven seas. Feeding others emotionally has become tedious. So many now realize they have a fulltime job in feeding themselves.

Being able to make money doesn’t mean you’re wise. It means you’re smart. Going to church on Sundays doesn’t mean that you’re loving. It makes you look good. Hating Jews, Christians, gays, blacks and Shiites and/or Sunnis doesn’t mean you’re generous. It only reveals how frightened you are of men who are different from you.

Some Jews think they can become bookworms to escape their fate. Some Christians think they can walk on water to get where they want to go. And some Muslims think a bird has the only birds’ eye view.

Everything that frightens you about another man is figuratively revealed in his penis and testicles. But you don't have to get that close to him to get closer to him. You only have to use your imagination to envision what it is that frightens you about what God gave him that he didn't give you.

For many people life isn't all that precious. It isn't precious because they were born in pain and then moved into a world that was loud, confusing, unmerciful and seemingly unjust. They don't see the opportunity for learning love and forgiveness in everything they've been through. The longer they've had to make their way through this world, the more convinced they've become that death is their destiny and life, their fate.

You don't have to live under the philosophy that you have to crush the other guy's balls before he gets a chance to screw you. You can change the way you think about yourself if you can change the way you look at the spiritual intention of God having given you your own set of testicles and penis. Don't ask God if your testicles are black. Ask Him if your test results are back. {i.e. you've got to learn to listen to yourself when you pray.}

The honors you need to graduate in peace must be bestowed upon you in your lifetime, not the day after you're handed your diploma. These honors are signs God gives you that show you He's thoroughly engaged in your spiritual education at all times. These honors are the little moments when it feels as though He called on you in class because He knew you had the right answer. When you know the Teacher is looking right at you and sees what you're thinking, it actually makes your education here on Earth more exciting. It makes office hours with Him late at night a special learning time and a great privilege.

If your philosophy of life is to get the Hell out of this school as quickly as you can, don't conclude that you're all that smart or loving. If half the time you want to kill someone and the rest of the time you wish you were dead, don't bother to ask for a peek at your grades in His roll book. Don't think of yourself as generous of spirit just because you got out of bed this morning.

Admit when you're behaving like an outlaw, a guy who plays hooky intellectually, emotionally or spiritually whenever he can. Admit to yourself when you're absent-minded or missing in action because you've been too preoccupied with other things to give consideration to how it makes the Teacher feel when you don't choose to come to class.

Appreciation is a process of increasing the value of something or someone. To hold a favorable, critical estimation of someone you have to feel good about him as well as have evidence to support that emotion. You can't appreciate the color yellow by measuring its objective, visual, perceptive properties. You can't know what yellow has to do with bananas using your eyes. You've got to peel the banana and taste it. Perception has to become subjective to give value to what you see. Until you have an image of something

yellow in your mouth, the infant in you has no idea what yellow is. Infants, like serpents, look with their tongue.

A spiritual toddler can only yearn to graduate with a kindergarten diploma. You can't impress him with your law degree in love. Those who love learning because life has humbled them grow the fastest and become the most fruitful in many, wonderful ways. But the spiritual toddler needs to be given educational toys that will promote his interest in himself. He has to be taught how to discipline himself for the love of doing so. The spiritual infant needs to be taught to walk away from his mother and toward his Father's open arms.

Loyalty is the most soulful expression of God-consciousness. It's a mother's loyalty to all her children that demonstrates the highest manifestation of loyalty in parenting. Loyalty to your country or your city's sports teams is a waste of time unless you value your loyalty to yourself, not just give lip service to the human body God gave you. Self-appreciation develops loyalty. Seeing yourself appreciate day-by-day gives you the desire to learn more about yourself without getting bored when you're by yourself. Each day should be an incredible, new mystery in becoming. If you're not full of wonder, you're secretly raising your hand and asking the Teacher if you can leave the room. Boredom, not money, is the root of all evil.

A pupil of life looks forward to graduation. A student claims to love school, but he's really just a Teacher's pet here to revel in his proximity to His power. The bozo at the back of the room comes to class to disrupt and to make his cynical views about the value of his spiritual education known. He knows all there is to know about self-loyalty. He just has no desire to develop loyalty to the whole class or our Teacher. Only scholars are more interested in their grades and education than graduation.

God doesn't want you to express your loyalty to Him directly, but to Him through yourself and others. He doesn't need your fervent vows and promises. You do. When you're dead and buried, you can discuss your loyalty to Him when the two of You review the movie He produced, "Me" that you directed and starred in.

Loyalty isn't a matter of intellectual superiority or emotional intensity. Loyalty is a soulful relationship with yourself that has to be developed over a long time for you to appreciate your relationship with yourself through thick and thin. Loyalty wasn't the topic of the New Testament. That's the topic of the Quran.

The title of this chapter was "Truth or Deceit?" Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards Him and remarked, "NOW HERE IS A TRUE MAN OF ISRAEL; THERE IS NO DECEIT IN HIM!" You have to wonder how He knew that Nathaniel would prove to be such a loyal follower. You have to ask yourself how you perceive loyalty in others. You have to wonder whether you're even aware of the ways in which you demonstrate loyalty to yourself.

Can you see all the ways you're becoming more intimate with yourself day-by-day? Can you see your spiritual progress? Do you commend yourself for each and every chore you accomplish? Do you speak to yourself as you would to a child or a brother whom you truly love? Or does the kid inside kick and bleat like a baby goat? Does he only irk you? Are you making others a scapegoat because you hate your inner child?

It's too easy to call Christ's relationship to His Father perfect. It's time you started talking about your relationship to your father and how that relationship compares and contrasts to your relationship with your inner child. If you want to compare yourself to your father, you have to personalize your relationship with the kid in you. Only then will you be ready to relate like a brother to Jesus and to the Jewish people in the same spiritual way.

Fowl: The Gospel According to John

Born Again and Again

“BELIEVE ME,” RETURNED JESUS, “A MAN CANNOT EVEN SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD WITHOUT BEING BORN AGAIN.”

“AND HOW CAN A MAN WHO’S GETTING OLD POSSIBLY BE BORN?” REPLIED NICODEMUS. “HOW CAN HE GO BACK INTO HIS MOTHER’S WOMB AND BE BORN A SECOND TIME?”

“I ASSURE YOU,” SAID JESUS, “THAT UNLESS A MAN IS BORN FROM WATER AND FROM SPIRIT HE CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD. FLESH GIVES BIRTH TO FLESH AND SPIRIT GIVES BIRTH TO SPIRIT: YOU MUST NOT BE SURPRISED THAT I TOLD YOU THAT ALL OF YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN. THE WIND BLOWS WHERE IT LIKES. YOU CAN HEAR THE SOUND OF IT, BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE IT COMES FROM AND WHERE IT GOES. NOR CAN YOU TELL HOW A MAN IS BORN BY THE WIND OF THE SPIRIT.” [John 3:3-8]

Perhaps now it’s surprising, but not shocking, to read that Jesus said a man must be born from water and spirit. But He didn’t mention earth since we’re all first born out of the figurative clay God used to fashion man. Perhaps now you can see that Jesus was probably referring to what we call in our modern idiom, “heart and soul” when He referred to water and spirit. Even though He couldn’t have literally used the word “soul” because the word doesn’t exist in Hebrew, we understand the difference between caring for the physical body and for a man’s feelings and beliefs.

There are three births that an individual comes to know in this world. The first is the birth of the flesh, which occurs when an infant leaves its mother’s womb. This is the earthly birth. The second is the birth of love, which occurs at puberty when a child leaves the womb of his parents’ love created in their home to live in his own heart, from where he can then seek the physical love of people outside his family. This is the birth by water. And the third is the birth of the spirit, which happens when a man leaves the temple to the Lord in the Jerusalem in his heart to build a home for himself in his own soul. This is the birth of the spirit. Every baby is born. Every boy is born again in adolescence. But only some men are reborn.

Babies must learn to crawl and then to stand up and walk. Most children learn to swim, but few grow up enough to want to yearn to earn wings. There’s something terrifying for some about soaring through thin air. It’s difficult to take this leap of faith because it’s done entirely inside. It has nothing literally to do with skydiving, and yet it’s similar to flying, a sort of falling to earth with grace that never seems to end with a thud. This third level of birth requires that we learn to allow ourselves to be borne by the wind of the spirit.

Adam and Eve thought they shared a secret with one another that God couldn't know about until God confronted them declaring, "THE MAN HAS NOW BECOME LIKE ONE OF US KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL." [Genesis 3:22] In saying this God created an "us" against "Them" scenario that Jesus turned into "us" going through "Him" to reunite with "Them."

Although the vast majority of Jews now believe that God is forgiving, modern man is somewhat at a loss to explain what it is he really believes. His head tells him one thing; his heart another; his conscience has an opinion all its own, and then, of course, there's his penis...

It's psychologically most sensible to turn this view of mankind inside out to see the "us" and "them" relationship within ourselves rather than to think it's "us" against "Them" which some men unconsciously believe. Thoughts in conflict with feelings that have conspired with desires produce the "us against them" impression in our conscience that we all know so well.

Now that man has grown so big that he's almost pushed the idea of "satan" out of the big picture entirely, he has little choice but to embrace spiritual psychology. Now that he's internalized the holy war of darkness verses light, the challenge he has to deal with is his relationship to himself, for it's from within that he must find strength and solace. God reveals Himself to those who reveal themselves to themselves.

When you acknowledge the taboo against talking to yourself out loud; the social offense of speaking about your relationship with yourself; and the virtual ban on relating to yourself in the third person as the "him" in "me" – it's no wonder most men have anger issues they can't resolve. It's no wonder they conclude it's better not to know themselves than to ask too many questions about what they're thinking or how they really feel. But not acknowledging your thoughts and feelings only makes it harder to decide what it is you choose to believe.

When God said, "HE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO REACH OUT HIS HAND AND TAKE ALSO FROM THE TREE OF LIFE AND EAT, AND LIVE FOREVER" it was as if God was gossiping about us behind our back while knowing full well that we were going to read what He said for millennia. It's as if He was telling a secret He wanted us to hear. But the secret is out. Apparently there's nothing evil about learning about yourself from talking to yourself. Even God does it. Maybe all He ever wanted us to know is that it's O.K. to talk to yourself in the first person plural.

The mind knows that the body dies, decays and that nobody returns after he's dead. But the heart loves life so much that it sees life as eternal. And you can never convince the heart that its wisdom is irrational, wrong or self-serving. The best you can do is use your conscience to moderate between your head and heart by leaving a trail of good deeds that lessens your guilt and intensifies the legacy of your life with the love you leave behind.

When viewed from the heart rather than the head, no one in his right mind would want to lose the intimacy with himself at death that he struggled for over a lifetime. Being alive and achieving the self-love that comes from solving worldly problems makes a man fear losing himself at death. Individuality and the sense of self become more precious the longer a man lives, and no one wants to have to give all that up when he dies. The body may have to be left behind, but the special feeling of having been in it is something we don't want to forfeit.

This presumption of "self" after life isn't an intellectual or emotional problem. It's a moral problem because no man thinks he's going to be in control of his fate or destiny after he dies. He knows he'll be judged and rewarded, or punished, in accordance with all his deeds on Earth. So the real question for those with a sufficiently developed conscience to call it a soul is only what God is using as a yardstick to measure a man. I've already suggested He might measure men by volume. But there's a third possibility, that He judges a man's head, heart, penis and conscience separately. What if the integrity of a man's being {all the forces within him} depends on the integrity of his performance? What if it's only those whose head, heart and soul are in agreement with all that they think, feel and believe who'll get the rewards of continuity and integrity of all of their "self"?

But what then happens to his penis? This is where the rub lies. Most men would gladly give up their penis in favor of their moral commitment to what they believe to be the truth. They'd gladly martyr their penis to their cause. What they aren't giving consideration to is what it may be to live an eternity without male genitals, especially if he isn't granted female genitalia either... Having to watch other people's happiness without any ability to share in it is the very definition of Hell.

Most men actually don't think with their penis, especially if they're particularly religious and dogmatic about their beliefs. They don't think of the consequences of the integrity of their being from the waist down in the afterlife. They assume their serpent would never be removed from their tree, when, in fact, removing the serpent would solve a lot of Biblical issues once and for all for the extremists in the Abrahamic faiths.

What if bad Jews like Bernie Madoff and Harvey Weinstein are now so suffering with the loss of family and/or career in their lifetime that God will grant them a penis after life despite what their head, heart and penis colluded in doing against the wishes of their conscience? And what if those in high positions in politics, the cigarette industry and the N.R.A. are not having to suffer in their lifetime? What if they're going to lose their penis after life and forced to face the pleasure of others for eternity?

Pain and suffering are really gifts from God that cleanse and purify you of the crazy conclusions you came up with about the meaning of getting ahead. Embrace your pain and

suffering as grades from the Teacher intended to help you advance your education in this school. Your material success is only one indicator of what your grades look like.

What if the Nazis who got away with murder only got away with it here on Earth? What if the concepts of truth, justice and the American way will continue long after your lifetime? What if screwing yourself over morally is the ultimate abomination that sex between men who aren't in committed relationships with anyone else only alludes to?

Jesus understood how the emotional aspect of the spiritual process mirrored the landscape of Israel where He was born, lived and died. He chose Jewish fishermen who were the first of His disciples to describe this emotional journey from the Galilee to the Dead Sea {North to South} and how He could move a man from death to life, by bringing him from a spiritual East to West just by crossing the Jordan and entering Israel. This is what it means for a Christian to cross himself. This is what it means to take His crucifixion personally.

Jesus figuratively and spiritually claimed He could bring His followers into an Israel within. It surely wasn't His intention to draw the whole world into Israel. His whole life therefore became the personification of life as a spiritual, crucifixion process {North, South, East and West} that has only slowly become revealed to man over time.

Every man on Earth has to face God in his mind alone, but he has at least one someone with him in his heart. He has a brother mirrored in the reflection of his mind in his heart who reminds him that even if no one else on Earth loves him, at the very least he's developed a few tender feelings for himself. This reflection of your own image in your heart is the personal savior in you.

Therefore, you must depend on yourself whether or not you're Christian and trust that someone will be there to hold your hand when you disembark from your spiritual vehicle at the end of the line. This is the wisdom of self-love modern man must learn to acknowledge for himself that Jesus once literally exemplified. This makes the Christian Abrahamic faith so especially compelling in relation to the other two.

Communion with yourself occurs in your heart whether or not you take communion at church. There within lies the house of the Lord that a Jewish carpenter first recognized and constructed as His life story. Regardless of what happens in your outer world, when your head can appreciate the mystery of your feelings, sincerity becomes the power tool you need for the construction of the underwater temple in your heart. This spiritual project realized will lead you up from there to break through to your soul, the world of spirit, where your next spiritual AVODA, generosity of spirit, is waiting for you to commence, the castle in the sky you dream about and hope is real. If you face your feelings with sincerity, rather than blind disregard for your future here on Earth and Hereafter, the beneficence of being you will be revealed.

Most people feel a sense of discomfort about being themselves that they hope will be relieved with a life partner; children; a position of status in the community; or a record of good deeds that others will see and approve of. Marriage, money and achievements do give us comfort in life, but these comforts may feel somewhat impermanent or obscured with pain and suffering over time.

Consequently, there are many who simply hope that hope will prevail. They can't imagine they really have an unseen strength, determination and ability to live life in a way they haven't yet discovered. They believe they have what it takes to survive, but they're not sure they have what it takes to thrive forever.

Catholicism is devoted to the ritual of transubstantiation. This is the Christian, spiritual exercise that makes them aware of God's presence as more than "Him" with them. It {the Holy Spirit} turns "them" into [them with "Him" among "Them"]. Their experience of God is very different from the meaning of the Hebrew word "EMANUEL" which translates as "us" with "God." Transubstantiation brings God closer to Christians by humanizing God as not being alone in His abode.

The Islamic story could never have been built upon the Christian roof without these ideas in place. Each of these three stories {Judaism, Christianity and Islam} rests upon the other. Every time Christians and/or Muslims try to pull the rug out from under the Jews, they discover this truth for themselves.

Men don't promote family values by sleeping with women; men promote family values by sleeping in peace at night. Being straight is nothing to be proud of, and being gay is nothing to be ashamed of. It's not where you put your penis that promotes your values. It's what you do to develop your heart and soul that makes a difference to your self-esteem. If you've got your nose prying in women's vaginas and men's behinds, you'll never be able to express the beauty and grandeur that lies in your own chest. You can't just humanize God. You have to glorify Him through yourself.

Brown-nosing God, however, is not the answer. That's what extremists do when they preach hatred of gays and Jews. That's what they do when these men stick their nose in the vagina of pregnant women who don't want to become mothers. Yes, murder of an unborn child is a sin. But how big a sin is it? That is the question.

Jesus described His spiritual progress as best he could with the level of understanding the ancient Jews could handle at that time, saying, "THE WIND BLOWS WHERE IT LIKES. YOU CAN HEAR THE SOUND OF IT BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE IT COMES FROM AND WHERE IT GOES." [John 3:5]

Jesus might have wanted to convince the ancient, rich Jews of Jerusalem that the spiritual process He was modeling would lead to greater God-consciousness, but the wind wasn't figuratively blowing south from the Galilee to Jerusalem. It was blowing north

toward Greece and west toward Europe where most of His seeds were destined to be planted on another continent. To prove that the picture the Jews had of themselves was larger than the frame the institution of Judaism had encased itself in at that time, the seeds of Christianity had to blow around the world.

The seeds Jesus planted have germinated most everywhere on Earth thanks to the WIND/WIND/w i n d, and the whole world is now reaping the rewards of the fruits of His spiritual labors so long ago in ancient Israel.

Today we see that when your picture of yourself is bigger than the frame you've been encased in, you've got to reframe yourself. Maybe you were held back by the frame your religion, culture, family, convention or low self-esteem boxed you into. But when you expand your boundaries, you set new parameters for yourself with self-discipline and delight. Only when you determine from within where you're going in your life, without blaming the gay or Jew, rich or poor, for your fate – do you mat and mount yourself the way you wish to be seen. Revolutions are only for practice. Revolutions lead to evolutions.

Extremists believe at one end or the other. They are like magnets that repel. We can see this so well in Jewish and Christian extremists. They're repelled by one another, until you bring up the topic of women and gays. And then they reverse their polarity. Then they suddenly attract.

God anticipated this process by creating three Abrahamic faiths. And He added to His efforts by creating the Eastern philosophies that teach us the value of moving toward the middle.

When Jesus said that the wind was coming from a place they couldn't perceive and was going to a place that was beyond their purview, He was describing God's plan in terms the ancient Jews could grasp. He was seeing the world from a point of view that held an ultimate, godly perspective. He didn't stick His nose in anyone's vagina or derriere to convey His understanding of the big picture. He spoke respectfully to everyone and about everything. The evolution of God's plan wasn't something He wished to use to offend any individuals or groups of people for the way they chose to live their life in the privacy of their own home.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem {just outside Jerusalem} but He was raised in Nazareth, a small town in the north of Israel in the Galilee mountains about 80 miles from where He was born, a four-day journey on foot. The word "NAZARETH" comes from the word "NETZER," which means "BRANCH" or "SHOOT." Sometimes when a tree is chopped down, a shoot will grow from the stump, allowing new life to spring up where the old one died. The spiritual importance of a NETZER in terms of the main metaphor of Moses can be no coincidence. Jesus was the unexpected shoot that grew up out of a tree that had reached the end of its days. That dead tree was symbolic of the hope of the people of Israel at that time,

a level of Jewish self-awareness King Hared and the Romans were determined to see cut down with cruelty, poverty and desperation. There are many such places in America, and many men who, like shoots, are emerging from just such trees in today's urban jungle.

For a mother to clean her baby boy's penis; for her to teach him how to hold it and aim it properly into the toilet bowl; and for her to show him how to clean it himself – she has to be very secure inside. I'm sure every, baby boy develops some impressions about how to relate to his penis from his mother's training techniques.

What the influences on Mary's life were we'll never know, but we do know that a great man is very much the product of a great mother. Mothers turn their sons into warriors or lovers. They teach their sons to relate to their penis as a psychological tool for destruction or creation. A mother has a huge influence on her son's ability to move through embarrassment to modesty; shame to humility; and humiliation to grace. In this way a mother figuratively turns her son into an angel or a "devil" in disguise, depending on his assessment of the big picture.

Clearly Mary did something right in that regard, something we should look at for evidence of how to raise children with a more spiritual regard for the love of life. The child who's taught to see the importance of guilt will strive to learn about all his other feelings as the gateway to the heavenly feeling of love. The child who's comfortable in his own body will see the whole world as a loving body. He'll recognize the symbols Jesus gave the world and put them to good use. And if he's Christian, he'll see the body of Christ as a sensuous gift to humanity that makes Christianity such a special gift from God with gifts for the whole world, not just Judaism and Islam.

When you explore the mystery of having been poured into the physical container you so casually call "me," you become more conscious of your conscience. When your picture of yourself has expanded, you're then in a position to reframe your intentions with greater devotion to God. You're more likely to treat every human being with dignity and "r.e.s.p.e.c.t.," beginning with yourself. {Song by Otis Redding and made famous by Aretha Franklin.}

Sadly, many conventional religious leaders still teach their members to make themselves small and obedient to their authority rather than to ask God to help them construct a larger frame for their own authority. They teach their congregation to put God before themselves. They teach them to revile Muslims, gays and, indirectly, even Jews.

We don't need citizens who are loyal to God before America. As we make Americans who are more loyal to themselves they'll find incredibly good reasons to express their loyalty to this country for assisting them in becoming great. They won't sabotage our country by electing representatives who vow to spread hatred and famished, family values. They won't elect representatives who care so little for human life.

When you first entered this school, you began your studies with a lecture to all those students who were within earshot. You screamed. The process of being born a second time {puberty} made you scream, only silently within. It left you with an inner critic who has had far too little to say in your defense.

But the rapture of being reborn spiritually a third time with yourself in God's presence is a transcendental sensation that will leave you in discourse with your own humanity for the rest of your life. You'll no longer feel dismissed, irrelevant or overlooked. You'll finally have found a friend. (Consider listening to Willy Nelson's rendition of "September Song" by Kurt Weill with lyrics by Maxwell Anderson. And while you listen to it, imagine that the sorrow described in the passage of time is really in losing the time you needed to be with yourself.)

The recklessness and irresponsibility in thinking that the consequences of your time on Earth will have no importance to your future after life is the height of cynicism and insanity. The mystery of your first birth was the loneliest experience you ever went through in life. But I venture to say that puberty came in as a close second. Your second rebirth should have been an indescribable experience of hope, mystery and increasing joy because it brought you into a more mature relationship with your body and your desires. Like birth and puberty, being spiritually born is a personal and private matter, but that doesn't mean you can't talk about it with insight, whether or not you believe in Jesus as your Savior.

Although the leaves on a tree may appear to flutter simultaneously on the same branch in a breeze, the wind really touches each one of them separately. Each leaf in you is speaking. Each is a voice within all a flutter. Seek the branch that connects their message to a bough. {Connect the dots.} There's more than just one answer to the crime of abortion. You can have the right answer, and the Teacher can reward another student for also having the right answer even if your answers are very different. Dogma is the result of cynicism. Dogma is emotionally based on terror. The most dogmatic are the most terrified.

"Insight" isn't a word without an experience to back it up. Insight is a vision you're given the privilege to see from inside yourself. Insight is a spark, a tiny explosion of light that illuminates the darkness within you with spiritual illumination, heat, purity and all the other aspects of every flame. Seek insight. Learn how to rub two spiritual sticks together to make fire. Scout around within yourself even if they refuse to allow you to join the Boy Scouts because you're gay. It doesn't matter in the long run. What matters is how you responded to dogma rather than reacted to it. This is what separates the reborn men from the masturbatory boys.

Spiritual rebirth can be condensed and described as a psychological centering that leads a man through his thoughts and feelings to experience his beliefs with greater ardor. Spiritual rebirth transforms the "we" in "me" into what the early 20th Century, Austrian-

born, Israeli philosopher Martin Buber called, the “I/Thou” relationship. For the Christian this generally includes a Holy Spirit experience. For the Muslim it’s the everywhere experience of perceiving A L L A H. in every aspect of his life. For the Jew this is self-centering that makes him feel at one with himself before his Maker.

Jesus concluded saying, “NOR CAN YOU TELL HOW A MAN IS BORN BY THE WIND OF THE SPIRIT.” [John 3:5]

Wind does more than blow in the four directions you see on a map. It moves in circular patterns as well. It moves as the result of invisible air currents, undercurrents and jet streams at varying speed and intensities that mirror the movement of water. The wind is a maelstrom without water, a whirl without a pool. The wind is the invisible hand of God that touches you in many places at once. It leaves impressions on many parts of you. This is the mystery of the Holy Spirit, and why each itch you scratch, each movement of your lips and glance you take is a part of the mystery of God in your life, separate from mine.

Once you understand the movement of your emotions, you’ll understand what moves your soul and why Islam is so important to God’s plan. God can hold many beliefs at once, and you can, too. His heart is a preview to your soul. Christianity is the second child in a family of three boys – a middle child who has to look with his heart at those on both sides of Him. (The mystery of the wisdom of God’s plan {Judaism} and His generosity of spirit in giving us a path to redemption {Islam} as seen through the eyes of God’s love {Christianity} was poignantly described in the abstraction of secularism by Joni Mitchell in her song, “Both Sides Now.”)

Every man is a mystery because you can’t tell by the seed planted in the ground and watered faithfully what direction its leaves will someday blow in the wind. Some people are like the lotus whose leaves and flowers float on the surface of the pond. Its stems reach down through the water so their roots can grasp a firm hold in the mud. Others are like tumbleweed. The botanical world is a mirror of the diversity of man’s emotions.

The fourth and final rebirth of life is out of life; the mystery called death. The secrets that unlock the miracles of life must be explored through science. But the secrets that unlock the mystery of death must be explored through the allegories given to us by our spiritual teachers in the great faiths and philosophies through figurative speech. Death need only be humiliating if you haven’t prepared for it by embracing life. Death is only a frightening step you take into the dark if you haven’t embraced science along with religion.

There were no Christians when Jesus spoke about the process of spiritual rebirth. There was no science called psychology. Although He spoke classical Hebrew fluently and probably knew some Greek, He spoke to the masses in a street talk called Aramaic, {an ancient blend of Hebrew and Latin}. He spoke to the working class in their everyday slang. They were for the most part disenfranchised Jews who were well versed in the classical

verses of Torah, but they spoke in a colloquial idiom that we reinterpret using today's vernacular called pop culture. To assume you have to be a Christian to be reborn spiritually is a misunderstanding about Jewish life then and Abrahamic life today. To assume you have to be a convert to Christianity to see life through Jesus's eyes lacks imagination, insight and sophistication.

You only need to know a little bit about love to know that love is a force as universal as gravity. You only need to have experienced love to know that love is what keeps you upright wherever you stand. And, paradoxically, love is also what makes you feel like you can fly. You only need to fall in love to be able to say you know the difference between true love and infatuation. Lust will give you the wings you need to defy the force of your emotional gravity. *Lust* will get you off the ground. But only *love* will keep you airborne.

Every true Christian knows that the love Jesus described brought a new hope then and still does so now. Anyone can benefit from Jesus's teachings, but nobody needs to believe in Jesus to be saved. The "us" and "Them" He inadvertently created with respect to every man's place on Earth or in Heaven has turned into a relationship anyone can internalize and aspire to. It was always your head, heart and soul against your penis and two testicles. It was always the three of "us" against the three of "them."

Until you stop trying to exclude others from learning about God's love without dogma, you aren't going to receive the bounty of His generosity of spirit. It's easy to feel like a gay-Jew. It's easy to feel you're damned if you do and damned if you don't. Don't despair. Just slow it all down, and it will turn out all right.

The Jews and Muslims believe in "His" love, and the Christians believe in "Their" love. But it's the same love! This Abrahamic perception of God's love is arithmetically simplified with the spiritual equation:

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = 1$$

God's attention to you is spread evenly over all His faiths and philosophies. But only the Abrahamic faiths have tried to divide God's love in order to learn how to unite it. Any Jewish or Muslim principle that professes "us" against "Them" is still too spiritually small and insignificant to be worth considering. It's merely masked quibbling. You know such little minds are destined to fail.

Fowl: The Gospel According to John

The First Person Plural

When speaking about the concept of being reborn, Jesus said, “SO YOU ARE A TEACHER OF ISRAEL, AND YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE SUCH THINGS? I ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING WE REALLY KNOW, AND WE ARE WITNESSING SOMETHING WE HAVE ACTUALLY OBSERVED, YET MEN LIKE YOU WILL NOT ACCEPT OUR EVIDENCE. YET IF I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU ABOUT THINGS WHICH HAPPEN ON THIS EARTH AND YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE ME, WHAT CHANCE IS THERE THAT YOU WILL BELIEVE ME IF I TELL YOU ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN? NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN UP TO HEAVEN EXCEPT THE SON OF MAN WHO CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN. THE SON OF MAN MUST BE LIFTED ABOVE THE HEADS OF MEN - AS MOSES LIFTED UP THAT SERPENT IN THE DESERT - SO THAT ANY MAN WHO BELIEVES IN HIM MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. FOR GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON SO THAT EVERY ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE LOST, BUT SHOULD HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT GOD HAS NOT SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO PASS SENTENCE UPON IT, BUT TO SAVE IT - THROUGH HIM. ANY MAN WHO BELIEVES IN HIM IS NOT JUDGED AT ALL. IT IS THE ONE WHO WILL NOT BELIEVE WHO STANDS ALREADY CONDEMNED, BECAUSE HE WILL NOT BELIEVE IN THE CHARACTER OF GOD’S ONLY SON. THIS IS THE JUDGMENT - THAT LIGHT HAS ENTERED THE WORLD AND MEN HAVE PREFERRED DARKNESS TO LIGHT BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS ARE EVIL. ANYBODY WHO DOES WRONG HATES THE LIGHT AND KEEPS AWAY FROM IT FOR FEAR HIS DEEDS MAY BE EXPOSED. BUT ANYBODY WHO IS LIVING BY THE TRUTH WILL COME TO THE LIGHT TO MAKE IT PLAIN THAT ALL HE HAS DONE HAS BEEN DONE THROUGH GOD.” [John 3:10-21]

Jesus included Himself in with God by referring to Themselves in the first person plural when He spoke about “‘OUR’ EVIDENCE.” He also said something surprising in this passage when He compared Himself to the snake that Moses lifted up when they were in the desert. In Numbers 21:4-9 we’re given the story of the bronze snake:

“THEY TRAVELED FROM MOUNT HOR ALONG THE ROUTE TO THE RED SEA TO GO AROUND EDOM, BUT THE PEOPLE GREW IMPATIENT ON THE WAY; THEY SPOKE AGAINST GOD AND AGAINST MOSES, AND SAID, ‘WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US UP OUT OF EGYPT TO DIE IN THE WILDERNESS? THERE IS NO BREAD! THERE IS NO WATER! AND WE DETEST THIS MISERABLE FOOD!’

THEN THE LORD SENT VENOMOUS SNAKES AMONG THEM; THEY BIT THE PEOPLE AND MANY ISRAELITES DIED. THE PEOPLE CAME TO MOSES AND SAID, 'WE SINNED WHEN WE SPOKE AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST YOU. PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL TAKE THE SNAKES AWAY FROM US.' SO MOSES PRAYED FOR THE PEOPLE. THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, 'MAKE A SNAKE AND PUT IT UP ON A POLE; ANYONE WHO IS BITTEN CAN LOOK AT IT AND LIVE.' SO MOSES MADE A BRONZE SNAKE AND PUT IT UP ON A POLE. THEN WHEN ANYONE WAS BITTEN BY A SNAKE AND LOOKED AT THE BRONZE SNAKE, THEY LIVED."

Jesus compared Himself to this symbolic, bronze, manmade snake that was imbued with healing power. When your desires are in conflict with God's intentions for you it's as though you've been bitten by a snake. But you're the snake and the victim of the snakebite. The symbolic, bronze snake in Numbers should remind you of your own penis and the beguiling way you've convinced yourself to desire everything you desire without question. (Google "snakes as symbols of healing." You'll see how ubiquitous this idea is.)

Jesus presented Himself physically clothed but emotionally naked before His congregants, inferring that they could imagine His penis as having the healing power God had previously infused into the symbolic, bronze snake. Jesus thereby claimed to be the model man, every man who demonstrates how any man's delivery system of power could aspire to be used for good rather than evil.

The metaphoric source of your male magic, your scrotum, holds the secret to righteous inclinations even though your conscience isn't kept in the head of your penis. To make sure that the delivery system of your desires brings forth only the best of intentions, you must seek understanding of your deepest motives. To permeate this world with goodness, you must learn that the source of all goodness comes from the Lord, not your crotch. You might even want to explore goodness with Him in bed with someone you love to learn about such love. {And that someone ought to be you.} A good penis is a penis that strives to do only good. But, of course, it needs the guidance of your head, heart and soul to be good.

I'm not advocating for masturbation instead of sexual intercourse. I'm not advocating for homosexual love over heterosexual love. What I'm describing is a spiritual process that mirrors a physical process. What you do physically is your own business. What you do in bed is your own business. But what you bring out of your bedroom in the way of knowledge that you choose to share with the rest of us then becomes everyone's business. If you claim to be grown up, you're going to have to learn to deal with adult conversations in life.

Men compete with one another in a vain attempt to express the goodness of their penis outside the bedroom. What brings the goodness in your right testicle to fruition isn't the delivery system of life-giving juice in that fruit. Obviously, it's what's in your heart that

makes you good. Your head is useless to you if it isn't engaged in all that's happening from the neck down. And your soul is but a figment of your imagination if you don't believe in God. Your integrity depends on every part of you. Your future depends on your integrity. And your reward afterlife depends on everything you do between now and then.

Jesus didn't say He'd give you anything you wanted if you pray to Him. He didn't say He'd do anything for you. He said He should be held high like the bronze serpent that Moses held up to heal those who'd been bitten by live snakes. "THE SON OF MAN MUST BE LIFTED ABOVE THE HEADS OF MEN - AS MOSES LIFTED UP THAT SERPENT IN THE DESERT - SO THAT ANY MAN WHO BELIEVES IN HIM MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE." The medicine and pharmacy symbols we have today use the image of a snake as a symbol of healing. These scientific schools of thought should remind us of the healing instructions God gave to Moses that taught the Israelites to avoid pronouncements of hopelessness that disparaged God while on their journey with Him.

The Israelites were like children in the back seat of an automobile screaming and shouting about how long the ride was taking. Rather than tell them to get out, God, who was chauffeuring them to Israel, decided to wait for them to grow up and then teach their progeny how to drive in their own individual vehicles. We're now chauffeuring all sorts of people who don't understand the metaphor of life-as-a-journey. They're like Israelites complaining for all sorts of reasons, And, paradoxically, many of today's obnoxious Israelites are Muslim.

Jesus didn't say that all a man does will be accomplished through Him. He recognized that everything we do is done with God's help. He didn't say He was God. He inferred that the relationship created between Himself and God would set up a new way of believing in Them that went beyond the faith the Jewish held in those days. He made Himself into a mirror of the delivery system of healing, a reminder of a better way of behaving toward everyone thanks to love. He told His followers to believe in the character of God's only Son. It's the character of the gentleman that counts, not the eloquence of his words. We need gentle men whose deeds change the world for the betterment of the poor and disenfranchised, not those in a gentlemen's agreement with others like themselves who aspire to live the good life at our expense.

The modern, Hebraic interpretation of the symbolic, bronze snake is the mezuzah Jews nail upon their doorposts. Jesus is the living mezuzah, the reminder in the flesh that love is the only door in and out of yourself. The feelings you allow to escape your heart can be positive or negative. If you don't question the feelings you let loose on your inner world, you're not in close enough touch with your desire for your own love. What you give yourself emotionally is exactly what you deserve to receive in return. If you think you deserve more love from yourself, you're going to have to earn it.

It's not Jesus we Jews should fear, nor His love for all of humanity, but the dictates of His petty, uncivil servants who try to manipulate His words to keep the poor in their place. Religious leaders who teach their congregations of their spiritual importance in this world will naturally feel rewarded for their efforts and feel that a reward is their due in the world to come. But do they look deeply at their words as being scrutinized by Y.H.V.H. Jesus A L L A H. as their words leave their lips? Nobody does! Some of what every man has to say should only be admitted to his Creator. Do you know anyone who doesn't let too much escape his lips?

"NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN UP TO HEAVEN EXCEPT THE SON OF MAN WHO CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN." In each Abrahamic religious system there are spiritual claims made that can't be fulfilled or understood until other spiritual claims are first put in place. It's only by moving between each system, like from one car on a train to another, that you can see how and why each is linked to the next. The thoughts that come to mind as you make your way between two cars of the Abrahamic traditions is scary, but also thrilling as you see your feelings rushing by underneath you. It's only by traveling out of your comfort zone on your trains of thought by getting up and going to the locomotive of your thought process that you'll see the entire panorama of your inner world as it unfolds before you. It's only in this way that your tracks of feelings get seemingly swallowed up and digested by each train you're aboard.

God created Hinduism and Buddhism because He already knew the Abrahamic religions would never be able to fully understand Him without separate departments of cooperation and tranquility in His school of life. The kinds of problems Western man increasingly suffers from aren't problems. They're paradoxes. A conclusion that seems senseless, illogically unacceptable, and contradictory is just the sort of dilemma you're now ready to handle, but only to the degree that you learn to cooperate with yourself will you find your way to tranquility.

If terrorists would read my words, they'd learn to love themselves before it's too late. They'd learn to turn their life around and atone for their poor decisions until now. If Moses could learn from his mistake in killing a man and accept life and death outside Israel, Muslim "freedom" fighters can liberate themselves on their journey to emancipation while time is still on their side. Would you like to live for years in a cave like Osama ben Laden? Plato's lesson about the shadows in the cave is far behind modern, inquiring minds.

You don't have to give up your belief in the Ten Commandments to agree that, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. AND YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." [Matthew 22:36]

These words, first uttered by Moses, and then reiterated by Jesus shouldn't have to be written either in SMALL CAPS or ALL CAPS to make an impression on you. If you can think like a gay-Jew, you can solve your problems as though each were a paradox given to you by God.

Even if you haven't smashed all ten of the Commandments over your lifetime as Moses literally did shortly after getting them, you've probably broken every one of them in your heart. You have to piece these laws back together again in your own way. You can take God's laws personally by learning to look at your actions at all times. This will help you change what you believe to be true about yourself and how you feel about your love for yourself. A new commitment to a more moral course of action within you will allow you to love your neighbor as wisely as you've learned to love yourself.

Those of us who don't believe Jesus was literally the Son of God can still take the following words to heart. "YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT GOD HAS NOT SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO PASS SENTENCE UPON IT, BUT TO SAVE IT - THROUGH HIM. ANY MAN WHO BELIEVES IN HIM IS NOT JUDGED AT ALL. IT IS THE ONE WHO WILL NOT BELIEVE WHO STANDS ALREADY CONDEMNED, BECAUSE HE WILL NOT BELIEVE IN THE CHARACTER OF GOD'S ONLY SON." Those of us who don't believe in Jesus don't have to use Him as a character reference when praying to God in order to believe in His character. We don't have to feel judged for not being Christian if we demonstrate loving intentions, even if we're forced to use tough love at times instead of the preferable, tender variety. If we believe Jesus was profoundly goodhearted and a gentle man, we can emulate His personality while maintaining our own, unique persona.

The reason your parents helped you develop a good conscience was primarily to teach you to behave justly and mercifully toward them. The reason your teachers helped you develop an even better conscience was primarily to teach you to behave justly and mercifully toward everybody. But the reason you need to help yourself develop the best conscience you possibly can is solely to teach you to behave justly and mercifully toward yourself.

Your conscience is the portal to your soulful love of the Lord. Therefore your relationship with yourself is the key to communion with Him. If you've got problems with your parents and those acting as your teachers, you've got a paradox on your hands because it can't be solved from the outside out. It has to be solved from the inside out.

Once you can visualize your mind as grounding you, you can step cautiously into the waters of your emotions knowing there's a safe, secure way out. But while you're standing in the ocean of your emotions with your feet on the bottom and your head still above the waves, you'll be able to perceive the sky from a new perspective. Only from this figurative

position in your imagination can you see the importance of all three of the Abrahamic faiths.

Hatred of gays and Jews means you're floating, not standing with your feet firmly planted on the bottom. And flying high above the Judeo-Christian world we created in America is a just another recipe for disaster. Islamic terrorists are using their lofty height to plan the destruction of civilization as we know and love it. Only Muslims who accept Jesus as a prophet will be allowed to enter into the waters of the Sea of Galilee within where they'll learn to swim through their feelings. Only such a man of God {Ishmael} will avoid his own Dead Sea experience.

In Michelangelo's recreation of the Creation Story on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, God is pointing His finger at Adam and Adam is pointing his finger back at God. They're only touching index finger to index finger, almost as though one were a reflection of the other. Although man is God's creation living in communion with Him, man is reflecting His image of God right back at Him.

You can't legislate to any Adam where to point his finger or what to see reflected back. If a man stands back from himself, as Michelangelo did, he'll be able to contemplate the Creation Story through his own eyes. He'll see himself when they point a finger at innocent people, and he'll see in the innocent a reflection of God.

If you don't want gays to have the right to sleep with whomever they choose, point your finger at God. If you don't want Jews to have the right pray from their head from the Wailing Wall in Israel, point your finger at God. Tell Him you don't approve of what we think, how we feel or what we believe. Tell Him you're better than us, but don't bring your issues up in public. That needs to be between the two of You. Other peoples' bodily functions and personal, prayer style isn't any of your business. If such issues on Earth are affecting your heart and soul, then you need to take it up with the Lord, not with us.

The arts are important to the curriculum of every scholar in the school of life. The arts open a child's mind to questions he should be facing in himself. You can't teach a child to think, feel and desire the best for himself if you focus his mind down a tunnel with a green dollar sign as the only light at the end of it. Domination of the Earth with money will never bring anyone the power he seeks. Man's mind is more like a funnel than a tunnel. A child's mind has to be developed like a funnel with his imagination looking through the narrow end at the wide world around him, not the other way around. The arts are just as important to a well-rounded education as physical exercise. A child needs the arts to expand his view of his heart, and gym class to expand his view of his body.

The healing property of the icon of the bronze snake presented in Numbers 21 was conveyed to the Israelites through the pop culture God gave them at that time. That lesson was recorded with the only spiritual technology available then: Torah. The Children of

Israel didn't have to be given all the psychological details inherent in the Creation Story to use the power of spiritual technology to improve their lives. It's not that hard to turn abstract knowledge of evil into healing icons that will remind a man where he comes from and where he's going. It's not that hard to connect the past to the present and make today's adversity meaningful if you use your spiritual education for the good of all.

The ongoing tactics of fear, intimidation and finger wagging of some religious institutions today isn't working well for them, and it's only going to get worse as they alienate more gay and Jewish sympathizers. Attendance at religious houses of worship is continuing to decline, especially among young, potential members. Unless little bits of the secret of life are revealed each week through discussion of the Bible in the new and modern light of pop culture, young people are going to continue to look at the rituals of religious life as a vast waste of their time and money.

Jesus wasn't set on high to be an icon. He wasn't a golden calf for Christians to dance around or a bronze snake you only go to when you feel bitten. He was a mensch, a human being, a gentle man, a rabbi by profession who lived His life with the deepest conviction of every WORD He uttered. Even if His followers down through history found it difficult to use His love lovingly, at least they sometimes tried. We shouldn't demean Christ's WORDS in retaliation for Christian hatred and exclusion through the ages. In all fairness, it's hard for any man to learn about himself with just a metaphor and a couple of symbols to guide him. It takes spiritual largesse to plummet the meaning of life with love.

It's too easy to imagine Jesus as the man nailed to a tree clothed in only a brief garment. But it's hard to see a rabbi of such extraordinary gifts as having had a circumcised penis and testicles that must have been as sensitive to pain as yours and mine. Only a love that's modestly and humbly human is real.

Living a moral life is so much more difficult than it looks because it requires so much in the way of self-seeking. It requires knowledge of the three spiritual worlds God combined into one planet: land, sea and sky. It requires that your nature be a reflection of God's nature, not the serpent's nature that you know so well. Life requires that you use your imagination and courage to get past the horizons within you to prove to yourself that your inner world is as round and real as the world around you.

Jesus's bid for loyalty from the Jews didn't go well then, and after 2,000 years of Christian hatred of Jews, The fact that I love praying in church, or that I plan to attend mosque to write my next book, is my own particular quirk.

God never divided Himself into thirds. He did divide His curriculum into three segments to give everyone in the West an opportunity to choose one of three majors {faiths}. But it's up to us to share what we learn about His plan with one another to make our major matter.

Every rabbi who entertains this world with wonder and awe is addressed in the very first psalm in the Bible. “HIS DELIGHT IS IN THE LAW OF THE LORD; AND IN HIS LAW DOTH HE MEDITATE DAY AND NIGHT. AND HE SHALL BE LIKE A TREE PLANTED BY THE RIVERS OF WATER, THAT BRINGETH FORTH HIS FRUIT IN HIS SEASON; HIS LEAF ALSO SHALL NOT WITHER; AND WHATSOEVER HE DOETH SHALL PROSPER.” [Psalm 1:2-3]

If you care about the wellbeing of your sons and daughters, grandchildren and the wellbeing of the land, sea and sky, you’re going to want to make a serious decision about the spiritual importance of your own moral authority. You’re going to want to become one of those who choose to see yourself as one of those who are chosen. Your future, your children’s future and your wellbeing in the world to come depend on how you perform here in God’s school on Earth. You ought to pursue yourself with rabbinic fervor.

If you put greed and gratification before your spiritual principles, you’re going to pay a high price. And if you force your values on others, you’ll pay an even higher price. A gay-Jew is your spiritual brother to the extent that he contributes to your spiritual education. He won’t ask you what you do in bed or with whom. He won’t ask where you pray from inside yourself. These are matters in your major that don’t concern anyone other than you. But he may ask you if you love life. That’s all a rabbi really needs to know.

The Bible belt is no different than the belt around your middle. It separates your head, heart and soul from your pelvis. If you insist on dividing yourself into two halves, you’ll figuratively come away looking like a satyr, half man/half goat. And if you don’t get over this unnecessary division, there’s a chance you may literally have to model that behavior physically with some sort of sadness.

From a Jewish or Muslim perspective Jesus’s words may come across as somewhat harsh or proud. Even today’s modern Christian might cringe at the frankness of His demeanor. His confidence makes you wonder what He knew that someone as clever as you doesn’t know as you read His WORDS. The ultimatums He inferred are different from the ultimatums Moses made on God’s behalf in Torah. But the times had changed by then, and they’ve changed a lot more since then, as well. Not only is God more gracious now than He used to be; man has become more gracious as well.

A baby uses his mouth to determine whether what’s in his hands is good or bad, but he doesn’t care in the least about what comes out the other end of him. He judges good and bad at one end, but not the other. If you want to credit yourself for the greatest deed you ever did in your whole life {from your mother’s perspective} it was your decision as a toddler to concede to her pleas to use the toilet instead of your diaper.

The most productive, creative and beneficial decisions you make today are behaviors that go in easily, enriching your system fully, and come out smoothly at the other end without leaving a mess behind. Since you made your mother so happy by agreeing to

something that seemed so insignificant to you at the time, the same attitude of agreeability won't be hard to reproduce in pleasing Jesus or His Father.

Toilet training is an important achievement in your life because it taught you that good and evil were judgments you made as a toddler one way and in other ways by the time you reached adolescence. By the time you became an adult you were an expert in knowing that good wasn't only what amounted to what went in to you, and evil wasn't only what came out of you. You knew there were many ways to digest the good with the bad.

The process of physical digestion mirrors the process of the spiritual digestion that comes with giving and taking or receiving and giving back. What goes in you are gifts from God via others, and what comes out of you are gifts from you to the world. Without knowledge of this process in the abstract, you're like a pig that eats without thought to what goes through it. You should be more like a cow that regurgitate its food and chews on it several times before what's left comes out the other end.

I assume God chose Mary because He knew she'd be able to instill in Jesus a sense of Self-understanding. I'm sure Jesus learned from His mother that the good He had inside that He wanted to bestow on the world was something His mother had a part in by properly preparing Him for life. And when Jesus had His confrontation with "satan" in the desert, He was obviously well prepared for the challenge, saying, in a sense, that man does not live just to enjoy the bread that goes into his body; he must learn to give back. Fulfilling our desires isn't our main reason for being here.

God already knows He created us with a need to eat. He created us so that our whole body would remind us of the process of spiritual consumption and digestion. If you don't learn how to learn as though you were consuming knowledge, you won't grow to your full spiritual height.

The *bronze* snake that Moses had the Israelites fashion was a primitive symbol of God's healing power, but it's literally the *brown* snake that winds its way through each of us that is the sign of something literally bad in everybody. This is the dirty, smelly and disgusting serpent that works its way through all of us that we need to be aware of from a symbolic point of view. People may have different dietary traditions, but we shouldn't assume that a stranger is evil just because his physical diet or spiritual diet may be different from ours. God created many different diets, but the process of digestion is the same for us all.

As man learns to better understand how he was constructed in God's image, religious dogmas are slowly being transformed thanks to psychological insights. And faith is forced to move to new areas of self-exploration. Now that toilet training techniques have been influenced by psychology, for example, it's possible to celebrate the nest of brown snakes that ends up in the toilet bowl and not in a diaper. And thanks to modern medicine, a dirty mind can no longer be associated with the influence of a "devil." Cleanliness and godliness

are coming together through sanitation, public health and personal hygiene. We don't need institution of individual to put our soul through a white glove test.

God didn't bring Jesus into the world to pass sentence upon us, but to save us all from ourselves. Self-forgiveness is the necessary key to behaving better down the line. But self-forgiveness only works if you understand the Jewish connection between embarrassment, shame and humiliation. You have to be able to use the wise eyes you have today to see yourself as a fool by comparison in the past. A good use of the present isn't just to make money for your future, but to pass judgment on your past in order to reap the reward of modesty, humility and grace that you can then be used to avoid similar problems down the line.

The time for you to believe that God's love can be personified in others comes by laughing off the superstitions and silly religious stories you were fed that you once swallowed without examination. They were lies told to you with the best of intentions in your best interest at a time when your teachers were too unsophisticated to deal any better with the truth. You're further along on your journey now because you healed from the misinformation that was fed to you in the past. But there are more trials of faith to come.

Without Jesus as the master model of love at one time, it's doubtful you'd have progressed as far as you have. Civilizing a human being was once so simple that it was done with Bible stories. Today that's no longer enough. Psychology is needed to explain the Bible because people are too smart to fall for previous insights we can now see are no longer insightful.

The Christian explorers and religious representatives of the Church who went with them on their journeys around the world didn't circumnavigate the globe without spiritual gifts to confer to the indigenous peoples. This was God's way to write Western civilization into a great, new chapter in His overall plan. The wars, pestilence and destruction of the environment were unfortunate collateral damage that we can learn from today if Western man is smart enough to save what remains of his self-respect. Christianity was never meant to control the world any more than Judaism or Islam are. They're all serving humanity in different ways.

Jesus was the Jew who came to the world stage in a very curious way. His story is certainly an interesting mystery that has changed history, but today it's time for us to internalize His story if each of us is going to change history in a meaningful way. Today's children should be taught the mystery of His story from every religious point of view, not just the Christian view of His story or the secular view of history. Jesus's contribution to making the world a better place for us all is a story still in the making. His contribution 2,000 years ago can't be denied, but it must be celebrated with regard to the other, revelatory aspects of God's plan.

Imagine going back in time and telling an ancient Persian what Iran would look like 2,500 years after Queen Esther saved the Jews from Persian barbarians who would have led a mass murder of the Jews then. Imagine telling an ancient Greek what Greece's financial house would look like 2,000 years after Paul went there to put their religious house in order. Look at what the Vatican still holds to be true about gays and the place of women in the church today, and then ask yourself what anyone can possibly say to assure you of a good future.

What possible reason could there be for not allowing women to run institutions, governments and religions? If a woman can run a family, she has what it takes to run a corporation. If she can run a corporation she can run a nation. If she can run a nation she can run a religion. And if she can run a religion she can run the world. If men think we can do all that, and we're only half woman, imagine what a "whole" woman could do if given the chance.

Those men who spend their whole life figuratively walking the dark corridors of their colon are secretly hoping to meet up with their Maker when they reach the light at the end of the tunnel. Such men are terrified of anyone knowing what they're really going through. They never wanted to be toilet trained. They still defiantly resent their mother for that, and they don't want to be spiritually toilet trained by life, either. They know it's all an inside job, but they're just big babies who've never grown up, and they don't yet know it. I say, compare what comes out of their mouth to what's found in full diapers.

Wish the light of love on everyone, even if that means agreeing with Jesus's message of love. It wouldn't kill you to be a little more agreeable and hopeful about God's plan. You weren't there when He planned it or when it went into effect. And He hasn't asked you for your opinion at any point since.

Some people are terrified of water. The feeling of breaking through the surface tension scares them. The feeling of submerging their entire body in water frightens them. And the feeling of buoyancy, although a preview to flying, creates a panic at losing the sensation of being grounded. Learning to swim is especially hard to conceive of if you're from the Middle East where there's so little water to play in.

But Europeans took to Jesus's message like a duck to water. The fisherman at the Sea of Galilee understood where He was coming from without having to give it a second thought. It was as though He walked on water. He mastered the medium of His own heart.

Jesus knew about the plagues God had wrought on the Egyptians who chose separation over acceptance of the Hebrew strangers in their midst. Even in His day many ancient, rich Jews had enough hindsight and Biblical insight to reflect wisely on what was happening to Israel at that time. Although the rich were farsighted enough to see that Jesus was rocking the boat in a way that wouldn't be tolerated by the Romans, the rich, ancient Jews weren't

blind to the fate of the poor Jews who were being taxed to death to fund the massive architectural projects of King Herod to glorify his rule.

“I ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING WE REALLY KNOW, AND WE ARE WITNESSING SOMETHING WE HAVE ACTUALLY OBSERVED, YET MEN LIKE YOU WILL NOT ACCEPT OUR EVIDENCE.” Jesus used the first person plural to speak about His relationship to God, but it had the effect of separating the Jews into two camps. It’s now up to you to determine whether He was speaking for you, too. If you refuse to include everyone on Earth when you use the first person plural, how will you learn to trust the meaning of the word “we” from within? You have to know “us” to love “us.”

The title of this chapter was “The First Person Plural.” Those who use the word “we” without deeper spiritual reflection on the meaning of this word also can’t hear the “we” implied by those who use the word “me” with loving intent. When they read that Jesus used the word “We” from a new place in inner space, they don’t recall that He was talking by and large to Jews who were listening very intently to every word He uttered. {And He was speaking to them in their native tongue.} And when God used the first person plural, We, in Torah He was referring to the royal We with Him as our one and only King.

The great French sculptor Auguste Rodin’s bronze sculpture called “The Thinker” is the image of a man who looks like he’s sitting on the toilet. Thinking begins in your head with an idea, but thoughts have to go through your whole system and come out the other end with actions that speak louder than words. If you haven’t looked between the legs of “The Thinker” I suggest you do. You’ll see that that 19th Century *thinker* had no penis or testicles. Rodin’s creative processes either didn’t include his desires in with his other spiritual forces, or he was only focused on the force of thinking and none of the other forces in man’s nature.

Thinking is a science, and an important, but incomplete, aspect of man’s nature. We’re not 19th Century thinkers. We can think, but, more importantly, we can also feel, desire and believe. Our power and ability to deliver the best we have to give is more real and, therefore, more ideal.

If you aspire to become a great thinker, you need to learn a great deal about the art of feeling and believing in what you feel. If you aspire to become a great writer you need to realize that the craft of words are food picked by poets from trees planted by all the little gods strutting about here on Earth. “SO YOU ARE A TEACHER OF ISRAEL, AND YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE SUCH THINGS?”

Every teacher is a thinker and writer working for the betterment of his inner Israel, his STRUGGLE WITH GOD. Every teacher is a spiritual chef serving the finest food a cook can create. But his dishes must be tasted before they’re served. If you turn your nose up at

wisdom, it's understandable. We all do at first. Wisdom is salty. But if you're going to devote yourself to the sweet taste of love and the spicy aroma of magnanimity, you're going to want to add a dash of salt to all that you create.

The gifts of the poet are gifts from God that have been received, chewed on, swallowed and digested before they come out of him onto the page. The paper on which his words are written is his medium of spiritual cleansing that humbles his desire to be bad. To be spiritually toilet trained to think, you don't need to have had a mother/son relationship that emphasized this aspect of your being. You can teach yourself to think using your whole body. Just using your head is not enough.

The stupid man is in a stupor. He's half asleep. The foolish man has been awakened, but he thinks he's in a daydream. And the silly man is in a fantasy trying to convince other men that they're nuts when they're everything from fruits to nuts.

According to John

The Eternal Well

“‘SIR,’ SAID THE WOMAN, ‘YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DRAW WATER WITH AND THIS WELL IS DEEP – WHERE CAN YOU GET YOUR LIVING WATER? ARE YOU A GREATER MAN THAN OUR ANCESTOR, JACOB, WHO GAVE US THIS WELL, AND DRANK HERE HIMSELF WITH HIS FAMILY, AND HIS CATTLE?’ JESUS SAID TO HER, ‘EVERYONE WHO DRINKS THIS WATER WILL BE THIRSTY AGAIN. BUT WHOEVER DRINKS THE WATER I WILL GIVE HIM WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY AGAIN. FOR MY GIFT WILL BECOME A SPRING IN THE MAN HIMSELF, WELLING UP INTO ETERNAL LIFE.’” [John 4:11-14]

The story in Torah that that woman was referring to comes from Genesis 33:18-20 when Jacob set up his household in a new location. This is where they believed “JACOB’S WELL” was constructed; where he provided for his family’s needs; and where he quenching their physical thirst.

Thirst is an extension of the metaphor of man-as-a-tree-of-knowledge. Hunger and thirst are physical needs that should be equated with spiritual appetites. Physical energy in man is created through the satisfaction of hunger and thirst. Spiritual energy is created through urges that correspond in trees to photosynthesis and osmosis. Photosynthesis relieves the hunger of a tree through its leaves. And osmosis relieves its thirst through its roots.

Judaism brings us the fruits of knowledge of good and evil. Christianity corresponds to the roots of the tree that draws up the life-giving water of love. And Islam corresponds to the leaf that produces chlorophyll that feeds the tree. Each faith depends on the others as a tree depends on photosynthesis and osmosis. There are no coincidences in nature vis-a-vie the nature of man.

Jesus expanded upon the story in Torah of Jacob’s family being physically quenched at that well. “EVERYONE WHO DRINKS THIS WATER WILL BE THIRSTY AGAIN.” In other words, all man’s feelings begin with guilt, and will make a man thirsty for something more. Negative emotions can only be quenched with love.

Secular education leads to a thirst for knowledge that can be quenched by a public school education. But the thirst Jesus was speaking about must be quenched outside a secular education with God-consciousness. The thirst for love can’t be quenched from the same well where one drinks in a secular education. Jesus is the personification of that process. “FOR {LOVE} ... WILL BECOME A SPRING IN THE MAN HIMSELF, WELLING UP INTO ETERNAL LIFE.”

A teacher who can't inspire his pupils to become students, and those students to become scholars, doesn't know how to inspire learning. We don't need teachers who impart information only. Information is useful in the world we share, but information won't lead you to seek wisdom. A device like a smart phone can impart all the information contained in the world. But your phone doesn't make you wise, loving or generous of spirit.

Knowledge isn't the only goal of science. Scientists also seek love and admiration for the work they do. Any belief system that interferes with the advancement of science will become hateful and mean-spirited over time because it will discount the wonderful people who are dedicated to making our lives more comfortable and safe.

The miracle of Hanukkah wasn't that a candle that should have lasted one day lasted eight days. We live in an age of electric lighting. We flip the switch and the light goes on. Who cares anymore how long a single candle will burn? The miracle of Hanukkah celebrates the desire for learning symbolized by every candle that we glorify.

The miracle of learning about God is the illumination we celebrate at the Jewish Festival of Lights: Hanukkah. We celebrate the children who dared learn despite the Greeks having outlawed learning. Compulsory education for boys and girls was something the Jews initiated more than 2,200 years ago, long before any other civilization thought to educate women. {England didn't enact compulsory education for girls until the late 19th Century.} The Jews have been promoting education for all, longer than any other people on Earth.

But Jesus presented the possibility of imagining a form of otherworldly knowledge that was even greater than the knowledge the Jews had gleaned from Torah by that time. "WHOEVER DRINKS THE WATER I WILL GIVE HIM WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY AGAIN." The thirst for *your* meaning to life doesn't come from a trickle-down effect from the rich and traditionally, religiously observant. It comes from a wellspring within yourself.

The spring Jesus promised in each and every person wasn't an objective strategy to keep the rich, rich and the poor economical dependent on them. Jesus was speaking about a subjective spring, one that bubbles up with inspiration to make this world a better place for everyone through love. His gifts come from a feeling of hope emanating out of every human being's heart, independent of the riches he's accumulated in his back pocket. His vision brought the rapture of learning that's only evident with the feeling of joy in the moment.

But His gift was irrational and beyond the ability of any man to prove in words or deeds. It's a truth that lies in a place so deep within a Christian that it causes a thirst for God that can't be expressed with any word other than love. And yet you have to use your head to perceive this wisdom of the heart to convey the feeling in words.

Jesus's symbolic water, unlike Jacob's real well, inferred a thirst for something a tree cannot literally thirst for: the thirst for God's love. The natural world holds clues we need to realize God's love. If we wipe out the clues of love, we'll be left with no evidence around us of God's love except for the evidence within. And then we'll hate ourselves for having sacrificed too much for love.

Jesus had to stretch the imagination of His followers because their psychological self-view was so much more limited than ours is today. He had to get them to envision plants that could fruit with a desire to know things so great that they'd nourish a man in a way he couldn't then imagine. This is the purpose of the grain and the grape. If you don't subsume the irrational world of emotions onto the rational world of thoughts, Christ's message is inconceivable.

In the "Lord's Prayer" Jesus asks God "TO DELIVER US FROM EVIL." A man knows God's goodness when he experiences the feeling of love. But there's only one way for him to know that he's been delivered from evil. Evil must grow into wisdom. All mistakes made, atoned for and learned from will fruit with wisdom. {Judaism will become irrelevant and unnecessary when this world outgrows evil.}

Christ's wisdom of the heart, when added to the wisdom of Torah, becomes the key that opens the door to self-awareness and creativity. This key produced Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Beethoven, Nijinsky, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Bill Gates. Sculpture, poetry, music, dance, architecture and technology are just five of the arts dominated by the Christian tradition. Wisdom of the heart should not be dismissed for "just" giving us symbolic logic.

There are some problems in life, however, that only poetry can solve. With the invention of the wheel, the plow and the pulley our ancient ancestors started to leave their tents for towns. They traded their excesses in staples for luxuries that brought greater physical comforts and the ultimate joy: free time. They left the poetry of heaven for the prose here on Earth, and in so doing achieved more progress than inner peace. They chose matter over miracles, comforts of the body over covenants with God. That's why this world has become so terribly prosaic.

You must personalize poetic justice to learn to believe in yourself. You must live your life like a sonnet not a story. The depth of each word you utter must glorify your being. You must become a hovercraft that's always flying, whether over land or sea.

To use a Greek word, the ancient Jews became sophisticated. The Sophists were a category of teachers in ancient Greece who specialized in using the tools of philosophy and rhetoric for the purpose of teaching virtue to young statesmen and men of noble birth. The Sophist practice of charging money for education and providing wisdom to those who could pay for the luxury of learning led them to be portrayed as specious and deceptive,

hence the modern negative implication in the word sophisticated. Today we're suspicious of those who are sophisticated, fearing they'll try to get something over on us or separate us from someone we love. Today we're all more sophisticated than the ancient Jews.

In an effort to counter this tendency, Americans have become particularly anti-intellectual. They're the most wary and unsophisticated of all the world's educated classes. Americans wish bread would be buttered on both sides in the event it falls off the table that it'll always land butter-side up. Our anti-intellectual attitude of home-grown wisdom may look silly or unpolished to the outside world; it may even seem childish or excessive. But we know better, and we know we know better. We love breads that leave us with wonder. We love a glass of milk with mom's apple pie. And we love Reece's Peanut Butter Cups because peanut butter and chocolate are our idea of food for the gods. We're God's essential children. {We're the sorts of disciples Jesus would have secretly praying for if He hadn't been given fisherman to follow Him. He may have decided to use bread and wine as symbols of Himself then, but He surely would have chosen peanut butter and chocolate had He made that decision today.}

Every American is a simple, clay oven with a fire inside him. He burns with knowledge of many kinds. But his flame is so great that he needs an orchard of intellectual, emotional and spiritual wood supply to keep it burning. And that orchard needs to be watered so it will grow. He may have been born in a religious garden, but he needs of an orchard of opportunities to get him through life if he's going to burn with a love hot enough to keep himself warm. That garden lies within us, but California is my land of milk and honey and San Francisco is my Jerusalem.

Orthodox Jews wear their sideburns {PEOT} in long curls because of a single passage of Torah: "WHEN YOU REAP THE HARVEST OF YOUR LAND, DO NOT REAP TO THE VERY EDGES OF YOUR FIELD OR GATHER THE GLEANINGS OF YOUR HARVEST. LEAVE THEM FOR THE POOR AND FOR THE FOREIGNER RESIDING AMONG YOU. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD." [Leviticus 23:22] If you harvest your fields in a circular pattern, the corners of your field should be left for the poor and disenfranchised to reap.

But only the man who feels so poor and disenfranchised that he yearns to be the recipient of his own charity will be humbled enough to read Torah with the hunger and thirst of Jesus. Humility begins within. Humility is the essence of all learning. Money won't make your children smart. Comforts won't make them loving. Teach your children to steal from themselves, and they'll never steal from others. {Pick the fruits from your own tree of knowledge and you'll be delivered from evil with wisdom. Then you'll be ready to plant the seeds of your love the way God has given you for the world to harvest.}

Every man is a Biblical ancestor of Adam regardless of his bloodline. We commonly think of Adam as having been fashioned by God from clay, but that isn't the meaning of his name in Hebrew. The name "Adam" comes from a quadruple play on a word:

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1. ADAM | MAN |
| 2. ADOM | RED |
| 3. DAM | BLOOD |
| 4. ADAMA | EARTH |

Every man must be grounded before he tries to swim or fly. He must understand his genesis before he can build greater things upon it. There's nothing bad about being Christian or Muslim provided you branch out with your faith with a secure understanding of your roots.

Water unites all individuals with the human race. Man can't live more than a few days without water, but his thirst goes well beyond the physical. Water is the universal symbol of life, and, as such, it becomes God's symbol of His love of life. Your thirst for life is a spiritual thirst for awareness that comes to fruition through self-love, and that will reveal God's plan for you individually.

Think of your world as mirroring the Earth. Imagine your world as devoid of water and air. Imagine the land as it was millions of years ago with volcanoes erupting and the landmasses cooling long before the topography we have around us today. Now imagine the center of your inner world as a flame under great pressure, surrounded by rock, water and air. This is your world from within and why it's so hard to reach the flame at the core of you.

It's not enough to know there is a God. It's not enough to be loyal to Him. If you don't know He loves you, you're lost. With a novice understanding of God, you're just a wanderer in a desert seeking an oasis to quench your thirst, an Israelite on a frightening and unpleasant journey through a desert that will leave you parched and yearning to go back the way you came.

Your emotional thirst isn't the result of a need for a partner in life to keep you company. It isn't for money to make you comfortable and safe externally. Your thirst for love begins within. If you don't try to quench your thirst for your own love, you'll never know the depth of your own thirst. You'll never come to the source of your dryness.

The martyr wants to die for his mother. The scholar wants to live for her sake. Jesus was a scholar, not a martyr. He never would have wanted His mother to go through the suffering she went through after His death. He did it for the sake of her humanity and all humanity.

When a mother suffers it puts an enormous pressure on her son to find a moral solution that will benefit everyone's mother. Believe me, Mary wasn't just sad about the death of Jesus. She was also furious. No mother would respond with only despondency when her son is killed before her eyes. Jesus sacrificed Himself for the mothers of the Romans as well, not just the mothers of the Jews. That is the only thing I can think of that must have consoled her until They met again.

Jesus continued His conversation with the woman saying, "BELIEVE ME, THE TIME IS COMING WHEN WORSHIPPING THE FATHER WILL NOT BE A MATTER OF 'ON THIS HILL-SIDE' OR 'IN JERUSALEM.' NOWADAYS YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH YOUR EYES SHUT. WE JEWS ARE WORSHIPPING WITH OUR EYES OPEN, FOR THE SALVATION OF MANKIND IS TO COME FROM OUR RACE. YET THE TIME IS COMING, YES, AND HAS ALREADY COME, WHEN TRUE WORSHIPPERS WILL WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN REALITY. INDEED, THE FATHER LOOKS FOR MEN WHO WILL WORSHIP HIM LIKE THAT. GOD IS SPIRIT, AND THOSE WHO WORSHIP HIM CAN ONLY WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN REALITY." [John 4:21-24]

The distinction Jesus made between the Jews who lived in the countryside verses those in the capitol wasn't based on the vast difference in their financial wellbeing. It was the difference in their spiritual wealth as well. In Jerusalem they were arguing over one Temple or many temples. They were arguing about their devotion to God verses appeasing the Romans who were crushing their spirit. What difference would it have made if there was one Temple or a hundred if they could only pray out of duty or by dialing God up for dollars at the expense of their livestock? The historical relevance of the importance of Jerusalem makes no sense until you get out of your head and into your heart.

God allowed the Romans to destroy the Temple in 70 C.E., which ended animal sacrifice forever. But He also allowed every Jew, rich and poor alike, to keep the Temple and Jerusalem intact in the Israel in his soul. But that was His gift to everyone, although mankind hasn't yet thanked Him for it.

"THE TIME IS COMING...WHEN TRUE WORSHIPPERS WILL WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN REALITY." Eventually everyone will see God in the world around them {reality} as well as in the world within {spirit}. Y.H.V.H. Joshua A L L A H. has to be perceived in both your worlds. He has to be in you and around you for you to come to believe that He's everywhere. This is why Jesus gave us two symbols, bread and wine, the real world of our body and the surreal world of spirit.

To "WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN REALITY" you need only understand that you have a job to do in the reality we share and you have a reason for doing that job from within. Your AVODA is happening in both outer place and inner space simultaneously if

you aren't so alienated by modern society that you scorn the truth. When your picture of reality and spirituality grow with self-love, you find yourself with a need for a bigger frame. After your view of you increases, your view of God will grow.

Israel is the actualization of God's plan {two worlds for every man}, a tiny strip of land for the Jews around us, and an emotional and spiritual world for each and every one of us within. The struggle of Israel to survive is a mirror of your own struggle. The land beneath the soles of your feet is the only place you can call your own. As soon as you take a step forward your entire inner world with all your ethics and ideas moves forward with you. You become a tabernacle of the Lord on a great journey to a Promised Land.

God is a loving God, but He can take anything He wants away from you, your health, your loved ones, your money, your dignity, and even your confident and secure opinions of yourself. He can do this because all that He does He does out of love for His spiritual goals for you. If you don't believe your bad luck is a gift to teach you, you're one of His pupils. You see Him like the wrathful God of Torah, wrathful and vindictive. If you don't believe your good luck is also a gift to teach you, you're one of His students. You cheer for your good fortune, and cry alligator tears for those who aren't so lucky.

But when you can see your good and bad luck as His rod and staff sent to comfort you, then you're able to call yourself a scholar in the tradition of the PROPHETS, Jesus and the Prophet. The more you question your motives, the more intimate you'll become with yourself. The more you'll appreciate your self-intimacy, and the closer you'll advance towards God. That's what makes life like a journey.

Ask God to move your seat away from those pupils at the back of the room to those, oh so imperfect, students in the middle of the room who'll irk you until you learn to discipline yourself. It's your work habits, not your intelligence, that needs improvement. If you want a better view of the board; if you want to hear every lecture from the Teacher uttered just for you; if you want to share your ideas with classmates who care as much as you do about your grades – get away from those who are trying to stop Israel, and get with those who are trying to promote our standards in class.

Man is in a struggle within himself that no woman will ever be able to understand. He's a "y" chromosome that will always be at odds with an "x." He's an Adam who's still ranting and railing about Eve for having been so naïve. Thank God the struggles described in Torah, the New Testament and the Quran are finally coming closer to everyone's home.

Observing the world around you with a more questioning attitude to what our Teacher is teaching you personally about the male and female halves of yourself will dramatically change your ability to participate in class and make the world better for everyone. Your work habits with others will see an immediate improvement if you make you your major and stop giving away unwise answers to questions on other people's tests. Let them answer

for themselves, but if their answers are wrong, say something, even if you only say it to yourself. Your response to other people's test results really matter to you. Even if you can only convince yourself that your answer was right, the Teacher will reward you for it with a deeper level of self-scrutiny that will redeem you of your previous errors of judgment.

God guides us like a father guides his children, but He wants us to grow up into men and women who'll come to see Him as a teacher would his students. Humanity has gotten far too old to be parentalized by religious institutions and fools with 15 minutes of fame or fortune.

It's much too late for religious leaders to wag their fingers at their congregations to inform them who's good and who's evil by the tribe or sub-tribe he belongs to. The same can be said of politics. Until we embrace one another as individual classmates rather than unhappy spiritual siblings stuck in a dysfunctional family, we're not going to give up the rivalries that cause so many of the problems we see out in the world. Until the morally "slow" learn that they're behaving like bozos at the back of a classroom, they'll continue to insist they have an inside understanding of God's grading system. (And we're all, at times, morally slow.)

Don't hold the Bible as though it were your roll book, banging it on the lectern insisting you hold everyone's grades and attendance record in your hands. You're not our Teacher. And you're certainly not His Assistant.

It's not that the American family is dead or family values. It's that the meaning of family has been extended beyond blood to water; from tribe to a universal regard for the spiritual education of everyone. The Mosaic definition of family in today's vernacular is a stand of metaphoric trees. The spiritual idea of family in a Christian society is symbolic fields and vineyards of promises to come.

You'll know when your faith community is treating you like a scholar and not condescending to you as though they were your teacher and you were a child, when they support the gay lifestyle. Until your dignity and acceptance in society is assured with not only legal rights and protections, but with respect, no is going to fully feel he can learn about himself in a safe, classroom environment.

SHALOM not only means, "peace." It comes from the verb "to fill." And it also means, "TO COMPLETE." You can complete yourself, but only with yourself and within yourself. To complete yourself, you have to want what you have, not just want what you're missing. Selling yourself on others to be more popular and likable is a waste of valuable time. Be honest. Be sincere. Be authentic, and you'll come out of this genuine and looking like a genius. Be polite, but always be frank. That, Jesus modeled perfectly.

Jesus continued saying, "MY FOOD IS DOING THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME AND FINISHING THE WORK HE HAS GIVEN ME. DON'T YOU SAY, 'FOUR

MONTHS MORE AND THEN COMES THE HARVEST.’ BUT I TELL YOU TO OPEN YOUR EYES AND LOOK TO THE FIELD - THEY ARE GLEAMING WHITE, ALL READY FOR THE HARVEST! THE REAPER IS ALREADY BEING REWARDED AND GETTING IN A HARVEST FOR ETERNAL LIFE, SO THAT BOTH SOWER AND REAPER MAY BE GLAD TOGETHER. FOR IN THIS HARVEST THE OLD SAYING COMES TRUE. ONE MAN SOWS AND ANOTHER REAPS. I HAVE SENT YOU TO REAP A HARVEST FOR WHICH YOU NEVER LABORED; OTHER MEN HAVE WORKED HARD AND YOU HAVE REAPED THE RESULTS OF THEIR LABORS.” [John 4:34-38]

Jesus “SENT YOU TO REAP A HARVEST FOR WHICH YOU NEVER LABORED” because those who came before us did so much more of the hard work than we must do. We have a debt of gratitude to our ancestors who made it possible for us to harvest the rewards of their plantings. It’s so much harder to plant a tree, protect it, water and later prune it than it is to harvest its bounty. Imagine where we’d be today without the gifts of electricity, penicillin, umbrellas and frozen food. All the power, health, inventions and bounty we enjoy today is the result of the those who came before us. There’s nothing you have that isn’t a product of knowledge handed down to you without request for repayment. Pay it forward. Don’t make gays and Jews pay your debt to society. We’re small in number. Besides, your tuition in this school is yours alone to pay. So don’t be envious when “ONE MAN SOWS AND ANOTHER REAPS.” Not even the grasshopper was envious of what the ants had that winter.

The food that nurtured Jesus was the spiritual fruits of 1,400 years of Jewish labor, and He knew it. The reward of the harvest He spoke of were the fruits of love He had sowed in Jewish soil that God wanted everyone to reap to eradicate the ignorance in man’s heart. As a spiritual farmer, God planted many crops that each must have begun with a single seed. Such is Jesus. There were so many people worldwide in the past who made today’s harvest possible. We sit down to a bountiful table where we thank God, but we forget to thank our ancestors who planted the trees, fields and vineyards that give us the fruits of their labors that we’re enjoying today.

One man sows while another man reaps because each of us lives in a separate inner climatic zone. Every individual lives in seasons timed by God. Each of us is doing his best to reap as much as he can in the time in which he’s given. But it’s hard to reap the rewards of being you if all you have is a plan for other’s plots of land.

When Jesus said, “MY FOOD IS DOING THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME AND FINISHING THE WORK HE HAS GIVEN ME” He was referring to a much larger acreage than the tiny garden in Eden Moses seeded with metaphor. When Jesus said, “I TELL YOU TO OPEN YOUR EYES AND LOOK TO THE FIELD - THEY ARE GLEAMING WHITE, ALL READY FOR THE HARVEST” He was referring to the grain

that would be harvested to make spiritual bread. And when He said, “I HAVE SENT YOU TO REAP A HARVEST FOR WHICH YOU NEVER LABORED; OTHER MEN HAVE WORKED HARD AND YOU HAVE REAPED THE RESULTS OF THEIR LABORS” He was referring to a meal that would require gratitude to everyone, past and present, to enjoy.

The title of this chapter was, “The Eternal Well.” Jacob provided a well to quench the thirst of his family. Jesus was the spiritual descendant of Jacob and the Jewish people. He provided a well that would quench a greater thirst: love, not just the scheming practices of a man who had no idea what he was doing until he could look at his efforts in hindsight.

The concept of an eternal well may be universal, but it’s the result of Judeo-Christian doctrine. You can’t harvest a field, vineyard or orchard without irrigation. The seasons will always change, and man is too old to depend on God for everything.

This inner irrigation process is a complex part of today’s civilized world. Simply relying only on rain to pour down from the heavens above is no longer an option. We must have a drip system in place that keeps us emotionally hydrated if we’re going to grow spiritually. So when you look back at all those you knew growing up who you thought of as drips, think twice. You may not be as admirable as you think you are.

Fowl: The Gospel According to John

The Third Person Singular

“I ASSURE YOU THAT THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIS OWN ACCORD, BUT ONLY WHAT HE SEES THE FATHER DOING. WHAT THE SON DOES IS ALWAYS MODELED ON WHAT THE FATHER DOES, FOR THE FATHER LOVES THE SON AND SHOWS HIM EVERYTHING THAT HE DOES HIMSELF. YES, AND HE WILL SHOW HIM EVEN GREATER THINGS THAN THESE TO FILL YOU WITH WONDER. FOR JUST AS THE FATHER RAISES THE DEAD AND MAKES THEM LIVE, SO DOES THE SON GIVE LIFE TO ANY MAN HE CHOOSES. THE FATHER IS NO MAN’S JUDGE: HE HAS PUT JUDGMENT ENTIRELY INTO THE SON’S HANDS, SO THAT ALL MEN MAY HONOR THE SON EQUALLY WITH THE FATHER. THE MAN WHO DOES NOT HONOR THE SON DOES NOT HONOR THE FATHER WHO SENT HIM. I SOLEMNLY ASSURE YOU THAT THE MAN WHO HEARS WHAT I HAVE TO SAY AND BELIEVES IN THE ONE WHO HAS SENT ME HAS ETERNAL LIFE. HE DOES NOT HAVE TO FACE JUDGMENT; HE HAS ALREADY PASSED FROM DEATH INTO LIFE. YES, I ASSURE YOU THAT A TIME IS COMING, IN FACT HAS ALREADY COME, WHEN THE DEAD WILL HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD AND WHEN THEY HAVE HEARD IT THEY WILL LIVE! FOR JUST AS THE FATHER HAS LIFE IN HIMSELF, SO BY THE FATHER’S GIFT THE SON ALSO HAS LIFE IN HIMSELF. AND HE HAS GIVEN HIM AUTHORITY TO JUDGE BECAUSE HE IS THE SON OF MAN. NO, DO NOT BE SURPRISED - THE TIME IS COMING WHEN ALL THOSE WHO ARE DEAD AND BURIED WILL HEAR HIS VOICE AND OUT THEY WILL COME - THOSE WHO HAVE DONE RIGHT WILL RISE AGAIN TO LIFE, BUT THOSE WHO HAVE DONE WRONG WILL RISE TO FACE JUDGMENT!” [John 5:19-29]

The above passage was again stated in the third person. Jesus spoke about God and Himself as though He were observing the two of them, assuring His listeners that the actions of the one were dependent on the Other. In doing so, He brought the listener into the discussion to conceive of himself as a son with his own father.

In doing so, He also narrowed the distance between the two of Them to make God seem more accessible to the average Jew at the time. And in so doing He opened a dialogue for them about Their relationship to their Father and their father. If “THE FATHER LOVES THE SON AND SHOWS HIM EVERYTHING THAT HE DOES HIMSELF” then it would stand to reason that They were closer to One another than the rest of the Jews. And that would bring up jealousy and envy.

Those Jews who weren't jealous of Jesus or envious of His relationship with God became His followers and the forefathers of today's Christians. Think of them as being able to skip having to move through the color green in God's rainbow of hope. Think of them as moving into blue {sorrow} where they could reap the rewards of self-disappointment and self-sorrow and regret.

And if "THE MAN WHO DOES NOT HONOR THE SON DOES NOT HONOR THE FATHER WHO SENT HIM" then his opinion of every man would be diminished more important than the opinion of any other Jew. And, as we know all too well from history, a thug would only have to say he agreed with tenets of Jesus to be given license to do anything he wanted to a Jew. The idea that Jesus was speaking from His heart and not His head allowed bozos from the back of the room to terrorize the whole class in Jesus's name. And this, of course, was not His intention.

Jesus spoke about Himself in this passage from the ultimate level of self-love and confidence. He'd arrived at a place within that everyone can approach, but no other individual then or now can fully achieve. His frankness expressed an honesty, sincerity and authenticity that would leave anyone cynical, skeptical, suspicious and cautious about the truth of His words. Where He was coming from can, and should, be aspired to by everyone from his heart for himself. People must be allowed their opinions and differences in lifestyle or we'll return to the chaos of man's past.

Moses took 600,000 Israelites on a journey with God that changed them forever. Jesus fed 5,000 [Matthew 14:13-21] then 4,000 [Matthew 15:32-39]. The feeding of the 5,000 occurred in a region that was probably Jewish. It took five loaves which is reminiscent of the Five Books of Moses. And twelve baskets of left-overs were collected, which was probably alluding to the twelve tribes of Israel.

The feeding of the 4,000 occurred in a region that was gentile. It took seven loaves, and seven baskets were collected. The number seven is symbolic of completeness, as in the seven days of creation when God created all of humanity.

Then the Prophet Mohammed individualized the miracle of God in each one of his disciples as witnesses to His presence that taught them how to transcend themselves individually. These spiritual distinctions were meant to be shared, not lorded over Jews as Christians did in the past and as Muslims are trying to do now.

The intellectual issues presented in Jesus's abovementioned argument are not complex:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. God raises the dead afterlife. | 1. Jesus brings new life to the living. |
| 2. God won't judge you. | 2. Jesus will judge you mercifully. |
| 3. God honors Jesus. | 3. Jesus will honor those who honor Him. |

These arguments can be taken literally or figuratively, but if you take them sequentially as extension of a larger argument, they make the most sense in the catholic sense of the WORD.

1. Death leads to life.
2. Judgment leads to mercy.
3. God's honor of one Jew leads to humanity's honoring of everyone.

When you avoid the question of whether to put your faith in Jesus or God, and simply look at the arguments in reverse order, a pattern emerges on how to behave at all times. Honor leads to mercy, and mercy leads to life.

Jesus personalized and universalized Judaism. His role as spiritual savior to a Christian brings him into new covenant with Him through Him {with Jesus through His Father}. What's more, it brings him into a more intimate relationship of prayer with yourself that you can simultaneously share with God. This turns all speech into prayer. This makes every now into a religious service before the Lord.

It's interesting to note that Jesus claimed He would judge man mercifully while God would judge him judiciously. This addition to the divine process allows for Jesus to exhibit His feelings for Torah in conjunction with God's laws. This transformation of God's heart through the personification of His love would explain the softer, kinder, nicer God the Jews were sensing from the way they'd interpreted His behavior toward them in the past.

Today we'd say that a father loosens up his parenting style as his children age with experience and become more responsible. We don't need to account for a father's change of heart when we can, ourselves, see that his children are behaving better toward one another.

What emerged from Christianity's spiritual story was the creation of a three-tier system in place in society, one form of judgment over a man's thoughts, another for his feelings, and a third with regard to the beliefs he holds. It's as if God outsources the judgment of His feelings to Jesus while changing His name to A L L A H. in order to address His assessment of what men believe in the end. In these ways the Abrahamic faiths have conceded to the Jewish idea of one God, but they've given Him three different names, which would preside over three different aspects of the spiritual, operating system.

Today, atheism is growing because those people who would have been religious in the past have become too sophisticated to accept a spiritual job where there's the constant threat of be bickering over which of three Bosses they're going to have to choose to work for. {And it's easy to understand their impatience with the Abrahamic faiths.} The great lesbian-Jewish poet, Gertrude Stein, said it best, "A ROSE is a ROSE is a r o s e."

When Jesus brought into question the issue of Him verses “Them,” He opened a can of worms in Hebrew that non-speakers of Hebrew can’t even imagine. As a native speaker of Hebrew, He realized that people would be discussing His arguments in front of Him during His lifetime and behind His back thereafter.

This brought up subtle, grammatical issues in using the second and third person plural pronouns in Hebrew that the ancient Jews had never considered when arguing religious positions they’d held previous to Jesus’s arrival on the religious scene.

There’s only one word for “you” in English, but “you” refers to the second person singular and plural. {The simple question “What are ‘you’ doing today?” can apply to one or more persons.} Many languages have separate words for “you” {singular} and “you” plural to avoid this confusion. In Hebrew there are four words for this one word in English:

ATA	means	YOU	male	singular
AT	means	YOU	female	singular
ATEM	means	YOU	male	plural
ATEN	means	YOU	female	plural

Therefore ancient Jews who believed Jesus when He said He was the Son of God would have had to employ the male, plural form of the word “you” {ATEM} when referring to the two of Them {Father and Son}. This second person plural form of the nominative case pronoun {you} would have then needed to be accompanied by verbs conjugated in the male, plural form in Hebrew, as well.

This might sound like pedantic and unnecessary linguistic speculation, but because these differences in meanings between singular and plural, formal and informal, can’t be expressed by capitalizing pronouns {because there are no capital letters in their alphabet} these differences in pronouns and verb conjugations would have had to occur in ancient discussion about you/You, he/He, and they/They, given the rules of Hebrew grammar.

Although grammatical changes in the second person plural would not have been a world-shaking event when discussing God and His Son {You} because so few people spoke to Jesus directly {relatively speaking} at that time, these grammatical changes would have had a profound effect on the way His disciples perceived Him. To be able to pray to the two of “Them” in Hebrew in the sense of praying to “You” {pl} would have been a revolutionary concept then, and, perhaps, it still is even though people don’t realize it.

The WORD of God was profoundly affected by the Greek translation that separated it into many words. But the one word that turned “the WORD of God” into “the WORD of God” was the Hebrew words “ATEM” {you/You} when used in prayer. This word has so powerful an effect in Hebrew that I can’t describe the consequence of this to a monolingual, English speaker, or how this would have affected the mentality of the ancient Jews at that

time. This was an idea that must have so profoundly affected the mind of the ancient Hebrew speaker that it changed the way they thought, felt, desired and believed.

Once you know about the four words for “you” in Hebrew, it becomes more interesting to explore the linguistic reasons why Jesus may have presented His argument quoted above in the third person. He would have realized that His discussion of “him” and “Him” would then bring up questions of “you” and “You,” among His disciples. And that would have led to questions concerning “them” and “Them” after His death that would ultimately lead to “them” verses “us” that everyone who on Earth would end up debating and have no choice but to take to heart {albeit unconsciously in most instances}.

Consider the enormity of what Jesus accomplished by extending the discussion of God to the second and third person plural {You and Them}. God had spoken about Himself in the first person plural {We} in the Creation Story. {...MAN WILL BECOME LIKE ONE OF US}. And He spoke about Himself in the third person singular {He} in the 3rd Commandment {DO NOT UTTER THE LORD’S NAME IN VAIN.} And then Jesus came along and extended the discussion of God into the second person, masculine plural {ATEM} {You} in such a way that everyone today now considers himself a part of Their discussion.

This Spiritual Linguistic coup gives one pause to consider what it would have meant for humanity had Jesus been a gay man today who uses the feminine form of the third person singular {she} to describe himself and other gay men. The use of “she” among men is changing the way all men think of themselves. They’re realizing that half their chromosomes come from their mother, making them technically a “he/she.”

Using the feminine third person singular {she} in English is a common form of gay speech in every language I speak, but gay speakers of Hebrew also use the second person, singular, feminine form of the pronoun “you” {AT} when speaking directly to one another, which is form of gay slang we can’t participate in, in English.

The idea of extending the nominative case pronouns to refer to God to include the feminine might become much easier for many men to imagine when gay men bridge this divide before others. For us to talk to “Her” and wonder what “She” has in store for us is only the beginning of a new discussion about God’s role in our life. In languages like Hebrew that have a word like “ATEN” {second person, plural nominative case pronoun “you”} you know that, by extension, references to God the Mother and Her one and only Daughter aren’t going to be out of the question in the future. And women are beginning to experience that possibility, too.

The idea of God extending His influence on humanity through language makes it possible to perceive complex spiritual forces at play that will conquer the dogmas of those who fear progressing into the new age. Therefore, the time has come to look more deeply at the function words play in our spiritual evolution. I believe God works through subtle

changes in language, which then have profound effects on how we perceive Him and how we behave toward one another. If my theory is true, then my next book on the Quran will profoundly support this hypothesis.

If you consider that He creates a bond of love with each of us when He utters the word “Us” with us individually, it becomes plausible that He might have first uttered the WORD “Us” with Jesus, which He then was able to use to instigate His disciples into using the word “ATEM” to infer “You + You.” This, I assert, more than any other aspect of Christianity, is the true essence of God’s second covenant with man.

There was a time when Christians insisted that all Jews were going to go to Hell unless they converted to Christianity. Today, there are those who still think gay people are going to Hell for sucking cock and sodomy. The biggest problem for the adamantly dogmatic Christians is how they feel about gay-Jews. Should they set a place for us at their table, and if not, why not? Do they believe God damns all Jews to Hell for being gay or only those Jews who don’t appreciate the efforts of Jesus?

The ancestors to today’s Christians used the Gospels to exclude all Jews. Are today’s Christians now going to use Torah to exclude some Jews? Where and when does their chutzpah stop?

If you consider yourself better than others because you believe in {1} God, {2} Jesus and {3} the Holy Spirit, you’re no better than those who believe in Y.H.V.H. or A L L A H.

Everyone is indebted to “God” the generic word to describe our Creator. It’s your deeds that count, not the name for God you choose to use. It makes “some” difference whether you believe in Him or Them. If you believe in Him you’re coming from your head or soul. If you believe in “Them” you can only be coming from your heart where the logical meets the rational thanks to the feeling of love. What you think; how you feel; what you desire; and how the three of them affect your beliefs – will influence the way everyone prays and behaves. But it shouldn’t influence your ability to determine good from evil; right from wrong; or better from worse.

An interesting question that comes up when we speak about “the body of Christ” is His physical appearance. Nowhere did the Apostles describe what He looked like. We don’t know if he had dark skin and black hair and eyes like most Jews. If He was somewhat short and muscular like many Jews, the Apostles never said. If he had a hooked, Semitic nose as in common in the Middle East it wasn’t mentioned. And that’s curious since Jesus specifically asked for His body as well as His blood to be remembered.

Clearly God gave you the body and ethnicity He chose for you. If you don’t like your gender and wish to change it, that’s now an available choice. It’s not my place to question what you do with your genitals even if that means you choose to remove them. That’s between you and God. If you want to develop yourself physically to accentuate your

muscles or let yourself go by becoming fat, that's also up to you. If you find yourself unexpectedly pregnant, you have to live with your decision to have that child or not. And if you're so old or infirm that the quality of your life has been lost, it should be your decision if you decide to graduate early.

There are too many decisions to be made in life concerning your body for the government to get in and try to control them. Too many people are using *their* conscience to tell others what they can and cannot do rather than help others to develop their conscience as their own good guide. If it doesn't scrape any skin off your nose, think very carefully whether you should stick your nose in other people's moral choices. Being nosy for God's sake has been a self-serving strategy in orthodox Judaism, Christianity and Islam for too long.

In Judaism we, too, have three main names for God:

1.	ELOHIM	The God at the beginning of Genesis who created the universe was first described in Genesis 14:18 in the third person, "THEN MELCHIZEDEK KING OF SALEM BROUGHT OUT BREAD AND WINE. HE WAS A PRIEST OF ELOHIM, AND HE BLESSED ABRAM, SAYING, 'BLESSED BE ABRAM BY ELOHIM CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. AND PRAISE BE TO ELOHIM, WHO DELIVERED YOUR ENEMIES INTO YOUR HAND.'"
2.	EL SHADDAI	The God who spoke to Abram directly, before He changed his name to Abraham. "I AM EL SHADDAI. LIVE IN MY PRESENCE, BE PERFECT, AND I SHALL GRANT A COVENANT BETWEEN MYSELF AND YOU, AND MAKE YOU VERY NUMEROUS." [Genesis 17:2-3].
3.	Y.H.V.H.	Stated orally as "Adonai," which literally translates as "my Lord," Y.H.V.H. is the aspect of God who made Himself known to Moses, and whose name and purpose can't be stated in words because it's an acronym: אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה {I-HE-E ASHER -I-HE-E: WILL BE, RICHES, WILL BE}

The struggle between "us" and "Them" is a spiritual question in Judaism, too. It translates as "ISRAEL" {man's struggle with God}. The man who acknowledges the three aspects of God in Judaism {ELOHIM, EL SHADDAI and ADONAI} should be able to see the benefit of "Them," in Christianity, the sense of God around us, within us, and at the fine

line between the two. To find a place for God in your big picture, you ought to have an expandable frame or your picture will continue to grow while your frame will remain the same size. Just because we only use the word “ATA” {“you” masculine singular} when praying to God, doesn’t mean we don’t think of Him having more than one function.

The elucidation of the functions of God in Christianity address the spiritual process, rather than God as our Creator. That had already been expressed by Moses. Jesus elucidated the form and function of God’s interface with His creation. You should already be able to see that the Holy Spirit is the third function of this spiritual process which will be expanded upon through the name A L L A H in the Quran. The 1,400 year-long war between Christianity and Islam is coming to an end. Soon they will both have to admit that A L L A H is the last name of God which the Christians refer to as the Holy Spirit.

I believe that the meaning of life is to give life meaning. If you’ve decided that the meaning of your life is to make gay people miserable; keep blacks from climbing the economic ladder; stop a woman from getting rid of a new pupil she doesn’t want enrolled in school; or other any other way of controlling someone’s curriculum – I think you’re going to find yourself in grave, spiritual debt for your tuition when you graduate, or worse, with misfortunes during your lifetime.

I think your grades may even now be suffering in ways that are diminishing your capacity to advance your spiritual education and will continue to plague until you get a handle on your beliefs about others. If you think believing in Jesus alone is going to assure you of straight A’s, I think your thinking is *too* straight. Maybe you need to bend a little somewhere inside. I’m afraid, over time, you may break. And with all those angry people out there with guns and a taste for revenge, you wouldn’t want to be another example of an innocent bystander who was forced to pay for another man’s tuition.

The youngster who’s going through puberty experiences a profound sense of loneliness and alienation. He realizes his parents will never be able to give him that new feeling of love that he seeks to share only with others. The middle-aged man who’s completed the experiences of family and career goes through midlife crises, which is way of describing the unexpected feeling of emptiness. He realizes there’s more to life than even love. It’s the old man who faces loneliness, alienation and emptiness who contemplates the meaning of it all. Only such a man realizes that there’s no one left for him to talk to who witnessed everything he’s been through except God. He {including Jesus and the Holy Spirit} is the only Friend who’s been with him from start to finish. He may meet His Maker with questions that may seem less paradoxical to you and me.

If you look back on your past, you’ll notice there probably were experiences you went through that increased your appreciation of God in your life, making His presence greater that day than it was the day before. {Your appetite for God is no different than your appetite

for food. It's something you develop.} Faith isn't something you can claim to have in equal amounts at all time. Faith is something that grows. It is written that you shouldn't use God's name in vain {Commandment #3}, but what they really mean is that you should strive to use God's name with less vanity one day at a time. Weaning yourself off highly toxic spiritual language and onto solid, spiritual food is going to be a challenge if you've been a negligent, spiritual parent to your inner child.

Gay pride was forced on us by straights who insisted we were perverts who were deliberately sinning against God. We had to use pride to protect us from their accusations and insults. The harsh societal environment in the past and still evident in many places around the world today influenced the personality formation of Jews, blacks in America and gays today. If society wants to blame us for being uppity, that's not going to fare very well in the long run. If we could have built a California bungalow instead of a castle in the sky with thick, stone walls, a moat filled with alligators and a drawbridge we generally keep in the "up" position don't you think we would have? It isn't easy to be a minority in America.

The paradox of the Messiah returning if He was never here to begin with can only be solved if you separate your head from your heart to look at that paradox from your soul. It makes no rational sense that God would have sent the Messiah without all the Jews recognizing His presence at the time. But it also does make sense that those who felt His presence in Jesus might have been wrong. This was a Jewish paradox then, and it's become a Judeo-Christian paradox today.

A man is free to believe whatever comes to mind when he weighs his thoughts against his feelings and comes up with conclusions he can live with. This process is precisely the process men should use when determining how to deal with moral issues that concern lifestyle. If your beliefs are bad, you'll be challenged with lessons that will challenge your mind to transform your heart in order to settle that struggle in your conscience. And although you may like how hard-headed or hard-hearted you've become, I can assure you your dogmatic insistence on being right won't improve your grade point average. Students don't do well in class when they take the attitude they know better than the Teacher.

You can argue with the Teacher about the grades you've got so far, but that isn't going to affect the next lesson you're getting. And if you want to cry like a baby from the moment you were born till the moment you die, I can assure you He's heard it all before.

I mentioned the Hebrew expression once before, "TISHANE MAKOM. TISHANE MAZAL." {CHANGE YOUR PLACE. CHANGE YOUR LUCK.} That's especially relevant to the student of life who's sitting in his head at the back of the classroom wondering why he feels so separate from the class and so far away from the Teacher. Maybe he ought to earn a seat closer to the blackboard if he wants to see more.

God gives us our weather, earthquakes, tidal waves, storms and droughts. He makes the traffic lights turn for you or against you despite all the computers man has programmed to control their timing. He determines what you'll find on the shelves when you go shopping, and what you're going to have to live without that others are able to buy. He brings people into your life, and He takes them away. He's got His hand in everything you do because He's got the whole world in His hands.

But it's hard to think about how He affects your life without sometimes getting angry or frightened, belligerent or passive-aggressive about your personal circumstances. It's easy to feel overlooked when you don't get what you want or when you lose something or someone important to you. People believe in God as much as they can, and then they move into the Eastern, philosophic realm of chance. The line between God and luck lies in outer place and inner space for each and every one of us to fathom. People *believe* only as much as they can believe, and then they resort to *thinking* or *feeling*.

Here is part of a previous section of Jesus's message that I'd like to reuse in an exercise that might help you realize God's loving presence even if that means Him using tough and tender love to get you where He wants you to go. This passage will hopefully elucidate the need for destruction as a paradoxical part of learning to appreciate God's place in the subjective shaping of your life:

"I ASSURE YOU THAT THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIS OWN ACCORD, BUT ONLY WHAT HE SEES THE FATHER DOING. WHAT THE SON DOES IS ALWAYS MODELED ON WHAT THE FATHER DOES, FOR THE FATHER LOVES THE SON AND SHOWS HIM EVERYTHING THAT HE DOES HIMSELF. YES, AND HE WILL SHOW HIM EVEN GREATER THINGS THAN THESE TO FILL YOU WITH WONDER."

You can take this message more personally than you have in the past by transcribing it into the second person singular {you} and then reading it silently to yourself as if these were your own words spoken from different parts of yourselves: {Use the index fingers of one or both hands to point to the appropriate places in parentheses on your body as you read these words.}

"I assure you {breastplate} that you {heart} can do nothing of your own accord, but only what you {heart} see yourself {breastplate} doing. What you {head} do is always modeled on what you {heart and breastplate} do, because you {head} love you {heart and breastplate} and show you {heart and breastplate} everything that you {breastplate} do to yourself {heart}. Yes, and you {breastplate} will show yourself {heart} even greater things than these to fill you {head} with wonder."

As complicated as this more personalized rendition of Jesus's WORDS may be when referring to parts of yourself, this exercise makes it possible, in the general sense, for you

to see the many aspects of yourself speaking to one another about one another. When using Christ's WORDS in this way the idea of there being a "they" in "you" becomes personal and meaningful. And if there's a "they" in you then there surely must be a "They" up in Heaven that we can all relate to.

I'd now like to take you through a song by "Pink Martini" called "Over the Valley." Here are some metaphoric vocabulary terms that will help you see that Jesus's influence in spiritual life in the 21st Century is quite apparent when you look at yourself from a different perspective. This is another example of how pop-culture is, in some ways, more beneficial in contributing to the spread of the word of ALLAH. than you might realize. Look up the lyrics on the Internet, and follow along with this vocabulary list:

1. Valley : Death "THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH" [Psalm 23:4]
2. Cloud : Spiritual Challenge
3. Pink Lining : Hope
4. You/You : Jesus/God
5. Moon : Mind
6. House : Emotional Dwelling
7. Trees : Worldly Knowledge
8. Autumn : Aging
9. Bluebirds : Sad Muslims
10. Sun : Son of God
11. Roam : Stray Morally
12. Home : Heavenly Goals

People who suffer from multiple personality disorder are probably trying to work out these inner forces by separating them into distinct personalities that hold these meanings separately. I've been told that people with personality disorders often feel moral challenges in taking responsibility for each of the personalities they've created.

Those of us who can integrate our persona, and the personality it creates to interface with others, don't literally have that sort of moral and psychic fracturing. But we have other ways in which we have to heal ourselves mentally, emotionally and spiritually. The more we can all learn to face these inner forces with self-love and self-integrity, the more questions about the mystery of ourselves we'll find answers to and the more creative we'll become.

Those who are the most curious about themselves will, in the end, be the most sane and productive members of society, and those who are the most fearful and angry are, of course, the most infirm. God loves everyone, but we live in a time when mental health is the

greatest challenge to our wellbeing. If we don't stop the religiously ill from taking us back in the direction we came from, those who are mentally ill will destroy everything we hold dear.

Man no longer lives in a world of evil brought here by the "devil." We're spiritually old enough to see that we now live in a world of sickness. In the past people were evil and in league with the "prince of darkness." Today they're just sick.

But that means that each of us has the responsibility of becoming his own spiritual doctor. We can't allow the religious to minister our spiritual healing for us, any more than we can afford to let our doctors make all our medical decisions without our consent.

We can use the concept of the Holy Spirit {heavenly coincidence} and the personification of wisdom of the heart {Jesus} to achieve greater power over our mind, now that we've gotten a handle on superstition and the ridiculous notion of the concept of the "devil." The "devil" is an old-fashioned term for "penis." You can still believe in "it." But now you're going to have to take responsibility for "it" and what "it" does or doesn't do for you.

Granted "it" is beguiling. That's what "it" did to Eve. But you have the tools to manage the mystery of life that emanates out of "its" mouth. If you don't, you will surely rue the day you were born.

You need mind over matter. But you also need heart over mind. And you need beliefs over heart. If you don't have an edifice of life with these priorities in place, your edifice is going to collapse in on itself. You're going to crush your body. And medical doctors alone aren't going to be able to save you.

Today we can use rational thinking to expand our belief in God rather than minimize His influence in our lives. God-consciousness will make your life much easier in the long run if you use it wisely. Whether you think the Messiah is coming or returning doesn't have to rule the way you think or feel. Either way, your mission and direction in life will become more meaningful to you if you can perceive humanity as coming out of a great sleep into an age of self-enlightenment.

When personalized, Jesus's WORDS will take on fresh, new meaning that will leave you with greater hope. You'll begin to see that your body was made no different from His. He was in human form and showed us how divinely God creates everybody with His various images of Himself.

God's imagination created you with individual purpose, which you can access with or without Jesus as your savior and whether or not the Messiah is coming for the first time or the second. You don't have to worship a man some, some say, gave His life for your sake. That was His choice. He did it out of love, not to make anyone feel guilty. If you spend

more time working to actualize His message of love and less time allowing others to make you feel bad about yourself, you'll make better decisions that will affect one and all.

Nobody should be treated as gays were, as mental defectives shunned by society. Everyone needs to be included in society and helped through his inner turmoil until he can separate himself from his projections. The "us" and "them" that has caused so many wars throughout history in the Western world is but a reflection of the "us" and "Them" that you didn't fully understand until now. You can apply God's many forces and faces in your life to develop your persona consciously with His help or Their help, whether your Jewish, Muslim or Christian. Or you can do it all on your own if you prefer. I'm not going to make my conscience your guide.

But until you're able to act with greater awareness of the integration of your head, heart and soul, I can assure you you'll remain cynical, skeptical, suspicious and cautious in circumstances that don't realistically require those responses. As long as you're learning to respect people the way they are and not hurt them for living life their way, you'll be able to heal the Cain and Abel crisis you experience with your brothers.

You're not your brother's keeper when it comes to his head, heart penis or conscience. You're only his keeper when it comes to his stomach and skin. Help him fill his belly and keep his skin dry, warm and unbroken. It couldn't be simpler than that!

Jesus's provocation for Hebrew speakers at that time had to go beyond frankness because the ancient Jews were so dense. His strategy to make them think about the use of the word "ATEM" {"You" masculine plural to signify God with Himself} made it possible for those crotchety, old Jews to speak about "y'all" in a brand new way. It gave them the ability to reread Torah with a new perspective and to address the angels on Jacob's Ladder as "you" ascending and "You," descending.

Dreams at night are ways to reorganize your inner spiritual operating system with new information given to you by God as the result of what you did the day before. You need to address your fantasies as messages to improve your character. You need dreams to address your desire to help others. And you need visions to improve your relationship with God.

The "y" factor is much more interesting to me than the "x" factor. When a man ascends to God's table, it's as if the "y" in one cell in his body is replaced with "y." He gives that "y" away and makes his way back up to His table to do it again. In this way this world becomes filled with more "y" answers than "y" questions as people become more convinced about God's personal participation in their lives. The mystery of "y" isn't over, but it's slowly getting solved.

Jesus brought Jacob's ladder to life. And when it was His turn to die, Torah provided Him the spiritual ladder by which He could literally ascend and descend as the angels in Jacob's dream had done. This is the essence of resurrection. Whether it happened literally

or not isn't an interesting question. What's interesting is whether you can see it happening figuratively to you.

Jesus turned Jacob's dream into a living process by which each of us today can both reach up rung-by-rung, day-by-day, to get closer to God as well as descend to become angels in disguise here on Earth. Jesus manifested this climb to the top with His love. He presented man as a potential, spiritual climber, not a social climber. It makes it possible to perceive every man as a monkey evolving into an angel by way of behaving like a mensch. It makes evolution of the species important to the evolution of the species.

Jesus wished to be remembered as human, and the Apostle's decision to ignore any description of His physical appearance leaves us with space to consider His request with personal insight into why we wouldn't want people to have to look at us the way we are now, forever. The spiritual body of Christ could be much more harmonious an idea if Jews and Christians were to look more deeply at the body God gave them to learn to appreciate the various organs and processes that make them a combination of qualities that are both human and divine.

I'd like to take the last part of the abovementioned quote substituting "Father" with the word "thoughts" and "Son" with the word "feelings." This personalizes Jesus's WORDS, making them a conversation about your own head and heart, a revelation of a process you may be trying to express to yourself:

<p>"FOR JUST AS THE FATHER HAS LIFE IN HIMSELF, SO BY THE FATHER'S GIFT THE SON ALSO HAS LIFE IN HIMSELF. AND HE HAS GIVEN HIM AUTHORITY TO JUDGE BECAUSE HE IS THE SON OF MAN."</p>
--

<p>For just as your thoughts have a life of their own, so by their gifts to your heart, your thoughts have a life of their own. And your thoughts have given your heart authority to judge you because your heart is an ethical, gentle creation that is a part of all of you.</p>
--

With these substitutions making Jesus's words more personal it becomes easy to move on to the rest of His statement to take it to heart:

“NO, DO NOT BE SURPRISED – THE TIME IS COMING WHEN ALL THOSE WHO ARE DEAD AND BURIED WILL RISE AGAIN TO LIFE, BUT THOSE WHO HAVE DONE WRONG WILL RISE TO FACE JUDGMENT.”

Don't be surprised if you feel dead and buried emotionally. But you, too, can come alive again if you believe that the message of God's love will be delivered to you. But those who've done wrong to others will first have to awaken emotionally to feel and face their judgment of themselves.

If you're one of those who have done wrong {gone a little crazy in your effort to make money at other people's expense}, insisting on your innocence when you know in your heart that you've been dafka, you'll have to face judgment from within. You will have to let down your walls to let your head and heart face your conscience. You can't expect to get out of your dilemmas without admitting your mistakes. The spiritual process will guide you through to better days.

Everyone knows what it's like when your thoughts go round and around condemning you to a living Hell until you take right action. To get out of the hellhole you got yourself into, you need to start by feeling sorry for yourself for having treated yourself abysmally to begin with. If you don't, you'll get so angry and frustrated being you that you'll only push yourself further and further away from the intimacy with yourself you've always wanted. Your relationship with yourself is paramount. Therefore face your accuser {your conscience} and then ask yourself how you feel now about what you thought. You already know that that stinks. You don't have to repeat your excuses over and over again. Just admit the truth.

Some men hurt themselves with embarrassing behaviors to their body that indicate that they have more to learn about modesty. Some hurt themselves with shame in their behavior toward others to show themselves they have more to learn about humility. But there is a part of all of us that refuses to admit his feelings of embarrassment and shame to himself, and that's when we're forced to experience the pain of humiliation of moral disloyalty to our better self that has gotten us into the trouble we're in.

Those of us who sign our paycheck on the back rather than the front are naturally afraid of what will happen if we side with the poor over the rich. It's always the guy in the middle who has to decide whether to strive to climb the ladder of success or descend from it to help the guy on the rung below his. This is what the good Lord is watching for in some of us. But those who are conspiring to pull the ladder out from under us will watch as the word of the Prophet Mohammed will separate each letter of the law into its component parts. The Prophet Mohammed personalized that ladder by setting the rungs Moses

created that Jesus first climbed to the top further apart so that every man who doesn't know how to read himself will not have a way to get to the top without self-education.

If you use the illiterate to shield you and make you think you're better than them, you may still get God's promise of 70 virgins. What you may lose, however, is your penis and testicles. You may have to spend eternity looking like the dolls Jewish entrepreneur, Ruth Handler, created and named after her two children: Barbie and Ken. You may find yourself with no genitals at all. If you can't develop a familial bond with yourself in this lifetime, you may find yourself having to do all your missed homework after your graduate. And that may be embarrassing, to say the least.

A real ladder can only extend so far, but the moral ladder Jesus made real from the ladder in Jacob's dream has rungs of love, rails of wisdom and it's pointed toward a place of such generosity of spirit that there are no words to put it into one WORD/WORD/w o r d. The closer the rungs seem to each other the bigger you've grown and the easier it'll be to climb. This ladder can be ascended with inspiration and aspirations of good deeds. But it must be descended with moral conviction to help your brothers and sisters. Moral intentions without righteous action will leave you building castles in clouds.

Shutting down the government; bribing elected officials with lobbyists for personal gain; keeping the poor from voting; sticking your nose in other people's moral business – these are ways of removing rungs from this ladder to keep people from getting where they need to go. And beheading journalists is yet another grievous insult to your ability to put your faith in yourself.

When a Jewish, religious nut assassinated Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, believe me, the whole Jewish community should have cringed with shame. Each Jew may be his own guide, but we should also have a loyalty to our tribe that causes us great anguish when one of our hyper-religious brothers goes astray.

Self-knowledge makes it possible to atone to yourself for the way you've treated yourself. But that doesn't make it any easier because you're emotionally and spiritually responsible for your insensitivity toward yourself. You need self-love. And, what's more, you need a generous spirit toward yourself to keep you from offending yourself in the future.

The intention of early Christianity was to help its members find their way through embarrassment and shame to humiliation before the Lord rather than have to face humiliation in front of others. The problem with the concept of Hell began when people became defiant as the result of the humiliation they had to suffer on Earth. But when they realized that they'd turned life into Hell, they realized that guilt had more of an effect on them than they'd first perceived. The story of Jesus's life is still the model by which we

can teach ourselves motivation with self-love during our lifetime rather than have to suffer the consequences of self-hate thereafter.

Today Hell on Earth has been placed in man's hands thanks to the power of psychological inquiry. Hell has become an inner space where and when we feel awful about ourselves. To get us out of the pain and suffering we got ourselves into, we have to begin by feeling sorry for whatever we might have done to ourselves morally, whether intentionally or inadvertently. Self-sorrow will lead to apologies to yourself, and self-apologies will lead to a willingness for atonement through others for your behavior toward yourself. Hell of Earth makes it possible for you to use self-sacrifice for the sake of self-love.

Learning to see yourself is the hardest thing in life to focus on clearly. None of us knows enough about our "self" to make corrections within ourselves without inside help. And since there's no way any of us can get inside one another to help, we're going to have to rely on God for help or do it all by ourselves.

We all find ourselves in a living Hell from time to time, but most of us know better than to try to get out of it with drugs, gambling, sexual indiscretions, lying, stealing etc. Most of us use food, shopping and exercise because they're the only therapies we know. Not everyone is strong enough to embrace his guilt at having to be who God made him. Few use talk therapy on themselves.

Projecting your guilty onto others to change their behavior is the wrong way to go about improving yourself. Too many people use their tongue like a knife. And when they see that that doesn't help, they insist on their right to use a gun instead.

Your embarrassment, shame and humiliation are God given emotions intended for you. It's a moral call to behave toward others in ways that will improve life from within yourself *and* to everyone's advantage. Assume you'll be judged on how you move through this moral paradox, for this is truly what separates the fruits from the nuts.

Those who haven't developed their conscience sufficiently are going to allow their heart to try to control *your* conscience instead of their own. When Eve "SAW THAT THE FRUIT OF THE TREE WAS GOOD FOR FOOD AND PLEASING TO THE EYE, AND ALSO DESIRABLE FOR GAINING WISDOM, SHE TOOK SOME AND ATE IT. SHE ALSO GAVE SOME TO HER HUSBAND, WHO WAS WITH HER, AND HE ATE IT." [Genesis 3:6] Our courts are such a vital part of our government because people are constantly giving others that which they stole and then don't want. This is why your conscience is an important part of inner governance, and why it needs to grow day by day.

Jesus was right. You can't love God without loving your enemies. Your enemies teach you revenge instead vengeance. They teach you to hate your conscience for being just and merciful to you. Your enemies teach you to loathe your own esteem. If you don't do the

opposite of your enemies, why would God have given them to you? Over time your enemies will make you into a powerful force for good.

When Jesus looked at our Jewish civil war between Judea and Samaria in 722 B.C.E. where we lost ten of our twelve tribes, He probably realized we should have learned from that experience then not to kill our fellow tribesman. He probably anticipated (regretfully) that the rich Jews in Jerusalem wouldn't protect and defend Him from the Romans. He knew His interpretation of Torah was far beyond their purview, but it didn't stop Him from speaking His mind.

What we Jews have learned about loyalty to our tribe, we're now able to share with the world because we have a place to go if the world shuns us for our opinions, something we couldn't do for the past 2,000 years. World peace will only become actualized when everyone, including gays and Jews, can make peace with himself without fear of reprisal from anyone if he hasn't broken man's laws.

Thinking backwards is called remembering. And when Jews think back through our personal and collective histories, we learn a lot about our relationship with ourselves, not only with others. Thinking ahead is called planning, but without moral clarity derived from a past that's been cleaned up with atonement, it's hard to envision God's intentions for you.

Democracy doesn't work when people kill their leaders rather than vote them out of office. And inner democracy doesn't work any better if you try to kill yourself rather than make improvements from within.

We all began life as an infant crying in terror at what we had to go through to get here. But when we die, we should return to where we originally came from in a better mood than when we arrived, not still crying about how we were treated so abysmally. Anyone can die miserable. That's easy. Dying with a smile on your face and a gleam in your eye is the challenge.

The pursuit of happiness is real, but happiness only happens from the outside in. Those who hit bottom out in the world may lose their health, job, home, loved ones and finances. But inside everyone knows there's a bottom beneath that bottom. "There's a low below every low you know. There's the nightmare kind of bottom where you fall and fall, and you wake to find you haven't been dreaming at all. You can't imagine how far you can go, down." (There's a Bottom Below" by Jewish, folk singer from the 1950's and 60's Malvina Reynolds)

Transforming Jesus's WORDS into psychological terminology is the best way to increase Christianity's unique and important contribution to the world. Self-love is His answer for today's world because only by moving up and down through the many levels of emotional self-awareness like rungs on a ladder do you come to appreciate yourself

wherever God brings you. And the way to do that is through an ongoing, inner dialogue. You can't claim to know or love anyone you're not on speaking terms with.

Jesus didn't have a problem responding to His desires with soulful intentions. He was a divine model of what the desire for everyone's best interest could look like. If you strive to use the delivery system of your desires for your very highest interests, you'll discover you're emulating His actions.

Praying publicly is a collective, spiritual, artform that's not everybody's cup of tea. But praying privately is a spiritual form of expression that no one can afford to miss. Those who haven't been taught how to pray with "them" may have trouble praying to "Them." You have to decide for yourself what sort of dialogues work best for you.

Perhaps you can now see that prayer is harder and more personal a process than you may have thought before you began reading this book. Prayer is a conversation you have with yourself in a room with three walls. The fourth wall takes you out onto a beach before an immense body of water under a huge sky. Most people pray in a corner of that room and never turn around to see the rest of inner space. They never leave their room to discover the inner landscape given to them by God, the Israel of inner space where they can converse with God before their Biblical ancestors. They never realize that they're using that land, sea and sky to build the dreams they have at night and the dreams that motivate them all day to manifest their vision.

Prayer requires a powerful imagination, a good command of language and an ability to express yourself in your own unique way; a way so personal that only you can know what it is you're conveying. If you can't pray you can't win. If you want to win at life and love, you're going to have to learn about loyalty from within.

Ironically, those with the lowest self-esteem, what the religious call the "meek," are in the best position to learn to pray consciously in a new way. They're the ones who worry about capitalizing the "W" in "We." They're terribly afraid of their own arrogance. They may shun arrogance in others, but that's because they were properly trained not to allow arrogance to dictate their behavior. They're the ones we should most admire, for their fear of treating themselves arrogantly makes them the best examples of fruit ripening in the Sonshine on the vine.

The capitalization of the words "Us" and "Our" in the Lord's Prayer {GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD} are visual clues to having achieved conscious contact with Him through Him. It's a statement of fact, not a sign of arrogance or conceit. It's not in the capitalization of these pronouns on the page, but how you feel about this spelling in your heart that counts.

When Jesus stated , "HALLOWED BY THY NAME" in the Lord's Prayer He was refers to the name God gave to Moses, Y.H.V.H. Since all of Torah was originally one WORD,

it wasn't until the rabbis separated His name from rest of Torah in the Greek translation that God's name could literally be written down as separate from His message. The Jews weren't the first people chosen by God. We're all chosen. We were the first to choose Him. And this is a loyalty you wouldn't forget if someone chose to befriend you.

By being the bread you break, you symbolize both the message and the messenger. You enter into more than a metaphoric relationship between two known entities. You commence something mysterious. You become the embodiment of the process by which God is knitting Earth and Heaven together. And in the process, you humble yourself to His love rather than to a need to learn through pain or suffering. When your relationship within yourself has been elevated by self-scrutiny you become more intimate with God through His natural, spiritual process. To hold this spiritual intimacy within yourself is a gift like no other. It turns your song into a rhapsody. It turns delight into rapturous euphoria.

Your loneliness, emptiness and sense of being alien from all others disappear. You find yourself in good company, regardless of whoever else you're with. You discover you like yourself today and have faith that you'll like yourself even more tomorrow. When you can refer to yourself in the third person singular, as Jesus did, you leave yourself room to laugh at yourself in a good-natured way. You become funny and fun to have around. You become oddly strange and interesting. You become delightfully different whether or not you're queer.

Co-dependency is a common problem for most people. Co-dependency occurs when you project your emotional neediness onto others by indulging them with the desire for affection that you unconsciously wish you could express for yourself. But some are "co-depend" and some are "Co-dependent." The Co-dependent project their desires onto God and then draw conclusions about His wants and desires that really express their own in projection.

If you act like God, you're a blasphemer. You should only act like an angel disclosed or an angel in disguise. You're not here to promote God. You're here to promote yourself to yourself before yourself. All else is Co-dependency caused by conceit and vanity.

Whether you happen to believe that God has never touched ground here on Earth or whether He's been and gone and is going to return someday isn't the least bit important when you participate in the spiritual process. What matters in consciously engaging in this spiritual process is your growing intimacy with yourself. You begin to see God sculpting you with the forces of His world. You become His David being chiseled out of rock with His beneficent hands. You turn from granite to grape inside. You become a masterpiece in the making.

God made strange deals with very imperfect people in Genesis. Joseph, the great grandson of Abraham, was a dreamer who was first despised by his ten half-brothers and

then sold into slavery by them out of jealousy and envy. He rose to the position of secretary of state in ancient Egypt, and when God caused a famine, Joseph's family were forced to travel to Egypt to buy food, face Joseph, and receive the charity of him forgiving them. Because Joseph grew to be so great inside and out he could say to his brothers, "DO NOT GRIEVE OR BE ANGRY WITH YOURSELVES FOR HAVING SOLD ME. GOD SENT ME HERE BEFORE YOU TO SAVE YOUR LIVES." [Genesis 45:1-8]

Such humility is rare. Few people learn that much about forgiveness if they're treated badly by others {especially family}. Such loyalty to God's will is rare. Most people raise an unseen fist to the sky to unconsciously curse Him for their misfortune.

Every man today has the potential of becoming a BEN-ADAM, {the son of a man, not a god}. But he should also strive to become an ISHMAEL {man of God}, as well as the personification of ISAAC {laughter}. And if that's not hard enough, he should also work to become an EMANUEL {us with God} and a JOSEPH {addition, enhancement, augmentation}. To grow into these spiritual roles that the characters in the Hebrew Testament personify, you have to work with God for vengeance rather than revenge.

The Hebrew Testament isn't meant to be read only from right to left {in the Hebrew orthographic tradition}. Nor is it meant to be read only left to right {in the European tradition}. It's not how you literally come to the WORD of God with your eyes, but in which characters in the Bible you see yourself that matters. God will retell His story any way He wishes through you, whether you're Jewish, Christian, Muslim, gay or straight. It's up to you to find yourself in Scripture by not only reading between the lines, but by reading between the space He gave us between the words in each line.

Don't let anyone tell you your story can't be found in the Bible because of the way you've led your life or because of the faith you were born into. Don't let them tell you that a woman can't tell a man's story, or man, a woman's. If you're only listening to these words now as someone is reading them to you, not even your inability to read can keep you from finding yourself in the Bible. You're only restricted by your unwillingness to learn to read yourself.

Christians who know too much about the New Testament and too little about the Old have a bad habit of telling the rest of us that the world will end, not with a joyous bang, but a whimper. They look for the apocalypse they see that's right around the corner instead of looking back on the "little bang" that brought them into this world. They find reasons to believe this world is on the brink of destruction, when it's their conscience that's being ripped in two by a head and heart in disagreement. They look for a terrible ending to a beautiful story because they don't like the protagonist: themselves. Their self-esteem is low because they're got themselves on too high a pedestal.

Every time a baby cries he's saying, "I wish I'd never been born." The child gives the same impression by pulling off the wings of butterflies. The adolescent ridicules and belittles those he doesn't want to screw. The young man kills to make his point. The immature man cheats on his wife and conspires against his neighbors to punctuate that point. And the old man shakes his head in disbelief, because it's too late for him to do much about any of his past indiscretions anymore.

Sooner or later everyone becomes a snitch and tells the Teacher what everyone else is up to. But behind his tattling, a man sometimes wishes he'd never been enrolled in this boarding school so far from Home. Behind his bitterness and grief, he really wishes he could just graduate and get the Hell out of this insane asylum posing as an academy of spiritual education on a small planet in a galaxy far, far away from his destination.

The personal and powerful relationship with God Jesus claimed to hold wasn't unreasonable or unfathomable if you look at it with your heart, not your head. It may have seemed offensive to many of the ancient, rich Jews 2,000 years ago because such love for Himself seemed more arrogant than admirable in those days.

But our Jewish culture has never accustomed us to a self-serving demeanor. Even today many Jews still take pause at those, like me, who make the claim that self-love is a virtue or that gays have every reason to be proud of themselves. It goes against the grain of many people to make claims about the high quality of their spiritual lumber. They were taught to keep themselves as spiritually concealed as possible because so many are jealous of another man's metaphoric wood.

Jesus's message was presented to our ancestors as a loving solution to a civil crisis at a time in our history when the Romans were crucifying thousands of Jews, not just one extraordinary rabbi. When the Roman Empire fell, Christianity's moral message of love became the European norm for two millennia.

The luxury of self-love is a farce. Self-love is the greatest necessity of life. If you don't yet love yourself, you're going to have to spend your whole life learning how. Too many people have died for love without learning any way of expressing it other than with loyalty to someone or something outside themselves.

In historic order God gave us:

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Life | Judaism |
| 2. Love | Christianity |
| 3. Loyalty | Islam |

And yet people have reprioritized these spiritual principles, with self-indulgent motives. Learn them in the historical order in which they appeared and your personal priorities will fall into place.

You've probably either ignored your guilt at being you for far too long or haven't been able to get out from under it to look at it with some perspective. You'll become much more loving and end up more generous of spirit if you begin by living up to your own highest moral standards. When you personalize the law, you're in a better position to personify God's love. Only then can you express your loyalties to God in ways you'll be proud of.

Fruit fall from trees and rots if it's not quickly picked up. The decaying process of not feeling picked begins with a break in the law that creates an emotional fall that ends with bruises and soft spots. These negative feelings darken and spread until the seeds of rejuvenation are exposed to the elements and air. Bruised fruit lying on the cold ground gets rained down upon, trampled underfoot and eventually buried. It falls apart during this process and disintegrates, leaving the seeds bare, exposed and primed to germinate there with new hope. That's normal in the love cycle of life. That's natural.

A very famous cartoon character by the name of Charlie Brown once said, "I love mankind. It's people I can't stand." Really Charlie? Which people? Black people? Gay people? I'm afraid Charlie Brown was young, bitter and without balls. Today's characters love people and hate mankind. They're ashamed of their species. They've done their best to love everyone, but on masse the human race looks abominable.

When you talk to yourself like a parent to a child, you're addressing your heart from your head. Now, suddenly your head and heart are in a discussion over who has the right to employ the first person singular {I} and the second person singular {you}. Suddenly man's quest for power becomes personal.

The issue of humanity or the individual is best expressed in the religious symbol of Judaism, the Star of David. The political right prefers the pyramid model of power where a man's desires are at the bottom, his heart is in the middle and his head is at the top. This creates a world of totalitarian dick-tators who think they should get to think for everyone.

The political left prefers the inverted pyramid model of power where a man's desires are at the top, his heart is in the middle and his head is at the bottom balancing everything on a single point at the top of each individual head. This creates a world of anarchy where everyone is autonomous to do as he pleases.

Needless to say the trick lies in fastening these two pyramids together. And the way to do that is by clasping life, love and loyalty to all that you hold dear at all times. And that's extremely hard to do until you admit to yourself that beneath every train of thought you have, there's a track of feeling taking that thought in a particular direction. People don't want to admit that their feelings are so primary to their thinking. And they really don't want to admit that their loyalty to the landscape of their mind is even more powerful than their trains or tracks.

People are so habituated to the inner relationships their parents modeled that they don't realize there are more ways to relate to themselves than they had considered. When you scratch a man's thinking, you reveal his feelings. But when you scratch his feelings you discover that his loyalties, like the topography of a landscape determine what he's going to build and how he's going to build it. The muddy beliefs men hold are signs of their disreputable thoughts and feelings. They're really rather use death to change the landscape than anything else. This is what made the 10th plague so frightening. It was as if God could read their thoughts and do to the Egyptians what they really wanted to do to the Israelites all along.

The more you exercise the forces within you, the greater the sense of "we" you'll create, and the more intimate you'll feel about yourself. And this will make the two pyramids of the Star of David remind you of your father pointing to Heaven and your mother pointing to the good earth. Using death to make your moral point will not be your M.O. *{modus operandi}*.

Martin Buber described the I/THOU relationship of man to God, but there wasn't the psychological insight in the 19th and early 20th Century to understand that the I/THOU/THOU/T h o u relationship must also be understood. Once your head, heart and soul can address the other two aspects of yourself, you develop an inner fluency that make self-intimacy and prayer so much more effective.

If the world wants to catch up with the Jews morally, they're going to have to change their priorities, paradoxically, to {1} life {2} love and then {3} loyalty, and not the other way around. They're going to have to acknowledge that their loyalties are the tip of the pyramid, their loves lie in the middle and the foundation of their whole life is based on the preciousness of life. Life depends on balancing your loves and then loyalties. If your loyalties are the foundation of all that you hold dear, your whole life will tip over and crash down around you. Even when you love badly it's as if your whole world is off kilter.

The problem the Muslims are having destroying the State of Israel began with the premise that the land was theirs. In fact the land is Theirs. What the Abrahamic faiths are now arguing over is the difference between Him and Them. And that argument will end when the land of Israel is the Jews, the waters of Israel are the Christians and the skies above it are theirs. The Jews get all the land. The Christians get all the holy water they need for blessing their congregants. And the Muslims are entitled to thin air, i.e. the wind that blows through Israel that brings them all God's generous tidings.

When Jesus spoke in the third person singular about Himself He was modeling His inner awareness with moral introspection. "FOR JUST AS THE FATHER HAS LIFE IN HIMSELF, SO BY THE FATHER'S GIFT THE SON ALSO HAS LIFE IN HIMSELF." Jesus's moral stand was coming from an inner I/THOU relationship with His Father. His disciples mirrored that in their I/Thou relationship. Because He was so confident about His

understanding of how He was created in His Father's image, He had the ability to interface with His disciples in a way that had never been done before.

The complexity of man's heart is something Moses utilized, but couldn't describe in detail. In fact Moses needed input from Jethro, his father-in-law, and elected representatives of each tribe to formulate and activate his position of power because he had a predisposition to get easily infuriated. The Prophet Mohammed, on the other hand, could see what Jesus had achieved. He could use His sense of power from God from within, but he couldn't read or write. Because he was illiterate, he couldn't activate the spiritual process through his eyes.

Spiritual Linguistics is, in part, a description of Christ's symbolic logic that can't be personally verified unless you have the ability to learn about symbols while employing them. Being able to read is the spiritual foundation and underpinning of symbolism. Reading is the ultimate example of being able to employ symbols. Jesus was the greatest rabbi the world has ever known, not because He could read Torah, but because He could apply it more effectively to God's plan than even Moses. Jesus was at one with God's plan when He spoke to the literate and well-educated Jews who eventually applied His lessons of love to their own readings and writings. He emboldened the Apostles to use the WORD of God from a new place in inner space, but the four Evangelists turned His WORDS into a second Scripture.

The renewal every spring that comes with spiritual rebirth is a resurrection of hope you know personally. This reoccurrence of hope begins each year anew with the Passover, but it was originally extended into Christianity through the death of Jesus, which occurred during that Passover celebration so long ago.

On Passover the youngest child is asked to recite the famous question:

מה נשתנה הלילה הזה מכל הלילות
{MA NISHTANA HALIYLA HAZE MEKOL HALEYLOT?}

WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER NIGHTS?

That was, of course, the night the Israelites nailed a lamb shank to their doorposts to avert the angel of death that killed the first-born son of every other household in Egypt. That was the 10th plague that hit the Pharaoh and his family personally, which then motivated him to free the Israelite slaves and let them leave.

The ram Abraham had used to replace Isaac as a sacrifice to God was later augmented with the sacrifice of many lambs in Egypt that first Passover night. The sacrifice of Jesus was "the Lamb of God" later sacrificed for the sake of the world, not just one family {Abraham} or one tribe {Judaism}. So the question that should have been asked long ago

with regard to the Last Supper is what happened on *that* night different from all other nights?

First of all it wasn't the *last* supper. It was the *first*. What happened that night wasn't the end of something, but the beginning. It wasn't the end of Jesus's influence on the world. It was the beginning of it. I've described that influence from many perspectives, but what I haven't described is how that night might have looked from His Father's perspective, the ultimate moral perspective.

The sacrifice of an animal for a principle is so barbaric that it's rarely even discussed when the choice boils down to the moral needs of humans verses animals. Abraham felt compelled to choose between the life of his son or a ram, and he chose human life over animal life until the Archangel Gabriel nudged him to make a different choice.

The AKEDA {sacrifice of Isaac} paradoxically marks the inclusion, not exclusion, of man into the natural world. Animals sacrifice other animals from their species and outside their species as their situations require of them. And their choices are based on matters they consider necessities of life. The difference between the choices animals make and man lies only in the fact that animals never sacrifice life for God, only for their own needs. Man is the only participant in nature who kills for God's sake. {And we've certainly seen enough examples of that in all three of the Abrahamic faiths.}

According to Christian doctrine, Jesus willingly died for our sins. He willingly died out of His love for humanity. He gave His life to God so that mankind would be relieved of its sins. But what He didn't die for was to relieve us of our guilt. The concept of the scapegoat includes two goats. And Christians aren't the only ones who don't appreciate the importance of the second goat in this spiritual process.

The Israelites used a religious practice of laying on of hands in which they touched one another thereby passing their sins out of themselves, through the priest, and into a goat that was then slaughtered. In this way they cleansed themselves of their sins and killed the goat that then carried their sins to God who disposed of their sins Himself. This is the religious definition of a scapegoat.

But there was a second sacrifice immediately afterwards in which the Israelites would then dispose of their guilt. The ritual was the same in that it included a laying on of hands, but this goat wasn't killed. It was driven out of the camp to wander in the desert.

Guilt doesn't die. Guilt wanders. Guilt can be driven out of the encampment you have in your head and heart and into the desert of your primitive conscience, but guilt can come back whenever God chooses to return it to you. Your heart will be forced to face guilt whenever and through whomever God chooses to initiate it.

Jesus didn't end anyone's sense of guilt. What happened during the "last" supper was a figurative laying on of hands in which His disciples were given the essence of His body

and blood in the form of the spiritual meal He shared with the holy communion. He was killed the next day in a horrible manner that only barbarians could create. But the Jewish people became the second goat, the scapegoat of guilt that was driven out of their home in Israel and only allowed to return 2,000 years later when the world was ready to face its guilt on a personal basis.

What happened at the Last Supper was the symbolic preparation of the Eucharist for Christianity through the death of sins. But what happened at the First Supper was the sacrifice of “AAM ISRAEL” {THE JEWISH NATION} so that collective guilt would be erased and individual guilt would be administered to the world. The Jewish people have committed our lives to justice so that no group of people will ever have to pay for a crime that should be blamed only on individuals.

If there were a national or world catastrophe, you’d see a response that would separate the Egyptians from the Israelites as happened with the first eight plagues. You’d see the difference between the men from the boys; the spiritually rich from the spiritually impoverished. And this will show you what you’re really made of.

Therefore find the CHESED {loyalty} to hug yourself {despite your guilt} like a tree. Kindness is a weapon of mass construction. You’re a majestic tree of self-knowledge God planted here with moral purpose. You don’t have to be beautiful to be fruitful in all the ways He has planned for you. If you learn how you operate yourself, you’ll improve how you operate by yourself. And then you’ll surely celebrate your ethical contributions for yourself by sharing them with the world.

Jesus said, “THE TIME IS COMING WHEN ALL THOSE WHO ARE DEAD AND BURIED WILL HEAR HIS VOICE AND OUT THEY WILL COME.” Men have to see themselves as having consumed fruit from trees of knowledge before they can imagine themselves as fruit from the Tree of Life. They’ve got to go through feelings of abandonment, frailty, loneliness and emptiness, and even revenge before they can come to the conclusion that they’re dead and buried. Only then will the miracle of their seed germinating in a new place in inner space with the help of their imagination come real. Only then will men believe that they “WILL HEAR HIS VOICE AND OUT THEY WILL COME.”

If you don’t realize that your roots have always been seeking the Rock, you’re going to live like tumbleweed or Spanish moss. You’ve got to grow a little more each day, or you’ll judge yourself as small, pitiful and very vulnerable to circumstances outside your control. You can’t grow toward the light if you haven’t broken through the ground with your roots still in it.

The meek are lucky because they can say that it was their own judgments of themselves that were the harshest. After all the fingers that were pointed at the meek; the taunting by

bullies; and the disrespect they endured from themselves – facing God’s judgment will be easy for the meek to bear. But just because you may be meek doesn’t mean you’re not responsible for doing your homework, preparing your assignments, and taking tests of your own. If you do your part to weed your garden within, you’ll help us all weed the orchard of evil inclinations everywhere.

You can learn to live with your feelings of guilt unconsciously and bear the burden like a beast of burden bears its yoke. You can pull the plow for others without taking time to sow your seeds in yourself. But I say, if you’ve come all this way, you might as well plant a little something here and now that you can enjoy watching flower.

Money is the “bread fruit” that everyone wants to plant in his garden, but money certainly isn’t the only tree you should learn to cultivate. The reason you can’t take your “bread” with you when you leave is that that isn’t the harvest God is gathering. If He wanted you to grow only breadfruit trees He wouldn’t have bothered to plant all the myriad other botanical varieties on Earth. Cultivate the seeds from your tree of knowledge and put less attention to the seeds in your testicles that produce only literal life. There are enough people in the world today, but there isn’t nearly enough wisdom, love or generosity. Become a honey bear instead.

Man is physically, emotionally and spiritually created to unconsciously want to plant his seeds in fertile soil or be the fertile soil in which others will plant their seeds. There’s nothing to be ashamed of in being the soil around the Rock rather than the seed that grows the roots. It’s not feminine to be like soil and masculine to be like a seed. If you can be a rock in someone’s life you can strive to be rich soil, too.

Jesus made the claim that He was the source of God’s forgiveness made manifest in flesh. He challenged the ancient, rich Jews of Jerusalem to emulate Him by asking them to learn forgiveness in general, and specifically for them to embrace His love. But there’s a rich Jew in you. You don’t have to be Jewish to see the negative stereotypes that once were blamed on all the Jews regardless of their financial wellbeing. If you’re adamantly opposed to the state of Israel, just imagine how deeply you must hate your own, inner state of Israel. If you hate the ROCK OF AGES, picture instead your opinion of the rich soil lying fallow in yourself.

There’s no point in learning the Ten Commandments from 1-10. It’s far easier to get through them in reverse order. Start with yours feelings of coveting what your neighbor has {#10} and work your way back through lying {#9} and stealing {#8} to see what you think of your word {#7} and how you’d kill yourself {#6} to keep what’s yours.

Once you’ve made your way through the second tablet in this way, then look to the first tablet to do those things God asks personally from you. Honor the parents God gave you {#5}; they weren’t your choice. Take time personally; there’s a subjective, sabbath day of

rest you need to rejuvenate yourself {#4}. Don't utter your own name in vain {#2}; your self-worth should be as important to you as God's is to Him. There are no gods before God {#2}, not even money.

If you take The Ten Commandments personally by studying them in reverse order, you'll make your way to the 1st Commandment with self-love. {I AM THE LORD, THY GOD, WHO TOOK YOU OUT OF EGYPT.} Then you'll be able to thank God for what He did for you and the mysterious order in which He did it.

Most people do become vindictive when they see others get what they always wanted; they just don't act out on their covetous feelings. {They usually stop talking to themselves instead.} But this isn't a helpful response.

Negative reactivity in you to others' good fortune is caused by envy in not having what you think you deserve. You're emotionally triggered to use the silent treatment on yourself when you see other people achieving what you want to give yourself. If you act on your envy of others by opening a dialogue with yourself rather than insisting on turning your back on you, you'd be rewarded for your honesty, sincerity and authenticity in trying to help yourself. You'd become as smart as I am. (It's not that hard to get smarter if your mother taught you to be good.)

Literally being weaned off your mother's breasts {or the bottle} required you to face the rage of not getting what you wanted to drink the way you wanted to drink it. Surely, Jesus went through that weaning process, too. And reconciling yourself to solid food and drinking beverages from a cup wasn't something you learned all by yourself. Your mother, like Mother Mary, did most of that work, too, thanks to toilet training techniques and civilized behavior inspired by God over millennia. God's choice of mothers for you was no coincidence. That's why the 5th Commandment {HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER} is on the first tablet, separating your relationship with your parents from all other human interactions.

But you're going to have to learn how to wean yourself onto your breasts now. You've graduated the moral problems most others have with dependence, independence and interdependence. Now you're beating your breast and biting your own breast trying to tell yourself that you're ready for the milk of human kindness you've only been giving to others. (Please look up the lyrics to Paul Simon's song, "American Tune." Reading it will stop you from wondering what went wrong. Although "we come in the age's most uncertain hour and sing an American tune. It's all right. It's all right" This song is a precious example of how this Jewish-American poet could see the sights of Heaven "so far away from Home.")

Patience with Jews becomes imperative once you see the Jew in you. Anti-Semitism becomes personal and real when you see your opinions of Jews as mirrors of your opinions

of yourself. There are no wars in the world that don't mirror your war with yourself. And there are no solutions to wars in the world that won't improve your relationship with yourself.

Patience is terribly important because patience is a moral issue that emanates out of your conscience. If your opinions ring the alarm bell of impatience, your opinions should enlighten you to thoughts and feelings you're have about yourself.

The innocence in you is always being threatened with new moral challenges that will grow your conscience. Your head will always have to make choices that your heart and soul will have to live with. Every Adam will have to account to God for what he says to Him about every Eve. (Please look up the lyrics to Elton John's song, "Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word" lyrics by Bernie Taupin. The only reasonable answer to what "I have to do to make You love me" is nothing. You've always loved me.)

It's not my sins I have to atone for, but my guilt. And if I have no guilt to speak of, that doesn't mean I'm innocent. No one is perfect. That means that using Jews to give man's conscience a good work-out is a form of spiritual exercise that isn't going to end anytime soon. The more the world engages in the moral discussions of Israelis, the more the world is going to learn about God's beneficent plan.

People don't want to admit they do what they do because they *feel* like it. Jesus addressed this tendency with His lessons in wisdom of the heart. His two additional COMMANDMENTS of love, COMMANDMENTS #11 and #12, sit very securely on top of #10 of Moses's. If you don't show your Father what you believe to be true about His love for you, how can He reward you for your principled behavior? You've got to get past your jealousy and envy of your neighbor before you can love him as yourself. And if your neighbors aren't Christians, you're going to have to teach them the 11th and 12th COMMANDMENTS before you start in on the other ten.

We're all learning to separate love from guilt and how to hold the range of emotions in between. But it's much easier if you start at the end of this Judeo-Christian dozen to see how it's all going to end, and work your way back to the beginning. Start with LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF and make your way back to I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.

If you're a fanatical Christian, you'll embrace the love Jesus personified by only loving Him and His Father, but you're not going to be happy with the results in your life if you do. If your priorities don't include the Holy Spirit that works through everyone, you'll eventually find yourself in the dubious position of being jealous and envious of what They give to others that you're being denied. People who are blessed with the good health, money or peace of mind you don't have may not have stolen it out from others. They may have gotten the test results you were hoping for because they came to class the day our

Teacher was administering that particular test, and you didn't. You may have played hooky and now don't know what you missed.

The Jews and gays are used to sitting on the fence between guilt and love trying to find a comfortable position. Anti-Israel sentiments have tried to replace anti-Semitic sentiments now that Arabs claim to be Semites, too. And anti-gay marriage laws have tried to replace homophobia. But blaming gay-Jews is the only sure way for the nuts to unite against the fruits. Until the world sees the gay-Jew as Jesus, their head, heart and soul will leave them with a struggle within that mirrors the tensions we see in the world around us. If He'd defend a prostitute, do you really think He'd oppose a man like me?

The richest men in the world aren't the wisest. They aren't the most loving, and they aren't the most generous. They've been rewarded with the test results they have, but that doesn't mean their test papers are coming back with any fewer red marks on them than yours or mine.

Don't compare yourself to the rich. The more you learn about yourself, the more you'll know. And the more you'll know, the more spiritually powerful you'll become. If you think there are too few gay-Jews to make a difference in this world, you're sadly mistaken. Look at your conscience and ask yourself if it could be a better guide to yourself. Take your conscience out and give it a little more exercise. It'll thank you for it. If you don't let rich men buy your opinions, their money will become a little less valuable to them. What good will money be to them when they discover they'll never be able to buy their *own* opinion?

The reason it costs so much more to buy an election than it used to is because fewer men's opinions can be bought nowadays. The rightwing Supreme Court had to introduce more money into politics because the cost of opinions has risen so precipitously nowadays. But good men are making their conscience their guide and discovering that pays greater dividends.

If you look inside yourself and only find fear of reprisal from God, then you should realize that your opinion of His opinion of you is really your opinion of you, and not His. Before you let anyone guilt you into ingratiating yourself before God, consider a less demeaning way of discovering His love. First help those less fortunate than you to make sure that your love is real. Practice loving others. And when you're really getting good at that, then ask yourself if you deserve to share a little more of your love with yourself. Your love isn't something you can indulge in. Your love has to be earned.

Guilt is real. Fear is real. You may be terrified of the lack of love you perceive inside you. But your cup is really half full. Paranoia is manufactured. Paranoia makes you think that your cup is half empty. Therefore, don't let the insanity of what others think of you get in the way of you loving yourself.

Take it from a gay-Jew. There will always be someone who disapproves of you. Change your opinion of yourself with good deeds and watch what God does next. He may surprise you in ways you never expected. Or He may shock you. Whether He uses sticks or carrots, at least you'll know for yourself that His love is real.

The process of taking responsibility for your feelings for you is called becoming a man. Becoming a man is a humbling experience that will replace your insistence that you are, and always were, a man. The world is full of emotional infants, toddlers, little boys, and juvenile delinquents who prey upon other emotional infants, toddlers, little boys and juvenile delinquents like themselves. Becoming a man by taking responsibility for your feelings is harder than it looks. But in becoming one, you raise the class curve incredibly for one and all.

Once you use your moral discretion to contain your negative emotions, you'll appreciate yourself more for having done so. Naturally your heart won't always be into it. Sometimes you'll have feelings for someone or a group of people that you won't admire. But sometimes you just can't help how you really feel. That's when you have to engage your conscience so you don't do anything bad, even if your head and heart tell you otherwise.

Put your own moral, oxygen mask on first. Assume it's going to be a longer flight than you expected, and realize that none of us can get to our destination on one big breath. Do what's right regardless of how people try to change your mind or manipulate your feelings, and you'll enjoy a smoother and less eventful flight from takeoff to landing.

You're never going to be able to fully admit that your desires have been conspiring with your feelings until you can admit that you sometimes feel jealous and envious of those who have less than you. Those who have more than you, you've protected yourself from with ample spiritual firewalls, moats, drawbridges, early warning systems, sirens, smoke detectors, alarms, buzzers and panic buttons. It's always those who have less than you who seem to get under your skin.

It's the little things people do that most aggravate you. And it's always someone who's poorer, uglier, fatter, taller, darker or straighter looking who you choose to take your frustrations out on. You never start a fight you don't think you can win, but all the fights you're engaged in include jealousy and envy, or God wouldn't have allowed you to get into them.

Look for what you hate about your enemy and you'll learn to love yourself because you're better than that. God knows what you don't like about yourself, and He only brings you enemies who mirror the most trivial aspects of yourself you don't want to have to look at. Learn to repair the trivial things in you that you hate and your enemies will magically dissipate.

“Creepy” is what a grape vine has to go through before it can become laden with fruit. There’s nothing you’re going through that isn’t helping you grow. If you’re afraid to bud you won’t blossom. If you don’t flower you won’t bloom. Depression looks like a tree with branches, but without leaves. There’s a reason for every season. Don’t act on how you feel. Witness how you feel. It’s O.K. to admit to yourself that you’re creepy. Nobody else but God needs to know what you think of yourself. And even He isn’t going to let on that He knows that about you until *you* admit it to Him. (Now look up the lyrics to Carole King’s song “Tapestry.” Sometimes the most beautiful combination of words doesn’t have to make great sense. Sometimes you can get There from here without being perfect. Sometimes love looks like a tapestry with two sides, a working side and a finished side that the law alone won’t provide.)

If you use your imagination to identify with the character of God in the Creation Story, you’d want to know if He waited to see what Eve would do with that one piece of fruit before He took any action. And as it turned out, she shared it with Adam. How many men have learned to thank women for that? Most men unconsciously identify as the fruit that gave its life to teach mankind morality. They identify as the victim of a woman rather than as a participant in life with her.

Teaching morality is something “fruits” are particularly good at doing, much to the consternation of most straight men. They see a fruit and the first thing they want to do is crush it underfoot before it gets too close to their tree and precious serpent. Many straight men don’t want to learn from gay men any more than they want to learn from women. They’re afraid of this world being run by gays and women. They’re afraid that would lead to the end of war.

Not many men want to admit that HA-ISHA {the woman} in the first story of Genesis was intuitively right from the start. Knowledge is worth having, but only if you’re able to enjoy the spirit of sharing it without exacting an unfair price in doing so. Self-knowledge is so precious that you should share as much as you possibly can of it – with yourself. {God knows, you’ve paid a high enough price for what you now know about yourself.}

Eve was quite casual when God questioned her, probably because she intuitively already knew that knowledge would lead to wisdom, and wisdom, to self-love. Now, that men and women are in pursuit of self-love together, the only virtue left to aspire for is generosity of spirit.

You wouldn’t let a toddler play with a knife or give a child the keys to your car. God doesn’t give you the keys to His Kingdom until you’re ready to learn how to enter it with love. But the keys to His Kingdom are just a curiosity the spiritual infant tries to stick in his mouth. He has no clue to their sacred purpose. You know the keys to the Kingdom lie

just where Jesus told you you'd find them: in your heart. You know you don't need a big mouth to get into the Kingdom of Heaven.

There are many words you're going to have to relearn in life in the process of going from a boy to a man. This will become your personal, spiritual vocabulary, the heartfelt meaning of some words that will make you more soulful over time. Don't get caught up with the literal meaning of words. That's only for spiritual beginners; lawyers and technical writers, and such. Focus on God's WORD at all times of the day and night because you aren't going to believe in the sanctity of the words that come out of your mouth unless you look closely at the emotions they carry.

Life is God's little pun. Every word has a literal, emotional and spiritual meaning. The more you can take the words that are the most precious and personal to you to heart, the more you'll be able to respond rather than react to the w o r d of the P r o p h e t in my next book. God gave you language to look for Him metaphorically, symbolically and comparatively. Reacting to the WORD of God, the WORD of God or the w o r d of God with literal interpretations that cause hatred will only cause you to become apathetic to the needs of others. And that's not at all what Moses, Jesus or the P r o p h e t Mohammed was telling you to do with your life.

The only perfect mate for you is you. You're a match made in heaven, a body and soul brought into one, even if you don't yet feel that way about yourself now. You're the prince of a guy you've been waiting for; the perfect pal; the sensitive soul mate who'll compliment you on your journey; the son in your heart to the father in your head. You're the one you've always yearned to have a healthy relationship with. You're the bromance you've always shunned with embarrassment.

Start asking yourself why God consistently brings people into your life who you judge as fat, ugly, gauche or uncouth. You're in a relationship with someone you know much too little about, and yet you have the audacity to conclude all that's wrong with others. Marriage equality is just for practice. The person you really need to propose to and consciously agree to marry for a lifetime is yourself. You're the one you're going to have to live with in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. If you think others are fat, ugly, gauche or uncouth, that's a sad commentary on how you unconsciously feel about yourself.

The guy who's going to be with you for better or worse can only be seen in the mirror, and even then, only in reflection. You'll literally never get a look at his face. The roles of a father, mother, sister and brother to you will be there within you until the moment you die. You're your family. Your family values have to be practiced on you. Instead of pointing fingers at gays for ruining family values, point that finger at yourself. The sooner

you expand your familial roles in your life, the sooner you'll get comfortable in the company of strangers who behave differently on the outside.

If your body gives you the creeps, it's obvious where your work needs to be focused. If your behavior disgusts you, you know what you need to do to settle your stomach. If you don't believe you deserve to be loved forever, you've got a problem with yourself, not with Jesus.

If you don't find yourself attractive it's not because you're straight. Gay men don't find themselves any more attractive to themselves than straight men. We're just as critical of what we see in the mirror. So developing a good relationship with yourself if you're not physically attracted to your gender is no excuse for how you treat yourself. You can develop feelings for anyone you don't find physically attractive if you like the person inside. Don't judge your book by your cover. (Try listening to Bette Midler's rendition of John Prine's song "Hello in There." It could be interpreted as a wonderful example of how a man can find his wife within.)

Start expanding your relationship with yourself today with shame at having waited too long to make your acquaintance. Feel bad about all the time you wasted ignoring yourself, while lavishing the best you had to offer on others. Admonish yourself for how cruelly you forced yourself to do what you thought was necessary to survive when more understanding from your heart for you was called for. Feel sorry for yourself for finding yourself in a relationship now with someone you don't really know. You owe yourself a big apology as well as emotional amends. Feel hopeful for how much more you'll be able to love yourself from now on, and I promise you the wisdom of your heart will rise from guilt to love and from love to loyalty in no time.

Jesus continued with further insight into His great claims. "BY MYSELF I CAN DO NOTHING. AS I HEAR, I JUDGE, AND MY JUDGMENT IS TRUE BECAUSE I DO NOT LIVE TO PLEASE MYSELF BUT TO DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER WHO SENT ME. YOU MAY SAY THAT I AM BEARING WITNESS ABOUT MYSELF, THAT THEREFORE WHAT I SAY ABOUT MYSELF HAS NO VALUE, BUT I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT THERE IS ONE WHO WITNESSES ABOUT ME AND I KNOW THAT HIS WITNESS ABOUT ME IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE. YOU SENT JOHN, AND HE TESTIFIED TO THE TRUTH. NOT THAT IT IS MAN'S TESTIMONY THAT I ACCEPT - I ONLY TELL YOU THIS TO HELP YOU TO BE SAVED. JOHN CERTAINLY WAS A LAMP THAT BURNED AND SHONE, AND FOR A TIME YOU WERE WILLING TO ENJOY THE LIGHT THAT HE GAVE. BUT I HAVE A HIGHER TESTIMONY THAN JOHN'S. THE WORK THAT THE FATHER GAVE ME TO COMPLETE, YES, THESE VERY ACTIONS I DO ARE MY WITNESS THAT THE FATHER HAS SENT ME. THIS IS HOW THE FATHER WHO HAS SENT ME HAS GIVEN HIS OWN PERSONAL TESTIMONY TO ME." [John 5:30-37]

“BY MYSELF I CAN DO NOTHING. AS I HEAR, I JUDGE, AND MY JUDGMENT IS TRUE BECAUSE I DO NOT LIVE TO PLEASE MYSELF BUT TO DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER WHO SENT ME.” Jesus acknowledged that the process of pleasing Himself was of no interest to Him. It was only the will of God that mattered to Him. He did what He did because it was what His Father asked of Him.

If you think you can please yourself and that, that action will thereby necessarily please God, you’re doing something that not even Jesus wanted to do. Learn to have an ethical and principled relationship with yourself for His sake, and you’ll be able to forgive yourself for not being perfect.

Insanity is not a virtue. Autonomy is not a virtue either. Conceit and vanity aren’t virtues even if you use them as flying buttresses to keep your cathedral walls within from crashing down. You’ve got to continue to pursue self-love. Your reward depends on it.

Freedom to do as you please is wasted on fools who don’t use it to seek the liberty that comes with self-love. You can call for the emancipation of others, but if you can’t show loyalty to yourself when you need it, you still haven’t personalized the 1st Commandment. You still don’t know the Lord who took you out of Egypt.

“THERE IS ONE WHO WITNESSES ABOUT ME AND I KNOW THAT HIS WITNESS ABOUT ME IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE.” When you know the Lord, His witness of you becomes a powerful tool for change in the inner world that others can’t see. When you feel the Lord’s presence, His witness of you becomes an even more powerful tool for transformation that others won’t be able to perceive. But if you don’t weigh what you know against what you feel to come up with a belief based on love, you’re doomed to humiliation, if not by others and if not by yourself, then by God.

God witnesses you. God watches you. He sees what you want and changes His story to accommodate your desires. This is what Jesus saw and said. This is why His image is on the crosses in the churches and not yours. He wasn’t a victim of circumstances or a martyr to a cause because He did what He did for Himself, not just for God.

Your beliefs may be seriously flawed by the hatred you have toward yourself. You ought to question your head and heart with your conscience with a soulful point of view. And if you’ve hurt others with beliefs that are unloving, you ought to turn that around to revisit how you feel about yourself. That will give you glimpses of your face that no mirror will reflect. This will allow you the privilege of seeing yourself as God sees you.

Capitalizing pronouns referring to Jesus might cause you to ask yourself in anger how He dared compare Himself to Him! Or you might go to the other extreme and ask yourself how “i” would dare compare myself to Him? You must learn to both compare {+} and contrast {-} in order to learn. But don’t compare or contrast yourself to others. Their lessons aren’t yours. Compare and contrast yourself to who you were yesterday. Then you won’t

have to buy into other people's opinions that can, so easily, lead you astray. Compare and contrast yourself to God. Compare and contrast yourself to the one man who dared to make Himself the perfect yardstick for comparison.

“YOU MAY SAY THAT I AM BEARING WITNESS ABOUT MYSELF, THAT THEREFORE WHAT I SAY ABOUT MYSELF HAS NO VALUE...” Jesus opened Himself up so that others could see His heart, and how sincerely He felt about His relationship to God. He compared {+} Himself to God, which was a totally new concept. Until then, the Jews had only contrasted themselves to God.

It's always best to compare and contrast yourself to who you were before. If you use your head to contrast yourself to God, and your heart to compare yourself to God, your conscience will grow exponentially. Then you'll be able to say you know God.

Even though you can't see the capital letters people add to their words when speaking, they often speak with emphases that insinuate the capitalization process I've added to some nouns and pronouns in this book. If you want to learn to read people better, start asking yourself to emotionally spell the words you use. It will help you question your spiritual spelling. Many people capitalize pronouns referring to themselves by trading these capital letters with those of sacred pronouns. In other words a man might speak about God as though “he” weren't even in his life, but ask him about himself and he'll be glad to tell you just how important he thinks “He” is to himself.

When you pray you should be aware of the capitalization of pronouns you unconsciously create in your mind that differentiate the words “you” and “You” (singular and plural) when speaking internally as well as externally. The more you can distinguish between who you believe is talking and who you're talking to, the more effectively you'll be able to talk to yourself and differentiate that from prayer.

Imagine you were God receiving a prayer from someone who had mixed up the capitalization of his pronouns. You'd have quite a document of their arrogance and insubordination.

Because people can't hear what you're thinking and have to judge you by the words that come out of your mouth and body language, they've become adept at reading you in ways they often can't put into words. People are smarter than you think even if they can't tell you exactly how they know what they know. Ironically, many of those who are the most aware of this assessment process of character are cheaters, liars and thieves. If you want to get as good as they are at reading people, you're going to have to be willing to learn from the worst. {God always enrolls a good number of bozos into every class for the sake of the class, but the scholars rarely utilize the skills of the pupils to improve their own communication skills.} If God seats you at the back of the class, learn all you can about how people who break the 7th, 8th and 9th Commandments use their head and heart in ways

you'd like to copy so long as you don't duplicate the way they use their conscience. They can be very charismatic even though they're as rotten as fruit decaying on the ground after Thanksgiving.

If you want to become smarter than you were yesterday, you're going to have to learn about charisma from the devious and deceptive who already know a great deal more about how you think and feel than you can imagine. If your conscience is a good enough guide to you, you should be able to use your secular and spiritual education to improve your personality. {Remember Joshua #1 was one of the spies who entered the Promised Land. But he reported to Moses that the people the Israelites were going to have to fight were giants.} Don't feel small and you won't think small.

“YOU SENT JOHN, AND HE TESTIFIED TO THE TRUTH. NOT THAT IT IS MAN'S TESTIMONY THAT I ACCEPT - I ONLY TELL YOU THIS TO HELP YOU TO BE SAVED. JOHN CERTAINLY WAS A LAMP THAT BURNED AND SHONE, AND FOR A TIME YOU WERE WILLING TO ENJOY THE LIGHT THAT HE GAVE. BUT I HAVE A HIGHER TESTIMONY THAN JOHN'S.” When you listen carefully, you can learn about yourself from what others emphasize, whether you agree with them or not. Jesus was willing to compare {+} Himself to John the Baptist even though he was judged insane by many. And Jesus completed this passage by then contrasting {-} Himself to John, thereby showing a fluidity of judgment that the ancient Jews might not have been able to emulate without feeling guilty for holding one man in two ways in their heart.

In truth, the only way for you to raise your self-esteem is to compare {+} and contrast {-} yourself to the ways you were before. Only by allying and competing with yourself will you see yourself grow. For young people reading this book, this may seem extremely difficult to do. But to acknowledge what is real, you've got to begin by recognizing your spiritual height and stature. You can be both an old oak and a sapling. Just humble yourself to ideas that are saltier than you're accustomed to. Hot-and-sweet is a Muslim delicacy you'll only learn to appreciate after you've learned more about Jewish sweet-and-sour, and Christian bittersweet. Watch what you eat emotionally because you may grow up suffering from spiritual indigestion if you don't.

Words are like the lyrics to a song. If you read the words of a song, you get half the message. But if you want to remember what you've read, the best way to do so is to learn the melody that goes along with the words. This doesn't require that you literally learn how to read music. But music includes a whole, different set of symbols than those to write down the lyrics. Words have musical tones, accents and emotional emphases that tell you a great deal about the feelings you add to the intellectual meaning of your words. You embellish your words with rhythm to make your message more believable and brilliant. This is the essence of “RENA” {THE SONG OF GOD}. Your melody, or emotional subtext, is evident in everything you say. Don't just focus on convincing people what you want to say.

Start listening to your own emotional subtext. Your notes are even more powerful than your lyrics. “Why” is so much more important a word sometimes than “what.”

There’s an emotional subtext to your life that you’re habitually expressing, but you may be so accustomed to it that you don’t even realize how to put the name of your emotional medium into words. Once you learn to read your own emotional notes like music, you’ll be able to perceive the melody you add with your lyrics. You’ll find your way to inspire yourself with your simple tune. And you’ll see how God uses RENA, His lyrics {wisdom} and melody {love} inspire us all.

Claiming to take the Bible literally is a sick joke. Everyone in the Abrahamic traditions takes the Old Testament, New Testament and Quran far more emotionally and personally than he takes it literally. Stop fighting with yourself about the meaning of the words that come out of your mouth, and start fighting within yourself for the feelings God’s sacred words convey to you personally. The accepted literal, intellectual dictionary definition of words will have less importance to you after you discover your emotional mother tongue and learn to speak it by heart. Leave the law to lawyers. Leave love to lovers. Take your own words to heart, and the world’s sacred texts will all become a mysterious call to you in ways you can’t yet imagine.

You can’t anticipate how you’re going to change the world. You can’t even anticipate how you’re going to change your own world. But you can look back on your past to see how you got where you are now, even though you couldn’t anticipated how you became the “you” you are now. And you certainly can’t anticipate who you’re going to become as the result of the next lesson the Teacher brings you. Your spiritual education is in His hands. But your hands are in yours. Half of your destiny or fate depends on you.

Jesus presented John as a lamp that burned and shined a great light. This is a common metaphor in Tanach. {“ISRAEL WILL BE A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS.” [Isaiah 49:6]} By extension each Jew is a flame that contributes to the creation of that great light. Before the time of Jesus the PROPHETS had been like lit candles unto the unlit Jewish multitudes. They lit the Jewish masses that had been, until then, still in the dark.

But the AGE OF PROPHECY had to end, not because the rabbis arbitrarily declared it was over, but because the whole nation had finally been set aflame. The ancient Jews had become a light unto themselves. The lamp that Jesus pointed out {the light of John the Jewish Baptist} began a new age, the Age of Emotionality, a time when every man could strive to become a light unto every nation as well as a light he shined for himself as he stood before God.

My Jewish, spiritual ancestors struggled at that time with an imperial army from ancient Rome that threatened to extinguish the light they were shining unto their world, much as

European Christians tried to do to European Jewry in the last century and radical Islam is claiming it will do to world Jewry today.

John the Baptist was one of ours. He was a special Jew with a spotlight that modestly shined on his teacher, Jesus, who, it turned out, was very much in the limelight of history, a light that shines ever more brightly still.

The seven aspects of fire available to your inner operating system through spiritual inquiry are, again:

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

Once you learn to appreciate fire as a metaphoric container that holds God's plan for you, you'll become much more heroic, and your inner flame will add to your own limelight. You'll look in every flame and see the mystery flickering there just for you.

Baptism is the new covenant of Christianity that doesn't require blood, and yet I've seen so many Catholics put their fingers in the holy water at church without giving thought to the sensation of wetness. Wetness is the physical sensation that makes water different from all others forms of heat and cold. If you don't give thought first to the physical sensation of baptism, as does a baby when it's baptized, you're missing an important aspect of the experience.

Baptism begins as a physical sensation that also has emotional and spiritual effects. The reason why the wetness of water is so important is because this is the attribute of water we associate with taking the burn out of the purification of fire. Therefore water reminds us that we've been forgiven by God for our original sin {even if we're still stuck with the guilt}. Joshua #2 is the fisherman who brought the ancient Jews into the Israel within themselves by netting them and carrying them out and over their inner Jordan River with His love. The physical evidence of that spiritual journey is the wetness of baptism that should be a reminder to a Christian throughout his lifetime.

A Christian is like a fish out of water. He's the fish that can be spiritually burned {despite the many poor victims of immolation in the past in Christianity}. Jesus fished the poor Jews of the Galilee out of the emotional turmoil they were submerged in and brought them to the shores of tranquility in the land they loved.

Love is a force that doesn't fully correspond to earth, wind, water or fire. Love is otherworldly. It's the greatest evidence for God's presence without physical evidence of His existence. If you don't believe in love, you're an unlit candle. You're a song without a melody. The man who doesn't yet know about love doesn't have a clue to who he could become. He's a boy who doesn't yet know what it feels like to reach orgasm. He's just playing with himself, and others.

The Church is slowly learning how to glean the universal message of self-love from the message of Jesus. His big picture is always getting bigger as the world learns to unpack the depth of His regard for the humanity of man. Christianity is soon, once again, going to have to reconstruct a bigger frame to encompass its own growing big picture. And Islam is going to have to accommodate that big picture whether it likes it or not.

Life starts at conception with a "little bang" that brings a whole new inner world into the world we share. When you become a single-celled seed you're in a physical shell called mother. Until you physically break out of that shell you're not yet a sprout. You're just a shoot.

Jesus was the most progressive and radical Jew of His time or since, but Mary was the first human tabernacle. He came out of her tabernacle. Jesus didn't preach to straight Jews or gay-Jews even though He, too, came out of an ARON {tabernacle/closet}. He preached to poor Jews in the Galilee and rich Jews in Jerusalem. He used His power to open men's minds to the insidious dialog their hearts were having with their desires.

Jesus was a lot like Samson, but He had the spiritual, rather than physical, strength that ultimately toppled our Temple with love rather our enemy's temple with muscle, as Samson had. Animal sacrifice ended directly as the result of the destruction of the Temple, but it ended indirectly thanks to Christ's love. Jesus may have only overturned a few tables of moneychangers in the Temple, but He overturned the whole concept of needing to pay to pray. Paradoxically, He preserved Judaism by helping destroy traditional, Jewish life then – the religious, Temple life of His day that we've since replaced with modern, spiritual life.

It obviously wasn't Jesus's intention to create Christianity or destroy ancient Judaism. It wasn't His intention to be the spiritual prism that separated Jewish, white light God gave us into the rainbow of hopeful promises within us all.

All faith is hopeful. Judaism is the faith that holds the white light of life through the enlightenment given to us through Moses. Faith will always require our white light to produce Christian rainbows of love in the flesh. The world cannot conceive of living without the light of Judeo-Christian illumination and spiritual warmth. But the mystery of Islamic faith will provide a kaleidoscope of color if we learn together how to use it.

Thanks to Jesus my Jewish ancestors could no longer kill a bull to assuage themselves of their guilt. They could no longer sacrifice a few birds and walk away from the Temple feeling as though they could fly. Jesus turned over the tables of moneychangers, not for the sake of the animals that were being sacrificed, but to save His countrymen from the hypocrisy of their corrupted, unconscious, psychological intentions – the sick and twisted conversation the ancient Jews were having between their desires and their feelings that they weren't dealing with internally but externally through animal sacrifice.

“THE MAN WHO DOES NOT HONOR THE SON DOES NOT HONOR THE FATHER WHO SENT HIM.” This is a moral extension of the 5th Commandment to honor our father and mother. If you can love your father, you can love your Father. Jesus didn't ask that we love Him. He asked that we honor Them. But you can only honor others if you can honor yourself. If you honor yourself and then give your honor to God, you'll be given a rise in your own esteem of yourself. That self-esteem is vital for your spiritual progress. If you then choose to honor by esteeming Jesus, it's your choice to use your power anyway you choose.

As a Jew I can't honor God in the third person plural {Them}. I have to honor Him using the third person singular. In capitalizing the first person singular pronoun {I}, I imply that He is in me. I can't capitalize the first person plural pronoun {We} to infer that They are in me. That goes against my religion. I'm also not comfortable expressing myself with excessive humility in the first person singular, “i”. That would suggest to me that only Jesus holds the placeholder of “I.”

These irregularities in capitalizations are ways I demonstrate to the English speaking world what it means for me as a Jew to speak to Christians respectfully. This is how I demonstrate what it means for me to assimilate and fit in to the Christian world.

As a gay man I've also had to accommodate straight culture in Israel and elsewhere, and that's far more difficult for me to express succinctly in words. What it means for me to become a man has everything and nothing to do with the gender I sleep with or what we do in bed. My masculinity isn't a top or bottom-based assessment of my soul. My loyalty to my gay brothers includes Jesus because my heart informs me thusly. His naked body speaks to my nakedness before the Lord. His hopes and aspirations for mankind inspire me to love myself despite the imperfection of my abs.

Both spiritual paths, Judaism and Christianity, are God-given, but given differently so we can learn from one another, not so we'll fight over our differences. Christian love must always keep Christian hearts open to Jewish wisdom. And so long as they do, Jewish wisdom will laud the wisdom of Their love.

And as long as straight, male wisdom lauds the wisdom of gay, male love, gays won't have to argue with straight Jews or Christians about our part to play in God's plan. For us to have to call straight Jews and Christians out for being hypocrites is odious to us.

Many people today agonize over what's happening to the poor, the middle class and the environment. But until people understand the wisdom of agony, we're not going to make speedy progress with the class struggle and today's struggle with other species.

Christians who agonize only over the death of Jesus and not over the wellbeing of the widow and the orphan are wasting a good part of their heart. Jesus cared about the wellbeing of the widows and orphans because He felt that way, not because He was obliged to think that way because Moses taught us to do so. Those who think they can dismiss their agony over the widow and the orphan are skipping an important lesson in life, one their children and grandchildren may have to pay a high price for in the agony we're witnessing in the animal world.

Obviously it's harder to honor someone who doesn't honor himself. It's harder to honor a man who dishonors your family's values. And if he dishonors your whole tribe, well, that makes it even more challenging to honor him and his tribe.

Anyone who believes gays and Jews are dishonoring his family values should take another look at what his family values look like up close. If Jews could raise their children to interact with the next generation of Germans after the War without humiliating their parents' choices during the War, young Americans can find ways to honor their own parents despite their anti-Semitism, racism, misogyny, xenophobia and homophobia. Sometimes you honor your parents by not doing what they do, but by honoring the spirit of their unconscious intentions.

Because straight parents are God's children too, gays have a duty to hold up the unique wisdom, love and generosity of spirit God gave all of us. What was once our closet has mysteriously been turned into a spiritual edifice to male love. As a Jew I only feel obliged to honor straight people, not to love them. I don't feel obliged to love women and children either. But by holding up my mother's values for others to witness, I'm doing what I can to honor the best in her. That makes me feel good about myself. How others feel about me isn't in my control. I'm above shaming people into improving themselves, but I'm not above teaching them to teach themselves as my mother did with me.

Since you can never be sure whether your thoughts are being influenced by your feelings or beliefs, in essence, you can't know what part of this inner trinity is controlling you. We're so consumed with thinking that we can't easily turn ourselves off "automatic" and onto "manual" drive to think about what we're thinking about.

Therefore procrastination can be a valuable tool in slowing down our actions. Wait to take action until you've asked yourself what your feelings, desires and beliefs have

contributed to your thinking. You'll be amazed at how impressionable you really are. Wait until you've received confirmation from your conscience that your thoughts and feelings are at peace with one another. If not, you'll bring your struggle out of your world and into ours.

Many young men want to feel that their testicles have descended. And in that spirit they may act impulsively on ideas that augment their feeling about themselves. Older, wiser men take action more slowly. They contemplate their proposed actions to scrutinize whether they're motivated by ego or common sense.

But those who procrastinate in order to get their way at a cost to the environment are stealing from other species to glorify themselves. This is an outrageous crime against nature, a holocaust of unprecedented evil. If the Christian sacrifice of Jews on the altar of insanity wasn't bad enough in the 20th Century and the desire of Muslims to destroy the Jewish State today, what mankind is doing to the animal and plant kingdom is the ultimate offense against God's creations.

I am a faith healer. A faith healer heals people of their doubts about the existence of God, one person at a time. But just because you may not have enough faith in the FIRST, MIDDLE or l a s t name of God doesn't mean that God doesn't care what you think of Him (Her or Them). He cares greatly. And He'll respond to your lack of faith anyway he deems necessary. Acts of God are given precisely to make that point.

Would it be so terrible for Jews to honor the Jewish mother/son relationship at Christmas? Would it be offensive to give pause at the torture and murder of a renowned rabbi at Easter? The attitude devoted Christians hold at those holidays is awesome if you consider the challenge in anyone outside our tribe holding even one Jew in high esteem. This historic outcome of Christ's effect on the world should leave all Jews feeling morally elevated, not deflated. And when Christians hold Him in highest esteem all Jews should feel hopeful that Muslims will someday learn to do similarly with all good Jews and Christians.

Forbidden fruit isn't actually sweet. Rich Jews started that rumor a long time ago and the ancient, poor Jews {who became Christians} bought into it. Until the fruits on your branches become permitted for you to pick, forbidden fruit will remain bitter, indeed.

We now live in a society where millions suffer from diabetes because they can't sweet themselves enough on the inside. And you can be sure the Muslims aren't going to buy into that nonsense. They don't have the sweet tooth Judaism created in the West. They're more into hot than sweet. For them the skin of the forbidden fruit is sour. The meat is salty and the core, bitter. They don't want to consume spiritual sweets at the expense of their relationship to God. God blesses them for that by keeping them hot and savory.

Jesus was the first seed of love God planted in our homeland, which was then called Palestine. Jesus was a Palestinian and a Jew, and until today's Palestinians recognize and honor Jesus for His moral contribution to humanity, they're not going to pay their debt to Western society, which includes a debt to Jesus and all the rest of the Jews. And until all Muslims give up their misplaced anger at the contribution Jesus made to the WORD of God that the P r o p h e t Mohammed later spread throughout the Middle East, they're not going to make much headway in accepting Israel as a gift from A L L A H. to humanity.

Until every gay-Jew can walk the streets freely from Cairo to Damascus, Beirut to Bagdad and Tarsus to Teheran, the Islamic world will continue to hold a grievance against the Jewish "prophet" who betrayed the Muslims by being born before their P r o p h e t. They're going to hold Hagar's grievance against Sarah and Ishmael's grievance against his father against all the Jews because it happened before their faith was revealed to the world.

Such loyalty is misplaced jealousy and envy that the third and youngest Abrahamic son holds against his older brothers. It's just exaggerated self-hate caused by millennia of retelling of the Abrahamic tales without psychological, spiritual insight. They're looking at religious life through the magnified side of a vanity mirror. All they see are the flaws.

In any good mother/son relationship, the mother presents her son with good questions and the son goes inside himself or out into the world to find the answers. Nowhere is this more evident than in the mother/Son relationship of Mary to Jesus. He not only went within to a place of depth and devotion to His Father to find the answers His mother brought up. He went out into the world to present to the world the answers to her questions.

The Greeks singled out the various expressions of love in human beings: agápe, éros, philía, etc. And by the Renaissance love had been elevated to a romantic notion that was accessible to the nobility in Christian-Europe who were well educated. Fairy tale romances between princes and princesses had to be disseminated from the courts of Europe down to the masses through the spoken word, something that wasn't accomplished until the 19th Century.

But today's concept of love is held by modern individuals who are literate and well informed regardless of their religious tradition. Modern man doesn't depend only on poets, troubadours, artists and musicians to show him how to express love in his life. He can express the creativity of his love individually, and he can even express it for himself.

The virtues of love that sculptors like Michelangelo and Rodin once hewed in stone or metal have come to life through dance, music, sports and individual expressions of creativity. To move love from a force between men and women only, and turn it into the spiritual love that dare not speak its name {self-love}, straights have had to schlep their conscience through their heart's revulsion of gay and lesbian expressions of love.

It's no coincidence they've done that on the historic heels anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and misogyny. The unfolding of Christ's love is a mysterious process that many are moving toward while walking backwards. They'd make a lot more progress if they'd turn around and looked where they're going.

Today everyone on Earth is a troubadour of love, a sculptor of moral conviction and an artistic expert on making love real. There isn't a man who doesn't speak about love, dream about it or pray for an inner world filled with the blessings of paradise on Earth. And yet he drops the notion of love as soon as he looks in the mirror and faces his own physical imperfections. The vanity mirror view of self-love can be quite terrifying. Self-love doesn't yet run deep in the heart of man because he sees himself as ugly and frightening, just as he perceives some or all of the institutions of faith.

The covenant of religious love in the Christian sense; the historical implications of romantic love in the cultural sense; the moral authority of the individual in the personal sense; and the virtues of self-love in the pursuit of emancipation before the Lord – are all interconnected. Jesus's WORDS apply to all these levels of the discussion of love.

Love is about the vessel, the filling of the vessel and the vessel when it's full. The crying baby who's picked up and held knows the bittersweet joy of love. The child who's lost and then found knows the mysterious journey of love. And the teen with his first crush on another person experiences the agony and ecstasy in the ongoing pursuit of the rapture of love. Love is a modern emotion despite its deep, Biblical roots.

Fear leads to anger; anger to sorrow; sorrow to guilt; and guilt to love. These are the four chambers of man's heart and the paths from one to the other. These are the figurative stepping-stones across your Jordan River into the Promised Land in your soul. These are the feelings God felt for Adam and Eve when they stole the fruit; when the children of the Israelites entered the Promised Land; when Jesus was crucified; and when the Prophet Mohammed sat down at Their table in Heaven.

Your feelings are as sacred as God's because they mirror the most essential aspect of His plan. This is what Jesus was telling our ancestors in the vernacular of His day, and this is what Torah has insinuated since God made His first conscious contact with Adam's lips and upon Abram's ears.

Religious nostalgia for the traditional ways it was in bygone days can't come to God-consciousness without sentimentality. Tenderness for a man's love of his personal past doesn't surface until he witnesses sentimentality in himself for himself.

Adam may have begun life feeling lonely, and he may have expressed guilt unconsciously and inadvertently after he started his adventure in learning about knowledge. But he didn't express tenderness toward "his" woman until he associated her existence with life itself. That's when and why he called her CHAVA {LIFE/EVE}.

There was no logical reason for him to have made this leap of faith. He simply felt that acknowledging the woman by giving her a name. It was a senseless act of kindness. And the name he gave her, CHAVA {life}, was pure inspiration. But it was the imminent loss of his homeland in Eden that drove Adam to admit he loved life, he loved Eve, and that he had hope that their future together, however hard it might be, would be meaningful to God.

The realization that God's love is really tender even if it appears to be tough requires wisdom of the heart, which begins with sentimentality for others and evolves through honoring those who loved you in your past before your cup could run over with self-love. God's tender love created soft feelings for yourself that you unconsciously first projected onto your mother, feelings you'll never be able to break through, although you probably foolishly tried many times in many ways to do.

Love is a projection you can't literally break. You can recognize it; own it; and then draw on the feeling of sorrow and loss with a greater sense of self-intimacy. But love will overwhelm you with grief at your mother's imperfections. What you decide to *do* in life is weighed in your conscience and agreed to by your mind. But your heart is no different than mine. You will honor your father and mother. These aren't things to do. They're descriptions of the way things are.

Sentimentality is pictured in every Madonna, every picture, statue or medallion of the Virgin Mary whether or not her Son is in the picture. Sentimentality is iconic. You see sentimentality of the Madonna and Child in every mother and child. You see sentimentality in your relationship with your own mother. The best decision you can make is to spread it around consciously. Your mother is your heart personified, just as Jesus is your father's heart personified. Perfection is harder to bear than you might have thought because your heart will always strive for what's ideal.

"y" you are the way you are, is because of the "x" factor. That will never change. The honor you give your mother and father are the two halves of the shell that contained the seed that you became. If you honor that one special Jew from Nazareth, you won't have to bother worrying about whether He was gay or straight. You won't have to bother wondering whether He really was chosen by God to be the Messiah or whether the Messiah hasn't yet come. Instead, you'll be able to wonder whether you're learning to honor yourself. If you can honor the mother and child relationship within you, you can access the "x" and "y" factors you need to discover who you are.

You've already honored Jesus in your heart regardless of whether He was gay, straight, divine or simply human in your own eyes. Watch your love, and let that observation unfold as it unfolds. Allow the intimacy of being you permeate your being. The wisdom of your heart is wiser than you think. You're ideal in only that one place in inner space.

God gave you two ventricles in your heart as a clue to you realizing you could feel two feelings simultaneously. If you feel bittersweet {disappointed but loving} that's perfectly plausible. If you feel sweet and sour {loving, but angry} that's reasonable, too. It may not be rational to feel angry and sad, but it happens all the time. It may drive you mad to feel guilty and innocent, but that's possible, too. Your heart was made without constraints on what it could feel.

Imagine your heart as a pump sending a river of red within you while pumping all the colors of the rainbow around you. You bleed feelings constantly. Your feelings gush out onto the world while crying up from the ground for justice.

But this world is dangerous because love alone is not enough. Without wisdom none of us will live long enough to enjoy the fruits of our labors of love. See yourself as a Lorna Doone cookie. You're a golden, square-shaped little shortbread. And the reason why you're so good is because you're just the right combination of sugar with a good deal of salt. Your generosity of spirit makes it possible for us to want to eat you up. The more there is of you to share with the rest of us, the more delectable everyone will know that you are.

Christ's edict to honor your fellow man is much wiser than loving him. As Jews and Christians, we were commanded in Torah to love our ~~neighbor~~ companions as ourselves, but we'd be lucky sometimes just to find good reason to like some of them. Therefore, love yourself by honoring others. If you want to give your love to God or Jesus that's a personal decision that no atheist should criticize you for. It's your love. Do with it as you please.

People love to talk, not because they're so interested in imparting their knowledge to others, but because talk is sex without physical exertion. Talk is intimacy without kissing. Talk is what every Eve and serpent {heart and penis} love doing. You should feel free to talk to anyone. You should feel that every conversation with another person is social nakedness in public that mirrors the nudity you enjoy in your bedroom.

Some men feel they can only talk to other men; some, only to women. Some don't believe they can achieve social intimacy with someone of another ethnicity. Some men freeze up when they discover the person they're talking to is gay or under the age of 18. Once you start to converse openly and easily with yourself, you'll discover that you have the courage to talk to everyone. You'll feel that you're in good company when you're alone, and you'll bring that comfort with yourself into conversations with others. Consider it a loving gesture to talk to yourself and an honor to talk to others.

It's a tremendous claim for Jesus to have said, "I ASSURE YOU THAT THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIS OWN ACCORD, BUT ONLY WHAT HE SEES THE FATHER DOING." Jesus had to have perceived what His Father was doing with His whole body to say such a thing. Such intimacy with God would normally make a man flinch in

fear or low self-esteem somewhere inside himself. Jesus believed He could see and accept the wisdom of God's ways. He felt He could feel our Father's love for Him.

His question on the cross, "WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" was a question many of the Jews surely asked themselves as they walked into the Nazi, shower rooms. I'm sure Jesus's faith was as great as many of the Jews headed for extermination. I'm sure He wasn't questioning God about Their relationship. I'm sure He said what He said to remind those around Him that He knew how frail and frightened they were. He knew they might one day be in a position when they, too, might question God's intention for them. I'm sure He wanted to impart to them that it's perfectly understandable and human to question God's motives when you're in great pain or suffering terribly. I'm sure God's reply to Him was, "Remember Your Father always loves You."

Thank God most Jews now know better than to stand by and watch as another Jew is mistreated, regardless what he believes or how he lives his life. Thank God the Jews sought vengeance from God after the Second World War rather than revenge. Thank God He rewarded us with Israel. Thank God most Jews are seeking a peaceful resolution to the Muslim issues of today. Thank God we want what will be best for them.

Every sprout that fights its way through rock and raises its head into the spiritual light of day is going to honor the Son. But let's not expect every sprout to flower and fruit overnight. It takes time to grow from seed to tree. It takes time to harvest grain and grape, and grind them down to make bread and wine. Even Rome, home to some of the world's most terrifying barbarians in the ancient past, was spiritually built day-by-day until it became the magnificent, world city and religious center it is today.

The problem with man isn't always ego. Sometimes he's just impatient. He wants what he wants when he wants it. And he's not ready to wait to earn what he think is his due.

Those who call themselves atheists aren't necessarily non-believers. They're just growing upside down like onions. They see the many layers of themselves and the shallow roots they exhibit for others to see. But they're unaware that they could be scallions reaching up into the light.

Those who call themselves agnostics aren't necessarily non-believers, either. They're just watching closely as each leaf unfolds from a branch of their tree, waiting questioningly to see if there's any evidence to hope for flowers and fruit. An agnostic sees the light and its separation from darkness. He just can't believe it all makes such good sense.

The title of this chapter was "Third Personal Singular." Your life is surrounded by people you refer to as "he" or "she" and things that you refer to as "it." The third person singular is an abstract concept that emanates out from within. Once you've awakened to this idea, perception of the Holy Spirit {It} isn't hard to achieve. Suddenly signs are

everywhere, and the mystery of your life becomes magical. Whether suddenly or slowly, you see that life is miraculous.

Fowl: The Gospel According to John

The Popularity Contest

“NOW YOU HAVE NEVER AT ANY TIME HEARD WHAT HE SAYS OR SEEN WHAT HE IS LIKE. NOR DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE HIS WORD IN YOUR HEARTS, FOR YOU REFUSE TO BELIEVE THE MAN WHO HE HAS SENT. YOU POUR OVER THE SCRIPTURES, FOR YOU IMAGINE THAT YOU WILL FIND ETERNAL LIFE IN THEM. AND ALL THE TIME THEY GIVE THEIR TESTIMONY TO ME! BUT YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO COME TO ME TO HAVE REAL LIFE! MEN’S APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL MEANS NOTHING TO ME, BUT I CAN TELL THAT YOU HAVE NONE OF THE LOVE OF GOD IN YOUR HEARTS. I HAVE COME IN THE NAME OF MY FATHER AND YOU WILL NOT ACCEPT ME. YET IF ANOTHER MAN COMES SIMPLY IN HIS OWN NAME, YOU WILL ACCEPT HIM. HOW ON EARTH CAN YOU BELIEVE WHILE YOU ARE FOREVER LOOKING FOR EACH OTHER’S APPROVAL AND NOT FOR THE GLORY THAT COMES FROM THE ONE GOD? THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO THINK THAT I HAVE COME TO ACCUSE YOU BEFORE THE FATHER. YOU ALREADY HAVE AN ACCUSER - MOSES, IN WHOM YOU PUT ALL YOUR CONFIDENCE! FOR IF YOU REALLY BELIEVED MOSES, YOU WOULD BE BOUND TO BELIEVE ME; FOR IT WAS ABOUT ME THAT HE WROTE. BUT IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE WHAT HE WROTE, HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE WHAT I SAY?” [John 5:37-47]

Jesus makes the link here between Moses and Himself. “FOR IF YOU REALLY BELIEVED MOSES, YOU WOULD BE BOUND TO BELIEVE ME; FOR IT WAS ABOUT ME THAT HE WROTE. BUT IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE WHAT HE WROTE, HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE WHAT I SAY?” I’m drawing the same conclusion as Jesus, only I’m including Islam in with the link between Judaism and Christianity because Jesus couldn’t make that connection at that time. I’m including the P r o p h e t Muhammed in with Moses and Jesus because God’s Scriptures are ongoing.

If you already believe in God’s wisdom you have to believe in His love. And if you believe in His love you’d believe in His generosity of spirit in allowing man the freedom to emancipate himself through redemption. This is the meaning of spiritual evolution. This is the cascading consequence of moral imperatives that lead you from your source of grounding at the shore where you see the sun light up the dawn in the sky of a magnificent new day.

If you follow the development in Torah that begins with Adam’s betrayal of God to Cain’s betrayal of his brother, you’ll see the thread of decreasing animosity and increasing love for brothers that ends with the spiritual partnership of Aaron and Moses. In this

augmented commitment of affection between men, Torah points to brotherly love as a harbinger of Jesus's devotion to His Father as His Son.

You, too, are learning to love men in order to increase your love for yourself. And you're learning to love yourself to have the freedom bestowed on you to then give that love to whomever you please. The more love you have to give yourself the more generous God will be with His humanity. And the cycle will continue at greater heights of goodness into every successive generation.

But evidence for Jesus's spiritual link to Moses can only be seen with your heart. And only with your heart will you be able connect the P r o p h e t Mohammed's contribution to the creation and maintenance of your soul. {This is the spiritual axiom I'll prove in my next book on Islam}.

The word "MITZRAYIM" in Hebrew means "EGYPT." MITZARIM means "NARROW PLACES." The birthing process of expelling the Israelites out of Egypt had to be explained as a religious passage from spiritual conception in the land God gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob {Canaan} to the land Joseph entered as a slave where the Israelites multiplied until they were ready to be spiritually born as God's Chosen People {Egypt}.

Today we're able to look at this religious model for the creation of the first religious tribe through the lens of it being a spiritual process that can be explained using the science of psychology and biology over time. Today each of us is the story of spiritual sperm that make its way into Mother Nature until we're born with a desire for the wellbeing of our planet.

We're born; born again into a spiritual puberty when we realize that our love of the Earth is something we never anticipated; and reborn yet again into a love for humanity until we can appreciate our liberation from spiritual slavery and emancipation proclamation before the Lord. Freedom leads to just laws; liberty to love free of guilt; and our love of our own emancipation leads each of us into a world of generosity of spirit that God rewards us with individually.

Some of us are chosen {Jews}; others are free to choose {Christian}; but there are those who've been elected {Muslims}. Why God brought one Jew into this world so different from all the others will only make more sense to you with more time and self-scrutiny. If you think He didn't know what He was doing when He created the P r o p h e t Mohammed you're sadly mistaken. God isn't unwise, hateful or mean-spirited. He'll never ask you to submit to His ways without giving you firsthand knowledge of why He does what He does.

If you think about your personal problems as lectures, assignments, homework, quizzes and tests preparing you for your final exam, you'll see yourself through wiser eyes. But if you want to look forward with increased hope for greater self-intimacy, you'll need to rethink your moral priorities. Just because most people once believed that God's plan

wouldn't include Jews and, recently, gays, doesn't mean God discussed His plans with them. The Nazis made that claim. How'd that work out for them? The Muslims think the world will do very well without Israel? How's that going these days? I think the future of gay people around the world is going to be just fine when people come to understand how valuable we are to maintaining their values.

But if Muslims in America think they can continue to use freedom without participating in it they're going to make the same mistake that the Germans made after the War. They're going to shrug their shoulders at what their people have done to the Jews and gays. They're going to make excuses for themselves. And they're going to be reviled for four generations until their great grandchildren will learn to carry the burden God is placing on their shoulders like men and not little boys.

Just because some can quote the Bible by chapter and verse to make it look like their argument is cemented in place with literal reflections on His WORD doesn't mean God has His plan written in stone. There are at least three instances in Torah when God changed His plan. One example was when Moses smashed the Ten Commandments and God then called him back up Mt. Sinai, to carve the second set of Commandments with his own hands. You can look up the other two examples yourself if you're interested, in Numbers 9:6 {Petition for a second Passover} and Numbers 27 {Petition for women to receive their father's inheritance}. God's plan is fluid. What He does next depends on what we do next.

Wisdom is your chisel and love is your stone. But you're going to do the hard work of making God's laws meaningful through the challenges He gives you day-by-day. And if you make a mistake while chiseling through the rock of reality to write His commandments yourself, petition God and He'll give you another way to make your masterpiece meaningful. Just don't scorn the process with cynicism. Don't copy the stereotype of the scornful Muslim radical who turns his Semitic nose up at anything Jewish, Christian or gay.

Jesus was quite right when He said, "YOU POUR OVER THE SCRIPTURES, FOR YOU IMAGINE THAT YOU WILL FIND ETERNAL LIFE IN THEM." The promise of eternal life is nowhere to be found in Tanach. Jews poured over it then and have done so since. And the greatest rabbis in every age can find no evidence of any promises of life after death anywhere in the Hebrew Testament. If you want to believe in Heaven, I suggest you first learn to believe in Hell on Earth. I suggest you look at what the Arabs and Persians are scheming on doing to the Israelis. And if you don't want to believe in Hell on Earth, you're just going to have to take every step forward on faith and see where that takes you.

Jesus said, "I HAVE COME IN THE NAME OF MY FATHER AND YOU WILL NOT ACCEPT ME," and, indeed, many around the world have not, and never will. His love for the world didn't require acceptance of Him then and it doesn't require it now. Nor

does His love require tolerance. It's not the goal of God for Jews and Muslims to tolerate Christianity or accept Christians. Love has nothing to do with tolerance or acceptance.

Love requires admiration. As you learn to admire Jesus, you'll honor Him by learning to admire love. And you'll love yourself for doing so. As the world learns to admire the Western tradition of the three of Abrahamic faiths, they'll see that everyone on Earth is doing a part to make this world one. Some are doing it consciously with admiration. Others are also doing it, but they're doing so unconsciously, often with scorn and derision. They're walking backwards into their future.

Love doesn't arrive C.O.D. Love is on a layaway plan that you pay for now and receive later. You only get what you get after you pay for it. God is no fool. He knows the heart of His creation. You have to practice loving those you don't like with honor to receive greater insight into your own nature. Condemning others for not being likable is a waste of your valuable time. Buy into the idea of self-love now, and you'll reap greater rewards from your purchase later.

The Sabbath days are Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Think of that 3-day weekend as your test day each week. What you think, feel, desire and believe then will determine the freedom, liberation and emancipation God will bestow upon you to utilize the following week. You'll see your goals personalized in yourself, your family, clan and tribes. There are no mistakes made by the Teacher.

God will show you how you're paying now for your own love later. Your future rewards will be based on what you learn from life today and how you prove it every Sabbath. You have to show Him what His principles mean to you before you can expect Him to bring further insight and reward to consciousness. Earn the *sense* you need, and the dollars you want will come.

The radical Muslims are jealous of what the Jews have built in their country, and they're envious of what the Jews have built in themselves. Many of them may never stop yearning for the destruction of Israel. They may not be able to stop. Their jealousy and envy may force them to continue to kill, rape, kidnap, main steal and lie. They're on a rampage of destruction because of self-hatred in projection. It's got nothing to do with ideology. It's all a question of spirituality.

Needless to say the corporations that are trying to run this world aren't people, but they're made up of people. And the reason why so many corporations have created such a bad reputation for themselves is because the collective conscience of all their employees is so low. Corporations need enormous spiritual oversight. They need to be reminded of what their leaders will be facing when they take their final exam.

So far the world has no problem in tolerating and accepting the standards we live by today. So far the median of self-love is very low. But every thought and feeling you have

that you weigh in your conscience can change all that. There was once a theory in Judaism that stated that God had 40 wise Jews in places of spiritual power guiding the world. Don't believe it for an instant. He has more than 40 million wise men running this world, and one of them might be you.

When you're ready to pay the price up front today for a greater future tomorrow, your work habits in the school of life will start to show results in your grades. Jesus saves, but do you? If you don't put aside some love for yourself every day, how will you accrue the investment that Moses expected you to make? If you don't give thought to what you're saving up for in your heart, you'll pay a price with a lack of self-interest in some area of your life that will come back to bite you.

The reason for all your material losses will become evident just before you die if not sooner. Death is the time when you leave behind all your financial investments, as well as your investment in your body. Death is the definitive divestment of your portfolio. The more of a trail of self-love you leave behind for others to emulate, the more at peace you'll be as you move into the ultimate unknown. And if the 1% think that doesn't apply to them, or that they can wait until the last ten minutes of their life to explore this axiom of every man's existence, they're going to leave very disappointed with the results of their spiritual master's thesis and Ph.D. dissertation. Money won't save you.

Question your emotions. When you're not tranquil, there's a great deal you can do to change within that will then change the world we share. Use guilt by first acknowledging the spiritual importance of tranquility to the development of your intelligence. When you're not tranquil, there's no one to go to other than yourself as you stand nude, naked and exposed before God each morning. Most of your fears depress you because they're self-initiated. They're fears you create and magnify internally. They're not real dangers. They're surreal dangers. And those are the most honest and sincere.

If you're frustrated with the way you feel about your life, bow your head and look at your toes because it's you who's been stepping on them and tripping you up. Rather than tell the world to make a friend of Jesus, make friends with yourselves, and leave other people's relationship to Jesus up to them. You'll find it'll be a lot easier to make a better friend of Jesus once you befriend more of yourself.

Nothing happens that God doesn't sign off on, so I guarantee you, you don't have to be afraid of asking Him the really hard questions you've been holding back out of courtesy. You don't even have to ask your questions of Him respectfully if you're really upset when you ask them. You can work on your behavior toward our Teacher further on down the line if you need to have a meltdown during your office hour appointment with Him. A good teacher will even answer a question asked in anger. God replied to Cain's rhetorical question {AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?} by protecting Cain to give him the time and

experience he needed to discover the answer for himself. Our Teacher will gladly reply to questions you dare ask, even if you have to ask them in an accusative tone. The only question is whether you'll be alert enough to see His reply and formulate a good answer.

God replies to prayers in the same way that a teacher tries to reply to stupid questions. Even if you think your questions are obvious to everyone but you, you deserve to have them answered. And just as a teacher will give a wayward student an assignment in response to a question he should have been able to answer himself, you will get answers from God.

God gives you the tools to find the answers yourself. The wisdom in this is that you need to hear yourself give you the right answer. You don't need to get it from the outside in.

Answers must come from you to be real. Don't tell the world what God told you. God doesn't talk to us. If you're hearing voices in your head question them. Those voices are yours even if they don't sound like they're coming from you. If you're hearing voices that aren't yours, get immediate psychiatric help. You're betraying yourself and need outside intervention.

God gives you the tools to answer your own questions because He wants you to admire yourself for finding the answers, not just for asking hard questions. This is a strategy any good teacher will tell you is needed to create critical thinking skills in students who will need to go out into the world to meet the challenges life will throw at them.

You need to be on very good speaking terms with yourself if you're going to pray effectively. Prayer is your way of reciting your lessons *in* loud instead of *out* loud. Prayer can be defined as either classroom discussion in your head on any subject with the Teacher or personal problems you reserve for His office hours that feel very private and confidential. But any thought you have that includes awareness of His presence can be called prayer.

It's fine if you can get along well with your classmates. It's terrific if you look at them as good books brought to you to peruse for personal edification. But they're just your tutors, not your Teacher. Develop a personal relationship with your Teacher during His office to discuss your personal issues in keeping up with the class assignments, and your classroom comportment will improve substantially as well.

There are three types in Yiddish folklore. The "schlemiel" spills the coffee. The "schlimazel" happens to be there when the accident occurs and the coffee spills all over him. And the "nebbish" cleans it up.

But the coffee is guilt, and it's very hot, wet and messy, especially if it's full of sugar and cream. It's better to be a schlimazel who has to accept an apology than a schlemiel who has to give it. And to be the nebbish who can see what happened and clean it up is a

real privilege that you should admire yourself for if God picks you to clean up other people's messes.

Being a nebbish is the first lesson from God before learning how to prolapse your testicles. Being able to set boundaries to protect yourself from those who would inadvertently hurt or use you is a divine art. And God teaches it to those who care enough about other people's feelings to erroneously sacrifice their own.

“HOW ON EARTH CAN YOU BELIEVE WHILE YOU ARE FOREVER LOOKING FOR EACH OTHER'S APPROVAL AND NOT FOR THE GLORY THAT COMES FROM THE ONE GOD?” A Teacher's pet shouldn't complain about his grades. He should realize that his attention isn't on learning to appreciate the forces within him to develop himself, but only on getting the Teacher to like him.

Pupils of life have no idea what I'm talking about. Students of life are only interested in each other's approval. Only the scholar is will to seek the glory than comes from working with our one God on improving himself. The rest see life as a school only when they have to or when they can play teacher to exact revenge.

Adam may have felt lonely before God created Eve, but Eve must have felt pretty awful when God was questioning Adam, especially in light of the fact that she knew she'd be questioned next. Who could she go to for answers while God was questioning Adam? Surely she must have thought about going back to the serpent for more advice, but wisely decided against doing that. And since there was no one else to ask, she obviously talked out the problem within herself before she said out loud what little she had to say {THE SERPENT DECEIVED ME, AND I ATE}.

After Eve, not another female character appears in Genesis until Sarai, Abraham's wife. The three faces of Eve lie in man's heart. They are “HAGAR” {FORLORN}; “SARAI” {QUARRELSOME} and “SARAH” {PRINCESS}.

When Abraham and Sarai couldn't conceive a child, Sarai convinced Abram to have sex with Hagar, her maid. It was this unlawful tribal union that brought Ishmael into existence {an outcome God was prepared to deal with}. There's no moral direction you can choose to go in that He can't accommodate with lessons of His love. The question you have to ask yourself is only why you'd choose to do so? Is the direction you're going wise and will the outcome prove your generosity of spirit?

As you earn the right from every Sarah {princess} to feel you're a prince of a guy because of the noble ways you make women feel entitled by our King you earn the right to visualize some part of the inner bully that's tormenting you, which will, in turn, improve your relationship with yourself, and consequently with all others.

Your reputation in your eyes today will make all the difference you're hoping for tomorrow. Save a bit more of yourself each day for you, and you'll have a lot more to invest yourself in, in the future.

“IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE WHAT {Moses} WROTE, HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE WHAT I SAY?” If you don't want to consider the message Jesus was bringing, it might well be because you don't really believe all that you're telling yourself. How can you believe anyone else's message if you don't trust and believe your own? Trusting yourself must come before trusting Moses and Jesus. And if you trust yourself more than Them, you should put your trust in yourself before the P r o p h e t Mohammed, too. You should put your trust in yourself even before your trust in God. You're that important to you!

The messages of Moses, Jesus and the P r o p h e t Mohammed are so deep, so mysterious and so soulful that you're doing yourself a terrible injustice if you take their words literally. Their relationships with God were so much more developed than ours because They found ways to express His desires using words with a depth of intention that can't be plummeted from the surface meaning of words we use with one another. You must find tutors with special gifts who can help you unlock the wisdom, love and generosity these men expressed about God. If you've been taught exclusivity, prejudice or malevolence, look for better tutors. Your previous tutors did you a disservice. Graduate cynicism with skepticism; skepticism with doubt; doubt with uncertainty – and you'll make your way to self-love through spiritual study.

Then you'll wake up in the morning and welcome yourself into a new day of self-study. When you get out of bed every morning, it shouldn't be how you make your bed that is as important as whom you make it for. It's not what you think about but the disposition you hold that starts your day on one side of the bed or the other. Sometimes getting out on the wrong side of the bed is all you need to put a Mona Lisa smile on your face before you walk out into the world.

It's understandable that you'll get depressed again and again by the unkindness and calloused disregard of others. But if you've been casually and habitually making your bed for your mother's sake, your boyfriend's or the trick who might come over at any moment, you're going to have to learn how to make your bed for yourself. But when your goal is *only* to love yourself, the hatefulness of others may still affect you, but it may not hurt quite as much. Walls against others' hurtfulness will only relieve you of their suffering. It won't end the suffering you cause yourself.

Housework isn't woman's work. Housework is a form of worship because every man's home is a spiritual mirror of his body. Everything you do for your outer environment becomes a reflection of how you feel about your inner environment. If your mood is lousy,

but your house is immaculately clean, you're domicile is sheltering you, but not welcoming you home.

When you clean your house; straighten up your drawers; or do laundry – pay attention to whatever thoughts come up while doing so. Your AVODA {INNER WORK/WORSHIP} will metaphorically reflect in the way you do your housework. Cleanliness used to be next to godliness. Today, if God is with you as you clean, cleanliness and godliness become prayer. They become ways of uniting your container and contents. Housework becomes a priestly task, and you become the custodian of your inner temple.

Don't check out while doing the dishes. Do the dishes mindfully. Don't straighten up your closet without paying attention to the skeletons in it. When you sweep the floor, don't sweep your emotions under the rug. You wouldn't do that to dirt. Why would you do it to you? When you wash your laundry remember to notice the difference between doing it privately and washing your laundry in public. If your heart and soul are engaged in what your mind is doing while you're doing what you're doing, you're going to prove to yourself that you aren't wasting your time.

Sentimentality is sadness caused by the passage of time. You become sentimental when you realize you've wasted an inordinate amount of time expressing beliefs that don't serve you anymore. The only control you have over the future is how you decide to fill your time from now on. If your time is spent on automatic pilot, you're in the driver's seat, but your transmission is in neutral and your engine is running idle. And if that's the case you're not going anywhere despite all the noise you make when you rev the gas.

As your mind makes these tiny efforts to become more engaged with your feelings in the present, you come to see the importance of your past having unfolded as it did. You become more enamored of the message of Jesus and the memory of Himself He left with today's grateful Christians in America. Those Christians in Europe who adopted His plan 2,000 years ago were unsuspecting benefactors of an important aspect of God's overall plan. Love conquered the Romans before love moved north in Europe, and love will someday conquer the Muslims to the south of the Europeans as Muslim loyalty to redemption conquers Europe.

The Jews are evidence of this progression despite the suffering each of our belief systems accuses the others of having started. We did nothing to offend the ancient Christians, and we're doing nothing to offend today's Muslims. The land is ours. The plan includes us. And the Muslims, like the Christians in the past, will have to get used to the facts and throw out their dogmas. With education, greater appreciation of Western civilization and the comforts of modernity, the Islamic world will be conquered by The Wisdom of Self-Love (title of the book I wrote before this one).

Learning to love yourself a little more tomorrow is the best reason for getting through today with a good attitude. Let the pupils run around the quad and the halls causing trouble. Let the students enjoy arguing with one another over who the Teacher loves more. Move your seat to the front of the class and get involved in something you believe in. Join the scholars who share the dream of a better future for our children, whether or not you have children.

“Armageddon” is a fine way to see the outcome of your education end if you’re one of life’s pupils. And the “apocalypse” is perfect for those only planning to graduate with an elementary school, spiritual certificate. But those interested in earning their Ph.D. in “me” are going to have to sit very close to the Teacher to learn more about the mysteries of self-love before they graduate.

Without self-love life isn’t just a very long trial; it becomes a sentence. You’ve got to get out of the feeling of being unmercifully judged by others and submit new evidence to the Judge of your effort day-by-day to reform yourself. It’s you who are “they.” It’s you who’s judging you under the guise of “them.” It’s you who’s pointing a finger at thin air. Like Michelangelo’s Adam there’s no one pointing his finger back at you except God.

You’ve got to feel you’ve hired the best spiritual defense attorney there is, a man who loves the law and who really respects you: you. You’ve got to feel you’re influencing the Judge and His jury in Heaven {Jesus and the Holy Spirit} with proof of your best intentions. You’ve got to weigh the evidence you present to yourself each day and prove your innocence or guilt on each and every charge. You’ve got to plead your case before yourself and be willing to prosecute you for each and every misdemeanor or felony you admit to yourself you’ve committed. And then you have to thank the Judge for every prison sentence He gives you each day and also for the time *out* you receive for good behavior.

The way you handle your daily physical, emotional and spiritual challenges may have become so habitual over your lifetime that you haven’t bothered to cross-examine yourself on what you’re actually doing with your subjective time on the inside. You may, at first, feel like a witness on the stand being grilled. But at least you’ll be the one doing the grilling... Nobody else needs to know the crimes you’ve committed against your own humanity. All the eyes inside you watching your trial are figments of your own imagination. The more you become aware of these inner influences on your persona, the more you’ll discover what a marvelous instrument of spirituality a human being can be.

You’ve already been handed a death sentence, so don’t sweat the rest. You’ve already worked your way from the back of the room to the front row in many of your classes. Don’t worry how or when the Teacher dismisses you from school. You’re a world-class expert on what it’s like to be one human being in the making. You can further develop your own brand of self-love either through the metaphor of us as criminals-having-to-face-our-Judge

or students-being-graded-by-our-Teacher. Whether you need to see yourself as a student at school or a defendant in court, you can use your imagination to succeed.

God created the world in six days, and after every day's work He concluded, "IT IS GOOD." But on the sixth day, when He created man, He judged His achievement that day and said, "IT IS VERY GOOD." Later He blessed Adam {every infant}. Then He defended the memory of Abel, and put a sign on Cain {every child}, to protect him from mankind's retribution. He also saved the most righteous man in his time, Noah, {every adolescent}, and gave the world the rainbow as a promise of hope to his progeny. He even destroyed the Tower of Babel to prepare the world, {every young man}, to look for Him on Earth rather than to spend his life vainly trying to get to Heaven to usurp His power in His heavenly abode above us. And, lastly, He gave Abraham, {every immature man}, a covenant in which He made even greater promises to all those in the Abrahamic traditions. And this is only a brief positive account of Genesis, chapters 1-24. For a God who's known to be so wrathful, He accomplished a great deal of good in short order.

Blessings, hope and promises are the gifts from God in Genesis, but nowhere in the Hebrew Testament does God state He's giving any of us guarantees or free passes. You have to see yourself as always on a journey with yourself to realize that you're both alone and never alone. Bless yourself {not just when you sneeze}. Hope for everyone's spiritual success. If you can keep all your promises to yourself, the gifts in Genesis will follow you through the rest of your tale.

When Jesus said, "MEN'S APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL MEANS NOTHING TO ME, BUT I CAN TELL THAT YOU HAVE NONE OF THE LOVE OF GOD IN YOUR HEARTS." He could see that his countrymen were still living in their head. They were talking heads with no idea of what was happening below their clavicles. A man like that won't be able tell you what's happening in his heart and soul, let alone what he's cooking up in his testicles.

The man who takes the Bible literally is a water skier who loves the sport of skimming the waves. But he knows nothing of the magnificent world beneath it. It feels exhilarated at covering so much of the world of water at such great speed. But it's an emotional sport that doesn't teach him to fathom the depth of Christ's WORDS. To love words you have to overcome your fear of diving into them.

Moses {the author of Torah} was as hard on Moses {the main character in four out of his five books} as he was on the Israelites. As the author of his own story, he had to be willing to examine his own fate, as well as find a way to understand and explain his incredible destiny with God. The lives of Moses, Jesus and the P r o p h e t Mohammed, when combined, describe a Jew {Moses} who murdered a pagan; a Jew {Jesus} who was

murdered by pagans; and a non-Jew {the P r o p h e t Mohammed} who was murdered by a Jewish woman.

“I HAVE COME IN THE NAME OF MY FATHER AND YOU WILL NOT ACCEPT ME. YET IF ANOTHER MAN COMES SIMPLY IN HIS OWN NAME, YOU WILL ACCEPT HIM.” The approval or disapproval we get from other men means more to us than we’d like to admit. We may tell ourselves we accept all others, but we’re actually sensitive to whether they’re emotionally ascending or descending as they come toward us. If they seemingly descend, as though from a higher spiritual plane, we respond with predetermined reaction of arrogance or humility. And if they ascend, we do the same. Rarely do men get the admiration of other men because rarely do they consider their own position vis-a-vie others.

Other men’s approval or disapproval may have meant nothing to Jesus, but the rest of us aren’t as spiritually evolved. He had good reason to admire Himself. It’s not so easy for us to be impressed anymore by holy men who believe everything they tell themselves. If cynicism doesn’t prevent us from getting burned, lack of cynicism does. The mystery and call to greater awareness eludes us all at times.

Why should God illuminate you after life if you scorned His constant presence all through your life? It makes more sense that people who live asleep die asleep and people who live awakening die to further awakening.

What makes the Christian Testament the middle piece of a three-piece spiritual puzzle is that a world with only guilt, love or generosity of spirit would fall apart. Man needs to learn that God loves him, not just that He isn’t angry with him. He needs to see the wisdom of God’s ways before he can appreciate His love. But only then can he come to believe in His generosity of spirit as a reward for his efforts made. Everything is unfolding in a direction God planned in advance because He knew in advance where He was taking us. But whether you choose to go in that direction or how quickly you choose to walk is entirely up to you. The Israelites only needed 40 years to get where God was taking them. How long do you estimate you’ll need?

The inner Jew, Christian and Muslim in you should never just try to make peace with one another. They should fill one another in the true sense of SHALOM. As you know, whenever you experience a moment of feeling happy, hopeful or helpful, it soon passes. If you should, even for an instant, conclude that you’re your own best friend, savor that peace of mind, because the war within will soon resume. The internal crusades never end. To hold on to your inner Israel for the duration of your time on Earth, you may have to watch your heart and soul fight over it.

Every thought you have is a twig; every idea is a branch; every concept, a leaf; and every inspiration is a bud that will burst into a flower of theories that will fruit into personal

opinions of yourself if you see your mind as a tree of knowledge. Once you climb down out of this tree with time and experience, you'll be able to use the wood of this tree to build an arc; a basket like the one that carried Moses across the Nile; or a spaceship that will take you through the spiritual realm on Earth to God's as yet unoccupied and awesome spiritual abode.

Anybody with a shred of common sense knows that forbidden fruit isn't forbidden once you've asked and have been granted permission to pick it. Fruit that's received honestly is much sweeter than forbidden fruit because sanctioned fruit is devoid of the bitter residual aftertaste left by guilt. Sanctioned fruit goes excellently with holy bread and wine at the same sitting.

There isn't a contract written that men haven't tried to find a way to squeeze out of. It doesn't matter if Jesus was God in the flesh or just a rabbi with a clever shtick {Yiddish: gimmick}. You've got to write a contract with yourself not even you can get out of. The only way to produce such an affidavit is to take honest appraisals of what you determine to be selfish and selfless, and seek the middle course: self-centering. Only by allowing yourself wiggle room on either side will you seek, what the ancient Greeks aptly called the golden mean.

Jesus made man's hypocritical nature apparent when He rhetorically asked, "HOW ON EARTH CAN YOU BELIEVE WHILE YOU ARE FOREVER LOOKING FOR EACH OTHER'S APPROVAL AND NOT FOR THE GLORY THAT COMES FROM THE ONE GOD?" He made it clear that other people's approval is useless until you honestly and sincerely earn your own approval as a reward from God. Your sense of inner esteem depends on you seeking your approval of yourself, not theirs. But that can only happen if honest thoughts and sincere feelings have a way to being united in your conscience without your penis interfering in their conversations with negative desires.

The struggle for awareness of God's participation in our lives lies deeper than just a union of mental, emotional and spiritual regard for the Jew, Christian and Muslim in you. This struggle includes the need to learn to love the male physical shape you've been embodied with. You don't have to be so in love with your male attributes that you force yourself into sexual attraction for other men. But you must aspire to be homoerotic enough to want to explore mental, emotional and spiritual intimacy with yourself without guilt.

Jacob dealt with sibling rivalry when his ten sons {by Leah} conspired against Joseph, the son he had with Rachel. The Jewish people are named after Jacob's fourth son, "Yehuda." "YEHUDA" means "THANKFUL" in Hebrew. In Torah Yehuda convinced his nine brothers to sell their half-brother Joseph into slavery, but Yehuda did so rather than condone killing Joseph as his brothers wanted to do.

Yehuda eventually apologized to Joseph and atoned for his behavior, and the Jewish people were named “YIHUDIM” {THANKFUL ONES: the plural form of the name Yehuda} because we, too, make mistakes that we learn to recognize. We, too, get caught up in schemes to lessen our guilt with easy answers, and ultimately then have to apologize and strive to atone for by doing better.

Jesus had twelve disciples, which mirrors Jacob’s twelve sons {Benjamin, the youngest, was born to Rachel after Joseph was sold into slavery}. But eleven of Jesus’s disciples believed in Him, while Judas betrayed Him. “Judas” is the Aramaic pronunciation of “Yehuda.” Judas eventually gave back the money he accepted as a bribe to kill Jesus, but he then killed himself. He atoned for his shame with suicide.

Today’s suicide bombers are blowing themselves up out of shame, not pride. They’re Judases betraying their people. Most Muslims don’t agree with these tactics, but they don’t yet realize how shameful suicide is when used as a tactic to convince people to change their beliefs.

If you want to have sex with men have at it. If you want to abort a fetus that’s your decision. And if you want to kill yourself, who am I to judge you for it? But if you want to control other people with your moral agenda that’s going too far.

Feelings of loyalty in tribal communities run as deeply as they do within families in nontribal societies. Although the family bonds are weakening in Western society, tribal hostilities, blood feuds and long standing grudges between clans are also losing their potency as individuals are learning to make their own conscience their guide rather than loyalty to their tribes.

As Muslims become more individualistic, more personal opinions will emerge in their societies that will defy the rule of law set down by their leaders. And that be expressed as God’s love for all His people as individuals instead of clans.

I’m in awe of the personal bravery of Zainab al-Khawaja, an activist in Bahrain who, eight months pregnant, stood up for her principles of freedom of expression despite likely imprisonment as a consequence by tearing up a picture of the king while in court. She claimed to be a free woman who’d give birth to a free baby even if that would have to happen while in prison. This is a woman whose bravery rivals that of the fruit vendor in Tunisia who immolated himself out of frustration at the lack of financial options in Muslim society.

As Muslims learn how to heal from mistakes made in the past ,without having to repeat the reaction of Judas {suicide} and the scapegoating of every modern thinker who’s accused of behaving like Judas, they’ll discover the mercy inherent in the Christian message of love and forgiveness, and they’ll apply it to themselves.

Gays, Jews and loving Christians are the harbingers of a new age in which embarrassment, shame and humiliation are coming to consciousness in each individual as a God-given moral imperative we love taking to heart. As Muslims learn to embrace the tenets of self-love, they'll discover that although God may have taught their ancestors that blood is thicker than water, the lesson for today is that love of the self is more precious than blood or water.

“THE WOLF WILL LIVE WITH THE LAMB, THE LEOPARD WILL LIE DOWN WITH THE GOAT, THE CALF AND THE LION AND THE YEARLING TOGETHER; AND A LITTLE CHILD WILL LEAD THEM.” [Isaiah 11:6] The challenge for every man to prepare for his heavenly future lies in his imagination, a place filled with lions and lambs, a place that must be tamed if he's ever going to teach the wild beast and the domesticated animal instincts in him to live together in peace.

You know that there's a lion in your penis and a lamb in his heart. You know the two of them will only come together in peace in your soul. And if they don't find peace and tranquility there, they surely won't find it after life wherever they end up.

Nobody can get in and watch your thoughts, feelings and desires with you. Nobody but you can commend you for the passion you put into communicating with yourself more effectively. Nobody can pierce your perception of yourself in the mirrors of your mind to point out to you what God's intentions for you are. “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL REST ON HIM - THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND OF UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND OF MIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND FEAR OF THE LORD – AND HE WILL DELIGHT IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD.” [Isaiah 11:1-3]

You start within with Adonai. You move out into the world we all share with Elohenu. And then you move back in again to Adonai. “SHAMA ISRAEL ADONAI ELOHENU ADONAI ECHAD.” {HEAR OH ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE.}

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| 1. Judaism | ADONAI |
| 1. Christianity | ELOHENU |
| 1. Islam | ADONAI |

When something happens to you because of weather conditions or natural disasters, these are acts of God that He allows to have happen. These sorts of misfortunes aren't punishment for anything you did in the past any more than your car or your wife is a trophy for something you did right. Your past is your past precisely because God sanctioned it to be as it was for you to look back on it with increased hindsight, insight and foresight. The present is the way it is with new reasons for being the way it is now.

Don't be superstitious. Superstition reveals your fear of God, not your awe of Him. The way that today turns out by tonight becomes the foundation for the lessons God will give

you tomorrow. Always plan for tomorrow. The lessons and assignments God gives you now are intended to deepen your heart and better your thinking for a stronger belief in more hope tomorrow.

Youth is like learning how to drive. Middle age is like learning how to get under the hood. And old age is like learning how to build a car from scratch. Granted, modern man is precocious. He can learn theory very quickly, but to put his theories into practice requires the experiences of a lifetime.

None of us has the ability to chauffeur the whole world. Even a train of thought can only carry a certain number of passengers and a limited amount of cargo. And yet, unless we teach others how to appreciate the vehicles they use that are representations of their inner forces, they aren't going to spend enough time in the driver's seat thinking about where they're going and what they're bringing with them. God gave the Jews a freeway and the Christians a highway, but none of us is going to drive more carefully on either until the Muslims teach us what they've learned about their own unique love of flying carpets.

Use your imagination wisely. Look at your fantasies as messages telling you how to improve yourself. Look at your dreams as messages telling you how to improve others. And look at your visions as messages telling you how to improve your relationship with God.

Jesus said, "IT'S EASIER FOR A CAMEL TO GO THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE THAN FOR SOMEONE WHO IS RICH TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD." [Mark 10:25] But what people don't talk about is the essence of this message. The camel was the ancient form of transportation that's equivalent to a BMW today. Jesus was comparing forms of transportation, the physical means of locomotion compared to our spiritual means of getting ahead.

But His message didn't end there. To "THREAD A NEEDLE WITH A CAMEL" turns our physical forms of transportation into a spiritual means to a hopeful end. In this analogy the ability to drive your vehicle through a small and difficult space is being joined with spiritual sewing practices. A man's life is like a tapestry with two sides. The outer world is the side he wants to look perfect, but the underside is the side that will be judged for its clean lines and attention to detail. In that sense your conscience is your "camel" that drives you. Your actions are the act of embroidering your life with beauty outcomes. But this process depends on a "needle," the thoughts you use to draw your feelings through the tapestry of your life into a meaningful wall hanging for God's realm.

Spiritual needlepoint isn't at all hard to do once you can plummet the depth of the WORDS Jesus was using. If your thoughts pierce the fabric from the underside and draw your feelings through to the outer world we share, you produce patterns that mirror the natural world around you. As your conscience makes the knot to hold your feelings in

place, you fully engage yourself in making your gift to God for having given you life. Every man must learn to do spiritual needlepoint whether he's rich or poor, masculine or feminine. Don't compare your embroidery to anyone else's, let alone a gay man's. The quantity and vibrant color of the emotional threads you choose are no less valuable to God than a gay man's or a Jew's.

Gays owe a deep debt of gratitude to God for the blessings of self-love we've earned for ourselves and have been allowed to share with the world. But it's vital that gay people worldwide continue to be encouraged to come out of the closet. It's up to everyone, not just those living in San Francisco, to show the world that God can allow His WORD/WORD/w o r d to be modified when done so with wisdom, love and generosity of spirit.

The inner tabernacle where God lives in our creative imagination produced the essence of the closet metaphor. This inner tabernacle has allowed us to bring His message out of ourselves and into humanity. It's up to gay people to continue to help guide the vast majority of straight people worldwide through the darkness they're still going through. If we don't, many men will continue to make this world into a living Hell for women and children.

God gave you a Jewish way of seeing Him; the Jews gave the world a Christian way of perceiving Him; and therefore you have two spiritual paths inside yourself that you must follow. If you can relate to yourself as a world within the world, a virtual reality within a shared reality, you'll appreciate your truth internally and how you're manifesting it externally. But if you look at history as only a record of man's inhumanity to man, and don't take it personally as an exploration of your humanity toward yourself, you'll miss the big picture.

Many will tell you they're not afraid of death. I say most people are more afraid of life than death. Too many feel they have life after life all sewn up, and so they refuse to do the spiritual work of coming alive. What kind of life do they expect to receive after life if they avoid the awakening process?

You've got to pay for your education in this school. No one is here on scholarship. If you want to progress from elementary to secondary school, and if you want to graduate from there to the university of life, you're going to have to learn to live for the love of life, not death. You're going to have to grow up. If you don't like the price you're having to pay for your education, a change of attitude is the only way to begin your negotiation of a partial refund.

When you magnify your importance in your life the WORD of God becomes personal and poetic. It loses its literal and oppressive intentions. Judaism becomes the lyrics God gave the world to teach us all how to sing a hopeful song. Christianity becomes the melody

that teaches us to read the notes He composed to match His lyrics. And Islam becomes the cadence, pauses and timing that give each w o r d and n o t e its awe and inspiration.

When Jesus preached in Jerusalem, the ancient, rich Jews at the top of the Mt. of Olives couldn't hear His message. His words literally went over their heads. It was the poor, water carriers who lived at the bottom of the hill who heard them. They were the wives and daughters of poor Jews without hope for a better future. Those women and girls who lugged water up the hill from the stream in the gully at the bottom took care of children in the filth that the rich literally pushed down the hill for those at the bottom to clean up.

Cleaning up the waste of the wealthy then left those women in a life of poverty, cruelty and hopelessness. Jesus's WORDS landed on their ears. He spoke to those of our ancestors who were poor and disenfranchised, not to the European barbarians who were occupying our land and who tempted our leaders with material comforts to betray the rest of us. Those women were the first hearts where Jesus's seeds found good, Jewish, Jerusalem earth in which to germinate and grow.

Later it would be the poor Gentiles in Europe who received hope from Jesus's teachings, and thereafter the poor in the Americas and elsewhere around the world. It's always been the poor and disenfranchised who've felt the humiliation of poverty and ignorance, and who've humbly asked God in their heart to remember and honor their prayers. Those at the bottom of His hill today are learning to listen to the lyrics and melody of hope in their own heart. And those today at the top of His hill are still throwing their filth down on the rest of us, deaf to our pleas.

This world is a reenactment of that scene on the Mt. of Olives. This world is one huge hill of power with ancient, rich Jews at the top and poor Jews at the bottom (regardless of where in the world you might be literally located or whatever tradition you pray from). The whole world is a Jerusalem in transformation. If orthodox Jews, radical Christians and fanatical Muslims think they have the wisdom and love and generosity of spirit to sit at the top of this pyramid of God's power, they're deluded. Their plan is going against God's plan.

The Al Aqsa Mosque pierces a Muslim sky, but it sits on Jewish land surrounded by a long-since dried up Christian gully. If Muslims wish to be guests in our land, they're going to have to learn to be better hosts in their lands. If they think they can insult Jews and gays with the inhospitable acts of rudeness they're presently demonstrating, they're going against everything a Semite stands for.

We stand for the generosity of spirit we saw in Abraham when, only days after his circumcision, he reached out to three strangers in his midst and welcomed them into his tent. No people on Earth know the inhospitable desert like we do. And no people on Earth

have been more educated by God on how to live hospitably with our brothers while surrounded by an inhospitable world.

Jesus contributed the symbolism that makes it possible to speak about the Church as the body of Christ. Judaism and Islam don't speak in this way about their believers, their institution or their relationship to the Deity. Only Christianity holds the relationship of every man with Him {#1}, and through Him {#2}, with Him {#3}. This is a curiously different way of approaching reality. But it has its merits.

Thanks to Judaism and the ability to unlock the metaphors that are the key to the embedded truth of Torah, Christians should now be able to see with greater clarity what their faith is doing for us all. Man is a soul in a heart in a head; three Russian dolls one inside the other; fruit with a peel, meat and a core. You have to move through these inner levels of awareness to see yourself as you were created if you want to become a conscious part of God's plan. You may know in your head that you were created in God's image, but until that knowledge comes to you through your head, heart and soul, it remains only hearsay.

"BERASHEET" is the first word of Torah. It means "IN THE BEGINNING," or with a more poetic license if you stretch the grammatical rules of Hebrew a bit, "AT THE ROOT OF IT ALL." The universe was brought into being through a "big bang," a seed that burst into being that created blossoming galaxies on unseen branches of gravitational forces. But at the unseen beginning of your own tree, there was a "little bang," which brought you into this world, a metaphoric seed that burst into life in this dimension. You are a mirror of the universe, a world within our world within the universe.

When you were created it was the biggest bang you could have ever imagined, and that mirrored the creation of the universe. Your creation brought you out of another of God's domains into His universe. It made you fall from His Tree of life into your very own Eden, where you've burst into life to make of it what you will.

You can ignore the WORDS of Jesus, but you can't escape them. The Apostles wisely remembered His body, but they didn't describe it, so that when you'd read Jesus's WORDS, they'd always be disembodied. His WORDS are pure spirit because your mind can't truly see who really said them. You have to move through the darkness within yourself to seek Him subjectively, just as man is learning to move through outer space to seek truth and reason objectively.

"BELIEVE ME," REPLIED JESUS, "YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ME NOW NOT BECAUSE YOU SAW MY SIGNS, BUT BECAUSE YOU ATE THAT FOOD AND HAD ALL YOU WANTED. YOU SHOULD NOT WORK FOR THE FOOD WHICH DOES NOT LAST, BUT FOR THE FOOD WHICH LASTS ON INTO ETERNAL LIFE.

THIS IS THE FOOD THE SON OF MAN WILL GIVE YOU, AND HE IS THE ONE WHO BEARS THE STAMP OF GOD THE FATHER.” [John 6:26-27]

The food that we have all eaten and filled up on is forbidden fruit and the guilt that comes with it. It doesn't last, precisely because knowledge has taught us to *ask* for what we want, and not simply *take* what we want as would a wild animal. The food that lasts on into eternal life is the wisdom that comes from having made mistakes, the love that comes with being in a human body, and the generosity of spirit that you add to your experiences as you see fit. These are foods for the gods.

“THE ONE WHO BEARS THE STAMP OF GOD THE FATHER” is the one who has been stamped, favored, and given a seal of approval. A stamp is a marking, a sign or a feature, something that validates something else. Jesus claimed to be stamped by God, approved by Him and validated. And He, in return, has bestowed His stamp of approval upon everyone. Today, we all look for evidence of this stamp in the ways we've been touched by love. This stamp isn't only straight, white or wealthy. Jesus's validation doesn't even require you to pray to Him. He was an intermediary between God and man, an ambassador of faith to those at that time. Christians who love God's gift of love and the man who brought it don't have to convince the rest of us to become Christian to enjoy His blessings, any more than a straight man has to promote heterosexuality to prove his love for women.

Those who sit down to the Lord's meal without understanding the nature of His nourishment are conducting an exercise fraught with frustration and futility. They don't know the recipe for making what they're eating. They can't be truly grateful for the union of communion if they don't know how Jesus's grain and grape were planted, watered and harvested for Their spiritual table.

“YOU SHOULD NOT WORK FOR THE FOOD WHICH DOES NOT LAST, BUT FOR THE FOOD WHICH LASTS ON INTO ETERNAL LIFE.” You should look for the spiritual nourishment that began as forbidden fruit before you look for eternal bread and spiritual wine. Don't try to become loving before you become wise. You'll embarrass yourself. You'll shame others, and God will have to humiliate you to teach you what you need to know to pass your classes to move ahead.

The man who lives like a fish in denial of his inner spiritual environment will die like a fish, drowning, without a clue to the grandeur of the world above him. But the man who lives in the spirit of the Lord, caring for the poor and disenfranchised, lives in a better realm, a world of eternal love that raises him up with hope. He's crossed over his Jordan from a there-and-then our ancestors accomplished with Joshua to a here-and-now in an inner Israel with Jesus, a spiritual transition that validates the wanderings of the Israelites for their resilience in coming home.

The question of what eternal life will look like is preposterous if you give serious consideration to the dogma of being in this animal skin forever, a container that requires so much attention to food, shelter and clothing, and is only well-adapted to life on planet Earth. But being without a body and intermingling with others only in spirit seems equally unattractive and invasive if you've grown accustomed to being a human being.

I envision the next life to be a school for those who graduate 3D in which our Teacher will challenge us to get to know Him in four ways, the three dimensions we now know plus time. This would correspond to the 4th Commandment, keeping the Sabbath holy, a world where time will somehow lie in our hands, and we'll come to know the Lord in yet one more dimension. Perhaps we'll be able to fly through our earthly past and watch ourselves as we sat in class the first time, like a parent seated at the back of the room watching his kid. Perhaps we'll learn from what we did this time around by watching our outer world from outside our body while experiencing it simultaneously a second time from within. You could learn a lot more about yourself if you were experiencing outer place and inner space while on another spiritual platform.

To prepare yourself for whatever might come next, you should take your life on Earth so personally that you wouldn't be embarrassed at having to watch yourself as you go through it again if it were recorded on spiritual tape. When you realize life is compounded with experiences that intensify the most subtle of feelings, the classroom experience may be based in some way on morally observing what you did in your lifetime to awaken you to moral choices that kept you asleep and dreaming through your life. Taking a second test based on the first test would be a creative way of deepening your understanding of the subject matter.

"THE STAMP OF OUR FATHER" that Jesus referred to might be His sign of what's in store for all of us after we die. A sign is an object or event that indicates the presence or probable occurrence of something else. God put a sign on Cain to protect him from the opinions of men who'd otherwise judge him. The sign Jesus spoke of was a sign of mercy. It was a sign of emotional understanding of what motivates men to become vindictive.

The more you achieve wisdom of the heart in this lifetime, the better you'll be prepared for what comes next. Those who are able to entertain the feelings of homophobes and anti-Semites will be able to help such people heal. For there are no men more unwell than those who hate you for the way you love and Whom you love.

"YOU SHOULD NOT WORK FOR THE FOOD WHICH DOES NOT LAST, BUT FOR THE FOOD WHICH LASTS ON INTO ETERNAL LIFE." Life isn't a banquet. Life is a potluck. And, what's more it's self-serve. Don't sit there licking your lips as you hear what's on the menu. Don't wait for someone to come take your order. Get up and get what you want in as ethical a manner as you possibly can. Make something each day out of your

relationship with yourself, and you'll see more of your dreams become realized around you as you work for them becoming metaphorically addressed within.

Those who followed Jesus's teachings for the first 200-300 years after His death were, for the most part, other Jews and a smattering of Greeks, Romans and nearby Mediterranean neighbors. It was only after the leadership of the Church in Europe was taken over by non-Jews that problems began for Jews from Christians.

And today, when economic or political tensions run high, it's still the Jews that nations, organizations, institutions and individuals turn to in the West to blame when they feel they haven't been well held by God. Christians return to the theme of them being new and improved, and us as old and over the hill. God's plan is more like a school than a laundry. We're here to learn, not here to come out spiritually washed, dried, ironed, folded and laid to rest in box next to others.

Jews didn't invent sex. Moses cleverly wove sex and psychology in with the metaphor of his Creation Story. And Jesus improved sex by associating it with love. But as I watched 300,000 of my peers die from the AIDS epidemic, it became evident that too much love is as bad as too little. Lust works best when it leads to the love of one, special person. And the love of another is really only successful if it makes you aware of how deeply you love yourself.

After all the enemies my Jewish ancestors had to defeat before Jesus came onto the world scene, it's understandable that many of the Jews at the time of Jesus were cynical of Him and His followers. Some Jews today look at Jesus as the Jew who, more than any other, betrayed the Jews, when it was His European, non-Jewish followers who misread His message. And even their misunderstanding was only because they knew so little about the only book He read and quoted {Torah}.

Anti-Semitism isn't the underlying reason for xenophobia, homophobia and misogyny. Self-loathing is. If Christianity had considered history more judiciously they would have blamed the Italian descendants of the Romans for the death of Jesus, not the Jews. Hitler would have gathered all the Italians into concentration camps and gassed them in ovens.

All Europeans have had problems accepting neighbors who were different from them, but none so egregiously as the Jews. It wasn't until the Jews made their way out of Europe to America that we Americans saved the Europeans from themselves with more enlightened ideas of the meaning of loving your neighbor as yourself. Now it's the philosophy of self-love from our spiritual shores on the West coast that ripples out to the world. Europeans now turn to Californians for spiritual enlightenment, not just technical prowess.

Rightwing Christian-Americans who blame gay-Jews for breaking the laws of Leviticus have reached the height ofchutzpah. It's not for them to legislate the laws God

gave to the Jews. How dare they use the Jewish Holy Scriptures against the Jews and rationalize their position with only 15% of Jews in America to support their “fekakte” {Yiddish: shitty} plans? Their opinions of us are overly emotional and severely lacking in wisdom or self-love.

Although same-sex marriages are not performed in Israel, Israel recognizes same-sex marriages performed elsewhere, making it the first and only country in the Middle East and Asia to do so. Same-sex sexual activity was legalized in Israel in 1988, although the former {British} law against sodomy hasn’t been enforced since a court decision in 1963.

Gratitude to people, like all other emotions, is for practice. The more you can practice expressing your gratitude to others in place of your fear, anger or sorrow for what you had to go through in the past, the more you’ll be allowed to express your gratitude to yourself for who you are today. Freedom is a privilege, not a right. God will allow you to experience more devotion to yourself {liberty} as you earn it. And when enough people have been emancipated in this way, leaders will emerge who’ll be able to make peace at home, in the Middle East and worldwide.

The difference between cynicism and skepticism is a heartfelt, loving response to a problem. The little bit of light your heart shines into the darkness in your head will illuminate your thoughts to the spiritual potential of God’s plan. Opinions are often dark and cold because they haven’t been warmed with enlightenment and optimism. Once you agree that you’re here to learn about yourself above all else, the situation on the ground as seen from your sea or sky will look a lot brighter.

Illness, financial catastrophes, crimes against your personhood and losses from love are challenges that aren’t brought to you by a “devil” with satanic powers, but by a shriveled up old guy named Dick. God has allowed all misfortunes to occur as part of your spiritual curriculum, but you can graduate these classes with honor if you keep your eye on the prize: learning about your love through it all.

The title of this chapter was “The Popularity Contest.” But the contest has always been between you and yourself, not between you and anyone else. As you watch yourself think, a thousand thoughts may go through your mind each day that you attribute to what others are thinking about you. You’re really assessing distant opinions of yourself without realizing how your imagination uses others as placeholders to work out the moral equations you’re trying to solve from within.

What others think of you is unavailable to you unless you ask them, even if you might be completely correct in your anticipation of their response. I’m not so naïve as to think that your assessment of the heads, hearts and consciences of others isn’t within your skill set. What I’m suggesting is that the emotional importance you place on your assessments of others is.

The emotional weight you put on how others may react to you is dependent on the increasing wisdom in your own heart. Too much or too little attention to these feelings will affect your moral compass. Other people's impressions of you are stamps of approval or disapproval that you've embossed onto your brain. These seals of approval can be broken in your own mind. Break through these projections and you'll come to see yourself in a whole new moral light.

Fowl: The Gospel According to John

Bread From Heaven

“WHAT MATTERS IS NOT THAT MOSES GAVE YOU BREAD FROM HEAVEN, BUT THAT MY FATHER IS GIVING YOU THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN. FOR THE BREAD OF GOD WHICH COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN GIVES LIFE TO THE WORLD.” Here Jesus is drawing a comparison between the miracle of the manna, the thin flakes the Israelites found on the ground that God literally rained down upon them while they wandered in the desert, and the figurative manna of love with which He promised to sustain the world in a whole, new way. Jesus’s manna was presented in the five loaves and two fishes He used to feed a multitude.

Before the Israelites embarked on the Exodus, they baked their bread {MATZO: UNLEAVENED BREAD} before it had time to rise, fearing Pharaoh would change his mind and not let them go. This is called the bread of affliction, and it’s a reminder of the horrors of slavery. Then, when the Israelites were finally free from bondage in Egypt but starving in the desert, God sent them manna from heaven that sustained their physical hunger for 40 years.

For the eight days during the festival of Passover, Jews are asked to remember the great gift freedom has been to us by recreating in ourselves the Israelite hunger for the little bit of time needed to leaven bread in peace and quiet. Passover takes place in the spring, and Yom Kippur occurs ten days after the Jewish New Year in the fall. During Yom Kippur observant Jews fast for 24 hours to recreate all the hungers we don’t otherwise have to bear. The differences in these holiday seasons of spring and fall become profound when you’re politically free from the worry of slavery and physically free from worry of malnutrition. But these holidays become even more important when you realize that there’s still one more spiritual bread you hunger for that will make your life even more satisfying. And that bread is your own flesh and blood. The bread you break with yourself is the sign of peace and tranquility you achieve with the container you’ve been given.

Jesus chose to minister to the poor Jews in the Galilee who were politically marginalized and physically malnourished. The word “MANNA” mean’s “SERVING.” MANNA was described as white like coriander seeds and tasted like wafers made of honey. When Jesus reminded the Jews that God had given our ancestors manna each day during the Exodus, the Jews He was speaking to already knew all about it. They knew from Torah that each Israelite received his daily serving, but only if he didn’t hoard any of it, or try to sell or trade it, as God warned them in Torah not to do. These Jews already knew God served the Israelites individual-sized portions of manna for six days each week, and on the sixth day He gave them a double portion to carry them through the Sabbath. When Jesus

said, “WHAT MATTERS IS NOT THAT MOSES GAVE YOU BREAD FROM HEAVEN” they anticipated what He was about to say in a way modern men don’t.

The manna or TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN Jesus described would be better translated as “RIGHTEOUS SERVING.” Each of us is given a righteous serving each day from God. This serving is time and space in which to learn about ourselves. Therefore each of us must decide what he’s going to do with this gift, whether to use it cooperatively and generously to help your whole tribe or spitefully to promote just those who think and feel only as you do. “THE BREAD OF GOD WHICH COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN GIVES LIFE TO THE WORLD,” BUT only when we receive our daily portion with gratitude and humility vowing to use it righteously. God watches what we do with every morsel we’re given. Your serving is meant to give life to your world, but if you only grumble about what others are doing with their portion, your serving will be wasted. Don’t waste a morsel of your serving. Make every crumb count.

On the night before He was to die, Jesus equated His body to matzo and His blood to the wine they were drinking at the Passover meal, and in so doing He described in symbolic terms His spiritual hunger for life and thirst for love. Your fear of God forsaking you must be as real for you as it was that night for Him. You can’t fall asleep as did His disciples that night. Jesus’s contribution may have been far greater than yours or mine, but we have the ability to know how He must have felt; not because we’re Christian, but because He was as human as we are. He had feelings about being abandoned by those who claimed to love Him the night before He was to die. He had feelings about their apathy and abandonment that you know so well.

Jesus didn’t die in vain, even though the men who supported Him didn’t always give Him the feeling of being well supported. You don’t have to behave like Judas to let others know that you’re not emotionally there for them. Jesus helped His tribesmen see that their sacrifices would never only be for the Jews who agreed with them, but for all humanity whether they love you or not.

As you learn to use your body and blood more righteously to magnify His gift of love, your spiritual serving will be increased. This change in the portion you receive each day will become emotionally obvious to you over time. When you wake up in the morning the first thing your heart will do is look for the manna you’ve received that day. This is the hunger you yearn for when you wake up, and this is the MANNA {SERVING} you’ll receive that will be determined by the test results on your previous Sabbath. The only question is how to get a bigger and better portion...

As a Jew, Jesus was one of God’s chosen, but chosen for a very special job. He may have been the stepson of a carpenter, but He was the Son of a universal Father who gave

Him the freedom to make very special choices about what He was going to do with His life.

You also have choices about what you're going to do with your life. The ancient, rich Jews at the time of Jesus were realists. They looked at the political situation and at their past military successes, especially under the Greeks. They looked at the way they'd been praying for hundreds of years with Temple sacrifices and chose to maintain the course they were on, which included the military and religious conservancy in their traditions.

The poor Jews were idealists. They were internally rather than externally focused. They saw the need for Judaism to be modernized, so they identified with Jesus's anger and the reason for Him turning over the tables of the moneychangers. These poor Jews were oppressed by both the rich Jews and the Romans, and sought an answer that would come from a new direction. They embarked on this new frontier without the psychological tools we have today. We got everything they asked for.

If you're Jewish, there's another Jew inside of you. He's in your heart, and you probably don't even know it. (Please look up the lyrics to Paul Simon's song, "Something So Right." "It took a little time, but You calmed me down." I resonate with these lyrics because the concept of love personified is so obvious and yet so miraculously ideal. "It's apt to confuse me. It's such an unusual sight. Oh, I can't get used to something so right.")

Needless to say God listened to the prayers of both the ancient rich and poor Jews alike and presented us with the history we have. You could say that none of their prayers were answered in the affirmative. Militarily, all the ancient Jews lost their homeland to the Romans, and we didn't get it back until 2,000 years later. In terms of Temple worship, they lost the way of outward practice through destroying animals. That practice we never want to see returned to our faith. But what we all know now is that God's love exists both around us and within, and He presents us with challenges in both realms to prove to the world that it is real.

A man who's lost his physical freedom with monetary oppression still has the freedom to make emotional choices. No Roman brute then or billionaire today can take your emotional choices away from you. To enjoy the satisfaction of being free from emotional hunger you must look to your heart for guidance, not your biceps. You must pursue liberty once you have freedom. Never use revenge as your motive.

Jesus created the symbol love-as-food-for-the-soul. He gave us the language by which to see ourselves in spiritual containers, three dolls, one inside the other. Call those dolls, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Jew, Christian and Muslim; or head, heart and soul. It doesn't matter what you call these forces that lie one within the other. When you learn to fill yourself with God's emotional and spiritual servings for today, you nourish your mind as well as your heart and soul. You become wiser and more capable of monitoring your own

inclination to do crazy things. Only then can you be sure that your children will see the Promised Land you're leading them to, even if you only get closer than those who came before you.

Your intellectual understanding of life is the largest container of all. Your feelings lie within that, and your beliefs within that. But most people think they're locked in their head. You're locked in your body, not your head. The bigger your head gets, the more room there is for your heart to grow. The larger your heart grows the more room there is for your soul to fit inside it. Stop yourself from thinking spiteful thoughts about those who frighten you, and watch as your soul swells with pride. Watch yourself when you manage your feelings and you'll discover what it feels like to be soulful. It's rapture in the flesh. It's self-love at the deepest level of experience. Once you love yourself for having a cleaner conscience, you'll be overwhelmed with a desire to thank God for the way He made you. When you go up to Him in this way, He'll come down to you, too. And you won't feel empty any longer.

Whether or not others know anything about metaphor, symbolism or simile, God will send down manna from heaven through their soul to cover the ground in their head with their daily serving. "MY FATHER IS GIVING YOU THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN. FOR THE BREAD OF GOD WHICH COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN GIVES LIFE TO THE WORLD."

Moses gave you the tools to clean up your head. Jesus gave you the tools to clean up your heart, and the Prophet Mohammed will give the world the tools we need to clean up our soul once the Muslims have a head and heart big enough to help out. The Prophet Mohammed was the outsider to the Jewish and Christian traditions who gave us a stranger's point of view to what's going on inside ourselves.

Sadly, the Abrahamic faiths have been so calcified that there's little communication nowadays between the Jewish, Christian and the Muslim extremists. The only way for us to combat the problem of extremism is to internalize it and use it against ourselves as a form of self-purification. The more outlandish your beliefs, the more you're going to need good thoughts and loving feelings to counter them if you're going to find the golden mean within yourself.

Don't bother to be God's one and only gift to the world. It's been done before, and it was done to death. Be God's one and only gift to *your* world. Nourish yourself with conscious awareness of all that you've given yourself until now. Receive your daily serving by modeling your feelings for yourself as was the tradition of the rabbi from Nazareth. Share communion with yourself, and you'll hold His message with regard in your heart. Break bread with yourselves, and you'll be amazed at how your character flaws will come to consciousness, and you'll be able to heal yourself, yourself. And whether you happen to

be a Jew, Christian or Muslim, reading these words will leave you amazed at how much more Jewish, Christian or Muslim you'll feel from this process.

If you hate your body there's no way you're going to be able to express your love for yourself as a spiritual container. If you compromise yourself with cigarettes, drugs, alcohol and unclean foods, your container is going to figuratively corrode, develop holes and leak. If you poke holes in a plastic bottle of catsup and squeeze the bottle, don't be surprised when the sauce comes shooting out in all sorts of unexpected directions and makes a mess. So don't poke holes in a spiritual container to try to figure out what's in it. There are smarter ways to get inside yourself.

The problem for most people isn't how to get into themselves, but how to get out. Most people are spiritually claustrophobic. Every time they have a meltdown they turn into a Gazan who feels he's locked in a small space and can't get out without losing his self-esteem in the process. In fact, humiliation from God is a lot like the feelings Hamas must be having in having gotten into something that they don't know how to find their way out of except through shelling.

Ironically, "shelling" is precisely the spiritual action we all took as a seed to get out of our mother in order to see the light. The humiliation of birth must be accompanied by discarding many more shells in life. The shell of childhood is discarded at puberty. The shell of materialism is discarded with being reborn. But going through these stages of growth will be easier with God's help rather than without it. You've got to appreciate that He got you into your problems, and with guilt, love and generosity of spirit you can get out of them.

But embarrassment of your body and shame of your behavior won't be enough. There comes a point when we all have to face humiliation before ourselves in anticipation of the final humiliation before our Creator. If you leave here without practicing all three forms of guilt, your final effort to get out will be a humiliation that will exceed your expectations.

Modern man has less difficulty with matters presented to him in the abstract than our Jewish ancestors did 2,000 years ago. In fact, we're so accustomed to abstract thinking nowadays that we become suspicious of ideas that are emotionally meaningful to us. This internal redirection of focus from thoughts through feelings to beliefs has to be scrutinized for moral intention. You've got to check your desires as you crisscross the core {beliefs}, meat {emotions} and skin {thoughts} of your being. The whole purpose of having allowed man to eat from the Tree of knowledge in the first place was to teach him to face his fear of guilt in order to discover his love for himself and, by extension, life.

But as a man discovers his fear of being mortal; his anger at being so frail and human; and his sorrow at needing others to teach him how to be divine – he slowly becomes spiritually claustrophobic. He wants out of this *thing* he never asked to be put into in the

first place. He may get hysterical and suicidal in an effort to speed up the process. He may realize there really is a God, but he becomes unwilling to work with Him. The promises of his serpent fade away. Suddenly a man sees that there are many ways out of his body that are immoral, but that there are so few ways out that are divine and just. Suddenly killing himself and others isn't as appealing as a moral solution to his problems. Suddenly he dabbles in soulful considerations instead. He suddenly realizes that he wants to show himself that he has a heart.

There's been a great increase in appreciation of the human body in the last two generations thanks to the freedom we have from working oppressively long hours. Some of this comes thanks to science, which has replaced manual labor with machinery. Some is thanks to the secular education and medical advancements that have taught us so much about extending the time we have to be in a human body. Thanks to extended leisure time, people have developed the insight to see how repressed their family was in the past.

Exercise, sports, dance, guilt-free sex and modern medicine are the spiritual rewards of Jesus's spiritual manna of self-love that still rains down from heaven upon us all and is flooding the Earth in a whole new way. Those who don't like the direction we're going in loathe their body as they would a prison sentence or a lifelong sentence to life in Gaza. There's not more you can do for them except remind them of the humiliation Adam brought upon himself. There's not much more you can do, other than throw them a life preserver and tell them to just hold on if they don't want to learn to swim.

You are the manna that has fallen from heaven to Earth this day. You are the hungry Israelite wandering in the desert who gathers it up in single servings. You are a Moses taking yourself on a journey through a new desert in a new age. Your body is the bread of life and bread of affliction God gave you to feed upon for the duration of this trip. Don't waste your body by giving it to those who won't appreciate it or by letting it grow stale with disuse.

Manna came down to earth and was consumed on Earth, but you aren't going to remain on the ground forever. If you don't make good use of your body, you're going to be sorry when you see how little you're leaving behind of yourself for this world to enjoy after you're gone. They will soon forget your contribution. You'd better look to God to remember you.

Youth is a time to learn to use your head. Middle age is a time to learn to use your heart. And old age is a time for soulful reflection. If you don't want to do it in that order do it your own way, but do it all. People who don't learn to use their head to question moral matters from within will never be able to graduate to wisdom of the heart. And those with ice in their veins won't be given the moral tools to discover what it means to become generous of spirit. You must start with your body, whatever you do. There are clusters of

muscles made to work together that will teach you poise and elegance from the inside out. Don't waste a day without dance.

Imagine you're at the beach walking into the water until you're up to your nose in the waves. Your feet can feel the sand beneath them. Your lungs can feel that you're breathing more deeply than usual, and your eyes can see the surface of the water as well as the sky. This is the spiritual experience of being a modern American. Your feet are grounded although buoyant. Your body is submerged in feelings and sensations that make you feel light inside, but your head is just above the waves in the realm of the spirit where you can see it all clearly with your eyes wide open. Never forget who you are and where you are. You are so blessed.

The concept of spiritual symbolism was so vast and awesome an idea when Jesus presented it that it had to be integrated slowly into Western society over the course of millennia. My message may hardly be much in the way of news as I present to you now, but you know in your heart you can't build upon symbols without appreciating their roots in metaphor, and you won't be able to live and love everyone without a world of similes to compare and contrast yourself to how you were before. Recognizing the profound depth of the WORD of God will turn Torah into a Rosetta stone for all the world's sacred texts.

Once you understand symbolic logic, you'll understand the difference between honoring others and loving yourself. You honor your parents by doing what they did right and refusing to do what they did wrong. You honor your relations, neighbors, friends and co-workers the same way. You start with the two people closest to you, and you move further and further away from your core with the same principle. This is why Jesus asked you to honor Him rather than to love Him. He didn't need anyone's love any more than God does. Love is too personal a feeling to simply give it away, and it's much too precious to sell. So keep it for yourself and let it pour over onto others.

Life is a school. There were school administrators like Vishnu and Buddha, Confucius and Lao Tze, but they prepared their academies without a personal introduction to our Teacher by name. There are many mysteries God gave to the East that we have yet to discover. One of them is the difference between "pronunciation" and "enunciation." The difference between a "blackboard" and a "black board" is an example of enunciation.

Because English isn't a tonal language like Chinese and Vietnamese, the distinction in the enunciation of words has to be made visually because we don't have an ear acclimated to hear the differences and to accentuate these many meanings. Therefore, when you pray you need to imagine the spelling of these words to indicate to God that you know who you're talking to and who you're talking about. Without your imagination helping you pray, your prayers aren't going to make any more sense than the spelling of the lyrics in hymnals nowadays make sense.

There are another three words we should consider with regard to enunciation, and they are: You/you, He/he and They/they. It's only with enunciation that you can make the differences in these words real.

If man is a metaphoric tree of knowledge with a serpent in his tree and two fruits, one good, one evil, then woman is a metaphoric tree of knowledge and her genitals are like a flower. When a man pollinates a woman's flower, she produces fruit. This is how ancient man understood reproduction, and men and women were connected to the natural world. This is how our ancestors' understanding of their place in God's world has been handed down to us as poetic insight into the mystery of life.

I can tell you you're praying incorrectly if you leave your imagination at the door when you enter your house of prayer. God doesn't walk on eggshells when you talk to Him, so why should you? He needs you to be as genuine {honest, sincere and authentic} as you possible can. If you get real with Him, He'll get real with you. I promise you'll like being genuine and having frank conversations with God a lot more than relying on canned prayer all the time.

Praying frankly will feel like you're coming out of a closet into a hallway; out of a closet into a kitchen; or out of a closet into a bedroom. You don't have to be afraid of reality and what closet you've been hiding in. God knows more about where you are inside than you do. Every adult who stands candidly before Him will look like a child in his own eyes when he intuitively knows how little he really knows about himself in comparison to the One who knows it all.

The problem isn't that this world is inhabited by worms and snakes. There's nothing wrong with either. The problem isn't what you desire or whom you desire. The problems lie in the metaphors you live by and the lack of extensions you've made with them. If life is a contest with others, you're going to lose a little bit of yourself in every race. If life is a dog-eat-dog world, you're going to see yourself bare your teeth from time to time, and you shouldn't wonder why you end up in the doghouse. If life is just a party, you're going to wake up with a hangover some mornings and not bother to make your bed at all. Only if your life is a classroom will you learn about yourself through every metaphor you encounter.

Only the scholar dies with a smile on his face, looking forward to graduation and the opportunity to shake hands with the Teacher as he receives his diploma. Only the Ph.D. in the doctorate program in "me" from the university of life will truly make his mother proud, regardless of how uneducated his mother was or how many mistakes she made of her own. Every mother wants her son to be a doctor. The fact that Mary ended up with a Son who became a spiritual cardiologist and rabbi surely made her a proud Jewish mother, too.

This world is filled with individuals who think themselves scholars regardless of whether others think they're enrolled in nursery school or masters of life ready for their Ph.D. It can be especially unnerving when you find the Teacher has sat you beside someone whose educational standing you feel is below yours. But that's never a coincidence. It can always be a lesson in humility if you're prepare to learn more about yourself while you tutor.

It's hard to remember people have more than opinions; they have feelings, and they love learning when you help them see the positive feelings that are underlying their opinions.

Sometimes the whole class has to have a laugh at a kid who comes to class without having done his homework, who then spouts off something he believes to be true that can't be substantiated by the assignment the rest of are doing. Don't be afraid of playful sarcasm. It's meant to teach work habits and cooperation. It's meant to help those who are dafka.

Do be afraid of cynicism, however. Cynicism is meant to stop you from learning how to seek. Sarcasm is meant to encourage you to study harder and seek deeper within.

The only way to prove to people that there are better ways of communicating and behaving is by showing them the self-respect they're missing. Moses was a highly educated, upper class prince who wrote a book about himself while dealing with a schoolyard full of spiritual kindergarteners. Jesus was a self-educated, middle class tradesman {carpenter} who had others write a book about Him while dealing with a class full of spiritual, juvenile delinquents. And the P r o p h e t Mohammed was the poorest of the poor and an illiterate, camel driver who lectured to a people who thought themselves mature graduates of this world without having to work with others in class. Clearly, the men God chose to represent His interests in this school came from every corner of His classroom because the student body has always been in terrible need of a universal education.

The dissonance between what's happening around you and what's happening within are lessons that may cause embarrassing, shameful, and even humiliating feelings. But these emotions are occurring in private school not the public school of life where we're enrolled with one another. Private school assignments, lessons and tests are hard. But as you pass them, the Teacher augments His curriculum for you in public school with more responsibility and challenge (and sometimes even with more money). Private school assignments are your feelings for yourself that cause you to act as you toward others. The more your heart can admire all that you feel, the more you'll be able to tolerate a disparate range of feelings from others. Their arrogance will only reflect yours in those ways that you haven't yet looked deeply enough at yourself.

I'd love to be able to tell you what the Teacher is thinking when He tests large numbers of people simultaneously, be it with natural disasters, wars or environmental challenges. But people react differently to His tests, and their reactions are a personal but important part of their grade. If you watch how your feelings transform you, you'll see that that's what causes you to change your mind.

Territoriality is a coveting of space to meet a man's survival needs. God offered Abraham, Isaac and Jacob territory. He promised every man a certain amount of time here on Earth, but He also promised the Jews a small amount of space, something He promised no others. Israel is the real estate given to the Jews as a sign of God's wisdom. It wasn't a promise of love. That's why we had to let Israel slip through our fingers twice to learn to appreciate our love of our land. Israel satisfies a hunger for a place that will teach the world how to honor the land where every group of people reside and can thrive.

"I MYSELF AM THE BREAD OF LIFE. THE MAN WHO COMES TO ME WILL NEVER BE HUNGRY AND THE MAN WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER AGAIN BE THIRSTY. YET I HAVE TOLD YOU THAT YOU HAVE SEEN ME AND DO NOT BELIEVE. EVERYTHING THAT MY FATHER GIVES ME WILL COME TO ME AND I WILL NEVER REFUSE ANYONE WHO COMES TO ME. FOR I HAVE COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO WHAT I WANT, BUT TO DO THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME. THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME IS THAT I SHOULD NOT LOSE ANYTHING OF WHAT HE HAS GIVEN ME, BUT SHOULD RAISE IT UP WHEN THE LAST DAY COMES. AND THIS IS THE WILL OF THE ONE WHO SENT ME, THAT EVERYONE WHO SEES THE SON AND TRUSTS IN HIM SHOULD HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP WHEN THE LAST DAY COMES." [John 6:35-40]

To "RAISE {a man} UP WHEN {his} LAST DAY COMES" requires the fishing-with-a-net metaphor to draw him out of the ocean of his emotions every man is submerged in to bring him up into the realm of spirit. Jesus saw the emotional realm of men as distinct from their intellectual and spiritual pursuits. He raised His followers up out of hopelessness with the promise of God's love. He netted many poor Jews of His time, bringing them out of despair into a world of spirit in which they could breathe free with a new feeling of personal hope despite what the future under Roman occupation and corruption of the Jewish State looked like. His WORDS are meaningful today to non-Christians and Christians alike as emotional tools to help them swim through their feelings, catch themselves, and pull themselves out of depression and despair with the love that emanates within themselves before they allow it to emanate out as honor and respect for others.

There's no way for a man to earn his wings if he hasn't experienced the feeling of having been fished out of the despair of dying and not being reborn in some hopeful way

after death. What greater reassurance than self-love can a man glean from life than to believe in God's love always originating, stemming, starting and arising through him?

The spiritual ancestors of today's Jews had no way to save themselves from the ferocity and inhumanity of the Romans, other than to split ranks. They had to create a navy of love separate from the army of wisdom in order to overcome the brutality of men they faced internally and externally at that time. They had to take the battle from the ground out onto the emotional seas. But now it's time to join ranks by land and sea, and internalize the lessons of wisdom and love if we're going to take to the skies with God's help.

You can't teach a child to walk by lifting him up onto his feet and yelling at him to stop crawling. You can't teach a grown man to swim by throwing him in a stormy sea. You can't teach an old man to fly by pushing him off a cliff. You can't force anyone to believe in God. God isn't for everyone until a man is forced to face his fear of death. Only then does God become personal again.

"Home" is a state of mind God gave the Jews when He gave us Israel, the intellectual nest in every Jewish tree. Home is our spiritual place in this world before we fly away to the next. Israel is the only home we know and the home we have that we can cherish. Although no other place on Earth has received us as well as America, the spiritual home of every Jew is in Israel. But the spiritual home of every Christian should also be in Israel. And the spiritual home of every Muslim should be above Israel so he can look up to A L L A H. and down at Earth and see his place already in the heavens above. Cherishing the world to come alone is no way to honor life.

The first five Commandments make it possible for you to know God here and now, but the second five make it possible for you to go Home at peace with yourself for having brought a little bit of Heaven down to Earth. A religious man believes in the first five and often disregards the second five. A humanist believes in the second five, but often disregards the first tablet of five. To believe in both you have to become spiritual. You have to believe that God's Commandments work through you to bring heaven out of the abstract and into your flesh. To be spiritual, you have to become like a god fashioning the world with goodness.

"THE MAN WHO COMES TO ME WILL NEVER BE HUNGRY AND THE MAN WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER AGAIN BE THIRSTY." The man who appreciates the container Jesus taught him to respect will never be hungry for living bread. The man who appreciates the contents Jesus taught him to fill will never be thirsty for living wine. But the man who cares only about his container may be very motivated to work hard for comforts of the body, but too tired once his financial hunger has been secured to give thought to his spiritual thirst. He may fill himself with unneeded pounds to his body instead of adding to his spiritual weight.

Hunger and thirst aren't just physical urges. They create emotions that hold spiritual equivalents. Some men die hungry, others thirsty. The man who is vain will overlook embarrassment in an effort to make others jealous of his external wealth. He'll be consumed with hunger. The man who is arrogant will overlook shame in an effort to make others envious of his internal wealth. He'll be consumed with thirst.

Obesity is the most common outcome of taking your container to heart without recognizing your spiritual appetite. Alcoholism occurs when your contents aren't adequately consciously explored. To satisfy both your spiritual hunger and thirst you must learn about the symbolic logic inherent in the message from Jesus. You must care for the material and immaterial.

One way to help do all that is to consider your body, your home here on Earth. Think of it as an enormous hotel. Imagine that this hotel is hundreds of miles high, circular with an enormous elevator shaft in the middle. Imagine that each night while asleep you go up and down the elevator making deliveries to various rooms, and in the morning you wake up with a new perspective on yourself. Some people simply move to the room next door to where they were the night before.

"I HAVE TOLD YOU THAT YOU HAVE SEEN ME AND DO NOT BELIEVE. EVERYTHING THAT MY FATHER GIVES ME WILL COME TO ME AND I WILL NEVER REFUSE ANYONE WHO COMES TO ME." To literally receive what Jesus had, you have to relinquish your jealousy at not having been given His body. To figuratively receive what He had inside Himself you have to relinquish envy that you aren't filled with all that He was filled with in terms of love. In only 33 years, the man born in a barn was able to traverse Himself like a twelve-story hotel to present His view of humanity from a perspective that no one has been able to equal.

That which you hunger and thirst for, you must first give to yourself. You must admire your efforts to serve your own living bread and wine to all, after you've served yourself. You can't give Jesus or your parents the honor They deserve if you can't honor yourself. You'll never be able to admire Him unless you learn to admire you. You'll never be able to accept Him in your life if you haven't accepted yourself. And you won't be able to tolerate Him if you can't tolerate the way you have to behave at some times. This is the mystery of life that no man can accomplish without divine help, and yet we must all do it alone. But at least we're all doing it alone together.

"FOR I HAVE COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO WHAT I WANT, BUT TO DO THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME. THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME IS THAT I SHOULD NOT LOSE ANYTHING OF WHAT HE HAS GIVEN ME, BUT SHOULD RAISE IT UP WHEN THE LAST DAY COMES." A man wants to feel raised up with love during his lifetime, not just after it. He wants to be appreciated today,

since tomorrow may be too late. We want to be seen and heard here and now. We want to feel trusted and trustworthy today. Nobody wants to be treated as though he's invisible.

We're not pure spirit yet! We want to enjoy our own bread and wine, and we want to quench our hunger and thirst together. The thought of having to wait for God's love until you're on your deathbed just isn't good enough anymore. If we can pour hot water into a cup, add one powder that resembles coffee, another that resembles milk, and yet a third that resembles sugar – why shouldn't we be able to achieve instant gratification?

Instant gratification is easy. It just takes decades to develop.

Self-love is what Jesus filled Himself with, and self-love is what you have to fill yourself with. If you don't work on honoring yourself with admiration for how you've succeeded; if you don't work on honoring yourself for how you've accepted the things you can only change slightly with great effort; and if you don't honor yourself for tolerating the things you cannot change at all – you'll never truly know what it means to love yourself.

And if you don't have self-love under your belt you'll never achieve the generosity of spirit needed to talk to God frankly in the second person, singular feminine {you} in Hebrew {AT}. You'll never be able to talk to Her as though She were your mother. And if you don't have at least that level of intimacy under your belt, how will you achieve speaking directly to Him? {ATA} (Please look up the lyrics to “Are you Lonesome Tonight” by Elvis Presley and read them as though the “you” he was singing to was his mother. It's not easy to deal with your mother when you reach puberty and see her as having changed. “Then came act two, you seemed to change and you acted strange.”)

For men to think God created man in His image because He's male is the height of hubris. For men to keep women out of the highest positions of power in the institutions of faith is shortsighted. Men hold no monopoly on God because of our gender. She's there for us {males} as much as He's there for them {females}. Many men suffering from gender identity disorder are straight, religious men who can only conceive of God as a straight male like themselves.

“O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM, YOU WHO KILL THE PROPHETS AND STONE THOSE SENT TO YOU, HOW OFTEN I HAVE LONGED TO GATHER YOUR CHILDREN TOGETHER, AS A HEN GATHERS HER CHICKS UNDER HER WINGS, BUT YOU WERE NOT WILLING.” [Matthew 23:37] “AND GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED HIM {X + Y}; MALE {Y} AND FEMALE {X} HE CREATED THEM [{x + y} + {x + x}]]” [Genesis 1:27] For a man to see God as a lesbian all he has to do is look closely at the “x” factor in himself.

Michelangelo couldn't have sculpted the Pieta without having held Jesus's lifeless body in his own arms in his imagination. He had to imagine lying in his own mother's arms before he could imagine God's relationship to His mother. Bach couldn't have written

fugues without having heard the myriad, harmonizing voices within him conversing in holy discourse. Frank Lloyd Wright couldn't have designed Fallingwater if his heart hadn't built his inner house on a firm, spiritual foundation under which endless love flowed.

Christian arts are religious achievements that express more about the power of love than Jews and Muslims will ever fully realize. And if we {Jews and Muslims} don't start commending good Christians for all they've done for us all, it's simply not going to get said. They're too submerged in their heartfelt intentions to say it about themselves.

“IN THE PROPHETS IT IS WRITTEN: ‘AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT BY GOD,’ AND THIS MEANS THAT EVERYBODY WHO HAS HEARD THE FATHER’S VOICE AND LEARNED FROM HIM WILL COME TO ME.” I speak about Jesus as I would about a fellow Jew I admire. I laud Him as one rabbi to another. When I go to church I salute the statue of Him as a fellow Jewish general in the military service of our King. I speak about my Brother as though I know Him because I know more about our Father than I did before. My cup runneth over for all my spiritual siblings.

Eastern philosophies claim that what comes around goes around. They call it karma. Jesus set up a new spiritual process by which His community could extrapolate from what they already knew about God to come to believe in Him as the Messiah. Those today who believe in Him as one of three aspects of God must rely on their own experiences to prove or disprove that belief, since Jesus can't literally speak to anyone as He once did: out loud. Love has moved out of the realm of the physical and into the realm of the abstract. Jesus became the embodiment of an experience for Christianity, a way of interfacing with God through Him that Judaism and Islam will never be able to offer. What we should all be able to agree on is that the gifts from the many cultures rooted in the Christian tradition have greatly enriched life on Earth for us all. In that sense we've all come to Jesus whether we consciously needed to or not. In that sense karma has brought Jesus's love around to one and all.

“NOT THAT ANYONE HAS EVER SEEN THE FATHER EXCEPT THE ONE WHO COMES FROM GOD - HE HAS SEEN THE FATHER. I ASSURE YOU THAT THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN HIM HAS ETERNAL LIFE ALREADY.” Jesus never said He was God. His message in the third person implies that to open your heart you have to have a model of what an open heart looks like. Trust in the model leads to a reproduction of the original that will do the same. He implied that he was the prototype. He said that He was the facsimile from which all reproductions of wisdom of the heart are made.

If you belong to the broken hearts club you know in your heart that you don't have to prove to anyone that you're a member. Everyone's had his heart bruised, twisted, mangled and even ripped apart. But if your heart was very hard to begin with, the only way for God to open it was by breaking it. That happened to Pharaoh. If you're not a member of the

broken hearts club, you can still feel for those who've needed to have their heart broken to open it to God's plan.

In Exodus God said to Moses ““I WILL CAUSE ALL MY GOODNESS TO PASS IN FRONT OF YOU, AND I WILL PROCLAIM MY NAME, ‘THE LORD,’ {Adonai} IN YOUR PRESENCE. I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I WILL HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I WILL HAVE COMPASSION. BUT,’ HE SAID, ‘YOU CANNOT SEE MY FACE, FOR NO ONE MAY SEE ME AND LIVE.’” [Exodus 33:19-20]

Because you were made in God's image, you cannot see your own face either. A mirror image is not what you really look like. You can look at reflections of yourself, but you can only perceive yourself as you really are in your imagination.

It's possible to sense God's presence using your imagination without needing to look Him in the face. It's possible to experience His goodness as passing in front of you without literally watching Him go by. It's possible to perceive Him from within and proclaim His name without literally saying or hearing a thing. It's possible to relish the privilege of His rewards without having anything to show for it. {And yet I tend to think that a son who's never seen the face of his father wouldn't have the same faith as the one who had.}

“THEN THE LORD SAID, “THERE IS A PLACE NEAR ME WHERE YOU MAY STAND ON A ROCK. WHEN MY GLORY PASSES BY, I WILL PUT YOU IN A CLEFT IN THE ROCK AND COVER YOU WITH MY HAND UNTIL I HAVE PASSED BY. THEN I WILL REMOVE MY HAND AND YOU WILL SEE MY BACK; BUT MY FACE MUST NOT BE SEEN.” [Exodus 33:22-23]

God's hand will always keep you safe from looking into His face until the moment you must die. For now it's better to figuratively see His glory from behind than not to perceive His presence at all.

Neither Christians nor Muslims hold a monopoly on eternal life. A crusade in the 21st Century should be personal and private. The world has endured enough in the way of public crusades. For a “f a t w a” {Arabic: formal legal opinion that breaks new ground} to be effective it must be internalized. The “j i h a d” {Arabic: struggle in the way of A L L A H.} has to become personalized to be made real. Faith has to release its grip on the sociology of a culture to become psychologically meaningful to each of its members in this new day. The man who can force himself to live up to his own, highest standards of morality won't force others to live up to them the same way. Faith must be personal to be useful. If you face yourself as best you can every day of your life, you won't have to worry about having to face God {die} until your journey comes to a harmonious end.

“THE BREAD WHICH I WILL GIVE IS MY BODY AND I SHALL GIVE IT FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.” None of us was there when Jesus willingly decided to make His ultimate sacrifice, when He chose for His bread to be broken and His wine spilled to fulfill God's plan. He didn't need to kill anyone before He died or take anyone with Him

when He chose to die for His cause. He didn't need to be spiteful to the poor, the widow or the orphan. He didn't need to kidnap or rape women to get his message out there. He didn't need to start a holy war with gays or Jews to make His point.

Jesus called Himself living bread. What makes bread seem to come alive is its movement. When you see bread rise seemingly by magic, you can equate it to the heart and penis of a man that can both go up without reason. Man is God's living bread, and the relationship between his heart and penis was the sole source of that magic until science provided us with facts to add to the miracle of His poetry.

Trusting in yourself requires a personal exploration of the living bread God wrapped you in. A symbolic understanding of your being requests you to ponder the idea of your living bread being filled with an intoxicating wine that makes you feel good about yourself. You can't really believe in what Jesus said unless you can admire, accept and tolerate yourself in every waking moment of the day. Unless you're at least skeptical about the miracle of turning water {emotions} into wine {love} there won't be enough illumination in you to see you recreating His miracle. You need to feel the power of His WORDS coursing through your veins more than you need to see His miracle reproduced literally. You need to imagine what your own face looks like much more than you need to see His. The truth about most men is that they're so cynical they can't even believe what they see in the mirror.

There are many men today who walk on water. Their veins are filled with ice because they froze their heart to protect it. Every step they take causes the ice in the soles of their feet to freeze the watery world of emotion beneath them. They walk on water {feelings}, but the water {feelings} is a sheet of ice they've created themselves. They're arrogant, and nothing will melt their frozen feelings except themselves. As self-love permeates their system, like Pharaoh, they'll first find themselves on thin ice. And when they see that they can't stop themselves from projecting apathy onto some others, they'll see the ice getting thinner until they'll be forced to plunge into the cold reality you and I know so well.

It's too easy to say you put your trust in Jesus without also testing your ability to put your trust in yourself. Most people are afraid of trusting themselves because they worry about what they'll think of themselves if they disappoint themselves by breaking that trust. And yet haven't you disappointed yourself so many times before?

Building trust in yourself therefore has to be a process through which you learn to trust that the feeling of disappointment will teach you something about yourself you'll be grateful to have learned. Building trust in yourself is like building a bridge to yourself in which you seek a way to span both banks simultaneously in the hopes of somehow meeting yourself in the middle. You come at self-trust from two directions, with positive and negative self-regard, with a rod and a staff. (Please look up the Jimmy Webb's lyrics to

“Highwayman.” Note how you may now feel about the words: highway, sailor, dam builder and single drop of rain from a Christian perspective. When he introduces the idea of “star ship” I hope you think about Noah’s “ship” and how man’s frontiers are moving us to further shores.)

As a baby, Jesus surely learned to trust that His mother’s arms would hold Him securely, the first test for anyone in putting his trust in another person. But trust in His own living bread and wine was His Father’s final goal for Him. He had to go through tests, just like you and me. Learning to trust the spirit of others is easier than learning to trust your own. The relationship between God and every human being is a self-constructed ladder a man must build and then ascend and descend many times rung by rung. {Think of that Biblical ladder in modern terms as a glass elevator as you move up and down to every story in your inner hotel.}

Jesus didn’t honor His Father because He trusted Him. He honored His Father because He trusted Himself. During His lifetime Jesus spoke about His Father with great confidence because His heart was certain of His feelings for Himself and Their relationship to One another. His heart was in the right place because He’d cleaned up His issues with earthly desires {as described in the three temptations of Jesus}.

The spiritual consumption of living bread and wine you see in the Jewish people has produced the sociological freedoms we’re famous for. Jews don’t kill one another; we argue instead. We don’t let our children die of malnutrition or disease. We insist on them getting a good education and making enough money to care for themselves. We’re a dutiful people, but not dour. We get the job done by promoting freedom. We leave it up to Christians to promote liberty, and we hope for the day when Muslims will promote spiritual emancipation for everyone.

It could be said that Zionism is a conspiracy to get a Jew into everybody’s head. But Christianity is a conspiracy to convert everyone by getting Jesus into everybody’s heart. And Islam will someday be a way to get us all to s u b m i t in our soul to the magnanimous teachings of the P r o p h e t Mohammed. If that’s God’s plan, it couldn’t be simpler or more obvious.

Language is the greatest miracle in God’s entire creation of the universe. Language is the steppingstone to God’s throne, the ladder of self-knowledge leading to man’s moral Home in Heaven that Jacob first perceived in his dream. The words you speak to yourself are angels ascending and descending. You constructed this verbal ladder using the language your mother taught you. Don’t take your mother tongue for granted. Don’t think that your ability to sew, use a smart phone, paint pictures or groom a dog is separate from your love of her. Your ability to use language is your greatest source of hope. The profundity of human speech separates you from the natural world, but it also reconnects you to it.

You can teach a baby to speak, but you can't teach a baby to appreciate what the great Jewish linguist, Noam Chomsky, called the Language Acquisition Device {L.A.D.}. Chomsky discovered that there's a universal grammar that unites all our languages, an underlying operating system behind the ability to retrieve and convey information. God first created universal grammar, which acts as placeholders in sentences. Then He created the world's languages to put in those places using sentences. But the L.A.D. is just the tip of the spiritual linguistic iceberg. Words also convey emotional and spiritual intentions in addition to their literal meanings. Words make it possible for God to evolve humanity through verbal expression. Evolving is the process by which we move closer to God through speech.

Those who don't believe in the evolution of the species will never understand how that was just a physical clue to man's evolving, spiritual nature. We use our language, acquisition device without realizing that God's spiritual, communication device goes much deeper than the literal level of words. We use words to evolve ourselves because words have more than intellectual power, but emotional and spiritual influence over us as well. It's vital that we observe our thoughts, feelings and beliefs because they affect our desire to evolve. It's extremely important that we express ourselves and edit ourselves to keep moving in His direction.

Those who can't speak, see or hear words aren't exempt from this spiritual process. Those who prefer right brain forms of expression aren't any less capable of evolving the left side of their brain. The ability to talk about language isn't restricted to those who use language fluidly. Poets aren't necessarily anymore evolved than people in other arts. If you want to use God's WORD productively you only need to appreciate how the Prophet Mohammed took God's words to an even greater spiritual level.

You can teach a boy to read and write, but you can't teach him to think. That's a miracle of growing up you can only teach him to observe in others and encourage him to find ways of doing for himself. You probably won't have to teach an adolescent to read or write, but you'll have the harder task of teaching him how to use his body like a pen and the object of his passions like a blank page. Any young man can use his pen to scribble and thereby bring a child into this world as an expression of his disdain for life. You can explain this spiritual, literacy process to everyone, but you can't force anyone to edit himself.

You can hire counseling professionals or religious leaders to assist you with this process, and they may have a key that unlocks a door or two inside of you or someone you love. But there comes a point in time when all the trust you have in other people and all their keys won't unlock the door you find before you. Then you're going to have to become a locksmith of the heart to figure out how to get into that private part of you where your feelings for you are the only key. Some keys in life you simply have to make yourself. There is no skeleton key with which to open you up to that part of yourself. There only you

can be the key, and only God can grind you down in such a way that you can then open you to yourself.

You may not yet have the key to the Kingdom, but you can contribute to the process of being ground down with the hope, faith and charity you're learning to have for yourself. You can anticipate a heavenly view of your life on Earth if you can unlock that door into yourself, by yourself. But that door is the door to wisdom of the heart, and the key to it is self-love. And all the teeth on that key have to be perfectly real. Not one of them can be ideal or pragmatic or the door won't open.

Jews, Christians and Muslims aren't equals, any more than pieces of a puzzle are equal. Each piece is a part of the picture precisely because of its shape and pattern. Each piece is unique and important because it connects to other pieces in special ways. Negative stereotypes have proved unproductive, while positive stereotypes, for the most part, have, as yet, been unexplored for their potential. When you see yourself as a puzzle and each faith and philosophy as a God-given part of you, the positive attributes of the world's traditions become more attractive and less threatening. The people who are very different from you are clues brought from God on how to put yourself together like a puzzle in ways you hadn't considered. Their gender, race, religion, ethnicity, and sexual identity are important to your personal assignments in the evolution of your understanding of the self.

Today we're all such generalists that we forget that we're also made by God to be spiritual specialists. We're doctors of different disciplines learning together to heal the world, which is now on the operating table and in critical condition. It's jealousy and envy that keep us separated from ourselves, and from one another. Wisdom of the heart is the first, best way to make inroads into all the attributes of God in you. Begin with the decision to pursue wisdom and then make your way with that wisdom into your heart.

If the Bible were meant to be a literal message, you'd have to conclude God were out of His mind to make such a fuss about one little piece of fruit. But God's not crazy, and neither are you. Science uses hypotheses, theories and laws to describe the actions of the physical world, but religion should be using the same principles to make sense of the spiritual world. We shouldn't try to use our mind to try to turn base metal into gold; we shouldn't use the patterns made by the stars to determine our future; we shouldn't spread superstition by motivating people to hate their enemies. Modern man is spiritually mature enough to approach the questions posed by God in more rational ways than our religious predecessors in the past.

As your relationship with yourself matures, you'll experience a sense of greater intimacy with God, as well as a desire to express that intimacy through some acts of self-appreciation. Raising your esteem of yourself will melt your frozen guilt into liquid love, and then your love will evaporate into a mist of generosity. Then you'll see for yourself

that that wisdom, love and generosity are different states of the same God. Metaphoric ice turns to symbolic rain, which then rises like the simile of steam. And in these ways the world becomes personal clues from God made just for you. And you become a sign from Him for the rest of us.

You were born by freeing yourself from your mother's womb. In puberty you received the liberty to use your body in a new, sexual way. But at whatever age you were emancipated into adulthood with the ability to love yourself, you were spiritually opened to a relationship with self-seeking. Freedom, liberty and emancipation are the tools of every man's spiritual trade. If you already believe in God this is how it happened. If you don't, this is how it can still happen.

“UNLESS YOU DO EAT THE BODY OF THE SON OF MAN AND DRINK HIS BLOOD, YOU ARE NOT REALLY LIVING AT ALL.” [John 6:53-58]

Christians see themselves as the body of Christ, His head, heart and hands in action. And they fill themselves with His spirit when they apply themselves to His message of love for humanity.

I see each Christian as a cell in Jesus's body, a body organized into organs that produce interlocking spiritual systems that keep Christianity intact. I see Christianity as a living, breathing religious organism of symbolic importance.

But reproducing Christianity no longer needs to be done with a sword that penetrates people like a penis to infuse His liquid love into the world. The reproduction of the Christian message can be done more deeply and gently today thanks to greater understanding and awareness of the intention of His body and blood.

Jesus's symbolic logic created Christianity out of a Jewish world of metaphor, but that makes it possible for those of us who are Judeo-Christians to become the living, breathing embodiment of the future of Israel. It makes it possible for me to say that Jerusalem, where Abraham wanted to sacrifice Isaac and Jesus was sacrificed, is the heart of me. It makes it possible for me to add that this is the place where the P r o p h e t Mohammed rose to Heaven.

Israel isn't just my inspiration; it isn't just the landscape of my soul. Without Moses, Jesus and the P r o p h e t Mohammed, we'll destroy ourselves in our effort to be righteous. When Muslims learn to live in peace with gay-Jews everywhere in the Middle East, they'll also discover the body of Christ that will bring new understanding to the ancient efforts of the P r o p h e t Mohammed.

Shakespeare said, “All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players.” {“As You Like It” Act II Scene VII} Sadly, most people see themselves as having a bit part in God's passion play because they don't give themselves the starring role in their own production. Christians who play at being Jews don't understand that that's not their part to

play. It's up to each of us to become spiritually literate if we want to understand what it means to write our own screenplay in a way that will tempt God to choose to produce it on the global stage. You can do that without words, but you can't do that without meaningful conversations with yourself within yourself. And you can't do that without the guidance of those very special role models who came before you.

“THE MAN WHO EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE, AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP WHEN THE LAST DAY COMES. FOR MY BODY IS REAL FOOD AND MY BLOOD IS REAL DRINK. THE MAN WHO EATS MY BODY AND DRINKS MY BLOOD SHARES MY LIFE AND I SHARE HIS. JUST AS THE LIVING FATHER SENT ME AND I AM ALIVE BECAUSE OF THE FATHER, SO THE MAN WHO LIVES ON ME WILL LIVE BECAUSE OF ME. THIS IS THE BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN! IT IS NOT LIKE THE MANNA WHICH YOUR FOREFATHERS USED TO EAT, AND DIED. THE MAN WHO EATS THIS BREAD WILL LIVE FOREVER.” [John 6:53-58]

If Jesus had said His body was *like* bread and His blood *like* wine we'd have missed the point about the essence of God's love. A simile would have created a spiritual and linguistic distance from love that wouldn't have given humanity enough of an appreciation of how words capture and hold our feelings. If someone were to say, “My life is as fragile as a porcelain vessel, and my hunger for wisdom and thirst for love makes my life *as* sweet as the taste of cherries,” it would deconstruct the symbolism that makes this commonplace expression {Life is a bowl of cherries} so profound. Symbolism intensifies the power and passion of words. “Life *is* a bowl of cherries.” Life is nothing *like* a bowl of cherries.

Jesus's body was nothing *like* bread, and His blood was nothing *like* wine. The average human body is nothing *like* a bowl, and the taste for life is nothing *like* the taste of cherries. Symbolism gives Western interpretation of words their power and greatness that words wouldn't otherwise have. There's nothing comparable to Jesus's symbolic logic in any of the Jewish thinkers before Him, or in Jewish or Muslim thinkers since.

Applying the power of His love to yourself figuratively means you must figuratively eat your own flesh and drink your own blood. But what gives your flesh substance are your thoughts, and what gives your blood potency is your feelings. You must consume your own thoughts and feelings. This is a moral process that can only be done internally through language. Consuming your thoughts and feelings is done by questioning them. When your conscience eats up what your head and heart produce you grow morally. And by the same token, if you don't eat, you won't grow.

This isn't something you have to resolve to do. It's something you're already doing. You need only become aware of the process. As you become more discerning of what you think and feel, you'll begin to grow in new unexpected ways. You'll stop growing

habitually toward the same light you were always attracted to. And you'll begin to reach out for illumination and warmth coming from other directions.

Although I'm Jewish, if you consider me a Christian poet you wouldn't be far from the mark since the world has learned symbolic logic from Christians and has used it without giving credit where credit is due. The way I think and speak has been profoundly influenced by my Christian brothers and sisters. But the way all of us have been influenced by Moses, Jesus and the P r o p h e t Mohammed should be associated with how we communicate and we should remind ourselves of that, before we get frustrated when words don't seem to solve the problems we face.

The Catholic Mass isn't a reenactment of the Passover meal that God commanded the Israelites to hold in memory of their journey to freedom. Catholics don't celebrate the Mass to remember *our* struggle. It's a recreation of the last meal Jesus ate in memory of His struggle. Our struggle was one for freedom. His struggle was one for liberty.

Jews, and by extension, Christians, are God's people who'll bring freedom and liberty to the world. When Muslims accept our place in His plan, then they'll be given the opportunity to contribute to it with the emancipation process we all are working to receive. This is how the mystery of the Mass will continue to make God's will known here on Earth.

The Catholic Mass thereby becomes the emotional reenactment of God's creation of man. It's the Christian recreation of the Creation Story as seen from the heart. The Mass is the creation of man as a heartfelt creature in His image, not a clay slave to His laws.

Love differentiates modern man from his past. Love is what differentiates A.D. from the previous wisdom of B.C. Love is what God breathed into Adam, even though he didn't know it. God's breath is in all of us, and that makes us very different from just an earthen clay vessel in His mind. God's hands give each man life, but His breath gives him His love. And His demonstration of loyalty to Adam despite the insignificantly small error he made by metaphorically eating a part of himself he shouldn't have, should leave us in awe of His beneficent intentions to teach us how to be angels in disguise. (As Phil said to Jay in the first Halloween episode of "Modern Family" when Jay insulted Gloria for speaking English with an accent, "Make it right, Jay. We're all just hanging by a thread.")

Radical Muslims who insist on making their conscience other people's guide insist on Sharia Law externally, when it was always intended to be an internal, spiritual tool for self-improvement. Radical Islam is suffering from a moral illness that creates a mental and emotional disease in them. Such individuals are *oppressed* mentally and *repressed* emotionally. They see the problems with democracy, but they can't help solve them because they can't be grateful for freedom and liberty. They can only reject democracy and the rights of the individual, and replace them with their own external system of totalitarianism. It's not that their principles don't have elements that could be useful to

what we already have if applied in man's soul. Their problem is that they don't understand how humans were created and how to fully operate themselves. The man who's locked in his conscience has no access to how his thoughts and feelings operate separately from his belief system.

The Muslim radical is suicidal because he's spiritually claustrophobic. He wants to destroy the Earth and return humanity to God because he wants to think outside the box. He feels it's his calling to loathe life and loathe love in order to profess his loyalty to God. Only by dying can he show God that he cares. Living is excruciatingly painful to the radical Muslim because any distance from God is too far away. He's the spiritual infant crying in the night, and nobody hears him or cares to come to pick him up and tell him he's never alone, empty or by himself.

In calling Himself living bread, Jesus wasn't advocating cannibalism any more than Jews want to stop the world from eating fruit. He wanted His followers to live the concept of love personified, not just profess it as a theory. Jesus is the unseen mezuzah on every Christian door, the blood of the Lamb of God that keeps death away eternally. He's the signpost that professes man's success in holding two covenants of linguistic communion with God.

God's moral mission for man has always been not only to obey His laws, but also to use His laws to express a love for life. Until every man holds these truths to be self-evident, the manifestation of the generosity of spirit of Islam is going to remain nothing more than a pipe dream.

The WORD of God is Torah. But if you had to condense it down into one word, that word would be love. If Jesus taught us anything, it was to love our body because our body is that one unique gift from God that holds His love for each of us individually. The breath we draw about twelve times a minute is the spiritual recreation of the Creation Story, the constant reminder of our need for spirit.

Taking the Story of Adam and Eve literally is preposterous. But not taking it to heart is lethal. Man is so enchanted with the reality around him that he doesn't observe the resources within himself. He looks around for bold answers; he rarely looks within for them, if at all. The process of entering and leaving inner space for outer place is so fluid an experience that he forgets that God is everywhere, even at the gateway between outer place and inner space.

We Jews were given the MEZUZAH {RELIGIOUS SIGN ON THE DOORPOST} as the filter between these two worlds. A MEZUZAH is a piece of parchment contained in a decorative case inscribed with specified Hebrew verses from the Torah. It's affixed to the doorpost of a Jewish home. The Mezuzah on a Jewish home is a reminder of His presence as we move between our house and the outside world, our inner world and the world around us. God

gave us our body, which is the physical symbol of His presence that contains us. Jesus gave His life that we would come to understand ourselves as a mezuzah between two worlds, the world of wisdom and the world of love. Here, in translation, is what's written on the parchment of mezuzahs:

“HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. THESE COMMANDMENTS THAT I GIVE YOU TODAY ARE TO BE ON YOUR HEARTS. IMPRESS THEM ON YOUR CHILDREN. TALK ABOUT THEM WHEN YOU SIT AT HOME AND WHEN YOU WALK ALONG THE ROAD, WHEN YOU LIE DOWN AND WHEN YOU GET UP. TIE THEM AS SYMBOLS ON YOUR HANDS AND BIND THEM ON YOUR FOREHEADS. WRITE THEM ON THE DOORFRAMES OF YOUR HOUSES AND ON YOUR GATES.” [Deuteronomy 6:4-9]

God is more than a universal force of creation we Jews allow in from the world around us into our household. He's an invisible presence within that we can't live without. Like oxygen, God is as vital a component as the air we breathe. We can't love Him anymore than we can understand the urge for oxygen that must be disbursed to every cell in our body. It's not the wine in our veins that gives us strength, but the spirit in the wine that reminds us that God is with us inside as well as everywhere outside. God is in the air even though we can't see the air. It's not the name you give to Him but the deeds you do for Him that matter. And there's nothing you do for very long without His love, in the same way that there's nothing you can do without the air you breathe.

Christianity isn't an accident. It isn't religious nonsense some crazy Jews created by mistake. It isn't an aberration or a coincidence. Christianity is a God-given act meant to teach us the importance of loving His laws. It's not whom you love, but how you love who you love that counts. Whether you're a Christian or a Jew, you're commanded to love life with all your heart and soul. But how can you do that if you don't appreciate how all His WORDS/WORDS/w o r d is meant to convey something personally meaningful to you?

God is free to do anything He chooses to help make man aware of His presence, and it's our responsibility to learn to look for Him wherever and however He chooses to play hide-and-go-seek with us. A scientist can give you the facts of life, but it takes a poet to impress upon you the importance of facts in perceiving God's moral truths. How God hides from us is well expressed in the holiest of Jewish prayers, which, ironically, isn't something we Jews recite to God, but to ourselves. The Shema Prayer comes from Torah [Deuteronomy 6:4] Here is the popular translation from the Hebrew that expresses each word in a poetic context:

“SHAMA ISRAEL! ADONAI, ELOHENU, ADONAI ECHAD”

{HEAR, OH ISRAEL, THE LORD, OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE.}

SHAMA	HEAR WITH YOUR HEAD, BUT ALSO LISTEN TO EVERY ONE OF THESE WORDS WITH YOUR HEART
ISRAEL	ALL WHO STRUGGLE WITH GOD
ADONAI	(1) THE GOD WHO INTRODUCED HIMSELF BY NAME TO MOSES {DESCRIBED AS TIME}
ELOHENU	(2) THE GOD WHO CREATED THE WORLD AROUND US THAT WE ALL SHARE {DESCRIBED AS SPACE}
ADONAI	(3) WHEN YOU RETURN TO LOOK FOR HIM WITHIN {PERSONAL TIME IN INNER SPACE}
ECHAD	THESE THREE ASPECTS OF GOD ARE ALL ONE AND THE SAME

Once you experience God within, and then out in the world, and then return within to contemplate what you've learned about Him, you discover you must find a way to keep track of this spiritual process. You come to realize that God anticipated this by providing you with your own special love for a particular language.

Your language might be art, sculpture, dance, athletics or music. It may be your mother tongue or a foreign tongue. But for you, your spiritual language resembles inhaling something that isn't yours that you must have in order to live. You may never before have associated your mother tongue with God, but now you have the opportunity to thank Him for those few, precious words He gave you through your mother that began your spiritual vocabulary with heartfelt intent.

Your ears grabbed on to the sound of words when you were an infant, and repeated them back with babbling shortly after sucking in your first breath. You grabbed onto the meaning of words like fruit plucked from a tree that you picked and consumed without ever thinking twice about the miraculous gift you took without asking God for permission to consume it. You constructed a whole world for yourself built on thoughts, feelings and beliefs, using the words you appropriated out of thin air. What's more, you're still using God's words to maintain all the relationships you have around you, including your relationship with yourself. If you meditate by emptying your mind of words, you still aren't thanking God for what you're doing throughout. It takes contemplation of your faith in your heart, not cold philosophic scrutiny, to realize the spiritual source of speech. It takes the words you covet to appreciate words at all.

The human breath is the perfect description of the spirit that gives us a sense of our soul. The air we breathe is an invisible substance around us that we take into our body cavity and give back to the world starting the day we're born. But, ironically, there's no word for spirit or soul in Hebrew. The Hebrew words "NISHOMA" {BREATH} and "RUACH"

{WIND} are the original ideas upon which the European languages created the idea of a spirit filling us with a soulful sense of God's presence.

The experience of breathing is an interface between the world around us and the world within. Breathing happens constantly and unconsciously from the moment we're born until the moment we die. It's difficult to talk about breathing as a spiritual process, and yet the longer a man has breathed, the more he usually becomes aware of the invisible power of God, which like air, is simultaneously within and around him.

Those who crudely separate their world in two, inside and out, know only simile. Their inner world is *like* the world around them. They *compare* themselves to others; they *contrast* their circumstances to those of others, always with the feeling of coming up short or being better than others. And then they grumble about not getting it all their way. They experience jealousy and envy, the two emotions that are clues to the negative effects of simile in man. They want something they don't have, something they sense is missing, and like something they intuitively know they already have. They look inside and out, but can't find the healing balm that would rid them of their destructive impulses. Similes alone will never satisfy man.

The keys to the Kingdom were once imagined as literally looking like keys. Today they're more like passwords. Today's keys to the kingdom are feelings for God that you must first use to unlock your relationship with yourself. Righteous feelings aren't *weak*, but *meek*. Being righteous often feels fearful and cowardly at first. You have to find the moral courage to push through the shell of these feelings to find the righteous power of meekness at the core of you. Being meek is a blessing not a curse.

There's nothing intrinsically bad about sex between men unless you do it apathetically; without emotional involvement; without feelings that go beyond a skin-deep relationship to the other person. Love that's only skin-deep is shallow and superficial. Recreational sex is fun, but it's like playing in the waves along the shore. Lust becomes unfulfilling over time unless you use sex as a sport to surf the waves to give up your fear of spiritually swimming.

Shallow people make themselves vulnerable to the harsh undertows of their feelings. The more they feel deeply for someone they sleep with, the more they come to realize they can't swim very long through the dark mysteries of their own heart. You can learn to swim through your feelings and then spend your life playing with your emotions near the shore, or you can learn to breathe deeply as you dive down into the deepest, darkest parts of your heart where love lives under great pressure from God, there where you can be very, very good.

Problems occur with feelings when the negative emotions of coveting come into play. Coveting is the umbrella term for jealousy and envy when directed outwardly to want what

has been given to others. Coveting is addressed in the last of the 10th Commandment before the two COMMANDMENTS of the heart added by Jesus. “THOU SHALL NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR’S WIFE, HIS ASS OR ANYTHING ELSE OF THY NEIGHBOR.” Addressing people with jealous and envious intention tempts you to give in to your malevolent desires, such as taking what’s rightfully theirs and ignoring what God is giving you.

Vanity over what’s in your heart, and conceit over what’s in your head are negative expressions from your persona that are, paradoxically, also caused by jealousy and envy of others. The more you see what God is bestowing on others, the more you’re going to have to tell yourself how great *thou* art. You’re going to become your own god and devout worshipper. You’re going to worship yourself like an idol made of clay.

The Israelites did something similar when God took them out of Egypt. Within three weeks they’d fashioned a golden calf to pray to. The rabbis don’t ask themselves why that idol was made in the image of a calf and not the image of another animal, perhaps one more powerful and commanding.

A calf is the harbinger of good news. A calf ushers in a cow or a bull. With a calf you have hope that you’ll someday have milk or meat or more calves. When a primitive man gets old and has to look death in the eyes, he isn’t going to be afraid of the face of his god if he looks in the eyes of a golden calf. A golden calf is actually a reassuring god to have, and many down through the ages have looked for a golden calf to worship, unaware of the hope and encouragement dancing around such an idol initially brings.

Moses was very upset when he saw his own brother {Aaron} with the Israelites participating in idol worship, so much so that he smashed the tablets God had given him on which He had inscribed the Ten Commandments. Many are equally upset and do the same when they’re old enough to get out from under their father’s influence.

The progression of religion has been slow, but steady. First the Jews were given a look at the wisdom in God’s head. Then they got to look vicariously at the love in His heart. And lastly we got to play god when the Land of Israel was put back in our hands. The history of our Creator for those who aren’t too spiritually nearsighted has produced knowledge and feelings as follows:

Judaism	God	Y.H.V.H.	Wise	Lonely
Christianity	God	Jesus	Loving	Empty
Islam	God	A L L A H.	Generous	Alien

These expressions of your complex relationships within yourself are addressed in the 3rd Commandment “THOU SHALL NOT UTTER THE LORD’S NAME IN VAIN.” [Exodus 20:1-17] By extension you shouldn’t utter His name with conceit either. You can’t address God with vain or conceited intentions without insulting His plan. To know God you ought to bring

Him down to your level in a way that doesn't separate you from other men. You can't play god and tell gays and Jews they're vile without your conscience considering whether you're insulting yourself. Who are you to determine who's of value to His plan?

To get the Teacher's attention, you can't snap your finger and cry out, "Hey, You!" You're not here to preach to God. You're not here to tell anyone what His plan is for him. And you're not here to play god by using your conscience as another man's guide {and, by extension, another woman's}."

If you apologize to God sincerely for breaking the 3rd Commandment by using His words with vain feelings and conceited thoughts, you're more likely to learn more about His loving intentions for you. You're also more likely to learn more about this world He created in three dimension for you to explore in three ways using spiritual length, width and depth. But if you think you're greater than the God of time that was revealed to Moses, check your watch. Time is running out for you, too.

Your misappropriation of words without fully understanding their power is only the tip of your spiritual iceberg. You misuse your thoughts because you misuse the feelings you have that are combined with your desires. You defile yourself without intending to. To make yourself more sensitive to your choice of words in the future, you simply ought to pay greater attention to what you're feeling about what you're saying.

If you have intentions of conquering the world, I suggest you first take a better look at your penis. You may imagine it's longer, thicker and harder than it really is. Ask God why he gave you that delivery system for your desires of good and evil, and whether you might need to circumcise some of your wants so you can better hear all that "it" is trying to tell you. It could be that one of your testicles is telling your penis something it shouldn't be repeating in polite company. {Check out Bette Midler's rendition of the 1939 British, propaganda song "Hitler Has Only Got One Ball," lyrics are attributed to Toby O'Brien.}:

Hitler has only got one ball
Göring has two but they are very small
Himmler has something sim'lar
But poor old Goebbels has no balls at all

Your land of milk and honey will be given to you by God as you learn how to earn it. If you can have faith in God as your Father, God as your Teacher and God as your Judge you can put your faith in Them in the feminine as the Cow that brings you Her milk and the Queen Bee who arranges for you to receive Her honey.

Life isn't a Jewish conspiracy. Life isn't a gay recruitment tactic. This is what poetic license sounds like when you stop pretending that you're deaf. This is what life on the third planet from the sun looks like when you open your eyes and stop pretending that you're blind.

If you use words too casually, without regard to the subtlety of your own intentions, your prayers aren't going to go as far in teaching you who you are and who you could be if you tried harder. Spiritual Linguistics isn't just about learning the history of the WORD/WORD/w or d of God, but about using all words with greater self-awareness.

The 3rd Commandment can't be achieved without practicing the 10th. You've got to make emotional mistakes on others before you can learn to watch what you say and come to God with cleaner intentions. That's why I said earlier that you'd do better to practice the Ten Commandments in reverse order. Most Christians are experts on #11 and #12, but then they hit number #10 and all Hell breaks loose. And most Jews are good at 1-10, but they don't go for an even dozen.

It's fine to covet your own container and contents and even to consider yourself righteous for doing so, so long as you don't covet anything of your neighbor's. All that you know and feel is the result of God's gifts to you. If you're grateful to Him for all that you know, not just all that you have, you'll do better at fighting corruption and graft at the highest levels of society. Uttering any of His names {Y.H.V.H. Jesus A L L A H.} in vain won't be seen as demanding if you can develop the gratitude for your self-knowledge and self-love. Vanity and conceit will never go away, but God will allow you to work on these character defects as you earn the right to improve yourself in your eyes.

Knowing yourself thoroughly will lead to loving yourself deeply, and loving yourself unconditionally will lead to addressing God respectfully. All this will help enormously in getting your prayers answered. It's not that they're not being answered now. It's just the answers are inscrutably complex because of the manner in which they're being asked.

Your head is conceited; your heart is vain. Eve was convinced by the serpent to pick forbidden fruit because she was vain, not conceited. She was motivated to learn about the power of God because she wanted to accentuate her knowledge of her love of herself.

Adam had to be convinced to eat what she'd picked because he was conceited. After he saw how forbidden fruit increased Eve's opinion of herself, he wanted it, too. But the knowledge he amassed made him so conceited that he argued with God, while Eve didn't. {Vain people see no reason to argue.} When you can admit that you're a "y" {Adam} and an "x" {Eve}, and that you want self-knowledge for both reasons, you'll then be able to accept in your soul that you're the child of a man and a woman and not a god walking this Earth to reform mankind.

You're the last person you want to have around you when you're psychologically bent out of shape with guilt. Don't try to turn off your head at times like that, that part of you that loves to think. Try to extend your thinking by putting more of your urges and impulses into words. Once you can express yourself more fluently to yourself, you'll have a lot more interesting things to say to yourself about the reasons for the way you feel.

Not only is it not an abomination for a man to sleep with a man as he would with a woman. It's imperative that he does. His head must address his heart in his conscience. He must acknowledge that his projections onto women have their source in his own heart. A man can only be attracted to a woman to the extent that he's attracted to himself in projection. Those of us who aren't physically drawn to women simply aren't projecting our self-love onto that mirror. Women are windows for gay men. Men are our mirrors. Be thankful God gave us two different looking glasses to peer into.

Torah is filled with trick questions beginning with the Creation Story. If you don't see your thoughts and feelings as the characters of Adam and Eve, the story makes no sense. The bone that was figuratively removed from man's ribs to create woman was never literally taken out. The throb in your chest is a constant reminder that *your* woman is always with you. And she'll be with you 'til the moment you die. If you ask for that rib back, you'll be asking in vain. The removal of that bone left a window in your chest where the light of the outer world shines into your heart. Thank God for what He took away from you to allow you to see inside and out.

Once you get your emotional urges for others out of the way {coveting} it becomes much easier not to lie, steal, cheat, kidnap, rape and kill. And once those pesky sins are gone from your life you can work on vanity and conceit by:

5. Honoring your parents
4. Keeping the Sabbath holy
3. Not using the Lord's name in vain
2. Having no other gods before Him
1. Appreciating why He's the Lord, our God, and why He took the Israelites out of Egypt for your sake.

If you could go anywhere you wanted, forward or back in time, to perceive your humanity from other vantage points, you could come to understand your motivations, rewards and punishments with a new, more personal view. If you could fast forward or back through your life and replay it, as though a movie in which you could control the time, you could get the third person view of yourself that Jesus was conveying in His message.

Jesus lived with full understanding of these states of emotional being and spoke about them in the vernacular of His time. We can determine from the WORDS He was quoted to have said that His thoughts, feelings and beliefs were at a level of discourse that hadn't been reached by Moses. The essence of His message is summed up in the Lord's Prayer which He gave to His followers:

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN
HALLOWED BE THY NAME;
THY KINGDOM COME,
THY WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD,
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES,
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US;
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
AMEN.

When a Christian has the God-consciousness to address God with holy intention through Christ's message, he feels elevated by His prayer. It raises him before God with His help because he hears the humility in His WORDS. He identifies with Jesus man-to-man, and he respects Him for having done something he can now learn to do for himself.

The seven attributes of fire have already been discussed in detail, but I'd like to return for a moment to the fourth attribute of fire: mystery. The mystery we perceive when we look into a flame leaves us with wonder at what fire really is. It's easy to accept the land, sea and sky and to apply them to our faiths. But the mystery of fire brings the idea of magic back into this world.

Wonder, as I mentioned previously, is the figurative yeast of life that makes the dough rise and ferments the grape juice. But *wonder* isn't the most profound experience that comes from peering into the mystery of your inner flame. *Wonder* can lead you in a positive direction, but the mystery of your life is more than wonderful. Your mystery of your life can be a delight if you allow it to be. Delight is an emotional form of illumination. Delight is wisdom of the heart, illuminated, warmed, purified, and made mysterious.

As Jews, we speak about ourselves as "B'NAI ISRAEL" {literally: THE BROTHERS OF ISRAEL, figuratively: THE JEWISH PEOPLE}. We humble ourselves before God as His Chosen People, the first people to have chosen Him, and, as such, His historic examples of a people who've made foolish mistakes that have led humanity astray.

When Christians speak about themselves as one with Christ, it makes it possible for them to refer to themselves as "Us" through Him. The difference is case sensitive and symbolic of their unique relationship to God as having chosen Him through His second story, their record of hateful mistakes of Their own heart that have led them astray.

Today's debacle in the Middle East is History repeating itself through history, the story of the mean-spirited mistakes the Muslims are making that are leading them to wonder and wander to seek direction of their own.

The bond we call Judeo-Christian is 100% made in America. It expresses a deep respect for our differences. Without respect for differences, there can be no sincere bond between any two people. What makes America great is our curiosity, wonder and delight in God's intentions for us all. What makes this country like no other in history is how each of us learns to admire his own differences.

Now that the Christian world has begun to take a second look at Jesus {as a Jew}, the One chosen from among His Chosen People, they're ready for the next step, to look at Him as a gay man so different from the straight men around Him at that time. Whether or not He used His genitals for pleasure we don't know. But we know He didn't use them for procreation. If you can find a man today who has the sensitivity of Jesus, there's a good chance he won't be straight. This, too, is a mysterious part of God's plan.

The first two lines of the Lord's Prayer {OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN HALLOWED BY THY NAME} acknowledge that God is everyone's Father (not just white, straight Christians). It acknowledges that capitalizing the word "Our," acknowledges Jesus in a way that "we" {Jews and Muslim} will never do out of our love for God. And if we all did decide to think about spiritual, case sensitivity it might make us all more sensitive to our mistakes, and bring all mankind to a world with greater humility.

The third line {GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD} is a spiritual pun. The daily bread of a Jew is the bread we eat, not the BREAD of affliction we only eat at Passover. The DAILY BREAD of a Christian is Jesus, the living bread.

But the daily "bread" of the secular world is money. People don't really ask themselves which bread they're asking God for: BREAD, BREAD or just "bread." If you were blessed with all the dough you dream, how would that help you one little bit in appreciating the difference between BREAD and BREAD?

When I recite the Lord's Prayer with my Christian brothers and sisters in church I make sure that I imagine the word "us" in this line "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD" spelled in lower case to include all Jews living, and in memory of all Jews deceased. I want God to know that I'm asking for bread for the Jewish people in the literal sense. I don't want Him to get the impression that Jesus holds a place in my heart that's above that any other Jew. Even though He's our Father, I realize that for Christian's He's Our Father, since they're speaking with Jesus when they recite His WORDS.

He's my brother and a rabbi I hold with reverence whether He literally exists somewhere or only in my imagination. It's easy for me to credit Him and His followers today and in the past with having done so much to make this world a better place. But it's just as easy for me to blame them for the horrendous acts of injustice they've committed.

Because Christians have the luxury of imagining one aspect of God in human form, they're blessed with an imagination that has evolved differently from ours {Jews and

Muslims}. I suppose their ability to grow close to God through Jesus gives them a physical sense of assurance about the fate of their body after death that I'll never be able to fully fathom. I have to anticipate I'm going to feel even more hopeful at the end than I do now based on reality at that time, not ideality.

Each covenant with God produces different results, so I have to presume these differences were intended right from the start. When anti-Semitism raises its ugly head every 50 years or so I know it's because grandparents have been lax in teaching their grandchildren the importance of God's Chosen People. When I see Christians being ordered to convert or die by Muslims, I know that their Islamic grandparents didn't teach them to be grateful for the contributions of the people of God's second covenant. If older people don't teach children to honor every faith and philosophy as a gift from God, you'll see Muslims continue to destroy Buddhist shrines, force conversions on Christians and continue their diatribe against Israel, Western civilization, the Jews and the gays.

Showing respect for those who believe differently than you is a virtue, not a sign of weakness. There was a time when Christians viewed Jews as their enemies and thought gays were in league with the "devil." Today, I treat Christians with modern beliefs of utmost respect to demonstrate that forgiveness isn't a monopoly Jesus taught to His people. It's a virtue He taught through His people.

By the same token I expect the same honor from straights. If you hold a moral position different from mine concerning what I do in the privacy of my own bedroom, you've got your eyes and nose in the house. The real issue is one of love, not truth, since the Hebrew Testament is open to interpretation, and always has been. Those who wish to use the Bible as a sword rather than a plowshare have a problem they're only going to be able to solve with God's help. I can't change their mind.

When I speak to God in prayer it's as though I attempt to say to Him, "I love You. I will do what I can to sanctify Your names. I recognized Your proximity to me at all times, and I'll do my best to appreciate our relationship through the ongoing evolvement of the modesty, humility and grace I achieve by acknowledging my guilt.

God is a figment of man's imagination, by which I mean that it's impossible to use any other part of yourself to access Him. Your arms are too short to box with Him. Your hearing is too poor to hear His call to you. Your eyesight is too poor to visualize what He looks like. Only your nose is so big that you think you can stick it in His business to tell Him what He should do to make it turn out the way you want it to. You've really got no part of your "self" other than your imagination to perceive His realistic presence in your life.

The Lord's Prayer is a vastly different way of accessing God than the Shema Prayer because the Lord's Prayer uses your imagination in a very different way. The Shema Prayer is a description of the inner world/outer world relationship of God {Adonai} through His

spiritual process. The Lord's Prayer is direct discourse with God through Jesus through "Their" Father or directly with Him, "our" Father. Whether you're speaking to Israel or only about your own Israel is a personal position you decide for yourself when you pray. But I strongly recommend that Jews, Christians and Muslims look for opportunities to pray together to recite each other's prayers in each other's presence.

Here is a more detailed account of what I find valuable about the Lord's Prayer without including Jesus as my savior:

1. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

{The literal bread needed to learn about Your living bread}

2. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES

{To remove our guilt of being ourselves}

3. AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US

{To help us remove our guilt in the presence of one another}

4. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

{To help us make mistakes internally, not externally}

5. DELIVER US FROM EVIL

{To help us replant our tree of knowledge to thereby become a part of Your Tree of life}

The first penis God created was disembodied, a talking snake that lived in a very special tree in a garden. The second penis described in Torah was Abraham's. His was the first penis God asked to be circumcised as a sign of his agreement to His Covenant. Abraham's son Ishmael was the third penis in discussion in Torah, and in honor of Ishmael's loyalty to his father, despite a very rocky relationship between the two, God later created a holy people from Ishmael's descendants. But it was the third penis brought into the discussion {Isaac's} that God chose to use as a sign of His Covenant with us, the Jewish people.

Love isn't a theoretical concept. Love isn't just a feeling that comes and goes. Love is a covenant with God. Love is a God-given spiritual experience in the flesh. God may have made this covenant with a second Abrahamic tribe that He separated from ours, but that doesn't mean our Covenant of wisdom and their covenant of love aren't two gifts from God we in the Judeo-Christian world can't offer everyone on Earth as a combo pack. The future of the Judeo-Christian culture in America will unite all the faiths and philosophies with world peace because our two covenants were created to unite our efforts.

By personifying God's love Jesus created a conflict for Romans and the rich, ancient Jews of His time who'd established a convenient, but hypocritical, relationship with every

Caesar of Rome who claimed to be divine. The barbarians and ancient, rich Jews were comfortable with men who claimed to be gods. Jesus rocked the boat in a way it had never been rocked before. When He was asked whether He was the king of the Jews, i.e. a god, the implication was that Caesar and Jesus couldn't both be gods since the Romans believed that the Roman gods were the only gods recognized by the state. As a Jew He knew (as did all the other Jews of that time) that our kings were never gods. The rest of the world learned from us that church and state must always be kept separate. Not even our greatest king, David, was ever thought to be divine. {It's possible for a rabbi to be a king, but a king can never be a god.} Therefore when asked if He was the king of the Jews, Jesus simply replied, "IF YOU SAY SO," insinuating that their question was rhetorical and obviously foolish to any Jew who knew better.

If we were to review the Lord's Prayer as stated by arrogant Christians who believe themselves to be part-God thanks to transubstantiation, it would look like this:

Our Father, who art in Heaven
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give Us this day Our daily bread,
And forgive Us Our trespasses,
As We forgive those who trespass against Us;
And lead Us not into temptation,
But deliver Us from evil.
Amen.

This would be the Lord's Prayer as stated by those who believe that Jesus is God and they're just like Jesus. Saying it *with* Jesus as stated above would give arrogant Christians the erroneous belief that they can capitalize the words "Our," "Us" and "We" to include them in with Him. It would give man equal power in God's realm. It would allow man to play god.

As a Jew, I can't approve of this perspective. I can't believe I have the right to include myself in with God as the Deity personified. If I were a Christian, I would be the kind of Christian would state the Lord's Prayer without such capitalization of pronouns. When I recite the Lord's Prayer in church with my Christian brothers, I'm saying this:

Our Father, who art in Heaven
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

Amen.

This would give a very different message. This is the difference between a rightwing Christian who puts himself on equal footing with God and a humble Christian who puts science and humanity before his faith.

This is the humility that differentiates the true seeker of God from the arrogant believer who's already gotten all the answers he needs before he even asks his next question. This is what it means to be "One with God." This removes mystery from the meaning of life. And this is what makes blind certainty so dangerous.

If you speak about yourself as God or part-God, then playing hide-and-go-seek with "Yourself" would leave you with no need to pray. You'd separate yourself from God by giving Him the silence treatment. And because there would be no difference between you and Him or Them {the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit}, you'd be using atheism to kill off God in your imagination. And that's about as useful as having your x-rays touched up.

The meaning of your words would melt with misunderstandings if you equated yourself to God, or even a part of God. The Eucharist would become a form of self-cannibalism. And ideas like "our Father" and "our father" would leave you exasperated that words force meanings upon you that no other form of expression can. You'd give up on poetry and become prosaic. You'd lose all interest in your imagination. You'd become like a zombie – the living dead.

I don't think man plays hide-and-go-seek with himself or God. I think it's the meaning of words that eludes him. Some seek to deepen the meaning of their words. Others seek to obfuscate their meaning. Spiritual Linguistics is meant to help you learn to speak in such a way that your words will become your greatest achievement in life.

The difference between Jesus and all other authority figures past and present is the symbolic relationship He held with God, not his earthly title. But when you figuratively sit yourself down next to Him and take on the attributes of His title, you blaspheme.

Love allows each of us the freedom to discover for himself what it means to aspire to become a living symbol of God's love in this world. Love isn't restricted to royalty, race or religion. Love doesn't trickle down like economics or April showers.

For God to grant you what you believe you deserve, you're going to have to find words for the waves of sand in the desert you see, the sensation of ripples of water on the lake you feel and the undulations of the wind as it blows through your hair. If not, sparks will fly somewhere within or around you. And the mystery of the moment will lead you into your next lesson in the importance of a single WORD/WORD/w o r d in your life.

Superstition may lead you to communicate with people who are no longer living. Speaking to the dead can create an I/you relationship that eventually goes beyond comfort to cause paranoia and unrealistic fears about what's real. Talking to the dead is like literally talking to your penis or literally believing that "it" can talk back to you. Talking to the dead confuses reality with fantasy. The dead are completely gone. That's what it means to suffer loss.

Moses may have created a powerful character in his allegory by giving man's penis the ability to talk from the body of a serpent. But when you cross over the line from metaphor to reality and project your inner reality onto the world to come, you set yourself up for psychologically unhealthy and unrealistic concepts like "satan," which creates all sorts of superstitions.

The outcome of your life doesn't lie in the hands of a malevolent spirit who's trying to catch and hold you. There isn't a fight going on between God and the "devil." The struggle you have with God is yours, alone. And you have a powerful say in the outcome.

Christians who rely on saints as intermediaries to God must be taught how to use the supernatural pyramid of good deeds performed by previous devotees of Christ as building blocks in which Jesus is the pyramidion, or capstone. Jews who believe that the PROPHET Elijah comes into their home on Passover and drinks wine with them should ask themselves where they draw the line between faith and fantasy.

We need a world in which every man has control over his penis, not a world, as in the past, where most every penis had control over the man it was attached to. {Don't let your tail wag your dog. We live in an exciting time because today we can use our knowledge of ourselves to lift ourselves out of the irrational, paranoiac reactions of our ancestors. The beauty in the idea of God having given His one and only Son to the world is that men can then strive to become more like Him, unafraid of any part of themselves.

Jesus was looked at as a nuisance by most of the Jews in His day, and His message has been disregarded by many Jews ever since because it was so clumsily conveyed through malevolent deeds by so Christians in the past. Today many men still prefer to trade in their wisdom and loyalty to God for the dead bread called money rather than the living bread found in their feelings. Many still guzzle down wine without developing a thirst for love.

Give most men's penis a little tickle from time to time and fill their belly full, and they're happy enough with their simple lot in life. They don't want to have to give thought to much more than that if they don't have to. Therefore God has no choice but to bless every man with misfortunes {sticks} to get him involved in assignments with his classmates and doing his "Home" work.

Most problems in acquiring wisdom come from conceit. When you think you already know the answer to the problem in question, you're not open to becoming wiser. Most

problems in acquiring love come from vanity. When you think the feelings you're feeling are already nice enough, you don't leave yourself open to becoming loving. When you read without question, you end up believing what you think and feel without question. You won't find better reasons to keep the faith if you don't question your faith. More faith is built upon questioning blind certainty.

Jesus spoke with certainty if not always with clarity since He didn't have the advantage of the science of psychology to help present His message in more subtle terms at that time. He had to personify love with the vocabulary and culture of the time in which He lived. He probably only spoke two languages: Aramaic {a combination of ancient Latin and Hebrew} and classical Hebrew. As a resident of the Galilee perhaps He also spoke a smattering of ancient Greek. And still He was well understood because of where He was coming from, not where He came from. He used words in clever ways. But if you don't speak His languages you're going to have to look for modern translators who can share the spirit of His intentions with you. No translation of the Christian Bible is carved in stone. The Gospels weren't all written by fishermen, but they were all written on holy water.

Today, rabbis are ordained in accredited, religious institutions. Jesus was a rabbi because others said so. He received no diploma. He graduated no school that accredited Him.

I'm a rabbi who has ordained myself. I'm a rabbi only because I say so. I'm not waiting for an institution to give me its stamp of approval to legitimize my opinions, and I won't wait for the world to give me the honor I think I deserve. {I'm standing in the same line as every man.} If you can see where I'm coming from, it's because of where you're situated. I can't get inside you and nudge you to stand somewhere else to see my point of view from a different perspective.

To develop your persona, the inner "we," begin by developing conscious awareness of your container, the living bread Jesus talked about. This can be done with exercise, sports, dance or physical labor. Physical exertion will bring you awareness of the embarrassment you have about being in the body you were given. This will help you overcome your resentment at the physicality of life. It will teach you to accept pain with modesty. The more aware you become of this aspect of the spiritual process, the more you'll treasure your body. Pride in your appearance is the reward of moving through embarrassment to a modest regard for yourself. Acknowledging your gestures and movements is a sign that you're doing more than tolerating the way you were made physically. Pride in every action you take demonstrates that you're doing your part to improve yourself physically day-by-day.

To develop your persona further, focus conscious awareness on your contents. Begin with your impatience with others by seeing it as a projection of your frustrations, anger and

irritations with yourself. The closer you can bring these negative feelings for others home, the more effectively you'll be able to heal your work habits in the school of life. The stupidity you see in the world around you can be seen as a reminder from God that you've got a lot of classes left in your own curriculum, and you're going to need to learn how to study yourself even more effectively.

The result of moving through this personalized discomfort with the world will develop your humility. You're inner sense of "we" will become stronger when you realize the "we" around us is a reflection of the "we" within. Your sense of territoriality will diminish. Your world will shrink. And your impatience will become more personal. When you can express your displeasure with yourself humbly rather than angrily, you'll be able to cry more easily with real regret at how hard life really is.

The essence of tact and diplomacy will develop naturally when you choose your words carefully when talking to yourself. You'll see that modesty for your body mixed with ample amounts of humility expressed through your personality will improve your spiritual grades exponentially. And in the process you'll discover what a privilege it is being you.

It's harder and more complicated to be proud of yourself than Jesus could describe in the language of His day. When He asked to be remembered ritualistically for the body and blood He was willing to sacrifice, the Jews weren't aware of the importance of His gift. It is written about the night before He died, "THEN HE RETURNED TO HIS DISCIPLES AND FOUND THEM SLEEPING. 'COULDN'T YOU MEN KEEP WATCH WITH ME FOR ONE HOUR?' HE ASKED PETER." [Matthew 26:40]

We all fall asleep while in pursuit of the spiritual symbolism inherent in God's process that raises humanity to new spiritual heights. We all shame ourselves with apathy at every other man's fate.

Today's modern secular thinkers use metaphors and symbolism with unconscious fluidity. They act on their thoughts and feelings to such a habitual degree that they don't acknowledge them as the tools by which God's laws and love are made manifest in this world. Conceit and vanity are ubiquitous in man. Real integration of wisdom and love through new behaviors will continue to get easier as man learns to first separate these inner forces consciously before he tries to meld them together.

Jesus was given a unique insight into man's nature through His mother. His mother came from a new generation of Jewish mothers who'd advanced beyond the metaphors previously at their disposal. The fruit that had ripened in her and fell from her tree produced a Son the world had never before seen. But thanks to more spiritual, child rearing techniques women worldwide are now bringing children into the world who are capable of handling the moral lessons of this day in a better way.

The infant can only take. The child must be taught to ask. The adolescent has to have it explained to him to realize how much he has received. The young adult has to learn to give back. And the mature man must speak candidly to God about how He's taking him down a road that's getting increasingly narrower.

You can't turn around and go back. And you can't continue forward forever. The journey comes to an end. You usually get as far as you chose to go. Therefore, beware!

"IS THIS TOO MUCH FOR YOU? THEN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU WERE TO SEE THE SON OF MAN GOING UP TO THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS BEFORE? IT IS THE SPIRIT WHICH GIVES LIFE. THE FLESH WILL NOT HELP YOU. THE THINGS WHICH I HAVE TOLD YOU ARE SPIRITUAL AND ARE LIFE. BUT SOME OF YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE ME." [John 6:61-64]

It looks like Jesus anticipated His death and resurrection, or at least He was quoted as such. I don't know. I wasn't there. Nor was I at the Red Sea 1,400 years prior to that when others of my ancestors claimed it parted for them when Moses put his staff in it.

Rational reasons will satisfy man's mind. Rational feelings will satisfy his heart. But only the combination of both will satisfy his soul.

Man's flesh and blood are the mediums of a spiritual life in an earthly setting, but it's his spirit that is the message. Jesus conveyed the importance of the medium {the human body} in delivering His message from God. And we must do the same to ourselves to insure that our message of hope is also made manifest.

So when Jesus said, **"THE FLESH WILL NOT HELP YOU"** I think He was saying that our ancestors were too consumed with the pain and suffering that made them yearn only for greater, physical comforts. When He said **"THE THINGS WHICH I HAVE TOLD YOU ARE SPIRITUAL AND ARE LIFE"** I believe He was saying that the importance of life is the spiritual progress you make. Matters of the flesh are only the medium by which you achieve your greatness.

Our body is the greatest evidence from God each of us has to work with. But when you observe adults closely, you see that although they're physically on the other side of puberty, they may be emotionally quite a bit younger. Many men haven't gone through the emotional rebirth that comes with the physical changes that signal adulthood, so how can you expect them to behave in a way that demonstrates that they've been spiritually reborn? If you don't understand pain and suffering as His rod helping you to overcome your spiritual blindness, you'll lose sight of your gratitude in being given the privilege of helping to relieve pain and suffering for others.

Unhelpful people often become depressed. They can't find the line between the child and the adult in themselves. They can't enjoy being on either side of it. They find solace in animals, children or things, but they can't find solace in themselves or the way things are

turning out for them. They become plagued with loneliness, emptiness or feelings of alienation. To cross the divide between childhood and adulthood is harder than it looks. Fame and fortune won't bring you consciously over that line. Some people vacillate between their inner Egypt and Israel, never noticing the miraculous path that has opened up for them to the other side of bondage.

Those who couldn't receive Jesus's message then are no different from those who can't respect it today. They doubt the wisdom of His words. I recommend they forget about the messenger and whether He is the Messiah, and just debate His message. I recommend they put aside His tone of voice and engage His vision. Grab the rope; don't debate the merits of the sailor who threw it to you.

The words you speak convey two messages. One is the literal intention of the meaning and the other in your emotional intention. If you don't monitor your words yourself, you're only going to hear one or the other. You're only going to rely on the wisdom of Moses or the wisdom of Jesus. You're going to end up conceited {Jew-like} or vain {Christian-like}. You're going to end up wandering your whole life between an Egypt and Israel of your own making. And that will create unanticipated lessons in the school of life that will test your faith in yourself. Your faith in God is irrelevant.

The spiritual flight Jesus took after the end of His life can be explained in terms of miracles or metaphors. It doesn't really matter whether it happened literally, spiritually, or both. What matters is that you open yourself to the possibility of spiritual flight and of the possibility of becoming an example of the spiritual evolution of the finest, not just the physical survival of the fittest. If you want your absence from this Earth to be perceived of as a loss for you, you'd do well to put some effort into making your presence more meaningful to others. Your involvement in human rights will lead you to your right to be yourself. But if you think you have the right to usurp the rights of others, you'll become mean spirited and boorish over time.

Arguing over the religious rights of Jews, Christians or Muslims is mean-spirited, while arguing over spiritual rights is an interesting discussion. You have the following rights:

1. The right to forgive yourself for not knowing how to operate you.
2. The right to forgive yourself for having ignored your needs for the sake of doing what you thought was in others' best interest.
3. The right to forgive yourself for coming to your reason for living late in the game.

What you don't have is the right to forgive yourself for what you've done to hurt and upset others. For that you'll have to make amends. But for all your transgressions, self-love is what it will take to get you to the starting line.

“THIS IS WHY I SAID TO YOU, ‘NO ONE CAN COME TO ME UNLESS MY FATHER PUTS IT INTO HIS HEART TO COME.’ [John 6:64-65]

God-consciousness is a luxury that many aren't privileged enough to receive, but with it comes a responsibility to you, as well as to others. History has consistently pointed us in the direction of the meek inheriting the Earth. If you believe in God, but you're placing your bet on the rich and powerful winning the race, I've got a needle I'd like to ask you to thread with a camel.

You wouldn't want to live in a world run by Christian wisdom, Muslim love or Jewish generosity. And I'm not trying to be insulting or funny by saying that. I'm trying to show you the wisdom in the way each tradition was made to rest upon the next. If your beliefs allow gay-Jews to live and love freely, you can assume you're on morally sound ground because you won't see yourself threatened from two opposing, moral directions. But when you feel like you're damned if you do and damned if you don't, you'll understand what it's like to be a gay-Jew. You'll feel like Jesus. And your conscience will get the kind of workout it needs to move this world in the direction of God's plan.

Religion is ritual made real. Spirituality is belief made manifest. Spirituality is the study of how we can use religious traditions to enhance our appreciation of our Creator's presence in every one's life, not just those who believe as you do. And Spiritual Linguistics is the study of the words we use to discuss our Father, Teacher, Judge, Cow and Queen Bee so we can know, love and believe in Them with greater moral acuity to achieve the equivalent of a land of milk and honey for everyone who's willing to work for it.

There is a mystery in Torah called “HA PARA ADUMA” {THE RED COW}. “SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, THAT THEY BRING YOU A RED HEIFER WITHOUT SPOT, WHEREIN IS NO BLEMISH, AND UPON WHICH NEVER CAME YOKE.” [Numbers 19:2] In order to purify a person who was ritually contaminated by contact with a corpse, he had to be sprinkled with ashes from a red cow.

Purification requires contact with the angry {red} cow {mature, golden calf}. You must see the red cow as yourself, and you must sprinkle this awareness throughout your spiritual system to avoid apathy, denial and other living forms of living death.

Humility comes from facing your anger at having your vanity and conceit stopped in their tracks. Humility comes from seeing how you idolized the reflection of the golden calf in you through materialism, until you grew up enough emotionally to put your obsessions aside. Humility is imperative for learning self-love. You've got to be able to see yourself as having changed and transformed in order to transcend yourself through every purification process God gives you.

God gave man an entire major in the school of life for love {Christianity}. And Jesus was the only Teacher from the Teacher in that major. If you argue about His profession

{lover} or the pronoun describing Jesus {Him}, aren't you missing the point? The far greater challenge is to find the feeling that will allow you to live out the metaphor of life as a school, and not a prison sentence. The challenge is to return to your memories of growing up to face the feelings you had as a child, as well as the conclusions you drew about life when you were young and inexperienced. If you don't go to class, you'll remain in the halls of life telling others, like yourself, who are also playing hooky, how mean the Teacher is and how stupid all those are who are in class.

The problem with the serpent in your tree is that you can't just cover your crotch with the leaf of modesty and assume that'll make your serpent shut up. Nor can you literally cover its head with your foreskin to muffle its words. You have to live with the drips and drabs that escape its lips when it raises its head and is about to say something significant. That's the way it was made. It'll kidnap your mind by way of your heart. It truly is beguiling if you don't acknowledge its presence every day of your life.

Wisdom doesn't have to lead only to foolishness, and love doesn't have to lead only to loathing. The more you witness yourself, the more you'll be able to see your penis as a mystery and not a problem. Then you'll be able to correct for it with the help of the Teacher. Most men don't realize that their serpent will take control of every muscle in their body over time if they don't control "it." Everyone wants to be liberated enough to feel relaxed, sexy and attractive. And sooner or later everyone needs Biblical insight to understand this all too human desire.

"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO AROUSE THE WORLD'S HATRED, BUT I PROVOKE HATRED BECAUSE I SHOW THE WORLD HOW EVIL ITS DEEDS REALLY ARE." [John 7:1-9]

Jesus was like a big mouth, middleclass Jew. He went from the small town where he grew up to the big city where He upset the rich people who held positions of great authority. Those in power had no idea what He was talking about. They could only see His effect on the masses, and that worried them. His effect on the masses has only been growing stronger as more and more people become willing to admit they're part of the masses and not separate from humanity.

You don't have to be gay or Jewish to like your penis just the way it is: cut. Whatever mischief it chooses to talk you into, you can choose to join in on it by bringing your head, heart and conscience along for a discussion of "its" intentions. That may sound less exciting than the way you may be living with yourself right now, but your penis can become a fascinating, new challenge if you choose to let "it" penetrate your imagination before you let "it" loose on the world.

By doing so you'll come to know what Freud called the subconscious. In the 19th Century they had to find euphemistic words for aspects of themselves they weren't willing

to talk about in polite society. The subconscious is just the psychological way of saying that your penis has a mind of its own. It will let you in on what it's thinking if you change your opinion of "it" into a positive problem. You can come to know yourself in the Biblical sense if you always know and love learning about what you're doing to yourself and with yourself.

When you learn to listen to yourself, you discover that there are conflicting voices within you, some that even insist on talking when you're talking. Others insist on contradicting you. And still others sit by silently nodding their approval of anything you say or making faces behind your back.

These voices all harken back to the voice of desire. And you have to choose which desires are in your best interest and which are not. You have to determine which are coming from your right fruit {good} and which are coming from the left {evil}. This is what your conscience is for. Use it!

When you see someone who excites you sexually; when you find yourself eating over the sink to hide your impatience with your urges; when you bite your nails, scratch your head or tap your feet mindlessly; when you look around sheepishly without focusing on anything in particular; when you stick out your tongue to lick your lips because something tells you they're dry – these behaviors are the result of thoughts and feelings that have associations in your subconscious. These are ways your penis is telling you something out loud that it wants you to know and learn from, often in the company of others. These are ways that "it" is slithering along a branch focusing its attention on another fruit you think is still forbidden to you from tasting.

Everyone has to face the creepy, crawly, scary part of himself in some way, at some time. This, too, is what it means to be human. Life is a school, and it's about time that the student body gets real and studies all of their body. Even though there's a creepy snake hidden in every man's tree, it doesn't need to be embarrassing being a man. If we all just took a deep breath and admitted there's something creepy about everyone, (even those people who were given a worm rather than a snake), we wouldn't have to react to every little thing unconsciously or quite so unfavorably. Having a serpent in your tree can actually turn out to be a champagne challenge rather than a penis problem.

Send artists with our soldiers to teach our enemies how to paint with every Judeo-Christian color in our rainbow. Send tight ropewalkers, contortionists and dancers to houses of prayer to teach the faithful how to exercise their beliefs in more gracious ways. Send sculptors to Congress to show them what feet of clay look like. Send painters with great perspectives to teach our judges and juries how to make moral masterpieces out of jurisprudence. Send poets into prisons and playwrights into asylums to help those held captive. Send the bozos at the back of the room out on the quad to teach the kids playing

hooky how to laugh at *themselves* sarcastically and scornfully for refusing to come to class. Send rabbis to Arabia, and send all Muslims to Hebrew school to teach them about the horrible fathering techniques of Abraham with his sons, Ishmael and Isaac. Send a woman to the White House to teach the world about power. Send black men into girls' private schools to teach them to overcome embarrassment of the color of their skin. Hire blind men to push around those in wheelchairs. It will give the blind exercise and help those with mobility issues to be grateful for their sight.

Rather than deny the existence of our Teacher, question Him in your heart. Your problem doesn't stem from the Abrahamic religions. Moses, Joshua and the P r o p h e t Mohammed graduated the school of life with exemplary grades, opening our ancestors' spiritual educational doors to new majors and degrees. The problem for us today lies in everyone completing his general spiritual ed. requirements in metaphor, symbol and simile.

Rich, ancient Jews in Jesus's day hated Him because He made everyone around Him feel bad about majoring in money, property and Roman prestige. For millennia Christians waged war on Jews, Muslims and pagans because we unconsciously reminded them of how little of Jesus's love they were ready to feel for themselves. It's taken 2,000 years for Christians working toward self-love to separate self-loathing from their connections with strangers and strangers' curious ways. It's taken that long for Christians to entertain the idea of graduating with Jesus in a Ph.D. in "me," not "Me."

We're all curious what it would be like to know and love our body more. We'd all like to fill ourselves with love as you'd a pour liquid into a container. Jealousy and envy are negative emotions when projected onto others, but when you turn those negative desires around, they become positive forces that make sense if viewed with symbolic logic. The more you yearn for you, the more you'll learn from you.

But you can't like your container or approve of your contents while you're being ridiculed by voices inside you that disapprove of you. If you disapprove of the behavior of corporations, institutions and government, you can change their culture by fighting back. But we don't yet have a culture that promotes the idea of fighting back against our disapproval of ourselves. Most people simply kill themselves outright, or they do things to themselves passively to kill themselves.

Sociology is psychology turned inside out. One man can make an enormous difference in fighting *the man* by dealing with "him" from within. That's just what Jesus did.

The culture of confrontation is predominantly focused on race, religion, gender and sexual orientation. Battles between the police and people of color, religious wars in the Middle East, assault on women's rights and straight disapproval of the gay lifestyle are all psychological issues that would be better fought from within. When men can deal with

their authority issues internally, it removes their need to strike out at others. Defiance of others is always, in part, a gift from God to motivate you to another level of inner struggle.

The only tools any of us are given are a little time and space to figure out who we are becoming. The dancer knows this better than any of the other artists. Claustrophobia is a common symptom of spirituality. We don't feel there's enough space around us because we feel so easily trespassed against from within. Make more space for yourself within yourself by bringing your demons to consciousness. The idea of being pinned into in a tight spot with the walls closing in on you only gets more real as you age and your mortality becomes more apparent.

Running out of time is equivalent to running out of space. There comes a point in your life when you realize there simply isn't any more inner space or time for you to draw on. You've used up the tools God gave you. You have to face Him, Her or Them. You have to put down your pencil and turn in your test. It's over.

The feeling of being very old and near death isn't reserved for the elderly. Those who are heartfelt or soulful often feel an agonizing and inexplicable sense of claustrophobia, as though they're being squeezed on the inside. This is a very human response to the realization that you're running out of time to learn to love yourself. It's your soul's way of blowing your flame in the direction of your mind and singeing a part of your brain.

Nazism brought Christianity in Europe to its knees. It became impossible for the Christian world in the second half of the 20th Century to fathom the cause of their hatred after 2,000 years of dutifully following Jesus's teachings. No previous civilization in history went to such lengths to express their loathing with such methodically evil intention. And yet, ironically, all the evils of Christianity boiled down to lessons in wisdom of the heart that we're now capable of resolving within ourselves through spiritual psychology; God's gift to the new age.

You have to familiarize yourself with your jealousy over the physical space others seem to have and envy over those with more time on their hands, before you can make the claim that you know something about self-love. You have to experience a misplaced yearning for other people's containers and contents to recognize the feeling of being lonely outside and empty inside. Only that will relieve you of the impression that you were dumped here by aliens who will only come back to pick you up when you're dead.

You may never feel full. Rapture is the rare feeling that your cup is running over. Between rapture and regret come moments of loneliness and emptiness that you can't ignore or explain away with irresponsible behaviors. Being a human being is harder than it looks. God lets us explore becoming human with challenges that cause pain and suffering. Such is life.

Jesus realized He provoked hatred because He demonstrated how others' motivations were based on guilt rather than love. He taught His countrymen to abhor hatred as much as He loved to love, love. But people don't want to be told they don't know what they're. He surely received His moral perspective from His mother's love for Him, and she surely made it clear that her love for Him wasn't the only love in His life. He also had a Father who loved Him. Jesus must have seen that His own love for her, and hers for Him, came from the same source, making God His spiritual Father and her spiritual Husband.

A husband is a partner who knows you intimately. The gay man who wants a husband is no different from the woman who wants one. If God could be Mary's Husband, He can be ours, too. It's my prerogative to see God as my Teacher, Father or Husband. My relationship to God is as open to interpretation as anyone else's. And the man who tries to tell me what relationships I can and cannot have with Him is seriously, spiritually flawed.

In the metaphor of life-as-a-school, God is my Teacher. In the metaphor of the family-of-man, God is my Father. And in the metaphor of me-as-my-wife, God is my Husband.

Since man is half man {y} and half woman {x}, the metaphor of me-as-my-wife could, at worst, only be half wrong. And in the metaphor of me-as-my-husband, God could even be my Wife. Just open your imagination to logic and irrational feelings of anger will subside.

The love a mother bestows on her baby boy is the first sign that God's love can shine through a female onto a male. But your love for yourself is your first sign of the wonder of God's love directly from Him to you. A man's love for himself is no different from the love he receives from his mother or others. All love comes from the same source. All rocks at the bottom of the river are equally wet.

If the Church were able to admit that its possessiveness over women and antipathy for gays emanates out from the top of their hierarchy, it would stop itself from making bodily decisions for others. After centuries of sex scandals between priests and nuns in the centuries past, the fact that the priesthood in the Catholic Church attracted pedophiles in recent years is a sad, but bitter, irony. Not even religious institutions are immune to the beguiling serpent in the Creation Story. Even religious corporations are being forced to deal with the conspiracy between their feelings and desires.

We live in a new age. This isn't an age in which women will teach men about matters of the heart, but a time in which you'll teach yourself. The importance of Mary, the quintessential Jewish mother, in Jesus's life is a tale that hasn't been adequately broached. Now is the time for you to resonate with the Madonna's suffering and loss, and realize that you can't do anything about it anymore. Jesus's pain and Mary's suffering were intended for you to resonate with your own, not to meddle in the private lives of the people around

you. Let a new clergy of women show the world how mothers can love the concept of Christ. Let's get men's hearts out of religious business and let women explore running it.

No man who resists a woman's right to perform every religious duty a man can perform can profess to love all God's creations equally. "Separate but equal" didn't work in race relations, and it won't work in religious relations, either.

Emotionally compartmentalizing love for the sinner while at the same time hating his sin is no less hypocritical. Hatred must be questioned wherever you see it. Hatred is never wise, and wisdom is never hateful. Love, love, but don't hate, hate. The more you hate, hate the closer it'll crawl toward you causing you fear. Anything you hate reminds you of something about yourself that you don't want to face.

Your heart isn't hanging on your sleeve like your testicles hang down in your crotch. Your heart is well protected behind bars of bone from anyone getting in to see and hear what it whispers to you. So long as everyone has the same legal rights and opportunities in society, your right to emotional privacy will remain secure. But if you're Christian and quote the Hebrew Testament to restrict a gay-Jew's freedom to share in the same protections under the law on religious grounds, I'll drag your heart out of your chest and hang it on your sleeve to show the world how black and hateful it is. And while I have your heart on your sleeve, I'll prove to you that what you hate isn't *me*, but *you*. And then I'll ask you to imagine how big a piece of the pie you think you deserve for forcing Jews to love your way...

"DID I NOT CHOOSE YOU TWELVE - AND ONE OF YOU HAS THE 'DEVIL' IN HIS HEART?" [John 6:70]

Jesus was well aware of His disciples' feelings, and still He included Judas in with His plan. Jealousy and envy will never end until you do as He did. The Judas in your own heart must have his way so that you can see for yourself how you feel about you. You just don't have to let this experiment occur in the world we share. Allow it to happen only internally.

You've got to love your toes even if you can't touch them with your elbows. You've got to kiss yourself on the lips even if that can only be done in your imagination. Biting off your nose to spite your face won't leave you with an attractive smile when you meet your Maker.

The personification of hatred as a supernatural creature called "satan" who looked for a dark way into a man's heart was the only childlike theory Western societies were capable of making at one time. Sodomy isn't "devil" worship. Evil doesn't enter a man through his anus.

You must relinquish the idea of hatred personified as a supernatural force outside yourself before you'll be able to find the strength to believe that love is the quintessential outcome for goodness. Jesus doesn't enter into men's hearts through an orifice in their

body. Goodness and evil have always been a part of you, like those two fruits that have been hanging down from your tree as long as you can remember.

Jesus is the spiritual personification of God's heart, but "satan" is the anthropomorphism of man's penis. There's nothing your penis can figuratively say or do that your conscience won't overhear. You're responsible for all the thoughts, feelings, desires and beliefs that come to mind. The sooner you listen in to all the voices chattering inside you, the sooner you'll make progress being yourself.

Pornography is a way to explore your urges, but, like drugs, pornography is a fire that will probably burn you over time. And yet we can't create laws to protect adults from all forms of fire. Soda pop is fire. Advertisements on T.V. are sparks intended to ignite flames. We don't always need less tinder. We need people so soaked in knowledge of their own self-love that they're too wet with self-love to set them aflame.

Ideas, notions, concepts, hypotheses and theories when mixed with feelings develop into designs, opinions, positions, viewpoints and mindsets that ultimately create philosophies of life. The Creation Story doesn't tell us *what* to believe. It tells us *how* we believe. Your beliefs are as much your own business as your thoughts, feelings and desires. What you do with your belief system is up to you, and God, to judge.

The Ten Commandments aren't commandments in Hebrew. The word used is "DVARIM," which literally means "UTTERANCES" or "THINGS." God asked us to obey His Ten utterances because they're as real as things. God didn't have to ask us to obey His physical utterances such as gravity, electromagnetism and inertia. These forces have the same effects on all things. The physical forces of the universe don't tell you *what* to do. They describe *how* forces interact and what you can do to apply them to your moral efforts to make your life more comfortable.

The Ten Commandments are spiritual utterances of faith, moral forces put into place that act on human beings in mysterious ways we can explore and test, as we do with physical forces. The scientists prefer to look at the cause and effect of God's physical forces. The spiritualists prefer to do the same with His moral forces.

The 1st Commandment, "I AM THE LORD, THY GOD, WHO TOOK YOU OUT OF EGYPT," isn't merely a statement of fact. The inference is that the Israelites had good reason to feel guilty by the tone of voice God used when He said it. It's as though God said to the Israelites, "Do I *really* have to remind you what I've already done for you only three weeks after I did it? Have you forgotten so soon that I'm leading and you're supposed to be following Me?" It's God's tone of voice that makes it clear that the Israelites needed an explanation of the moral forces He had in place before He described to them what they were.

The 2nd Commandment continues in this exasperated vein. "THOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BESIDES ME," inferring more guilt and a great deal of anger. God needed to

add the 2nd Commandment, in part, to convey the impression that His 1st Commandment was a warning they probably wouldn't be willing to heed. He already anticipated how dafka they were unconsciously planning to behave.

The 3rd Commandment is in the third person, "THOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN" inferring that the only way to develop control over your feelings is to distance you from yourself with language. Blasphemy hurts the person most who's doing the cursing because it creates a false intimacy with himself based on arrogance.

By the 4th Commandment, "KEEP THE SABBATH HOLY" you can assume time is of the essence. You can't learn about yourself overnight. It takes questioning and patience to discover who you are and how you're behaving. You aren't going to see yourself without introspection over time. Therefore put some time aside for this process.

By the 5th "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER" you can see that honoring those closest to you will teach you how to honor yourself. You can't learn to love yourself until you've learned to honor yourself. And you can't do either until you've practice honor on others.

The second tablet {not to kill, cheat, steal, lie or covet} is based on the assumption that you aren't going to get the first set of Commandments right. It presupposes that you're going to make serious mistakes with the first five that will make it necessary for you to learn about the importance of the first five through breaking all ten. The reason I recommended you explore the Ten Commandments in reverse order is because I presume you've already done your best to obey them consecutively from 1-10.

The two COMMANDMENTS Jesus added [{1} love the Lord and {2} love your neighbor as yourself merely restate the other Ten in a positive light from a second place in inner space. There's little point in doing what's right if you do it only out of duty, fear or blind obedience. If your heart isn't into what you're doing you're not doing it for the right reasons. It's fine to skip the first Ten and move on to the eleventh and twelfth if you've been so schooled in the Ten that you know them by heart. But most people don't have a head filled with the Ten Commandments and a heart filled with Christ's other two. Most people were unconsciously trained, instructed, educated and informed by the Bible. They don't exactly know what they know and what they don't.

You can't move out of your heart and into your soul until you've got a dozen good reasons backed up by experience to do so. God's generosity of spirit must be expressed after wisdom and love have been secured from within. To become generous of spirit, you have to be able to live with an open mind and an open heart. In those ways that your mind is closed your heart will be closed, too. And that will affect your conscience and the development of it into a soul.

Nobody thinks he's a bad person. I doubt if even Hitler thought of himself as evil. But with education should come psychological insight and the realization that we all use denial

to protect ourselves from ourselves. Man has had to move through inner confusion and doubts to achieve greater sanity. He's had to realize he's no longer evil in the old style, religious sense. Today he's just sick. Some get sicker. Others recuperate.

A new Hitler is born every second. They're called babies, and today we teach their mothers to do a better job than Hitler's mother did with him. We send our little tyrants to school after a few years of training at home where their teachers are supposed to teach them the psychological tools for today that will help them grow up and heal themselves of the mental, emotional and spiritual illnesses all children contract in infancy and childhood.

And still there are totalitarian tots {bullies} of every age who still don't know why they were sent to school in the first place. Even though many of them later hold high office and positions of responsibility in industry, education and the military, our only hope now lies with today's mothers being psychologically better educated so that tomorrow's kids will be more civilized than today's grown-ups. An education is a terrible thing to waste by coming out of school more embarrassed, ashamed and humiliated than you went in. If your public school education didn't teach you modesty, humility and grace, it did you a disservice that you shouldn't allow it to do to future generations.

If your own mother and father were like children in your eyes; if they treated you the way they did and you can see it was because of their own emotional age – you're normal. We all inherit obligations to our parents thanks to having overcome bad parenting. Wanting the best for others is the result of not wanting anyone to have to go through what you did. That's generous of spirit, not invasive. It only crosses a line when you use childish techniques to get grown up results.

“I HAVE DONE ONE THING AND YOU ARE ALL AMAZED AT IT. MOSES GAVE YOU CIRCUMCISION {NOT THAT IT CAME FROM MOSES ORIGINALLY BUT FROM YOUR FOREFATHERS}, AND YOU WILL CIRCUMCISE A MAN EVEN ON THE SABBATH. IF A MAN RECEIVES THE CUTTING OF CIRCUMCISION ON THE SABBATH TO AVOID BREAKING THE LAW OF MOSES, WHY SHOULD YOU BE ANGRY WITH ME BECAUSE I HAVE MADE A MAN'S BODY PERFECTLY WHOLE ON THE SABBATH? YOU MUST NOT JUDGE BY THE APPEARANCE OF THINGS BUT BY THE REALITY!” [John 7:21-24]

Jesus argued that the ancient Jews would perform the physical separation of circumcision for God's sake but refuse to contemplate His spiritual, unification process as well. Separation and unification with yourself is a spiritual mystery, but people prefer to argue the importance of circumcision and communion rather than expand upon religious practices with metaphor, symbols and similes. When you refuse to compare and contrast your rites and rituals with the moral beliefs of others you lose a little of your importance in your own eyes.

People don't frequent their house of prayer each week looking to find peace with their enemies. They don't even go to find peace with themselves. They're so consumed with their appearance in others' eyes that they overlook the opportunities He gives them to make peace with themselves. Organized, institutionalized religion is becoming less relevant because it isn't incorporating the science of psychology in with the tenets of faith. If you can't love your enemies like yourself, why bother to have any? Do you really need more practice in hating other people's sins? Spend more time loving to hate your sins and less time loving to hate theirs.

For Christians whose tradition requires them to take both the Old and New Testaments to heart, there should be no difficulty in appreciating the positions of Moses and Jesus. Common sense dictates that in today's world we can see the need for separation from ourselves with guilt in order to reunite within with a conviction to love ourselves all the more.

Gays are winning today's culture war in America for the same reason German youth in the 1960's lost their hatred of Jews despite their parents' earlier efforts to eradicate Jews from the continent. It simply gets tiresome to hate the people your relatives hate. Tomorrow's Muslims aren't going to hate gays or Jews. If you love hating gays or Jews, shouldn't you really make an effort for your own sake to turn that love of hatred around on yourself? Do you really want to meet your Maker with a nose chewed off from you having unconsciously bitten it off over time? Wouldn't a centrist position serve you better than one at either extreme?

Some people are afraid of the authority of the institutions of religion because these institutions so badly abused their authority in the past and some religious leaders have so little emotional insight into themselves today. But most of the authority of the Abrahamic faiths is founded upon the supremacy of men because God is only looked at as male. (Check out the lyrics to "California Dreaming" by The Mamas and The Papas. There's a very curious line in there "If I didn't tell Her I could leave today." If spelled in this way it infers that man's relationship to God is only half as realized as it could be.)

Giving Christianity credit for its belief in the sanctity of love doesn't mean you have to leave your brains at the door when you enter a church. Christians could inspire a new kind of leader if their hearts were opened to a greater place for women in their institutions. How screwed would you be if God were a black lesbian and Jesus were a gay-Jew?

God didn't punish Abraham for the way he treated Ishmael or Isaac. He shaped Abraham into who he wanted him to be given the spiritual awareness of men at that time. He blessed each of his sons separately, although each was emotionally injured differently from their father's cruel ways. Modern Abrahamic men shouldn't fight with their neighbors over who feels more betrayed by his neighbors. God wants us to realize that there are no

gods before Him. Therefore we must recognize that the emotional strain being felt in the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities is no coincidence. Our Abrahamic faiths are getting just what each of them deserves. If they want better, they're going to have to work together for it.

Spiritual immaturity is something we all need to grow out of. We're all Ishmaels {men of God}, and we're all Isaacs {the personification of laughter}. Every man has a father within him, and that inner father needs to accept that there are two boys in his inner life, an Ishmael and an Isaac. He can't abandon one {Ishmael} and threaten to kill the other {Isaac}. Fatherhood begins as an inside job by looking at the extremes in your own heart and bringing them together with love.

Jesus was quite astute in placing His argument about circumcision and perfection of the body on the Sabbath rather than in ordinary time because the Sabbath always reminds us of our growing reliance on hope. God is with us in the subjective, emotional sense of time regardless of the day of the week we celebrate our Sabbath. Changing your body, whether through circumcision or other forms of physical enhancement, should always be seen as an intimate, hopeful experience that draws you closer to God. For Jews and Muslims giving up your foreskin is a reminder that we both have skin in the game.

Your body was never meant to be a perfect shelter. It was always meant to be a temporary home that would leak from time to time, crack, break, drip and eventually collapse and turn to dust. The purpose of circumcision is to remind us of our gratitude to the Builder, regardless of the imperfections of the house we were assigned. The perfect home for your spirit isn't your body here on Earth. But you can still learn to appreciate the body you were given, as would a mouse given a loaf of bread to live in.

The spiritual infant can't tell the difference between the Sabbath and the six other days of the week. The spiritual child learns from his worldly experiences that time is something he must learn to use responsibly. The spiritual adolescent looks at time through his heart and feels that love has the power to make time stand still. And the spiritually young man feels the chilling cold of the work place he can't avoid all week long. The mature man takes time out for God at least one day a week, and the spiritually old man sees age, illness and death in others as timed messages being brought to him personally. Taking God's timing to heart can be learned at any age.

A Jewish circumcision on the eighth day of life is like a phone call from your Landlord just after you moved in and got settled. It's the first of many calls from Him to Jewish and Muslim men in which they both ought to be asking themselves, "Why me? Why now?" And, "What can I do to keep His premises looking great until He evicts me?"

"YOU MUST NOT JUDGE BY THE APPEARANCE OF THINGS BUT BY THE REALITY!"

The infant has no horizons; its world is endlessly flat. The child sees the horizons set by others and learns to reach for them. The adolescent dreams of moving past his horizons, and, in so doing, he discovers that his inner world is round. The immature man finally puts down roots and learns to embrace his world with a personal sense of time and space here and now. The mature man dreams about other worlds. And the old man watches as his world shrinks until his horizon goes no further than his room, his bed and then his eyelids. Most men need a lifetime to see that they've been judging the appearance of things, not reality. Only then do they use their imagination to perceive that God has always been right under their nose.

"I SHALL BE WITH YOU ONLY A LITTLE WHILE LONGER AND THEN I AM GOING TO HIM WHO SENT ME. YOU WILL LOOK FOR ME THEN BUT YOU WILL NEVER FIND ME. YOU CANNOT COME WHERE I SHALL BE." [John 7:32-34]

A divine relationship with Jesus is only possible if you're a devout Christian, but a personal relationship with His message is possible if you're ready to appreciate the reason for communing at Their table. Anyone can discover the reason for the sacrifice of Christ's body and blood. All he has to do is mature enough to appreciate the sacrifice of his own.

Try rereading the above passage without the added caps to see how it makes you feel when written as though anyone might have said it. "I shall be with you only a little while longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. You will look for me then, but you will never find me. You cannot come where I shall be."

There must always be a literal contrast that separates Jesus from all other Jews today. The visual distinctions I've given you when reading His WORDS are only one way to make this distinction. You can devise any number of ways to acknowledge His message of love personally.

When you can see how a devout Christian feels, it may help you understand why his relationship to Jesus is so special to him. That should leave you in awe of his contributions to society in His name. But it should also appall you if he's insensitive and unkind when it comes to the needs of others.

The Christian who refuses to help the poor and the disenfranchised because of the money it will cost isn't a Christian. He more resembles the ancient, rich Jews in the Temple who were banking on only one Temple where they could conduct business without competition. Spending money wisely is different from refusing to spend money at all. Regulation and supervision are far preferable to doing nothing at all.

It's only been 2,000 years since the impoverished Jews who embraced the teachings of Jesus struck out on a new path from wisdom in the direction we now call love. We can see how blessed the whole world has been by His words, and how the path of wisdom of the heart has benefited humanity, especially in the fields of art and science. The Christian

contribution to humanity deserves enormous praise in some very special ways. Let's admire the Church and use what it gave us gratefully, and not react in spite when it doesn't live up to Jesus's teachings because it's afraid of a little competition from temples and mosques.

Taking a shower every day ought to be a law, even though we know we don't want to literally force people to be hygienic. The pursuit of fidelity ought to be written in to the Constitution, but we don't want to send the police into anyone's bedroom for not making love with the same person every night. Giving the best of yourself is best when it's self-motivated, but we don't want to twist anyone's arm to remind him of that. These lifestyle issues need discussion and cultural persuasion, not law enforcement.

Everyone in America owes a debt of gratitude to Christianity and Judaism. We are the greatest country that's ever been created on the face of the Earth for many good reasons, and in the future I hope we'll be able to praise the contributions of Muslims in our society, too {once they get their spiritual homework done and come to class better prepared to join spiritual study groups with the rest of us}. But since Rome wasn't built in a day, I don't expect Mecca to be renovated overnight.

Although Jesus told His followers that they wouldn't be able to go where He will be, that doesn't mean we can't strive to arrive there in our heart even if we can't literally be with Him in the here and now. We all ultimately have to find love in ourselves if we're going to perceive it in the message of the man who hasn't literally been seen or heard from in 2,000 years. Sometimes the evidence for a person's presence isn't to be found in the flesh. If I were to look for evidence of the goodness of your mother and father I should be able to find it in you.

“EVEN IF I AM TESTIFYING TO MYSELF, MY EVIDENCE IS VALID, FOR I KNOW WHERE I HAVE COME FROM AND I KNOW WHERE I AM GOING. BUT AS FOR YOU, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I COME FROM OR WHERE I AM GOING. YOU ARE JUDGING BY HUMAN STANDARDS, BUT I AM NOT JUDGING ANYONE. YET IF I SHOULD JUDGE, MY DECISION WOULD BE JUST, FOR I AM NOT ALONE - THE FATHER WHO SENT ME IS WITH ME. IN YOUR LAW, IT IS STATED THAT THE WITNESS OF TWO PERSONS IS VALID. I AM ONE TESTIFYING TO MYSELF AND THE SECOND WITNESS TO ME IS THE FATHER WHO SENT ME.” [John 8:14-18]

There's no way for anyone to know Jesus's relationship with God personally since like every relationship it lies only between those Two. Jesus separated Himself from humanity in just such a way that the memory of His message would unite humanity more closely with God in a new way. He figuratively placed Himself above us, but beside God, so we'd strive to use Their messages on how to behave.

But He did give us a clue to how He did it by stating that He testified to Himself. And that He was aware that His Father's was his second Witness. We can do the same. We can testify to ourselves by being scrupulously honest about the effects of the forces within us. And in so doing we can become more and more aware that God is our second Witness.

Socrates said, "Man is a meaning-making machine." Five hundred years later Jesus implied that man is a lovemaking machine. His words may come down sounding somewhat condescending by today's standards, but His intent surely was that we all elevate our relationship with God by copying His relationship to Him. His intent surely was that you should witness yourself and judge yourself. If you aren't open to a little self-judgment you're going to react pretty badly when others judge you.

"BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT EVERY MAN WHO COMMITS SIN IS A SLAVE. FOR A SLAVE IS NO PERMANENT PART OF A HOUSEHOLD, BUT A SON IS. IF THE SON, THEN, SETS YOU FREE, YOU ARE REALLY FREE! I KNOW THAT YOU ARE DESCENDED FROM ABRAHAM, BUT SOME OF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO KILL ME BECAUSE YOU CAN'T BEAR MY WORDS. I AM TELLING YOU WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN THE PRESENCE OF MY FATHER, AND YOU ARE DOING WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR FATHER." [John 8:34-38]

Jesus compared the sinner to a slave because a slave for two reasons. (1) A slave was never treated like a member of the family. (2) A slave isn't free. By contrast, Jesus recognized that the son was a permanent part of the household, and therefore the son would eventually have the authority to make changes in the household that his father refused to make in the past.

The sinner chooses not to see himself as a part of the family of man. The sinner refuses to look at his responsibility to do as well and even better than his father. The sinner needs an example of the Son who holds His Father's moral intentions higher than his own.

Today there are far fewer distinctions between a son and a daughter. Today's fathers elevate their daughters to the same height as their sons. Therefore today's sinners must reconcile their mother's family values as well as their father's. A son must be strong enough to disobey his father or mother when he becomes head of a household. Today it takes more courage to apply Jesus's WORDS to your life because you must honor both your parents by doing what they did that was honorable, and not doing what they did that was dishonorable.

"IF GOD WERE REALLY YOUR FATHER," REPLIED JESUS, 'YOU WOULD HAVE LOVED ME. FOR I CAME FROM GOD, AND I AM HERE. I DID NOT COME OF MY OWN ACCORD – HE SENT ME, AND I AM HERE. WHY DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND MY WORDS? IT IS BECAUSE YOU CANNOT HEAR WHAT I AM

REALLY SAYING. YOUR FATHER IS THE ‘DEVIL,’ AND WHAT YOU ARE WANTING TO DO IS WHAT YOUR FATHER LONGS TO DO. HE ALWAYS WAS A MURDERER, AND HAS NEVER DEALT WITH THE TRUTH, SINCE THE TRUTH WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM. WHENEVER HE TELLS A LIE, HE SPEAKS IN CHARACTER, FOR HE IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF LIES. AND IT IS BECAUSE I SPEAK THE TRUTH THAT YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE ME. WHICH OF YOU CAN PROVE ME GUILTY OF SIN? IF I AM SPEAKING THE TRUTH, WHY IS IT THAT YOU DO NOT BELIEVE ME? THE MAN WHO IS BORN OF GOD CAN HEAR THESE WORDS OF GOD AND THE REASON WHY YOU CANNOT HEAR THE WORDS OF GOD IS SIMPLY THIS, THAT YOU ARE NOT THE SONS OF GOD.” [John 8:42-47]

This isn’t a troubling passage if you think of Jesus as coming out of a spiritual closet Jews had been locked in for 1,400 years. He disrupted the habitual, unconscious beliefs of those around Him. He treated everyone as though he was family. He was like the gay son today who’s scorned by his father; the black guest at the white dinner table; the disabled male veteran who asks for your son’s hand in marriage.

If you look at a crucifix but can’t see a gay-Jew because of the negative opinions you grew up with in your faith, you can’t see Jesus with the full illumination of His presence. If you secretly hate Him because he was Jewish or because He might have been gay, you’re only seeing a reflection of yourself in Him. *Your* hatred is what He’s showing you. And He’s reflecting that message to you out of love.

Jesus challenged the sensibilities of the men of His time. He made fathers question their relationship to God and sons question their relationship to their father. He presented moral conundrums that the men of His time couldn’t answer without psychological insight into themselves. It wasn’t His tone of voice that was off putting so much as the moral questions He forced the ancient, rich Jews of those days to face. Like a gay son in a religious household who comes out of the closet today, Jesus set the family’s teeth on edge. Gay men provoke straight men. We force them to face their hypocritical opinions. We force modernity through new interpretations of Scripture.

Jesus accused the fathers of the men in His day of being murderers, the worst of all possible crimes. In today’s softer vernacular we’d say that this kind of father is setting a poor example for his kids because he’s in denial of his true feelings. We’d call him old-fashioned and behind the times.

But poetically speaking, such a man is a murderer, someone who’s spiritually and figuratively killing himself. Today’s young men will move forward into greater modernity with the scars created in them by their fathers, just as the older generation had to do. And today’s young men will someday wound their sons leaving scars in them, yet hopefully

from smaller, more superficial wounds. The road to Heaven must be paved with good intentions even if each vehicle on that road arrives a little scratched, smashed, dented and with fender benders.

There's a lot of inner work a modern man must do to understand the reasons why the world around him looks as it does. He must, above all else, invest his faith in the age in which God sent him here to do his work. Denying his time in history isn't going to help him find the meaning of his existence. In addition to appreciating his sacred text, modern man must upgrade its meaning for the new age in order to apply it more personally to his life. Those who don't will be out of step with God's plan. They'll experience a sense of failure in their mission. And they'll feel God's disappointment in them through tough love experiences that won't be at all easy.

Self-love is the most intimate of all loves because the love you consciously receive from yourself will transform the way you do everything. You may not be brilliant in all ways, but you'll discover you're brilliant at something, and this will change the way you think about yourself.

Jews are unconsciously trained to think about thinking like a worm moving through earth. Christians are unconsciously trained to think about thinking as a seal moves through water and on dry land. And Muslims are unconsciously trained to fly through their mind like birds moving through thin air. To learn to consciously think like one another is our next, big, spiritual challenge.

"IF GOD WERE REALLY YOUR FATHER YOU WOULD HAVE LOVED ME. FOR I CAME FROM GOD, AND I AM HERE."

The extension of the metaphor of God-as-our-Father leads a man to conclude that all men are therefore his brothers. That makes Jesus our spiritual older Brother. But not all men literally have the experience of being a brother to someone. Some men are fathers, uncles, sons, nephews, cousins and distant relations. This metaphor falls apart when you try to extend it unless you move through it into symbolic logic.

When every man is seen as a container filling himself with awareness of his Father's love for him, he can feel for other men learning about His love in the same way. Only in this emotional sense can men relate to one another as brothers filled with the same mysterious inner gift given to each one of us by our Father.

Jesus's logic is irrefutable. If God were really your Father, and you loved Him, you'd love every other man as you love yourself, since each of you is filled with the same love from the same Source. Unfortunately, symbolic logic wasn't yet a concept the Jews at that time had figured out. The deeper meaning of His WORDS escaped them. And when you see what His WORDS mean your own words won't hold the depth of moral conviction they might otherwise have.

When you find a teacher who elucidates your struggle in a meaningful way it's as though that teacher becomes a part of your personal experience. He or she enlarges your big picture for you in a way that forces you to replace your previous frame. This reframing process is called evolving. Some don't believe it happened physically. Others don't believe it happens emotionally. And some don't see it happening to them spiritually.

Sadly, a one-frame-fits-all perspective isn't only your enemy's perspective on you; it can be your deluded perspective on yourself. You must learn to love yourself. You must learn to be loyal to yourself. You can't give to your Father or your fatherland those things you haven't first received from yourself. It doesn't really matter who else you love so long as you deeply love yourself. And it doesn't matter who you're loyal to so long as your love motivates you to be loyal to yourself.

"THE MAN WHO IS BORN OF GOD CAN HEAR THESE 'WORDS' OF GOD AND THE REASON WHY YOU CANNOT HEAR THE WORDS OF GOD IS SIMPLY THIS, THAT YOU ARE NOT THE SONS OF GOD."

Jesus's frustration with those who didn't agree with Him would seem quite apparent from this passage. Ostensibly, He made the claim that those who disagreed with Him weren't God's sons. The only other option would be that He was accusing them of being His daughters, i.e. He was insulting their manhood. He was implying that they weren't part of their father's lineage. They were only a part of their mother's. And if they weren't a part of their father's lineage, they weren't a part of their Father's lineage. He was accusing them of being out of touch with their own divine, Jewish roots.

The mother's side of man {x} calls for comforts for the sake of the body, but his Father's side {y} is looking for a higher purpose, which causes a man to have difficulty in appreciating Their combined intentions. Even today, man continues to develop technologically at an incredible pace, but spiritually he lags behind. Perhaps the doubly earthy side of women {x + x} allows them to put the needs of others before their own.

The answer to this spiritual gender difference is becoming less pronounced in each successive generation. The hyper-religious regret this development. They wish to maintain a greater space between the polarity of man and woman. Modern men seek to narrow that gap.

If we allow women to emancipate spiritually, I have high hopes we'll be very pleased we did. I'm hoping that our first female President will be the first collective step for Americans in that direction. But I hope soon after that Catholicism will elect its first female pope and Muslims will do the same in their religious structures. (Remember what I said about cynicism.)

Early Christians assumed Jesus was frustrated with His tribe, which, in turn, gave them the idea that they had license to unleash their frustrations on Jews and other minorities who

refused to convert to their faith. Thankfully we Jews have been able to survive as a people for 3,400 years by correcting our mistakes, but that's also given us the dubious pleasure of having to point out to our former enemies what their mistakes were {which has not made us the most popular people on Earth}.

“‘IF I WERE TRYING TO GLORIFY MYSELF,’ RETURNED JESUS, ‘SUCH GLORY WOULD BE WORTHLESS. BUT IT IS MY FATHER WHO GLORIFIES ME, THE VERY ONE WHOM YOU SAY IS YOUR GOD - THOUGH YOU HAVE NEVER KNOWN HIM. BUT I KNOW HIM, AND IF I SAID I DID NOT KNOW HIM, I SHOULD BE AS MUCH A LIAR AS YOU ARE! BUT I DO KNOW HIM AND I AM FAITHFUL TO WHAT HE SAYS. AS FOR YOUR FATHER, ABRAHAM, HIS GREAT JOY WAS THAT HE WOULD SEE MY COMING. NOW HE HAS SEEN IT AND HE IS OVERJOYED.’” [John 8:54-56]

You don't literally have to believe in the Trinity to see the effects of the three Abrahamic faiths on Western civilization. You don't have to believe in the Trinity to perceive the three divisions in Christianity {Orthodox/head, Catholic/heart, Protestant/soul} as mysterious aspects of it. But you do need to come to believe in the three forces in you {thinking, feeling, believing} if you're going to become an ambassador of peace in the age in which we live. These are the three forces at work looking for unity within you. If you don't unite them, you'll only continue to see divisions in the world around you.

All those in the Abrahamic traditions should imagine themselves as metaphoric trees planted here by God and, in so doing, should pay more attention to themselves when they hold their penis to urinate. I'm sure this has become such a routine experience since your mother taught you how to urinate into a toilet that you don't even think about it anymore. But while you're urinating, or when you've finished and then shake or squeeze your penis dry, you ought to acknowledge to yourself the Biblical interpretation of yourself as a metaphoric tree with a serpent in it. This would be the time of day to thank God that your serpent is finally in your hands, and no longer in your mother's. It's under your control forevermore, and you're responsible for how it influences your behavior.

There's a Hindu expression that makes the claim, “A tree laden with fruit must bend.” The intellectual branches of those who are arrogant remain rigid and straight. The arrogant blossom and fruit, just not in such abundance that they feel the weight of their inner world bountifully. Only the man with great gifts to give will express humility. He'll bend because he becomes laden with his own bounty.

Christians embrace Jesus's sacrificial gift to humanity as the perfect sacrifice. He gave it to set an example of how love is the only feeling that holds the power to end an argument. Life comes first. Love comes after life. Love without life is antithetical to the reason for

living. Life must always be treasured more than love, or the loathing of life will cheapen the importance of love.

“MY COMING INTO THIS WORLD IS ITSELF A JUDGMENT - THOSE WHO CANNOT SEE HAVE THEIR EYES OPENED AND THOSE WHO THINK THEY CAN SEE BECOME BLIND.” [John 9:39]

That God needed to personify love in order to raise our consciousness with symbolic logic is, in fact, a judgment on the world. But it's a judgment made with love. When you trust in the goodness of your heart, your eyes have truly been opened. The ancient Jews could never have understood the importance of love without God giving them a living example of what they were capable of achieving. Their imagination hadn't been developed enough at the time to conceive of the divine importance of love. They needed someone to set an example of that for them.

And although Jesus did, we, Jews, don't give Him credit for it today because of how badly Christians behaved toward us in the past. Granted, if they'd behaved better sooner, they'd have convinced us without all the baggage they added to His argument. But the lessons of love were as difficult for Christians as the lessons in wisdom were for us. And today we're now left with two spiritual systems in place. But it's not because God didn't want it to turn out this way. It's just another one of His mysteries that we couldn't have anticipated. Hindsight is 20/20.

It's hard to decide when to use your conscience as your guide and when to let your heart and penis lead the way. When you're young and naïve, it can be exciting to let sensations teach you pleasant from painful. But as you get older and have amassed more experience you become more capable of accumulating moral lessons from your past to help guide your actions in the future. The pain and pleasure principle becomes less important.

As you age, and the effects of your experiences become more apparent, you realize your past can still help to motivate you to reframe your big picture. And then suddenly being good becomes far more important than being pleasing or displeasing.

Jesus's coming into this world was a judgment on the world that has *transformed*, not *changed*, mankind in the strictest use of these terms in Spiritual Linguistics. His coming didn't mean that the Jews at that time were wrong, even though He was right about everything He said. It only means that those who could listen with their heart may have been skeptical of His promises. But if they weren't cynical, their eyes were still opened. They didn't have to become Christians then, and still don't, to appreciate the value of wisdom of the heart.

Jesus's coming into this world brought about a pain/pleasure principle in spiritual matters that hadn't been previously considered. It offered humanity a new continuum of

choices, a menu of feelings with spiritual imperatives that today no longer need religious confirmation for us to hold as true.

The pleasure of doing your duty out of your love of doing your duty was a pleasure the Jews had never considered 2,000 years ago. The pain of not doing your duty out of love was a spiritual, training exercise that had to be learned to be appreciated and set down for the next generation. Even though losses in love feel like punishments, they're always profoundly enlightening. And it's from holding that perspective that the wisdom of self-love is founded.

The Jews have been condemned for the world's foolishness. The Christians have been abhorred for the world's heartlessness. And the Muslims are being criticized today for the mean-spirited tactics they're using that remind us all of how we don't want to treat ourselves. Once you discover the joy of loving yourself and showering yourself with self-respect, your conscience will insist on you becoming a better guide.

You're a gift in a God-made box that you have to keep unwrapping all the days of your life. You're a present in the present; contents in a container; spirit in flesh; here only for now. The mystery of being you will teach you to feel sorry *with* yourself, not *for* yourself. Your moral authority over yourself will make you as proud as a gay man and as judicious as a Jew.

“‘IF YOU WERE BLIND,’ RETURNED JESUS, ‘NOBODY COULD BLAME YOU, BUT, AS YOU INSIST ‘WE CAN SEE,’ YOUR GUILT REMAINS.’” [John 9:4]

I've given you a Biblical understanding of what guilt is. I've shown you how blind you may have been to yourself until you could perceive yourself as a metaphoric tree. I've helped you through symbolic logic to realize that you're also a container being filled with sacred contents. And even though I'm a gay-Jew I've advocated for the spiritual imperative of Islam, a people today who condemn me on both counts. But I'm sure there are still those amongst you who insist you know better because of your religious upbringing and sexual identity. “AS YOU INSIST ‘WE CAN SEE,’ YOUR GUILT REMAINS.” It's those who insist that only *they* can see who are truly blind.

Jesus associated lack of insight with guilt, darkness and impaired spiritual vision. He compared moral acuity with visual acuity. Guilt is the painful feeling that strikes your heart, and blinds it with a darkness that can feel illogical, irrational and unkind. But it's only when this darkness becomes visible that the light of love dawns upon you. Only then do you go through the darkest moments of the night, defiance and insubordination, before your dawn.

You can't address your love of light until you've experienced the light of love. If you hold a philosophy of life in which you see others as hopeless unless they follow your path,

you're blind to your blindness. Don't claim to love the world. Claim to honor it. Save your love for yourself and give what little you have left over only to those who truly deserve it.

"I DO ASSURE YOU THAT I MYSELF AM THE DOOR FOR THE SHEEP. ALL WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE ME ARE LIKE THIEVES AND ROGUES, BUT THE SHEEP DID NOT LISTEN TO THEM. I AM THE DOOR. IF A MAN GOES IN THROUGH ME, HE WILL BE SAFE AND SOUND; HE CAN COME IN AND OUT AND FIND HIS FOOD. THE THIEF COMES WITH THE SOLE INTENTION OF STEALING AND KILLING AND DESTROYING, BUT I CAME TO BRING THEM LIFE, AND FAR MORE LIFE THAN BEFORE. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. THE GOOD SHEPHERD WILL GIVE HIS LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF HIS SHEEP. BUT THE HIRED MAN, WHO IS NOT THE SHEPHERD, AND DOES NOT OWN THE SHEEP, WILL SEE THE WOLF COMING, DESERT THE SHEEP AND RUN AWAY. AND THE WOLF WILL ATTACK THE FLOCK AND SEND THEM FLYING. THE HIRED MAN RUNS AWAY BECAUSE HE IS ONLY A HIRED MAN AND HAS NO INTEREST IN THE SHEEP. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, AND I KNOW THOSE THAT ARE MINE AND MY SHEEP KNOW ME, JUST AS THE FATHER KNOWS ME AND I KNOW THE FATHER. AND I AM GIVING MY LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF THE SHEEP." [John 10:6-15]

"I DO ASSURE YOU THAT I MYSELF AM THE DOOR FOR THE SHEEP." By calling Himself a door, Jesus compared Himself to the barn where sheep are kept at night. By extending the metaphor of Moses, we can see Jesus as the spiritual wood that the barn for the sheep is made of. It's comparable to the ark Noah built out of wood. But Noah's efforts were founded upon duty and therefore only shelter the adolescent from the vicissitudes of becoming an adult.

Jesus's love for those who believe in Him is the spiritual shelter that holds and protects His flock with love. The idea of love as a form of knowledge out of which a spiritual manger is built was a new idea in His day because it was an extension of Himself as a symbol.

"IF A MAN GOES IN THROUGH ME, HE WILL BE SAFE AND SOUND; HE CAN COME IN AND OUT AND FIND HIS FOOD." Entry into Jesus's manger of spiritual love comes from believing He'll shelter and protect His flock. And the emotional liberty He affords His followers today gives them the ability to find the spiritual food that nourishes them within His walls.

"ALL WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE ME ARE LIKE THIEVES AND ROGUES, BUT THE SHEEP DID NOT LISTEN TO THEM." Jesus implied that the Jews before Him were like sheep outside in the cold and spiritually exposed. He called them thieves because they were motivated to take from God rather than receive from Him. They used

guilt to barter with God through animal sacrifice instead of love for Him. Jesus's sheep found Him because they were smart enough to come into the manger where His sheep could discern for themselves between giving out of duty and giving out of love.

"THE WOLF WILL ATTACK THE FLOCK AND SEND THEM FLYING." The thieves and rogues are like black sheep that stand apart from the rest, but the wolves are those who threaten the cohesion of the whole flock. The Romans were the wolves in those days. But today the wolves around us still exist and the wolf within threatens each of us in another way.

"BUT THE HIRED MAN, WHO IS NOT THE SHEPHERD, AND DOES NOT OWN THE SHEEP, WILL SEE THE WOLF COMING, DESERT THE SHEEP AND RUN AWAY...THE HIRED MAN RUNS AWAY BECAUSE HE IS ONLY A HIRED MAN AND HAS NO INTEREST IN THE SHEEP." The hired man isn't a shepherd. The hired man doesn't hold the devotion of a servant. His interests won't coincide with the needs of sheep. You can't hire yourself to shepherd yourself. Money won't motivate you to serve your greatest need. Money won't give you the means to repay yourself with love and loyalty.

"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, AND I KNOW THOSE THAT ARE MINE AND MY SHEEP KNOW ME, JUST AS THE FATHER KNOWS ME AND I KNOW THE FATHER. AND I AM GIVING MY LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF THE SHEEP." Jesus completes the extension of His argument with Himself as both the barn that protects the sheep and the shepherd who guides them. This is a metaphor mixed with a symbol. Like a metaphoric shepherd, Jesus knows His flock and shares their concerns. Like a symbolic barn, He shelters them from the storm. This is an allegory.

Our skepticism shouldn't be with Jesus's message, but with those who've had difficulty carrying it faithfully because they couldn't take it personally enough. Look at the thieves of Wall Street who shave us periodically for our wool. Look at the rogues in government who leave the black, undocumented sheep out in the cold and only let the white ones in the barn. The wolves in the Middle East are also with us, and they've already dressed in sheep's clothing to accustom us to their presence.

Judaism teaches giving and taking with guilt. Christianity teaches giving and receiving with love. And Islam teaches giving back with generosity of spirit for redemption of our soul because God is watching us all. The wisdom of being given, getting, receiving and giving back is much harder emotionally than it looks when you try to do it all. It can't be done wisely just with your head; lovingly just with your heart; or generously just with your conscience. You've got to use all three.

Unless you strive to take Jesus's message personally by becoming the physical barn {bread} and the spiritual shepherd {wine}, His message will be lost in linguistic turmoil

that will rain confusion down upon you. You've got to take His WORDS figuratively, not literally, to make them meaningful. And yet, who has ruined reality more for us all than Christians who've taken Torah literally.

Fowl: The Gospel According to John

The Soul of Humanity

A modern understanding of man's soul might compare the soul to his biceps. We're born with biceps, but only with plenty of exercise do they bulge attractively. Giving people the impression that we're physically strong because we have big biceps is no illusion. But if people extrapolate from our arms that we're emotionally strong enough to embrace others or capable of making them feel well held, we're promoting false advertising. Sadly, many men work vigorously on their biceps without doing the hard work to make sure that they can do the emotional and spiritual heavy lifting life requires of themselves as well.

Reshaping yourself from the outside in isn't going to give you enough of the self-love or power you want to turn your life into the kind of mission that will make you proud. If your thoughts are honest, your feelings sincere and your beliefs authentic, your persona will please you from the inside out, and that's a lot more important than just expressing a pleasant personality or looking physically attractive.

When you finally decide to call in an interior decorator because your place is such a mess, you admit there's more that needs to be done inside than straightening up and fluffing a few pillows. Interpreting the 9th Commandment, not to bear false witness begins within by being genuine with yourself. If you aren't honest from your head, sincere from your heart and authentic from your soul, you're going to judge yourself to be a fraud, a fake and a charlatan. {Not every con steals money. Some are internal and only steal your self-respect.}

You'll never be able to trust yourself if you can't be frank with yourself. We all lie to ourselves from time to time. It's called denial. But when you multiply it by seven billion, you can see how powerful the deleterious effects of the 9th Commandment can be.

Moving through denial is very mysterious because you can't know what you don't know about yourself until you begin to feel uncomfortable when alone, even if you can't pinpoint the cause. This is when you must check what you're thinking, how you're feeling and what you believe to be so. Only then can your conscience modulate whatever inner force needs adjusting through moral repair.

It's so easy to literally take off your clothes to be nude in front of another person without getting emotionally naked. Don't indulge yourself in nudity forever. Get naked with yourself, and you won't have to suffer from loving only other people. A little honest embarrassment when standing before yourself is charming, even if it makes you feel uncomfortable. The more you can experience your guilt before yourself, the faster you'll be able to do the moral repairs required of your interior, and not just fluff pillows.

There are no coincidences in the way we're constructed. Our image is made in God's image. Our imagination is made in God's imagination. There is only one God, but He manifests Himself with such awesome correspondences between our two worlds that we must engage with everyone's imagination to learn how to appreciate His presence inside and out. He makes many pictures of Himself using many frames. He has many faces, and they're all mirrored in the faces around you. But yours is the only face you can't literally see. Every picture that stretches your imagination is worth looking at, whether you decide to hang it on an inner wall or not.

Your skin is the boundary between the world within you and the world we share. As the child moves his attention between these two worlds, he realizes he's dependent on the world around him to sustain his world within. As the adolescent goes back and forth between his two worlds, he yearns to be independent and dreams of supernatural power to accomplish the task. The mature man becomes aware of his interdependence on both worlds and looks for alliances with others to consolidate their power. And as the old man sees his mother more and more clearly with the passage of time, he slowly relinquishes responsibility for the world we share for the hope of God reuniting him with her.

You can have it all. You can be young at heart and have an old soul. You can embrace paradox and reject it. God will indicate to you what sort of game plan He has in store for you as you explore all options. You may find order in His intentions, or you may not. We don't all develop in the same way.

The trail of deeds you leave in this world is like the current that invisibly ripples behind a bird as it's in flight. The beliefs you have are like the air that passes under and over its wings. It's your beliefs that support you and move you through life. Others can feel the emotional trail you create as if you were a fish moving through water. But they can't always sense the spiritual trail you leave behind unless they're flying behind you in formation. We often don't appreciate a man's trail of beliefs until he's gone. It's his absence that often reveals the wings he soared on.

Trying to persuade people to tell you the truth is usually a waste of time. Try, instead, to help them tell themselves their truth. They'll only improve their personality once they've repaired their persona. It's also a waste of time to judge people too harshly for their minor offenses. They're all damaged, broken, scarred and scared. They only become more honest with you once they've become more honest with themselves. Pray for patience with them. And pray to understand why the Teacher brought them into your life. Make your discomforts personal. Believe that God brought them to you to help you repair yourselves, not to fix them.

As the result of thoughts, feelings, desires and beliefs internally, and actions and reactions externally, your spirit is growing and developing with new self-knowledge day-

by-day. Your spirit is an internal process in an external process. Your life is your record of this process. Your life is a timeline of experiences in which you're given the opportunity to develop your spirit to the best of your ability.

But this opportunity doesn't last forever. You're going to have to graduate from this school, and your transcript will go with you. Is it really worth being a popular student, a disciplined student or the world's wisest student only in your imagination? Wouldn't you rather leave a trail of good deeds behind as evidence of your grades? If you don't have evidence of your goodness, how will you convince yourself that you can believe in yourself?

The transcript you arrived here at this school with can be measured in many ways: your physical health; your physical looks; the parents you were given; their financial standing; and the environment in which you were raised. They're all aspects of the grades that got you here that you need to take into account for spiritual insights into your spiritual curriculum while you're here.

What you've done so far with what you were given could be seen as a miracle in itself. Encourage yourself to improve, but don't forget to feel sorry for yourself for those challenges you had as a child that were greater than you had the strength to bear then. Every child lives with failure and disappointment. You entered adolescence and adulthood with some sort of baggage. Your chance to open that backpack and unpack it is now. You could graduate with an excellent transcript if you reach in and take out whatever you first find. Everything inside that satchel was put there by the Teacher. He saved it all up for you. The heavier your load feels, the more you could have hope for a bright future filled with many interesting challenges.

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are still the most spiritually segregated days of the week. God's houses of prayer are still examples of religious ghettos. They reflect the exclusivity of the time in which we still live. The Palestinians are guests at the Jewish table in Jerusalem, and yet they behave like they own the place, not allowing Jews to pray in their own home on the Temple Mount.

I suppose people think there's no point in praying with people who believe differently from them, but is there any hope of seeing changes in the headlines in the newspapers if we don't? Why should God bless you for your faith if your faith discriminates against other faiths?

Man's struggle for freedom, liberty and emancipation should motivate Jews, Christians and Muslims to come together in prayer. The reason religious services worldwide are not yet inclusive is because man is still segregated within himself. His Bible belt separates him from all those unseemly desires that are different from what he thinks, feels and believes.

He desires to be special instead of wishing to be genuine. He desires to welcome himself to the Lord's Table when he is, himself, a guest.

There are infinite ways to make your mark on history before you receive your diploma; get that final handshake; and leave this school. You don't have to literally be buried in a cap and gown to imagine this metaphor all the way to the end of your life.

Today's generation of young people are using their imagination in the most exciting of new ways. They're getting a sense of wonder. The yeast of life is coming alive. Soon we'll see their dough rise and their grape juice begin to bubble. There was a recent news item of an anonymous Muslim donor who paid for the restoration of a synagogue in London. That should make you wonder what you can do to inspire God to inspire you to act like that Muslim donor?

If you don't see good reasons for God having created Jews, Christians and Muslims, you won't see the good reason for Him having created you. We're all related. We're all sociological pieces of a puzzle that have psychological and spiritual correspondences. We're all relatives in the metaphor of the family-of-man. We're all classmates in the metaphor of life-as-a-school. We're all defendants at our own trial in the metaphor of life-as-a-form-of-judgment.

Start small and get even smaller. Look for the spiritually microscopic ways you can make a difference. The attitude with which you've habitually lived your life can change with the tiniest of modifications. Your attitude could be adjusted by picking up a piece of litter or smiling at a stranger who seems low. If you plan now to die tranquil within yourself, you'll develop a mysterious, Mona Lisa smile that will reveal your reason for being at peace with yourself.

The lower classes have needs; the middle classes have wants; and the upper classes have dreams. You've been enrolled in a curriculum in life that gives you lessons in all three classes. You can get your needs, wants and dreams met and graduate having had it all.

Those who graduate from *loneliness* suffer the next harder lesson in life, *emptiness*. The feeling of being lonely is like a hunger, and the feeling of being empty inside is like a thirst. Neither is hard to try to satisfy from the outside in, but both are champagne challenges if addressed from the inside out. You may feel even more *alienated* if you do as I say. But let's face facts. You're not going to remain here forever.

Some people avoid their hunger for human companionship with sex or food. Others use alcohol and drugs, or shopping, to relieve their thirst for love. These alternate methods of filling yourself are like empty calories with no spiritual worth. The gourmand, sex addict, alcoholic, drug addict and shopper are consuming a spiritual diet that won't sustain them spiritually for the long haul. Imagine what it would be like if you were a writer and spent all day every day at home writing about the meaning of life.

Moses warned my ancestors that the hard times in life would never be as much of a danger to us as the good times. Here is what he said: “KNOW THEN IN YOUR HEART THAT AS A MAN DISCIPLES HIS SON, SO THE LORD YOUR GOD DISCIPLINES YOU.” [Deuteronomy 8:5] FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS BRINGING YOU INTO A GOOD LAND – A LAND OF BROOKS, STREAMS, AND DEEP SPRINGS GUSHING OUT INTO THE VALLEYS AND HILLS. [Deuteronomy 8:7] YOU MAY SAY TO YOURSELF, ‘MY POWER AND THE STRENGTH OF MY HANDS HAVE PRODUCED THIS WEALTH FOR ME.’ BUT REMEMBER THE LORD YOUR GOD, FOR IT IS HE WHO GIVES YOU THE ABILITY TO PRODUCE WEALTH, AND SO CONFIRMS HIS COVENANT, WHICH HE SWORE TO YOUR ANCESTORS AS IT IS TODAY.” [Deuteronomy 8:17-18]

The “BROOKS, STREAMS, and DEEP SPRINGS” that Moses spoke of, Jesus embodied. If you don’t come to your Israel metaphorically, you won’t be able to appreciate your inner Israel symbolically. {The literalist is always the last to discover the miracle of life through words/WORDS/w o r d s.}

Emptiness is a spiritual lesson in life that doesn’t go away with another serving of dessert, another pill or token, another purchase, another naked body or another PowerPoint presentation. Emptiness remains after you’ve rigged the election and gotten the power you lusted after. Emptiness is an inside job that requires the kind of SHALOM {FILLING TO COMPLETION} only you can provide for yourself. If you’re empty inside and you don’t even know it, you’re empty indeed. If there’s nothing left in you that lets you know that you’re close to empty what can I do about it?

Emptiness feels irritating. Emptiness feels aggravating. Emptiness feels frustrating. If you feel any of these feelings, you know what emptiness feels like.

Even when you feel physically and emotionally sated, you’re still on your own. You’re by yourself. You were born alone and will die alone. This is the Islamic mystery we need to share with one another through prayer. This is the third and final step in our ascension to the Throne.

The poor want to get lucky. The middle class wants to be hopeful, and the rich want to feel grateful. When you can identify with all of them, you’ve got it made. As you increase your intimacy and moral regard for yourself, you’ll see miracles unfold that you never before imagined. Inspiration from the Lord is the only nourishment that fills the hole of those who are lonely, empty and alienated.

Sexual attraction to others is a projection of aspects of yourself that you’re unconsciously grasping for. Lust is a form of love in which you think you desire a container, when you’re really unconsciously fascinated by the contents. The more you question your attraction to others internally rather than indulge it, the more you’ll be given insight into yourself. I’m not suggesting abstinence is the only answer. I’m saying that when you’re looking for a mate, or after you’ve found one, the way to keep your promise

of fidelity to yourself should be accomplished with your imagination, not your penis. Lusting in your heart is fine, but it's better to lust in your soul where you have the advantage of perusing your thoughts and your feelings for personal insight into what it is you really think you want and what it is you really feel you have to have that you see in the other person.

The promise Jesus made is real, but the heart, unlike the head, knows no tomorrow. You can't predict a feeling or permanently drown an unpleasant thought in a pleasant feeling. A feeling lives eternally, but only in one moment in time: now. When you come from your heart there's no yesterday or tomorrow. A feeling exists or it doesn't exist. Feelings can't "were" or "will be." They only "are." Only your head can go into the past or future. Only your head can get ahead.

When Jesus spoke about being the barn and the shepherd, the ancient Jews didn't realize how many of them were still behaving like sheep. Many followed Him into the barn. Many just stood by and watched with a sheepish grin on their face. Today there are many black sheep like me who go in and out of the barn without much concern for the Shepherd. We know that God is our Shepherd, and we know that nowadays He uses a cattle *prod* not a *rod* to keep us moving. Today's rod is fear, and we're zapped with it from time to time to move us in new directions. If not for Jesus, the wisdom of His ways wouldn't include this symbolic interpretation of how emotions are a part of God's plan.

When you know the seven characteristics of fire, have experienced some of these characteristics and realize that they speak to you personally, you're ready for the seventh and final attribute of containment of the self: the smell of a fire that has gone out. Many know this from the death of a loved one who left behind a trail of influence or inspiration in their life. There's probably a trail your mother and father left behind in your memory, one you follow or shy away from intuitively as though led by an unseen magnetic force.

But this invisible scent {magnetism} is something you're emitting all the time, too. And you may not even realize it. This is the evidence of love lost that the terrorists and suicide bombers never think about when they blow themselves up. They only imagine the burn they're creating, never the spiritual smell it leaves behind that we all detect and that haunts us. Those of us who've seen the light know that this world is in shadow and in light at all times. There are many who are willing to die for the Crescent and the Star. Sadly, pain and suffering will be the only teachers for some in slowly coming to want to live for it.

Only you can choose to be a star by bringing light into your inner night sky. Only you can let your moods shine inconstantly like the moon to shed your eerie light on in inner world that's grateful for any illumination it can get. Only you can smile at a black man

because God chose to make him black on the outside when you're just as black within. To be a black sheep you only have to look closely at what you see inside, not outside.

We all choose to see the world we share as a mirror of our own world within. This choice comes with the smell of every extinguished flame that makes our nostrils flare. This is the clue that will always bring us back from the world we share, to You, the one we're all speaking to.

Your life is a three-dimensional puzzle you're putting together one day at a time, minute by minute, one emotional now in the moment melting into another. You're living out a paradox, a dilemma you can only solve your own way. You're an invisible flame surrounded by flesh. You're a clay oven that's always on, burning whether you see the flame or not. God ignited you, and you're using your flame as best you can with what you know about yourself as a lamp: an Israel shining out onto the world.

It's easy for devout Jews and Muslims to say to God, "I can't thank You (sing.) enough." It's easy for devout Christians to say to God, "I can't thank You (pl.) enough." Now is the time for you to say to yourself, "I can't thank you enough."

God gave you parents to practice these words on, but there comes a point in time when you have to look at the memory of your parents in your mind as aspects of yourself. They were human. Forgive them for that. They were students doing their best to become scholars. Grade their papers without all the red ink. The images of them that only you can see are beguiling aspects of yourself that you should yearn to relate to. Without "them" in you, you wouldn't be you. Her "x" comes from Her. And his "y" comes from Him. If you don't appreciate God as Them you still have no idea what it means when a Jew tells you there's only one God.

Your STRUGGLE WITH GOD began with the 5th Commandment, not the 1st or the 10th. It's at the break between the two tablets that you began to realize these moral forces were going to be more mysterious than you first anticipated. Now you must honor the memory of your parents as aspect of yourself guiding you to become a better person. Now you can stop thanking them, and start thanking Them for them.

"I HAVE TOLD YOU, AND YOU DO NOT BELIEVE IT. WHAT I HAVE DONE IN MY FATHER'S NAME IS SUFFICIENT TO PROVE MY CLAIM, BUT YOU DO NOT BELIEVE BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT MY SHEEP. MY SHEEP RECOGNIZE MY VOICE AND I KNOW WHO THEY ARE. THEY FOLLOW ME AND I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE. THEY WILL NEVER DIE AND NO ONE CAN SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY HAND. MY FATHER, WHO HAS GIVEN THEM TO ME, IS GREATER THAN ALL. AND NO ONE CAN TEAR ANYTHING OUT OF THE FATHER'S HAND. I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE." [John 10:25-30]

There are sheep that follow Jesus, and then there's the rest of the spiritual, barnyard menagerie that move in other directions. The Christian contributions to humanity are undeniable. There's no reason why this faith shouldn't be appreciated for their involvement in the unfolding of God's plan. Nations are built upon beliefs, and beliefs are built upon faiths. The dogmatic insistence that there is only one path to the one God is irritating and unproductive to those of us who know better. Even if Jesus is His manger made of metaphoric wood, wouldn't it make sense that it would house more than His sheep?

What Jesus did in His Father's name was sufficient for some to prove His claim. And those who didn't see His contribution as a spiritual Shepherd were, as He said, simply "ARE NOT MY SHEEP." (His) SHEEP RECOGNIZE (His) VOICE AND (He) KNOW(S) WHO THEY ARE. THEY FOLLOW (Him) AND (He) GIVE(S) THEM ETERNAL LIFE. THEY WILL NEVER DIE AND NO ONE CAN SNATCH THEM OUT OF (His) HAND.

But since the day He said those words a lot of water has flowed under the bridge. Today the world is much smaller and our connection to other faiths and philosophies has made us more aware that God gave us other belief systems that are equally important in coming to know His magnificent ways.

Because of God's plan for the Jewish people, we aren't allowed to make claims about life after this one. Jesus's claim about the afterlife was a promise made to Jews who were deeply persecuted and worried about their survival under Roman rule. He made a promise to them from His heart that they believed with all their heart. But the past 2,000 years have changed everyone's perspective on love, not just the Jews. The mind of many modern men dismisses the idea of eternity as unrealistic and undesirable. No one wants to have the body he was given forever. Only the modern heart embraces eternity as real because feelings give us the power to appreciate the power of now.

It might be desirable in some ways for the present to go on without end, but the soul simply allows thoughts and feelings to pass through it, filtering them as the nose filters air through the nostrils. Expect to be surprised when you graduate. I suspect God's imagination to be greater than all that we've got planned with our little minds and hard hearts. We were only made in His image. We each have to make the best of the facsimile we were given.

The answer to why good things happen to bad people must be blatantly obvious by now. Our Teacher wants everyone to do as well as possible on all His tests. He doesn't fail anyone although many fail Him. Everyone graduates this school with a transcript with a great deal of coursework recorded. If you only look at the answers others are getting wrong in class, you're not looking at their class schedule where you'd see the subjects they love and the grades they're proud of. Islamic terrorists reading this book should know that I didn't forget them when I wrote it. I didn't forget those deaf and blind. I didn't forget women. Why would I forget my enemies?

Everyone could be more soulful than he is now if he'd allow himself to feel more, even if those feelings are negative. If you see your feelings as challenges from God to better you, suffering isn't quite so painful. Any irritations by others, whether major or minor, are always clues to a behavior you're unconsciously exacting on yourself. Sensations like feeling crowded in, held up, unheard, unappreciated, ignored, abandoned, betrayed or conspired against are challenges to make the hope in you shine vivid and bright, not pale like pastels. You have to decide how you're going to handle other people, but you have complete control over whether you're going to recognize the equivalent behavior in yourself. If you can laugh off all those who try to control you, it'll be a sign that you're now much better at controlling yourself.

Even bad people do many things right, and therefore need to be rewarded to help them see that the spiritual system operates for everyone. What's scary is when 99% of us have to watch 1% enjoying rewards based on a system that they've rigged. At that point the masses react with anger instead of asking the 1% within themselves why it won't share its 99% with the rest of themselves. The answer to that question will change the world! Today's masses aren't pupils or students of life. Most of today's masses are scholars who are capable of understanding every spiritual concept if brought to them in way they can make personal.

Today most people have better relationships with their possessions than with people. Their house is their husband; their car, their best friend. When the value of their home goes underwater, it's worse than a divorce from the one they claim to love. When their car gets dented, it's like their best friend moved out of town. And when they lose their phone, you'd think their mother had just died.

Materialism is only for practice. God continually reminds us that we can't take any *thing* with us, and we continually cry out from our heart that our furniture means more to us than our faith. I hate to play "devil's" advocate because I don't believe in the "devil," but what would more money give most people that they don't already have? Do they really need an award winning sub-zero refrigerator to feel cool? What's missing in your relationship to the things you have are feelings for all of yourself. Angry pride for all your possessions isn't going to help your spiritual grades. You've got to explore the kinds of feelings you have for your belongings. Goods aren't good enough until you break through your projections onto them.

The serpent could not have just coincidentally been hanging out when Eve passed by. And your little serpent doesn't want to bother your little head with thoughts about how your desires are a part of God's plan, either. "it" would much rather discuss such matters with your feelings than any other part of you. Your head is going to have to force itself to look more closely at how you operate. If you can't believe your eyes, bend over and stick

your head in your crotch to get a little closer. It really isn't necessary to literally bend over backwards to try to get your nose to get a whiff of what really smells.

Your conscience is going to experience a rude awakening each and every time it discovers your feelings and desires conspire behind your back, unless you've got your head involved with whatever you do. Never expect your head {which sits on your stiff neck}, your heart {which is hard} or your penis {which is unreliable } to act any differently. Don't expect to see changes in the way you think or transformations in the way you feel until you can see yourself transcend the beliefs you hold about yourself.

Impatience with others should be a reminder of how emotionally indulgent you can be with your "selves." You don't have to be as patient with your impatience as you have up until now. A little impatience with your patience would heal your relationship to yourself in no time. If you can't heal your relationship to yourself nobody, else will be able to. {Your parents probably tried, but it's up to you to do the hard work since they didn't succeed.}

I can paint you pictures of what you need to do, but only you can choose to hang them in the hallway of your school. If you want to be reminded of what you want to accomplish, you need pictures in your mind that will give you a thousand words/WORDS/w o r d s without having to rely on subtitles.

You already know from personal experience with physics that a body at rest tends to remain at rest, while a body in motion tends to remain in motion. Now you can apply that to your emotional body as well. A heart at rest tends to remain at rest, while a heart in motion tends to remain in motion. And if your emotions have come to a complete halt, you're going to have to get your heart into first gear to get it moving you again.

Such is the truth about depression. There's nothing wrong with your tracks. You're just sitting in the passenger car waiting for the train to start up again. Enjoy the view of the station - you're not going anywhere until you go to the locomotive and have a good long talk with the engineer. You'll feel the jolt inside as the train begins to move. You'll see the scenery change from the inside. You'll hear excitement again in the world around you, and you'll know that, for your own reasons, you feel others' excitement within.

Newtonian physics have emotional and spiritual implications. What goes up must come down. That's especially true of your desires. You can literally see your penis rising and falling with desire, but the same can be said of your heart when it leaps into your throat. It's important to let yourself down gently when you don't get it your way so that your feelings don't end up in the pit of your stomach when they land. If you could watch your disappointments in slow mo., you'd see how important it is to shower tender love upon yourself at the right times and to crack the whip with tough love at other times. You're the little engine that could. You're the little engine that can. You're the little engine that has

to. (Please check out the 1955 folk song “Magic Penny” by Malvina Reynolds. “Love is just like a magic penny. Hold it tight and you won’t have any.”)

In Torah God frequently uses threats of death as the only option for disobeying Him. But we live in a more enlightened age. Your options may often feel like they boil down to doing it right or killing yourself. You get to play god, and it’s terribly disconcerting to see how many people would rather commit suicide than do what needs to be done to the best of their ability rather than just doing it right. They’d rather die than cut down on eating, smoking, drinking, drugging or spending money they don’t have.

Old Testament law has been handed to man, but look what he does with it. He has to crucify himself to the cross of his own choosing to learn to love the one he’s with. If you can’t look at a crucifix of Jesus and see yourself because of the negative opinions you grew up with that destroyed your faith in you, you can’t see Jesus with the full illumination of His presence.

The more you have the courage to witness your inner reality, the more you can apply what you know about the world around you to the world within. History is more than a record of man’s effect on man. It’s also a clue to God’s effect on man. If you don’t see the evolution of everyone in our species, you’re not in good enough touch with Him. Reach out and touch Someone.

Unfortunately many see themselves as Hindu untouchables. They think they’re too dirty, too low of birth, too undeserving to be touched at all. Men have a hard enough time admitting they touch themselves sexually. You can imagine how hard it is for them to admit that they touch themselves emotionally. And don’t get me started when it comes to touching themselves spiritually. They’re waiting for God to do all the touching for them.

My candle may ignite your wick, but it won’t fuel your flame. Whether or not you become morally astute enough to understand yourself as a spiritual metaphor is your choice. If you choose to use the evidence of the symbolic fire contained within you and take the seven steps to self-containment of your flame, the results will only become apparent on *your* journey, not *mine*. And whether or not you compare and contrast yourself to the way you used to be, your trip will only be yours to tell. I’m not against you. But I’m not literally with you either. I’m not on your journey, and you’re not on mine. The only thing you and I have in common at this moment in time is the metaphor of life-as-a-journey that we both agree to.

Most people talk about the Bible as though they were there at the time it happened and know all the characters involved. They use third person discourse about what they read in the Bible while making points about something happening here and now. The only thing true at this moment is that you’re reading my words. You’re bringing them to life. You’re

resurrecting my thoughts and feelings, which have been lying dead on this page until you came along to revive them.

But I know someone like you wouldn't be reading these words unless you'd read all those that came before them. I know you believe in God. I know you care about how Tanach, the Bible and/or Quran have made a difference in your life. For people like us, God's presence is not hearsay. We share a respect for the words/WORDS/words of our Creator. We don't misuse the WORD of God because we know that everything is built upon it.

Jesus told my ancestors He was their Shepherd, but many refused to believe it. Perhaps they felt incensed at the idea of being condescended to by being compared to sheep. He told them He and His Father were One rather than use a simile to say They were as one. Everyone has to decide for himself how he wants to interpret His message, and then everyone should ask himself what it was he really would have liked to hear.

Nobody is going to say anything to you perfectly, so you'll just have to compare what you hear with what you want to hear, and then tell yourself the difference.

Jesus had a Jewish mother who was always there to care for Him. Not everybody is so lucky. Sometimes you have to make do with the mother the good Lord gave you and find the Jewish mother you're in need of anywhere you can.

It's not that we live in less religious times today. Faith in God hasn't deteriorated. It's just that today people have more freedom to be one with themselves. Emptiness inside shouldn't be an "awe full" experience. Emptiness should be "awe some." If you're not cynical, you'll be able to admit that you're not all empty. Most people don't feel hollow, vacuous, worthless or void. What they really feel is that having cleaned up the mess inside, they discovered there's now room to add a lot more.

Depression is the emotional reaction of feeling spiritually hollow, vacuous, worthless and void. Suicide is one solution to fill your life with meaning, but SHALOM {COMPLETENESS} is the other. Depression can best be overcome with spiritual insight at not having spent enough time developing an intimate enough relationship with yourself until now. You could achieve shalom. And in achieving shalom within you, you'd bring shalom to Israel. Israel can't survive on only exporting it.

Although Socrates said man is a meaning-making machine and Jesus suggested he's a lovemaking machine, we now know that man is an eating machine. We just qualify that statement by adding that the appetites of the flesh are just the first level of reality that's real. In truth man consumes with his head, heart and soul in addition to his digestive tract.

A big mouth is an impolite term for someone who doesn't use his head. An asshole is an impolite term for someone who doesn't use his heart. Both the big mouth and the asshole use their digestive tract, but only for the purpose of consuming physical nourishment. They

don't use their penis to interject their urges with a desire for only the very best for themselves.

What Jesus did in our Father's name can never to be proved like an equation. You can't show sheep a picture of a shepherd and ask them to follow that picture out of the meadow into the barn. People aren't black sheep or white sheep, and yet the rich and powerful continue to gamble on us behaving like sheep. That's exceedingly cynical of them. People are skeptical, and they're learning to become more and more doubtful all the time {thank God} because they believe in a good spiritual diet as well as eating well physically. They suspect they know why they're here, and they're learning how to recognize the thieves, rogues, hired men and wolves from the inside out.

People have no problem being spiritual sheep. Sheep are spiritually symbolic of humility, not stupidity. Sheep stay together in flocks because they're aware of how dangerous it is "in" there. And sheep have sheepish grins on their faces when they realize they're guilty, not when they're beloved.

What are you going to do when you come before the Judge and you're asked to take the stand in your own defense? Are you going to ask for a Jewish lawyer or rabbi to get you off the hook? And if you decide to plead your own case, it may appear that you're already guilty if you grab the opportunity to declare your innocence. If the rogue in you lies to the Judge, you'll know it whether He says anything about it or not. If you feel you'd have to pay yourself to stand up for yourself, you'd see that you're nothing more than in a hired relationship with someone who doesn't care about what will happen to you. And if you howl like a wolf baying at the moon before a kill, that will hardly help your case.

Life is a school, and your education down here will be clearly evident when you go before the Judge with your transcript in hand. The Judge has heard it all before, so just be yourself and try not to blame others or use self-pity as your defense.

“THERE ARE TWELVE HOURS OF DAYLIGHT EVERY DAY, ARE THERE NOT?” REPLIED JESUS. ‘IF A MAN WALKS IN THE DAYTIME, HE DOES NOT STUMBLE, FOR HE HAS THE DAYLIGHT TO SEE BY. BUT IF HE WALKS AT NIGHT HE STUMBLES, BECAUSE HE CANNOT SEE WHERE HE IS GOING.’”
[John 11:9-10]

The sign for Islam is the crescent moon and one star. These are the signs in the sky that appear late in the day. The Muslim lives on the spiritual edge of time where they look out at A L L A H. with the very deepest of personal regard. Every man today who stumbles does so because he's not accustomed to the dimness of the twilight within him, not because he's morally in the dark. Modern man has a summer house, his inner Israel, his soul, but he doesn't live there all year long. He's unaware of the beauty of the place God gave him

in inner space. If he wants to take away what the Jews have in the outer world, even though it was only given to him within, he'll get just what he deserves.

Upon close observation of the Creation Story, it's easy to conclude that Eve didn't spend any time resisting picking the forbidden fruit, and therefore I imagine she ate most of it before it occurred to her to share some with Adam. Obviously she first ate the peel {embarrassment}. Then she bit into the meat {shame}, and she probably would have eaten through to the core {humiliation} if she hadn't realized then that it might be better to get Adam in trouble with God, too, rather than to have to brave it all on her own.

I think that's how man got what little he got in the way of understanding of himself, and why men find it so difficult to face embarrassment and shame. I think Adam ate what Eve gave him and never bothered to question how much she had consumed herself. I think most men have no idea how wise their heart is and how little they're willing to listen to it. Perhaps men have an Adam's apple and women don't as a reminder how easy it is for a man's feelings to get stuck in his throat when he tries to express them.

If you think you can run any religious institution in the 21st Century without giving women the very highest positions of leadership, you're letting your desires get the better of you. Men simply can't keep religion alive any longer without women running it. If anything is keeping people out of their house of worship it's that the male clergy just don't have enough of the truth to keep a religious discussion going strong.

The essence of unconditional love has always been described as mother's love. The unconditional regard of a mother for her child is the benchmark of the power of love. No love is symbolically greater than a woman's love for the life that comes out of her body. A woman's ability to bring life into the world is testimony to God's love for us.

God never said He would allow Eve to eat as much as she wanted. She simply she knew enough to think about sharing her MANNA {PORTION} with Adam. Even though women are the original containers of life in the literal sense, symbolic understanding of God's love was an idea He chose to give to one man to espouse.

Wine is the symbolic, spiritual beverage of love, but *milk* is the symbolic spiritual beverage of life. A man's milk creates life; a woman's milk nourishes life. A man without testicles can't produce life. A woman without breasts can't nourish life. Nowadays there are scientific ways around both losses in the physical sense, but loss always creates emotional consequences. If God could get so upset about one little piece of fruit from one of His trees, imagine how upset you'd get if you lost one of your testicles or breasts. Your feelings are your keys to His kingdom.

Jesus didn't conceive His love of life as would an ordinary man, by conceiving a child. Nor did He attempt to nurture humanity with His love of life by feeding a child. Nor did He encroach on the glory of God having created women with their special physical,

emotional and spiritual gifts to humanity. He presented His message in the form of God's love contained in His own flesh with His blood. By extension of His symbols every man is the recipient of those symbols, too.

Some men learn self-love through the love modeled by their mother. They remember her loyalty and devotion to them and conclude she was the most meaningful person in their life. Others learn self-love from their father through heroic gestures out in the world for the sake of family and loyalty to a cause. But self-sacrifice and heroism are no longer gender specific virtues. Today these traits are poles that lie on a continuum that each individual must choose in himself for himself.

Self-love was an idea, heretofore, kept out of synagogues, churches and mosques. But self-love is the essence of all religious life, and always was. We're so lucky that today we can talk about this possibility, and insist that the topic be considered during the practice of rituals and rites and not only at the "KIDDUSH" {literally: SANCTIFICATION OF THE WINE AFTER THE SERVICE/figuratively: THE GATHERING AND SNACKS AFTER PRAYER}.

This chapter was called, "The Soul of Humanity." The soul of humanity is a puzzle each of us is piecing together. To find your way out of your head, through your heart and into your soul you have to add the pieces you've put together in your puzzle to the puzzle we're all working on called "God's plan." But if you leave your feelings for yourself out of the equation, you'll be making a grave mistake. Life is poetry in emotion. That's all the Old and New Testaments have ever been saying. That's all you really need to know.

Desserts:
The Book of Revelations

“DO NOT BE AFRAID. I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST, THE LIVING ONE. I AM HE WHO WAS DEAD, AND NOW YOU SEE ME ALIVE FOR TIMELESS AGES! I HOLD IN MY HAND THE KEYS OF DEATH AND THE GRAVE. THEREFORE, WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN, BOTH THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOW, AND THE THINGS WHICH ARE TO BE HEREAFTER. THE SECRET MEANING OF THE SEVEN STARS WHICH YOU SAW IN MY RIGHT HAND, AND OF THE SEVEN GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS IS THIS: THE SEVEN STARS ARE THE ANGELS OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES AND THE LAMPSTANDS ARE THE CHURCHES THEMSELVES.” [Revelations 1:17-20]

This passage isn't quite so difficult to explicate if we first ask ourselves the meaning of STARS and LAMPSTANDS. Jesus claimed to hold the secret of life after death in His hand, but He called this secret “SEVEN STARS.” The ancient Jews thought of stars as fires in the sky, illumination from God's Kingdom that bathed the Earth in His glorious light at night. And they assumed that the fires in the sky were held in place by lampstands or the night would have been ignited and gone up in a blaze.

In the simplest of terms the seven stars might be interpreted today as the seven attributes of fire that Jesus claimed to exemplify by saying He held the secret of the seven stars and seven lampstands in his hand:

	STAR	LAMPSTAND
1.	Wisdom	Illumination
2.	Love	Heat
3.	Purification	Burn
4.	Mystery	Look
5.	Prayer	Smoke
6.	Awe	Sound
7.	Intuition	Smell

These attributes of fire were the only tools for learning about God at the time because they were the only source of earthly light the ancient Jews knew of by which to examine the fires in the heavens by day or night. For Jesus to hold those SEVEN STARS in His right hand indicates His depth of His appreciation of life, the mystery He was chosen to personify.

Of course, at the time of Jesus there were no other faiths yet created that believed in the same God as the Jews. The ancient Jews knew only Judaism and mythology, God and gods. Today we can see God has created a puzzle for all the Abrahamic faiths to solve, a puzzle that's mirrored in the seven ANGELS {messengers} and CHURCHES {societies} Jesus spoke of. The SEVEN STARS Jesus held in His right hand refer to His mastery of the mystery of the universe as solved from His heart. His love becomes the emotional road to truth, a road as real as reason.

The Gospels are paramount to Christian faith. The Gospel according to John begins with "IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD. AND THE WORD WAS GOD." A Christian has the freedom to choose to hold Jesus's words as metaphor, or struggle to make meaning of them symbolically. But he doesn't have the option of taking His words literally. When He said, "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD" He wasn't speaking literally. When He said things like, "I MYSELF AM THE DOOR FOR THE SHEEP" He obviously was speaking about entry into the world each of us holds within us, not literally a barn door. You can use His WORDS for personal edification or you can spend your time on Earth pointing fingers at others for not using His WORDS your way. A Christian can bring love to life beginning within himself for himself, or he can snuff out life with hatred by persecuting the rest of us for not loving his way.

Sports are one of the metaphors of life that most men refuse to look at symbolically. They see sports only as an external game with winners and losers. Armchair quarterbacks may claim to promote the idea of playing honorably by playing by the rules, but most of them don't take sports nearly personally enough. They simply cheer when their team wins and are forlorn when it loses. Oh, they'll agree when you say it's how you play the game that counts, but they don't see both teams as aspects of themselves.

When you can experience the sports you watch as a moral song-and-dance, with God you'll be able to view your own body the same way. To appreciate the melody, mystery and grace within you, you have to be able to pierce the projection of these virtues around you. The Olympics was a spiritual experience invented by the Greeks to express a love for the human body long before they knew there was a God. Sports, then and now, connects you to the news and weather within, helping to make you spiritually whole.

Sports should never be confused with bread-and-circuses. Sports leads to the discovery of moral truths through physical means. Doping, betting and bribery in sports is just as sick as everything unfair we see happening in politics and religion. Politics is sports for the mind. Religion is sports for the heart. And sports is sport for the penis. But they all connect to the soul.

Appreciating Jesus's words as symbols wrapped in metaphors presents us with His secret to the meaning of life, a loving mystery and path to God that holds personal insight

for each of us. The metaphoric meaning of life is the *illumination* of life. The symbolic meaning of life is the *warmth* of love. But when you compare metaphor to symbolism the meaning of life becomes *generosity* of spirit. To know God's generosity, you have to be willing to endure the occasional burn.

The Jews had our hands held to the fire for 2,000 years over the death of Jesus. Now we have our feet held to the fire over the death of Mohammed. The fight over our land has as little to do with Israel as the behaviors of Christians in the past had to do with money. It's all a purification process that we will endure. (I suggest you look up Gloria Gaynor's lyrics to "We Will Survive." And consider reinterpreting her song with the following perspective. "At first I was afraid; I was petrified; kept thinking I could never live; without You by my side." This might give you an historic perspective on how the Jews might have felt after having been introduced to God, and then finding themselves with yet another carnation of our Creator to have to deal with.)

As you honor yourself by repeating the good taught to you by your parents; as you come to understand that the Abrahamic faiths exemplify the first three properties of fire as expressed through God's seven-point plan; and as you witness your progress in gaining greater command over your internal and external environments – you'll see yourself getting a grip on the SEVEN STARS that have now come down into your right hand.

You don't need to know the words "light bulb" to turn on the lights. You don't need to know how a light bulb works to use a light to look for something that you lost. You don't need to know who invented it to be thankful for its glow. The illumination of electric lighting is free for you to use whether you see it as miraculous or mundane.

You don't have to learn to give credit where credit is due to credit yourself. Credit is never due. Credit is bestowed. You can simply be like a candle lit by a flame. You can shine without regard to the process. You don't have to know anything about light to be the star in your night. Words are the greatest clue to your path of self-illumination. Your love is the heat that will warm you until your last dying day. Your deeds are the purification that will cleanse and, yes, sometimes burn you. But you are the mystery you need to know. You are the smoke rising. You will receive the call and then sniff your way to the truth that can't been seen or heard. Don't stare into a fire and ask it what *fire* means. The fire won't tell you. Ask yourself. Only you know what fire means to you.

The light Jesus spoke of that comes from the SEVEN STARS is a reminder of the seven colors of the gay rainbow flag: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. These correspond to the emotional realm of light that the Hebrew Testament doesn't go into detail to explain, but which is obvious to anyone who's seen a rainbow. The Hebrew Testament is a sketch in dark lines against white light that Jesus filled in with the colors of hope and

promise in a new way. The Hebrew Testament is God in black and white. The Christian Testament is God in living color. The Quran is God in myriad, creative colorful patterns.

“THESE WORDS ARE SPOKEN BY THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE SEVEN STARS SAFE IN HIS RIGHT HAND AND WHO WALKS AMONG THE SEVEN GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS. I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE; I KNOW HOW HARD YOU HAVE WORKED AND WHAT YOU HAVE ENDURED. I KNOW THAT YOU WILL NOT TOLERATE WICKED MEN, THAT YOU HAVE PUT TO THE TEST SELF-STYLED APOSTLES WHO ARE NOTHING OF THE SORT, AND HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE LIARS. I KNOW YOUR POWERS OF ENDURANCE - HOW YOU HAVE SUFFERED FOR THE SAKE OF MY NAME AND HAVE NOT GROWN WEARY. BUT I HOLD THIS AGAINST YOU, THAT YOU DO NOT LOVE AS YOU DID AT FIRST. REMEMBER THEN HOW FAR YOU HAVE FALLEN. REPENT AND LIVE AS YOU LIVED AT FIRST. OTHERWISE, IF YOUR HEART REMAINS UNCHANGED, I SHALL COME TO YOU AND REMOVE YOUR LAMPSTAND FROM ITS PLACE.” [Revelations 2:1-5]

Jesus wasn't speaking about the same experience with God that Moses had had at the Burning Bush or at the summit of Mt. Sinai. Jesus was speaking about an emotional encounter with Him that left Him with a new view of what the ancient Jews already knew.

To look at Christianity as new and improved Judaism is insulting, demeaning and inaccurate. God didn't create the fruit of the vine to supplant the peach. The fruit of the tree and vine are mysteries given for you to delve into, not compare and contrast with supercilious self-interest and malevolent intent.

“I KNOW THAT YOU WILL NOT TOLERATE WICKED MEN, THAT YOU HAVE PUT TO THE TEST SELF-STYLED APOSTLES WHO ARE NOTHING OF THE SORT, AND HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE LIARS.” The Twelve Apostles were God chosen to be there to assist Jesus. They sat at His feet to derive as much as they could from their audience with Him. But there are those in every generation who claim to sit in the front row closer to the Teacher than the rest of us, not to learn from Him, but to teach the rest of us. These students are far from being scholars of life. They're SELF-STYLED APOSTLES, HIRED MEN who are often THIEVES, ROGUES and even WOLVES who do what they do to sheep for their milk, meat and wool, which they then capitalize on for more money. They behave holier than Thou by using their rod, not their staff, to get their way. These are the heartless in every generation who find a way into Jesus's manger for all the wrong reasons.

The poor are sad at always being ignored; the bourgeois may be angry, but they're often complacent; and the wealthy are afraid of all those less fortunate than them. You're probably all three.

Only the obscenely rich have the means to change the world without causing revolutions between the classes. Learn from the poor to be modest. Learn from the ordinary to be humble, and learn from the wealthy to be grateful. But learn from the 1% how to audit everyone else's classes, or your spiritual education will be for naught. Bill Gates has become a great philanthropist, but men like him have something you want, and it isn't their money.

The class struggle we see around us is a mirror of emotional struggles we're having with the classes God has us enrolled in within. The people who come into our life to cause us to feel sad, angry or frightened should be self-styled apostles. We should shape their message to learn what we need to know about ourselves. Choose to believe that their presence in your life is never coincidental and you'll make better decisions with more emotional composure. The Teacher will see your efforts and give you even more personalized homework to help you see that your spiritual education is Tailor-made for you.

Abraham went on just such an inner journey from his father's home to the place God wanted him to call home. You may or may not have been chosen to leave your homeland behind to make the same trip he took, but you can still do so within. Moses took 600,000 witnesses on his personal Exodus out of Egypt. But your mission doesn't have to literally parallel his to help others get where they need to go. Jesus only travelled between a few spots in Israel in adulthood, and look at the spiritual distance He covered! The Prophet Mohammed didn't even own a camel, and he was able to make it to Heaven and back where he had discussions with Moses and Jesus, the world's two best-known spiritual globetrotters.

Jesus acknowledged the hardships of the poor Jews of the Galilee under King Hared. Jesus proclaimed the virtue of the poor, their tolerance and ability to endure suffering in this world for promises in the next. But He also admonished them for not loving enough and therefore becoming bitter over time.

You don't have to tolerate Jesus. You don't even have to accept Him into your heart as the Church tells its members to do. But you should admire Him. Giving lip service to the Bible is a waste of time. You need to take the Bible personally if you're going to squeeze its personal meaning out for you.

What made the lives of the poor, ancient Jews unendurable was the alliance between the rich, ancient Jews and the Romans. The poor became cynical and disillusioned with their lot in life instead of better united. The dream Jesus gave to the poor is what we'd call today the American Dream. But His vision was neither American nor a dream. It was a new way to put more hope into hope. Only self-love gives a man the hope he needs to

achieve his mission in life. Only self-love gives him the dignity to achieve his dreams through the rule of law.

When you're born into a people who've been oppressed, such as those poor ancient Jews, you come to identify with the fear women feel in the company of some men. You begin to identify with the fear of being black in a room full of whites. You see why gays had to build a closet in the first place, and why we only came out of it cautiously and slowly. Oppression may begin from the outside, but overcoming oppression must always originate from within.

Jesus asked for more than a monetary change in the Temple practices. He asked for a transformation of man's heart. But that was too difficult for the ancient Jews to do then. He spoke to a spiritual transcendence that would awaken the world, bringing it to new awareness of the Stations of the Cross. Therefore you have to individualize and personalize His message to make it real.

What the New Testament refers to as "SPEAKING IN TONGUES" [Acts 2:1-4, 7-11, 10:44-46 and I Cor. 14:22] are merely the opening of your right brain to conscious awareness of the message of love. Whenever you can perceive a person's intentions despite each and every word he utters, you're connecting with his message in your right brain. Right brain functioning is a mirror of your heart, the reflection of the world around you as seen from a new place in inner space.

"REPENT AND LIVE AS YOU LIVED AT FIRST. OTHERWISE, IF YOUR HEART REMAINS UNCHANGED, I SHALL COME TO YOU AND REMOVE YOUR LAMPSTAND FROM ITS PLACE." To live AS YOU LIVED BEFORE is to live with the wonder of life, the awe of being alive that you can see in the starry eyes of a child. The hearts of infant and fully-grown take the lamplight and LAMPSTAND for granted. Only the child can hold the light within, perceive it and express its warmth.

If you only want to feel seen by others, you're crazy. If you're waiting for them to acknowledge you, you're insane. If you expect other people to listen to you and do what you say, you're out of your mind, wandering somewhere else inside yourself, lost, and contributing to the insanity this world is having to endure.

Reach in, not out. Turn yourself outside in, and stop trying to turn yourself inside out. Know yourself metaphorically; love yourself symbolically; and believe that you're a sign from God brought here to learn, not teach others about.

You'll waste your whole life if you don't go within to look for love. You've been given a match made in heaven, and yet you scorn the idea of having to marry the perfect partner for you. You're not evil. You're not bad. You're not even vain or conceited. You live in a world where you have to determine from every moral issue you go through whether you're acting sane or insane. (Please read the lyrics to "Brain Damage" From Pink Floyd's album

“Dark Side of the Moon.” “The Lunatic is in my head. You raise the blade, you make the change. You re-arrange me ‘til I’m sane. You lock the door and throw away the key. There’s someone in my head but it’s not me.” In fact, please listen to all their lyrics. Insanity is the evil of this day. You must learn everything there is to know about insanity and question your own sanity as often as you can. How else will you become sane?)

Don’t be afraid of losing your mind. You’ve lost love. You’ve lost money. You’ve lost your cool many times. You lost your self-respect on a few occasions. There’s even a good chance you lost your good standing before God. Having lost your mind shouldn’t worry you. You can handle loss. With courage and a little faith in yourself, there’s a good chance you can find everything you’ve lost here on Earth before you leave.

Nobody escapes the harsh lessons of self-love. Nobody can be a rainbow of high hopes every moment of the day. We’re all students of life slowly becoming scholars. That means we all feel bitterness, resentment and a desire for revenge at the injustices we’ve suffered, beginning with birth itself and ending with the thought of having to give up all that we have here and now forever. It’s not crazy to want to graduate with high honors. What’s crazy is to refuse to clean when those who clean will glean. What’s crazy is to *honor* yourself and try to *love* others, when you should be trying to *honor* others and *love* yourself. People are self-indulgent out of revenge for being self-loathing.

You might be amazed at how complicated your feelings for you are. There’s so much you feel for you that you may not yet have expressed in words. Do so with conscious regard for what you’d really like to hear from you, and you’ll find talking to yourself much more revealing and instructive than SPEAKING IN TONGUES. You’ll suddenly perceive your faults the rest of us see so clearly. You’ll suddenly see much more than your eyes are showing you.

Nothing happens without good reason. There’s something to be learned from every experience you go through. You already know right from wrong. You already know that vicious gossip, jealousy and envy, conceit and vanity are wrong, that they separate you from God. You already know that you’re the one who’ll suffer the most if you become angry and impatient. You have all the wisdom of the heart you could possibly want in your head. But life is a banquet of the heart, and most apathetic fools are starving to death.

The human body is a lampstand. You hold within your body every ray of hope you’ll ever need to shine. Wherever you go, you bring your lampstand {body} with you as you shine your light out onto the world. Don’t wait for your lampstand to be removed to see where you once shined your light. See yourself shine now while you still have eyes to see with.

The ceiling lamps we see in the night sky {stars} are God’s floor lamps. They twinkle down from His abode above this one. When you see stars, you’re looking at heavenly

bodies, not physical bodies. They aren't angels in disguise. They can't inform your future. The stars in the night sky are here for scientific inquiry and to teach you about awe. The ceiling lamps on this side of the universe are there for you to use your imagination to envision the floor lamps on the other.

“THESE WORDS ARE SPOKEN BY THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE SEVEN STARS SAFE IN HIS RIGHT HAND, AND WHO WALKS AMONG THE SEVEN GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS.” The SEVEN STARS that Jesus held in His right hand are the seven attributes of fire that we've been discussing. The SEVEN GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS are every seven people who embody these attributes.

On a warm summer night, when the azure twilight is most awesome and the shooting stars are bright, look up and see if you can't imagine His footsteps through the smoky glass ceiling to the story above this one where His love shines in our Father's abode. If you want to speak to Him in His native tongue try beginning with the word, “HINENI!” {HERE, PRESENT, ACCOUNTED FOR} Try perceiving the feeling He embodied {love} from where you are down here rather than looking for Him directly. At night, the smell of jasmine will have to lead you to the flower.

God told Abraham that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the night sky, and you are one of Abraham's descendants who's come down from above. You're part of a hopeful Milky Way of worldly wisdom, love and generosity spiraling through life - a path so vast that it must be mapped in hemispheres; it's too big to be seen in a single glance.

Your body is a lampstand that shines a special light, one that you can see up close through contemplation and one that can seem as distant as the stars through meditation. You're a star yourself, a flaming fire of flesh in a world of darkness. You're a star among stars, a man amongst men. You shine your light, making your earthly endeavors visible for all to see, but you must also walk humbly among giants like those men who gave us metaphor, symbol, simile, diversity and paradox. This world we share is but a mirror of the world within that only you can access. You're together with yourself and alone among us.

The Catholic Church tried to conceal the light of Galileo, and it took 500 years for them to stand aside from their truth to admit the error of their ways. Today Evangelical clouds pass before the lampstands of the scientific community trying to obscure the light of science with twisted theories of creationism and intelligent design, when spiritual poetry is a much simpler and more truthful answer. They denounce the facts in favor of fiction. They put prose on a pedestal and trample poetry.

The Jewish people were once storytellers. We needed time to graduate to becoming playwrights and novelists before we were ready to express ourselves through the sacred

poetry God gave us. Every word given to us by Moses was meant to be used for the purpose of advancing science and religion. To advance one over the other will only expose your stupidity. It will leave you hateful and mean-spirited. To love the world as God created it, you have to appreciate the laws of the physical world as reminders of the deeper laws He put in place. The physical laws were made with poetic importance to teach you to see yourself in a moral context, not so you'll judge others wanting of what you think you were sent here to bestow on them.

I can't tell you how proud I am that Jesus came from our tribe. I'm in awe of His brilliance, and grateful that so many modern Jews take His message to heart even if they don't connect their love to that man. I wish more Jews would go to church to pray with Christians, and I wish more Muslims would come to synagogue and church to pray with the two of us. If God could see us all praying together in Jerusalem, there'd be so much more reason to anticipate hope for our children, grandchildren and polar bears. The North Pole would refreeze and the people would melt, and not the other way around.

God didn't ask any faith other than Judaism and Christianity to live by His Ten Commandments. That means that the rest of the world is free to kill, cheat, steal, lie and covet, but we're not. That doesn't mean they have to convert. It just means that they're free to choose to how they want to live. They're free to copy us without giving us credit for all that we signify. It means that we're free to copy good models within our Judeo-Christian societies and we're free to improve that model internally.

Learn to separate the Ten Commandments consciously into two sets of five. Learn to use your left and right hands cooperatively one with the other as two living tablets with ten messages. Learn to "co-operate," operate with, not against, the other half of yourself. Place your hands together in prayer from time to time, that your fingers may enjoy the feeling of touching one another with poetic delight. Do this in gratitude for all they do for you. Maybe then you'll put the soles of your feet together, too, like two souls that have become as one.

There's really nothing more boring than a young man who thinks he's God's gift to the world. He's boring because thinks he's in a box wrapped more beautifully than all other boxes. He tediously struts about as though to beg others to open him (because he can't get into himself). But when you look inside you find there's nothing but a shoot that's hardly had time to separate from its shell, still fighting for a root in rock, still reaching up through darkness for light.

What every young man really should be able to say with pride is "I've opened myself up and can see inside myself." What he ought to listen for within is that his awe of himself is justified with curiosity about the mystery of growing up. No one can believe in miracles until he experiences himself as one.

Jesus was a young man who set the standard for all young men thereafter. He had the wisdom to open Himself to see every part of the metaphoric tree His Father had planted in Him. No man can possibly set a higher standard for himself without also comparing himself to ground grain and the crushed fruit of the vine. It's the AVODA of the young man to learn about the illumination and heat of his inner flame. But as he goes through the purification process – the three faces of God has planned for him in this world of 3D – he won't feel quite as burned or scarred by the experience if he stays hopeful. He'll use his nose to intuit the smoky trail God is leaving for him to find Him later, on his journey. A young man doesn't need to be CALLED/CALLED/c a l l e d by his Creator if he follows his nose with the signs that can't be seen or heard. The smoke also rises. {pun on Earnest Hemingway's World War One novel, The Sun Also Rises.}

When a young man looks at himself as a physical lampstand holding a spiritual flame, he should think of himself as a manmade wonder, the result of the ingenuity and forethought of countless generations of Abrahamic men before him. His parents rubbed themselves together until they produced the spark that he is. In doing so, his parents put their hope into the future, while remembering the toll *their* parents paid to make life better for them. A young American shines a New World light brighter than most other lights. He's a ray of hope who's the result of the efforts of ancestors who came from around the world.

I am a room with a view, high in the spiritual edifice of "AAM ISRAEL" {THE SOUL OF ISRAEL}. I was once a tiny flame ignited by teachers and tutors who twisted my lampshade to focus my light in the directions they chose. I'm now a living lampstand whose light is a reflection of me. I'm one of billions of living lights who shines down like a star through the floorboards of night onto the edifice of humanity on God's good Earth. I'm a lampstand wrought with regard, made sturdy with mettle and filled with sacred oil that illuminates all who come before me.

Some laugh at the thought of any Jew being poor, but I tell you there are some Jews who are financially rich but who are spiritually poor, and this comes after 3,400 years of instruction from God. You're going to have to decide Jew by Jew which ones are like you, and why God brought them into your life.

A man's ears can't discern between the words "him" and "Him." Only his eyes can do that. A man's head sees, and his heart hears. His head is deaf, but not blind. His heart is blind, but not deaf. A man prays from his heart, but he has to learn to look at his prayers with his third eye to truly see what he's saying. Look at the colors from your heart that coat each black-on-white word you utter, and you'll perceive what you're really trying to say.

"I KNOW HOW YOU ARE SLANDERED BY THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES JEWS, BUT IN FACT ARE NOT JEWS BUT A SYNAGOGUE OF 'SATAN.' HAVE

NO FEAR OF WHAT YOU WILL SUFFER. I TELL YOU NOW THAT THE ‘DEVIL’ IS GOING TO CAST SOME OF YOUR NUMBER INTO PRISON WHERE YOUR FAITH WILL BE TESTED AND YOUR DISTRESS WILL LAST FOR TEN DAYS. BE FAITHFUL IN THE FACE OF DEATH AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE CROWN OF LIFE. LET EVERY LISTENER HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES: ‘THE VICTORIOUS CANNOT SUFFER THE SLIGHTEST HURT FROM THE SECOND DEATH.’” [Revelations 2:8-11]

The first death occurs when your mind stops thinking. The second death occurs when your heart stops feeling. The first death is death of the body. The second death is the apathy of the self that leads to self-loathing. “THE VICTORIOUS CANNOT SUFFER THE SLIGHTEST HURT FROM THE SECOND DEATH.”

It’s taken 2,000 years for Jews like me to look back on Jesus’s influence in our world and claim Him as one of our own, a gay-Jew. His ridicule and scorn of the rich Jew is hardly different from how Americans should feel today about the wealthy who don’t pay the same percentage of their income that we pay in taxes. The problem hasn’t changed in 2,000 years. It’s still rich Jew against poor Jew, but today we’re all like Jews. As each of us gets his head screwed on tighter, his heart opened, and his conscience becomes his guide. In that way we all learn to handle the outer world’s problems with greater self-assurance.

The situation in Israel only went from bad to worse after Jesus’s death. The Temple was destroyed. Rich and poor Jews alike were enslaved and sent to serve their Roman masters abroad. And the struggle for survival away from our home in Israel lasted 2,000 years.

Today, thanks to Sigmund Freud we can overcome Jewish self-loathing, Christian anti-Semitism and Muslim anti-Zionism with self-psychoanalysis. Thanks to Noam Chomsky we can overcome ignorance of man’s Language Acquisition Device with greater spiritual understanding of the WORD/WORD/w o r d of God.

The Israelites may have been the first to be admonished for dancing around the golden calf. But the Jew in you may still be dancing around the vehicle you drive to work in; the zip code you strive for; someone to sleep with who has the physical attributes you desire; or the font of the word/WORD/w o r d you’re most fond of.

The Jew today is no longer the outsider looking in. Now you’re like a Jew, too. Now you’re like a woman who chats with a serpent many times a day. So take a good look at who you see when you look at yourself, and question what makes you so different from every gay-Jew today and every one of our tribe in the past.

The money you yearn for to make your dreams come true is just a simple adornment to the crown jewels in your underwear. You only need to find a way to retrieve the wealth within you.

All today's Jews are metaphoric Christmas trees with colorful balls hanging down from them. Everyone is a celebration of himself. Everyone has a birthday that ushered him into the pursuit of self-love. Everyone has strived to remove the hood on his serpent so that he'd better hear what it has to say. And everyone will die on a good Friday wondering whether God will forsake you. Take Jesus personally. Don't take Him literally. And do the same with every other Jew you meet.

"THESE WORDS ARE SPOKEN BY HIM WHO HAS THE SHARP TWO-EDGED SWORD. I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE - WHERE 'SATAN' SITS ENTHRONED. I KNOW THAT YOU HOLD FAST TO MY NAME AND THAT YOU NEVER DENIED YOUR FAITH IN ME EVEN IN THE DAYS WHEN ANTIPAS, MY FAITHFUL WITNESS, WAS MARTYRED BEFORE YOUR EYES IN THE VERY HOUSE OF 'SATAN.'" [Revelations 2:12-13]

You already know I think "satan" sits enthroned between your legs. You already know I think "it" rises with little regard to property, propriety or promises to God. You already know I think it's up to you to make wise decisions with regard to your delivery system of desires and your fruits of good and evil. "it" claims to know so much about you simply because of "its" proximity to the essence of your intentions. You could know as much as the "devil" if you bothered to know yourself in the Biblical sense of the WORD.

"THESE ARE THE WORDS OF THE SON OF GOD WHOSE EYES BLAZE LIKE FIRE AND WHOSE FEET SHINE LIKE THE FINEST BRONZE: I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE. I KNOW OF YOUR LOVE AND YOUR LOYALTY, YOUR SERVICE AND YOUR ENDURANCE. MOREOVER, I KNOW THAT YOU ARE DOING MORE THAN YOU DID AT FIRST. BUT I HAVE THIS AGAINST YOU, THAT YOU TOLERATE THAT WOMAN JEZEBEL WHO CALLS HERSELF A PROPHETESS, BUT WHO BY HER TEACHING DECEIVES MY SERVANTS INTO SEXUAL IMMORALITY AND EATING IDOLS' MEAT. I HAVE GIVEN HER TIME TO REPENT, BUT SHE HAS SHOWN NO DESIRE TO REPENT OF HER IMMORALITY. SEE, NOW, HOW I THROW HER INTO BED AND HER LOVERS WITH HER, AND I WILL SEND THEM TERRIBLE SUFFERING UNLESS THEY REPENT OF WHAT SHE HAS DONE. AS FOR HER CHILDREN, I SHALL STRIKE THEM DEAD. THEN ALL THE CHURCHES WILL KNOW THAT I AM THE ONE WHO SEARCHES MEN'S HEARTS AND MINDS, AND THAT I WILL REWARD EACH ONE OF YOU ACCORDING TO YOUR DEEDS." [Revelations 2:18-23]

Clearly, Jesus was a preacher. He spoke from His conscience, which had been informed, as is everyone's, by God. And, although He was also soulful, the words He used at that time come across as moralistic today when people try to repeat them to reinforce their own cause, especially when their cause concerns sexual conduct. You have to translate His words into today's vernacular to relate to it.

Jezebel was a Jewish queen who lived 900 years prior to Jesus. She was associated with a perversion of desire away from God toward false idols. A correlation was in place for the ancient Jews between paganism and sexual indiscretion. And although Jezebel was associated with paganism, Jesus could only figuratively give her TIME TO REPENT because the event had occurred over 900 years prior to His comments.

Modern man is hardly a vegetarian when it comes to IDOL'S MEAT. He's tasted true love and the frivolous escapades of today's idol worship in form of casual sex, drugs, overeating, shopping sprees, etc. that consume us all one way or another. But because our lessons are private and personal, we don't claim there's one and only one path to wisdom of the heart. We don't look at what's on each other's plate, whether it's idol's meat, poultry, fish or tofu. And we certainly shouldn't make a claim that there's one sexual recipe that would feed everyone.

The only obvious immoral conditions for sex are:

1. Engaging in sex with a child
2. Physically forcing someone to have sex
3. Emotionally or financially manipulating someone into have sex
4. Breaking a sexual promise made to another.

If you feel a need to debate these moral conditions for sex, take your own moral conditions up with God, and leave the rest of us out of it.

Women and gay men today still live under the shadow of Jezebel. Jezebel introduced King Ahab {(a Jew)} to pagan values that diluted the Jewish tribal values in 900 B.C.E. Shiksas {Yiddish: Christian women} were looked on in the early 20th Century as Jezebels who Jewish straight men were often deeply attracted to and married, but were scorned for doing the same thing to Jewish family values 3,000 years later.

The PROPHETS railed against non-Jewish women who "trapped" Jewish men with their charms. But they also railed against Greek boys who did the same to Jewish boys during the Greek conquest of the Middle East.

A man or woman today who is accused of marrying for money, property or prestige rather than to strengthen tribal bonds will may be accused of moral misconduct, although the topic isn't discussed openly. Today's Jezebel can even appear to look female while having a penis if s/he sleeps with a man for the wrong reasons. No one today is free from Jezebel's reputation when it comes to accusations of moral misuse of sexual conduct.

IDOL'S MEAT is what you might imagine finding inside the Golden Calf. The Israelites didn't have enough gold to construct the Golden Calf out of solid gold, so they danced around an idol that was actually hollow inside.

IDOL'S MEAT is the feeling of emptiness inside that inadvertently attracts you to doing something that isn't in your own best interest. IDOL'S MEAT becomes anyone or anything you use to fill yourself in place of spiritual nourishment, anything you consume if you don't realize what you're really feeling deep down inside. "IDOL'S MEAT is assumed to be very high in spiritual calories, but very low in spiritual nutrition.

Judgment Day doesn't have to come the day after you die. It could come to you now or later today. Monday mornings don't have to be judgment days. In truth, Judgment Day is lying in inner time waiting for you to face it subjectively. Rather than put off the hour of judgment until the day you die, it makes a lot more sense to let your heart judge you a few moments at a time every day. You'll be amazed at how your self-love will grow if you allow your heart to judge you regularly rather than all at once on your death bed.

Guilt leads to self-love, which, in turn, leads to generosity of spirit when you put your faith in yourself. Bring your faith to the Lord as it is. Don't claim to have more than you really have. He knows the only way to increase your faith in Him will be to increase your faith in yourself.

But that takes work. Work takes introspection. And introspection takes courage. And courage takes truth uttered in the silence of the self where no one but you will hear it.

When you start to really listen to yourself and hear yourself saying the same things over and over, whether to others, or only in your mind, know that your conscience is trying to wake you up to beliefs about yourself through thoughts, feelings and urges that you haven't been fully aware of. You can't unlock the secret to "you" just by taking the attitude that you're going to go along with yourself for the ride. You have to have an active, wholesome relationship with yourself. You have to add your feelings in with your thoughts and then question the underlying desires that got you so excited in the first place. Your ignorance of yourself isn't an admissible excuse for your behavior. You'll never be able to claim you were only following your orders.

Judgment Day comes and goes every time your conscience thanks your head and heart for acquiescing their autonomy to your conscience in being their guide. Judgment Day is extenuated the second you welcome God into your conscience, turning it from a place of moral reflection into His home away from Home. Judgment Day ends the day you can turn away from the shadow you cast within on the wall of your cave and face your flame.

There's a short list of sins in every age our Teacher gives us to challenge our conscience to become a more discerning guide. There's nothing intrinsically bad about loving sex or eating meat. Those Jews living at the time of Jesus would never have considered giving up their slaves or the sex they probably enjoyed with them. Nor did anyone at that time suggest they should become vegans. They most dreaded what eventually came to pass. They became slaves themselves after their ancestors had twice gone through slavery.

Some people fear becoming fat in middle age after a lifetime of scorning others for being fat. Others refuse to associate with poor people until the stock market collapses, they lose their job and their home is repossessed. Some spend their free time with pets while others need a large social circle of people around them. Some dream that fame will embellish their life while others think only of building a fortune.

But how many people seek out their own company? Everyone moves towards his own idea of Judgment Day with the riches within he's amassed thus far.

Problems occur when you insist other people lose weight, make money, love humanity or embellish their life in some way you approve of. If your judgment of yourself came and went regularly and in a more relaxed manner, you'd probably feel a lot less compelled to judge others.

People already know God. It's not like you have to introduce them to Him. People are already planting themselves morally, like seeds, and doing what they can to make their lives grow bountifully.

Don't whack them like weeds. Don't judge them for their lifestyle unless it infringes on yours. A gay married couple can't possibly do anything that will infringe on your marriage. The black spot on your white soul didn't magically appear there when someone else got an abortion.

Your soul doesn't need to be disinfected. Your mind doesn't need to be fumigated. Your heart isn't in need of sterilization. A little soap and water rubbed lightly over your opinions is all it really takes to come clean. Where atonement is called for you already know what to do.

Most adults still believe they're a little kid inside them. They love the idea of playing in the dirt, and they love the idea of taking a bath. They love to imagine that changing the color of their skin will make their soul dirty and fun to be in. They already imagine that sleeping with members of the same gender will do the same. And they all secretly imagine that cleaning up their fantasies will make them pure and white again.

Your physical attraction to skin color is likely decided by the little kid in you. But pigmentation has nothing to do with the symbolic riches you hold inside. A milk carton doesn't have to be white for the milk inside to be white. And chocolate milk tastes great regardless of the shade of brown on the carton.

Going to a house of prayer isn't going to bleach your soul white again. Prayer doesn't remove spots on your persona. Scrubbing your personality so that it looks bright and cheery isn't going to keep you from fading inside. Washing your laundry in public isn't going to get it any cleaner than if you wash it at home on your own. To come clean you only need the enzyme called truth. Just tell yourself the truth about what you're thinking.

Threats of abandonment may have worked well a hundred years ago to keep kids in line, but people don't take well to abandonment by government officials. And when religious leaders abandon their flock with sexual indiscretion and financial duplicity, these become egregious acts of betrayal. Conspiracies are now necessary to conceal the acts of abandonment and betrayal that cause scandals when we discover we've chosen leaders whose consciences haven't been informed by their own moral evolution.

The world around you is ruled by science, and the world within by spirituality. Don't confuse the two. Your world lies within the world we have to share with one another. Jesus came into this world to have an effect on your world, not everybody else's. Use His message to improve your ability to think with your heart, not to tell other people who should or shouldn't excite them. Politics makes strange bedfellows because politicians always end up having to sleep with themselves. Judge yourself fairly, and then see if you escape the accusation of calling yourself abominable and a hypocrite.

All political issues come back to one of self-moderation and self-regulation. Morality is a personal, moral, struggle with yourself in which you have to get your needs met without so seriously offending parts of yourself that they stop talking to one another. The more you can find a balance between the letter and the spirit of the law, the more you'll come to understand the reasons for the struggles God has given you. The more extra credit assignments you choose to take on in the school of life the more satisfied you'll be with your grades at the end.

What makes you feel like a Frankenstein – a bunch of other people's parts hastily sewn together – is that you're alive inside, but that sense of aliveness doesn't go all the way through to your skin. The frontier between your inner world and the world we share is a no man's land you dare not enter. It's a place without thoughts, feelings or beliefs. It's a shell, and you are a seed yearning to break out.

Don't tell us we're all equals and in the same classes. There are many classes in the school of life, and your curriculum only enrolls you in a few of them. Look at what you know. Look at who you love. There's more to learn in every moment you've got left in life than you can imagine with the imagination you have now. Let your imagination evolve and you'll become more moral naturally. You'll grow like a shoot with a root. You'll wrap yourself around God within you and you'll grow up into the light like a sprout into His light.

Don't be afraid to suffer what the Israelis have to go through. Your outcome, like theirs, will end with a hope for all that you could never have previously anticipated. Your home will be secured as your guests see themselves to the door. Just know in your heart that when they go home, they'll redecorate their place with influences that come from yours.

God gave Israel to the Jews so that the Muslims would learn from the Christians to do what the Christians have done with the State of Israel. The Christians are recreating Israel in their countries. They're taking the idea of "paradise" {PARDES/ORCHARD} and spreading it with God's WORDS/WORDS. When Muslims spread the w o r d of God instead of trying to embolden it, they'll be much more successful in both their individual and collective worlds.

The pain and suffering you see in others is no reason to blame the gays or the Jews. If you want to help those who aren't doing well with their studies by all means do. But don't set yourself up as the judge and jury over the two meekest peoples on the face of the Earth. If you want to tutor others, first learn why suffering occurs and address that at its source in you.

Life is a school. You can raise your hand in prayer and ask the Teacher a question at any point in a lesson. You can even ask Him questions in the middle of a test. The more you question, the more interesting the classes you're enrolled in will become. The only people who are bored and boring are those who don't ask good questions of the Teacher.

Rich Jew, poor Jew – what's the difference? The only Jew who doesn't understand what I'm talking about is the atheist Jew who insists on living in denial in the head of his circumcised penis where he cowers thinking life is an experience without God by his side. The atheist is a serpent without a tree that thinks "it" can hide on the forest bed in denial of the trees overhead. The atheist is pure desire for autonomy in a world learning and yearning emancipation.

There are many religious people who are really atheists at heart and many atheists who are deeply spiritual and loyal to God at their core. There are even snakes with legs because lizards came first in the evolutionary chain 100 million years ago. Some snakes, such as pythons and boa constrictors, have vestigial organs that serve no function. That's one more {scientific} reason why serpents are so beguiling.

A Muslim who circumcises a woman's clitoris in childhood with a knife instead of her hymen with vaginal penetration with his penis is deeply delusional. A woman is circumcised in the act of making love. A man is circumcised in the act of passage into his tribe. The hood of the serpent is removed for the sake of a covenant. The hood of a worm is removed for the sake of a covenant. But to mutilate a woman by removing all desire is equivalent to dismemberment of a man, and is barbaric.

The world has become more tolerant of people making their own choices thanks to increasingly less tolerance of fear and intimidation. But there comes a point when even the meek have to find the courage to ask themselves what they hope to achieve and what they realistically hope to inherit given their opinion of themselves. Nobody will be very

impressed with a man's biceps, bare chest or swagger unless he's convinced he's going to act in ways that are sane.

A dream is another word for a metaphor, a tool you use to plummet the world you don't know with everyday experiences you can easily relate to. The dreams you have at night are metaphors your mind creates that may not make any sense unless you become skilled at uniting all the forces within your spiritual, operating system. Dreams are stories your mind creates to influence the feelings and desires you hold and to help you change what you believe to be true about yourself. A dream is a terrible thing to waste on silly fantasies that will never come true. Follow your dreams until they turn into visions.

You can't put out the flames of lust. You can only bring them to consciousness and resolve to contain them in honorable ways. The work of self-discovery never stops. It's not the physical vehicle you were given that's defying your ability to drive it. All these vehicles all basically the same even if you'd rather have been given a different one. What matters most are the tune-ups {dreams} you give it every night to keep it in good emotional and spiritual running order.

God gave the first two human beings a proper scolding for their indiscretion. But He did so using a subtle spiritual reprogramming process that began moving men and women to higher levels of consciousness using their relationships with one another in order to produce the feelings of guilt that would lead them in the direction of a greater appreciation for life, loyalty, love and, today, the magnanimity of self-love. But this process was interactive; requiring us to learn from one another on a daily basis, not just on the odd occasion when we're in an especially fair or foul mood. It requires us to open our heart to the lessons coming from everyone including those who don't use love, but fear, anger, frustration and intimidation to influence us.

You don't have to react outwardly to anyone's emotional message about your worth. You can respond to it inwardly by questioning God about what you can learn from each experience He's bringing you. You can learn to love Him for the personal lessons He brings you, however harsh or boring they may outwardly be. You can endure others' loathsome disgust of you with larger servings of self-love. You can increase your appetite for yourself even through misfortune. Even if self-love began tasting like spinach, it can still end up more like cookies and cream.

God gave Adam and Eve a preview of what life would look like outside Eden, but He sent them on their journey without doing or saying a thing to the serpent. More than your desire need to be strictly controlled, they need to be understood. There are feelings associated with your desires that you ought to think about. Cutting desire out of your life would be like dismembering yourself or removing a woman's clitoris. It would render you powerless to experience your own goodness in some wonderfully human way.

If you cut the cord that connects you to your Source {like an appliance to an electric outlet} watch as the sparks fly. No. You need desire as much as any of the other forces within you. What you don't need is to stroke it with shady deals, cajole it with indulgences or fondle it with fantasies to make it do your bidding. Once a snake, always a snake.

The Jews have come a long way since Moses presented our ancestors with the Creation Story as a metaphor for this spiritual process in becoming humane. God doesn't lecture us with prophets anymore; nor does He tell us what the future will look like with promises if we're good. We're too old to be parented like little children. We're too far from the Eden of our infancy of spiritual experiences to go back and too smart not to see what's coming if we don't change our ways by ourselves.

The threats of the Old Testament given to us by Moses and augmented by Jesus in the New have to be weighed differently in light of personal experience and the time in which we live. The Bible is never out of date. It describes a spiritual process that never changes. What changes is our ability to pierce the mystery of the WORD/WORD/w o r d of God with personal experience.

Today we're more threatened with the end of all life on Earth than we are with ancient, Biblical intimidations of our Creator. We have no reason to be afraid of snakes while living in big cities. Today, apart from the threat of pandemics, not even *we* terrify us anymore. Nothing terrifies modern man (until it does).

Many profess to love Jesus even if they can't justify their actions with His message of love. Many don't have faith in themselves, but they promote faith in God to others anyway. They embrace the mission of changing others' minds, when faith was always intended as a spiritual plan for their heart. This goes far beyond the cookie cutter formulas of the belief system they find at their institution of faith.

Life is a school with three classes: rich, middle class and poor. And the Teacher's curriculum for each class is quite different. Until we learn to audit all three, houses of worship will remain half empty or leave you feeling only half full. Until all people of faith address the needs of all three classes in the school of life, you may find yourself having to suffer, erroneously believing the people around you are ignorant and empty.

The best way to get the institutions of religion to pay more attention to what they're doing is for them to promote self-love as the greatest vehicle of God's love. And Christianity is in the best position of all to do this. The WORDS of Jesus lend themselves to being taken all the more to heart in this day and age. Honor Him by endeavoring to love yourself as He loved Himself, from the inside out.

God has a funny way of rewarding you in ways you never expected, and the same goes with His ways of whipping you in shape. Laziness is common in the school of life, and telling the Teacher what you want out of life is unproductive. He sees through your

scheming plans for self-indulgence with plans to teach you self-love instead. Never expect to get what you want just so you can say you got what you wanted. Always expect to get what you need to love yourself more deeply. And be very glad when what you want and what you need happens to turn out to be one and the same.

The great thing about religion in America is that for most people it's now reached the young adult stage of devotion. This corresponds to the Tower of Babel story, a conspiracy theory where people band together seemingly cooperatively, while, unconsciously, they're still vengeful and vindictive pretending only to look good to get what they want.

We've grown too big to respect a God who'd put us over His knee and punishes us without explanation. Promises of hope after deluging us with tough love won't work anymore either. But don't expect to build a tower to your power that literally scrapes the sky. He's on to you. He knows where you're going.

Material acquisitions are fine. But using all the days of your life to surround yourself with toys isn't what young adults are expected to do. In addition to financial security, you're going to need to find a spiritual reason for existing.

At this stage in man's development, he has to find a reason to be through the wisdom of his heart because he knows rational thinking alone will be defeated by defiant examples of self-indulgence. He has to use his emotions as keys to open himself in order to perceive his stinking thinking. What a man is really thinking about and wishing to have happen only becomes obvious when he gets a sneak-peek of it from a different place in inner space. This sort of Abrahamic, questioning technique will lead God to bring him answers that will help him succeed in greater ways.

“I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE. SEE, I HAVE GIVEN YOU A DOOR FLUNG WIDE OPEN, WHICH NO MAN CAN CLOSE! FOR YOU HAVE SOME LITTLE POWER AND HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL TO MY MESSAGE AND HAVE NOT DENIED MY NAME. SEE HOW I DEAL WITH THOSE OF ‘SATAN’S’ SYNAGOGUE, WHO CLAIM TO BE JEWS, YET ARE NO JEWS BUT LIARS! WATCH HOW I MAKE THEM COME AND BOW DOWN BEFORE YOUR FEET AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE LOVED YOU. BECAUSE YOU HAVE OBEYED MY CALL TO PATIENT ENDURANCE I WILL KEEP YOU SAFE FROM THE HOUR OF TRIAL, WHICH IS TO COME UPON THE WHOLE WORLD, TO TEST ALL WHO LIVE UPON THE EARTH. I AM COMING SOON; HOLD FAST TO WHAT YOU HAVE - LET NO ONE DEPRIVE YOU OF YOUR CROWN. AS FOR THE VICTORIOUS, I WILL MAKE HIM A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE OF MY GOD, AND HE WILL NEVER LEAVE IT. I WILL WRITE UPON HIM THE NAME OF MY GOD, AND THE NAME OF THE CITY OF MY GOD, THE NEW JERUSALEM WHICH COMES DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM MY GOD. AND I WILL WRITE UPON

HIM MY OWN NEW NAME. LET THE LISTENER HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.” [Revelations 3:8-13]

Jesus opened a door that no one been able to close, and it doesn't look like the door to love is ever going to be shut. He opened a door that slowly changed the course of the world. But today those who see SATAN'S' SYNAGOGUE between my Jewish legs are looking between the wrong two legs. Some see SATAN'S' SYNAGOGUE in the State of Israel, but they're looking at the wrong nation.

His message was given to Jews, Christians and even future Muslims to be taken much more personally than anyone then could. The problem doesn't lie around us. It lies within. Those who follow the discipline of self-love will see the New Testament as a good book. Those who see other-love as the answer will look at love as a sport, a competition in which they're even willing to kill if it means they'll win.

Filling your belly is different from relieving your spiritual hunger. Digesting food is different from digesting knowledge. Nourishing your body is different from nourishing your soul. The modern American male who eats until he's bursting is still terrified of feeling full. He doesn't want to leave this world lonely or empty, so he leaves it feeling numb instead.

Food is the lowest common denominator. We all need food. Depriving the poor of food is the greatest sin after murder, rape and abduction. Christ literally fed the poor, but He also fed them emotionally and spiritually.

A Jew who criticizes another Jew isn't an anti-Semite. A black who criticizes a black isn't a racist. A gay who criticizes another gay isn't a homophobe. We've earned the right to argue with our tribe. But if you're going to use our words against us, such as Christians have done with Jesus's WORDS against the Jews and Moses's WORDS against the gays, you're crossing a moral line.

“THE HOUR OF TRIAL, WHICH IS TO COME UPON THE WHOLE WORLD, TO TEST ALL WHO LIVE UPON THE EARTH” comes to each of us through our heart, not our head. It's easy to regret the way you've treated others, but it's hard to live with remorse over the way you've hurt yourself. If you take Jesus's message to heart by listening to your heart, you may have to listen to sorrow at how God allowed some parts of your life to work out in ways you didn't like. Let this be food for thought. Emotions are the keys to your kingdom, and self-ignorance is all that's keeping you locked out of the rest of yourselves.

“WATCH HOW I MAKE THEM COME AND BOW DOWN BEFORE YOUR FEET AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE LOVED YOU. BECAUSE YOU HAVE OBEYED MY CALL TO PATIENT ENDURANCE I WILL KEEP YOU SAFE.”

Many Christians blithely assume Jesus is speaking to them and not to the Jews, the gays or the Muslims. They confuse what He said to the poor Jews of His day with what His

message means for all of us today. If the message of Moses has needed interpretation for 3,400 years to unlock its secrets to keep it current why would Jesus's message stand static throughout time? If guilt has to be unraveled why wouldn't we need to unravel the message of love, too?

"I AM COMING SOON; HOLD FAST TO WHAT YOU HAVE - LET NO ONE DEPRIVE YOU OF YOUR CROWN. AS FOR THE VICTORIOUS, I WILL MAKE HIM A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE OF MY GOD, AND HE WILL NEVER LEAVE IT. I WILL WRITE UPON HIM THE NAME OF MY GOD, AND THE NAME OF THE CITY OF MY GOD, THE NEW JERUSALEM WHICH COMES DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM MY GOD."

To hold fast to what you have, you first have to know what it is that you've got. You have to have your crown in hand to know in your heart that you never lost it. As a Jew I'm seen by some Jews as a doctor of the soul. As a gay I'm seen among some Christians as a righteous man among men. But as a gay-Jew among some Muslims I'm still seen as someone to be loathed.

Melodrama is a stage the whole world goes through. Exaggerated feelings need to be portrayed to others before you can see them emanating out of yourself. You have to see them to turn them around and give them to yourself. I'm not a doctor who can heal anyone other than me. I'm not a righteous man who can think up good answers for you. And I'm certainly not interested in power over others or revenge. These personality types don't reflect my persona. They're contrived because of stereotypes of what gays and Jews should be like, given certain sociological perceptions from the past.

There isn't a man who doesn't think himself a pillar of society, whether or not he's trying to support the pillars in the temple of his faith or tear down those pillars because he believes people are worshipping idols. Many see themselves as a Samson, chained to the pillars of his own godless temple waiting for the strength to come when he can wreck vengeance on those outside who humiliate him within. All such men think it will take for that to happen is for their hair to grow long so their vanity will increase their self-worth. I'm sorry to say it doesn't work that way.

The desire for retribution and a sense of righteous indignation may give a man a feeling of strength, but that strength doesn't last. Jesus had an innate sense of the difference between the hypocrite and the righteous man because He could see both in His heart. Divine doesn't always have to mean perfect. To be divinely inspired you simply have to be moving in the direction of God's wisdom, love and generosity of spirit. Moses, Jesus and the Prophet Mohammed were ahead of us on that journey. But Bette Midler was also the divine Miss M.

The NEW JERUSALEM is within you. The NEW JERUSALEM is in that place in inner space where wisdom and love meet in your soul before God; where you know you've been seen and heard. It's in your NEW JERUSALEM where your alter burns constantly and eternally with an eternal flame, and where your prayers rise with invisible smoke toward your Maker.

That temple is in your Israel, not mine. The AVODA you do there is your form of worship, not mine. If you don't want to repeat history, you don't have to. You can learn about His story any way you want. You're going to make those mistakes God allows you to make. If you choose not to allow yourself to make them, that's only because your conscience has, at last, become a great guide.

Your life is a moral adventure. You decide right from wrong using your hungers and thirsts. The pleasure principle teaches you good from bad. But the Bible will take you even further to discern zany from crazy. Your Israel is a struggle within you that will have Biblical proportions long after this life.

Make peace with yourself, and you'll make peace with both the ancient, rich Jews who wanted to preserve the status quo and the poor Jews who wanted to improve their lot in life. See the temple within yourself as destroyed, and use what's left in your "EER ATICA" {OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM} as a model for your own, inner holy site.

The remains of your Jewish temple, church of the Holy Sepulcher and Al-Aqsa mosque are all within you. The NEW JERUSALEM in you is a mirror of the struggle for your control of your Jerusalem, the capitol of your Israel. You're an Israeli. How will you solve the crusade in yourselves?

Before the Jews there was no such thing as history, only sagas. But some day you're going to leave this place and look back on your contribution to history. If the history of the Jews isn't a moral window into your own history, then what will have been the point of learning anything about history?

"THESE ARE THE WORDS OF THE 'AMEN,' THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS, THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S CREATION: I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, AND THAT YOU ARE NEITHER COLD NOR HOT. I COULD WISH THAT YOU WERE EITHER COLD OR HOT! BUT SINCE YOU ARE LUKEWARM AND NEITHER HOT NOR COLD, I INTEND TO SPIT YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH WHILE YOU SAY, 'I AM RICH, I HAVE PROSPERED, AND THERE IS NOTHING THAT I NEED, YOU HAVE NO EYES TO SEE THAT YOU ARE WRETCHED, PITIABLE, POVERTY-STRICKEN, BLIND AND NAKED. MY ADVICE TO YOU IS TO BUY FROM ME THAT GOLD WHICH IS PURIFIED IN THE FURNACE SO THAT YOU MAY BE RICH, AND WHITE GARMENTS TO WEAR SO THAT YOU MAY HIDE THE SHAME OF YOUR NAKEDNESS, AND SALVE TO PUT ON YOUR EYES TO

MAKE YOU SEE. ALL THOSE WHOM I LOVE I CORRECT AND DISCIPLINE. THEREFORE, SHAKE OFF YOUR COMPLACENCY AND REPENT. SEE, I STAND KNOCKING AT THE DOOR. IF ANYONE LISTENS TO MY VOICE AND OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL GO INTO HIS HOUSE, AND DINE WITH HIM, AND HE WITH ME. AS FOR THE VICTORIOUS, I WILL GIVE HIM THE HONOR OF SITTING BESIDE ME ON MY THRONE, JUST AS I MYSELF HAVE WON THE VICTORY AND HAVE TAKEN MY SEAT BESIDE MY FATHER ON HIS THRONE. LET THE LISTENER HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.” [Revelations 3:14-22]

You may be offended by the way Jesus belittled those He was talking to in the above passage, or you can take His words to heart. When Jesus said, “SINCE YOU ARE LUKEWARM AND NEITHER HOT NOR COLD, I INTEND TO SPIT YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH...” you might feel insulted, but probably only if you really do feel lukewarm. When Jesus said, “YOU HAVE NO EYES TO SEE THAT YOU ARE WRETCHED, PITIABLE, POVERTY-STRICKEN, BLIND AND NAKED” you might feel incensed because your hindsight, insight and foresight aren’t within your purview. Once you’ve been through matters of the heart, it’s much less likely you’re going to feel rejected by His language. When someone who loves you says something negative and breathtakingly honest about you, it’s actually refreshing to hear such sincerity. God used sticks and carrots to move the Israelites literally. Jesus used them with the intention of moving you emotionally, not allowing you the option of getting spiritually lazy. “ALL THOSE WHOM I LOVE I CORRECT AND DISCIPLINE.”

He scorned the commonplace mistake in the ancient Jews of confusing outer *gold* with inner *wealth*. He scorned those who cared more about their standing in society than working to improve the “we” from within. The world has changed, and yet it’s stayed the same. And interpretations of the Hebrew and Christian Testaments have to be updated to make them understandable to today’s youth of every faith.

Next time you’re taking a shower and the water doesn’t get hot fast enough or turns cold once you’re wet think about yourself standing before God nude as well as naked. Think about the water pressure and any lukewarm feelings you may have at this moment that aren’t giving you the emotional sensations you’d like to be experiencing. Notice how such a little physical inconvenience can affect your mood drastically.

“SHAKE OFF YOUR COMPLACENCY AND REPENT. SEE, I STAND KNOCKING AT THE DOOR. IF ANYONE LISTENS TO MY VOICE AND OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL GO INTO HIS HOUSE, AND DINE WITH HIM, AND HE WITH ME.”

If you don't want to feel alone, empty, numb and all on your own, you're going to want to love the idea of learning to love yourself. You're going to want to listen very closely to what you're feeling about others, and use those feelings to achieve a better understanding of yourself. You're not bad if you don't love others. You're bad if you don't look at how others make you feel, and then ask yourself why God brought them into your life. The answer to that question can only be addressed from your conscience, not your head or heart. And your conscience will have to decide for you what you're going to do with you as the result of how you feel about them.

Feeling resentful at finding yourself with a moral dilemma is never the right answer. If God can love Jews and gays, and Jesus can love Jews and gays, A L L A H. can love Jews and gays, too. And nobody has to be angry about it. Once you can acknowledge that God can love you, you can acknowledge that you can love, period. You couldn't know that about Him if you hadn't first known it about yourself for yourself.

Suffer through the embarrassment of seeing yourself emotionally naked. Humble yourself to ask God why He chose not to give you your character readymade when you awoke in childhood. Look at the feelings you have about your loyalty to you, and take all your pitifully frail, human feelings seriously. If you can take yourself more seriously, you'll take your relationship with yourself more personally. And then every millimeter of moral progress you make will impress you.

Taking communion to ingest God-consciousness is fine, but $\frac{1}{3}$ of God is not all of Him. You're still going to have to learn more about Him in other ways.

There are many who claim to know exactly what your final exam will look like if you believe as they do. They'll tell you all your assignments will have been met if you've made babies who think, feel or believe as you do. They'll tell you that if you happen to have a child whose desires are different from yours, you should reject that child in favor of God. They'll tell you that that's a test from Him like the one given to Abraham to see if you're really loyal.

There are those who are certain they'll graduate with high honors just for having followed orders. They'll tell you all about the Heaven they're going to and the Hell that's waiting for those who aren't attracted to what they're attracted to. They've got all their answers canned. But such people aren't attractive to themselves, and their dogmatic views of the meaning of life aren't wise, loving or generous.

God isn't averse to using puns to help us understand His language. Nor is He opposed to us seeing Jesus as like His Father's sun. This makes Jesus like a star and the P r o p h e t Mohammed like the moon that reflects His light back to us in ways that help us when it's very dark indeed. The Crescent and Star is a symbol of Mohammed and Jesus as seen from Earth at night. Moses described God as having separated the light from the darkness. Jesus

personified the light. And the P r o p h e t Mohammed will lead the world out of darkness at darkest night.

Beverages: The Aroma of Truth

You were spiritually weaned. You were spiritually toilet trained. You're now truly a child of the one true God. Others are either infants in His arms or grown-ups refusing to hold His hand. They have no idea how little they understand and what little they can do as yet without the view of the child within them.

All these words were given to me by our Creator. They came to me, went through me, and came out of me in the end. I couldn't keep them inside me forever. On the way through me, however, they enriched me in ways I'll never be able to put into words. The little I've been able to squeeze out of myself onto these pages is all I have left to give. Until God fills me with more you're going to have to make do with what I was able to cook up and serve on such short notice.

I hope you enjoy the following beverages at the end of our meal together, but this repast is almost over. We'll have a short prayer at the very end, but perhaps you should start giving thought to what you're going to do with Christ's Feast of Self-Love.

You always knew your soul wasn't located between your legs, so you knew you didn't have to look for the meaning of your life between another person's. You always knew that if you thought with your penis, you'd find yourself in a hole you'd have to get out of. You always knew that if you thought with your head you'd learn about God's wisdom. If you thought with your heart you'd learn about His love. And if you thought with your soul you'd learn about the beneficence of His approval and admiration. But you've always known that if you thought only with your penis, you'd discover what it would be like being in Hell while still here on Earth.

The one you always wanted to spiritually penetrate was you. Until I forced you to be more intimate with yourself, that was hard to imagine because you didn't think you were your type. Now that you can say you've entered you and have achieved a relaxed and comfortable relationship within yourself, you know you're going to enjoy more pleasant and realistic relationships with others.

Now that you're filling the emptiness inside you with your unique mixture of wisdom, love and generosity, you know you're going to find more spiritual purpose to life. Now that you're enjoying self-intimacy, you know your esteem of yourself will rise of its own accord. If, in the future, your container should break, leak or fail you, you'll have what it takes to deal with circumstances beyond your control.

Jesus said the same thing in the vernacular of His time. Love was the answer then, and love is still the answer now because only with love in your heart can you approach God on His throne where He wishes to be revered by His subjects {not as His objects}. Only with

your love and admiration can you be proud of yourself and proud of His help in making you this way.

The first movies were silent films in which the actors expressed their feelings very broadly to convey something they couldn't put into words. The next films were talkies, but they were in black and white. And then came color. You're a reenactment of the history of Hollywood. Your life is a film that started out without words. It became a talkie in childhood, but it didn't achieve color until puberty. You may have disliked looking at yourself on the silver screen in your imagination, but now you know that everything within you is being recorded for posterity. You may still fight for privacy around you, but you know you're never alone within.

You listened for God's footsteps in your garden, and weren't so afraid you ran away in His presence. You waited and watched with wonder, and you saw lust turn to love and your problems turn into projects. You didn't hide once you perceived yourself already hidden. You repeated the Hebrew word again and again from wherever you happened to find yourself, "HINENI!" {HERE I AM, LORD, ALWAYS PRESENT BEFORE YOU.}

Your story wasn't new; it was unique. You came to know the one you disobeyed and whose rules you broke. You let down your guard before yourself. You let down your drawbridge and allowed yourself across your own moat to enter your own castle. You stood nude, naked and exposed before yourself in the courtyard of our King, knowing you had nothing to fear but your fear of yourself. You found that God was much more forgiving than you ever were. You learned to forgive yourself so much more from that new place in inner space. You felt guilty, and then you felt sorry for yourself. You felt sorry for yourself and then you felt beloved. And now you know that was what Jesus was saying in the vernacular of His time.

Once you could get a little distance from yourself within, you were able to address yourself as "he," when you spoke to yourself. Then were you able to see yourself with bemusement. And once you found the "he" in you, it was easy to relate to the generous He, the loving He and wise He. By giving up your boredom and finding the fun in being alive with your best friend, you discovered that life was mysterious and fascinating being by yourself.

Most men push or drag their sorrow through life as though it were in a steamer trunk without wheels. They complain about fulfillment of their physical appetites without giving thought to the spiritually hunger and thirst they've given up all hope of sating. But during sex, you were able to open your sorrow like a suitcase. You were then able to see more of what was inside you. Most men are so distracted with the other person during sex that they don't realize who's the most nude, naked and exposed there in their bed. But you let your

sadness out while you had an erection, and you discovered an intimacy with yourself that improved your relationship with your partner.

Now I have another homework assignment for you. (Please look up the lyrics to the Rodger's and Hammerstein song from the musical "The King and I" called "We Kiss In A Shadow." Read the lyrics to the whole song. Then read the section of those lyrics below which you should now have no difficulty translating into similes that infers the Holy Spirit {It} in Christianity but which can also be viewed through the Islamic eye of A L L A H. This song speaks to the hopes of gay-Muslims worldwide who wish to share their love with A L L A H. openly:

We kiss in a shadow
We hide from the M O O N
Our meetings are few
And over too soon
We speak in a whisper
Afraid to be heard
When people are near
We speak not a word
Alone in our secret
Together we sigh
For one smiling day to be free
To kiss in the Son LIGHT
And say to the s k y
Behold and believe what you see
Behold how my Lover loves me

God humiliates a tree in the springtime with the budding and blooming of flowers. If you were to humiliate yourself like a spiritual tree rather than wait for God to do it to you, it could be a much more mysterious and sacred experience. You could enjoy the fruits of your labors by experiencing the opening of you to yourself like a flower. People would pollinate you with affection even if they didn't realize it. But you'd have to be an open bud for that to happen.

Christians hold a relationship with God as with a man. You, too, might need to think of Him in terms of having been human or in having human attributes. You might need to think of Him as having feelings for His creations as would a father for his son. You might even like to think of Him as having a plan to teach each of His spiritual creations to develop feelings for himself.

Christianity is a required spiritual class in the school of life. Nobody gets to opt out of the lessons of God's love. Christianity gives the world God in the form of man so we can

relate to Him with feeling. Love is the most important way for us to get to know Him, but there are others...

Beverages:
The Chalice On Their Table

It might be seen as clever for Christianity to have come up with the idea of Hell and for Christians and Muslims to use the idea to frighten people into spending their time in life pursuing goodness. It might be seen as clever for the Eastern philosophies to have come up with the idea of reincarnation to motivate their faithful to do the same.

But I'm not afraid of having to return to this world or burning in the next one. I'm a modern man of faith, developed enough spiritually not to take intimidation from the world's faiths and philosophic institutions to heart.

There must have been a reason why Jesus embraced the tax collector with as much zeal as the prostitute. Surely He could perceive the sincerity in both their occupations. Surely, He could see the wisdom of the heart in the tax collector who takes, in order to give, and the prostitute who gives, in order to take.

The fruits of evil ripen slowly into wisdom for those who aim to please. If there are those who can't see the possibility for hope to emerge out of evil, they won't be able to see that they can heal themselves of spiritual blindness even if they can't yet see what they're missing.

We have to help today's moneychangers turn their feelings over, rather than their tables if we're going to inspire them to look at things from the other side. It doesn't take money to make a difference. Teaching people to see what's underneath all they rely on for physical support is enough to initiate a transformative experience in them. This is how gays overcame hateful, religious dogma and lust that blinded us to our love of ourselves, and how we can teach the world to do the same.

It's common knowledge that you have to *tolerate* before you can *accept*, and you have to *accept* before you can *admire*. Christians have learned that about Jews. Whites have learned that about blacks. And straights are beginning to learn that that about gays. But unmarried gays are still getting a plethora of STD's, including AIDS, and suffering from drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide in greater numbers. What we need is for all men to search for a soul mate in themselves. That will make them better mates with others. This isn't a challenge society can solve just with laws promoting equality. This is a challenge that requires wisdom of the heart in everyone.

Vengeance is a dish best served cold, but wisdom is a dish best served warm. I want to see justice for Jews in Jerusalem; sincerity from Catholics in Rome; and confidence building coming from Mecca. The NEW JERUSALEM in you will emerge out of an OLD JERUSALEM where the wisdom of the Jews emanates out of an Israel surrounded by neighbors who've made peace with themselves. Wisdom of the heart must come from the

Vatican and other Christian world centers, and soulful regard for all faiths must come from Mecca, even though God chose to begin His tale in Israel.

Until we appreciate that the word “KADOSH” for its double meaning of “TO SEPARATE” and “TO MAKE HOLY” we’re not going to appreciate the WORD of God, or give credit to the mystery of poetry in emotion. Let’s leave it to Christians to unite us with love. Let’s allow Islam to teach us to submit to the will of A L L A H. in our soul through redemption. But let’s never forget to appreciate how separately and holy God chose to make each one of us in His image.

Beverages:
A Sip of Their Wine

Christian truth	$1 + 1 + 1 = 1$
Abrahamic truth	$1 = 3 = 1$
Male truth	$x + y = 1$
Female truth	$x + x = 1$
Gay truth	$y + y = 1 = x + x$
Universal truth	$u^2 r^1$

Words don't change. Words don't transform. Words can't transcend anything. Only you can change, transform and then transcend with the various meanings of the words you utter, read and write. It will be in how you come to see yourself through the words you use as they reach down into your soul that will count on the last day. It will be in how you interpret your own words that you'll be judged. When you see yourself understanding the importance of your words, you'll be able to capitalize on the meaning of God's WORD/WORD/w o r d and the way He has planned to help you on your path to Him.

When you can read the WORD of God without the planks in your eyes you're able to say like a BEN-ADAM {gentleman} about your mother," "Thank You for the woman within You gave me."

A Prayer at the End of the Meal

In case some poor, disoriented, young “yeshiva bocher” {Yiddish: Orthodox, religious student} should happen to open this book from the back instead of the front thinking it’s in Hebrew I dedicate this book to you. If you were raised in a religious, Jewish home where you learned a lot about God, but little about integrating with all the various people on this planet, I hope this book will help you embrace all the wonderful non-Jews around you like good books to open and learn from, and not judge them by their cover. God published them to teach you to see the many ways He wants you to learn to become even better. You can never know too much about your goodness.

As you know, our ancestors used to tie the head priest to a rope before he’d enter the inner sanctuary of the Temple where they believe God resided. They say the rope was to pull him out if he was overwhelmed by God’s presence. But history suggests that many head priests were murdered in the inner sanctuary out of political intrigue and lust for power. The rope was really a lifeline.

If you feel like Aaron’s two sons, Nadav and Avichu, who were killed by “ESH MI-OOZAR” {STRANGE FIRE}, you know for yourself how disorienting it can be when you find yourself so close to God that you feel a little uncomfortable. Sometimes it’s comforting if someone can pull you out without you having to feel burned or threatened.

So many wonderful non-Jewish men were my ropes. They pulled me out of the deepest recesses of my ARON not knowing my CLOSET was also a TABERNACLE. When I came out of my gay closet I was left with strange memories of loneliness, emptiness and being all on my own; memories I go to at times to be with myself before God.

This book isn’t a rope. It’s a train of thought you might like to come aboard in the hopes it’ll take you to new destinations in inner space. This book is dedicated to every Orthodox Jew who’d like to find his way in and out of the inner sanctum of the sanctuary in his heart without getting burned. The strangest fire of all isn’t fire. It’s ice. If you love a man and burn him with ice is it not just as bad as having done so with fire? And if it’s you, you’ve burned, aren’t you commanded by God to redeem yourself?