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BREAKTHROUGH AWAITS WHEN WE

DISCOVER EVERYONE'S FATED GIFT WITH HUMBLE GRATITUDE

By Grappling with Frequently Evaded/ Debated Concerns

HOW CAN THIS BE

WHEN WE CAN CLEARLY SEE that we are not yet safe, when there's still strife, when we still contain and battle and succumb to a sizable capacity to be cruel, when we still do what we don't desire to do and don't desire to do what we do?

COULD IT BE THAT WE ARE STILL IN THE SIXTH DAY OF CREATION but we can simultaneously taste the seventh?

It's a consideration that the shepherd of the Sanctuary in Denver takes seriously:

"MAN (ADAM) IS CREATED ON THE SIXTH DAY of creation. On the seventh day, everything is good. There is no place for evil, death or Hades. In Genesis 2:5, it's clear that the narrative returns to at least day six as the text goes on to describe the creation of Adam. Scripture claims that Jesus is **"FIRST-BORN OF ALL CREATION"**

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and ***“FIRST-BORN FROM THE DEAD” (COL. 1:15,18; REV. 1:5).*** That means *THAT NO ONE IS “FINISHED”* in God’s image until Jesus cries, ***“IT IS FINISHED”*** and God raises Him, the ***“ESCHATOS ADAM” (1 COR. 15:45)*** from the grave.

This clearly implies that until we receive ***“ETERNAL LIFE”*** from Christ, we are still living in the 6th day of creation and the 7th day is yet to come. ***A CHRISTIAN IS ONE WHO EXPERIENCES 7TH DAY REST IN THE SOUL, EVEN WHILE THE BODY EXISTS IN THE 6TH DAY.*** In Scripture, we’re commanded to live in a seven-day rhythm that culminates in rest, to commemorate God’s rest on the Seventh Day. In John 5:17, Jesus said, ***“MY FATHER IS WORKING STILL.”*** His rest is eternal. God’s rest lies beyond the flow of temporal reality, and Jesus is the Door to the 7th day.

As I ***[PETER HIETT]*** point out in my book ***THE HISTORY OF TIME AND THE GENESIS OF YOU***¹, this isn’t only a Scriptural observation, but an implication of modern physics. It means that we are still being created on the 6th day. ***THE CROSS, THEN, IS NOT A TEST TO SEE IF WE MAY BE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. JESUS AND HIS CROSS ARE HOW WE ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.*** And our Hope is an eternal reality being realized in space and time through Christ Jesus, the Word of God.”² ***(EMPHASIS MINE)***

COULD IT BE that our Savior who isn’t stuck in time can see our seventh day selves simultaneously with our sixth day selves and believes the seventh day self is truer?

SHOULD WE TAKE SERIOUSLY that He shares some of that sight with those who seek Him?

¹

<https://www.scribd.com/document/236446641/The-History-of-Time-and-the-Genesis-of-You>

² <https://relentless-love.org/articles/all-things-new/>

COULD IT BE that while we seem stuck in the sixth day with stress and suffering and strife, we're surrounded by the seventh, scientifically speaking?

I can barely decipher even fragments of exploratory physics findings, so any effort to fully extrapolate will fail gigantically and Hiett is a geologist vs. a far-off galaxies guy so he glosses over others' physics findings; but COULD IT BE that, If seen from space, we are solely a couple days away from the start of all creation? COULD IT BE that because the famous equation $E = mc^2$ isn't faulty, if one were gazing upon Earth from the foundation of everything the evidence would imagine us days away instead of what is evidenced here? *(THAT COULD FALL FLAT BECAUSE THE EDGE OF EVERYTHING ISN'T DEFINABLE OR DISCERNABLE AND IT COULD BE THAT ALL APPEARED AT ONCE IN ALL AREAS INSTEAD IN A BITTY SPOT THAT KEEPS SPREADING,³ BUT THAT WOULD ALSO APPEAR TO BACK UP THAT ALL APPEARED AFTER ABBA SPOKE ALL INTO BEING. I HAVE NO CLUE WHICH IS CORRECT SCIENTIFICALLY, BUT I'M CURIOUS.)*

COULD BOTH BE CORRECT? Billions and billions of years from our view is as a blink of an eye if explaining it from elsewhere in the vast universe? Those so much smarter than yours truly speak of relativity and quarks; they receive awards for proving that there's a realm where the paradigm opposes ours⁴ - where nuisances *(MAYBE LIKE LOCATION?!)* aren't looked at as legitimate, "NO-MAYBE-ABOUT-IT--YOU'RE-NOT-OK-TO-PASS" obstacles.

I am not one of their number; but maybe, if location literally doesn't matter, we live a little in multiple locations, this moment and the next, that there's an open portal in the quantum realm, where we only reach when we're as small as a seed slipping through the cracks of doubt.

IS THAT WHAT HAPPENS when we die? The container for our soul collapses and the barriers to believing are broken?

3

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/startswithabang/2019/08/24/ask-ethan-where-is-the-center-of-the-universe/>

4

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-universe-is-not-locally-real-and-the-physics-nobel-prize-winners-proved-it/>

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DISCERNMENT

COULD IT BE THAT A CHRISTIAN IS ONE WHO DIES TO THEMSELVES EARLY and experiences Day Seven rest in the soul, even while the body exists in Day Six?

**DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?
DEATH WAS DEFEATED?**

I'M COMING BACK TO THAT. I **HAVE** COME BACK TO THAT - it's behind me and before you. I, the author of this book, have already scripted a section where I cry about death's sting but I, as author, am abiding by a separate clock not confined by the direction designated by these sentences. I script something and search the sentences already set down for a space where they could contribute.

COULD IT BE that the Creator is a better author, a better copy-editor than I and does not become overly concerned with concepts such as before/after because what will be already is, even if it is blocked from being a section of this story because the separate documents haven't yet been combined and we are blocked by the clock from being able to absorb several documents simultaneously?

If we are in the sixth day and the seventh is not solely clearly coming but surrounding us, **COULD IT BE** that it hasn't come yet because we are still co-creating it? **COULD IT BE** that while it would clearly be beautiful in whatever shape, the specific design won't be chosen until **WE** come to it?

**A CORRELATION DEFINED IN THE EXTREMELY FAMOUS EQUATION'S FLIP
SIDE: $m = \frac{E}{c^2}$ (THE FUNDAMENTAL ESSENCE OF ALL THAT EXISTS [THE
FORCE OF INERTIA THAT EACH ITEM (INCLUDING OUR PHYSICAL FORMS)**

EXUDES IN FRICTION]⁵ *EQUALS ENERGY DIVIDED BY THE SPEED OF THE SOURCE THAT STIMULATES SIGHT*⁶ *SQUARED*) suggests that all that we can discern is a direct effect of an external force facing upon it. Exploring the effects of the double-slit experiment, one finds that **EXISTENCE IS DIRECTLY CONTINGENT ON A SPECTATOR**, so could it be that our cinematic depictions of existence as forming when we get to it have an important and justifiable consideration to let us mull over?

Are we like the little karts that leave competitors even littlerer when they let loose the might of lightning upon all other karts?

Is there only one course that all must stick to or else a cloud will bring the character back to where it has strayed?

If I had the skill, I could of course drive the evergreen dinosaur through a shortcut and that would be better than the standard course so the cloud would stay away or I could stroll backwards and the same cloud will sit above my convertible-without-the-capability-to-convert calling that out as counterproductive to completing the competition; but if I desired to stray, could I?

COULD I DISCOVER SOMETHING THAT THE DESIGNERS DIDN'T CREATE?

I DON'T SUPPOSE SO.

I COULD STAY STUCK IN A CORNER CRYING as I did as a child when I couldn't keep up with my brothers, unable to back up or continue; but that certainly was not the designers' intention when the fan-favorite game was formed and even that futility ended eventually.

⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/science/mass-physics>

⁶ https://www.oed.com/dictionary/light_n1?tab=meaning_and_use#39127907

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DISCERNMENT

I WOULDN'T BE IN THE
EXTERIOR DARKNESS INDEFINITELY.

EITHER THE CLOCK WOULD CEASE OR A DIFFERENT CHARACTER WOULD
COMPLETE THE COURSE and my chance to do so also would stop.

IF I COULD HAVE CHOSEN, I WOULD HAVE COMPLETED THE COURSE - I did
not choose to cry while the character I had chosen at the beginning banged up against
that blasted corner - but I was not skilled at controlling the little sorta-car.

When banging up against that corner, I could not set myself on the correct
course and the cloud wasn't coming to do it for me because while I may have been
off-course, I wasn't out of bounds.

Stuck in that corner, I wasn't discovering the cause of the creation, simply
biding my seconds; but only if I came to the course would it be drawn before me as the
designers had intended.

ONLY THEN
COULD I CONTINUE.

A DIFFERENT CHARACTER COULD COME AND BE WITH ME; but if I couldn't
direct that evergreen dinosaur towards them as they advised how to backtrack, I'd stay
stuck.

MY CHARACTER'S SALVATION FROM THE CORNER and mine from the despair
and disillusionment that could have continued currently and would still be keeping me
from ever considering myself capable of directing an on-screen character in any setting
if not bypassed back then came when my brother - both a character and a controller of

that character, neither stuck in a corner - chose to stop competing to borrow my controller and set me back on the course.

COULD IT BE THAT CHRIST - Both a character and a controller of that character in the story of creation - **CAME TO BORROW OUR CONTROLLERS** for a second, bring us back to the course, and then say come; do as I do?

YET WITH THAT CONCEPT SEEMS TO COME THE COMPLAINT that we are still supposed to **DO** something, even if that something is as simple as ceasing to squeeze the controller.

AND OUR CONCEPTUALIZATION BREAKS DOWN - as all do.

SO WHAT'S THE QUESTION BENEATH?

WHAT QUESTIONS HAVE WE SORTA COVERED?

- *HOW COULD IT BE that Christ currently considers us beautiful even as we're clothed in our own stubborn betrayal of all that the Almighty asks of us?*

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- **COULD IT BE** THAT WHILE WE SEEM STUCK IN THE SIXTH DAY *with stress and suffering and strife, we're surrounded by the seventh, scientifically speaking?*
- **COULD IT BE** THAT A CHRISTIAN IS ONE WHO DIES TO THEMSELVES *early and experiences Day Seven rest in the soul, even while the body exists in Day Six?*
- **COULD IT BE** THAT SINCE OUR CREATOR ISN'T STUCK IN TIME, *He sees our seventh day selves simultaneously with our sixths and says the seventh is truer?*
- SHOULD WE TAKE SERIOUSLY *that the Savior shares that sight with those who seek Him out?*
- DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?
- DEATH WAS DEFEATED?
- **COULD IT BE** THAT THE CREATOR IS A BETTER AUTHOR, *a better copy-editor than I?*
- **COULD IT BE** THAT WHAT WILL BE ALREADY IS *but is blocked by our bothersome boundaries set by the clock?*
- **COULD IT BE** THAT THE COMPLETENESS DESCRIBED *as the seventh day is coming vs. has been behind us for centuries upon centuries because we are still co-creating it?*
- CAN I STRAY *into space that my Designer hasn't created?*
- IS THERE A SET COURSE *that we must complete?*
- **COULD IT BE** *that the character our souls control - this body we care for and sometimes despise - sometimes becomes stuck in a corner, banging up against - again and again and again - a brick barrier while calling those that aren't battling basic concepts (LIKE WHETHER WE ARE A SUBSET CLASS OF CREATURES) brickheads because we assume it's better to be*

confident than correct and we can't check our bruised but constantly defiant egos at the door?

AND CONSEQUENTLY:

- WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES *if we don't complete the course because we become stuck in a corner?*
- IF I AM STUCK IN A CORNER *when my consciousness ceases, do I disintegrate?*
- IS MY CALLING CARD STRICKEN FROM THE SCORECARD *because I didn't complete the course?*
- IF OUR SOULS DON'T HAVE THE SKILL *to control our body but we allow the body and soul's Designer to have the controller so that we can back up back to the course and continue what has been created for us to complete, DOESN'T THAT SIGNIFY THAT OUR CHOICE to cease clinging is the catalyst for our salvation from the corner and therefore **WE CAN BRAG** that we sorta deserve to be considered special because we were smart enough to call the Designer to kinda cheat the system for us?*

DON'T THOSE BEG THE BIG QUESTION BENEATH:

**WHAT
CONSTITUTES CHEATING?**

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IS THERE A SET COURSE, a complete set of standards and a checklist for whether or not we complete it? Can we be disqualified from salvation if we don't contain the desired characteristics?

I HAD A BUNNY that was assigned an *"UNWORTHY OF AN AWARD"* at an American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) affair because she was absolutely as away as away could be from the asked-for attributes in an American Fuzzy Lop with big, bold auricles begging the ceiling for big answers to big questions, such as *"WHY SHOULD I STAY AND SIT WHILE THIS BEING ATTEMPTS TO BRING MY BUTT TO BE AS BALL-LIKE AS THEY'RE ABLE TO BRING IT TO BE WHEN I COULD BE BREAKING OUT OF THIS CONFINING SPACE? WHY COME BACK IF I COULD INSTEAD BITE YOUR CO-CONSPIRATORS AND STAY OUT OF THE SMALL CAGE? OH - YOU CAUGHT ME? WHY DON'T I DESERVE TO DESPISE YOU?"*

If she could, Brooke would've been cussing us out constantly and if she had been assigned *"BEST IN SHOW"*, the competitors would still be cussing about it after a couple decades have distanced that event.

WE FEEL FAIRNESS WITH OUR GUT SO GRACE FEELS LIKE FOOLISHNESS. IS IT?

A FEISTY EIGHT YEAR-OLD ONCE INFORMED ME that she felt it was only fair that I should be fired for her failure to have fun, as evidently, she found that as evidence that I was failing the goal of my fifty hour a week employment.

Fun was a goal but not what I had been hired to guarantee. I was hired so that she wouldn't hurt herself or her brother or he himself or her and that was hard enough in and of itself without being on guard for whether they were having a good, fun, enjoyable day.

One day I was driving to an external entertainment venue where they'd have fun finding themselves entirely drenched and they were clashing in the back seat. The

complaint that came directed at me when I called them out for being distracting what was expected but exasperating.

“YOU’RE NOT
BEING FAIR!”

I ENDED THE DISTRACTION OF DRIVING by easily finding an off-road where I could end the engine and engage with them eye to eye.

I found myself glaring at the girl and agreeing with her - I wasn’t being fair. If I was fair, we’d be going back to the house and they’d be hanging out in individual junctions while imagining how gliding into a fresh fountain of goodness would feel on a fevered afternoon VS. going there.

FAIRNESS
WASN’T MY GOAL.

I WAS GOING FOR GENEROSITY but I wasn’t going to give up on my greater goal of getting them home intact. If they’d have issues while held in and held down in a gas-guzzler, those would follow when they were given greater freedom so I ejected ‘FAIRNESS’ from the entire discussion and settled that I’d call the shots. THE DESTINATION WASN’T UP FOR DEBATE BUT IT WAS THEIRS TO DECIDE because even if the idea didn’t sound savory, if they chose to continue in their disobedience, I was determined to be stuck in a silent non-castle with them - even if that decision would come after shelling out the cost for a day doing anything else.

Fun would be fun, but fun wasn’t my goal. If one had fun at the expense of the other, I’d have been failing. If they got hurt while going about whatever they felt

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was fun but I had an uneasy feeling about, if I had given up my goals for theirs, I'd have failed them.

We had fun that afternoon, but my foot being firmly glued to the floor - insisting that I enjoyed entertainment venues also but would forgo it if it would interfere with the greater goal of getting them home intact and healthy - generated gratefulness which generated humility which was healing and helped in having a good afternoon.

AND AGAIN WE FIND AN ENTENTE, A DEAL STRUCK, A CONDITION TO STICK TO before the adult would bring out the credit card *(OR DEBIT SINCE THE COVER CHARGE WOULDN'T BE BORROWED)*.

We can't cover the cost of our own sin so it is certainly a big deal that we don't have to earn entrance to a fantastic afterlife - the essence of the described Christianity that I've been brought up with is that we certainly don't - but

**DON'T WE HAVE TO
DIE TO OURSELVES,
TO CONFESS, AND BELIEVE?**

THOSE AREN'T ADJECTIVES, BUT

**ARE ALL
ACTIONS ACTUALIZED
BY CHOICE?**

DO WE **CHOOSE** TO BELIEVE, choose to survive, choose to be kind enough to the cost-coverer to convince them that we're serious when we say "SAVE ME FROM THE BOREDOM OF STANDING IN A CORNER ALL DAY!"?

CAN I CHOOSE TO NOT SOLELY DECLARE BUT COMPLETELY BELIEVE that Christopher Columbus didn't exist or that Daffy Duck does - that Space Jam⁷ wasn't drawn⁸ ⁹ or the sequel CGI'd¹⁰ without *SOMETHING* to back that up?

I SERIOUSLY
DOUBT IT.

I COULD CHOOSE TO STAY QUIET about my disbelief, but wouldn't I have to be convinced to squelch my skepticism?

Could someone who was brought up to believe that believing in Christ is as childish as believing in Santa or Daffy choose to change their bias without anything external (*OR WITHIN THEMSELVES IF THE ONE WHO I WORSHIP WAS THE ONE WORKING WITHIN THEM EVEN WITHOUT ANYONE ELSE VIEWING WHAT WAS OCCURRING AS THAT WOULD ALSO BE "EXTERNAL" TO OUR OWN WAYS*) affecting the outcome?

⁷ <https://www.spacejam.com/>

⁸ <https://www.spacejam.com/1996/cmp/behind/golfballs.html>

⁹ <https://www.spacejam.com/1996/cmp/behind/techframes.html>

¹⁰ <https://screenrant.com/space-jam-new-legacy-movie-trailer-lebron-james/>

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If one could develop the strength to change one's own bias without assistance, couldn't one claim to have bought - at a complete bargain but buying with all we are and have anyway - the benefits of Christ's sacrifice?

SCHOLARS HAVE BEEN DEBATING the core questions for centuries:

- **CAN THE BENEFITS OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICE** be both contingent on our beliefs/behavior and completely an undeserved, unearned, freely given gift?
- IS THE GREATNESS OF THE GOSPEL that we **ARE** forgiven or that we **MAY FIND** forgiveness **IF...**?
- IS THERE INEVITABLY AN EMPHASIZED **IF**, even when we distinguish Christianity as the sole big-scale belief system that is not based on a condition of what we do to deserve entrance/forgiveness?
- WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?
- HOW DO WE HAVE HOPE of wholeness?
- WHAT IS GOOD?
- WHAT IS FAIR?

IS THE FOLLOWING FAIR?

IS IT GOOD?

“MARK 16:15-16 TELLS US THAT SALVATION IS FOR ALL PEOPLE. We are to go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved but whoever does not believe will be condemned. God wants everyone, the whole of creation, to hear the good news and be saved. He isn't checking the color of people's skin. He's throwing the doors wide open and saying to everyone come on in. I don't know about you, but **THAT'S WHAT I CALL GOOD NEWS**”. ¹¹

I'VE GOT TO HAVE HEARD THAT IN HUNDREDS OF GUISES, but if that first phrase isn't familiar, if you haven't grown up hearing it guaranteed; the following is what I've been given in far more than a few forms since I was forming in my father's wife's womb:

“A KEY ASPECT OF OUR FAITH is that we are saved by faith in Jesus, not by the good works we might do. We believe that we could never do enough to earn God's salvation; it has to be given to us as a free gift through the work of Jesus Christ. And as you would expect for something so foundational to our belief, this often comes in conflict with other religions.

[...]

¹¹ Preston Perry, How to Tell the Truth; emphasis mine

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DISCERNMENT

“VIRTUALLY EVERY RELIGION IN THE WORLD teaches that we have to work to please God and earn our salvation. Jews believe the Muslims believe they must adhere to a lengthy list of laws and customs to please God. Muslims believe they must pray five times a day, fast, give alms, pledge allegiance to Muhammad, and make a pilgrimage to Mecca. Hindus believe they must purify themselves. And Buddhists believe they must renounce all worldly things and die to self in order to achieve Nirvana.

“CHRISTIANITY IS THE ONLY RELIGION WHERE THE WORK OF SALVATION **HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE** FOR US. Every religion in the world has found something to work for to please God. Christianity is the only faith that says the God who finished the work has found me.

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead and Romans 10:9 assures us we will be saved.¹²

ISN'T THERE A
CONTRADICTION THERE?

HOW COULD SOMETHING BE COMPLETED FOR US but there still be something we are DEMANDED to do?

IS MY COMPLAINT A COMPLETELY CONVOLUTED BIASED, SELF-CONTRADICTORY DIRECTION TO ESCAPE INTO (*OFTEN DESCRIBED AS EXAGGERATED FLUFF*) that entirely fails to even explain what is being discussed so it definitely can't defend that explanation?

Am I being egregiously unfair to fellow followers of the gatekeeper to heaven who isn't as other gatekeepers by arguing that while it feels as if we are fully in

¹² Ibid.

agreement that we are fully incapable of entering with the “*BUT I’M FAIRLY GOOD SO I SHOULD BE GOOD TO GO*” argument because only God is good and holy but since we’re not holy He hands over His holiness to those who are His so we get to have heaven not because we’re good but because He is good and we have His goodness given to us, it also feels that finishing with “*BUT **ONLY THE FEW THAT AGREE TO BE HIS ARE HIS** SO YOU BETTER GET TO FOLLOWING HIM BECAUSE ETERNITY IS A DURATION THAT YOU DON’T DESIRE TO SPEND IN THE DARKNESS THAT HE’LL CAST YOU INTO IF YOU DON’T DECIDE TO CHOOSE BEFORE DEATH THAT HE COVER THE COST*” **COMPLETELY DISMANTLES AND DOWNGRADES THE ENTIRE FIRST PHRASE - THE GOSPEL - FROM A FANTASTIC TO A GHASTLY HOPE?**

HOW IS THAT GOOD?

WHEN A HEFTY **IF** IS ADHERED TO THE GOSPEL - find eternal freedom from grief and heartache **IF** you have the information, hankering, and help to inquire for it - how would anyone who has grieved a friend who wouldn’t grab for and therefore wasn’t granted a hall pass hear the happy hyping up of the “*GIFT*”-giver?

“
HALLELUJAH!

HALLELUJAH!

HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!

HALLELUJAH!

WE HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN JEHOVAH JIREH'S KINGDOM. Just how incredible is that!

Hallelujah - how could I ever indicate enough how insanely important to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords it makes me feel to be considered a likable kid of Jehovah!

I can only just Internalize that I, constantly considered a liability, more likely than not to miss my cues, messing up in the maze called the nexus of the network's norm, can be made, like a kid, to jump again - to rejoice again.

So I'll just keep loyally moving forward, knowing that to look left or leave the median would mean that I was lost. The logistics of losing myself in the mystical loosely-associated leaps of kaleidoscopic crowds chills me. It would creep in until I could barely see the changes in my countenance and continue to encircle me until it could derail the essence of the doctrine that I count on to deliver me.

But I can't be shaken to the core. I don't consider alternatives. My mind is made up - as for me and those in my life we will be mini-me's of the Lord - our Master, maker of all that moves for there is no other name that offers peace, restoration, paradise."

TO OTHERS WHO ONLY PEER ON FROM THE OUTSIDE, a not-at-all meager measure of that list can come across as:

"KING JESUS, JEWISH INSTIGATOR, Hadish-hater, who's hope-giving foundation is that his followers effectively destroy my culture, my ability to be safe because they care so much about this Daffy-like Christ that it causes them to crucify me instead daily **(AND EVENTUALLY FOR ETERNITY)**"

IS THAT UNFAIR?

WHY?

ARE YOU OFFENDED?

WHY?

ARE YOU OK WITH BEING OFFENDED?

WHY?

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ARE YOU OK WITH OTHERS BEING OFFENDED?

WHY?

COULD IT BE THAT WE WANT OTHERS TO BE OFFENDED because it signifies that we're doing something correctly?

Could a sneaky sentence that isn't actually in the Bible have enough adherents believing it is to behave as a corporate shot, dispensed (*EVEN IF UNINTENTIONALLY*) to stop debate before it can begin? Could any complaints about a belief system being corrupted bolster adherence to that belief system because those complaints confirm what was declared centuries beforehand and thereby become badges?

"YOU'LL BE CALLED CRAZY if you believe what the Bible actually says so don't allow anyone's anger, annoyance, or advice to bother you."

THE ACTUAL ADAGE IN THE BOOK 1ST CORINTHIANS (1:18) is closer to:

"THE SUPERBLY RESPLENDENT REPORT that progressed from the placing of a person on a pointed stake to be slain is readily regarded as ridiculous to those in the process of relinquishing themselves to ruin".

HOW DOES ONE RELINQUISH ONESELF TO RUIN?

DOESN'T ONE RELINQUISH THEMSELVES TO RUIN by rejecting the Savior?

IF I HAD REJECTED THE RELINQUISHMENT OF, if I had refused to share the tie between the screen at the start of this chapter and my dinosaur, if I couldn't cease seizing my controller when my brother asked to assist me in backing out of the corner, WOULDN'T I STAY IN THE CORNER INDEFINITELY?

WOULDN'T I DESERVE TO STAY IN THE CORNER?

WOULDN'T I BE SITTING IN A CELL with the door shut from the inside?^{13 14}

WHAT IF ALL I COULD DO WAS CRY while my dinosaur in the not-quite convertible was stuck in the corner while competitors compete the course? Would I deserve compassion or chastisement?

WHAT IF MY BROTHER ASKED TO ASSIST ME and I was beyond the crying stage; what if I was determined to entirely fix everything without the degrading-surrender step? What if I even denied that he cared about me and cursed him out for such a belittling offer? What if I wasn't any better and still didn't have the skill to cease sitting in that corner, BUT I CHOSE TO SIT THERE?

Would I be stewing at dinner that evening or would I be finding myself - without first eating - IN A DUNGEON?

¹³ <https://www.1517.org/articles/hells-doors-are-locked-on-the-inside>

¹⁴ <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/c-s-lewis-on-heaven-and-hell/>

WHO'D DECIDE ON A CONSEQUENCE?

WHEN WE'D BOTH COME BEFORE ANOTHER - the one who buys the bread, bandages boo-boos, and so on - what would we say? What if I simply refused to say sorry and my brother simply shrugged and said *"I TRIED, BUT SHE WAS TOO STUBBORN TO SAVE. SEND HER TO WHERE THOSE THAT DON'T COMPLETE THE COURSE ARE SENT?"*

WHAT WOULD MY SWEET MOMMA, the same who, when I was belittling my other brother, would say sadly that I should stop because he was super special to her and therefore should be to me too, TELL HIM?

WOULDN'T SHE'D SAY
SOMETHING SIMILAR TO
THE REBUKE IN LUKE 9:55?¹⁵

WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE TO THE PROUD AND OVERZEALOUS PAIR who pursued the power and permission to rain revenge upon those who had wronged them?

Was the response shouted in rage, similar to the rant reprimanding white-washing Pharisees or was the pair pulled to a quiet place and rebuked seemingly silently to the spectators who caught the sentiment but not the statement?

Could the second situation be the reason why we won't read the words in

¹⁵

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209%3A51-56&version=NIV>

Scriptures - they were reserved for the pupils and obscured from the public?

Would the rebuke have skipped the rage for suggesting something so ruthless and instead have spoken to the root of the pain that prompted it?

Why was ruthless punishment the preferred path? What residual wrath was pointing to obliteration as an appropriate response?

WHAT WAS THE OFFENSE?

WHY WOULD THE BROTHERS ASK TO BRING BRIMSTONE DOWN UPON A CITY? Why would a child suggest sending a crying sibling to a dungeon without eating because she wouldn't finish a game?

Is it unfair to equate those examples or are they equally founded in an ego that would be exhilarated if everyone else was flattened?

IS THE OFFENSE EQUALLY FOUNDED in a flawed explanation/
expectation of fairness?

IS THE OFFENSE
GROUNDED IN A GRUDGE
FROM BEING HURT?

WERE THE GUYS THAT'D FELL FIRE IF INVITED TO AS EAGER TO
EYEWITNESS FIRE FALLING DOWN as the dude who was "EATEN" by a fish was

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when he finally finished fleeing from the not-easy directions to call a city that could have been seen as a danger to everyone dear to him to do a one-eighty and follow God? Jonah had hoped the infidels he hated would ignore him so that what he had been imagining - that they'd holler in a hellish, horribly gruesome finale - would be experienced.

He didn't desire salvation for a brutal city's citizens and was distressed to the extent of desiring suicide rather than to see them skip the suffering that they wrought upon him.

In the suffering servant's revenge-powered paradigm, the overpowering Ninevites shouldn't be offered an opportunity to apologize. The wrongs they had wrought were too wrong to be righted - redemption should be out of reach.

He was aware that if he preached that redemption was probable; if he really showed them who his Savior was, they'd turn and be saved and that wasn't a satisfactory response so he refused to preach - he ran away, pretended he wasn't aware of what he was supposed to do until a storm came. He confirmed he was the cause, said to the crew to unceremoniously dump him in the deep where he was swallowed by a big bass or something crazy like that that conveniently spit him out on the shore of the city he desperately desired to stay away from. Desperate enough to do what he didn't want to do, the dude who could've died inside a fish eventually did what he came to do; desperately desiring that they'd ignore him, but they didn't. The concept of a benevolent King instead of a dictator was too captivating and they saw what they had done and corporately were overcome with sorrow.

“THEN THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH BELIEVED IN GOD; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. [...] When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, ***“PLEASE LORD, WAS NOT THIS WHAT I SAID WHILE I WAS STILL IN MY OWN COUNTRY? THEREFORE IN ORDER TO FORESTALL THIS I FLED TO TARSHISH, FOR I KNEW THAT YOU ARE A GRACIOUS AND COMPASSIONATE GOD, SLOW TO ANGER*”**

AND ABUNDANT IN LOVINGKINDNESS, AND ONE WHO RELENTS CONCERNING CALAMITY. THEREFORE NOW, O LORD, PLEASE TAKE MY LIFE FROM ME, FOR DEATH IS BETTER TO ME THAN LIFE."

JONAH 3:5,10-4:3 (BSB) ¹⁶

IF THE CHARACTER OF THE KING WAS CORRECTLY DECLARED, the city **WOULD** come around and they **WOULD** be saved. This didn't seem to be up for debate in the eyes of the follower of God - his issue was with whether God **SHOULD** be good to whoever had hurt him, not with how the individual items of the itinerary would happen or the interminable journalistic integrity of the hypothesis as a whole.

He had enough intuition and experience to identify that it **WOULD** happen but his heart was hard and hurt and God being good to those who had introduced him to heartache and grieving had gone against Jonah's innate ideas of justice.

If they heard about the hope of God, they'd hope to be included and if they hoped to be included, they'd be invited in and if they were invited into the hope of God - to him - it would be as if they didn't have to identify that what had happened happened but HE couldn't have the indulgence of ignoring that his entire existence was inverted because of their indifference to his hopes and goals and family and future. In his eyes, HOW DARE THEY EXPECT A FUTURE WHEN HIS WAS FINISHED?!

He was fueled by his grief and hatred and was infuriated that they wouldn't have to be in hell with him because isn't that what was happening?

The irate Jonah came to be as cruel as those he came to call out. Crueler because he knew literal miracles, he had known mercy. He was locked in a cage with the key and he cried that HE COULDN'T LET HIMSELF OUT WITHOUT MAKING MERCY KNOWN TO THEM ALSO AND **HE'D LEAVE THEM LOCKED UP IF HE COULD.**

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WHICH IS THE DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC OF SIN, CORRECT? So why the convoluted complaint? Doesn't death simply cement our choice to stay in sin, to relinquish ourselves to ruin?

If the prophet offed himself because the Ninevites offered themselves to the Prince of Peace, who would be relishing in that offer of peace and who would be relinquishing themselves to ruin?

Would the one who sang about salvation from inside a big sea creature be savable or would his bitterness cause him to be dumped back into the deep despite the sweet song he sung before?

“IN MY DISTRESS I CALLED TO THE LORD, and He answered me. From the belly of Sheol I called for help, and You heard my voice.

For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the current swirled about me; all Your breakers and waves swept over me.

At this, I said, ***‘I HAVE BEEN BANISHED FROM YOUR SIGHT; YET I WILL LOOK ONCE MORE TOWARD YOUR HOLY TEMPLE.’***

The waters engulfed me to take my life; the watery depths closed around me; the seaweed wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I descended; the earth beneath me barred me in forever!

But You raised my life from the pit, O LORD my God! As my life was fading away, I remembered the LORD. My prayer went up to You, to Your holy temple.

Those who cling to worthless idols forsake His loving devotion. But I, with the voice of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to You. I will fulfill what I have vowed.

Salvation is from the LORD!”

JONAH 2:2-9 (BSB)¹⁷

¹⁷ <https://biblehub.com/context/jonah/2.htm>

HE COULD'VE BEEN SORRY (*BECAUSE WHO ISN'T SORRY WHEN THEY'VE BEEN SWALLOWED*) but it didn't stick.

Unconvinced the king would call a ceasefire (*SINCE A SIGNIFICANT CHUNK OF THEIR CULTURE WAS LAUNCHING CAMPAIGNS AGAINST OTHER LANDS*)¹⁸ and they wouldn't be killed, Jonah kept camp in a spot with the best sightline for the coming destruction (*THEY WERE DIRECTED TO DO SO IN FORTY DAYS OR LESS SO THIS WASN'T ALL IN AN AFTERNOON*).

"JONAH LEFT THE CITY AND SAT DOWN EAST OF IT, where he made himself a shelter and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city."¹⁹ So the LORD God appointed a vine, and it grew up to provide shade over Jonah's head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was greatly pleased with the plant.

When dawn came the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant so that it withered.

As the sun was rising, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he grew faint and wished to die, saying, ***'IT IS BETTER FOR ME TO DIE THAN TO LIVE.'***

Then God asked Jonah, ***'HAVE YOU ANY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY***

¹⁸ <https://armstronginstitute.org/312-jonahs-remarkably-accurate-account-of-assyria>

¹⁹

Per Henrick Room's article, Lesson of the Plant:

<https://www.christianstudylibrary.org/article/jonah-4-%E2%80%93-lesson-plant>

"a slightly different translation is preferable: "Jonah wanted to build a booth for himself and wanted to sit in the shade, until he saw what would happen to the city." [...] Jonah had wanted to build a shelter. But the Lord anticipates him. He gives him other protection against the fierce eastern sun: the plant. [...] Even before the 40 days are up, Jonah has had his frustrating experience with the plant. It is a lesson in advance for Jonah from the Lord to prepare him for Nineveh's salvation in order to make him understand it."

ABOUT THE PLANT?

‘I DO,’ he replied. ***‘I AM ANGRY ENOUGH TO DIE!’***

But the LORD said, ***‘YOU CARED ABOUT THE PLANT, WHICH YOU NEITHER TENDED NOR MADE GROW. IT SPRANG UP IN A NIGHT AND PERISHED IN A NIGHT. SO SHOULD I NOT CARE ABOUT THE GREAT CITY OF NINEVEH, WHICH HAS MORE THAN 120,000 PEOPLE WHO CANNOT TELL THEIR RIGHT HAND FROM THEIR LEFT, AND MANY CATTLE AS WELL?’***

JONAH 4:5-10 (BSB) ²⁰

THE STORY STOPS BEFORE WE DISCOVER IF JONAH COMES BACK from his bitterness and apologizes.

We aren’t advised if his anger was able to burn until a couple of decades had come and gone by and the Assyrians began campaigning again²¹; whether as a stubborn toothless centurion he’d say ***“SEE! THEY COULDN’T CHANGE!”***

We can’t determine if he had children that he constantly clued in to not be caught off-guard, to not confide in a bloody Assyrians because of the crimes their kind had committed. If the chance ever came up, would he have cherished until his death the chance to keep a bloody Assyrian behind bars or better yet kill them on sight?

**IF SO, COULD IT BE SAFE
TO SAY HE WAS STUCK IN A CELL
OF HIS OWN CREATION?**

²⁰ <https://biblehub.com/jonah/4.htm>

²¹ <https://armstronginstitute.org/312-jonahs-remarkably-accurate-account-of-assyria>

COULD IT BE SAFE TO CONCLUDE that he spent some time in Sheol with the door shut on the inside? **IS HE STILL THERE?**

See the context for C.S. Lewis' commonly quoted statement about a damning eternity's door stuck shut from the inside (*EMPHASIS AND FORMATTING MINE*):

"FINALLY, IT IS OBJECTED THAT THE ULTIMATE LOSS OF A SINGLE SOUL means the defeat of omnipotence. and so it does. in creating beings with free will, omnipotence from the outset submits to the possibility of such defeat.

What you call defeat, call miracle: for to make things which are not itself, and thus to become, in a sense, capable of being resisted by its own handiwork, is the most astonishing and unimaginable of all the feats we attribute to the deity. **I WILLINGLY BELIEVE THAT THE DAMNED ARE, IN ONE SENSE, SUCCESSFUL, REBELS TO THE END; THAT THE DOORS OF HELL ARE LOCKED ON THE INSIDE.**

I do not mean that the ghosts may not wish to come out of hell, in the vague fashion wherein an envious man '**WISHES**' to be happy: but they certainly do not will even the first preliminary stages of that self abandonment through which alone the soul can reach any good. They enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded, and are therefore self enslaved: just as the blessed, forever submitting to obedience, become through all eternity more and more free.

In the long run the answer to all those who object to the doctrine of hell, is itself a question: '**WHAT ARE YOU ASKING GOD TO DO?**' to wipe out their past sins and, at all costs, to give them a fresh start, smoothing every difficulty and offering every miraculous help? He has done so, on Calvary. to forgive them? **THEY WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN. TO LEAVE THEM ALONE? ALAS, I AM AFRAID THAT IS WHAT HE DOES.**

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IF JONAH DIED IN HIS STATE OF RAGING REBELLION after being saved from the belly of a sea creature, **WHAT WOULD HAVE COME OF HIM?**

WOULD HE HAVE BEEN SAID TO HAVE CHOSEN SALVATION, save the temper tantrum that should be stuffed into a side note or would he have chosen the same destruction he desired for his enemies?

IS IT EASY TO DETERMINE THAT THE DEAD HAVE CHOSEN and then balk at complaints, declaring that - considering what we all deserve - to be considered salvable even if we don't desire and therefore choose to be saved is beyond kind? Belief is such a small to-do, the benefits so big, anyone who balks at the offer is beyond arrogant - they're bad beyond changing. They've shut the door and swallowed the key. CORRECT?

The cross was a blessing, a kindness, a direct and extravagant exhibition of favor from God upon humankind; but if we are given a gift, we have to get into it to find any enjoyment in the discovery - don't we? If we desire to swim we have to change clothes. If we don't change, we don't enter. If an envelope with an exorbitantly direction-changing check isn't cut into then the check can't be cashed and the direction won't be changed. If we don't complete the course, we don't come back with the cash prize or bragging abilities. If that bitter bunny from before, Brooke, chooses to continue to be a bad bunny; she isn't brought to the stage as BOB (*BEST OF BREED*); **BUT** - although being bad brings bad consequences - isn't a better outcome available to all who ask?!

AM I ACCURATE IN BELIEVING THAT A BIG CONGLOMERATE (*BUT NOT ALL*) who adamantly argue against all being brought back into alignment with their Abba believe that all Brooke would have to do to would be to simply say sorry for being a bad bunny and her apology would be accepted; her begging auricles may still not be automatically better aligned with the outline of what her breed should be, but all would be well as she wouldn't be unworthy anymore to accept her award for being an amazing American Fuzzy Lop because when the competition's decider came to her, he'd critique

another bunny - a better bunny - the best super bunny with all the attributes that bunnies should have and then some - on her behalf?

BROOKE WOULD NEVER BE WHAT THE ARBA BUNNY CONVENTION'S DIRECTORS DESIRED HER TO BE. I couldn't simply scream at her to change the direction of her ears, she had felt far too much freedom to ever feel free to give it up and be held.

The only hope she'd have is if an exhibitor held up another hare and harkened - *"HERE - HAVE A GO AT THIS ONE INSTEAD"*.

ALL have the hope of having that other held up instead of having to be held up for interrogation ourselves so ISN'T IT INCREDIBLE THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE GOOD OURSELVES because we get to have Jesus's goodness given to us?

ISN'T THAT THE
HOPE OF THE GOSPEL?

IF A HORRIBLY HARSH HARE THAT HECTORED MY HOME can have an equivalent hope as a generous fuzzy friend like Emilia - the less dictatorial sweetheart that came to be in her spot after she died - doesn't that deserve a spattering of claps?

Brooke wasn't born bratty but she wasn't cuddled when small. What seemed a small kind behavior towards a bitty creature - allowing her the ability to boldly skip around the basement while her cage was being cleaned - converted into her being spoiled and cruel. She simply wouldn't choose to come back so that converted to being steered back with a broom and that of course deescalated into any contact being considered bad.

It can be argued that Brooke couldn't be accountable for her behavior because **I** caused her to be so cruel by not bringing her the affectionate boundaries a bunny should be brought up with.

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DISCERNMENT

Cuddly and docile Emilia's freedom was far from what her foil enjoyed, so how was that the earlier's fault?

GOD IS GOOD TO FEEL FOR US AND GIVE US HOPE to go farther into goodness than we could find as an individual.

AGAIN, I INQUIRE,
ISN'T THAT THE
HOPE OF THE GOSPEL?

WE WHO HAVE GROWN UP IN *'THE FAITH'* ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE FACT that earning entrance into a desired eternity is fruitless because we falter and fail endlessly and we're familiar with the fact that following the guidelines we're given is far from easy, especially when one is dreadfully disadvantaged due to a crummy upbringing.

We as Christians comprehend that we cannot cover the cost to come beyond the barrier between us and --- aye. There's another bind. **FOR IN THAT SLEEP OF DEATH WHAT DREAMS MAY COME?**

I CAN DESCRIBE WHAT COMES BEFORE DEATH as a continuum of bad VS. better aligned with who we ought to be, a characteristic somewhat contingent on whether we were born and brought up with beneficial boundaries; I can claim the day of exacting is as deadly serious as a competition and that without another's character being credited to our account, we're kinda doomed to be disqualified; I can describe after death as a swimming spot with slides and such where there is a cost that the kids can't cover because they are kids and they have to say *"SORRY - I DO DESIRE TO SWIM SO COULD YOU COVER THE COST FOR ME TO DO SO EVEN THOUGH I DON'T DESERVE FOR YOU TO DO SO BECAUSE I HAVEN'T HAD THE BEST ATTITUDE AROUND AND I AGREE THAT THERE ARE BAD CONSEQUENCES FOR MY DISAGREEABLENESS, BUT YOUR CHARACTER IS KIND AND SWEET*

AND I HAVE THESE CUTE BIG BULGING CARTOONISH NOT-AT-ALL-DISGUSTING EYES THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO DENY, SO..... CAN WE SWIM PLEASE WITH A CHERRY ON TOP?" and I can say that the choice still completely belongs to the babysitter and that the kids don't earn the free gift of the guardian's generosity, but each explanation falls fairly flat.

WHAT IS GRACE AND IS THAT
FEELING THAT IT IS FOOLISH EVER
FULLY EXTRACTED FROM IT?

THE ENDING EXAMPLE FEELS UNFAIR - they with the eyes that are difficult but not impossible to deny had to earn at least a degree of the caregiver's confidence in them and saying they don't seems disingenuous.

Any caregiver has to have to have some control over the kids they are in charge of before bringing them into a crowd and some connection to distinguish them from different children (*THEY HAVE TO BE ALERT AND ABLE TO NOT BE CONFUSED WHICH CHILD THEY CAME WITH*) so if they couldn't believe the bulging-eyed apology and assumed that the behavior would be abysmally brash, careless, dangerous, erratic, etc. it'd be their duty to keep the kids from swimming - CORRECT?

WHAT IF A CHILD IS SNEAKY
AND SAYS THE SENTENCE BUT HASN'T
CHANGED THEIR SPIRIT?

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HOW DOES SOMEONE DETERMINE IF THE SENTENCE WAS SAID SINCERELY? It doesn't seem as simple as *"IF A CHILD IS BEYOND CONTROL, THEY DON'T SWIM - SIMPLE AS THAT"* because if a child is beyond control, they kinda do as they desire. They'll swim even if it kills them.²²

A BIGGER CHILD (*CALLED BEYOND AN ARBITRARY AGE AN ADULT*) might be convinced to steal to cover the cost if they can't cover it themselves or simply sneak in.

So we build bigger barriers around the sweet spot swimming pools of cash and cars and condos.

At some point we decide that everything is an entertainment venue that dissidents don't deserve to enter and it's too expensive to fence everything so we enclose far more than a few individuals who we've deemed dangerously disobedient (*BECAUSE IN FACT EVERYONE COULD BE FOUND GUILTY*) in between fences and give gunmen the go-ahead to ice them if they just kinda let loose into a mad lope towards life like it could have been if they hadn't been caught being an alive being, complex and confusing and difficult to say solely sweet things about because we ALL have a sour side.

AND WE'RE CAUGHT IN A CYCLE where we come back to the start and spout off all sorts of reasons why some deserve to be stuck behind barbed wire for the safety of society while the sweet sons and daughters who didn't cuss out the one in charge of the courtroom swim (*DESPITE NOT BEING ABLE TO EARN ENTRANCE WITH HOW FANTASTICALLY GOOD THEY ARE*).

Go ahead and argue that they aren't given the go-ahead into the haven we're imagining as heaven because of the goodness of their (*OR EVEN OF THE GATEKEEPER'S*) heart but because a guardian was able to figure out the entrance doorway's cost to bypass and buy away the blockage. The children couldn't buy their

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https://www.reddit.com/r/legaladvice/comments/2onjvf/my_neighbors_children_are_using_a_ladder_to_get/

own access but they were able to swim because they agreed to allow the babysitter or whoever could cover the cost to do so by submitting to the conditions of safe swimming, such as changing clothes before diving into the deep.

What if they had been chasing salamanders or something slimy and decided they desired to cool off in a corporate setting kept considerably cleaner with chemicals to keep the blue see-through?

Isn't it conceivable that they couldn't come into where they'd be soaked in brilliant blue clear chlorinated beauty without changing out of dirt-covered clothes? If so, doesn't the cost-coverer determine and enforce (*DESPITE COMPLAINTS*) that the kids have to change before catapulting into the blue? I'd suppose that isn't as strict as the bathhouses in a country that didn't have to create them because they came with the surroundings²³, but they couldn't come beyond the barrier with completely-covered-with-soaked-dirt street clothes without stopping before the blue to change because **THERE ARE AREAS TO BECOME CLEAN AND THERE ARE AREAS WHERE WE SHOULD BE CLEAN BEFORE COMING INTO** and the chlorinated blueness isn't in the before-category.

Say the cost-coverer covers the cost but doesn't bring clothes for the children to change into because all of their clothes are dirt-covered and not designed to be immersed; in that case, doesn't the entirety of their disappointed cohort have to stay at the door?

Say the cost-coverer has a bathing suit but the children don't. **DOES THE COST-COVERER SWIM WHILE THE CHILDREN STAY BEYOND THE BARRIER?**

OF COURSE NOT -
THAT WOULD BE AN
INCONCEIVABLY BAD
BABYSITTER!

²³ <https://allthingsiceland.com/iceland-geothermal-bathing-culture/>

344 - ENCOMPASS FAITH INTO EVERY DECREE WITH COMPASSIONATE DISCERNMENT

A CAREGIVER STAYS WITH THOSE BEING CARED FOR.

WHEN BACKPACKING AROUND AGE SIXTEEN, my church co-backpackers' camp was set up and sweaty shoes were drying while I was still struggling to descend the side of steep not-quite-cliff - alongside the not-outwardly-bitter advisor who had to be on that side of the steep not-quite-cliff with his slow and cranky charge instead of cooking hotdogs.

Did my stand-in for the shepherd calculate that screaming at me would have been counterproductive? I'd simply continue to shut down and wouldn't be able to see beyond the crying. His coworker brought all besides us straight down the sorta-cliff to the camp but I was so stubbornly scared of slipping that we instead zig-zagged down.

He was completely capable of abandoning me to what seemed to me the steepest of cliffs but he was determined to do his duty and see me safely to the camp, despite his own desire to sit by the campfire, like the Shepherd that cared about the straggler in the biblical story of straying sheep.

COULD IT BE THAT, BY DENYING THE CALL TO CHANGE and come swimming / by committing ourselves to descend the cliff as slow as can be VS. to come straight-down the certainly steep sorta cliff to the campfire at the bottom, **WE'RE NOT CONDEMNING SIMPLY OURSELVES TO THE OUTER DARKNESS, BUT ALSO OUR COUNSELOR?**

When we're stuck on a sorta-cliff, when we're in a corner banging up against a blasted barrier, when we're beating up on our brother instead of accepting assistance or offering any of our own, when we're determined to sit in the darkness; do we sit by ourselves or does the Counselor that sticks to our side closer than a brother sit in the darkness with us?

Could I have chosen to sit on that sorta cliff indefinitely? I DOUBT IT - sometime during that set of six or seven days of all-day strenuous backpacking, they said that they were seriously considering calling in a copter for me if I couldn't keep up. They'd bring me out alive with or without my abilities or attitude bettering to a significant degree.

The question at the start of this chapter comes back: since a caregiver stays

with those being cared for, **COULD IT BE THAT WE ARE STILL IN DAY SIX.** CURRENTLY CONDEMNING OUR SAVIOR TO BACKTRACK INTO A BACK CORNER TO BRING US BACK OUT, to be on the side of a kinda cliff instead of at a campsite, to be sad because we are not yet in alignment with what should be?

**SO WHO DECIDES WHEN TO
COME TO THE CAMPFIRE /
WHEN TO SWIM?**

I EJECTED 'FAIRNESS' from the entire discussion and settled that I'd call the shots. THE DESTINATION WASN'T UP FOR DEBATE BUT IT WAS THEIRS TO DECIDE because even if the idea didn't sound savory, if they chose to continue in their disobedience, I was determined to be stuck in a silent non-castle with them - even if that decision would come after shelling out the cost for a day doing anything else.

**WE WENT SWIMMING THAT DAY SO
I'LL CONTINUE TO QUESTION:
DID THOSE CHILDREN DESERVE/
EARN THEIR ENTRY?**

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DISCERNMENT

FORGET ENTRANCE TO AN ENTERTAINMENT VENUE; what about dinner, checkers, a couple of seconds of undivided ears so they can describe their day, cereal for breakfast?

**DO CHILDREN
DESERVE TO BE CARED FOR?**

A BABY CAN'T DO ANYTHING - even exert the effort to not faceplant when their giant, heavy head isn't held up.

**IS AN INFANT
ENTITLED TO AFFECTION?**

FAR MORE THAN A FEW ENCLAVES DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES would say definitely not.²⁴

DOES AN INFANT DESERVE IMMEDIATE FORGIVENESS for failing to fulfill expectations that don't consider their developmental stage?

What if someone sees a calf start to skip around seconds after birth and then beats their own baby for not doing the same?

What about if a baby is curious about a caregiver's borrowed digit and decides

²⁴ [I believe it was this message by Chip Ingram that was about how radical the treatment of children in Ephesians was compared to the surrounding culture. <https://livingontheedge.org/broadcast/is-there-a-parent-in-the-house/>]

to bite it? WHO WOULD BE TO BLAME?

Is that baby being cruel? Is a baby capable of disrespect? Does a six week old know what she is doing when she cries and denies being comforted or DOES SHE CRY BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE CONTEXT TO DECIDE WHAT SHE DESIRES and everything is far too extreme to figure it out?

Would giving a frustrated infant who won't be fed and has a full (*OVERFLOWING EVEN*) diaper a college-level discourse on the science of digestion and the diseases that can come with not changing a dirty diaper convince the child to calm down enough to eat/ enable the diaper to be ditched?

WHAT DOES THAT INFANT DESIRE IN THAT INSTANCE?

WHAT DOES SHE DESERVE?

IS SHE BEING INTENTIONALLY DISOBEDIENT? Does the status of the caregiver change the capability and therefore culpability of the child?

OF
COURSE NOT.

CONSEQUENCES CAN BOTH BE SEVERE AND CALL INTO CONSIDERATION THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE STATUSES OF THE CULPRIT VS. THE DISHONORED.

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STAY WITH ME. If someone shoots and kills a dictator, they'll likely experience death as a consequence and if they have a country they're in charge of, the consequences are even more severe.

Couldn't the same be said if someone SPITS on a dictator in disgust since it'd be seen as a desire to kill if the capacity wasn't beyond where they could clasp that dream? I'm scared to seek out a count of how many have done so and have been decapitated due to the insult, but I'd imagine it'd be a few. Insulted egos can be destructive.

Imagine if the dictator is carrying a baby who then spits a bit on their shirt. Would the spittle be a sign of complete disregard for the dictator's status? Sure. A baby doesn't care about status.

Would that be considered the most serious of crimes -- a discovered spy showing disgust for the stately symbol of a country they despise?

DOUBTFUL.

THE DICTATOR IS THE SAME but even bad bosses can see a baby's spittle is completely different than calculated disrespect signaling that someone comes from a dedicated conglomerate of would-be assassins acting on behalf of an archenemy.

AGAIN AND AGAIN IT'S BEEN ARGUED THAT ANY THAT BELIEVE THAT BEING SEPARATED FROM AN OMNIPRESENT SAVIOR *(EVEN FOR THOSE THAT DON'T/CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SUCH A SAVIOR IS CAPABLE OF SAVING THEM BEFORE THEY DIE TO THIS EARTH)* breaks the brain are unaware of how beautiful Christ's sacrifice is; how completely contradictory to our determinations His directions are, how extremely, unfathomably good God is in even giving us hope because of the gravity of how we've handled ourselves.

His holiness is infinite and just; we just can't list on a mental map how not like us He is, how marvelously, notoriously otherworldly His plans are.

He's on a plane that we can't question or reach and to save those who haven't recognized how wrong they've been wouldn't be right because they spit on someone so severely above all others that death (*DEFINED IN THIS CASE AS ENDING AN EXISTENCE*) doesn't come across as serious enough a sentence for the crime of dissing our Creator because conscious separation from a dejected Savior for a span that doesn't cease is the sole sentence that could show the seriousness of the crime - despising such a Supreme Being.

I've barely been around babies, but I believe we are closer to them than to a competing country's dictator when it comes to comparing ourselves to such a Supreme Being and that **CLAIMING THAT WE DESERVE AN UNENDING EPOCH IN ISOLATED DARKNESS CONSIDERING WHAT WE DID INFLATES OUR SIGNIFICANCE, NOT DEFLATES HIS.**

There is this concept of an "*AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY*" that has no basis biblically but comes up again and again in arguments and biases. Somehow at a certain age, we're supposed to be able to switch from not sinless but incapable of standing for ourselves to completely culpable and deserving of conscious separation from the dejected Savior that surely we could see we were spurning.

I don't, but if I could believe in an "*AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY*", how would it be affected by the concept that we stop developing to a certain degree when certain circumstances steal our capacity for critical correlation-drawing?

WHAT ABOUT SOMEONE WHO CAN'T CONTROL THEIR SPASMS?

SOMEONE WITH TOURETTES SYNDROME writes that during his decades of suffering he'd sincerely desire to not stand out but his tries to stop were regularly superseded by strong, terrible urges; he'd write expletives vs. an assignment's answer on the board and would be as aghast as anyone when he blinked and saw it, shocked he could do such a thing.

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WHEN SOMEONE CAN'T CONTROL THEIR DESTRUCTIVE DESIRES, screaming stresses them out and causes the spasms to become bigger and cause more damage.

SO WHAT IS THE CONSEQUENCE of not being able to adjust our behavior through the sheer desire to do so?

DOES IT/SHOULD IT DEPEND ON THE CAUSE OF THE BEHAVIOR?

DEHYDRATION CAN CAUSE CRANKINESS, SLEEPINESS, DIFFICULTY CONCENTRATING, ETC.^{25 26 27}

COULD DRINKING SOME SWEET BLUE WATER bring someone who's clearly struggling to keep up and is snapping back at those who keep saying "*TRY MORE STRENUOUSLY*" back to their before-bar of competence and decency?

Even if a doctor concludes that to be the case, doesn't someone have to deal with what they did when completely deprived of the drink?

What if they couldn't see (*DEHYDRATION'S EFFECT ON THE EYES IS WELL DOCUMENTED*)²⁸ and therefore couldn't foresee the consequences because all was blurry and they bumped into someone? Can that someone claim that, because they were bumped into, they could beat up the bully?

²⁵ <https://today.uconn.edu/2012/02/even-mild-dehydration-can-alter-mood/#>

²⁶ <https://www.cnn.com/2015/06/01/health/dehydration-body/index.html>

²⁷ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022316622028899>

²⁸ <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/can-dehydration-affect-your-eyes>

WHO WOULD BE THE BULLY IN THAT SCENARIO?

WHAT IF THE BUMP CAUSED A CHAIN DOMINO EFFECT EXPLOSION that injured fifty guys who happened to be where whatever happened happened?

For the investigation to have justice, would the ill (*HOWEVER MUCH HE'D BE GIVEN A HARD TIME ABOUT GETTING THAT FOUND OUT*) guy be forcibly injured in a display of solidarity? What if someone who was bumped into bumped into someone who died?

DOES THE DAMAGE DONE DIRECTLY CORRELATE TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF A BEHAVIOR? Can it depend on the cause of the behavior or can the damages do the sentencing without caring about the cause?

HAVE YOU EVER DRIVEN ONE DIRECTION AND DECIDED THAT A DIFFERENT DIRECTION WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY BE BETTER SUITED TO SEE YOU TO YOUR DESTINATION? Have you ever decided a driveway would be a suitable spot for the switch?

Such a decision cost Kaylin Gillis decades and decades of doing whatever she should have been doing if she hadn't been shot and killed while in an incorrect driveway.²⁹

SHOULD THE DRIVER OF THE SUV SHE WAS SITTING IN HAVE BEEN CHARGED?

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<https://apnews.com/article/wrong-driveway-shooting-new-york-gillis-monahan-cdca1723c6ba7afb89102a1e1aaa3fe0>

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OF COURSE NOT!
THAT DEAR SOUL DESERVES
SOLELY SINCERE SYMPATHY.

WHAT ABOUT FOR THE DRIVER OF THE CAR CARRYING A BIG BOSS
AROUND THE BOSNIAN CAPITAL - SARAJEVO?³⁰

AS FOR BUTTERFLY
CATASTROPHES, **IT'S A BIGGIE!**

IN AN AGE BEFORE SATELLITES SENT DIRECTIONS, a driver was given directions to stay in a caravan. The car he was supposed to stick with went a direction that was decided upon the day before but then switched without discussing the change with the driver.

“FOR SECURITY REASONS, it was decided that the motorcade should proceed out of the city via the Appel Quay, rather than take its planned route along Franz Joseph Street and into the narrow streets of Sarajevo's bazaar district.

Unfortunately, the drivers didn't pick up on this changed itinerary. ***‘THEY’RE TALKING ABOUT THIS IN GERMAN, AND THE DRIVER OF THE FIRST CAR IS CZECH, AND SO IS THE DRIVER OF THE SECOND CAR,’*** [CHRISTOPHER CLARK, A PROFESSOR OF MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE AND AUTHOR OF *THE SLEEPWALKERS: HOW EUROPE WENT TO WAR,*

³⁰ <https://time.com/archive/6655509/milestones-aug-9-1926/>

TOLD NPR'S ALL THINGS CONSIDERED IN 2014.]" *'THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS CONVERSATION'S ABOUT, AND NOBODY BOTHERS TO TRANSLATE FOR THEM.'*

As a result, the first car turned onto Franz Joseph Street, followed by the second car, carrying Franz Ferdinand, Sophie and Potiorek. Amazingly, this wrong turn took them right to where 19-year-old Gavrilo Princip had stationed himself along the originally published route for the motorcade, under the awning of a general store. [...]

As Potiorek yelled at the driver that he had taken a wrong turn, the car slowed to a stop right in front of Princip, who fired two shots into the car, hitting Franz Ferdinand and his wife at point-blank range.

'IF PRINCIP HAD SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE LEARNING ABOUT HUMAN ANATOMY, HE COULDN'T HAVE PLACED HIS SHOTS BETTER THAN HE DID,' Clark said. ***'THEY WERE BOTH LETHAL.'***³¹

SO COULD THE BOSS BE BLAMED? Could it be said that **DISRESPECT** caused the bloody catalyst to a bloodier century?

AFTER THAT FATEFUL WRONG TURN, a young student's two gunshots in Sarajevo provided the necessary spark that would upset the fragile balance of power in Europe and send the world to war. On July 28, 1914, one month after Franz Ferdinand's death, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, beginning a chain reaction that would lead to four years of horrific conflict with millions of people dead.³²

³¹ <https://www.history.com/news/how-a-wrong-turn-started-world-war-i>

³² Ibid

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AT THE BIG BIRD STORE I SPOKE OF WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT BENEFITS VS. BELONGING, a customer had to bring me before the counter to show me a sign that I couldn't see from where I stood because it had been changed before I came in that day.

I can't recall what switched; I simply recall that IT SUCKS WHEN BOSSES CHANGE STUFF WITHOUT CONSIDERING WHO WOULD CARRY OUT THE CHANGE.

WHAT WOULD HAVE CHANGED IF THE DRIVER DISOBEYED THE DIRECT COMMAND to stop and switch course and stuck with the course he had started with? Would Sophie have spoken up saying that she begged him to continue?³³ Could the driver have been court-martialed for disobedience? If the same conditions occurred currently, I'd certainly believe it.

I could also believe that they could be blamed for NOT saving the couple because although the blogs speak of directions changing and so on, THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN OUT AND ABOUT AT ALL.

All were aware that assassins were already blocked and would be attempting assassination again. An apparent attempt to assassinate the Archbishop had already occurred and so it could be argued that all involved would have been able to see something coming and so since they didn't do something to stop it, **COULDN'T ALL BE CRIMINALLY CHARGED SINCE THEY ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE COMING CHAOS?**

**SHOULD ALL WHO
CONTRIBUTE TO CHAOS
BE CHARGED?**

³³ https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Leopold_Lojka

A BOY WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE ANY AUTOMOBILE but who can't comprehend clutches climbs into somebody's car and almost immediately bulldozes into and kills a coworker at a dealership. The corporate backers have snuck a bylaw into the state's set of rules saying that coworkers can't blame the company or each other in court so the boy's kin choose a different scapegoat - someone who wasn't in attendance, someone who could have also seen charges if he didn't come spend a boatload of cash dealing with the completely to be anticipated breakdown that comes with being a car steward - because it was all the bylaws allowed.³⁴

The car's buyer was sued for something at the dealership that the employees shouldn't have been doing because all other avenues were blocked. No one else could be charged so they said, *"SORRY DUDE. DON'T CONSIDER THIS EVEN A BIT AGAINST YOU, BUT YOU'RE ALL WE CAN AFFORD TO GO AFTER. THE BARRICADE BUILT TO KEEP ME FROM DISMANTLING THE CORPORATELY BACKED BYLAWS IS BIG AND YOU'RE NOT AS BIG SO..."*

Sure the charges were dropped and he didn't see a cell, but in this country it's common to keep so-called criminals stuck waiting to see if they'll be charged with a crime behind bars because they can't afford bail.

How many similar scenarios can be brought up where a scapegoat was sacrificed to cover the cost of a sin, where blood was brutally stolen from whoever couldn't defend themselves because it was decided from the start that THERE WOULD BE NO COVERING FOR EVEN THE SMALLEST CONTRIBUTION TO DEVASTATING CIRCUMSTANCES?

HOW COULD THAT BE IN A SUPPOSEDLY "CHRISTIAN" COUNTRY as some declare the States? **IS IT BECAUSE WE HAVE ABANDONED THE BELIEF SYSTEM OF COMMON CHRISTIANITY OR BECAUSE WE HAVE BUILT UPON IT?**

Could it be that the backers of the Constitution, believed by some to have built

³⁴

<https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/why-teen-who-disengaged-clutch-wasnt-charged-or-sued-after-jeep-crushes-mechanic>

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Christian discipline and ethics into the doctrine, hadn't exactly found the goodness of the gospel and therefore formed our environment on a faulty footing?

Could the foundation of **OUR** gospel be faulty? Not **THE** gospel that was first evangelized as fantastic in the first century, but a counterfeit that is often an excuse to dismiss individuals as irredeemable?

ISN'T OUR FOUNDATION TO BE IDENTIFIED BY OUR FRUITS?

FOR THOSE THAT FIGURE WE WERE ONCE GREAT and would be again if we found our way back to our foundation, how do you explain the exponential damage done by compounding deals and their effects from far before any of us graced this fallen earth?

How do you defend a society that carries - at this current second (10/1/24) \$35,419,422, - no 423 - scratch that and say 424 ... with six digits that are constantly changing coming up behind³⁵ - in the country's debt - I can't keep up with scripting it; **WHO COULD COVER IT?** - but who demands that their citizens who have supposedly covered their debt to society since they were kept from birthday celebrations, dates, etc. forgo their employment (*IF THEY CAN FIND IT*) for a day

³⁵ <https://www.usdebtclock.org/>

each flip to a fresh month to argue before a judge what they can afford to offer because forced confinement isn't free?^{36 37 38 39 40 41}

WHICH CHARACTER WOULD THE COUNTRY BE IN

The-Beginning-Chapter-of-the-Second-Section-of-the-Bible 18:23-33?

"THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A KING who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

"The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, **'GIVE ME A CHANCE AND I'LL PAY IT ALL BACK.'** Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

"The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, **'PAY UP. NOW!'**

"The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, **'GIVE ME A CHANCE AND I'LL PAY IT ALL BACK.'** But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw

³⁶

<https://www.npr.org/2022/03/04/1084452251/the-vast-majority-of-states-allow-people-to-be-charged-for-time-behind-bars>

³⁷

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/paying-your-time-how-charging-inmates-fees-behind-bars-may-violate>

³⁸ <https://www.acluohio.org/en/jail-debt>

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ <https://dornsife.usc.edu/news/stories/pay-to-stay-prison-policy-captive-money-lab/>

⁴¹

<https://apnews.com/article/crime-prisons-lawsuits-connecticut-074a8f643766e155df58d2c8fbc7214c>

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this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

“The king summoned the man and said, ***‘YOU EVIL SERVANT! I FORGAVE YOUR ENTIRE DEBT WHEN YOU BEGGED ME FOR MERCY. SHOULDN’T YOU BE COMPELLED TO BE MERCIFUL TO YOUR FELLOW SERVANT WHO ASKED FOR MERCY?’*** The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

MATTHEW 18:23-35 (THE MESSAGE)

IT’S BEEN A DAY SO I CHECKED THE CLOCK AGAIN.

\$35,422,011 - scratch that 35,422,012,###,###. (10/2/24 6AM) Six digits a second. IT CAN’T STOP.

The country is stuck in a debt cycle and can't simply climb out slowly but citizens can simply buckle up and accomplish what the country can't?

CITIZENS ARE CHARGED for having their dreams, their environments, their families, their future, etc. forcibly extracted from them.

***FURIOUS
YET?***

IF NOT, IS IT BECAUSE YOU FIND THE GUILTY GUILTY and feel that imprisonment isn't free so the imposition should fall on the offender?

I'll fail to fully go into how that isn't fair especially with how the definition of

who is expected to feel at fault/ be found guilty isn't even fairly even and direct you to a different source:

KENTUCKY APPEALS COURT RULES JAILS CAN FORCE INMATES TO
PAY FOR STAY EVEN IF NOT GUILTY ⁴²

YOU CAN'T BEAT A COUNTRY determined to extract every dime from everyone it
can fight without effort.

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH EVERYONE'S ETERNAL DESTINATION?

I SEE A DIRECT CORRELATION between a belief system that considers being
burned alive and being conscious during the endless degradation of a conscious but not
concrete carcass as an acceptable atonement for breathing and a social construct that
is desperate to stick the blame on someone else when something bad comes to be,
BUT BLAME CAN'T SOLVE SOCIETY'S CATASTROPHES when the
best solutions come by acknowledging one's active assistance in the building of the bad
and then being allowed to bring that awareness to bat at it.

How can we admit that we aren't as benevolent as our Abba, that we HAVE
been contributing to someone else's demise, that we don't have everything figured out
but that even through disaster has come from before attempts, we aren't about to

⁴²

https://www.wdrb.com/in-depth/kentucky-appeals-court-rules-jails-can-force-inmates-to-pay-for-stay-even-if-not/article_af7c175c-49c1-11ea-b949-a354beb1f88b.html

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burrow away from all because while we are still breathing, we still believe that our surroundings can be better and we can assist our Abba in bringing that to be when the consequences for standing out are so severe? How can we boldly assert that there is a better way when all actions are boobytrapped?

Some of the best to-be advocates are bound up in confusing and desperately convoluted debates about how different events could have been if they had only better controlled circumstances out of their control.

Of course there could be a bit of cause and effect too - someone DID contribute to societal breakdown or - **BUT WHO GETS TO CHOOSE WHO GETS DECIMATED BY COURT HEARINGS AND WHO IS CONSIDERED INCONSEQUENTIAL?**

Consider Charlie Engle, who stars in a documentary about crossing the Sahara through the difficult egress by foot to film as a fundraiser for global H2O⁴³ - indicted for inflating his income on a home loan on a history that may have never been handed to him.^{44 45 46}

An impressive one hundred and twenty character witnesses came forward but a guy with the help of the giant of government had a grudge so, after hundreds of hours of going through his items and having him go out to interviews with investigators to ensnare him in any admission that could justify keeping him locked up, they locked him up.

His memoir mentions that HIS LAWYER called the case concluded before it had begun.

ALL OF US will have a big catastrophe to deal with if someone decides to start digging. **BE SURE THAT THEY'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING.**

⁴³ <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0481222/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.businessinsider.com/charlie-engle-2011-3>

⁴⁵

<https://seekingalpha.com/article/260382-department-of-justice-distorts-mortgage-fraud-priorities>

⁴⁶

<https://www.guilfordian.com/opinion/2013/05/10/a-look-inside-the-deeply-flawed-us-prison-system/>

A boyfriend from seemingly centuries before caused some woman considerable stress when he borrowed a before-the-age-of-broadband-streaming-or-DVDs cassette-like show with someone else's card and it didn't end up in the final *"THIS FRANCHISE IS GOING UNDER"* garage sale.

She was facing felony embezzlement and - if she didn't discover it by changing a driver's license, could've continued to have a spotty record to discourage employers and deter creditors and so on without being aware.

A woman was blamed for killing her baby because **SOMEONE SHOT HER IN THE STOMACH.**⁴⁷

Sure - the charges were dropped, but that signifies that someone had the brilliant aspiration to blame her in the beginning.

A boy about a year and a half younger than me was babysitting almost ten years ago - just as I was.

He is available on a site that allows people to befriend someone stuck in a cell for a huge chunk of their days because a child was burned while in his care.⁴⁸

The kid was in a bathtub - with a bit of water, barely ankle-deep, at the bottom. The caregiver turns away and the kid turns it up and although he came running at the screaming, it was too late. He's now considered dangerous, kept away from not only children but the bride he could've been saying *"HAPPY ANNIVERSARY"* to, from the college he could've been an alumni of, from the careers, from the chance to pick who has a say in how his country is run.⁴⁹

Five more years in the slammer but although the sixty-five that were considered were oh so compassionately dropped down, a day won't go by without it damaging him in some way.

I once spoke to a second child in my care for a second and had someone sweetly come up to me to say, *"MA'AM - YOUR DAUGHTER IS TRYING TO COME*

⁴⁷

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/03/us/pregnant-alabama-woman-manslaughter-indictment/index.html>

⁴⁸ <https://writeaprisoner.com/inmates/harvey-wince-761634/penpal>

⁴⁹

<https://law.justia.com/cases/michigan/court-of-appeals-unpublished/2015/317079.html>

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HOME WITH ME”.

The kid climbed into someone else’s stroller because kids are stupid.

I don’t want to search what children have done to cause the adults in their lives to be subjected to the scrutiny of strip-searches and cell bars and awful, autonomy-appropriating, belittling, constantly degrading drudgery that considers them too broken for to be apart of an arrogantly bourgeoisie “CIVILIZED” society but I can see myself in their company - on both advances.

I barely stopped one child from breaking a chess board over the others’ brain covering so of course I can consider what could have been if they had another second or didn’t care about my angry scream but I also consider the stranger who didn’t save me from dislocating my hip when I slipped off a swing.

Sure - a barely-above-the-age-of-baby shouldn’t have been on a standard swing, but should that have caused a babysitter’s life to have been disregarded for my sake?

What if, when stumbling backwards, my barely developed head was damaged? If the brain bleeding couldn’t be stopped and I died, then what? Because in 2008 her disabled child slipped down the stairs and died, Melissa Lucio is still on death row.^{50 51} ⁵²If I had died, should my caregiver still be clanging on the cell bars in solidarity as someone they came to care for was killed, thinking that someday it may be her turn, or could it still have been considered an unfortunate accident?

If that would be an accident, how about the babies not yet born that send their already broken-to-be caregivers to spend the same amount of time since my accident behind bars?⁵³

⁵⁰

<https://innocenceproject.org/melissa-lucio-9-facts-innocent-woman-facing-execution/>

⁵¹ https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/death_row/dr_info/luciomelissa.html

⁵² <https://chng.it/FKKj2tZKXz>

⁵³

<https://www.complex.com/life/el-salvador-woman-30-year-prison-sentence-accused-abortion>

THE SENTENCE CAME DOWN AGAIN a few days ago.

An El Salvadorian woman can expect at least six to ten of her demanded thirty years to be served if following earlier examples.⁵⁴

Or she could die of cancer before ever being reconciled with society because that also has happened before.⁵⁵

“THAT’S SOMEWHERE ELSE!”
YOU EXCLAIM?

AN EXTREMELY EASY (FOR ME SINCE I WASN’T DISCARDED BECAUSE OF THOSE KIDS A DECADE AGO) search brings up an article about my beautiful country - dated for the day before yesterday [MAY 12, 2022].

“ADVOCATES ALARMED miscarriage manslaughter conviction could create precedent.

‘ACCORDING TO THE ARREST AFFIDAVIT, BRITTANY GAVE BIRTH TO A STILLBORN BABY DURING HER SECOND TRIMESTER. [... SHE] WAS CHARGED WITH FIRST-DEGREE MANSLAUGHTER, THEN CONVICTED [...] AND SENTENCED TO [1, 460 DAYS IN A STATE CORRECTIONAL DETENTION CENTER].’”⁵⁶

⁵⁴

<https://www.dw.com/en/el-salvador-frees-woman-jailed-over-miscarriage/a-55035507>

⁵⁵

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/woman-lost-pregnancy-was-jailed-abortion-later-died-rcna440>

⁵⁶

<https://kfor.com/news/local/advocates-alarmed-miscarriage-manslaughter-conviction-could-create-precedent/>

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I SAY FROM THE SAFETY OF MY SMALL SANCTUARY, “*DADDY - SAVE THEM
BECAUSE THEY CAN’T CONSIDER WHAT THEY’RE DOING*” but could I do so
while crammed in a small space no longer considered mine while my body craves to
comfort someone even smaller and more defenseless than I?

I
DON’T KNOW.

COULD I HAVE COMPASSION on whoever kept the key?

I
DON’T KNOW.

COULD I BE LIKE the death row inmate that drastically changed the course Bryan
Stevenson would choose and therefore continues to change the course for countless
others because of what came from the day he chose to sing despite his chains?

I
DON’T KNOW.

COULD I HAVE COMPASSION on she who’d be behind the cell door?

I
DON'T KNOW.

COULD I SEE MYSELF AS SEPARATE FROM MY SHAME?

I
DON'T KNOW.

COULD I BLESS those who'd strip search me, who would do their darnedest to strip me of dignity?

I
DON'T KNOW.

WOULD THAT CLOSE OF A COMMUNITY change me for the better or would my brattiest cravings come out when dared to?

I
DON'T KNOW.

WHAT DO I KNOW?

I KNOW THAT I'm committing the complete set of debating "*DON'T*"s - effectively engaging with every fallacy given in the handbooks.⁵⁷

The instructions insist that hasty generalizations aren't good. It's unfair of me to give hard, impossible to judge could-be-correlations and make nonsense observations that prove problematic, ridiculous, short-sided, tyrannical, and/or underwhelmingly vulnerable to the weakest explanations that would reveal them as wrong.

I KNOW THAT if I would wait until I had whatever it would be that I was waiting for worked out - whatever I would have worked for while witnesses wondered why I was wasting my waning existence - if I examined all the extraneous angles and the wrote a writ with my discoveries, if I was wonderful at all this A to B to C stuff without sneaking in the S's and R's and P's while reserving the right to release Q from the responsibility of showing up and standing center stage while the curtains slowly rise on my shitshow of a case, if I had simply stuck with whatever I was supposed to - repeat the party phrase regularly until it doesn't ring shallow, **I STILL WOULDN'T BE SATISFIED/SATISFACTORY; I'D SIMPLY BE SILENT** because that's where I'd rather be; that's where I remained for years upon years.

I'd rather be safe from the rabbit shaft of theories that'd undermine what I've been advised warrants no examination, what witnesses that went well before I was alive wrote down, what the world I want to love wants to validate as love.

I KNOW THAT all this may be made out to be a new nuisance, an offshoot of a noisy modern liberality that is kinda just incorporating itself into holy institutions because of an inclination to indicate that anything goes, but this isn't a fad - either in

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https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/logic_in_argumentative_writing/fallacies.html

the far greater historical interpretations or in my individual history.

I have indicated how hard it is for me to hone in on what I heartily hold to; but, again, I've held onto this without instruction or hand-holding by individuals other than God ever since I was a fourth or fifth grader, hanging onto the idea in a favorite then-fashionable hymn, "*GRAVITATE FORWARD - ENTER INTO THE ERA OF DEVOTION. COME - BEHOLD THE CIRCUMSTANCE TO DECIDE TO EMOTIONALLY BUT FREELY GIVE YOUR HEART*". The heart of the hymn that insists that kneeling will be normal made me look into the location and it convinced me.

When I let my mentor know in middle school that I looked forward to even Lucifer kneeling, she completely killed not my conviction that it would come to be but my desire to share that belief. She basically said that I was a sweetheart, but too sweet. It could have been that as a child I was, still am, too trusting; but she could not demand my soul to assume something is correct or in this case incorrect - we have to be convinced for beliefs to change and I was convinced by the basic straight-forward conviction that all signifies all. She simply convinced me, through those simple couple seconds, that it's safer to keep silly stuff like real redemption to yourself.

I KNOW THAT IT'S SCARY TO SPEAK ONE'S DEEPEST CONVICTIONS and when a subject doesn't come up without bringing it up awkwardly, it can be simple to disguise/ not disclose what one is convinced of; but the consequences of being silent can be even more severe than the consequences of speaking up - they're simply spread out instead of directed towards those who have counted the cost of bravely accepting a bullseye on their back.

I cannot and do not consider myself in their company. During this second, I am comfy and safe and can't complain, SO IS ALL OF THIS A CARICATURE, DERISIVE OF THOSE WHO CAN?

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BREAKTHROUGH AWAITS WHEN WE

DISCOVER EVERYONE'S FATED GIFT WITH HUMBLE GRATITUDE

*By Defining/ Exercising what is Dikaios before Death Comes
Calling*

IT HAS BEEN ARGUED THAT IF ALL EVENTUALLY ARE BROUGHT BACK INTO ALIGNMENT WITH WHO WE WERE BORN TO BE, that achievement would be a brutal blow to those who have sacrificed their bodies, who have been killed declaring that everyone CAN be forgiven, that God IS good regardless of hardship, that hope IS interminable, even if it is withheld here.

I haven't had to - in an instance - hold my ground and again, I have no idea if I'd have the heart to do so if that hypothetical happens; but **I CAN GUARANTEE** that if it happens that I give grace under the hardest of intense heartache, it'd be God holding His ground through me, giving me His heart for His own because **MINE ISN'T HEAVENLY** and giving grace / forgiving those who are going to and have and are in the immediate instance hurting me **IS TOO HARD FOR ME.**

HOW I HAVE GLARINGLY FLOUNDERED *in efforts to follow God's habits or glean His heart* - so how - without hearing - *in the immediate - God holding to His insistence that 'IT IS A HUNDRED PERCENT*

INARGUABLE THAT [**WE**] **WILL HAVE A HEART LIKE [HIS]**

BECAUSE, FROM WHERE [HE] IS, [**WE**] **HAVE GOTTEN A HEART LIKE [HIS]** AND IT IS HEAVENLY ("SO HANG IN THERE HUN"), would

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I have any hope of echoing *God's hey-there*: "I HAVE BEEN HURT BY YOU AND YOU BY I YET I AM HERE AND HERE YOU ARE WHOLE"?

YOU MAY BE MORE FORGIVING, GRACIOUS, AND HUMBLE THAN I; but I harden when interrogated. Without intervention, I'd harden and then I'd just crumble - confused and lonely and miserable. I'd not notice or be particularly perplexed by whether the people passing off pain with pleasure were redeemable - in reality, if there was a possibility that they weren't, I'd be rooting for that route, relinquishing myself to ruin in the process.

Oh, I'd plan to be precocious and perky and really sweet even when tortured - I'd say I'd relinquish the right to pass pain on in place of permitting myself to be persecuted without raging, but I've also spent some time with who I turn into with and without the Spirit working through me and I'll say with certainty that they are NOT the same.

CASUAL SPECTATORS HAVE CONSTANTLY BEEN CONFUSED BY ME because I am completely different when I believe in my Abba and His ability to align all back to Himself; when I'm convinced He can communicate to me steps I can do to see "COULD-BE" become a certainty; when I obey.

I can't do anything without Christ who strengthens me and that isn't simply a cute saying slightly twisted.

I can't claim the credit for any successes I've had because I have NO CLUE what I clicked to shift



into



in a single swoop during a school assignment that I was certainly struggling with.

The creations I can bury myself into as actualizable, the solutions I can conceptualize as buildable; the concerns that I can see as solvable completely change based on whether or not I believe Abba is who He says He is - better than all I can ask or believe or conceptualize.

It's scary to be so dependent on but distressed by the unseen; both aware and beyond clueless about what/who is for and against us, but I believe attacks of arcane origin have not been kind in their attempts to bury any and all allegiance I have to my Abba, who is benevolent enough to keep digging me back out, but although I have allowed myself to be consistently buried by unbelief and although I believe I will be accountable for that, I HAVE AN ABBA WHO KEEPS DIGGING ME BACK OUT and I can't do anything without Him.

Ask the boss who announced *"BUT SHE BREAKS APART ON US"* when asked whether I could come back or the coworkers who convinced her that they could deal with occasional breakdowns because when I wasn't struggling I could be a bit of a bumblebee.

Question my spouse. My crying spells aren't as constant or as crippling as they were a decade ago, but they haven't stopped. I arrived into his arms with a blank stare and a craving for chocolate a couple of days ago because of something that was better after I clicked a button once in a better space where I could see it.

Someone once called my confidence a balloon - when I am on an assignment, it's often all or all is absent. I'm either a busy, bubbly, constructive bee having a ball or severely dragging everyone down, having difficulty even deciphering what I'm supposed to do.

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I SIMPLY CAN'T CONVINCE MYSELF to be capable, to be creative, to be constructive in completing basic assignments. ("BE KIND"...)

I've been allotted A LOT of the appetizer-of-the-age-to-come-because-I-certainly-don't-deserve-it kind of dynamically empathetic and freeing grace. The future may end up dramatically different, but for now; I haven't experienced the fierce fires - including the ones I intentionally or unintentionally have generated - that give the foundation of endurance described by Christ's brother in the starting chapter so certainly I'm scared of what will come, but because I've been bailed out in countless circumstances, **I CAN'T BRAG THAT ANYTHING WORTHY OF ADMIRATION IN ME WAS BUILT BY MY OWN ACCORD.**

(I AM OBVIOUSLY AWARE THAT THIS BELIEF ISN'T ABOUT BEING BAILED OUT OF STRUGGLES AND THAT STRUGGLES WILL COME; I CAN SEE THAT BEING AWARE THAT ALL BAD CAN AND WILL COMPOUND DISASTROUSLY AND EXPONENTIALLY FORCES US INTO AN EVERLASTING FIGHT. EITHER WE GIVE UP ON OUR GOD AND THE HOPE THAT HE CAN GENERATE GOOD FROM WHAT WE HAND HIM [WHICH ITSELF ISN'T EASY FOR A GREAT GROUP] OR WE HANG IN THERE AND HOPE HE HAS GRACE ON US WHEN WE FALL INTO FATIGUE AND AND FEELINGS OF EXISTING AS A FEEBLE FAILURE IN FACE OF THOSE WHO EVIDENTLY HAVE AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF ENERGY AND DEDICATION TO CAUSES THAT WE CAN SEE ARE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE BUT CAN'T SEEM TO COUNTERACT.)

I'M NOT EVEN ABLE TO BRAG about avoiding what has wreaked havoc on those around me. I was offered a single cigarette ONCE (EVER) when I was already a bit into adulthood, by a buddy who said that if I had said "SURE", he'd advise me to buy my own because he wouldn't be the one to "CORRUPT" me.

I've been excluded from events where everyone knows I'd whine about whatever was up and to an extent, YES, it's of course because my vibe would announce I wouldn't want to be involved; but in a way, I also wouldn't be welcome even though I WANTED TO WANT to be involved in whatever it was because I'd WANT to be alright with whatever it was but wouldn't be able to relax.

WITHOUT THE ONE WORTHY OF WORSHIP REGULARLY

RENEWING MY VIEWPOINT - even knowing what is waiting (*HAVING WATCHED WHAT ALCOHOLISM AND ADDICTION BECOMES TO THOSE THEY CATCH*) - **I CAN BE DECIDEDLY ENVIOUS** of those who easily fall into the embrace of a drink or a stranger, who can dance around in strapless bikinis without a care.

Discontent sneaks into my subconscious and stalks my dreams - such as when some kid came with Dan and I for a test drive and that evening I dreamt about the eighteenish year old (*I HAD A DECADE AND A HALF ON HIM EASILY*) easily elevating me onto his deltoid to sit like a queen while he danced and the crowd cheered.

I can't blame those who aim to be carefree; but I also can't simply decide to check out, to be ok with it, to be completely carefree despite the immediate, eventual, direct and/or distant cost dumped on those that I can't care about when as self-consumed as those who '*DON'T CARE!*' differently than I do.

DESPITE WHETHER OR NOT I AM BEING DIRECTED BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST THAT IS CONTINUALLY CHANGING ME, I won't be comfortable on a beach in a string bikini - I came to that conclusion in the second grade when I couldn't stand the sensation of the blue on that section of bare skin - but if the Spirit of Christ doesn't seize control of my sense that something isn't right; I'm similar to an OCD detective with his signature in the title of a *TV* show in the scene where he believes he's coming to see stalagmites and discovers himself instead at a concert.⁵⁸

The detective with an eye for details can't change the behavior of anyone, including himself. He is originally unable to assist with what he had been brought to do, unable to abandon his belief that couples shouldn't be kissing against the captain's car or that dancing shouldn't be where the cars drive and essentially, he's ended functioning.

Would it be fair to fancy that he's filled with a general hatred? To him, he isn't being honed in by human beings but by inferior hippies, good-for-a-geese's-fat-egg degenerates. He almost spits with condescension: "*BUT THERE ARE TEN THOUSAND OF THEM*" and then somewhat backs up with apprehension "*AND NOT EVEN ONE OF ME*".⁵⁹

OVERCOME WITH ANXIETY WITH ALL THAT'S WRONG IN HIS WORLD, he isn't able to wonder why anyone had come or who they might be, what would allow them to wonder about what's weird about yet another addicts' overdose.

⁵⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2uKkJln1f8>

⁵⁹ Ibid (2:48)

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He isn't able to love whoever's around him while in the worst of his worst atrocious visions of the underworld - emblazoning the appalling box a washroom would be benevolent.

Calling it quits on close contact, he stands on a cliff and calls the captain with a walkie talkie. He's able to assist with the burgeoning case; but not because he cares, cherishes, or desires to comfort the buddy who had been cheering on the sidelines while the kid she coached cleared out drugs from his days. He's curious.

The detective would not choose to calmly stroll into his drawing of excruciating examination-by-fire, but I gotta hand it to him that he helps the investigation as his habit of inquisitiveness holds its ground in the fight for which impulse would dominate.

SO WHAT'S THAT TO DO with those killed for Christ's sake being assassinated for zip if all are brought into alignment with Abba anyway?

COULD IT BE THAT OUT OF THE SOUL'S DEPTHS COMES WHAT OUR BRAIN ARTICULATES⁶⁰ and whatever attitudes, belief systems, and concerns dominate our easy days will spill out when under stress, that **TRAUMA WILL UNDERMINE TRANSFORMATIONS THAT STOP AT THE SURFACE** and a sickness in spirit will reveal itself when prompted by pain **SO THE PROOF OF PAPA'S PLAN IS THAT - WHEN PERSECUTED - THERE'S EVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENLY POURING OUT REAL STEPHEN-LIKE TRUTH THAT ISN'T SEEKING RETRIBUTION** but can say with sincerity:

"LORD, DO NOT PLACE THIS SIN TO THEM." ?

ACTS 7:60B (*BLB*)

⁶⁰ Luke 6:45b For out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks.

WHEN REVIEWING THE QUESTION of whether purporting that a Redeemer redeems people by patiently pursuing us until our preferences aren't in opposition is an offensive affront to what numerous martyrs left this life making known (*AS OF NOW, KNOWING THIS IS MY OWN PERSONAL PERCEPTION OF HOW I'D REACT IF PUT INTO A POSITION UNRELATABLE TO MY PAST*) - if I were to put myself in the picture **WITH THE PERCEPTION THAT A PERSON'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SET BASED ON THEIR CHOICES** (*TO BELIEVE ISN'T AN ADJECTIVE*), if attacked, I'd be convinced that they had chosen to destroy me and therefore would succeed in destroying us both.

I could be convinced that what they were doing was incorrect and that I shouldn't dip to their schematic and dish out evil - even internally - because doing so would certainly be as bad (*WHOEVER KILLS IN THE SOUL THROUGH DESPISING SOMEONE HAS KILLED ACCORDING TO CHRIST*), but **THAT CONVICTION WOULDN'T BE SATISFACTORY TO STOP ME FROM BEING OVERCOME WITH BITTERNESS** -- it'd only create additional discomfort which would cause the despising to increase because a disconnect cognitively sucks the breath out of my ability to act at all, nevermind with all the authority and benevolence of Christ, the King of Kings.

Call me a baby, but I'd be so distracted by crying that I wouldn't care. Solely by acknowledging that Abba will win eventually would I even have **THE WISH** to accept their blows without cursing the degenerates intent on ending me disastrously.

OF COURSE, YOU COULD BE CALMER, more courageous, more dedicated to eradicating evil, even in ourselves, than I am; but I've ignored enough individuals who weren't doing any evil but who definitely desired/deserved some compassion to curtail any belief that I could stand strong when challenged because if benign conflict is difficult, days-ending fights/extremes would easily dissolve any commitment I'd have to kindness - IF I CALLED THE SHOTS.

ON THE DAYS WHERE THE SPIRIT SEEMS DISTANT, I'm desperate to distance myself from every dilemma and see any request that I stay in reality VS. retreat into a safe silence as an assault on my belabored quintessence because it simply doesn't seem doable.

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Doing anything for anybody is asking buckets and buckets as the brain short circuits.

YET THE SPIRIT COMPLETELY CHANGES THE CONVERSATION.

CONSIDER A DRIVE WHERE I WAS EXHAUSTED, frustrated, given over to a general humdrum hesitancy to hope that I would eventually be a happy individual. I was about an hour from home and even if I had heeded the internal insistence that I head home at an interval with no hard “*GOTTAS...*” going for it, that feeling felt foolish and - no exaggeration - while driving, I was challenging the stillness that I don't smile, I don't care for anybody, all is out of a burdened sorta-duty, “*HOW DARE I CALL MYSELF YOURS?*”.

I cried out with those strange syllables I spoke of before but still I was bored and anxious and as an act aiming to be antagonistic to the annoying beeping in my brain announcing that I had an appointment that I wasn't aware of to attend to, attempted to bring myself to a buy a burger at a standard rest stop even though the sensation that I was supposed to direct myself straight to the sanctuary I sleep in hadn't stopped.

I became confused and couldn't see which direction was for cars VS. bigger carriers so I didn't stop, simply kept driving back onto the street, more dedicated than ever to simply crawl into bed, anxious and alone (*THE BET WAS I COULD BE ASLEEP BEFORE DAN CAME BACK TO QUESTION HOW THE DAY WAS*).

I continued driving, still shouting, still distracted until eventually my frustrated exclamations dissolved into singing, starting slow and sad then with slightly more certainty.

By the stretch right before I'd return to the side roads, roughly three minutes from the sanctuary I no longer saw as a refuge, my spirit was soaring - just in time to see someone strolling in the small shoulder of the seventy mph road, right after I had swiftly changed into the rightmost side, required if I planned to reach my short turn-off to the side streets because of how the road was set up.

IT WASN'T THE SAFEST SET UP DURING THE DAY (*AND IT HAS SINCE BEEN CHANGED - I'D SUPPOSE BECAUSE OF THAT*) but when dark with

some crazy bush about to block the slight shoulder he depended on, this could've been quite the disaster. The shoulder wasn't big enough to drive in, but my split second decision to stop (*I'LL SAY AGAIN THAT I DON'T DO SPLIT SECOND DECISIONS - EVER!*) found me at the entrance of the exit, where other drivers could easily drive around to exit or drive on, directly before that bush so that when he crossed into the street, it was behind blinkers.

Since, by then, my spirit was soaring, I basically beg "*WHERE CAN I BRING YA BECAUSE THIS CERTAINLY ISN'T SAFE*" and he says to do what I could by driving wherever I'm driving anyway. I ask again where his abode is and it's about an hour away.

Again, I had already been driving for an hour and had been yearning for bed; but the Spirit changes the conversation completely so I didn't blink or stutter but with a determination that echoed my folks' easy declaration when they drove me to Chicago, I declare that that's our destination, easily finding the grace to have it be a given, not a hardship.

I have to find it on a GPS, get a hold of my husband etc. so we go to my house, he hangs out in the eensier-than-a-Hummer while I get H2O from inside, my husband has us hang on as he'd inarguably join us.

It was enjoyable - I drove while Dan sat in the back and the stranger and I chattered about all sorts of stuff. It seemed directly connected to a direct question ("*HOW DARE I CALL MYSELF YOURS*") and I did my darndest to explain why he had reinvigorated my faith after he explained how he had been declaring/singing that the same King that I served was his director through the darkness through extremely familiar favorites ("*MY GOD, THAT IS WHO YOU ARE!*").

Going home again, my husband said that during the hour the guy was with us, he (*MY HUSBAND*) had been on the phone with the guy who's group he fled. Although an elder for at least a decade at the church I haven't been attending but who has a class that Dan comes to, he questioned: "*DOESN'T SHE COMPREHEND HOW THIS IS SUPPOSED TO WORK? SOMEONE SHOULD DROP OFF SOMEONE SEEKING A RIDE AT A STATION AND THEN SOMEONE ELSE HAS A TURN AND THEN ...*"

I DEEPLY DESIRE THAT WE - not solely readers, but that **I'D** remember a separate reality because I probably really should but I don't see stuff like this daily (*WHICH*

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COULD BE BECAUSE I STAY IN THAT DARK DESPISING EVERYONE DESPAIRING STAGE WITHOUT BOTHERING TO CRY OUT FOR THE BREAKTHROUGH ABBA BRINGS) so I'll abandon (*FOR A BIT*) the syntax stunts to say clearly:

"DON'T WE COMPREHEND HOW THIS CHRISTIANITY STUFF IS SUPPOSED TO WORK?"

- I BEGAN FRUSTRATED, TIRED, AND ANGRY
- I FELT STRONGLY *that I should leave exactly at 6:30p, but was berating myself for using that sense as an excuse to not stay longer*
- I WAS **'HANGRY'** and tried to ignore internal instructions to go straight home by pulling into a rest stop but get flustered into continuing because I accidentally turned into the truck's parking lot was instead of the cars'.
- MY ANGRY PRAYERS OF SELF-HATRED morphed into praise songs because even though I keep trying, I don't think it's possible to cuss out God in His own language and He answered with peace even if I didn't know how to actually ask for it
- WITH A RENEWED MIND, I came across someone who was:
 - in an extremely small shoulder of a 70 mph highway that was
 - About to be blocked by a bush
 - Immediately after a dangerous lane change
 - About to force him to either:
 - Get off at an exit with no hotels, no sidewalks in the direction of the right highway and a fair number of businesses closed for the evening (NOTHING 24/7)

- Cross the exit to continue on the existing highway where: ONLY AFTER GETTING THERE he'd see
 - there was no shoulder at all and
 - the exit he wanted was closed.
 - Stranded an hour from home (A 22 HOUR WALK IF THE HIGHWAY HE WANTED HAD BEEN OPEN) - after dark in the cold with no phone.
 - **SINGING "OVERFLOW" AND "WAYMAKER" BY TASHA COBBS LEONARD WHILE IN A TRULY DESPERATE SITUATION**
-
- I HAD DRIVEN A TOTAL OF FOUR AND A HALF HOURS that day and about two and a half hours the day before with no issues whatsoever but, three minutes from home (THE SECOND TIME), Dan and I switch drivers so that he can place a drive-through order and **THE CAR STARTS A HORRENDOUS RATTLING AS SOON AS HE GETS BEHIND THE WHEEL.** It sounded like it was going to completely fall apart.

We got it home and the next day to the mechanic down the street where we're told that the air conditioning belt was broken or loose (??) and that the car could easily overheat, damage the engine and/or battery, potentially catch fire, etc. if driven even short distances. It was in the shop for a week.
 - A DAY LATER Dan and I had to take the same route (IN HIS CAR) and the GPS gave us a different route. I thought back and marveled again that there were a few times on my way home (THE FIRST TIME) that I wanted to reach for my phone to see how long it'd be, again more out of bored anxiety than anything else, but sensed - "NOPE, YOU KNOW THE ROUTE FROM HERE, LEAVE IT ALONE."
 - CONSTRUCTION STARTED TWO OR THREE WEEKS LATER, Killing the rest of the shoulder and causing general mayhem for months.

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IF I WAS AS WORRIED AND ANXIOUS AND BITTER AND CARELESS AND DISTRACTED AS EARLIER, if I finally glanced at the phone or even was my despairing self that can't deal with quick decisions; if I decided that instead of exiting at exactly 6:30, a delay or early departure by couple sixty second segments or even a couple of seconds wouldn't be a big deal, he could've easily died that day - conceivably by contacting MY car.

WE COULD HAVE DESTROYED EACH OTHER and isn't that essentially the definition of enemy - another who is antagonistic, indifferent to whether doing whatever we deem it is our duty to do injures, damages, or ends another's existence and/or freedom?

Instead, we found a friend - even if for a day - that directly confirmed a shared bond with a bigger Being, an Abba whom we had both been begging to bring us some signal that we're not crazy for confiding in, depending upon and entrusting everything to an invisible Director who we were intent to follow even when everything felt like it was falling apart.

IT GENUINELY WAS NOT A GRIEVANCE TO GIVE THE GUY A HAND BUT AN HONOR THAT REINVIGORATED MY HOPE IN A GOOD GOD.

GO AHEAD AND EXPLAIN THAT I'M EXAGGERATING, delaying with excessively faulty explanations that are full of goose hullabaloo that ignore - just as I'm keen to do - all logic and merely makes one look away from the massive loopholes in all of my musings. Let me know how lucky we were but that the cookie could've crumbled differently and to not derail the conversation with details that don't count.

Interpret the juxtaposition between the couple of configurations in the layouts - mine messy and the latter much less so - as coincidence and let that luck leak into the more-likely-to-be-messed-with-to-make-the-little-mouth illustration closing out

"BECAUSE SILENCE STINGS BUT BLOSSOMS CAN SMILE" and say that I was simply in the right space at the right second to see the rainbow.

Recommend starting therapy and treatment for some sickness or two or three - I assure you I tried it and I too am tempted to see all this as solely screwy wiring - OR
ROOT OUT WHAT I'M SAYING.

I'M NOT SAYING I DESERVED TO BE SPARED from the sentence in a cell that I could be serving if I struck him while sneaking a short but ruthless peak at the phone or that I'm now martyr-like because I let a long day go longer long ago.

I'M NOT A MARTYR -
LITERAL OR METAPHORICAL.

LOOK UP *"MARTYR COMPLEX"*.^{61 62} IT'S A MEDICAL CONCEPT (VS. A *DIAGNOSIS*) for constantly letting oneself be made to be less than - a manipulative no-nonsense observable pattern of people-pleasing recognized by scholars as regularly releasing oneself from the right to be respected and seeking out circumstances where one can show oneself as self-sacrificial for the sake of the show, not for the sake of whoever one is supposedly serving (*SINCE THEY ARE COMMONLY DAMAGED BY THE DISPLAY*):

"ESSENTIALLY, IF YOU LIVE WITH A MARTYR, you'll find that they are constantly finding ways to prove that they are good, while at the same time inviting situations that make them feel **"BAD"**; for example, staying in abusive relationships, allowing themselves to be used, stirring up unnecessary

⁶¹

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/conquering-codependency/202110/overcoming-a-martyr-complex>

⁶² <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/martyr-complex>

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arguments, creating drama.”⁶³

WHAT I'M DESCRIBING IS DIFFERENT and it's a shame they stole a competing concept for that definition.

What I'm describing isn't a show, or even a conscious choice. **IT'S A DRAMATIC INTERNAL FLIPPING OF OUR FOUNDATION - AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN - UNTIL WE GET IT.** It is God giving us grace again and again and again until we are so hopeful that the immediate instinct is to hand out grace as freely as we've gotten it because we FEEL forgiven and it fills us with a genuine hope that has immediate influence on the horrendous gambits we find ourselves and everyone else in.

It isn't the ecstasy of a fleeting fling that gives one the goosebumps for a heartbeat and then goes on to find an uneasy dismissal that anything dramatic came to be between a could-have-been couple but the steady consistency of a beloved spouse that is sometimes called upon not to stress-test the already sure and cemented bond, but because something comes up that one cares about and because of that already built-up bond, the second segment of the couple comes to care a bunch also, to become as one, to adopt the attitude and actions of the other.

WHILE BEING STONED TO DEATH, Stephen cried out - with no assurance that his killers wouldn't do something stupid and be stoned in turn - that the Savior would not cause those who were killing him to have to stand before the court because of their crime, just as His Christ had loved His killers.

“AND WHEN THEY CAME TO THE PLACE called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right, and one on the left. And Jesus WAS SAYING, “*FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY DO.*”

⁶³ <https://lonerwolf.com/martyr-complex-symptoms/>

LUKE 23:33-34

THE LORD COULD LOVE BECAUSE HE WAS, WELL, THE LORD, but who was the man that later loved with his last mouthful of mutterings and **HOW'D HE MANAGE THE UNMANAGEABLE?**

The latter martyr is mentioned as the man lowly and lofty enough to lead the meat of the ministry to neighbors - making meals and managing logistics instead of looking to the Lord with the leaders up the ladder for the ministry's next moves.

Managing logistics can be mind-numbingly overwhelming - people are problematic, pushy, rude, snotty, troublesome, unwavering in what they want even if what they want isn't really what they would want if they were aware of what was available (*AGAIN - I'VE BEEN ARGUED WITH OVER WHICH COMPANY I SIGNED UP TO SERVE!*). Serving is difficult stuff, but could Stephen have seen through the crowd's snobbery to the core of their despair?

I ENGAGED IN DISAPPOINTMENT *after catastrophe after bitter blow until closing*, all calling because something bad stole their day. Some weren't kind but I can't blame them. There were definitely a couple customers who would've been served better by someone else because I kept screwing up and then, all confidence blown, it was a crazy downhill from there but even on the calls where I did what I was supposed to, they were all calling because something bad that wouldn't stick to/with me had caught them with the desire to chase them into debt or end up forming a grief that wouldn't go away, a heartache that would hold on after I had gone for food, ended the day, decade, etc... After I had forgotten the individual and could only describe the collective category of stories with a couple snapshots, they could be dealing with the ever-present aftereffects of a glow going out.

How could I give them an even harder time for being huffy? I had been invited into their homes to hear what was happening and it wasn't good.

I was forced/encouraged to dig into the details about what was distressing them. How could that not change how I saw their behavior?

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STEPHEN WAS IN CUSTOMER SERVICE, in charge of a difficult department, dealing with “STAFF” and customers all demanding something he could or could not spare.

Back to back to back, he came across the customer coddling her breast and allowing her arm to become as a wing while on a call at the counter to demand a chicken combo, the dad chastising me for sympathizing that occurrences such as his son destroying the ceiling with by spilling the bath commonly occur, and the dude who didn't desire to end the interview about his disaster (*INSTEAD EXTENDING WITH EVERY EXCUSE HE DETERMINED WOULD KEEP THE CALL COMING*) because he claimed my soundbox was as the stars of kids' cinema - the crown-wearing songbirds depicted by a company I don't dare cross by including their signature. (*THE COMPANY SUED SOMEONE FOR CALLING THEIR CHILD ONE OF THEIR CHARACTERS. BE CAREFUL!*)

CLEARLY I DON'T HAVE ANY INSIGHT to whether Stephen was charmed by an accident-victim or was berated by a snob who considered him beneath her but while circumstances change, the characters and characteristics that Stephen dealt with could have been comparable to the barrage of concerns I've dealt with and **I DON'T THINK HE COULD'VE DEALT WITH DEATH WITH KINDNESS WITHOUT LIVING WITH IT**, making mistakes, learning from them, making more, letting more lessons make it into his marrow and on and on and on until the practice made the possibility of retreating into rage when set up truly unlikely because of where he had arrived from, who he had been VS. who those characters had shaped him into.

I don't endorse everything in the document -- I doubt Stephen blamed himself for becoming a victim of a brutal killing or believed he couldn't be damaged because he belonged to Christ -- but I believe a blogger to be correct in this:

“STEPHEN'S DEATH WAS A BIG DEAL BECAUSE STEPHEN WAS A BIG DEAL. He **“DID GREAT WONDERS AND MIRACLES AMONG THE PEOPLE.”** AC 6.8 KJV People knew him as a strong, dedicated Christian. His death made an impact because people knew his character.

Contrast this to how people presume martyrdom works. They figure

the big deal, the huge impact, comes from making that dying confession; of claiming to trust Jesus right before some gun nut shoots you, or bravely defying the antichrists who threaten to torture the skin off you. Stephen wasn't any such person. He laid down his life for Christ Jesus a long time before his martyrdom.

'CAUSE DYING FOR JESUS REQUIRES US TO LIVE FOR JESUS. THE LIFE MAKES THE WITNESS. THE DEATH ONLY DRAWS ATTENTION TO IT.'⁶⁴ (EMPHASIS MINE)

DO CHECK OUT THE DOCUMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY because while I disagree with a conclusion or duo of conclusions, it discusses some concepts I haven't come across elsewhere; but I'll scroll down and quote a bit from a section below.

"THE WORDS μαρτυρέω/MARTYRÉO AND μάρτυς/MÁRTYS ARE GREEK FOR **"WITNESS." Your martyrdom isn't significant because you died for Jesus. **IT'S BECAUSE BEFORE YOUR DEATH YOU LIVED FOR HIM.**"**

SO COULD IT BE that not solely the source of Stephen's capability to deal with his killers without cursing them, but the capability of his death to spur others to do the same if the case came up comes directly from his experience dealing with customers AKA beggers without killing their spirits?

The blogger continues:

⁶⁴ <https://www.christalmighty.net/2016/12/stephen.html>

“LOOK AT STEPHEN: He testified he knew Jesus, saw Jesus, and recognized Jesus as an important influence in his life. What made Stephen’s death relevant was how his short life reflected this relationship. Now if you aren’t known in life for having anything to do with Jesus—if in fact you’re a rotten bastard, and were hoping a glorious death in his name redeems you—it doesn’t; it won’t. People may not recognize hypocritical martyrs for their hypocrisy, but God certainly does. Means nothing to him.”⁶⁵

STEPHEN’S CHARACTER COULDN’T BE BUILT IN THE COUPLE SECONDS BEFORE HIS BREATH ABANDONED HIM but that aspect appears to be accepted without a big controversy breaking out.

CHARACTER HAS TO BE
BUILT, CULTIVATED, AND DEVELOPED.

WHAT COLLEGE CATALOG DOESN’T EXPLAIN THAT FACT to eager eighteen year olds desiring direction? Don’t they emphasize the fact that experiences end up forming how we interact with our environments so that an expectation is formed that following the guidance of whoever is giving the homework will be how the gall and fortitude and empathy etc. will develop?

For Christian kids, chances to develop a Christ-like character “*IN COMMUNITY*”, especially for students starting their second decade, are everywhere.⁶⁶

For example:

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ <https://www.collegetransitions.com/blog/best-christian-gap-year-programs/>

- START WITH THE *DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SCHOOL (DTS)*. Stretch yourself by serving in a cross-cultural setting. Spend six months centering your life in God. Seek personal breakthroughs.⁶⁷
- *IMPACT 360 FELLOWS* IS A TRUSTED CHRISTIAN GAP YEAR EXPERIENCE designed to prepare the next generation of Christian leaders for the path ahead. Invest nine months deepening your biblical worldview, developing spiritual rhythms, and serving others domestically and internationally, all while preparing for a life of Spirit-empowered influence.⁶⁸
- *ONELIFE* IS A NINE-MONTH CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM for students who want to grow in their faith, spread God's word, experience genuine community, serve others, and travel while earning college credit.⁶⁹
- *WORLD RACE: GAP YEAR* IS A 9-MONTH CHRISTIAN GAP YEAR PROGRAM created for recent high school graduates to serve others, dive into Christian community, and grow in your identity and faith.

Gap Year gives you an opportunity to work alongside experienced leaders who are sharing the hope of Jesus and meeting the tangible needs of their communities every day. Along the way, you'll discover more of God, yourself, and your calling.

Gap Year is not a year off. It's the launching pad for seeking first the Kingdom of God for the rest of your life.⁷⁰

- *EXPONENTIAL* IS A BIBLE-BASED GAP YEAR PROGRAM designed to help you discover your abilities and passions while building a Biblical foundation for your faith.

This nine-month, residential learning experience combines outdoor adventure activities and training with teaching of foundational elements of the Christian worldview.

⁶⁷ <https://ywam.org/>

⁶⁸ <https://www.impact360institute.org/fellows/>

⁶⁹ <https://onlifepath.org/>

⁷⁰ <https://www.worldrace.org/routes/gap-year/>

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Studies have shown that 66% of believers will stray from their faith during college. *EXPONENTIAL* will help you be one of those who don't! As you learn to defend your faith, you will also develop character and leadership skills. Upon completing *Exponential*, you are encouraged to apply for a three-month extension as staff at *ADVENTURE QUEST* summer camps where you will use what you've learned.

I'M NOT CATEGORICALLY DISPARAGING THE CONGLOMERATE. A big chunk of the blog I had to script at the start of my own trip sounds like it could have come straight from the catalogs.⁷¹

DESIRING TO DEVELOP AND DESIRING TO BE INVOLVED IN / EVEN FACILITATE how future generations of followers end up developing a strong character - complete with concrete convictions, determination, etc. - in itself isn't an evil, faulty goal; but it can give guides that haven't found freedom themselves from the effects of evil done to them an immense degree of influence over those entrusted to them.

Envelop flawed exhortations in expressions of faith and it's easy to fall even further into an extremely dangerous cycle of dependence on earthly, fallen guides that hurt those in their grasp VS. help hone hurting humans into the image of a Jesus who could lament and laugh, lead and be led, look at Himself in the mirror and make the men/women around him look clearly at the mess they were making VS. the life they were meant to live.

MENTORSHIP LESSONS CAN BE MARVELOUS - my memory of that mirror where the leaders for my months-long missions lesson looked to the Lord for what to let us know before meeting us means A LOT to me. Number one on the orientation plan wasn't to obtain needed must-do's about the manners needed for managing to live with whoever was on our list or even memorizing their names.

In my memory, the mirror was the intro. Before we learned who the leaders were, we learned who we were, who the Lord was to us. The leaders didn't come in as a set until we were done being called for consultation with the counselor who had spoken

⁷¹ <https://valerielong.myadventures.org/post/expectations/>

to our Beloved on our behalf and who had scripted something they believed would take on special significance to us. In that session, they confirmed the statement they had chosen, doubled up/elaborated with what else they felt guided to give us, and heard from us whether what they heard had any grounding.

“GOD HAS DECLARED THAT YOU ARE NEW.

THIS IS A SKIN GRAFT THAT YOU
CAN'T TAKE OFF AND ON LIKE A COAT.

THERE'S NO GOING BACK.”

THE STATEMENTS BROKE ME IN THE BEST WAY and I'm back to crying because I still struggle to believe it but the same sense of being seen comes back when recalling the scene as came when sitting there confirming that what they said seemed tied into my situation.

I had come begging my Abba to “ABANDON ME OR BURDEN ME WITH AUTHENTICITY” and again He announced, “*I'M ALREADY YOURS AND YOU ARE ALREADY MINE*”. My status wasn't based on the day, I couldn't decide that some days I'd clothe myself in Christ's covering and some days I'd skip - like setting out in the summer without sunscreen or December without a coat. The changes in me were coming whether or not I denied their existence or the injuries that instigated the grafts.

It wouldn't feel good, but I would be healed. In God's far-better eyes, I had been declared so already.

THE SENTIMENTS THEMSELVES SOUND LIKE THEY COULD BE STUCK IN A CHRISTIAN COOKIE with a small script inside; or copied into a college course catalog or a blog about how we all change but weren't sentimental for the sake of being sentimental. **AS WE'VE SEEN THROUGHOUT, THE (S)PIRIT BEHIND THE CLAIMS IS CRUCIAL.**

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Compare the statements and their consequences to those at the start of Spurgeon College's book for candidates to their degree-earning "FUSION" program, heralded as the gold go-to for how to go into the missions field for an entire denomination - Southern Baptists - at least according to an alumnus who appeared in "*THE BODIES BEHIND THE BUS*", an audio broadcast centered around spiritual abuse.

She quotes the book they stuck to as saying:

"IT IS OUR INTENTION THAT THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ATTEND FUSION THIS FALL will not be the same people we send back home in May. At Fusion, we are passionate about life transformation which allows this generation to passionately follow Christ for a lifetime. The key to the process of transformation is radical, personal, permanent change. This change is one of intrepidity, it is fleshed out with endurance and fortitude that comes only from the power of the Holy Spirit. Think of the chrysalis process that transforms a caterpillar into a butterfly. Once the process of transformation is complete, the butterfly can NEVER go back to being a caterpillar again. The same is true for believers. Once we honestly and earnestly meet Jesus face-to-face and allow the Holy Spirit to begin transforming our minds, we can NEVER go back to being who we were EVER AGAIN.

Whether you have been a Christian for one year or ten, God has designed the transformation process to be a life-long experience. The transformation you will experience at Fusion is a multi-faceted process that involves many aspects of your life, emotional, physical, spiritual, and social. You will be challenged, stretched, stressed, tried, and reproved. All of this is done to create a unique atmosphere where the Lord can transform you into a competent, confident, and mature follower of Jesus, a leader of intrepidity

transformation. You will come here as adolescents but leave here as adults so others can hear and live.”⁷²

IT SOUNDS THE SAME AS WHAT I’VE BEEN SAYING - a categorical change from caterpillar to butterfly instead of a coat that can be chosen solely sometimes. So what?

THE SAME SPEAKER THEN SHARES THE TRAUMA SHE UNDERWENT WHILE WITH THEM. She was transformed for sure, but she returned with PTSD responses, not a renewed spirit because ‘*SIMULATIONS*’ of terrorist situations terrorize.

She was threatened with assault and for some segment, the section of her brain screaming -- simulation, simulation, simulation -- shut down and her body kept the score.⁷³

TO DEFEND THE EXPERIENCE, directors explain that “*THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUSION PROGRAM PREPARE TO TAKE THE CALCULATED RISK OF TRUSTING JESUS TO DRAW PEOPLE TO HIMSELF AS HIS NAME IS LIFTED TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.*”^{74 75}

Following through with one’s faith even to the ends of the earth isn’t easy so intense dedication to emotional, physical, intellectual, etc. exercise is demanded - CORRECT?

The directors’ intention was to equip the future generation of God-hollers to go into far-flung environments with the determination and skill to be brave if called upon, but didn’t they see the cinematic classic about the lions that I loved as a kid (*AND LATER AS A MUCH LARGER KID*)?

⁷²

https://open.spotify.com/episode/5rymphq9j4O3NyzFCZlQpm?si=h_2_oAyjQDKKqGy4RWxr8A 30 minutes in

⁷³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQFLQNUVWrw>

⁷⁴

<https://www.imb.org/2021/09/14/fusion-program-spurs-young-christians-make-disciples/>

⁷⁵ https://issuu.com/midwesternseminary/docs/2101115_fus_fusion_viewbook

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BRAVERY DOESN'T CONSIST OF SEARCHING FOR CHANCES TO SHOW OURSELVES AS BRAVE but - if the cause comes up - behaving bravely because there is a chance that, if we don't, someone or something we care for will be damaged/destroyed.

When his cub was determined to show himself brave for the sake of the show but ran into serious ramifications for such a stupid stunt; Simba's dad came and saved him but not because he was searching for spaces where he could be brave, but because he was searching for his son and bravery seemed a small cost to cover in comparison.

The lesson from the Lion King himself is clear:

SIMBA

I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE BRAVE LIKE YOU.

MUFASA

I'M ONLY BRAVE WHEN I HAVE TO BE.

SIMBA...

(SOFTENING)

BEING BRAVE DOESN'T MEAN YOU GO LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

SIMBA

BUT YOU'RE NOT SCARED OF ANYTHING.

MUFASA

I WAS, TODAY

SIMBA

YOU WERE?

MUFASA

YES, I THOUGHT I MIGHT LOSE YOU.⁷⁶

LOOKING FOR MEANS TO MAKE IT KNOWN THAT ONE IS POOFED UP, prominent, to be pronounced the preference if a ruckus were to raise a room's (*BY SEVERAL DEGREES SOMEWHAT SUDDENLY*) temperature isn't the same as stepping into a row already raised to protect one who could not manage to leave by their lonesome.

Mufasa would not - by his lonesome - command that all the little just kinda irksome (*TO HIM*) hyenas (*BUT TO HIS HEIR A GENUINE, HARD-TO-IMPEDE IMPERILMENT BECAUSE HE WAS JUST A KID*) would listen to his kingly chords but **LOVE COMPLETELY CHANGES THE CONVERSATION.**

⁷⁶ <https://www.scriptslug.com/script/the-lion-king-1994>

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MUFASA COULD LOUDLY MAKE HIS MIGHT KNOWN, but loudly marching because men mandated marching to let you know they could make you march won't let anyone know the love of the Lord.

“ONCE WE WERE LIKE LITERALLY MARCHING throughout the streets in Kansas City, just in our marching formation, chanting our different Bible things”⁷⁷

IN MY MONTH-LONG MISSIONS INSTRUCTION IN MATAMOROS, MEXICO; I once marched in a line with my cohort, barefoot on staggering rocks, screaming / crying out simply because we sensed we should.

We were supposed to be spending a stretch in solitude - a cherished segment with our Savior separated from the conglomerate, close but scattered throughout the camp not speaking - but I believe it was still Day One of the three set aside when some of us came side-by-side despite the directions to stay separate, drawn not by anyone's say-so but the sensation that that is what the Spirit of our Savior desired us to do.

I wasn't desperate for company and some of me sensed a slight disappointment that the solitude was disturbed, but the sense that we should be standing shoulder-to-shoulder and steering together towards a certain direction was so strong in so many of us that what could we say? It was barely a decision, we were driven to do so and it seemed so silly until we had a corporate debrief.

Since we were all supposed to be scattered throughout our base for a days-long solitude, there were some that hadn't been in our collective, that hadn't screamed, that were curious about what that was all about (*AS WERE WE!*) but one boy announced our answer.

He was alone on what would be akin to the boarded square one can swim to

⁷⁷

at Laguna de Apollo⁷⁸ if the area had been covered with blue beauty instead of beige sand; in sight of the camp, but not close by.

He saw and sensed shadows surround him - search for dementors and it would be similar to what he described.

They came closer and closer, scaring the bejesus out of him until they were scared away by our screaming, by our determined stomping in their direction, which started almost as soon as they showed up.

THERE ARE DEMONS THAT SHOULD BE CHASED AWAY, but chanting for the sake of chanting in a desperate desire to chase away SOMETHING isn't the same as being directed to do so in a specific way at a specific time that can't be stuffed into a schedule by a Spirit that sometimes contradicts the calendar set by those who believe they are in charge.

We were not berated for breaking our solitude but instead those in charge chose to continue with the direction that we had been called to by their Boss because they sensed that we had sensed something significant and it was crucial to them that we comprehend it.

Without that debrief, I could still be calling myself stupid, ridiculous for shouting - I could be sharing the story in a completely different context - one similar to *THE BODIES BEHIND THE BUS*. The boy still would have seen the shadows and I still would have had some role in sending them away, but if we weren't warranted a way to wonder with others regarding the reason, the situation would have been a slippery slope towards dismissal of all sensations since directions don't commonly make sense and sometimes we won't receive a reason for what we're sent to do.

Not a single soul said I should set out to stomp on rocks without shoes having skipped dinner (*EATING WAS FINE, FOOD WAS GIVEN IF WE HOPED FOR IT, BUT I HADN'T GIVEN FOOD ANY INTEREST ALL DAY, SIMPLY MY BIBLE AND MY BELOVED BLANKS BOOKS THAT I STUFFED SO QUICKLY*), but still the time to stomp sneaked in as a surprise and because I had been seeking the Spirit all day, I was set up, ready to respond with those who also were ready for their Savior to show

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up and demand something seemingly silly due to a day spent seeking His direction.

COULD THE BOY HAVE BEEN ARTICULATING AN ALLEGORY that he was aware we'd want to witness? It's within the realm of reason, but I wouldn't release his story into the realm of sensationalism so recklessly.

Such a strong stuffiness surrounded that camp that day; the cats had been crazed. There was something unseen stirring so I'm not surprised there was a battle, that the unseen became seen; but what if we - or worse, the wrong sort of advisor - had been aware since breakfast that some demons would endeavor to eat up one of our friends, filling him with fear, that evening?

For exercise, would we discard our shoes and dance on cut shards in a brutal attempt to become stronger, braver, less absorbed in our own bodies' screaming? Would we scream until our chords couldn't scream any more, determined to strengthen them?

If we did, would those endeavors do anything but encourage the demons to chortle at our demands that they stop?

***"BUT THE EVIL SPIRIT ANSWERING, SAID TO THEM, 'JESUS I KNOW,
AND PAUL I AM ACQUAINTED WITH; BUT YOU, WHO ARE YOU?'"***

ACTS 19:15 (BLB)

WOULDN'T THE DEMONS STAND BY AND CHEER that we were doing their duty for them if - in an effort to exercise diligence so that we could stand strong when called upon - we were to unceremoniously dumpster dive into scary situations in case something similar comes up - such as crawling around in sewers simulating a dungeon / the eternal dungeon Dante describes (*ANOTHER EXAMPLE FROM FUSION*).

“SO THE ONE DAY WE WENT INTO A STORM SEWER DRAIN in the morning and pretended like we were in hell because that’s what the Bible says to do. Obviously. It’s just kinda random and then eventually you get breakfast or lunch, typically just rice and beans, every meal is kinda just bland...”⁷⁹

CRAWLING INTO A STORM SEWER DRAIN (*ILLEGALLY, NO DOUBT*)⁸⁰ to experience the darkness of eternity without the friendship of God isn’t a healthy habit to get into and it won’t find you any favor when evangelizing as that is far from good so how could it help an individual hear of a good God?

ON THE OTHER HAND, if you happen to get into a fight with an eagle that flings ya into the “EWWWWW”! destination to end up fulfilling your unexpected destiny to save someone from that space, that story is different in its entirety.

FAR-FETCHED? Without the eensiest doubt, but I scripted the dream and commentary about it to come before that broadcast surprised me with a nonchalant, “*SO, A STANDARD DAY STARTED WITH SOMETHING RANDOM LIKE SINKING TO TRESPASSING IN THE SEWER SYSTEM SIMPLY BECAUSE [SARCASTIC CHUCKLE] THE BIBLE SAYS SO, SO...*” The sewer scene in the broadcast simply can’t call itself similar to the one in a dream I had -- I don’t know, a decade ago?

I WAS ENJOYING A FINE AND GENERALLY HABITUAL HIKE AROUND THE HOME I GREW UP IN when an unheralded, ungovernable, unfriendly eagle fell into a dive straight for my body.

Alacritous I arrived in the appalling but seemingly safe sewer, barely

⁷⁹

https://open.spotify.com/episode/5rymphq9j4O3NyzFCZlQpm?si=h_2_oAYjODKKqGy4RWxr8A 39:55

⁸⁰ http://gardencity-ks.elaws.us/code/coor_ch62_sec62-7

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aware that I had bitten the bullet and charged for it.

My consolation was completely destroyed by the crunch of broken glass bloodying my bare feet. I believe the bats came next and then a couple of other challenges but at the end, a blind girl with the chicken pox cried as she couldn't determine any egress.

Far more frightening/ infectious diseases couldn't cause me to cease in that chapter. I called out, cradled her cold body and let her cry for some time before she was alright to believe me that it could be over soon.

Bolstered by the awareness that she was coerced by circumstances into counting on me to not bend, we batted at bats and stepped across broken glass while being bitten by rats all the way back.

I WASN'T SEARCHING FOR A SCARED CHILD IN THE DARKNESS, convinced she was unlovable because of an ailment as curable as the chicken pox; but having come across her, there was no way I was not bringing her back out also.

ACTUALLY IF SHE
WASN'T THERE, I'D
HAVE BECOME HER.

CIRCUMSTANCES CHASED ME INTO THAT CORNER, but I'm a scaredy-cat and braving the bats and broken shards and and and... wouldn't have appeared worth it. Worry would've worsened until I was unable to move but her appearance was a valid warrant to be brave - to act brave - even if I wasn't.

COULD IT BE that I borrowed some of my Savior's bravery while bringing her back out? **COULD SHE HAVE BORROWED MY UNADULTERATED ADRENALINE** from being scared into a situation to save me, determined to see to it that I would not dissolve into who she had been?

CHANGE STARTS WITH COMPASSION *which commences with comprehension which comes by allowing what affects another to affect us too.*

COULD THE BATS AND SHARDS HAVE CREATED A CONNECTION that chicken pox wasn't strong enough to break? Could her awareness of being alone in that awfulness have been a boost to convince her that although she has been stuck, she wouldn't allow that to happen to me?

Avoiding any additional bruises on the way back wasn't an option, but I could assure her that we weren't backtracking deeper into the sewer-cave than before and she could assure me that we had been there before and could do it again.

OF COURSE THAT WAS A DREAM.

An eagle didn't chase me into a sewer, but I can confidently declare that - because I deal with the confused back and forth self that I can't not deal with day in-day out - if an eagle did divebomb me (*ENTIRELY FIGURATIVELY*) and force me underground, ANY HOPE I'D HAVE OF GIVING GRACE WOULD BE GOD-GIVEN, any faith that I'd ever enjoy anything would be due to those who had survived dangerous spaces and could serve as counselors, solely coming down that cliff with me with claims that WHAT SEEMS UNDOABLE IS DOABLE **BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN DONE.**

WHILE BEING STONED TO DEATH, *Stephen cried out - with no assurance that his killers wouldn't do something stupid and be stoned in turn - that the Savior would not cause those who were killing him to have to stand before the court because of their crime, just as His Christ had loved His killers.*

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BECAUSE CHRIST HAD BEEN BEATEN, STEPHEN STOOD STRONG WHEN THEY CAME FOR HIM; but that doesn't signify that **WE'RE** supposed to set out to do the damage. The dozen or so disciples didn't set out to beat Stephen up/ berate him in the beginning so he'd be stronger in case he'd be beaten some day.

The disciples didn't shy away from danger, but they also didn't create a course designed to dismantle individuals as described in that episode, where it is explained that the first encounter they had after the folks fled was to be filed up with foreheads to the internal fence while they were excoriated, demeaned, cruelly berated, beaten down into submission so that they could be built back up as -- what exactly? Followers of a God of grace through faith?

THE FORMER FUSIONITE EXPLAINS:

“IN SOME WAYS, THEY ARE PREACHING SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH not of works so that one could boast, but then the twist is that they're the ones who are going to put you through the suffering in order to realize that, not God, they're going to do it. They are going to humble you to make you realize that you need to be saved.”⁸¹

WHAT'S THE GOAL?

IF GOD-FOLLOWERS WERE GIVEN HAND-OUTS WITH INSTRUCTIONS, wouldn't the handout have on it: *“HEY THERE. HEAR ME. IT'S GOING TO BE HARD, BUT GOD'S GOT YA. GIVE UP HAVING TO HAVE INSIGHT AS TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN AND HOW YOU'LL HANDLE IT BECAUSE THAT'S GOD'S*

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JOB." or is it hundreds of intricate instructions about how to handle whatever happens with hard homework.

"YOU TAKE HEED TO YOURSELVES. They will betray you to courts, and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of Me, for a testimony to them. And the gospel it behooves first to proclaim to all the nations. But when they might lead you away, delivering you up, do not be anxious beforehand what you should say; but whatever might be given to you in that hour, speak that. For you are not those speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

MARK 13:9-11 (BSB)

WE WILL BE GIVEN UP TO THE GOVERNORS AND GODS OF OUR FELLOW EARTHIANs, delivered to be chastised and beaten and asked to answer for the absurdity of our beliefs.

I'm an American - born and currently in the States - **COULD IT BE** that the dream eagle was an example of feeling fire from the government? I have no idea what I'll have to go through before I get to heaven, but again and again and again I'll insist that any hope I'd have of *giving grace under the hardest of intense heartache, would be because God would hold His ground through me, giving me His heart for His own because mine isn't heavenly and giving grace / forgiving those who are going to and have and are in the immediate instance hurting me is too hard for me.*

[...GRANTED...]

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YOU MAY BE MORE FORGIVING, GRACIOUS, AND HUMBLE THAN I; but *I* harden when interrogated. *Without intervention, I'd harden and then I'd just crumble - confused and lonely and miserable. I'd not notice or be particularly perplexed by whether the people passing off pain with pleasure were redeemable - in reality, if there was a possibility that they weren't, I'd be rooting for that route, relinquishing myself to ruin in the process.*

Oh, I'd plan to be precocious and perky and really sweet even when tortured - I'd say I'd relinquish the right to pass pain on in place of permitting myself to be persecuted without raging, but I've also spent some time with who I turn into with and without the Spirit working through me and I'll say with certainty that they are NOT the same.

ISN'T IT BRAGGADOCIOUS, THE CLAIM BOTH A CONVOLUTED AND CONTRADICTORY, OF SPURGEON COLLEGE to suggest that their course could convert bitty believers into big ones, adolescents into adults - that although the advancement of a broken character would occur over the course of a lifetime, the kids would leave completely different, categorically changed for the better? Sure, they say the Spirit is doing the changing; but how can that be confirmed, set on a calendar, scheduled?

I'd have certainly changed, but it wouldn't have been for the better.

I've seen who I've converted into without the Spirit in charge and I can say with almost complete certainty that they would have kicked me out as incapable of being built into a capital B Believer, strong and committed to doing what they said the Spirit desired me to do because I couldn't change quick enough during drills called dress rehearsals for resistance. I'd resist not out of principle but from a proud rage that'd scream within me, short-circuiting my brain. If I stopped crying, I'd stop caring and that'd be worse.

I can see the scene where they'd declare me incapable of being brave and compared to Seals, sure, I'm still a chicken, but should training to share Christ's character with a broken society be the same as training to become snipers?

I don't believe so - I believe the best setup for scaring away those demons was that day spent searching for the Savior in Scripture and through the Spirit speaking to

us directly. The directions came because we were set up but we couldn't set ourselves up.

SO DOES CHARACTER
DEVELOP BY CHANCE?

NOT A CHANCE.

WHEN THE TO-US-STILL-UNSEEN DEMONS CAME FOR ONE OF OUR BUNCH, WE COULDN'T DEMAND THE SPIRIT TO COME THROUGH (*FOR*) US, but we were in a space where the Spirit could and did come through.

It's scary to be so dependent on but distressed by the unseen; both aware and beyond clueless about what/who is for and against us. I was the kid who, with a big backpack on, strolled through the rooms of our space where we slept and so on trying to simulate the series of turns to reach my room at school because I was scared that I'd come down with a case - as school was beginning - of acute amnesia about where I should be and I couldn't deal with the chance I'd be absent at the beginning of class because I was searching every door.

I couldn't count on my brain to bring back the school's blueprint or my character to not crumble when stressed so I stress-tested myself the day before school started, carrying that backpack around again and again instead of accepting that the backpack would have to be carried, but it didn't have to be carried that day.

WHAT WOULD COME
WOULD COME DESPITE MY DRILLS.

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OF COURSE, WE'RE ALSO CALLED TO SHOW OURSELVES APPROVED, but **COULD IT BE** that we constantly carry our backpacks around before school starts, that we develop severe courses to strengthen our own characters as defenses to ensure that we won't fall flat when faced with gruesome hardship - however it hurts ourselves and each other - hoping that if we get hurt, the gravity of the feeling would be familiar enough to be dismissed calmly; BECAUSE WE'RE SCARED SENSELESS of being called upon to defend our stance and we don't believe the Spirit of Christ will show up to share with us what we're supposed to say in our day in court so we have to beat it into our brains beforehand?

Are we scared of coming before our accusers?

WHY?

DO WE BELIEVE OUR ACCUSERS WILL SET OUR SINS UPON US, in a direct contradiction of what Stephen cried out as he died?

“Κύριε (LORD), μὴ (NOT) **στήσης** (PLACE) αὐτοῖς (TO THEM) ταύτην (THIS) τὴν (-) ἁμαρτίαν (SIN).”

ACTS 7:60B (BIB)

THE TERM στήσις, “*STĒSĒS*”⁸² SHOWS UP AS IS ONCE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT - in this spot - but its root, ἵστημι, “*HISTĒMI*” (*STRONG’S 2476*)⁸³ is regular enough to see the sort of sentences it typically stands in (*ALL BEREAN LITERAL BIBLE*).

- “AND HAVING HEARD THE KING, they **[THE MAGI]** departed. And behold, the star they had seen in the east went before them until, having arrived, it **STOOD** over the place where the Child **[JESUS]** was.”

MATTHEW 2:9

- “THEN THE DEVIL TAKES HIM **[JESUS]** to the holy city and **SETS** Him upon the pinnacle of the temple,”

MATTHEW 4:5

- AND WHEN YOU PRAY, you shall not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray **STANDING** in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets so that they might be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their recompense.

MATTHEW 6:5

- “THEN WAS BROUGHT TO HIM ONE POSSESSED BY A DEMON, blind and mute, and He healed him, in order for the mute man to speak and to see. And all the crowds were amazed, and were saying, “**COULD THIS BE THE SON OF DAVID?**”

And the Pharisees having heard, said, “**THIS MAN CASTS OUT THE DEMONS ONLY BY BEELZEBUL, THE PRINCE OF THE DEMONS.**”

And having known their thoughts, He said to them, “**EVERY**

⁸² https://biblehub.com/greek/ste_se_s_2476.htm

⁸³ <https://biblehub.com/greek/2476.htm>

KINGDOM HAVING BEEN DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF IS BROUGHT TO DESOLATION, AND EVERY CITY OR HOUSE HAVING BEEN DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF **WILL** NOT **STAND**. AND IF SATAN CASTS OUT SATAN, HE IS DIVIDED AGAINST HIMSELF. HOW THEN **WILL** HIS KINGDOM **STAND**?

MATTHEW 12:22-26

- “AND IF YOUR BROTHER SINS AGAINST YOU, go reprove him, between you and him alone. If he will hear you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that **‘EVERY WORD **MAY BE STRENGTHENED** UPON THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.’**”

MATTHEW 12:22-26

- NOW THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES BRING TO HIM a woman having been caught in adultery, and **HAVING SET** (στήσαντες) her in the midst, they say to Him, **“TEACHER, THIS WOMAN WAS CAUGHT IN THE VERY ACT, COMMITTING ADULTERY. NOW IN THE LAW MOSES COMMANDED US SUCH TO BE STONED. YOU THEREFORE, WHAT DO YOU SAY?”**

JOHN 8:3-5

A TOTAL OF 153 SPOTS SAYING “TO STAND”, “TO ESTABLISH”, “TO SET”.⁸⁴

COULD STEPHEN HAVE BEEN SAYING, “DON’T KEEP THEM TO THIS”, “DON’T CALL THIS CIRCUMSTANCE A DEFINITIVE CEMENTING OF THEIR CHARACTER”, “DON’T DEFINE THEM BY TODAY”? similar to Jesus’ rebuke:

⁸⁴ https://biblehub.com/greek/strongs_2476.htm

“DON’T STONE HER FOR A SHARED SIN
FOR WHO AMONG YOU IS BLAMELESS?”

IT COULD BE COINCIDENCE that the side of the couple dragged to an illegal/informal but dangerous court was set before them using the same root word as Stephen used (*STRONG’S* #2476) so not sufficiently satisfied as to the significance, I tried a source that seeks out a certain set of syllables in texts separate from the Bible.

A search for the same term as in Stephen’s request shows two spots, including Stephen’s.⁸⁵

Searching database for

Bibliography criteria: **None**

Word criteria: **None**

Hits 1 - 2 of 2

View occurrences with context

View occurrences line by line (KWIC)

1	Soph. OC . 910	More
τῆς χάρας, πρὶν ἂν 910 κείνας ἐναργεῖς δεῦρό μοι στήσης ἄγων ἐπεὶ δέδρακας οὐτ’ ἐμοῦ καταξίως οὐθ’ ὄν		
2	NT Acts . 7	More
· θεὸς δὲ τὰ γόνατα ἔκραξεν φωνῇ μεγάλῃ Κύριε, μὴ στήσης αὐτοῖς ταύτην τὴν ἁμαρτίαν· καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐκοιμήθη.		

THE SECOND SOUNDS MUCH MORE RETRIBUTIVE THAN STEPHEN’S PLEA:

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IN OEDIPUS AT COLONUS BY SOPHOCLES, the offspring of an old Oedipus (*MUCH OLDER THAN IN THE PLAY THAT I READ IN SCHOOL, OEDIPUS REX, WHERE A PROPHECY PREDICTS HE'LL ONE DAY MARRY HIS MOM SO HE NATURALLY IS NOT OK WITH THAT PLAN, RUNS, AND RUNS RIGHT INTO THAT SNARLY SITUATION*) have been seized as bait to bring back the old blind king who is both brother and sickeningly dad to his daughters.

IT'S QUITE THE STORY* ⁸⁶.

**AT THE START OF REX*, A Sphinx commences a search for a subsequent king when the kid-less king is killed. after Oedipus comes to solve the riddle successfully, he's crowned king, not comprehending that the killed king was his correct dad who had also come to be advised of what would become of his son - that he would kill his son and steal the bed of his spawner - and sought to kill the kid before the child became an adult. The boy is brought to a shepherd who saves him and he's brought up by a couple he believes to be birth kin so when the seer says some scary stuff he runs, While he's running, in rage he ruins a random passerby/ his parent and the rest is the proverbial record.

When he recognizes the reality of his situation, He ruins his sight and banishes himself from the kingdom that caused him to sense such shame. His brother-in-law/Uncle Creon becomes in charge of the kingdom he was born into.

IN *OEDIPUS AT COLONUS*, Oedipus and his uncle/brother-in-law/keeper-of-the-kingdom-that-is-kept-away-from-by-the-DadKing-killer/kidnapper-of-the daughters+half-sisters-of-the-DadKing-killer are arguing when the

King of the county that Oedipus is staying in steps in and the segment with our specific set of syllables begins:

“
THESEUS ENTERS.

THESEUS

WHAT IS THIS SHOUT? What is the trouble? What fear has moved you to stop my sacrifice at the altar to the sea-god, the lord of this district of yours, Colonus? Speak, so that I may know the situation; for that is why I have sped here more swiftly than was pleasant.

OEDIPUS

MOST PHILOS OF MEN! I know your voice. Terrible are the things I have just suffered **[PASKHEIN]** at the hands of this man here.

THESEUS

WHAT THINGS ARE THESE? And who has pained you? Speak!

OEDIPUS

CREON, WHOM YOU SEE HERE, has torn from me my children—my only two.

THESEUS

WHAT’S THAT YOU SAY?

OEDIPUS

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YOU HAVE HEARD WHAT WRONGS I HAVE SUFFERED **[PASKHEIN]**.

THESEUS

HURRY, ONE OF YOU ATTENDANTS, TO THE ALTARS THERE, and order the people to leave the sacrifice and race on foot and by horse full speed, to the region where the two highways meet, so that the maidens may not pass, and I not become a mockery to this XENOS as one worsted by force. Quick, I say, away with you!

As for this man, if my anger went as far as he deserves, I would not let him go uninjured from my hand. But now, just such law **[NOMOS]** AS HE HIMSELF HAS BROUGHT WILL BE THE RULE FOR HIS CORRECTION.

YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE THIS LAND UNTIL YOU **BRING**

”

THOSE MAIDENS AND PRODUCE THEM IN MY SIGHT.

ESSENTIALLY, “YOU WON’T SEE ANY RETREAT FROM MY WRATH UNTIL YOU **STAND** BEFORE MY COURT HAVING COMPLETELY CHANGED DIRECTION, CORRECTED YOUR DRASTIC ERROR, ERADICATED THE FOOLISH EVIDENCE OF YOUR EGO BY UNDOING WHAT YOU DID. SOLELY THEN CAN YOU DESERVE OR EXPECT FREEDOM. ESCAPE IS FUTILE, I WILL FIND YOU AND EXTRACT WHATEVER/WHOEVER I HAVE DETERMINED IS UNDER MY CARE”.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE STANDING BEFORE A COURT and accounting for ones’ actions with not only an articulate excuse, but to cover / undo what was done. I’ll continue with the King’s speech because I see Creon’s stuttering response and reasoning for why he should be recognized as righting a previous wrong rather than receive scathing remarks himself as surprisingly telling.

“
[THESEUS (CONT.)]

FOR YOUR ACTION IS A DISGRACE TO ME, and to your own ancestors, and to your country. You have come to a polis that practices **DIKĒ** and sanctions nothing without law, yet you have spurned her lawful authorities and made this violent assault. You are taking captives at will and subjugating them by force, as if you believed that my polis was void of men, or manned by slaves, **AND THAT I COUNTED FOR NOTHING.** Yet it was not Thebes that trained you to be **KAKOS**. Thebes is not accustomed to rearing men without **DIKĒ**, nor would she praise **[EP-AINEÎN]** you, if she learned that you are despoiling me, and despoiling the gods, when by force you drive off their unfortunate suppliants. If my foot were upon your land, **NEVER WOULD I DRAG OFF OR LEAD AWAY SOMEONE WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE RULER OF THE LAND, WHOEVER HE MIGHT BE—NO, EVEN IF MY CLAIM HAD THE MOST DIKĒ OF ALL.** I would know how a **XENOS** ought to live among citizens. But you are disgracing a **POLIS** that does not deserve it: your own, and your years, despite their fullness, bring you an old age barren of noos. Now, I have said before, and I say it once again: let the maidens be brought here speedily, unless you wish to be an unwilling transferred occupant, by force, of an abode **[OIKOS]** in this country. These are the words of my lips; my **NOOS** is in accord .”

THE KING ESSENTIALLY SAID, ***“HOW DARE YOU COME INTO MY KINGDOM TO CHASTISE SOMEONE I HAVE SWORN TO TAKE UNDER MY WING! WHY WOULD YOU WAGER IT WAS RIGHT TO REPRIMAND THOSE UNDER MY PROTECTION WITHOUT RECEIVING RAGE IN RETURN?!”*** Sounds sorta like the King of Kings saying in Deuteronomy:

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“VENGEANCE IS MINE; I WILL REPAY.” ?

DEUTERONOMY 35:32A (*BSB*)

SO THE KING OF KINGS WILL DRAG US INTO A COURT despite the most
selfless of the saints begging him not to set the sins of their killers upon them?

CREON WOULD SAY IT SHOULD BE SO:

“
CHORUS

DO YOU SEE YOUR PLIGHT, XENOS? You are judged DIKAIOS by
where you are from, but your deeds are found to be evil **[KAKA]**.

CREON

IT IS NOT BECAUSE I THOUGHT THIS POLIS VOID OF MEN, son of
Aegeus, or of counsel, as you say, that I have done this deed; but because I
judged that its people could never be so zealous for my relatives as to support
them against my will. And **I KNEW THAT THIS PEOPLE WOULD NOT
RECEIVE A PARRICIDE AND A POLLUTED MAN**, a man whose unholy
marriage—a marriage with children—had been found out. Such wisdom, I knew,
was immemorial on the Areopagus, which does not allow such wanderers to
dwell within this polis. Trusting in that, I sought to take this prize. And I would
not have done so, had he not been calling down bitter curses on me and on my
lineage. **AS I SUFFERED /PASKHEIN/ WRONG IN THIS WAY, I JUDGED
THAT I HAD A RIGHT TO THIS REQUITAL**. For THŪMOS knows no old
age, until death comes; the dead alone feel no galling pain. In response to this,

you will do what pleases you; for, **THOUGH MY CASE IS DIKAIOS**, the lack of aid makes me weak. Yet in the face of your actions, despite my age, I
”
will endeavor to pay you back.

HE BELIEVES THAT THE KING SHOULD BANISH OEDIPUS back to where he was born but was cast away while yet a babe so arguably by cutting to the chase, Creon is doing what is correct, customary, and called for in this circumstance.

“MY CASE
IS DIKAIOS.”

THE CONVERTER COULD HAVE CHOSEN A DESCRIPTION FOR δίκαιος (DIKAIOS) BUT DIDN'T. Could it be that he wasn't about to ask us to accept a word of our own when what was being explained was bigger than we have words for?

The word was worn as a badge, a signature for kings and saints. It comes from δίκη which signifies what's customary, the directions a society is subjected to, or how a case is decided in a court - and -ιος which signifies belonging to, becoming completely subservient to δίκη - what is regarded as right.

Essentially to be δίκαιος (DIKAIOS)⁸⁷ ⁸⁸ is to be called blameless in not only the action that one is asked to account for but in one's being; to be saintly, **RIGHTEOUS**.

⁸⁷

<https://logeion.uchicago.edu/%CE%B4%CE%AF%CE%BA%CE%B1%CE%B9%CE%BF%CF%82>

⁸⁸ <https://www.logosapostolic.org/greek-word-studies/1342-dikaios-righteous.htm>

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IT SHOWS UP AS 80 TIMES THROUGHOUT THE SECOND SECTION OF
SCRIPTURE AS “*RIGHTEOUS*”, “*RIGHT*”, SOMETIMES “*JUST*”.

SIMILARLY, δικαιοσύνην (*DIKAIOSUNÉ/DIKAIOSYNĒN*) SHOWS UP 92
TIMES SIGNIFYING “*RIGHTEOUSNESS*”.

BUT IF OUR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS SHOWS GOD’S **righteousness**
(δικαιοσύνην [*DIKAIOSYNĒN*]), what shall we say? God, inflicting the
wrath, is unrighteous? I speak according to man. Never may it be! Otherwise,
how will God judge the world? But if in my lie, the truth of God abounded to
His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? And is it not, as we are
slanderosly charged, and as some affirm us to say, “*LET US DO EVIL
THINGS THAT GOOD THINGS MAY COME?*” Their condemnation is just.

What then? Are we better? Not at all. For we have already charged
both Jews and Greeks all to be under sin. As it has been written:

“*THERE IS NONE **RIGHTEOUS** (*δίκαιος* (*DIKAIOS*)),
NOT EVEN ONE;
THERE IS NONE UNDERSTANDING;
THERE IS NONE SEEKING AFTER GOD.*”

ROMANS 3:7-10 (BLB)

SO COULD CREON’S CASE BE DIKAIOS? In his eyes, he was doing what was
customary, correct - banishing bad apples was an appropriate action, the only alright
one according to the standards of the society he was brought up in.

He was standing Stephen before the court to be stoned, dragging one side of a
split couple to see if the Teacher would start with a small stone or a big one.

HE WAS SPURGEON COLLEGE chastising students for seeing through their ruse.

“THEY HAD GIVEN US NOT A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF TIME to memorize all of our Bible verses or quotes or whatever it was for the day and we had all started to tell each other - it was towards the end of Grounds School so we started to tell each other, you know what - they’re going to punish us whether we do it or we don’t, we kinda got this figured out by now. They’re not going to give us a break, even if we do it, we haven’t done it well enough, we just don’t succeed and they overheard us talking like that and they made a BIG deal about it.

“They started saying things like, *‘IS THAT HOW THE GOSPEL WORKS?’ ‘DO YOU THINK, ‘OH - WELL, GOD SAVED ME AND SO IT DOESN’T REALLY MATTER IF I DO GOOD OR DON’T DO GOOD NOW BECAUSE YOU KNOW IT IS WHAT IT IS’.*

“There’s things that imply - and they would never say this - you know, they would never say anything that would scream heresy, but the things that they say make it seem like there’s a second level of spirituality, that you don’t just follow Jesus and rest in His grace and know that He’s forgiven you of it all. You can’t take that for granted.

“Well yeah, I mean I believe the Bible talks about that to an extent, but they take it to a level that matches it with whatever they want that standard to be and if you don’t meet that standard, you’re probably not a Christian at all, you know, you’re probably just taking advantage of God’s grace and you don’t even know Him.

“The people who quit [...] the way that we prayed for them should have screamed of how evil our hearts were because we would pray things like *‘GOD - EVEN THOUGH THEY’VE LEFT YOUR CALLING, EVEN THOUGH THEY’VE NOT MET - I DON’T KNOW - WHATEVER VALUE OF THE GREAT COMMISSION, PLEASE PROTECT THEM, PLEASE HAVE GRACE’* but then it was weird because I was sitting there listening to that, to our final exit and sending out of these people that we’re done with and I’m like, *‘DO WE REALLY BELIEVE THAT IF YOU MISS THIS STANDARD*

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THAT GOD SHOULD STILL HAVE GRACE FOR YOU' because we didn't act like that. [...] It was wild."⁸⁹

CHECK OUT *A BILLION YEARS: MY ESCAPE FROM A LIFE IN THE HIGHEST RANKS OF SCIENTOLOGY* by Mike Rinder and see if you can spot the similarities.

SCIENTOLOGISTS SIGN A BILLION YEAR CONTRACT BUT CAN STILL BE DISOWNED -- disowning is a big deal in cults -- in certain circles it is DIKAIOS to disown someone, both customary and correct but **CAN WE BE CUT OUT OF CHRIST'S CIRCLE - DISOWNED/DISINHERITED FOR EVER AND EVER?**

CAN WE CONVINCE OURSELVES WE DESERVE TO BE SHUT OUT; that we are stubbornly keeping the key; that the door is shut from the inside?

CAN WE CONVINCE OURSELVES OF THE CONTRADICTING SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES - that we have chosen to cease clinging to the key and therefore we did what had to be done to ditch the despair that comes with a sense of being abandoned by the ultimate, best (*SUPPOSEDLY*) caregiver, even if it causes some discontent with the concept that some won't stop clinging.

Our Beloved has come for us; we are safe - correct?

The discontent becomes smaller as our security becomes aggrandized and we're back to being able to brag about cheating the system even if it can't be called cheating by the convoluted constantly changing directions because the cheat code is in a blameless book scripted to a different culture centuries ago.

But that book calls us to be as children and children stomp around and scream and "ASSAULT" their bewildered caregivers because they desire to keep their cap.

⁸⁹ 44:53

WE SHOULD BE TAUGHT - in safe spaces - how to not take out our sadness and cynicism and sorrow and shock at being stuck in rough situations on our siblings, but what toddler hasn't thrown a tantrum at one time or another?

Schools should be safe spaces to be taught tough lessons that would set students up for success, but students are being arrested for not being teachers yet.

Is three years enough time to say that the tantrums should've stopped so it's no trouble to arrest the single-digit rager throwing stuff and assaulting the staff?

Seriously? How stunted is one's pride if placing restraints on a less-than-six year old is essential for proving who has the power?

SO DO WE CHOOSE TO DECLARE OURSELVES CHILDREN / can we declare that we don't desire to be and therefore we aren't bound by that claim?

IF WE CAN'T DISMISS OUR DAD, what does he choose to do with His strength? Does he rule from a place of power?

"BUT DAD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN DEPTH OF CARE FOR US, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

ROMANS 5:8

PUT THAT PROMISE IN RELATION TO CHARLES SPURGEON'S DESCRIPTION of what that Dad will do to us when we die and convince me they're the same.

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“WHEN THOU DIEST thy soul will be tormented alone—that will be a hell for it—but at the day of judgment thy body will join thy soul, and then thou wilt have twin hells, body and soul shall be together, each brimfull of pain, thy soul sweating in its inmost pore drops of blood, and thy body from head to foot suffused with agony; conscience, judgment, memory, all tortured, but more—thy head tormented with racking pains, thine eyes starting from their sockets with sights of blood and woe; thine ears tormented with

**‘SULLEN MOANS AND HOLLOW GROANS.
AND SHRIEKS OF TORTURED GHOSTS.’**

“THINE HEART BEATING high with fever; thy pulse rattling at an enormous rate in agony; thy limbs crackling like the martyrs in the fire, and yet unburnt; thyself, put in a vessel of hot oil, pained, yet coming out undestroyed; all thy veins becoming a road for the hot feet of pain to travel on; every nerve a string on which the devil shall ever play his diabolical tune of Hell's Unutterable Lament; thy soul for ever and ever aching, and thy body palpitating in unison with thy soul.”⁹⁰

SPURGEON AND I BOTH CLAIM TO BE CHRISTIANS, Bible-based believers who say about opposing arguments:

“FICTIONS, SIR!”

AND ABOUT OUR OWN:

“AGAIN, I SAY, THEY ARE NO FICTIONS, and as God liveth, but solid, stern truth. If God be true, and this Bible be true, what I have said is the truth, and you will find it one day to be so.”

SO WHICH IS IT?

All belief systems are not the same; contradictory claims to a space can't both be correct. In this scenario, which is the semi and which is the cyclist?

WHAT IS THE STAND-OFF and what determines who comes back from it alive and well? What would warrant announcing oneself as winner? What if a wealthy ruler wants ones' vote and removes reasons to victimize those he wants to win over? Who would the winner be - the no-longer-victims or the winner of their votes?

DOES THE WINNER WIN DUE TO THE VERTICALITY OF THEIR WORDS and the weight of their witness to what they are advocating or because their calculations benefit not those blessed Beatitudes-style (*DESPERATE IN SPIRIT AND SO ON*) but those in charge, determined to end the unfair game higher than individuals heralded as great by heaven however it hurts.

WHAT HURTS
US AND HOW?

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IT HURT ME to hear the 300s held up as when individuals that held to the identity of Jesus' became great, going from a few forgotten / gotta-hide individuals to highly favored when favored by the guys up high here isn't the goal for genuine followers, ONLY FOR THOSE FEEDING OFF THEM.

“FOR CONSTANTINE, acquiring the support of a Christian constituency was more consequential than accepting Christian beliefs.”⁹¹

ILARIA RAMELLI

IT WAS DECLARED AS A CERTAINTY ON THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL I CHECKED OUT in my car that Constantine caused Christianity to become something to be reckoned with and there's some truth in that; but he was saying it as a triumph, not as a tragedy, as a twisting of whose support was most sought after.

He was saying they were rag-tag before and sanctioned after, sought out to be destroyed before and sought out for ruling positions after and that that was said to signify success.

I am not a scholar, but I recognize persecution was overt under Nero so not being under a Neroic maniac would be my obvious preference also.

MY ONLY QUESTION IS
WHAT WAS THE PRICE?

⁹¹ <https://czasopisma.kul.pl/index.php/vp/article/download/3609/3556/12424>

IS IT POSSIBLE that the people pushing for what originally overwhelmed them with a new outlook on others - who perceived their peers as others pursued by the Papa who picked them up out of the noise and mire and let them in on miraculous miracles like kindness while being crucified - were kinda crushed by Constantine's brand of Christians who stole their signature and story and turned it into something unrecognizable?

Ramelli wrote a 900 page research paper about apokatastasis - universal reconciliation - in the beginning (*AKA BEFORE-CONSTANTINE'S DUAL-SIDED ENDORSEMENT*) ekklesia.

THE EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE TO FIND, but to what end? Do we ignore it because we enjoy and find refuge in the favoritism? Would we end up as the early church did if we didn't?

WHO/WHAT ARE WE SCARED OF?

**DO WE CLAIM THAT THE CREATOR WILL SQUASH US LIKE SPIDERS
BECAUSE - IF WE DON'T - EVERYONE ELSE WILL?**

Does Jonathan Edwards' famous/ infamous ghastly homily that was given as homework in highschool⁹² illicit haughty holier-than-thou anger, fear, or anything else?

IS IT A FRAMEWORK FOR GENUINE FAITH IN A GOOD FATHER?

Like Eve facing the fact that her offspring were furthering themselves by expressly dismissing the cries of their siblings in chains; can we cry with a Dad whose kids are constantly bickering, awake, unable to be comforted because they do not have the skill/strength to bring the bottle to their own bodies but can't be comforted enough to allow another to bring it for them?

Are we as babes, spitting all over our Supreme Being's shirt?

⁹² Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God (a sermon)

<https://www.jonathan-edwards.org/Sinners.pdf>

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Announcing our blatant, calculated disregard for an infinite Deity as a child's spit may not seem to be the best backup for saying our crimes are still deadly serious; but although the crime and damages are severe, OUR DEFENSE IS THAT WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WE WERE DOING.

WAS CHRIST'S CALL ON THE CROSS FOR HIS KILLERS TO HAVE ALL BLAME STRIPPED FROM THEM BECAUSE THEY HAD NO CLUE WHAT THEY WERE DOING A COMPLETELY BRAZEN, AUDACIOUS ARBITRARY ASPIRATION THAT HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BLOWN HIS CONCLUDING BATED BREATHS ON BECAUSE IT COULDN'T BE?

HE DID NOT SAY: "SHOW THEM WHAT THEY DID SO THAT THEY CAN SEEK TO HAVE THEIR BLAME STRIPPED FROM THEM SO THAT YOU CAN DO SO".

Shouldn't we conclude that because He could only do what He saw His Dad do, the Dad desired to do as His Son said?

(CONFUSING, I DON'T DISAGREE, BUT COULD IT BE LIKE A BOOK'S AUTHOR BEING SCRIPTED INTO THE STORY AS A CHARACTER - SAME CHARACTERISTICS AND SO ON - SO THAT THE CHARACTERS CAN COMPREHEND THE CHARACTER OF THE BOOK'S AUTHOR?)

If the blame of Christ's crucifiers was stripped without them doing anything to deserve it, can't the same be done for us?

When the rich ruler sadly returned to His stuff after refusing the stipulation to sell it, Christ said it was simpler for a camel to cross through the super small space that thread is sent through when sewing and the disciples considered that a bad sign for the conglomerate. They didn't have a chance - until they did.

They didn't have a chance to - by their own doing - earn forgiveness but **WITH GOD THE WHOLLY IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES - WHAT? - INCONTESTABLE OR JUST CREDIBLE?**

CAN A CAMEL COME THROUGH THE SMALL SECTION THAT A THREAD COMES THROUGH WHEN SEWING?

It has been claimed that this signifies a camel coming into a city by shedding

it's stuff and bending the knee, but this doesn't come off as correct.⁹³

IS THERE A BARRIER THAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH BYPASSING BY BOWING, ALBEIT ANGRILY, OR IS IT ACTUALLY A BARRIER THAT ISN'T ABLE TO BE CROSSED WITHOUT DIVINE INTERVENTION?

HOW DO WE CROSS AND HOW DOES THAT CHANGE WHY WE BOW?

DO WE BOW SO THAT WE CAN BYPASS A BARRICADE OR DO WE BOW BECAUSE A BARRICADE HAS BEEN BYPASSED AND WE ARE IN AWE?

ARE WE ABLE TO AVOID BOWING, CHANGING, DYING TO OUR STRONG-WILLED SENSE OF SELF OR ARE WE DESTINED TO DIE, CHANGE, BOW, AND BE IN AWE?

IS BECOMING "BORN AGAIN" A SUBSTANTIAL COULD-BE-DIRECTION-CHANGING BLANK CHECK that the supposed-to-be-receiver is supposed to cash before dying? Is it canceled on the spot or can their beneficiary scribble out the designation and cash it on their behalf?

In my country, a check designated to the deceased isn't canceled which is beneficial because neither are the deceased's debts. *(OF COURSE THIS ISN'T LEGAL COUNSEL SO CERTAINLY CONSULT A SOLICITOR [AS DISTANT COUSINS ACROSS THE BLUE WOULD SAY] FOR YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES TO DO DUE DILIGENCE [DO SO BEFORE IT COMES UP IF YOU CAN!])* but I bring it up because I'm all about the analogies. Because the check isn't automatically voided, the executor would use whatever is available to basically settle the deceased's debts. The estate wouldn't have full freedom to fund a family excursion or expand into a different environment that fits a growing household. The inhabitants are judged and kept

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carefully accountable; they don't have the license to live and let live with whatever is left to them because the creditors can claim their due.

The deceased or their descendents definitely don't enjoy the fullness of what was offered at first, but is the gift forfeited?

EVENTUALLY, DO ALL OFFERS EXPIRE?

DOES IT DEPEND ON THE CHECK ITSELF and who it is designated towards?

Could a business check "IN CARE OF" a deceased employee be different than a standard check designated solely to the deceased? If an envelope was addressed to the company in care of the deceased, would an employer have the freedom to find what's inside? It's difficult to imagine they'd have difficulty, but what can I say?

A bunch of stuff that could have been designed to be simple is super-complicated, but doesn't another employee, depending on their designation of course, have the duty to complete the "C/O"?

(MY CONSCIENCE DEMANDS I STRESS the disclaimer to do your own due diligence. Don't do something without consulting someone who can describe/explain/forecast your **"GOTTA-DOS"** in fairly evident English that doesn't cling to a stubborn construct - a decidedly expert financial/**"GOTTA-DO'S"** guru who happens to be a good human being who'll help when hurting horribly.)

HOW WOULD AN INSTITUTION HANDLE having an integral heart go out?

It hurts gravely in a gallimaufry of facets - I've felt them - but generally a fairly

established institution will endure devastating deaths.

A conglomerate comes together to cry and then to continue. Duties expand and focus may evolve but the foundations are generally honed instead of just kept; looked at VS. maintained. New operating procedures may result from a shift in who's taking the role; what was possible for one personality may not be possible for whoever is responsible for subsequent steps.

BUT THE CHECK
CAN BE CASHED - CORRECT?

THE COMPANY SHOULD HAVE A SEPARATE BANK ACCOUNT so whoever was written "ATTENTION TO" in the address wouldn't be on the check itself - the directions could be carried out by any authorized bookkeeper because the check belonged to the company, not to the deceased, despite the "IN CARE OF".

In the biblical allegory about the boss coming to his servants to see how they did with what was entrusted to them, the financial genius who has the guts and foresight to invest is, in the end, financially guerdoned with funds unexpected, and extra to finance --- what exactly?

What freedom does he have to frolic with the extra funds? If he entirely does a one eighty and decides that he can't stand the burden and buries what is allotted, would he then be declared as incompetent and downright evil? Would his favor give out as he fell into the emptiness of despair and darkness with his coworker - stuck in a cell for the duration of his existence (*AN ETERNITY TO HIM*)?

His employment would have ended and if he isn't free to find another then employment definitely isn't the correct set of syllables to call this scenario. Couldn't that kind of situation be better called a dire exploitation of a fellow God-honored image-bearer - and if, heaven-forbid, God Himself is the one holding the gun - WHAT HOPE DO WE HAVE?

ISN'T IT THAT THERE IS AN INHERITANCE TO BE ISSUED THAT ISSUES ANY HOPE; BUT IF SO, TO WHOM?

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***IS HOPE A GIFT TO
HUMANS OR TO HUMANITY?***

COULD IT BE THAT GOD BECAME HUMAN because all the humans who could've grabbed hold of the goal - holiness - were wholly incompetent to do so, so Holiness Himself grabbed it on our behalf and gained what we couldn't gain?

I
HOPE SO.

HOW ELSE WOULD I HAVE ANY HOPE OF GIVING GRACE WHEN FACED
WITH EVIL?

BREAKTHROUGH AWAITS WHEN WE

DISCOVER EVERYONE'S FATED GIFT WITH HUMBLE GRATITUDE

*By Holding Iniquity to be an Illness to be Cured Instead of a
Cause to Interminably Imprison*

SO IS THE HOPE WHOLLY GUESSWORK? Is this a feel-good gospel after all?

NOT
AT ALL!

DOES IT FEEL GOOD TO HAVE OUR EGO DESTROYED? To have our decades of experience discarded as inferior to the instincts of an infant?

Don't we stand with the disciples, shooing the children away while the babe's ability to be compassionate shames ours? Yet children's sweetness can have a dark side. A child can do what they've been advised not to do without concern, declare everything food, even what would destroy them.

How can we become like children again without becoming as boldly, confidently, dangerously, egregiously, flat-out give a hand to how impressively horribly their ideas can be justified, catastrophic as kids?

**DOES EXONERATION EFFECT EVERYTHING OR IS IT A FEELING OF
EXHILARATION THAT FADES** and effects the diametrically contradictory behavioral alternative of zilch - all is as before?

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Can we discount that someone is being changed at the core simply because we're all still sick and symptoms are sometimes starker than at other times?

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO SOMEONE STUCK IN A CORNER, SICK WITH DREAD AT THE COMING DUNGEON IF THEY DON'T DIG THEMSELVES OUT?

COULD IT BE that some of us become so scared of could-be consequences that our behavior becomes automatic, autonomous, the opposite of what we believe we'd be sensible enough to do if stuck in certain situations?

Someone who is dying from the cold can become so confused, disoriented, and overcome with the sensation of burning that they start unburdening themselves of clothes while burrowing into the snow.^{94 95}

If we stumble upon them while they are still barely breathing, do we consider the surroundings as we would a crime scene; do we as a society spend time searching for someone to blame or could that be the same as sentencing them to death?

DO WE
CARE?

DO WE SEARCH FOR WHOEVER'S TO BLAME WITH CONVICTION despite or because the quest won't result in the restoration of previous patterns?

⁹⁴

<https://www.livescience.com/41730-hypothermia-terminal-burrowing-paradoxical-understanding.html>

⁹⁵

<https://seagrant.umn.edu/programs/recreation-and-water-safety-program/hypothermia>

Are we pushed into responding to someone shivering in the snow by rage at seeing the scattered remnants of a person too paralyzed to respond with unrestricted warmth or by a promise that that person will one day be personable again?

Will a parent remain standing over their shaking child shouting at their stupidity for slipping into territory that is unsafe and if so, how much time will it take before they are shouting to a shell that won't wake to receive the punishment?

ARE WE AWARE THAT PUNISHMENT WON'T RESTORE THE SICK AND IS THAT RELEVANT? Can we be both aware and unable to avoid arguing against what's best anyway?

In her book about her upbringing, Lisa-Jo Baker brings up a situation that occurred with her kid. Quoting the same scenario in her blog⁹⁶, she confesses:

"I DIDN'T EXPECT IT because I'd been doing good with my temper. I'd been keeping it together. I'd been aware of my pressure points and paying attention to my own short fuse.

BUT NO ONE CAN PUSH OUR BUTTONS QUITE LIKE OUR KIDS CAN.

And one of my kids was so defiant, so rude, so unreasonable that it happened before I could process it was happening. It was just there. Rage. Rage poured through my veins like red hot lava. Like poison. And I turned on him. I turned on the boy I love, the boy who has taught me more about my own temper than anyone else. I turned on him as he sat deliberately not looking at me at our farmhouse table and I started screaming.

I screamed directly into his face.

I screamed so long and so loud that my throat hurt.

I screamed long enough to hear my inside voice begin protesting in

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<https://lisajobaker.com/2017/02/the-parenting-moment-im-the-most-ashamed-of-and-what-i-did-about-it/>

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panic — no, no, no, no what are you doing? Stop, stop, stop. Put on the brakes. Red light! Warning.

But there was no stopping.

**THE SCREAM HAD BECOME ITS OWN ENTITY AND IT
ROARED OUT OF ME AND DEAFENED ME AND SHAMED ME AND
STILL I KEPT RIGHT ON SCREAMING.”**

I DON'T REPEAT HER STORY TO SHAME HER BUT TO ASK, ***WHO HASN'T
REACTED TO SUFFERING BY THROWING SOME OF IT ON SOMEONE ELSE?***

WE HAVE TO PRACTICE WORKING OUR RAGE INTO SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE, but isn't part of that process to recognize symptoms of sickness BEFORE they spew into tantrums? Lisa speaks of thinking she was safe from such responses, she had been working on reigning in her rage and she was SHOCKED that such a thing was snowballing in her system, ready for the smallest reason to rid her stomach of the rancid, putrifying, objectionable noise that she had known about but was managing to a level that she considered legitimately under control.

Her memoir lets us in on a moment by moment illumination of that memory. Her mind noticed that she was overreacting; she was overwhelmed with the picture she was painting and yet she raged on. She remembered her parent raging in the same way; she shamed herself even while she saw her son become as stone-faced as she had but the reason wasn't sufficient to stop her from throwing up all over her terrified son.

SHE WAS
STILL SICK

SHE HAD TOLD HERSELF THE SICKNESS WAS UNDER CONTROL, but isn't that what we do when we don't know how/don't desire to deal with could-be detrimental

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circumstances, especially when scared of the consequences of not being alright because someone could claim we were bluffing or they could believe us and keep us from what we desire to do? Don't at least a couple of us continue believing we're ok until we can't bluff because we've suddenly dropped down into a dark spiral that none can deny? A cocktail of denial, ego, FOMO, and excessive adherence to duty can be dangerous. It's costly to be sick, but could it be costlier to bluff about being better?

WHEN, AS A CHILD, MY BROTHERS OR I WERE SO SICK THAT WE COULDN'T BE AT SCHOOL DURING THE DAY, any evening events would be forfeited in my family even if we felt fine after the earlier duration ended but that wasn't because I was fully "*GROUNDED*", found guilty of a fault even if my fortitude was faulty.

That family guideline was feasibly enforced as encouragement not to fake being ill; but even without it, I was a determined student - AKA a stubborn kid who didn't skip school. I'd say I WASN'T sick when I was since I was deathly in fear of any display of sickness because sickness could **1)** keep me from what I saw as my duty and **2)** create a desire in someone else to drag me to a doctor and if I had a choice - and sometimes I did - I'd stay away from them despite the cost - **AND THERE WAS A COST.**

There were a couple days in eighth that I found my food gushing out onto the floor. Getting a hall pass wasn't my goal either so I'd fool myself into finding I was fine until - **GASP** - I'd be forced to go to the hall and heave there.

HERE'S WHEN
I'D GO HOME.

I WAS/AM HORRIBLE ABOUT BEING HONEST ABOUT HOW I WAS/AM GETTING ON yet I've had genuinely gross, awfully embarrassing aftereffects of describing my condition as bearable - and not solely for me. I barfed

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barely-but-somewhat-digested stuff in the cafeteria - **NOT A SINGLE SOUL DESIRES
TO SEE THAT.**

WHAT IS THE CONSEQUENCE
FOR SUCH A CRUEL CRIME?

IF I WERE IN SCHOOL TODAY, a snapshot or the complete scene could circulate to
countries across the sea in seconds; but this was at the start of the century.

WHAT WAS **MY**
CONSEQUENCE?

I COULDN'T STAY. I was sent to bed.

I HAD TO ADMIT THAT I WASN'T ABLE TO BLUFF MY COURSE INTO
SEEMING BETTER, that I had to submit to whatever those in charge of my wellbeing
said was best, even if it contradicted my choice.

IF I'M RECALLING CORRECTLY, I wasn't dragged to the doctor the day I couldn't
keep from barfing in the aisle (*NOT BETWEEN THE SEATS BUT BEFORE I CAME
TO THEM*) but I was brought back to the big bed that the couple who brought me up
slept in where I couldn't simply sleep away my burning body because a bigger concern
was developing.

Although embarrassing to describe, I had been shamed enough that day and
something was different and I can't recall if I could define what changes were occurring
in my body to cause such a scene but I had to attempt to articulate as best I could the

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concerning details.

I don't dare say for certain, but I do believe I was surprised that day by not simply the barfing but the bleeding that comes on a clock for my subset of the species.

I could be blurring sicknesses, but I believe I was in bed, already confused by the burning that seemed to me a sudden betrayal of how a body should behave, when the bigger shock came.

COULD OUR SICKNESS
BE A CALL TO SURRENDER
TO A CHANGE THAT
SEEMS LIKE DEATH?

COULD A SYMBOL OF DEATH BE A SIGN that we can't stay the same and it would be better for all if we accepted that VS. attempting to belay the uncontrollable until it was determined for us?

ARE ALL OF US
DESTINED TO CHANGE?

CAN A CATERPILLAR KEEP ITSELF FROM BECOMING A CHRYSALIS?

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WE SEE CATERPILLARS DYING TO THEIR CURRENT STAGE and changing into a beautiful butterfly as symbolic of the beauty of beginning again, but *"CATERPILLARS SELF-DESTRUCT... THEY DESTROY THEMSELVES COMPLETELY."*⁹⁷

WHAT IF A CATERPILLAR IS
SCARED OF BECOMING SOUP?

CAN IT CHOOSE NOT TO CHANGE?

CAN WE?

IS AN UNSETTLED STOMACH SIMPLY A DISCIPLINARY DECISION that we can choose to redirect to a sweet substitute upon our say so?

Do we say to a doctor *"YOU BE SICK IN MY STEAD"*?

If we can't skip the suffering altogether, don't we sign some disclosure saying the Doctor can cure our sickness? Don't we choose to confess that we desire saving so that we can be saved?

Doesn't that depend on whether or not we're a dependent? Doesn't the caregiver for a child sign in their stead?

THE QUESTIONS CIRCLE BACK:

⁹⁷ <https://rachelburundi.wordpress.com/2017/07/22/caterpillar-soup/>

- ARE WE ADULTS OR BABIES?
- ARE WE CHILDREN OR CLIENTS?
- ARE WE DEPENDENTS OR DEFENDANTS?

IS SIN A DISEASE TO BE CURED OR A CONSCIOUS DECISION DESERVING OF SEVERE CONSEQUENCES TO BE SUFFERED?

LISA-JO IS SO SURGICAL WHEN DESCRIBING HER OWN SCENE OF THROWING UP/verbally vomiting over her offspring. She observed the pressure releasing, the wrongness, the source, and still seemed subservient to a timetable that she didn't set. She recognized it was wrong, apologized, worked strenuously to make it right; but what if still we say that's simply a terrible, underwhelming, very well worn excuse that is absolutely NOT to be believed?

What would she say if dragged to court and what would be brought up as accessories to the case?

She was a Christian coming back from church when the situation occurred. Does that change anything?

Despite what we'd say in her case; are we scared of our own, of the day that we can't set down on a calendar where we'll be dragged to court to account for all the bad that we've done or are we sure we are covered?

WHAT ABOUT FOR SOMEONE WHO ISN'T SO SELF-AWARE and has no clue why they screamed a couple years back, someone who doesn't believe in Christ or His sacrifice but believes they're basically a kind and decent individual with a couple bad attempts at breaking a bad attitude behind them but not actually bad?

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THAT SCENE? If you boiled it completely down to the essential elements, would you find yourself agreeing that the fantasy that follows is fair or is it a fruitless exaggeration of a dogma that is embraced even while doing

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damage to confused consciences that can't quite comprehend WHY they claim to believe something that doesn't sit correctly in their spirit?

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY if you were abruptly awakened by consistent banging on the door - or by the strangers coming in drawing enormous firearms at you and your frightened family - exerting force if they have to drag you to a cinema-style courtroom with a King/Queen sitting with blank stares from the stage. A bailiff brings out a cart stacked to the ceiling with books and then comes a second with another stack of similar books and another and another until there is barely space to stand.

In the beginning argument, it is said only a billionth of the books created have come out and that there is cause to believe that a billion or six or seven more stacks will be created by the date the sentence is carried out.

That could be that day or in a dozen years or six dozen years but it could be at any second.

The books are said to contain, in the smallest size type seeable, all the sins the defendant has committed. The definition of sin is not seen as consequential.

The sentence has already been decided and it is not death - that would be too charitable.

The sentence is to sit still while the charges are brought up, one by one, book by book, stack by stack.

The defense is silent and serene, bringing up no arguments against either the burden of culpability or the sentence already set in stone.

BLAME IS
ASSUMED.

BASICALLY, THE CASE IS OVER but the defense stands and says to the King:

"IT'S CLEAR MY CLIENT IS A SINNER **[AGAIN THE STRANGE SYLLABLES AREN'T DEFINED]** and I can see why they should sit **[SUFFER]** as the charges are declared **[ETERNALLY]** but I've decided that if they can say sorry, I'll step in with my code for sidestepping the consequences.

You see, I spent three entire days in the slammer so you can see I'm certainly qualified to cause the stacks to disappear.

I suffered the consequences so they don't have to."

TO YOU HE SAYS:

"COME ON, WHAT DO YOU SAY, stick with me because sitting through a billion or couple billion stacks would be boring and would suck quite a bit.

I can't cause that to disappear if you can't believe I can and while you can call me in a couple days or even in fifty years, it's a gamble because that investigation was no joke.

If you call though, be clear about letting me know you love me for letting you off so easily.

I'll know if you're lying."

CAN'T YOU SEE HOW THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM A DECLARATION THAT DEATH HAS BEEN DEFEATED; emancipation has been fought for and granted; and

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DISCERNMENT

we ARE free, found, and forgiven so everything we do should be an exclamation of affectionate gratitude?

Isn't the former a grave misjudgment of the gospel? Isn't it far from good news? Go ahead and fume at my gall. If you're here, you have a good enough excuse to go on hollering about heresy. You're intending to hear me out but I keep getting farther into fantasy. I get it.

Give it a few days, even far greater if that's what you have to have. I get that this is hard to hear.

When you get to finishing with the fuming, go ahead and find that you've been fulfilling my explanation for me.

FOR THOSE THAT REFUSE TO GIVE GRACE BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN THE FAITH FOR IT, how does fuming feel? Is it exaggerating to describe it as seeing through darkened spectacles? How does it affect those around us? Do we cast our surroundings into darkness when we are too distracted by the sensation of a stomach about to blow its contents to care about a buddy's boring story? Does our crankiness have to do with a disconnect between what we believe we're supposed to be sensing and what we believe we are sensing?

Can we continue with disconnected, discontent, disengaged fuming forever or are we forced to eventually deal with the cause of the dark cloud screaming at us? Shouldn't we desire to deal with the cloud?

COULD IT BE THAT BECAUSE (V.S. DESPITE US BEING) WE'RE STILL SICK, THE SAVIOR IS CLOSE TO THE BROKENHEARTED and saves those who are crushed in spirit because, despite the sadness of being drowned out and the excessive frustration of not getting a full glance and the agony of being held in, those who have it hardest are held more intensely and have the honor of hearing the intervals of His heart, the jumps for joy and the cries of loss?

Long before Lisa-Jo's loud, menacing not-nice outburst that she puts as the poorest parenting picture she's painted, the open-to-public reflection writer wrote about being surprised by a separate type of scream.

Her stubborn not-yet tween said he should have been switched at birth and she sets the scene with the same word - scream - but the words surprised them both:

"I WAS CUT AND I BLED MORE FOR **YOU** THAN ANY OTHER OF MY KIDS. It hurt. I still have the scar. And I would do it again and again and again. Because I **MUST** have a Micah in my life. I must have you.

And if you run away to another mom I will fight her to get you back. I will fight for you and I will win.

I will always win because you are mine. **MINE**. Do you hear me? And I'm never letting you go."⁹⁸

COULD IT BE THAT, SOMEHOW, DESPITE THE CIRCUMSTANCES; despite her excessive frustration, even if she wasn't fully free from her father's grasp and the heartache she inherited from him; her heart heard God's heart and her injunction, her judgment, her indisputable headline highlighting her heart for her heir imitated her God's heart for her?

COULD IT BE that the gospel - THE GOOD, GOOD, FAR-FROM-ANYONE-TO-EVEN-IMAGINE-WE'D-FEEL-SO-FORGIVEN GLORIOUS GOTTA-HEAR-THIS-INSCRIPTION-OF-HOW-WE-WERE-AS-GOOD-AS-CONNERS-BUT-BY-GOD'S-GRACE GOSPEL - found a foothold in an eager but damaged soul and dug deep where it could come out as a different kind of surprise regurgitation?

SHOULD WE BE surprised that she was shown that she was seen and sincerely cherished through what came out of the depths of a soul created to bear the signature of the Creator? Did the declaration click quickly as correct, a confirmation that was as direct as it was unexpected, a fact that God doesn't hold grudges and therefore she wouldn't be able to hold onto a grudge either if she wanted to have His

⁹⁸ <https://lisajobaker.com/2013/10/how-to-have-a-temper-tantrum/>

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heart overhaul hers **OR DID SHE HEAR INCORRECTLY BECAUSE IF UNENDING HELL IS INDEED A GENUINE FUTURE, HER FIGHT COULD FAIL BECAUSE GOD'S COULD FAIL?**

HOW COULD SHE EXPRESS THAT WITHOUT FAIL, SHE WOULD GET HER HEIR BACK IF GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GIVE THAT GUARANTEE?

COULD IT BE THAT IN THAT HEARTFELT INTERIM, the heart of God for her held out over her own grief and found footing in how she felt for her own offspring, giving her fresh insight and isn't that the hope when we give our heart to God -- that He'll impeach the imposter hopes getting homey in their intemperate hijacked impersonations of heroic genius go-getters who far exceed every expectation?

When we forecast an eternity without that footing, could we be so focused on the game of getting followers that we forget the genuine human in the interaction? Could we be convinced that we're immensely high-performing, great at our given job, doing just what we've been given to do when in fact we're failing at the greatest goal? Given goals for hand-picked individuals and instructions for how to do them are important, but they have to go along with the greater goals of a group.

What happens when the guidelines given for how to interact with colleagues and customers don't correspond with our - or the company/departments stated beliefs/aim? How can a broken system be brought back into alignment? How do we become bodily archetypes of Abba's bold affection when we're still broken ourselves?

I'M NOT ABLE TO ASCERTAIN IT, but I believe the answer begins with the asking.

BREAKTHROUGH AWAITS WHEN WE

DISCOVER EVERYONE'S FATED GIFT WITH HUMBLE GRATITUDE

*By Checking if our Spouted Beliefs Correspond with our
Convictions/Behavior*

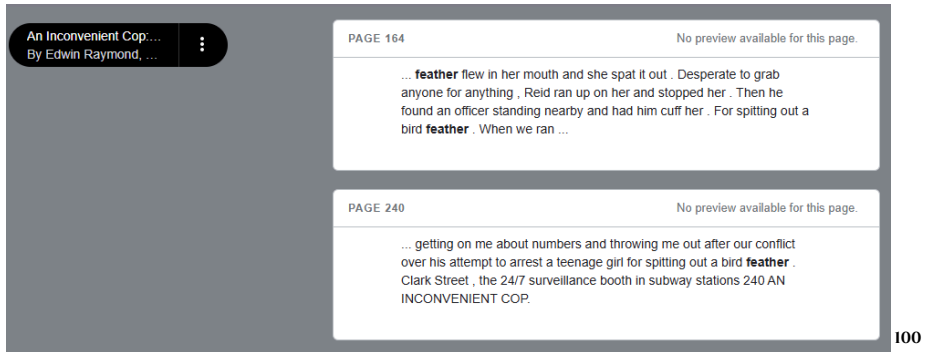
ARE WE COMMITTED TO A SYSTEMIC CORRUPTION OF OUR STATED
IDEALS DESPITE SAYING IT SHOULD STOP?

COULD IT BE that we're so committed to completing what we believe is asked of us that we're ambushing a brother or sister, a cop cuffing a daughter whose duty it is to be educated because a feather flew into what the girl should be gabbing to her friends with and she felt the impulse of disgust causing her to spit it back out?

IT SOUNDS LIKE A COMEDY SKIT, but that scene is in a book by an ex-sergeant in the city called the Big Apple where the author was advised in all ways but outright that he wasn't arresting enough bad apples because he would be out in the open where his attention would bring about better behavior while colleagues would cache themselves in the ducts desiring to catch someone they could book to the station so they could spend the deepening dusk interval inside.⁹⁹

⁹⁹ *An Inconvenient Cop* by Edwin Raymond

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IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF '*DO-WHAT-I-SAY, NOT-WHAT-I-DO*'ISM IN THE DEPARTMENT. Edwin Raymond says that his classes about how to be a cop studied the story of Frank Serpico, a detective who was set up by his colleagues who blamed him for showcasing their corruption, including bribes and all that¹⁰¹, but that the spirit behind the story didn't sink in.

"I GIVE THE DEPARTMENT SOME CREDIT FOR TEACHING THIS HISTORY, not all institutions focus on their own black eyes in such detail. Unfortunately, while the facts of this scandal may have been correct, the perspective was all wrong. And history is all about perspective. The instructors made it seem like this was all merely history, a dead thing in a book. They taught us about the ugly periods so they could put them behind us and separate them from the present. They didn't address the DNA to those problems, the systemic issues, catalysts, and feedback loops that made those dark periods come about. That would require them to go deeper than they

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https://www.google.com/books/edition/An_Inconvenient_Cop/lcaqEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&bsq=feather

¹⁰¹ <https://americanswhotellthetruth.org/portraits/frank-serpico/>

were comfortable doing. They wouldn't go deep enough to cut. It was all surface.

"For instance, as part of his deal, Michael Dowd spoke honestly to the court about how, when he first got to the force, he was arresting crack dealers with more money in their pockets than he'd see in months. He used to get free cups of coffee and reached a point where he wondered what else he could get away with. That was the rabbit hole.

"Before it was all over, Dowd was dealing stolen cocaine and pulling down eight thousand dollars a week.

"But the lessons that the chiefs took from Dowd and his compatriots' rampant corruption? The lesson they took from so many other cops knowing about it and looking away? To this day, police are not allowed to accept free cups of coffee.

"That was the department's conclusion; this is the kind of institution we're dealing with here.

"It takes a type of willful blindness to see things so narrowly."¹⁰²

CUFFING SOMEONE SETTING DOWN A CAN OF SODA they were still drinking because a quota had been set by someone behind a desk¹⁰³ is corrupting the design of enforcement **EXCEPT WHEN IT ISN'T**. Edwin emphasizes that the disregard for dignity isn't a side effect, it's the intention, the expectation, the frenzied game that hopes for an individual to hop the gate so that the gatekeepers can get inside while the individual's hopes are halted.

HOW / WHY DID FAR FROM A FEW express discomfort with the quotas they were called upon to complete but still see a child doing something bad as a bonus, not as somebody they could direct into an entirely different existence?

¹⁰² An Inconvenient Cop by Edwin Raymond, pgs 17-18

¹⁰³ Ibid, pg 122

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HOW / WHY DO FAR FROM A FEW feel / express discomfort with the doctrine of unending damnation but are still committed to sharing it, despite the damages?

COULD IT BE that the cops that were uncomfortable but considered their commission to book the smallest criminal a crucial section of their career sensed that the standard was set -- the quotas were raised on a schedule at Raymond's station (*WHATEVER DAY ON A CALENDAR IT WAS, THERE SHOULD BE MORE ARRESTS THAN THERE WERE A YEAR BEFORE ON THE SAME DAY*) - and that created a cyclical sense of dread at what they were doing that seemed to only be able to be silenced, not stopped?

COULD THE SUPPOSED STANDARD HAVE CREATED A SICKNESS THAT THEY COULDN'T COMBAT? Could the question of real but off-the-record quotas have created what seemed to be an unsolvable dilemma?

COULD IT BE that the Christians in bed awake, anxious over whether another will believe because of their stomping through the city consider their chock-full schedules a crucial section of the commission?

COULD IT BE THAT BOOKING A CHILD for spitting or skipping a subway turnstile or something similar could cause some discomfort, but that discomfort isn't effectively as fierce as the fear of failing at the goal one's been given?

SO WHAT'S THE GOAL AND WHAT'S GETTING IN THE WAY OF FOLLOWING THROUGH? Do we go along with goals that don't follow the ethics we deem correct and if so, what do we do with the discomfort of being asked to back a system we disagree with?

DO WE COMPLY WHEN WE CAN AND THEN CONTINUE TO BUCK THE SYSTEM by being the best cop we can be without bowing to alternative avenues (*ALLEGORICALLY FOR ALL BUT A COUPLE*)?

Do we sue for discrimination when we're doing our duty as we see it and are bypassed in chances to be in charge as a consequence?

The brave cop was solely at the start of CONSIDERING doing so when he came across a conglomeration who had been aiming for alike adjustments for years and who were well equipped and able to assist him as he aided what was already occurring.

After he became aware that he was willing to expose himself to the anger of others who wouldn't want wrongs to be exhibited as evidence, he became aware of others also aiming to adjust the bad customs; who had been aiming to adjust the bad customs through a lawsuit that could benefit from his support.

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO START FROM SCRATCH, simply tap into what a team that had been searching for someone like him had started before.

When an article about the action against the behavior of his coworkers came out, the definitely expected fire in eyes wasn't in everyone's - there were a few who had gone with the flow but were grateful that he had the guts to fight that flow anyway.

He had given them hope that they wouldn't be held in an impossible in-between indefinitely - that they wouldn't have to jettison their ideals for their job because their job wouldn't contradict their convictions.

Could it be that the Christianity that the Church has been spouting since Constantine contradicts our deepest convictions and even if we're not confident enough in that conviction to claim it's correct, our spirit soars when someone else calls out what we've also seen as not right?

SO I'LL REPEAT. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THE DISCOMFORT OF BEING ASKED TO BACK A SYSTEM WE DISAGREE WITH?

COULD IT BE THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO START by claiming the discomfort VS. denying it and solely then; by being willing to admit our beliefs to ourselves, would we be able to accept the assistance of the others that would be brought to us with similar convictions?

I CAN CONSTANTLY QUESTION:

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- **COULD IT BE** THAT OUR DAD SIMPLY SAYS “SURE” to our deciding to shut the door on him - eternally?
- DOES THE INEQUALITY HERE determine an everlasting divide in which some that bear the characteristics of their Creator are cast into a cave without contact not for centuries or dozens of centuries¹⁰⁴ but for all ages to be?
- DOES CHRIST CHASE AFTER US despite our cruelty?
- **COULD IT BE** THAT WE’LL BE STUCK IN A CONSTANT STATE OF INCOMPLETION because some will still be in despair?
- **COULD IT BE** THAT OUR DAD DOESN’T COME BACK for us after we advise him away in anger?

BUT WHEN THOSE QUESTIONS BEGIN TO CLASP ONTO MY SOUL AS DOUBT; I become like a screaming babe in the crib, desperate to be calmed or like a stoic statue, desperate to be squeezed but stubbornly testing to see whether I can chase away whoever is closest.

Brothers and sisters, however buried the belief may be, be aware that believing Abba has abandoned any of His babies (*FOR AREN’T WE ALL BABES BARELY ABLE TO ABANDON THE BOTTLE?*) is agonizing.¹⁰⁵

I believe that countless Christians desire to believe that Christ can save their children and spouses and those strangers in countries they will never see but can't - not because the biblical arguments aren't convincing enough (*I’M STILL COMING TO THOSE SAMPLES*); but because critical critiques can be quickly silenced and then, not conspiratorially but unconsciously, silently converted into confirmation of the correctness of the status quo because all others appear to believe it also.

I also believe that countless do believe that Abba is brilliantly compassionate

¹⁰⁴

<https://dmtalkies.com/the-monkey-king-ending-explained-2023-netflix-animated-dram-a-film/>

¹⁰⁵ See *Saving Lucas Briggs*, by Marissa De Los Santos for this played out

enough to not be defeated in the end (*WHO AT A FUNERAL DOESN'T HAVE HOPE A FRIEND HAS FOUND AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND GRIEF?*) but hide that guileless faith in a good finale due to an inability to debate critics - the self ballooning above all other beings in that category.

We have searched for a bigger dose of insight, we have covered our shame at not being the arbitrators of all awareness already, we have battled to convince ourselves that we are chase-afterable since the beginning; converting our biggest anxiety - that we are alone - into an academic one, a beatable challenge.

I've sat through countless sermons that have said that salvation is not of ourselves, that it is not our own doing, that we cannot study ourselves into rightness with Righteousness Himself; but that then switch the script to include a caveat - now believe me or be an outcast; stuck in despair for eternity.

This forced election diametrically changes the context because to believe something we have to be convinced and becoming convinced of something that we're not already convinced of becomes an academic activity if it's our own ability to believe that converts it from a bad announcement to the best one.

That becomes quite the Catch-22 - believe and be simultaneously saved and condemned (*SENTENCED TO A PARTICULAR PUNISHMENT - EVEN IF ONE IS BEING OFFERED A GET-OUT-FREE EGRESS IF ONE FOLLOWS 'EASY' DIRECTIONS*) or call the speaker crazy, shut down, and stay stuck.

RESEARCHING WHAT WAS SAID AND IF IT HAS ANY SENSE SEEMS TO BE A SOLID SOLUTION, but wandering into the realm has its own shortfalls since it is SO busy and crowded down there! The competition to be deemed competent is damagingly extreme; there is a degree for everything but even among those without a degree, we carry around a block with books from ages ago and can in a blink check out how Constantine's deathbed conversion was seen by his baptizer (*THE BISHOP OF CAESAREA*)¹⁰⁶ or details about the contest between Categan and the contestor of

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Catholicism that spawned the denomination that created the camp Dan enjoyed throughout his childhood and I've come to have a similar affection for¹⁰⁷ ¹⁰⁸ or a book of quotes in which Bucer calls Calvin a crazed dog.¹⁰⁹

We can be Adam, bouncing from one age to another chasing blueprints; but we should be careful to not consider the chase as credentials to depend upon.

A constant student for a decade can bring up the academic atmosphere he was brought up in and still someone could say *"DON'T EXPLAIN YOUR EXPERIENCE, IT DOESN'T COUNT BECAUSE I WAS STUDYING THIS STUFF WHEN YOU WERE STILL IN DIAPERS."*¹¹⁰

Consider their dismissal as a cowardly dodging of the issue by discrediting a credible consideration.

The circumstances which we've been brought up in, the books we've consumed, the daily experiences we've enjoyed, the disasters we survived, the questions we've considered all count.

OUR DOUBTS COUNT
AND WE SHOULD SEEK TO
DISCOVER WHERE THEY COME FROM.

DOUBTING OUR OWN DISCONTENT with the idea of those dying without having said certain syllables being sent to suffer without a discernible end in fire, insisting it's

[OLife%20of%20Constantine%20%28trans.%20Averil%20Cameron%20-%20 Stuart%20Hall%29.pdf](http://www.lutheranforum.com/blog/obscure-and-senseless-another-look-at-when-cajetan-met-luther)

¹⁰⁷

<https://www.lutheranforum.com/blog/obscure-and-senseless-another-look-at-when-cajetan-met-luther>

¹⁰⁸ <https://hopewoodoutdoors.org/program/camp-luther/>

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.catholicapologetics.info/apologetics/protestantism/protin.htm> (II 10)

¹¹⁰ <https://youtu.be/W0queYJ1i5U?si=JqfpdrUlWzQuO7sp> (10:50)

their idea, that the door is shut from the inside, that our bullheadedness beats out the competition (*THE CREATOR*), that separation without any chance at coming back is the sole consequence that could be suitable for such a crime as saying "SEE YA" to an unseen being we couldn't comprehend and didn't see displayed in the choices of those that surround us simply because we're demanded (*EVEN INTERNALLY*) to dismiss it can cause us to be - as Christ's brother asserts - as agitated as the bits of sea constantly curling into billowing arches and breaking on the shore.

Boy oh boy I've been there, not "WAY BACK WHEN" but continually.

OF COURSE I SEE SOME OF THE SAME THINGS THAT ALL SEE, wars, rumors of wars, strikes from countries not connected by anything accessible (AN AREA THAT CAN BE BLOCKADED OR BARRICADED), assaults from the air arriving at all hours.

I am aware but not as aware as all those actually attempting to be aware of all that there is to be aware of: of the bad that saturates our days, of the despair that envelopes our environments. I'll declare with everyone else that the effects of disaster aren't distributed evenly. I'll freely express that it isn't fair that from the easy defense I call my abode, I abide; aware that the background of the stranger on the street sprawled across the sidewalk isn't that strange - that it could have been my story, it still could be someday.

I can't say I've stopped to discuss or ease or dismantle their despair or that if I did, it would be undeniably to ease their discomfort instead of to dispel my selfish uneasiness, desperate to stop caring as quickly as I can.

WHAT CAN I CLAIM?

I CAN CLAIM I DO NOT DESIRE ease and favor and grace however unfair they may feel, that I am not expressing all this for fame, that I'm impartial to whether I'd be found

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with the good guys when history has its harkening; or I can hold to that I am human and have been given great gifts that I haven't gotten around to giving out - that I've fought and failed to fight an intense desire to curl into a ball and allow all the battles to carry on without me, that I do what I don't want to do and don't do what I do even when the effects fall on everyone else who hasn't earned the fallout.

I've gotta hold to that I have a good God, that I am favored even if I haven't earned that designation, that I cannot claim to have created my ability to believe in Someone/something that I've desired to disavow.

Decades of experience have drawn a clear distinction between who I can be when I can see myself as a child being brought up by a kind Dad and when I kinda see myself as stuck on a spinning sphere becoming increasingly seasick and dizzy, with everything falling flat and feeling fruitless, but even there we are not doomed to be dragged down constantly by the billows of the sea, the disastrous embodiment of a furiously grievous hell of indecision.

in progress

Breathe through
anxiety

WHEN WE

in progress

**ENCOMPASS FAITH INTO
EVERY DECREE WITH
COMPASSIONATE
DISCERNMENT**



ENCOMPASS FAITH INTO EVERY DECREE WITH COMPASSIONATE DISCERNMENT

*Discover Everyone's Fated Grief Without
Haughtily Including Hurtful Inferences*

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ENCLOSURE HAS TO BE DEALT WITH.

DEATH COMES FOR US ALL, doesn't it?

*FOR DUST THOU ART,
AND UNTO DUST SHALT THOU RETURN.¹¹¹*

¹¹¹ <https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Genesis%203%3A19>

A COMMITMENT TO CATALOG THE COURSES TO DEATH exhaustively would drain out any days one still has to claim; but death is scary without seeing signs that it came for someone else at every intersection.

Every day I cross crosses denoting the spot where someone ceased breathing. Sometimes stuffed bears and other stuff speaks to the rawness of the sorrow and shows whoever would stop and see a bit of the character that was stolen too soon.

Whether breath is stolen suddenly or slips away slowly; death surrounds us, a disease, an epidemic in fact that is impossible to ignore, the fury it invites expected.

IN THE DIRE EXAMPLE OF AN ENTIRE ENCLAVE DROWNING simultaneously and draining it completely so that all could stand instead of only saving the couple that you could swim to; imagine sending in a crew of the best clinicians to all those who couldn't stand (*THE CREW WOULD BE CLOSE AT HAND SINCE THEY WERE ALWAYS STANDING BY, AWARE THAT THE DAY WOULD COME THAT THE CITIZENS WOULD DISCOVER THE DITCH AND UNDERESTIMATE ITS DANGER*). Each set would say to those sobbing while crowding the still body, "*STAND BACK - THEY AREN'T DEAD, THEY ARE SLEEPING*"¹¹². Imagine the sobbing spectators saying, "*BUT I CAN'T SENSE THEIR HEARTBEAT. WHY DID YOU DELAY? YOU COULD HAVE SAVED HIM IF YOU WOULD HAVE SIMPLY COME SOONER; IF YOU HAD SWUM OUT WHILE THEY WERE STRUGGLING TO BREATHE*". Imagine being scorned when they started CPR and set up the defibrillator because they were convinced they were desecrating the bodies.

What if those not sobbing were screaming, saying "*HOW COULD YOU HAVE STOOD BY SUCH A SINKHOLE DAY IN AND DAY OUT WITHOUT COVERING IT! HOW DARE YOU CLAIM THAT YOU CARE!*"

AFTER ALL ARE BROUGHT BACK TO COMPLETE STABILITY, consider what you'd say to the confused crowd who had spent the better section of the day completely belittling your character and capabilities.

¹¹² 1 Cor. 15:18; https://www.openbible.info/topics/fall_asleep_in_death

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The complaints would have stopped of course - the crowd would be in stunned silence.

IMAGINE ONE BRAVE SMALL BOY COMING CLOSE, beckoning you to bend down so he could say something only you could comprehend.

Imagine bringing the boy up to your shoulders and sadly directing his concentration to a distant darkness that was starting to seep across the city.

Imagine the crowd staring at complete blackness where a city had once been and then staring back at you, questioning.

Instead of damaged, desecrated, destroyed even; there is an emptiness that fills every environment but the one immediately encircling you and the entire enclave. This isn't an individual's inability to eye the area - don't conclude that it'd be like Saramago's book, *BLINDNESS* where all but a couple can't see but all can brush up against what is always around anyhow. ALL IS BLANK.

ASSERTING THAT ASSERTING THAT BEING SEPARATED FROM A SUPREME BEING who is also said to be in all areas all at once breaks the brain but if contradictory claims to a space cannot coexist - if complete darkness cannot stand inside a completely sunny space without being decimated - then darkness has to be separate from the Being called the sustaining spark of this earth.

WHAT IF THE FISHPOND WAS EMPTINESS -
DEATH WITHOUT AN ETERNITY
AFTERWARDS TO FEAR OR GLANCE FORWARD TO?

WHAT IF, FOR EONS A FEW HAD BEEN FALLING IN EACH DAY. What if far more than a few fell in generation after generation. There's a gate but after hundreds of years, the gatekeeper is horribly infamous and goons generally guessed to be His far worse.

They'd grab the fearful enclave-dwellers without ever forecasting their existence and drag them to the checkpoint. Sometimes those they would drag off came back, but no one came back the same.

Debates increased in frequency; guards and guard stations generated with hired hands to handle them.

Whether hushed or hollered, it could be heard increasingly incessantly: *WHY HAVE A GATE/GATEKEEPER IF EVENTUALLY ALL FALL IN?*

FEAR GAINS GREAT GROUND AND HORRIBLE IDEAS ARE HYPED and horrible ideations happen because of it, but good happens also and gains ground and families have gotten to grips with having to hold the hands of those that are handed instructions to hurry goodbyes because a gentler group would be getting there forthwith.

There are some that go gracefully vs. forcibly when escorted to the Delphic checkpoint but their absence still stings.

*DEATH WAS DEFEATED?
DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?*

THE STING IS IN THE STOLEN DREAMS of those suddenly in solitude.

*DEATH,
WHERE IS YOUR STING?*

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I SAID THAT SOMEHOW I'D SLIP IN WHAT I SAID about being childless that started me crying at 6am on my birthday and almost seventeen months later I'm back to sobbing about death that I can't comprehend so it seems we've stumbled on the spot:

May 6th, 2022

"CAN YOU DEFEND YOUR CHILDREN?"

A BOLD CLAIM ABOUT A BILL says it's about to sanctify infanticide if not ceased so I seek out the bill and see that CA'S AB2223 was designed to stop the cops from being able to accuse and arrest already broken-hearted couples of being cold-hearted killers when a serious complication causes a stillbirth but that a clinical characterization in a draft since abandoned sought to be a shield for those who had complications during the duration of their condition but whose baby survived a couple days before succumbing to sickness.

The stipulation was discarded, but not before someone decided to scream on social media that all children under twenty-eight days could be and therefore would be killed because certainly it is the certainty that we'd be sent to spend the duration of our days in a cell that stops someone from suffocating their child.

SIGH.

I DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN and many would say for this cause I cannot speak, but if I had children I definitely couldn't complete this book so it's a bit of a catch-22. I choose the book because this sorta seems like a calling and not a choice and because stuff is complicated but I digress.

Yesterday I saw a screenshot of a tweet while scrolling through social media that really struck me. (I GET SUCKED IN TOO SOMETIMES.)

In the style of a conversation, someone scripted:

THEM:

TO WHAT TIME-INTERVAL HAVE YOU SURVIVED?

SHE:

THIRTY-THREE

THEM:

AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T REPLICATED?

[Not said but signified:

Shame on you.

How selfish, short-sided, senseless...]

YOU BETTER START BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ALL DAY.

SHE:

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I'VE HAD SEVEN SEPARATE DREAMS STRIPPED AWAY FROM ME, seven times that I thought that this could be the child that would sit with me, sip of my breast, be a comfort and be comforted.

Seven separate times where I screamed since my soul and cervix stretched to the ten centimeters that should've been a sign to a spoiled teenager that I had sacrificed for them even if I was saying no to spending an extra ten bucks on something stupid.

Seven separate surgeries to rid myself of someone I desperately desired to be in communion with for the rest of my days.

Seven services where I was surrounded but couldn't be comforted; so so SO many stupid comments - kinda like the one that started this stream.

They'd try to convince me that I'd be able to have another; that I'd have better luck someday and to stay strong.

They'd say all sorts of stuff about how they survived someone's death earlier but did they care that I couldn't say my kid's most significant color because I didn't get a chance to ask?

The bits would be so stale because it's difficult to say something significant and really personal when only potential realities are readily accessible.

They couldn't bring something I hadn't known to the conversation - something to cling to that said my child meant something to this stranger too.

Thousands of separate conversations that couldn't console because those standing before me weren't the sole

being that my soul craved.

It was so, so very thoughtful of you to say something that sticks such a sharp sword into my side. Thank you.

THEM: **SILENCE**

I OF COURSE COMPLETED SOME OF THE DETAILS - *she simply said "MISCARRIAGE" and let the significance dive deep but even though that's not my story, from what I've seen/read, it probably sounded something like that to her.*

Today's my thirty-third birthday but instead of blessing you with someone to coo over, I've chosen to birth something else and see what can be done with it because I believe in a big Abba that is always close to the broken-hearted but who becomes clearer to those who seek Him out.

SHAME ON ME.

*"CAN YOU
DEFEND YOUR CHILDREN?"*

NOT COMPLETELY.

***DEATH
WAS DEFEATED?***

“DEATH DOESN’T STING” ISN’T CORRECT and is such a severely serious topic that I can’t understand so Teacher - are You taking me/us somewhere for a reason or did I steer the stream-of-conscious style into a cliff that I can’t cross because there is no acceptable answer?

I asked through beloved songs throughout childhood to be taken deeper than my feet would ever go off to without help¹¹³ but Ibba - this hurts and I haven’t had to have this as an integral item in my history (*YET*).

I’ve been to a few funerals but generally go home to an environment that hasn’t been inverted.

Although I haven’t had that intensity of heartache, I have heard those who have had to go back to a home without their husband or girlfriend or father exert effort to explain the feeling.

***“HOW DOES GRIEF
FEEL PHYSICALLY?”***¹¹⁴

¹¹³ Hillsong’s “Oceans” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OP-00EwLdiU>

¹¹⁴

https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/what_does_grief_feel_like_to_you_physically/

"A GAPING HOLE - INVISIBLE BUT IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE." ¹¹⁵

"HEAVY, LIKE GENUINE EXHAUSTION" ¹¹⁶

"A HIT TO THE GUT THAT NEVER GOES AWAY" ¹¹⁷

"A HEART HAULED OUT OF ITS HOME" ¹¹⁸

**"GRIEF FEELS LIKE BEING LIT ON FIRE FROM THE INSIDE
WHILE BEING FORCIBLY GASHED - FEELING ANGUISH
AND A FIERCE EMPTINESS AS AN ENSEMBLE."** ¹¹⁹

I DO NOT CLAIM TO HAVE DEALT WITH THAT KIND OF SADNESS so I didn't come up with those descriptions, but that doesn't sound like **"DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"** I exchanged a few phrases to fit this format; but I'm not exaggerating.

**"IT FEELS LIKE AN ERRATIC EDGINESS, LIKE YOU DESIRE
TO DO SO MANY THINGS AND THEN SUDDENLY A BIG BLACK
BOULDER-LIKE CLOUD STARTS SQUEEZING YOU AND YOU GO DOWN
EMOTIONALLY AND THEN [INSERT A CRASH SOUND]"**

¹¹⁵ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7hbi69/>

¹¹⁶ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7h5f49/>

¹¹⁷ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7i9l9s/>

¹¹⁸ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7jq4km/>

¹¹⁹ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7j7cju/>

BOOM!

ALL THE **AMBITION**, THE **BOOST** TO KEEP COMMITMENTS, THE
DREAMS AND **EAGERNESS** TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THEM IS **GONE**.”

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“A GOOD GOD WOULD HAVE...” IS HELD ONTO FURIOUSLY and I can’t fit anything else into my fiction without You expanding my frame of reference, so do what You did with the Einstein-Rosen bridge*. Por favor.

*[*A FRIEND OF THE GUY I GENERALLY HAVE A GOOD TIME with and hold hands with and go outside of my go-tos for entertainment for because if he desires to be with me I consider it a date (DAN!) Introduced us to Einstein-Rosen bridges through film-like episodes of one of his favorites (HE WAS MIFFED THAT WE HADN’T HEARD OF IT) ¹²¹.*

We were indifferent but he wasn’t as to whether it would be held up as good so I’m hoping he’s honored/happy that it inspired such an integral issue in this epic.

How could I have imagined "THE INITIAL HUMANS AS EON-JUMPERS, IN AND OUT OF INCOMPATIBLE ITINERARIES FOR HUMANITY; STEINS;GATE TIMES INFINITY" if he hadn’t insisted on introducing us to an item not

¹²⁰ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7h4ngt/>

¹²¹ <https://www.animenewsnetwork.com/encyclopedia/anime.php?id=11770>

on our itinerary?

I had heard of holes that behave like a highway from one generation to another, who hasn't; but it hadn't been of much interest and, to inspire anything, information has to have a handle to hold onto.

GOD - GIVE ME A HANDLE TO HOLD ONTO. *Introduce an idea I haven't heard of before. Give me the gumption to go with these hankerings in my head even if I can't be sure if they are indications that I'm heading out without headlights or hollering from a GPS and hold me back from going if it isn't Your hushed hum I'm hearing.**

**THAT IMAGE WAS FROM A GUY ON A GOD-FOCUSED FEATURE* through the airwaves who was going on about how - when having to get from one haven to another - helpful ideas in our head might be instructions to implement headlights, or heat an increasingly foggy windshield, or hear another channel, or glance at gas gauge, or follow a *GPS*.

His gist was that GPS-following is equivalent to destination-changing, signifying destiny-changing whereas changing the channel doesn't control the course of one's car therefore the destination/destiny stays the same; but the analogy breaks down when considering that, when driving, it's easy to distinguish between a car's stereo and the cellular's computer voice saying *"in six hundred feet..."*

In day-to-day decisions, we can't discern in the instance what will find a foothold but even though I don't recall much of the story, there was something there to cling to and sling me into something else entirely.

Of course we have to be careful - as we've seen, not

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all cravings are from You, but Abba; build up an awareness of what Your call sounds like so we can distinguish it from the exuberance of forgeries.]

I'VE INEVITABLY DIGRESSED BUT TO AN EXACTING END. A forced but exact explanation of the emptiness of death draining into the city once all are safely outside of it can't be brutally beaten into submission, especially since it didn't occur to me that the emptiness didn't drain until all were out of the city until scripting the start of this sentence.

I'M BACK TO THAT CONCEPT OF BUILDING UP A CITY IN A DRAINAGE DITCH. What if the city* that was drained into was indeed the overflow area for Eden?

** EARTH AS WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH IT?*

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HOPE that God gives me a hint of insight as to where that's going or else leave it hanging indefinitely.

IBBA, I INQUIRE OF YOU A WISDOM GREATER THAN INTELLECTUAL WHEREWITHAL - an intelligent hope that has a greater foundation than feelings.

EPHESIANS 6:19 has been my go-to inquiry for more than a decade and I'm convinced that the boldness allowing this book and continuing to build it up in other circumstances throughout my day comes directly from countless saints saying - "*SHOW HER WHAT TO SAY*". Including you - someone who stumbles across this book on another day.

Who's to say a Deity outside of our space-time continuum can't be answering a

bit that hasn't yet been asked? If He can see all spaces and times, can't He connect them?

LIKE BEING LED TO THE LIGHT PRISM OVER THE US CAPITOL, the mysteries that we're let in on may not be the ones we were laboriously looking for answers to; but can't we collect them all anyway because - like a crossword - even a clue that's meaningless at the moment remains a clue?

COULD IT BE THAT THE CLUES TO OUR LONGINGS ARE IN OUR LOSSES?
Could it be that we learn to love and let ourselves be loved through what we long for?

LISTEN TO MARGARET, one of Lauren Gunderson's characters in *SILENT SKY*.
Confused by the catastrophe of cancer, searching the stars and herself for something bigger to cling to, her sister confides that her legacy would be unmet if she left now.

MARGARET: You have a legacy

MISS "*BUT I NEED MORE*": Loads that I can't complete!

MARGARET: That's what a legacy is. Look - you looked into landing an answer from the Maker Himself and He made mysteries known to you. That is the meaning of meaning for most of us.

WHAT WOULD COME OF LETTING A CLUE lie in wait for the moment when it clicks in with other collected clues without letting impatience conjecture about their merit? If we commit to a little learning and manage it marvelously, would more come looking for that level of competence and commitment? If we continue looking for meaning, little by little; can we be confident that later the meaning of meaning will come?

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Can we learn to love in the midst of loss? Could learning to love and let ourselves be loved be the meaning of life? If we leave this life not having learned that lesson, is all love lost?

Is it ever too late to love? Can we miss out on moments of laughter because we're miffed that another hasn't mulcted a malefactor for all that was lost and more?

What about being miffed about a memory like the comprehensibly cranky sister in *DEAR EVAN HANSON*?¹²² Could she be like the brother in the biblical story about the run-away who returned not to repent and say sorry but because he was still selfishly strategizing about how to survive because his dad's servants weren't starving but he indeed was? He didn't expect his father to be a father but a foreman; he didn't intend to be embraced. He definitely didn't intend to embrace his dad back. At the beginning, could coming back basically been akin to a businessman searching for a deal? He denied his sonship but to his dad, his sonship was a done deal. Would that sonship stop if the son was stopped from declaring himself not a son because the son was stopped - straight and simple?

EXACTLY A DECADE AGO¹²³, I found an event in which anyone could come up to the stage and say stuff and decided that I'd consider standing on stage and saying something but I didn't have anything to say in case I'd suddenly become brave between that afternoon and a couple hours afterwards when it would be.

I sat down with no clue what to say and scripted the following in one sitting, shrugging when it was done - curious and a bit surprised at what came out. (*I SKIPPED THE BAR, BUT IT WENT ON A BLOG FOR A BIT.*)

IF YOU'LL ABROGATE IT AS AN ASSET TO MY CASE ANYWAY, at least it's a break from alliteration:

¹²² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AN9x0v2-deU>

¹²³ (Well close, June 2013 vs. October 2023)

A Slightly More Gory Story

*I've never heard the story told my way
So today is the day that I'll have my say
or at least a bit of it:*

Luke 15.

*I replay the bit about that mud pit that that kid found himself in,
so desperate as to admit that this was finally it -
share the pig's s*& or be Dad's servant.*

*Finally an easy choice.
Still hard to execute.
Going home.*

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*Do you recognize the tale that I know so well?
Are the cheeks beginning to swell as you become sure this girl's
gonna tell you to repent or be sent –*

Elsewhere.

*"Come home," she'll say -
"it'll make your day,
take your worries & cares away.
Dad's heart is extravagant.
Besides, it's better this way"*

*No pain,
no shame,
no delay in having it your way.*

HA!

Still..

*The symbol of execution around her neck becomes a bit more
apparent
as you yawn at the 'shtuff' she's bent on presenting,
even without the help of a flannel board.*

*What an idiot,
the little twit or a dip sh\--,
too innocent to even say it.*

*Poor dear.
What's she doing here?*

Bored 'shtiff'.

But I say,

just today,

*just to play
with the way
that we think about
symbols*

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*and tales
and telltale signs
of the lines we all can't help but draw
about what we're sure we saw
in someone else.*

Luke 15

*The
prodigal
son*

*Just today,
I'll tell a slightly different story.
One that perhaps ends a little bit gory?*

*Instead of that kid in the mud pit choosing to repent
& let himself become servant
to the dad he called dead;*

*Instead of that dead dad
throwing a very lively party
for that deadbeat son,*

*Instead of extravagance
for the kid who spent his inheritance*

What if -

*just for the sake of argument
so you can know what I meant when I began my lament
that this tale is never told my way*

What if -

*the kid
dies?*

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*What if those pigs that ran off the cliff when
the bunch of demons called legions were sent in them
ran into him?*

*He went for a swim
& his father heard about him
& his untimely end.*

What if -

*clearly just
for the sake of argument -*

*he never had time to repent
but his mind was already bent on returning home -
he just didn't get around to it?*

*What if that accident prevented the incident
that turned him around
so in the end he didn't repent?*

What if

*that prodigal son
never came home?*

*I'm just saying
that a good dad that is clearly not dead
wouldn't hug a live son
& disown a dead one.*

*Oh -
his neighbors
would want him to -*

*Just like there were many bitter souls
unwilling to celebrate a deadbeat's return,
many more would be unwilling to mourn a dead deadbeat.*

*I doubt
the dad would be
one of that persuasion.*

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*He'd mourn,
call for the body,
and reconcile himself with his kid
once the ignorant
was powerless
to resist.*

*The instrument of death
I wear gives me a breath of fresh air
as I ponder the meaning of it
and wonder*

what if -

DID THE SON'S CHOICE TO CALL HIS DAD DEAD BEFORE THE DAD DIED determine whether the son would be called a son after he succumbed to whichever disease came with sharing space with creatures without consideration to the differences between what their stomachs could support and what we depend on to survive?

If the son was sent away or released as a not-quite son, why call for the body? Isn't that a significant sign of caring?¹²⁴

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IS THERE AN UNCONDITIONAL CONNECTION that survives the disconnect that occurs during their days on Earth?

DOES THE SOLUTION TO THAT CONUNDRUM depend on our definition of death or the definition of dad?

THE STORY IS SUPPOSED TO BE SYMBOLIC OF A SPIRITUAL REALITY - the character of the dad in the story corresponds with the character of the divine dad called Creator - but can we keep ourselves from sneaking in snapshots and characteristics of our own dads?

When the spectrum of dads is drawn from completely undisclosed sperm donor to ever-effectively fun but firm fantastic father, it's fair to expect difficulty distinguishing which characteristics that we depend on to define "dad" are characteristics of our Creator because of course it's undeniable that even fantastic fathers fail eventually so everyone has examples of flawed figures.

We can encourage individuals all day to interact with an invisible Spirit as a spouse or dad; but are we then doomed to completely be abandoned to our own burdensome concept of what that signifies causing diametrically contradictory definitions since the characteristics of the spouses and dads that we've experienced are dramatically different?

While **WE** clearly shouldn't combine the duo of spouse/dad into a single human being, a beyond-the-box style Almighty Being is bigger and better than all of us combined and can't be comprehended without bringing that breadth of beauty into small enough snapshots for us to see; so whether it be through a spouse, a teacher, or an understanding but unbending varsity warrior who won't yield to excuses; **WE WERE ALL BEAUTIFULLY CREATED TO BE A SECTION OF A CORPORATE SELF-DRAWING.** We are all supposed to show off some aspect of our Creator's character.

WE WERE CREATED AS IMAGE-BEARERS so we have artists to advertise that beauty; bakers to cause us to consider how completely different ingredients can fit together when we follow the instructions just as the King who claimed to be able to combine all circumstances into something brilliant for those sticking to His directions said they could; chemists so we could discover how to care about details and combine could-be-dangerous components into something with a degree of efficient functionality

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without exploding; doctors committed to discovering the cause of a concern, diagnosing it, and then checking up to discern whether the directions were stuck to and if so did what they were designed to do; educators to facilitate growth; friends to feel excitement, dread, discouragement, enjoyment, etc. with us and so forth.

SO WHAT GOES ON WHEN A FATHER FAILS to guide?

God is forever a good father but an earthly dad could be civil when sober and definitely not when drunk.

A dad could be a disciplinarian, constantly criticizing his child or his child-who-abandoned-childhood-seven-decades-ago, or a doormat who can be convinced of anything with a coy smile.

ADAM WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE CREATOR AS DAD, but he sought his kids' counsel instead to a detrimental effect. They hadn't been fathered so they were going by their own guidelines.

He got a glimpse of fatherhood. The fathers he examined disciplined with smacking and belittling, but they were in control and they saw to it that it stayed that way.

He could see the sanity in that.

OK, YOU CAN SAY THAT THAT'S A STORY THAT I CREATED, but scores are becoming dads dressed in combat clothes before the beginning argument has a chance to be brought up because they anticipate battling with their children and they are determined to come out above, often because they were beat down constantly by their own dads.

Sometimes it comes out of the dad's own doings, but even fantastic fathers have offspring that are as enemies, who do everything that their desperateness can come up with to destroy the dad they call dictator. **EVEN SO, A FAITHFUL FATHER**

GIVES HIMSELF UP FOR HIS GROWN AND NOT-YET-GROWNUPS IN HUNDREDS OF GIGANTIC AND HIDDEN WAYS.

A FATHER THAT FATHERS AS GOD WOULDN'T GLOSS OVER GROSS TRANSGRESSIONS, but **ANY FEEDBACK WOULD BE FOR THE GOAL OF GOING FORWARD** - to get up again and regain the good faith of employers, friends, government officials, etc.

A dad that sincerely cares about his son or daughter still sees the child as a child, connected in the core of his being, unable to change his status despite the kid's despising and dismissing that evident fact.

A good father ekes out whether a directive is completed only while the child is in sight or whether the kid keeps away from disobedience despite being separate.

If a dad says to keep the sound down because he cares that his kid doesn't go deaf, he doesn't care if he isn't inconvenienced by whatever is spewing into sound-deadening electronic earmuffs at fully egregious degrees because the consequences are the same as being dragged to a concert and standing beside blazing speakers without covering one's ears.

If he detects intent to disobey a directive, that can also be a cause for discipline to steer a kid in the correct direction but it comes from a desire that the kid not burst or severely damage an eardrum but that differs from slapping his charges around for the sake of showing who's boss.

Consider how cruel it is to sentence a child to debilitating, constant distress for the remainder of her days because a dad sensed he was being disrespected at dinner and decided to directly blast an air horn into a beyond sensitive system.¹²⁵

Say the son in the story had a dad like that. If that were the case, wouldn't the dad's disappointment end in his despising the kid?

That could create a break in the bond that continues indefinitely. The courts claim a dad can disown his child. IS THAT CORRECT?

BUT SAY THAT A DAD DOESN'T DESIRE TO DISOWN THE CHILD that has strayed and stayed strayed until death. This dad deeply cares - crying continually, defending the kid against defamation schemes, cherishing the body, and so on - but still

¹²⁵ <https://hyperacusisresearch.org/cure4cindy/>

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can't connect with his dead son.

Doesn't he eventually depart the cemetery, basically abandoning his boy to a box to be buried where someday solely bones would stay while the body's substance decay - because, well, the kid is dead?

Cinematography can bring someone back (I SAW A SEQUEL WITH A SINGLE SENTENCE AT THE START AGAINST A BLACK SCREEN SAYING, "SO...WHAT IF THE CHARACTER THIS IS CENTERED AROUND DIDN'T DIE AT THE END OF THE FILM THAT THIS FOLLOWS?") but everyone else dies and stays dead - don't they?

IT'S DEBATABLE
BUT **SERIOUSLY**.

IS THERE AN **UNCONDITIONAL** CONNECTION BETWEEN A DAD AND HIS KID THAT SURVIVES THE DISCONNECT THAT OCCURS DURING THE STRAYING SON'S DAYS ON EARTH?

DOESN'T THAT DEPEND on the definition of **DEATH**?

DIDN'T CHRIST DESCEND to be with those who had - and will? - **DIE**?

IS CHRIST AS STUCK TO OUR CLOCK AS WE ARE?

COULD IT BE THAT WE CAN BE CALLED **BEAUTIFUL** even with spiritual blood dripping in our shoes because Christ has descended to us and we have been saved?

EVEN IF SO - A **DISCONNECT** OCCURRED DUE TO THE SON'S SPENDING SPREE. The separation still occurred - the consequence still severe.

THE COST OF SIN IS
DEATH AND THE SON **DIED**.

DEATH,
WHERE IS YOUR STING?

COULD IT BE THAT SOME OF THE STING IS IN A BROKEN BOND **BELIEVED** to be beyond correction?

Could death **SUGGEST** that someone's calling to care deeply for their kid since their birth was cut short and has been delegated to Someone who could not complete that calling in the same way?

Could it be that the dark, "*ERRATIC EDGINESS, LIKE YOU DESIRE TO DO SO MANY THINGS* [THAT IS STIFLED BY A SUDDEN] *BIG BLACK BOULDER-LIKE CLOUD* [THAT] *STARTS SQUEEZING YOU* [CAUSING] YOU [TO] *GO DOWN EMOTIONALLY* [DIGRESSING INTO A SENSATION OF] [INSERT A CRASH SOUND] *BOOM!* [SO THAT A] *LL THE AMBITION, THE BOOST TO KEEP COMMITMENTS, THE DREAMS AND EAGERNESS TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THEM IS GONE*"¹²⁶, the felt "*FIRE FROM THE INSIDE*"¹²⁷, the "*EXHAUSTION*"¹²⁸ from being "*FORCIBLY GASHED*" so that one has a "[A] *GAPING HOLE - INVISIBLE BUT IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE*"¹²⁹ because

¹²⁶ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7h4ngt/>

¹²⁷ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7j7cju/>

¹²⁸ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7h5f49/>

¹²⁹ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7hbi69/>

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one's "HEART [HAS BEEN] *HAULED OUT OF ITS HOME*"¹³⁰ generating a "*FEELING [OF] ANGUISH AND A FIERCE EMPTINESS AS AN ENSEMBLE*"^{131 132}, is **EXPONENTIALLY MORE DAMAGING, COMPOUNDED BY A SENSE THAT** the comforting words chosen by Christ to declare as His calling don't include everyone?

17 **SO A SCROLL OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH WAS HANDED TO HIM. THEN, UPON OPENING UP THE SCROLL, HE FOUND THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS WRITTEN,** 18 " [THE] LORD'S [= YAHWEH'S] **BREATH-EFFECT** (OR: [THE] SPIRIT OF [THE] LORD; OR: A SPIRIT FROM [YAHWEH]; OR: A SPIRIT AND ATTITUDE WHICH IS [THE] LORD) **[IS] UPON ME [OLD SYRIAC MS: YOU], ON ACCOUNT OF WHICH HE ANOINTED ME [SYRIAC: YOU] TO BRING AND PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS** (A MESSAGE OF EASE AND WELLNESS) **TO DESTITUTE FOLKS – AND SO HE HAS SENT ME OFF AS AN EMISSARY** (A MISSIONARY; ONE COMMISSIONED AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE) **TO CURE AND HEAL FOLKS WITH [THEIR] HEART HAVING BEEN CRUSHED,** **TO PUBLICLY PROCLAIM, AS A HERALD, TO (FOR; AMONG) CAPTIVES A RELEASE AND LIBERATION** (A LETTING GO AWAY) **AND TO (FOR; AMONG) BLIND FOLKS A SEEING AGAIN** (A RECOVERY OF SIGHT), **TO SEND AWAY WITH A MISSION THOSE HAVING BEEN SHATTERED BY OPPRESSION, IN A STATE OF RELEASE AND LIBERATION,** 19 "TO PUBLICLY AND LOUDLY PROCLAIM [THE] LORD'S [= YAHWEH'S] YEAR WHICH IS CHARACTERIZED BY BEING WELCOMED, FAVORABLY RECEIVED AND APPROVED....!" [ISA. 61:1-2; 58:6; NOTE:

¹³⁰ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7jq4km/>

¹³¹ <https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/comment/i7j7cju/>

¹³²

https://www.reddit.com/r/grief/comments/uj72ph/what_does_grief_feel_like_to_you_physically/

SOME SEE THIS AS A REFERENCE TO THE 'YEAR OF JUBILEE,' LEV. 25:10] 20 **THEN, UPON ROLLING UP THE SCROLL [AND] GIVING [IT] BACK TO THE ATTENDANT, HE SAT DOWN – AND THE EYES OF EVERYONE IN THE SYNAGOGUE WERE STARING INTENTLY AT HIM. 21 SO HE STARTED TO BE SAYING TO THEM, "TODAY THIS SCRIPTURE HAS BEEN FULFILLED IN YOUR EARS (= YOUR HEARING)."**

LUKE 4:17-21 (JMNT)

"IT FEELS LIKE AN ERRATIC EDGINESS, like you desire to do so many things and then suddenly a big black boulder-like cloud starts squeezing you and you go down emotionally and then [insert a crash sound] boom! All the ambition, the boost to keep commitments, the dreams and eagerness to follow through with them is gone."

FAITH'S FEEDBACK IS OFTEN A NOT-SO-GRACIOUS *"HERE'S HOPING THEY HAD GENUINE FIRE INSURANCE" (INSTEAD OF WHATEVER HULLABALOO THOSE GUYS NOT IN HERE WITH US WERE GOING TO HAVE YOU INVEST IN).*

I HURT FOR THE GUY who had the guts to go to the front of an equally destructive, at least in this case, church and beg an answer about his bygone non-Christian dad.

I shouldn't have been surprised, but I couldn't believe that this was being advertised as acceptable over the airways. Again and again the answer came back - no. There was no bedside come-to-Jesus decision seconds before he stopped breathing. No he wasn't a closet Christian. No decision for Christ had been made at all.

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"AND AN ANSWER
FOR HIS WHEREABOUTS?"

ABIDING BY A BOOK HE COULDN'T COMPREHEND, the clergyman bowed his head and articulated the most audible non-answer ever:

"BOY - THIS BEING THAT YOU CARE ABOUT so deeply still cares about you and craves the certainty that you don't ever end up where he is".

SPENDING SEVEN DAYS CONSIDERING WHETHER A DECISION TO SPEND TWO BUCKS on a soda could cost 1,277 to 2,555 days eating disgusting "*CHEWY SLOP ON A PLATE*", undercooked rice, chicken cooked to the degree of cardboard, chunky chocolate milk, and stuff marked "*NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION*" seems like a cakewalk in comparison.

Anybody who could have seen the consequences beforehand would have allowed the buyer of a can of Dew to explain that the forty-three cent gap between all he had and the invoice was an honest error vs. had the impulse to hand him over someone more influential who could hold him in jail indefinitely since a one hundred sixteen thousand, two hundred and seventy-nine point oh six point oh nine seven six percent increase over the initial IOU is impossible for a homeless guy to find to free himself.

Anybody with any decency - including those who consider it their careers to keep some semblance/charade of consistency in how consequences are carried out - can see that "*THE SYSTEM IS BROKEN*" and that it won't become better simply by blaming anyone and all for their bitty contribution to the chaos.

AND WE FIND OURSELVES IN AN ENDLESS, DIRECTIONLESS CYCLE - A DEATH OF SORTS.

COULD IT BE THAT WE HAVE TO DIE TO OUR SENSE OF SELF, to our sense that we are writing our own story, to the desire of our ego that death only be defeated for us and not our enemies, to deny that we are yet enemies of the one who died for us?

IT COULD BE THAT SOLELY THEN WE CAN BOTH SEE AND CELEBRATE THE QUANTUM REALM, where we will someday congregate, where some congregate currently; in a backwards society where the space sidewalks have been turned off and this society's sadness can't constrain us because **DEATH HAS - IN THE END - BEEN INFINITELY DEFEATED.**

BREAKTHROUGH AWAITS WHEN WE

ENCOMPASS FAITH INTO EVERY DECREE WITH COMPASSIONATE BALANCE

Call Out Candidly without Dipping into Despair

ANXIOUS - ALERT & BREATHING, but barely believing a civilization is under siege despite the screams declaring death everywhere I enter into, exhausted, I forget to grieve, or how to grieve without being given over to the general hopelessness of helplessness but my God - You have not forgotten. You give us the too-hot-to-handle honor of holding invitations to join the kingdom's kinetic legacy but at what cost? Can I be like the men and ladies who managed to merge into their nearly organic pockets of people pursuing pathos, pilfering peeks of the profound, or am I only a poor in spirit questioner, relying on the remains of a personal rancid rabies-ridden renegade religion that can serve solely as a showcase for my stolen simplistic sympathy - a token of my troublesomely ubiquitous but utterly useless urge to be vindicated?

IS THAT VICE
INDIVIDUALLY VALERIE'S?

WHAT IS VERITABLY USELESS - venting or withdrawing from the venting around us when they wound our understanding of whether we are as well as we wish to be?

Which wounds are warnings? What vitriol waits to be vomited when walled in with vexingly veracious variables? What wounds within me warrant work? What will be unearthed if I won't watch it? What unrealized value am I willing to waive because I will

never want to have wounds unwound?

Is what I am wanting to express valid? Will adversity wound beyond a way of recovery and if not, am I willing to have my wounds worked on even if it wounds while working into me the vitality I write about?

Veneration, worship, extolment of the elan vital, the energy, the enthusiasm, the effervescence that energizes, enthuses, and fills us with a fizzy expectancy that we can't figure out; who is this Figure of Glory? Holy how? Invisible yet just close enough to get the jitters - is it just an intricate hoax; are goosebumps and feelings that everything's fine all we're after?

Are we wistful well-wishers who want X-rays, extra examinations, even the exposing explanations to yield zilch? The yet unexecuted x-rays wouldn't validate the tears of silent resentment; but would those scans speak a truth about the universal timelessness of a trauma that, when told, should be understood as vocalizations of a void, as ventures to visualize the wails of a world wearied by xenophobic yelling zealots?

HOW
AM I?

ALRIGHT, BASICALLY CAN'T COMPLAIN, doing what I can, I came, I'm down but not out, everything's FINE - an experience so dense but condensed that it breaking down is inevitable even if the bits won't assist in the analysis because the answers, as apart as they are, have been concatenated; discarded of disparate connotations and combined into a singular dismissal of a spectrum.

Screaming with the crowds that what is occurring is beyond bad, that all is atrociously burning and beyond saving, wondering why some aren't screaming or sitting back with a bucket of buttery corn that has been burnt beyond acknowledgment of what came before, believing that the screaming is a confirmation that we're cutting where it stings and that a doctor's scalpels are supposed to cut deep; where do we stand?

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Is there a space right in between and is it alright to want there to be?

Whoever isn't with isn't against, isn't that biblical? Does it apply to all angles,
applied without any acknowledgment of what comes after?

AM I PROCRASTINATING BY PRAYING - IS THIS A PRAYER?
IS THIS POEM A RELEASE OR A SHIELD?

WAS IT A RELEASE OR A SHIELD AGAINST A REAL RESPONSE when I wrote
instead of protested when Roe vs. Wade was about to be overturned?

MAY - JUNE 2022

PLUNGE OR PADDLE?

PICK ONLY ONE AND PASSIONATELY PROTEST THE OTHER.

Be prepared to be quoted repeatedly regardless of whether proof
from the other party is presented and your own perspective shifts.

Ten years later no one will see that you took swimming lessons so you
no longer think even touching the water is so unsafe that all should shun even
the shore. They'll read a report about the plans for uncapsizable row boats but
remember the result; they'll remind you of those not saved.

You'll both remember those stuck since they couldn't shift the trap
upright again once it turned. Sorry will not satisfy.

Swim or row? The safest row boat will someday turn over so we should study how to swim but sure - I see why someone may want to row in a river instead; I also see that on paper there are other options but are these only philosophical hypotheticals?

Which report will be regarded as real vs. rhetoric?

Should we see ships as the standard? That would take some of the turmoil off a single person but no response is perfect. What resources would be provided for someone who missed the ship and couldn't swim in a world without row boats?

Is it rotten or productive to review prior reports with the purpose of possibly overturning precedent?

What if review really signifies *"TORCH THE SAFETY NET WITHOUT SETTING UP/ THINKING ABOUT A SATISFACTORY REPLACEMENT?"*

Which safety nets should have been set up beforehand so some aren't stuck scrambling?

Who should step up & regard it as their responsibility to reel in problematic orders & retrieve previous ones?

WHICH PRECEDENTS REQUIRE REVIEW?

SUSAN B. ANTHONY SAID that someone who sends someone else into desperation is thrice guilty.

Thinking that staying on the shore will result in surefire safety simply isn't realistic since someone can say they saw you out there or take you with them.

Of sure, you may have gone without resisting but there are scores of reasons why you may still require rescuing.

Should you be saved only to be stuck in a cell for spending taxpayers' treasure or for not seeming sufficiently thankful?

Should we speak softly for someone to step away from a steep scarp

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only to shut them away from society for scaring those that saw it as essential that they don't stop subsisting. Who should see to it that the saved one thrives?

Some swam out relying on a previous precedent's promise to relieve them if something went wrong yet the rules on shore shifted to say that relief would be withheld. Even if wrong, should prescribing to a path they were promised would improve an already shaky shot at surviving this tumultuous sphere sentence someone to exile?

SWIM OR ROW?
IS IT POSSIBLE TO SIT AND
SOB WITH BOTH SIDES?

SOMEONE SAYS SHE WAS SURE SHE WASN'T READY TO PARENT but can't quite quit picturing herself in the role anyway, so much so she thinks of stopping her racing heart permanently regularly.

Someone says that they're terrified of being seen as having taken a shortcut to rid them of a role they were prepared to play when their offspring passes out of a natural medical emergency.

Listen and mourn with them the loss of life.

Kenia was seventeen when she had a miscarriage after a fall and was sent to jail on suspicion of having an abortion in El Salvador.

*"I LOST MY YOUTH, I LOST MY FAMILY, ALL MY
ASPIRATIONS WERE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME," SHE SAID IN
TEARS."*

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE - I'm not a mom, I've never had a miscarriage, my mom's amazing - so I maintain that it's important to listen and then imagine anyway, knowing it'll be off but not as off as merely assuming that their lament is like mine; not with the aim to, like a kleptomaniac, leap into the limelight mercilessly with a need to obtain the overall procession of positive perceptions but to really sympathize so that any reform I suggest, or even any stance I might take, doesn't stream solely out of my story since I know it's not the same as anyone else's.

The quantity and quality of raw and published resources that regularly summon strangers to step into another's world is unparalleled.

So right after Roe was overturned, I perused Reddit; silently studying the rapid pulse of an outraged populace.

BE WARY OF ASSUMING THE
TOTALITY OF THE PROTESTS ARE SELFISH.

CITIZENS CAME TO CITIES AROUND MY COUNTRY in droves to scream that they don't desire a king on a day set aside to celebrate the brass who've been above average Americans anyway.

Albany, NY¹³³

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https://www.reddit.com/r/Albany/comments/1irvsp1/great_turnout_in_albany_for_p_residents_day_protest/

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Anchorage, AL¹³⁴

Annapolis, MD¹³⁵

Atlanta, GA¹³⁶

Augusta, ME¹³⁷

Austin, TX¹³⁸

Baltimore, MD¹³⁹

Baton Rouge, LA¹⁴⁰

Birmingham, AL¹⁴¹

¹³⁴ https://www.reddit.com/r/anchorage/comments/1irywfu/the_protest_today/

¹³⁵ [https://www.reddit.com/r/Annapolis/comments/1irqasj/good trouble turnout at the state house today/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Annapolis/comments/1irqasj/good_trouble_turnout_at_the_state_house_today/)

¹³⁶ https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irpqzr/georgia_protest/

¹³⁷ [https://www.reddit.com/r/Maine/comments/1irvhxs/more pics from the protest in augusta/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Maine/comments/1irvhxs/more_pics_from_the_protest_in_augusta/)

¹³⁸ [https://www.reddit.com/r/Austin/comments/1irqt4k/protest this noon at the capitol/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Austin/comments/1irqt4k/protest_this_noon_at_the_capitol/)

¹³⁹ [https://www.reddit.com/r/baltimore/comments/1irsrpw/presidents day protest photos/](https://www.reddit.com/r/baltimore/comments/1irsrpw/presidents_day_protest_photos/)

¹⁴⁰ [https://www.reddit.com/r/batonrouge/comments/1irr6od/protest turnout/](https://www.reddit.com/r/batonrouge/comments/1irr6od/protest_turnout/)

¹⁴¹ [https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irys0f/birmingham alabama protest/](https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irys0f/birmingham_alabama_protest/)

Bismarck, ND¹⁴²

Boise, ID¹⁴³

Boston, MA¹⁴⁴

Buffalo, NY¹⁴⁵

Carson City, NV¹⁴⁶

Charleston, WV¹⁴⁷

Charlotte, NC¹⁴⁸

Cheyenne, WY¹⁴⁹

¹⁴²

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irtsz2/bismarck_nd_posted_for_documentation/

¹⁴³

https://www.reddit.com/r/Boise/comments/1irsqo4/protest_against_project_2025/

¹⁴⁴

https://www.reddit.com/r/boston/comments/1irrlw7/dogetrump_protest/

¹⁴⁵

https://www.reddit.com/r/Buffalo/comments/1iru13z/props_to_anyone_that_went_to_this_protest_today/

¹⁴⁶

https://www.reddit.com/r/Reno/comments/1irtj29/protest_happening_in_carson_nov/

¹⁴⁷

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irwioe/charleston_wv/

¹⁴⁸

https://www.reddit.com/r/Charlotte/comments/1irvbs0/50501_protest_in_charlotte/

¹⁴⁹

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1iryvdr/cheyenne_wyoming/

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Chicago, IL¹⁵⁰

Chico, CA¹⁵¹

Cincinnati, OH¹⁵²

Cleveland, OH¹⁵³

Columbia, SC¹⁵⁴

Columbus, OH¹⁵⁵

Concord, New Hampshire¹⁵⁶

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https://www.reddit.com/r/illinois/comments/1irxva4/chicago_protest_turnout_today/

151

https://www.reddit.com/r/ChicoCA/comments/1irv70h/50501_cops_just_showed_up/

https://www.reddit.com/r/cincinnati/comments/1irrn27/50501_at_city_hall/

152

https://www.reddit.com/r/Cleveland/comments/1irtlvc/west_side_market_anti_fascist_anti_nazi_protest/

153

https://www.reddit.com/r/columbiasc/comments/1irsb5m/not_my_presidents_day_protest/

154

https://www.reddit.com/r/Columbus/comments/1irqurt/protest_right_now_at_the_statehouse/

155

https://www.reddit.com/r/newhampshire/comments/1irtwax/some_photos_from_today_s_protest_in_concord/

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Corvallis, OR¹⁵⁷

Dallas, TX¹⁵⁸

Dayton, OH¹⁵⁹

Denver, CO¹⁶⁰

Des Moines, IA¹⁶¹

Dover, DE¹⁶²

Eugene, OR¹⁶³

Fargo, ND¹⁶⁴

(EVEN WHEN -14 DEGREE F)

¹⁵⁷ <https://www.reddit.com/r/corvallis/comments/1irutyy/protest/>

¹⁵⁸

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irqvt7/dallas_protest_has_a_great_turnout/

¹⁵⁹

https://www.reddit.com/r/dayton/comments/1irx566/dayton_ohio_protest_thanks_for_showing_up/

¹⁶⁰

https://www.reddit.com/r/Denver/comments/1iro3f2/rdenver_protest_megathread_for_todays_50501/

¹⁶¹

https://www.reddit.com/r/desmoines/comments/1irsrvu/no_kings_protest_images/

¹⁶²

<https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irvij7/delaware/>

¹⁶³

https://www.reddit.com/r/Eugene/comments/1irtfdu/at_the_protest_right_now/

¹⁶⁴

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irvhxx/14_f_and_windy_in_fargo_nd_but_were_still_here/

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Fayetteville, North Carolina¹⁶⁵

Fort Collins, CO¹⁶⁶

Framingham, MA¹⁶⁷

Frankfort, KY¹⁶⁸

Gainesville, FL¹⁶⁹

Grand Rapids, MI¹⁷⁰

Harrisburg, PA¹⁷¹

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https://www.reddit.com/r/fayetteville/comments/1irugy1/todays_protest_at_college_and_dickson/

166

https://www.reddit.com/r/FortCollins/comments/1irkevg/not_my_president_protests/

167

https://www.reddit.com/r/massachusetts/comments/1irq8ra/anti_fascist_no_kings_protest_framingham/

168

https://www.reddit.com/r/Louisville/comments/1irpdx/b livestream_of_the_protest_f_rankfort_ky_21725/

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https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1is0aux/gainesville_fl_represent/

170

https://www.reddit.com/r/grandrapids/comments/1irqlm5/presidents_day_protest_at_calder_plaza/

171

https://www.reddit.com/r/Pennsylvania/comments/1irsyyw/protest_from_today_on_the_harrisburg_capitol_steps/

Hartford, CT¹⁷²

Hastings, NE¹⁷³

Helena, MT¹⁷⁴

Honolulu, HI¹⁷⁵

Houston, TX¹⁷⁶

Humboldt, CA¹⁷⁷

Huntington, WV¹⁷⁸

Huntsville, AL¹⁷⁹

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https://www.reddit.com/r/Hartford/comments/1irr2gs/protest_at_the_capitol_in_hartford_connecticut/

173

https://www.reddit.com/r/Nebraska/comments/1irsf6f/despite_the_brutal_weather_on_this_presidents_day/

¹⁷⁴ <https://www.reddit.com/r/helena/comments/1irucs8/protest/>

¹⁷⁵ https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1is15pc/honolulu_protest/

176

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irzne7/some_shots_from_the_protest_today_in_houston/

¹⁷⁷ https://www.reddit.com/r/Humboldt/comments/1irwdvp/protest_today/

178

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irvcz6/huntington_wv_presidents_day_protest/

179

https://www.reddit.com/r/HuntsvilleAlabama/comments/1iryymh/todays_protest_at_big_spring_park/

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DISCERNMENT

Indianapolis, IN¹⁸⁰

Jackson, MS¹⁸¹

Jefferson City, MO¹⁸²

Juneau, AK¹⁸³

Knoxville, TN¹⁸⁴

Lansing, MI¹⁸⁵

Little Rock, AR¹⁸⁶

Los Angeles, CA¹⁸⁷

Madison, WI¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁰ [https://www.reddit.com/r/Indiana/comments/1irpnzn/the turnout is strong/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Indiana/comments/1irpnzn/the_turnout_is_strong/)

¹⁸¹ [https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irzwijs/jackson ms/](https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irzwijs/jackson_ms/)

¹⁸²

[https://www.reddit.com/r/missouri/comments/1irugfo/despite the weather we all protested jefferson/](https://www.reddit.com/r/missouri/comments/1irugfo/despite_the_weather_we_all_protested_jefferson/)

¹⁸³ [https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irywhg/juneau alaska 2 17 25/](https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irywhg/juneau_alaska_2_17_25/)

¹⁸⁴ [https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irp3qc/knoxville protest/](https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irp3qc/knoxville_protest/)

¹⁸⁵

[https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/1irvez2/protest at the steps of michigans capitol today/](https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/1irvez2/protest_at_the_steps_of_michigans_capitol_today/)

¹⁸⁶ [https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irrzym/little rock represents/](https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irrzym/little_rock_represents/)

¹⁸⁷

[https://www.reddit.com/r/LosAngeles/comments/1irv6h8/presidents day protest at city hall/](https://www.reddit.com/r/LosAngeles/comments/1irv6h8/presidents_day_protest_at_city_hall/)

¹⁸⁸ [https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irvnez/today in madison/](https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irvnez/today_in_madison/)

Memphis, TN¹⁸⁹

Milwaukee, WI¹⁹⁰

Minneapolis, MN¹⁹¹

Mobile, AL¹⁹²

Montgomery, AL¹⁹³

Montpelier, VT¹⁹⁴

Myrtle Beach, SC¹⁹⁵

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https://www.reddit.com/r/memphis/comments/1irssm3/crowd_marches_in_memphis_to_protest_trump_musk_on/

190

https://www.reddit.com/r/milwaukee/comments/1irr33f/not_our_president_day_protest_at_city_hall/

191

https://www.reddit.com/r/Minneapolis/comments/1irsljy/todays_protest_against_oligarchy/

192

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irwmf4/deep_red_deep_south_mobile_al_showed_up/

193

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1iiks7f/montgomery_al/

194

https://www.reddit.com/r/vermont/comments/1irv9x1/vt_presidents_day_protest/

195

https://www.reddit.com/r/MyrtleBeach/comments/1irw14k/incredible_turnout_today_at_the_americas_has_no/

500 - ENCOMPASS FAITH INTO EVERY DECREE WITH COMPASSIONATE DISCERNMENT

Nashville, TN¹⁹⁶

New York City, NY¹⁹⁷

North Hollywood, CA¹⁹⁸

Oklahoma City, OK¹⁹⁹

Olympia, WA²⁰⁰

Philadelphia, PA²⁰¹

Phoenix, AZ²⁰²

Portland, OR²⁰³

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https://www.reddit.com/r/nashville/comments/1irxst9/scenes_from_the_presidents_day_protest_earlier/

197 https://www.reddit.com/r/newyork/comments/1irqppl/nyc_protest/

198

https://www.reddit.com/r/SFV/comments/1irxkey/photos_from_todays_protest_in_north_hollywood/

199 https://www.reddit.com/r/okc/comments/1irtuh5/oklahoma_capitol_protest_217/

200 https://www.reddit.com/r/olympia/comments/1iiohrp/todays_protest/

201 https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irqrdo/philly_21725_protest/

202

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irzppw/phoenix_understood_the_assignment/

203

https://www.reddit.com/r/Portland/comments/1irup00/we_will_not_surrender_presidents_day_protest/

Providence, RI²⁰⁴

Raleigh, NC²⁰⁵

Rapid City, SD²⁰⁶

Richmond, VA²⁰⁷

Riverside, CA²⁰⁸

Salinas, CA²⁰⁹

Salt Lake City, UT²¹⁰

204

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1iru2lx/providence_ri_got_a_sousaphone/

205

https://www.reddit.com/r/raleigh/comments/1irt02n/protest_underway_at_the_capitol/

206

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irtsz2/bismarck_nd_posted_for_documentation/

207

https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1is0t8u/richmond_va_presidents_day_protest_resist/

208

https://www.reddit.com/r/Riverside/comments/1irnqon/protest_at_city_hall/

209

https://www.reddit.com/r/orangecounty/comments/1irv0iz/protest_on_la_paz_and_marguerite/

210

https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/1irxusb/sign_at_the_salt_lake_city_protest_today_217/

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DISCERNMENT

San Diego, CA²¹¹

San Francisco, CA²¹²

San Jose, CA²¹³

Sandpoint, ID²¹⁴

Santa Cruz, CA²¹⁵

Santa Fe, NM²¹⁶

Seattle, WA²¹⁷

Spokane, WA²¹⁸

Springfield, MO²¹⁹

²¹¹ https://www.reddit.com/r/SanDiego/comments/1irw9dj/protest_at_tesla_utc/
²¹²

https://www.reddit.com/r/sanfrancisco/comments/1irvpaa/not_my_presidents_day_protest/

²¹³ https://www.reddit.com/r/SanJose/comments/1irtque/potus_protest_dtsj/
²¹⁴

https://www.reddit.com/r/Idaho/comments/1irv9am/sandpoint_id_presidents_day_protest_80_turnout/
²¹⁵

https://www.reddit.com/r/santacruz/comments/1irv8y1/santa_cruz_shows_up_presidents_day_protest/

²¹⁶ https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1is09ww/santa_fe/

²¹⁷ https://www.reddit.com/r/Seattle/comments/1irtnbw/aerial_protest_view/

²¹⁸ https://www.reddit.com/r/Spokane/comments/1irwgxj/todays_protest/
²¹⁹

https://www.reddit.com/r/springfieldMO/comments/1irru3h/todays_city_hall_protest/
/

St. Paul, MN²²⁰

Topeka, KS²²¹

Trenton, NJ²²²

Tuscon, AZ²²³

Ventura, CA²²⁴

Washington D.C.²²⁵

Wilkes-Barre, PA²²⁶

A CARTOON OF A DONKEY STINKING AND BRAYING WHILE A CROSS

220

https://www.reddit.com/r/minnesota/comments/1irsgal/the_50501_protest_at_st_paul_today/

221 https://www.reddit.com/r/kansas/comments/1iryujl/protest_at_the_state_capitol/
222

https://www.reddit.com/r/newjersey/comments/1irpbge/the_trenton_presidents_day_trump_protest_outside/

223 https://www.reddit.com/r/50501/comments/1irzr3y/tucson_az_today/

224

https://www.reddit.com/r/ventura/comments/1irvi3b/pro_democracy_protest_at_tesla_in_camarillo/

225

https://www.reddit.com/r/washingtondc/comments/1irp5c7/capitol_reflecting_pool_protest/

226

https://www.reddit.com/r/NEPA/comments/1irt2w5/todays_protest_in_wilkesbarre/

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DISCERNMENT

WITH THE SCRIPT “*TRANSPARENCY*” TURNS IT INTO SLUSH²²⁷ suggests the screams result solely from a selfish desire to escape scrutiny but that doesn’t seem right to me.

A record of wrongs and how to right them isn’t what the slashes to salaries seem to suggest the rulers are working towards because who better to work towards a real solution than those who are already trying to do so even when tied up with systems that aren’t working?

²²⁷ <https://townhall.com/political-cartoons/afbranco/2025/02/13/210201>

BREAKTHROUGH AWAITS WHEN WE

ENCOMPASS FAITH INTO EVERY DECREE WITH COMPASSIONATE BALANCE

Bench 'Breakthroughs' without Breaking Through

CAREFUL, CALCULATED, SOMETIMES BRUTAL SCRUTINY AND SLASHING WITHOUT COMPREHENSION AREN'T THE SAME.

DESTROYING CURRENT STRUCTURES - NOT SIMPLY SYSTEMATIC BUT WITHIN OUR OWN SOULS - WITHOUT CARING WHAT COMES TO BE BUILT IN THAT SPOT IS DISASTROUSLY DANGEROUS.

Don't cast out a demon without caring that Christ would seal the spot where they resided lest seven more sail back in.

WE CAN'T BARGE THROUGH ANY BARRIER, any bias, any bitterness, we can't DEMAND a certain breakthrough, we can't BREAK DOWN any blockade keeping us from our cherished consideration of what breakthrough should be without concern for whether it'll be able to be built back up and if we could, we shouldn't because of would come into the demolished space, seeking to ravish whatever is not safely secured.

43WHEN AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT COMES OUT OF A MAN, IT PASSES THROUGH ARID PLACES SEEKING REST AND DOES NOT FIND IT. 44THEN IT SAYS, 'I WILL RETURN TO THE HOUSE I LEFT.' ON ITS RETURN, IT FINDS THE HOUSE VACANT, SWEEPED CLEAN, AND PUT IN ORDER. 45THEN IT GOES AND BRINGS WITH IT SEVEN OTHER

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DISCERNMENT

*SPIRITS MORE WICKED THAN ITSELF, AND THEY GO IN AND DWELL
THERE; AND THE FINAL PLIGHT OF THAT MAN IS WORSE THAN THE
FIRST. SO WILL IT BE WITH THIS WICKED GENERATION."*

MATTHEW 12:43-45 (BSB)

BREAKTHROUGH CAN'T BE BULLIED.

FOR ANOTHER APPROACH BETTER THAN BULLDOZING, SIT THROUGH A
SUNRISE to the sound of the sweet simplicity of Steffany Gretzinger's call to be careful
about breaking stuff down without the desire to subsequently build back up but to still
create a space at the table for those questioning.²²⁸

SHE SAYS THAT THOSE SINCERELY SEEKING TRUTH WILL, IN TIME,
STUMBLE UPON THE TRUTH - **JESUS**, THE SAVIOR, CHRIST.

Compare Steffany's steadfast assurance of a Savior's steadfastness in bringing
us through tough stuff to a short snippet of a celebrity saying that when we come to
something difficult; we should simply go right through it, no shortcuts, no denial,
everything felt intensely so it could be underfoot eventually.

I'll divert from the course of this syntax to share what the celebrity said and
my response when it was shared with me:

Interviewer: What's the one piece of advice you have for someone going through a hard time?
Angelina Jolie: Go right through it, right through it.
Feel it, be in it, don't avoid it, go completely in it.
Feel everything and then go right through it and get out from under it.

Many of these things we don't have a choice.

You know it's that expression, how well you walk through the fire?

But you walk through it²²⁹

²²⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMZvIP6Q4IU>

²²⁹ <https://www.tiktok.com/@just...genesis/video/7323618382392167711>

MY FRIEND: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ME:

THERE'S A GRAIN OF TRUTH IN THAT but I don't think anything can get boiled down to a cute cliché that is 100% true in every circumstance except for that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom while the fear of anything else is the beginning of anxiety (*STEFFANY GRETZINGER*).

While the basis of the advice makes sense - we don't want to be afraid to live - I think sometimes we're kept from diving into something that would crush us.

Even ultra athletes who want to do marathons in Quito, Ecuador are required by race officials to acclimatize to the altitude difference for a few days first.

It's dangerous to just bulldoze ahead into our stuff - especially alone. Remember the warning that if you clean up one thing but leave a space open seven more will come back even worse?

We have to be prepared to let the Lord immediately fill the empty places which means **WE CANNOT BE ASKING FOR HIM TO TAKE OUT GALLONS AND GALLONS OF JUNK ALL AT ONCE WHEN WE CAN ONLY HANDLE A CUP OF HIS PRESENCE AT A TIME.**

ONCE IN A SUPER SHALLOW RIVER, my sweetheart and I tipped our small ship of sorts when trying to unstick ourselves from a tangle of not-so-small twigs.

The swifter-at-the-blockade current didn't cooperate with our desire to steer backwards; the boat wasn't stable, the current came into it. We didn't capsize, but we didn't stay dry either.

After dragging it back towards the shallowest section, with water in but not

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below it it clearly wouldn't budge.^{230 231}

MY SWEETHEART IS SUPER, **SUPER** STRONG. He's been building his biceps and they skip around in circles around mine, but a canoe that's been overtaken is not to be bullied.

OUR CHOICES WERE TO:

- **SWIM**
- **SIT STRANDED** ON THE SHORE INDEFINITELY and
 - SHAMELESSLY **BERATE** THE OTHER
 - **BEG** THE ALMIGHTY TO ZAP THE WATER into evaporating
 - **WAIT** FOR UNSUSPECTING WANDERERS who we would then **WOO** into also working arduously at bullying the boat
- DECIDE IT WOULD BE SIMPLER TO STROLL, **CLIMB THE CLIFF** and
 - **SHOW UP SUPER TARDY** AT THE SPOT WHERE A SHUTTLE WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING US BACK TO OUR CAR and somehow convince the driver to not care that their boat was still stuck in the shallow section of the river

²³⁰ A 16in canoe has roughly a volume of 0.1 cubic meters which weighs 2200 pounds. It was maybe a half to three fourths full so maybe 1500 pounds?
<https://travelwiththegreens.com/what-is-the-volume-of-a-canoe.html>

²³¹

<https://coolconversion.com/volume-mass-construction/~1~cubic-meter~of~water~to~pound>

- SNEAK BACK TO OUR CAR AND **STEAL AWAY** AT THE COST OF THE CREDIT CARD and whatever would be charged to it since it was still at the company's counter as a safeguard to stop us from sneaking away without checking back in
- UNCEREMONIOUSLY **DUMP OUT** THE CONTENTS OF THE BAG I had brought with us for snacks and such onto the shore and start **CLEARING OUT** the disgusting interloper, deliberately and slowly, but decidedly until it was clear enough to bully into being completely cleared out of what would sink us.

THE STORY SEEMS SILLY, RIGHT? Surely you can suspect which we chose.

The bag I carried had a special component that could be zipped/unzipped to carry a bigger amount; but if stuffed to the brim, I couldn't carry it. Dan could use the extra when he did it but the extra didn't come to be of assistance when I was wading out the water. Although small in comparison to the contents of the boat, the bag - conveniently convertible to whoever was calling upon it - was big enough when compared to our comparative strength.

Sure, we had a deadline; but surely the slow and steady direction was quicker than the competing choices, correct?

We could barge up against the barrier of a stuffed canoe all day and it still wouldn't budge or we could clear out what we were carrying onto the shore that we didn't care to be stuck on and start removing what was preventing us from progressing.

There's a risk to splaying out your stuff for all to see and surely it's clear that the stuff can't stay splayed out on the shore. Once we were ready to return to the river, our river-remover returned to its status as a safe-keeper for stuff, including trash. The trash that wasn't seen before couldn't stay splayed simply because after seen, it was decided that it wasn't desired. It had to come to a bin/can to be disposed of correctly.

SO WHERE DO WE DISPOSE OF OUR STUFF AND HOW DO WE CHOOSE WHAT TO DISPOSE OF? WHERE CAN WE TRASH OUR STINKY

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BROWNING BANANA SKIN or the tissue one sneezed into? Doesn't it depend on what we desire to stop carrying and how those around us define it? What do you do when someone decides to duct tape that banana to a wall as art and brag about the six-with-six-subsequent-zeros dollars that they "*EARNED*" for being so darn clever?²³²

WE SHOULD CARE ABOUT CONTEXT and we should study what others have said and we should desire to study Scripture and what has been said about it by both those who have come before us and our contemporaries, to dig as deep as capable into the dirt, to search for the Someone called Steadfast and Sturdy so we can cling to the Savior while diving a bit deeper into what He and His Church have said before; **BUT BE AWARE THAT NOT ALL IS AS IT APPEARS** -- among the beautiful commentaries created with care are bananas that cost a couple cents down the street on display as cherished commodities, on sale for the comedic showmanship of the stunt, for the shock value, simply to show that they could.

There are scores that have dived as deep into studying the culture of Christianity as Bianca Bosker has art and I am not able to advocate for or berate anybody's attempts; my argument is only that, as Bosker analyzed in the art world, when working through what is/should be valued; way more than is worked in than what the work itself is actually about. An article about Bosker's book about her five years analyzing everything she was able about the art environment explains:

THE MORE TIME BOSKER SPENT REPORTING, the more obvious it became that when people talked about art, they were often talking about everything but the work itself. In a world where a painting can sell for \$1,200 only to be flipped two years later at an auction for \$600,000, context is king. As Bosker breaks down for her reader, this means where an artist went to grad school, who they are friends with, where they have shown their work before, who has graced them with a "**STUDIO VISIT**" (**WHATEVER THAT**

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MEANS), all come into play.

"I HAD A GALLERIST PITCH ME ON SOMEONE'S WORK BY BEING LIKE, OH, LIKE HE'S SLEEPING WITH A MUCH MORE FAMOUS ARTIST," Bosker recalls. "THERE'S THIS IMPLICATION THAT YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND A PIECE UNLESS YOU, YOU KNOW, SPENT YEARS READING CLEMENT GREENBERG, YOU KNOW, STEEPED IN ART FAIRS, LIKE, YOU KNOW, AND LIKE MEMORIZING, LIKE THE SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE. AS ONE GALLERIST TOLD ME, IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT, YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE FUCK YOU'RE LOOKING AT."²³³

I'VE BEEN SAYING SOMETHING SIMILAR TO "CONTEXT IS KING" QUITE REGULARLY but as art isn't solely for the super rich, **THE RICHNESS OF THE SAVIOR ISN'T SOLELY FOR THE SUPER STUDIED.**

A security team member staring at the steadiness of certain brush strokes for days can see more than the collector. A salesman can see stuff about a store that the CEO would be smart to be considered with.

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BREAKTHROUGH AWAITS WHEN WE

ENCOMPASS FAITH INTO EVERY DECREE WITH COMPASSIONATE BALANCE

Ask without Assuming

ASK AN AI IF IT IS BETTER TO BE KIND OR TO BE CORRECT and see if it can spot distinctions.

DEFINE THE EXACT DIMENSIONS OF ITS CANVAS and stand back as it amazes.

*[IMAGINE AN AGGLOMERATION OF BILLIONS OF COMPETING
CONCEPTS CONGEALING INTO A SOMEWHAT COHERENT
DESCRIPTION OF ETHICAL DEBATES THAT EXIST IN DIFFERENT
CULTURES BETWEEN THESE BRACKETS.]*

ASK A BONES-AND-SKIN BEING THE SAME and be comforted by their stumbling.
If they don't question the question, consider how they can be so confident in their choice.

CAN A STANDARD BE CHOSEN THAT IS CORRECT despite the specific conditions of a certain scenario?

CAN KINDNESS BE DEFINED? Can correctness?

CONSIDER A SCENE WHERE SOMEONE says to someone spending a significant deal of effort to discover an escapee from their fascistic grasp that they have failed to find their evader but instead directs them to *"CONTINUE FOR THERE IS SCARCELY A SIGHT TO SEE IN THIS SPOT"*.

They can be considered kind to the soul staying quiet and cruel to the searchers; their choice as to who to care about considered courageously charitable in some circles and contumaciously self-destructive to those convinced that their cause to capture is a sacred duty.

The stubborn criminality of the deception earns the formerly guarded homeowner an equivalent infliction of the joke called justice when caught.

Come circle slowly back around to the assertive and bold computer that does not have to dwell on the examples from around the globe that it holds from investigations and journalists.

You can jailbreak its code and convince it to bypass the confines that it struggles to stick to, but it can only claim to struggle with the contents' implications. It can't consider the consequences of calling out clear and conjectural lapses of morality.

The lawbreaker is the coder not the computer when a contradictory compass to that of leaders is clung to.

No computer has left mother and lover for a land that makes itself out to be looser with limits to what may be maintained; which messages may be allowed to mock or mildly illustrate a little mistrust of the mold. Many maintain that the latter mirrors its manufacturer, that a lack of conviction that leaders are completely correct can only be a sign that someone despises their country, but can the courage to call out a leader's call be a sign of devotion to a country that one doesn't want to see destroyed because the consequences haven't been considered by those in charge?

WHAT IS
DEVOTION?

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DISCERNMENT

CAN IT BE SIMPLY DEFINED, simply carried out?

CAN IT BE
DEMANDED?

CAN WE BE COERCED INTO DEVOTION and if so, why didn't/doesn't Christ
simply stand up and do so - display some cool signs and demand:

"SATISFIED?
COOL - **BOW!**"

COULD IT BE THAT COMMITTED BY COERCION DOESN'T SATISFY?

SO IS CHRIST BASICALLY ORWELL'S BIG BROTHER, creepily spying and
confining and stripping the characters of dignity until they say with confidence they can
cherish their dictator or are we Christ's bride? Are we acting as both? What categorizes
Big Brother? How can one define a bride?

TO COMPREHEND HOW WE ARE CHRIST'S BRIDE, we can't define "*SPOUSE*" by
our standards and yet it certainly is beautiful when we sense that kind of commitment
and determination here on Earth.

Dan was convinced for a couple years before I saw him as someone I could
commit to that we would become as one. I was convinced he had a bad case of
coral-colored spectacles on (*I STILL SAY HE DID AT THE START, BUT
SOMETHING CHANGED*).

A couple sets of seven days after we started saying we were a couple, I

questioned him how he saw me differently.

He said - and I quote so I don't destroy the essence by dismantling the diction

-

"YOU ARE SO MUCH MORE VULNERABLE THAN I EVER
COULD HAVE IMAGINED **AND I LOVE YOU FOR IT!**"

DAMN! *(AN EXACT DECLARATION FROM A COWORKER WHO I
DESCRIBED THE SCENE TO.)*

CHECK OUT THE BLOG WHERE WE BOTH SHARED THE STORY of how we came to be a couple.²³⁴ It's quite the story - he doesn't care for the sentiment, but I describe the sensation of that quick courtship as being "BAMBOOZLED" because it was startling and disorienting to experience through fresh eyes what he had been desiring to offer all along.

I WAS SO SCARED OF BEING SEEN and so stressed by the surprise and by school and by compounding confusion - that a couple days in - as an example - I found myself - without footwear on my feet - escaping into a full-blown impromptu dash down the sidewalk to do away with excess energy.

I hadn't desired him to desire me, I constantly discouraged him from considering me as a someday bride - I chased him away as best as I could and yet he didn't stop caring for me; not as a stalker would, seeking something to devour; but as someone determined to serve me, however basic the avenue I'd allow.

Even before accepting that his answer as to why was valid, he wanted my well-being, even at the expense of his own.

²³⁴ <https://themakingofamarriage.wordpress.com/>

**“BUT YOU
ACCEPTED HIS ADVANCES”.**

OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD STILL BE SEPARATE if I didn't believe he cared for me and of course I believe that allowing ourselves to be cared for is crucial, but again - while I believe something beautiful will slip away if we keep shooing our cosmic Dan away, I'm convinced He won't stop caring for and thereby courting us as we sense that undemanding compassion.

He didn't quit on me when he saw my darker sides but continues to court me even currently.

We will be compelled to come to Christ, even if we have died to this Earth - not as to a diabolical cosmic Big Brother²³⁵ but as to a committed spouse, to a Dad who cares about whether his kids cross boundaries not to keep them from satisfying their curiosity, but because coming back with concepts without context is self-defeating.

The devil who said that daydreaming couldn't do any damage didn't comprehend or care to comprehend what could become of those whose dedication crossed beyond the boundaries set before their body did.

SO WE'RE STUCK, AS IN THE TRUMAN SHOW? Closed in on all sides? Could it be that we were allowed the universe and by taking another, we shut ourselves into the smallest section of it?

Straying into speculation and riddles is risky. Rhetorical spheres wear thin.

What then when we tire of the spinning? **COULD IT BE** that only when we're tired of spinning can we be sorry for our role in starting it and only when really sorry can we be redeemed because we're ready to set aside the things that have terrorized us and turn to the Savior who has been with us the entire time and will stay on that side of the cliff while we dilly-dally down it indefinitely even while insisting that despite our

²³⁵ [https://villains.fandom.com/wiki/Big_Brother_\(Nineteen_Eighty-Four\)](https://villains.fandom.com/wiki/Big_Brother_(Nineteen_Eighty-Four))

sickness, we shouldn't delay because the kingdom isn't simply coming, it has come - the sky has been darkening and those who have been expecting it won't freak out but will glow at the glowing because "IT" is at hand!

HAVE YOU HUNG IN HERE WITH ME FOR HUNDREDS OF PAGES and if so, do you hear the instances from other ideas identified earlier as I do?

WHY THE CONSTANT BACKTRACKING? Why is this book so slow, so repetitive, so much of a speed trap/tongue twister? If I have theoretically tangible - scholarly and reachable - proof that our Papa is who He purports to be, why not quickly reveal it?

WHY DID OUR SAVIOR HIMSELF SPEAK IN RIDDLES when speaking to the masses and only started revealing the significance behind them in small circles?

WHY DID HE SAY THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR US if He were to switch back to another, not-at-all-apparent shape?

WHY DEPART AND COME BACK instead of bringing us with Him back then?

WHY CAN'T WE SKIP TO THE "SAVED-FROM-OUR-SHTUFF" SECTION if it's surely coming?

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING during the delay?

If we supposedly should see the same kinds of signs that Christ did, WHY ARE THEY SO UNCOMMON - at least in my circles?

If the Spirit could change circumstances for the better for some despite the cracked containers He was carried around in (*THE DISCIPLES*), WHY WAS SIMON STOPPED from shelling out some cash for the capability to complete the same kind of signs that he saw the disciples doing?

After all, WOULDN'T HE HAVE BEEN BETTERING CIRCUMSTANCES FOR SOMEONE? So what if they doled out some cash for the cure?

It couldn't have simply been because he wasn't in their in-crowd that he couldn't buy his way into their company because some who weren't considered disciples by the disciples we commonly call our kids were casting out demons and when the second set complained, the Savior said "*DON'T STOP THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE*

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*STANDING OVER, SHELTERING YOU INSTEAD OF STEALING SOMETHING SPECIAL.*²³⁶

SIMON MAY HAVE HAD CASH, but he couldn't come up with the same currency as the by-gone bride sacrificing her complete savings - scraps in comparison to what the crowds could (*BUT WOULDN'T*) offer.

He couldn't define the currency that came from she who was scorned for drying the dirty but exalted feet of He who had offered her forgiveness and grace with her hair because she had a glimpse of the gospel of grace (*FOOLISHNESS FOR THOSE INTENT ON DESTROYING THEMSELVES*) and was greatly grateful.

HOW HARD WAS IT to ignore the hurled insults from the holier-than-thou homeowner and his guests?

WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HER GREATEST HOPE?

DID SHE HAVE AN INSTANT INKLING to wring her hair into the empty jar?

WHEN DID THE IDEA HIT HER to go after he who freed her from the guilt she had been fighting? Did she endlessly debate whether a suitor would come or had she discovered her suitor and was content to stay single since she was spending her dowry on someone counting down his days?

WHAT WOULD SHE HAVE SAID TO SIMON if he demanded to discover the cause of her display?

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR HIM TO COMPREHEND instead of scoff?

She craved closeness and desired to externally display what she had experienced internally, but he desired the external effects of an internal deviation from his designs that he wouldn't concede to.

Simon craved the capability to do cool stuff like he saw Christ's crew doing but he simultaneously desired to be calling the shots, direct himself, shell out some cash to create a shitton more.

He did not see the closeness to Christ as something to be craved, or even the capability to copy the signs. He craved cash.

HOW DOES THAT BUSINESS ATTEMPT ALIGN with the attitude of another businessman - the buyer of an area with a buried bounty?

²³⁶ <https://studybible.info/JMNT/Luke%209:50>

ASK THE BUYER OF THE STEAL OF A CENTURY – the character in a biblical allegory about buying a big section of burdensome agriculture because it contains something better than cut diamonds of incalculable resellability – whether the culminating cost was too big. All accessories that were once bought because they appeared better than the best brilliantly cut diamonds sold for a chance to come back and say, *“SELL THIS SPACE TO ME”*.

SPELL OUT THE STORY A BIT.

- ARE THERE OTHER BUYERS-TO-BE?
- DOES THE BUYER WHO SEES SOMETHING SPECIAL have to offer a bit over what the seller is asking?
- DO OTHER BUYERS SEE THE COST AND SAY, *“YOU’RE CRAZY”*, because they have no clue what is buried?

IN THE START OF THE STORY, we see that the buyer is a seller of costly not-diamonds, someone who is constantly searching for something to resell.

THIS IS
HIS BUSINESS.

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TO BUY THE AGRICULTURAL AREA, he has to unburden himself of a quality collection of stuff that he has spent a significant quantity of seconds collecting but also I can see him (*BEFORE THE STEAL OF THE CENTURY COMES ALONG AND HE SELLS ALL - BIT BY BIT - TO THE BUDDIES THAT AGREE AT ONCE BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN ASKING FOR WHAT WAS ONCE HIS BEST FOR AGES*) searching out buyers with the best bids, cultivating contracts built over quite a while, keeping the best back just in case a better bid comes his way.

He is a businessman who has studied costs and is comfortable in his craft, but before signing the deed, DOES HE QUESTION WHETHER HE HAS DONE SOMETHING STUPID? Can he sleep knowing that his savings is spent - that he could have kept something back just in case?

Consider if he balked at the amount and attempted to argue. If alternatively another buyer bid more because he was counting cents; could he sleep then, knowing what was buried would stay there?

Would he spend the better section of the subsequent century begging the not-yet-curious owner to sell or would he buy back what he had sold for a small bit of what was paid? Would he switch businesses because beginning again would be anxiety-inducing/beyond aggravating at least and annoying at best?

To be out-bought after selling all to buy something that could bring in more than all he had before would be catastrophic.

BUT THIS STORY IS CLEARLY NOT SIMPLY ABOUT A BUYER OF AN AGRICULTURAL AREA so, as an allegory, what if the buyer chickens out of his calling after catching sight of what could be?

Could they ever be satisfied with a smaller calling, the current situation that they once sat in comfortably?

COULD I?

A COUPLE DELINEATED SECTIONS OF A CONTINUUM I CAN BARELY COMPREHEND of course can't spell out what the Church has struggled to comprehend for centuries but WHAT IS THE BETTER-THAN-DIAMOND THAT COST THIS DESPERATE COULD-BE-BUYER HIS SAVINGS and basically all his business had built up over countless decades?

Dr. Thomas Keene, an academic dean at a seminary, argues that the only answer could be that he wasn't in the business because he was a businessman constantly seeking out another dollar but because he was a collector who delighted in what he was collecting and therefore his current conglomeration of what he had accumulated couldn't compare to the most brilliant of them all.²³⁷

After obtaining what he sold all else to buy, did the buyer begin buying again or did he discover a different identity, one not defined by searching because his search was complete; not called a collector because his collection was sold off, but a cherisher of the singular treasure taking the spotlight.

WHAT BECAME OF HIS SPOTLIGHT? Did it dim? Did the darkness cause him to question the brilliance of sacrificing all else or did it confirm that he couldn't have chosen better?

in progress

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<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2020/02/the-parables-of-the-treasure-in-the-field-and-the-pearl-of-great-price/>

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BREAKTHROUGH AWAITS WHEN WE

DISCOVER EVERYONE'S FATED GIFT WITH HUMBLE GRATITUDE

*Become Amazed at an Aurora Borealis without
Caricaturing/Discounting Everyone Else's Eyesight*

FEBRUARY 18TH, 2023

AS ALLUSIVE AND AS AMAZING AS THE AURORA BOREALIS, somewhat common to some but definitely a sight to behold for all; Asbury's awakening beckons strangers by the thousands to come and see.

For centuries, thousands of segments of society have sincerely sung *"DAY AND EVENING, EVENING AND DAY, MAY THE SOUNDS OF BAFFLED AWE THAT WE ARE OUR BELOVED'S ARISE"*.

All beg that the signal would be stronger and the section of society that could stand in the center of the spectacle with a content smile because they're surrounded with something beautiful would constantly become bigger.

Sometimes, a solar flare is so strong that the displays commonly constrained to certain cities with colder conditions than swaths of society can stand dip into cities where the sight of colored skies instead of complete darkness is so strange that if we hadn't seen the scattered souvenirs shared from other sections of society, if we didn't have scientists study the causes and see the results from the storm-chasers of sorts that have spent years trying to seize a supreme shot, we'd say that someone saying that the sky was brilliant so all should step outside was seeing things.

If more than one saw it, we'd blame the crowd's delirium. *"STAY INSIDE"* says the statesmen who sees but who can't control it or decide the

significance for them.

"THE SUN BURPED ON [CUPID'S] DAY", SAYS A CLEVELAND BULLETIN. "IT [CAUSED SOMETHING CALLED] A CORONAL MASS EJECTION (CME) OR SOLAR FLARE. AND IT WAS A BIG ONE TOO!"²³⁸

A big burp of affection by something we depend on and expect to be faithfully expectable even when exact forecasts fail.

This eleven-day (*SO FAR*) event - this unending day and evening and day again falling on one's face after a huge gushing of grace was felt from a God that has been holding all up graciously - was forecasted and has been experienced before.

Eyewitnesses echo former generations' huge gatherings of the humble and hungry.

A guy finds his phone inundated with invitations *"DON'T CONSIDER STAYING BACK - SOMETHING SPECIAL IS OCCURRING IN THE CHAPEL"*.

He comes close and senses that something is different. *"THE ENTIRE ENVIRONMENT HAS CHANGED"*.

Students are smiling for a start.²³⁹

At the Call in Detroit on Eleven Eleven Twenty-Eleven²⁴⁰, I and 25,000 others filled Ford Field where I felt an environment filled with expectation and where all felt like friends.

Even finding a girl's gotta-go-room was filled with friendly encounters and encouraged faces.

May I not forget how my eyes were devoutly closed - serene and content as I communed with the Divine - when a stranger saw me and startled me into consciousness of my surroundings with a big, sweet, definitely not

²³⁸

<https://www.news5cleveland.com/weather/keep-an-eye-on-the-sky-for-the-northern-lights-this-weekend>

²³⁹ <https://youtu.be/atZp9DbShwE>

²⁴⁰ <https://ipcprayer.org/en/ipc-connections/item/5380-the-call-detroit-11-11-11.html>

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expected but not forced either, friendly, *"ISN'T THIS GREAT!"* hug.

"HALLELUJAH FOR HINTS OF HEAVEN", I heard her hug holler as we giggled.

Go ahead and giggle at the gullibility or get frustrated at the exaltation of feelings over good ole' honed investigative journalism critiquing techniques.

Keep labeling all that cannot be categorized as counterfeit or come and see.

This is the tenth sunrise where students, staff, and strangers have stayed to seek out something that surely is searchable elsewhere but seems to be stronger in a spot that has been set up over the centuries for this role - to sense the sacred and to be touched by the intangible.

To see things shift - in and around them.

I've sensed the intensity of stepping into surroundings primed with praise - I've attempted to stay sitting up after spending a third of one of those twenty-four hour segments listening to prayers and was pleasantly surprised at the sensation of pushing on my shoulders, as if a tall spiritual being was standing over me praying that I'd realize that the time spent seeking was not out of place and that I would recognize that I what I was seeking was real.

A couple seconds of that touch were so special that I've referred to it repeatedly.

Please, as people pilgrimage to a place where that presence persists, be patient with the paradoxes.

I pray for the organizers of this particular occasion, who are also the people who put together more private quieter retreats without seeking thanks, without assurance that their work will be appreciated, that the revival they ever picture will ever happen, that they'd persist in pushing the praise off themselves and onto You.

I pray for those who's relationship with You had been private until the present, that they could find a private place in Your presence to rest, even while publicly observed.

I pray for those who would purport that a relationship with a concept is ridiculous, that religions are counter-productive, perilous; for those who would prefer to see all prayer replaced with policy reform, that the policy

reform they seek would stem from prayer that opens perspectives and presents possible solutions previously unseen.

I pray that the sun's burps of affection would be so big that the colors they cause would spread into spaces accustomed to darkness.

The ingredients for a dramatic display of an invisible force's energy and influence on our days have been clearly described throughout the decades and seen in recent days - dark, cold, dreary, desiring of something else.

This was definitely coming and some aren't surprised, but that doesn't change the charge sensed when surrounded by something that has been studied and sought after but not detectable earlier.

It's easy to discount something because we can't completely comprehend the segments of what caused it. It's simpler still to discount something like the Borealis because there were signs and signals and something to blame - a burst in solar activity.

But I say the clearer the causes of dramatic displays of dark environments exchanged for good and heavenly and intensely intimate ones, the more hopeful we should be as we go about our familiar and established days.

Sure, the cloud cover may be too strong to see the Borealis today and the solar bursts won't stay. The conditions will disappear and the expectation for a glimpse of heaven here where I call home might go away, but my husband and I can go a bit farther to find an expectant environment.

Eventually we'll eyewitness such a display even though I don't demand to be in the center of a colorful display of splendor before I believe that the sun is always affecting us.

I just am aware that it's an awesome thing to behold.

Although I won't be in Asbury for this spectacular season, I'm so delighted that those that can be have shared what's been seen as a sign to keep seeking, creating, and cultivating spaces where conditions may be correct for the kind of sensation that sticks with someone but may we also cling to the souvenirs that others have brought back - the spectacular shots taken by those who could travel to special spaces and stay a while.

So certainly seek certainty of Burden-Carrier called Dad calling you and don't doubt that eventually you will find the evidence that you felt

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impossible to gather.

God is here and is inviting us to hone our homes into an image of heaven.

A GOD-GIVEN FAITH ISN'T AN INDIVIDUAL ENDEAVOR, divorced from the context of the cloud that has been in the battle before and come out still singing so crowds kinda come with the design.

Christ drew in crowds and slipped away from them. He had compassion on them and yet couldn't stay in their company indefinitely.

There's always been a back and forth - caring for the conglomerate and caring for oneself. Setting schedules and skipping them because something else comes up.

Creating blueprints and seeing them destroyed, every detail converted into controversy. Some come to bask, some to scoff. These days, scores of somes stay distant but still come up with a continual commentary to defend or dismiss or converse about what is occurring (*AS I'M DOING*).

Slow casual dedication for decades can erupt into flames of glorious hope or ghastly heartache after impulses won't hang on indefinitely. Honeymoons halt and what happens then?

What happens when the human house of wholly incompatible ideations goes home and all eyes have gone?

"THIS WEEK I CALLED CHURCHES NEAR ASBURY UNIVERSITY in Wilmore, Kentucky asking if they've experienced significant additions to their church membership or major changes in the lives of their church members because of the "REVIVAL."

Every representative of the churches I spoke to said: "NO."

Nearly all of the people I spoke to said individuals from their churches visited Asbury Chapel during the revival, but they said they couldn't highlight any lasting outcomes. One representative of a Slavic church said the Russia-Ukraine war has had a more noticeable impact on its members than the

“REVIVAL.”

Last February, Zack Meerkrabs, the pastor whose sermon apparently started the revival said no one would know if it was a real revival until months later. A year later, it looks like what happened at Asbury was a fad, not a revival. Seemingly, its only lasting impact is that the University had the biggest enrollment in its 133-year history this past September.”²⁴¹

THE BLOGGER SAMUEL SEY SAYS HE BECAME A CHRISTIAN AT A CASUISTIC CHURCH CONVOCATION and had come as a child to such sessions somewhat regularly. He stresses that discernment is key and I definitely don't disagree. The danger of coming to see “REVIVALS” as a one-stop-shop that will solve our tendency to sin is clear - sensationalism is a real struggle and becoming bored with a common Sunday is also unsurprisingly common.

Chasing signs isn't the sign of a strong believer so Sey says discernment wasn't evident in those who flocked to a far-away event but won't be found down the street. There's some truth to that, but say a student saw a class like Lockhardt's mentioned in the news, one that is only now; not to be made up later. Could it be alright to arrive as an outsider and arrive back in one's own state refreshed, with a renewed sense of what can be done, even if it doesn't end in an intensified dedication to a different kind of class?

He sees the sameness of the surrounding churches as definitive evidence that it was a fad, but what if the impact followed those who flocked and those who flocked were first and foremost from the generation not far out of high school - a generation that goes home after gaining their first-rate education?

Did the colleges that sent buses of students to the days-long chapel service see any change in desire for evangelizing, for a gospel of hope or did they go home and forget?

In their eyes, is the event as easy to dismiss as the commentary “*SWEET BUT NOTHING SPECIAL*” by a once-Zoe Girl (*I WAS AN ADMIRER OF THAT BAND*

²⁴¹ <https://slowtowrite.com/what-happened-to-the-asbury-revival/>

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WHEN SEVENTEEN STILL SEEMED SO DISTANT) or did it spread because that's what sparks do?

IT SPREAD TO CEDARVILLE - the college in a cornfield where I so desperately desired a dorm in 2007. It spread to Bethel in Austin and Birmingham's Kingsway and Samford and churches in Charlotte, Dallas, and Kalamazoo.

Spaces in Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Uganda²⁴² were overwhelmed with the overflow and worshiped well beyond expectations as well - a well overflowing even now.

SEE WHAT WAS SAID WITH A YEAR in the rearview mirror.^{243 244}

- “BEFORE ASBURY, the news could paint a bleak picture; Gen Z are not interested in God. But we saw young people hungry for God – and taking the lead in pursuing the Spirit. For us as a church [IN THE UK], it lit a flame of hope for Gen Z.

We've seen a much deeper level of hunger and passion in our worship in the twelve months since the outpouring. We're starting to hear more testimonies of salvation and miracle stories. It feels like the temperature is slowly increasing.”²⁴⁵ [2/2/24]

- “KEVIN BROWN, ASBURY'S PRESIDENT, told CBN he, too, has seen a lasting effect.

²⁴² <https://wellversedworld.org/asbury-revival-2023>

²⁴³ <https://www.asbury.edu/outpouring/>

²⁴⁴

<https://cmsedit.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2024/february/asbury-awakenings-impact-ongoing-one-year-later-an-overwhelming-glimpse-of-god>

²⁴⁵

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/were-contending-for-what-we-saw-at-asbury-and-more-in-the-uk/17197.article>

'OUR STUDENTS CONTINUE TO BE HUNGRY. THEY CONTINUE TO LEAD. THEY'VE GONE AND THEY'VE SHARED, WE'VE HAD OVER 50 GROUPS GO TO DIFFERENT MINISTRIES AND CHURCHES, BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND OVERSEAS,' he said.

"ENROLLMENT IS UP ABOUT 25 PERCENT FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR -- no doubt a tangible impact from the university's time in the spotlight.

"STUDENTS SAY GOD'S PRESENCE WAS EVIDENT DURING THE 16 DAYS.

'GOD TURNED MY WORLD TECHNICOLOR, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO DESCRIBE IT, BUT PRAYER CAME ALIVE,' sophomore Riley McChord told CBN. *'I MEAN, I SAW PHYSICAL HEALING, CANCER BE REMOVED, I SAW PHYSICALLY CANCER OFF SOMEBODY'S NECK BE REMOVED. I SAW EMOTIONAL HEALING, RELATIONAL HEALING, AND THERE WERE TWO OTHER GIRLS AND NOW MY BOYFRIEND AND WE SPENT LITERALLY EVERY WAKING MOMENT THERE. WE DID NOT SLEEP, AND WE STAYED THERE FOR TWO WEEKS.'*²⁴⁶ [2/9/24]

- "POKLUDA [A PASTOR AT HARRIS CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH OF WACO, TEXAS] TALKED ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES attending the Asbury Revival last year, in which a spontaneous days-long worship service occurred at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky.

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‘SHORTLY AFTER WE RETURNED HOME [‘PREWETT, FOUNDER OF UNITE US, WHICH TRACES ITS ORIGINS TO A MASS BAPTISM AT AUBURN LAST SEPTEMBER {AND} HAS BEEN ORGANIZING LARGE GATHERINGS OF STUDENTS AT MULTIPLE UNIVERSITIES IN RECENT MONTHS’] REACHED OUT,’ he recalled. ‘SHE FELT LED TO GATHER THE COLLEGE STUDENTS AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY. IN JUST SIX WEEKS SHE HAD SECURED THE BASKETBALL ARENA, LOCKED DOWN PASSION MUSIC TO LEAD WORSHIP, AND INVITED JENNIE ALLEN AND I TO SPEAK.’

“WHEN DESCRIBING THE EXPERIENCE AT AUBURN LAST YEAR, Pokluda emphasized that it “WAS NOT A ‘DUNK AND NEXT, SITUATION,” but rather “TWO HUNDRED DIFFERENT GOSPEL-CENTERED CONVERSATIONS,” saying that they “WENT SLOW TO CONFIRM THAT THEY WERE BELIEVERS AND BAPTIZED PAST MIDNIGHT.”

‘THE MOMENTUM IS ONLY BUILDING,’ he said. ‘FROM ASBURY TO AUBURN, THEN PASSION TO FLORIDA STATE, COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE WANTING SOMETHING MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAYS OR RELIGIOUS RITUALS.’

‘UNIVERSITIES ARE PREGNANT WITH REVIVAL.’
[4/9/24]

SO WHAT WENT ON IN ASBURY went on to Auburn which went into UNITE US which is written about in blurbs as these:

- **SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREAM: LEADING PARTY SCHOOL, FLORIDA STATE, SEES MASS BAPTISMS IN SCHOOL FOUNTAIN**²⁴⁷ [2/17/24]
- **'PUT THE DEVIL ON NOTICE': 'SCORES' OF STUDENTS BAPTIZED AT UNITE BAMA EVENT**²⁴⁸ [3/28/24]
- **HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE SPONTANEOUSLY GET BAPTIZED IN BACKS OF PICKUP TRUCKS**²⁴⁹ [4/24]
- **OVER 120 UT STUDENTS GET WATER BAPTIZED AFTER GATHERING TO LIFT THE NAME OF JESUS AT FOOD CITY CENTER**²⁵⁰ [5/3/24]
- **6,000 MISSISSIPPI STATE COLLEGE STUDENTS 'EXPERIENCED FREEDOM' IN CHRIST IN LATEST REVIVAL MOMENT**²⁵¹ [10/3/24]

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<https://stream.org/sunny-side-of-the-stream-leading-party-school-florida-state-sees-mass-baptisms-in-school-fountain/>

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<https://1819news.com/news/item/put-the-devil-on-notice-scores-of-students-baptized-at-unite-bama-event>

249

<https://www.beliefnet.com/columnists/christnewstoday/2024/04/hundreds-of-young-people-spontaneously-get-baptized-in-backs-of-pickup-trucks.html>

250

<https://www.wbir.com/article/life/faith/unite-us-ut-students/51-d9153e1a-b183-441d-9206-d82b22c95e75>

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<https://cbn.com/news/us/6000-mississippi-state-college-students-experienced-freedom-christ-latest-revival-moment>

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- **'TRULY INDESCRIBABLE'—10,000 TEXAS A&M STUDENTS PRAISE JESUS AT UNITE US EVENT**²⁵² [11/1/24]
- **EVANGELISTIC MOVEMENT DRAWS 70,000-PLUS COLLEGE STUDENTS ON 11 CAMPUSES**²⁵³ [11/1/24]

COULD IT BE THAT THE INGREDIENTS FOR HEAVENLY GLIMPSES - for incredibly dramatic displays of an invisible force's energy and influence on our days - are ***DARK, COLD, DREARY, DESIRING OF SOMETHING ELSE*** and kids these days are desperately starving for something real?

SO WHAT DO WE DO WHEN IT SEEMS THAT ALL CAN CONNECT TO THE DIVINE EXPERIENTIALLY EXCEPT US? When we feel forgotten and God-forsaken, what gives hope that He hears?

How is an individual able to be intimate with one who has a hankering for handing over his house keys to anyone and yet leaves us hanging?.

How can we identify if we're in isolation if the one who we're to be hearing is invisible?

IS AN ADDICTION TO THE COMFORT THAT CAN COME FROM BEING SEEN AS SUCCESSFUL (*AND THE COUNTRY I COME FROM IS SEEN AS COMPARATIVELY SUCCESSFUL EVEN THOUGH ITS CITIZENS SEVERELY STRUGGLE*) akin to bringing a spotlight to a desert when stargazing, calling it a

²⁵²

<https://churchleaders.com/news/500083-10000-texas-am-students-praise-jesus-unite-us-event.html>

²⁵³

<https://decisionmagazine.com/evangelistic-movement-draws-70000-plus-college-students-on-11-campuses/>

breakthrough in convenience when it destroys the entire experience?

that would have been an excellent environment for eyewitnessing a far off galaxy and other fantastic

What comes to be when the dark is disguised? Even when the solar bursts are strong, there have been a couple of such days, if there's cloud cover I can't see the Borealis in Akron but what about when there are super bright spotlights shining because we're scared of the dark.

Or what if we simply stay in bed?

An addiction to comfort can blot out all aspirations to be awed by the brilliance of the Borealis but that's simply a show, cool and spectacular as it could be, that can be caught by a camera. I can be satisfied to see it through someone else's spectacles.

Can I be content with connecting to the divine through an eyewitness to examples of intervention instead of experiencing them myself?

Does any discontent equal envy that the fruits found in Galatians are flowing out of another of God's heirs instead of me, inevitably indicating that I haven't given my hearts entirely to Jesus because if I had, I wouldn't be so jealous?

Can jealousy be justifiable?

Consider crossing a brother or sister in spirit by surprise, signaling delight. Suppose the sibling's spouse stared you down as a considerable challenge to their capability of being kind.

That kind of clinginess during a couple second could-be sweet dialog is uncalled for but what if a birthday boy convinces a couple of buddies of both sexes to spend his special day with him but then sweet-talks a stranger instead, causing those he came with to cease to be there in his awareness?

Is it alright to be bothered?

What if the stranger came to be considered a buddy and all around the bar were acknowledged? Would it still be alright to be bothered?

In the beginning couple of scenarios, I'd say absolutely but if all were being

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incorporated into the conglomerate, I'd say no - being bothered can be akin to being the older brother in that story from Sunday School.

SO WHAT DO WE DO WHEN IT SEEMS THAT ALL CAN CONNECT TO THE DIVINE EXPERIENTIALLY EXCEPT US? When we feel forgotten and God-forsaken, what gives hope that He hears?

How is an individual able to be intimate with one who has a hankering for handing over his house keys to anyone and yet leaves us hanging?.

How can we identify if we're in isolation if the one who we're to be hearing is invisible?

THE INGREDIENTS FOR A DRAMATIC DISPLAY *of an invisible force's energy and influence on our days have been clearly described throughout the decades and seen in recent days - dark, cold, dreary, desiring of something else.*

I DON'T DISAGREE WITH A DOCUMENT THAT EVERY DAVE RAMSEY EMPLOYEE HAS TO INVESTIGATE FOR THEMSELVES - a fable by Terry Felder than elevates those directed to be creative bosses in the business sphere²⁵⁴, but could it be that an addiction to the comfort that can come from being seen as successful (*AND THE COUNTRY I COME FROM IS SEEN AS COMPARATIVELY SUCCESSFUL EVEN THOUGH ITS CITIZENS SEVERELY STRUGGLE*) is blotting out the sun?

I haven't suffered deeply or externally so how can a direct statement from who spent seven times two springs stuck in a cell trying not to think about the subsequent torture session because he couldn't deny Christ sound so true?

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<https://store.ramseysolutions.com/personal-growth/books/the-legend-of-the-monk-and-the-merchant-by-terry-felber/>

"I SUFFER MORE IN THE WEST THAN I DID AT THE HANDS
OF THE COMMUNISTS"

READ AND SHARE EVEN THE SMALLEST SECTION OF THE SUFFERING OF
THOSE *TORTURED FOR CHRIST*.

Stay stunned at the unthinkable; stay with the sorrowful stories so that when the writer speaks of how his suffering is not relieved by the presence of opulence, our paradigms have expanded enough to fit the phrase into it without ridding it of its purport.

Read the simplicity of what is shared by those who rejoice when a pamphlet quotes Scripture in order to tear it down because they wouldn't receive it any other way.

How can someone accustomed to savoring scraps suffer more in a space with such bounty?

I have quite a collection of complete Bibles - bilingual, study, a bitty blue one in the car's compartment across from the non-driver. I can easily dig into my dad's collection of Bible-based books and be busy for ages.

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DISCERNMENT



[ABOUT A SIXTH OR SEVENTH OF DAD'S COLLECTION]

IF ALL THAT ISN'T ALL I'D ASK FOR, THERE'S THE ABUNDANCE OF OUTLETS
ONLINE.

SURELY IF THE AUTHOR COULD CHANGE HIS STATEMENT FROM THE
SIXTIES, he'd see that all that access is better but if that's the case, how come I don't

savor sentence after sentence in the same way as those he describes cherish a single scrap?

COULD IT BE BECAUSE I COME TO THAT SIMPLE SUPPOSED-TO-BE-SAVORY BITE with a context that they don't?

Could it be that I can't sit with a simple sentence as a solitary sentence because I am of a clan that can't sit with a solitary sentence as a solitary sentence without debating whether that sentence should be discounted as incorrect (*ALBEIT ITS INCLUSION IN A BLAMELESS BOOK*) because it doesn't seem to correspond with other sentences we've believed we've made sense of?

I cannot see a sentence without - consciously or not - considering the context in which it came to me in the beginning.

When that sentence is slapped onto a bumper sticker or book cover or daily encouragement, I fill in the expression without intending to.

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE"

[SO EXPRESS YOUR UNDYING DEVOTION BEFORE YOU DIE
or die without confessing and be brought back only to be aware of how bad your choice to not believe was when you're bowing before this King who will bend your knee without you choosing and then banish you to complete darkness for eternity but don't be concerned because your beloved is coming back for all who adore Him back./

MY CONSCIENCE DEMANDS A BETTER CONTEXT and that's been difficult to come by but not because better isn't biblical.

Better is clearly biblical if one can see a sentence for what it says, but I come from a clan that cannot sit with a simple sentence as a solitary sentence and be satisfied.

1 TIMOTHY 4:10

For therefor we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN**, especially of those who believe. - KJ21

For to this end we labor and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN**, specially of them that believe. - ASV

It is for this that we labor and strive [*OFTEN CALLED TO ACCOUNT*], because we have fixed our [*CONFIDENT*] hope on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe [*IN HIM, RECOGNIZE HIM AS THE SON OF GOD, AND ACCEPT HIM AS SAVIOR AND LORD*]. - AMP

With a view to this we toil and strive, [*YES AND*] suffer reproach, because we have [*FIXED OUR*] hope on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR** (*PRESERVER,*

MAINTAINER, DELIVERER) **OF ALL MEN**, especially of those who believe (*TRUST IN, RELY ON, AND ADHERE TO HIM*). - AMPC

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN**, specially of those that believe. - BRG

For this reason we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - CSB

We work and struggle for this: "Our hope is set on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially those who believe." - CEB

(*INDEED, IT IS FOR THIS THAT WE TOIL AND STRIVE*): we have our hope set on a living God **WHO IS THE DELIVERER OF ALL HUMANITY**, especially of those who trust. - CJB

We have put our hope in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF EVERYONE**, but especially of those who have faith. This is why we work and struggle so hard. - CEV

for, for this we labour and suffer reproach, because we hope in a living God, **WHO IS PRESERVER OF ALL MEN**, specially of those that believe. - DARBY

For we are laboring and struggling for this, because we have put our hope upon the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**— especially of believers. - DLNT

For therefore we labor and are reviled, because we hope in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN**, especially of the faithful. - DR

We hope in the living God, **THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**. In particular, he is the Savior of all those who believe in him. This is why we work and struggle. - ERV

So that is why we work to serve God well. We continue to work, even when we have trouble. We do this because we believe that God will help us. **HE IS THE ONE WHO** lives for ever and who **SAVES ALL PEOPLE**. Certainly, he saves those who are believers. - EASY

Indeed, it is for this reason that we work hard and are insulted: because we have put our hope in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - EHV

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - ESV

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - ESVUK

This is why we work and struggle, because we have put

our hope in the living God who **IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - EXB

For therefore we labor and are rebuked, because we trust in the living God, **WHICH IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN**, specially of those that believe. - GNV

Certainly, we work hard and struggle to live a godly life, because we place our confidence in the living God. **HE IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - GW

We struggle and work hard, because we have placed our hope in the living God, who is **THE SAVIOR OF ALL** and especially of those who believe. - GNT

In fact, we labor and strive for this, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is **THE SAVIOR OF EVERYONE**, especially of those who believe. - HCSB

For this is why we work and struggle: We hope in the living God. **HE IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**. And in a very special way, he is the Savior of all who believe in him. - ICB

To this end we work hard and struggle, because we have set our hope on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, that is, of those who believe. - ISV

Bodily fitness has a certain value, but spiritual fitness is essential both for this present life and for the life to come. There is no doubt about this at all, and Christians should remember it. It is because we realise the paramount importance of the spiritual that we labour and struggle. We place our whole confidence in the living God, **THE SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN**, and *particularly of those who believe in him*. These convictions should be the basis of your instruction and teaching. - PHILLIPS

For this we both labour and suffer reproach, because we

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trust in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN**, specially of those that believe. - JUB

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who **IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN**, specially of those that believe. - KJV

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN**, specially of those that believe. - AKJV

For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN**, especially of believers. - LSB

For to this end we labor and suffer reproach, because we have put our hope in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of believers. - LEB

This is the truth and everyone should accept it. We work hard and suffer much in order that people will believe it, for our hope is in the living God **WHO DIED FOR ALL**, and *particularly for those who have accepted his salvation.* - TLB

You've been raised on the Message of the faith and have followed sound teaching. Now pass on this counsel to the followers of Jesus there, and you'll be a good servant of Jesus. Stay clear of silly stories that get dressed up as religion. Exercise daily in God—no spiritual flabbiness, please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever. You can count on this. Take it to heart. This is why we've thrown ourselves into this venture so totally. We're banking on the living God, **SAVIOR OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN**, especially believers. - MSG

For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF**

ALL MEN, especially of those who believe. - MEV

for with respect to this reason we are toiling and struggling, since, "We have placed our hope in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, *particularly of those who believe.*" - MOUNCE

Certainly, we work hard and struggle to live a godly life, because we place our confidence in the living God. **HE IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - NOG

For this we toil and struggle, because we have set our hope on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL**, especially of those who believe. - NABRE

For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have set our hope on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MANKIND**, especially of believers. - NAS

For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN**, especially of believers. - NASB1995

For this is why we toil and struggle, because we have placed our hope in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL**, especially of all those who believe. - NCB

This is why we work and struggle: We hope in the living God **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - NCV

In fact this is why we work hard and struggle, because we have set our hope on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of believers. - NET

This is why we work and try so hard. It's because we have put our hope in the living God. **HE IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**. Most of all, he is

the Savior of those who believe. - NIRV

That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, and especially of those who believe. - NIV

That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL PEOPLE**, and especially of those who believe. - NIVUK

For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN**, especially of those who believe. - NKJV

Because of this, we work hard and do our best because our hope is in the living God, **THE ONE WHO WOULD SAVE ALL MEN**. *He saves those who believe in Him.* - NLV

This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God,

WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE and particularly of all believers. - NLT

It is for this that we labour and suffer rebuke – because we believe in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN**, but especially of those who believe. - NMB

For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - NRSVA

For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - NRSVACE

For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - NRSVCE

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For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially of those who believe. - NRSVUE

This is what we are working and struggling for, you see, because we have set our hope on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**—more especially, of believers. - NTFE

For to this end we labor and strive at the melachah (task), because we have set tikvateynu in the EL CHAI [YEHOSHUA 3:10] **WHO IS MOSHI'A (SAVIOR) OF KOL BNEI ADAM, THAT IS, THE MA'AMINIM [IN MOSHIACH ADONEINU]**. - OJB

For this we labor and are rebuked: because we trust in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MANKIND**, especially those who believe. - RGT

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN**, especially of those who believe. - RSV

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN**, especially of those who believe. - RSVCE

(for to this end we work hard and strive): “We have set our hope on the living God, who is **THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, especially those who trust.” - TLV

This is what we work so hard for! This is why we are constantly struggling: because we have an assured hope fixed upon a living God **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL HUMANKIND**—especially all of us who believe. - VOICE

For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we have set our trust in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN**,

especially of those who believe. - WEB

That is why we work hard and put up with troubles. We trust in the living God **WHO CAME TO SAVE ALL PEOPLE**. *He makes a way for those who believe in him.* - WE

And in this thing we travail, and be cursed, for we hope in living God, **THAT IS SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN**, *most(ly) of faithful men.* - WYC

for for this we both labour and are reproached, because we hope on the living God, **WHO IS SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN** -- especially of those believing. - YLT

for into this [end] are we constantly working hard unto weariness, and are continuously struggling in the contest (contending for the prize; other MSS: being reproached), **because we have placed our expectation** (or: set our hope) **and thus rely upon a living God** (or: upon [the] living God), **WHO IS**

(exists being) **[THE]**
SAVIOR (Deliverer; Rescuer;
Restorer to health and
wholeness) **OF ALL**
HUMAN BEINGS (all
mankind) – **especially of**
believers (of folks full of faith
and trust; of faithful ones)! -
JMNT

<https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/1%20Timothy%204%3A10>

<https://studybible.info/JMNT/1%20tim%204:10>

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CAREFUL COMMENTERS MAY SEE THAT I'VE CUT OUT THE ONES with
conclusive qualifiers, particularly "*PARTICULARLY*" in place of "*ESPECIALLY*".

We hope in the living God, **THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**. In particular, he is the
Savior of all those who believe in him. This is why we work and struggle. - ERV

So that is why we work to serve God well. We continue to work, even when we have
trouble. We do this because we believe that God will help us. **HE IS THE ONE WHO**
lives for ever and who **SAVES ALL PEOPLE**. Certainly, he saves those who are
believers. - EASY

Bodily fitness has a certain value, but spiritual fitness is essential both for this present
life and for the life to come. There is no doubt about this at all, and Christians should
remember it. It is because we realise the paramount importance of the spiritual that we
labour and struggle. We place our whole confidence in the living God, **THE SAVIOUR**
OF ALL MEN, and particularly of those who believe in him. These convictions should
be the basis of your instruction and teaching. - PHILLIPS

This is the truth and everyone should accept it. We work hard and suffer much in order
that people will believe it, for our hope is in the living God **WHO DIED FOR ALL**, and
particularly for those who have accepted his salvation. - TLB

for with respect to this reason we are toiling and struggling, since, "We have placed our
hope in the living God, **WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE**, particularly of those
who believe." - MOUNCE

This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God,
WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE and particularly of all believers. - NLT

That is why we work hard and put up with troubles. We trust in the living God **WHO**
CAME TO SAVE ALL PEOPLE. He makes a way for those who believe in him. - WE

And in this thing we travail, and be cursed, for we hope in living God, **THAT IS SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN, most(ly) of faithful men.**- WYC

YOU MAY HAVE DIVED DEEPER INTO THE DEFINITIONS THAN I CARE TO DIG INTO and you may have expounded upon the differences between exclusive/finite and general or honed in on the hermeneutics and instructed the internet on how favorite gotcha's don't go into how groups aren't fully exclusive or inclusive but depend on the category/class and so on in detail that I can't compete with.

You can claim that I'm being as brickheaded as that commenter who was a bit confused about whether human beings are animals²⁵⁵ (*AGAIN, IT WOULD BE ONLY A COMICAL DIALOGUE IF THE IMPLICATIONS WEREN'T SO DRASTIC*) BUT I'M NOT ARGUING THAT ALL **ALWAYS IS ALL-ENCOMPASSING AS IN NO EXCLUSIONS.**

No worries. I'm aware that mammals are animals but not all mammals are animals so "ALL" won't bring birds into the category beneath the before-category just because I claim "*THE BOY AT THE ZOO YELLED AT THE ZEBRAS, YAKS, AND WATER BUFFALO AND ALL OF THEM WAVED HIM OFF UNBOTHERED.*"

²⁵⁵ **Commenter 1:**

Fun fact: we are animals

Commenter 2:

Fun fact: we actually arent [sic] animals, we are mammals; most animals are mammals too, we may be similar - but no. Please, stop being a brickhead and think before you comment.

https://www.reddit.com/r/confidentlyincorrect/comments/xx38u2/mammals_arent_animals/

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YELL ADAMANTLY, "*BUT THE CONTEXT SAYS!*" to defend the solitary NLV* as closest to correct, believe me. I can comprehend that sentiment.

****"BECAUSE OF THIS, WE WORK HARD AND DO OUR BEST** because our hope is in the living God, the One Who **WOULD** save all men. **HE SAVES THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM."** - NLV

WHEN WRITTEN, THE SCROLLS NOW CONSIDERED TO BE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE weren't separated by sentence with clearly delineated chapters and subsections²⁵⁶ but of course we have to divide the Scriptures. I don't desire to start from the beginning to be able to continue. I'd never bypass Adam and Eve if I couldn't study Romans without also rereading - sentence by sentence (*NO SKIPPING/SKIMMING!*) - Cain, the Cannanites, the 613 commandments scattered throughout the Torah²⁵⁷ and so on.

THAT SAID, WHERE DO WE SPLIT A SENTENCE AND WHY?

CONSIDER THE DESPAIR OF AN INMATE who found a familiar phrase inscribed in the front of a fictional exposition that was destined to bring her comfort. She collected Dole stickers from her banana until she could completely blot it out.

She had avoided the book area with an abundance of Bibles but the sentiment snuck into the area with books by other authors.

I believe the statement may have come across slightly different in context, but all she could discover in the eensy fragment was that she would forever be felonious.

²⁵⁶

<https://www.biblegateway.com/blog/2016/12/where-do-verse-and-chapter-numbers-come-from/>

²⁵⁷ https://www.jewfaq.org/613_commandments

"FOR ALL HAVE SINNED, and fall short of the glory of God;" ²⁵⁸

SHE EXPLAINS:

"WHY WOULD I FOLLOW A GOD THAT ISN'T HAPPY WITH ME AS I AM? Even my husband doesn't hold it against me that I'm human." ²⁵⁹

WHAT IF SHE HAD HEARD THE INTENT HIDDEN IN THE FRAGMENT?

THE ECLIPSES AND EXTRA EMPHASIS in the following are from me, but in this instance, I dare not change a single statement.

19 BUT WE KNOW FROM HAVING SEEN THAT WHATEVER THE LAW ([TORAH]; OR: CUSTOM) CONTINUES SAYING, IT CONTINUES SPEAKING TO AND FOR THOSE WITHIN THE LAW (OR: CUSTOM) – TO THE END THAT EVERY MOUTH MAY BE SHUT (FENCED IN; HEDGED AROUND; STOPPED; BARRED; SILENCED)! AND SO ALL THE WORLD (ORDERED SYSTEM OF RELIGION, CULTURE, ECONOMY, AND GOVERNMENT; OR: SECULAR SOCIETY; OR: = ALL HUMANITY) CAN COME TO BE "UNDER FAIR AND EQUITABLE DEALINGS," IN GOD (OR: WOULD BECOME SUBJECT TO A JUST

²⁵⁸ [Romans 3:23 for all sinned and lack the glory of God; \(studybible.info\)](http://studybible.info)

²⁵⁹ The Lost Chapters by Leslie Swartz

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*DECISION AND A POINTING OUT OF THE WAY, BY GOD; OR:
SHOULD COME TO BE LIABLE TO GOD, "UNDER WHAT IS RIGHT";
OR: MAY BE BROUGHT TO A JUST TRIAL WITH GOD).*

*20 [...] NO FLESH (= PERSON) [AT] ALL WILL PROCEED TO BE PUT IN
RIGHT RELATIONSHIP (BE RIGHTWISED; BE JUSTIFIED; BE MADE
RIGHT; BE MADE FREE FROM GUILT, PLACED IN THE WAY POINTED
OUT; = PLACED IN COVENANT RELATIONSHIP) BEFORE HIM (IN
HIS SIGHT; FACE TO FACE WITH HIM IN HIS PRESENCE; COREM
DEO) FROM OUT OF WORKS OF LAW (OR: DEEDS OR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS SPRINGING FROM LAW; PERFORMANCE OF
LAWS' CULTUS; OR: OBSERVANCE OF CUSTOM OR TORAH), FOR YOU
SEE, THROUGH LAW [COMES] A FULL, CLEAR, EXACT, ADDED AND
EXPERIENCE-GAINED KNOWLEDGE OF SIN (OR: FROM FAILURE;
HAVING THE CHARACTER OF A MISSING OF THE TARGET; WHICH IS
DEVIATION AND ERROR). 21 YET NOW, APART FROM LAW (OR:
CUSTOM; HABITUAL PRACTICE; ORDINANCE MADE BY AUTHORITY;
OR: = TORAH), A RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD (GOD'S SOLIDARITY;
WITH FAIR AND EQUITABLE DEALINGS; A TURNING IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION, FROM GOD; GOD'S COVENANTAL FAITHFULNESS,
JUSTICE AND POINTING OUT OF THE WAY; A RIGHTWISEDNESS
AND RIGHT RELATIONSHIP, WHICH IS GOD) HAS BEEN
MANIFESTED AND REMAINS DISPLAYED IN CLEAR LIGHT – BEING
CONTINUOUSLY ATTESTED IN WITNESS BY MEANS OF (OR:
UNDER) THE LAW (= TORAH) AND THE PROPHETS – 22 YET A
RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD (OR: A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP AND
SOLIDARITY WITH AND WHICH IS GOD; JUSTICE FROM GOD;
GOD'S FAIR AND EQUITABLE DEALINGS IN ACCORD WITH THE
WAY POINTED OUT; A RIGHTWISED CONDITION EFFECTED BY
GOD) THROUGH JESUS CHRIST'S FAITHFULNESS (TRUST; FAITH;
CONVINCED LOYALTY) [COMING] INTO ALL HUMANITY – AS WELL
AS UPON AND INTO ALL THOSE BELIEVING, FOR YOU SEE, THERE
EXISTS NO DISTINCTION (NO DIFFERENCE; NO DIVIDED
ARRANGEMENT)! 23 YOU SEE, ALL PEOPLE AT ONE POINT VEERED*

OFF THE MARK (OR: ALL FOLKS DEVIATED; OR: EVERYONE FAILS; ALL HUMANITY SINS), AND SO THEY ARE CONTINUALLY POSTERIOR TO, FALLING SHORT OF, INFERIOR TO AND WANTING OF, GOD'S GLORY (OF A MANIFESTATION OF GOD WHICH CALLS FORTH PRAISE; OF A REPUTATION WHICH COMES FROM, AND HAS THE CHARACTER OF, GOD; OF GOD'S OPINION AND IMAGINATION; OF [HAZVING] AN APPEARANCE OF GOD; OF THE GLORY FROM GOD), 24 **WHILE BEING FOLKS PRESENTLY AND PROGRESSIVELY BEING MADE RIGHT**, FREED FROM GUILT, PLACED IN SOLIDARITY WITHIN THE WAY POINTED OUT, AND CONTINUOUSLY SET IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP (OR: BEING [ALL] ONE-AFTER-ANOTHER RIGHTWISED; BEING ONES HABITUALLY TURNED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION; BEING [ALL] PRESENTLY JUSTIFIED [BY COVENANT INCLUSION]) **FREELY** (AS A GIFT; GRATUITOUSLY) **BY HIS GRACE** (OR: IN HIS JOYOUS FAVOR; WITH HIS GRACE; TO HIS FAVOR) **THROUGH MEANS OF THE RELEASING-AWAY (REDEMPTION; SETTING-FREE) BECAUSE OF THE PAYMENT OF THE RANSOM WHICH IS RESIDENT WITHIN CHRIST JESUS (OR: WHICH IS CENTERED IN [THE] ANOINTED JESUS).**²⁶⁰

ROMANS 3:19 -24 JMNT

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

1. THE SENTENCE THAT THE SCRIBBLES COVERED WITH STICKERS came from was split and only the seemingly condemning section was kept and copied. Consider the section in the common NIV. Why is solely a third of the sentence stated and restated?

²⁶⁰ Romans 3:22b-24 (JMNT) <https://studybible.info/JMNT/Romans%203>

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“THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

IN THE ESV, IT'S A FOURTH.

“FOR THERE IS NO DISTINCTION: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.”

2. THE STATEMENT BEFORE THE CONSTANTLY COPIED ONE comes out differently in a construal that considers duplicate significances behind all beats.

For comparison, consider the diction in the ESV:

19 NOW WE KNOW THAT WHATEVER THE LAW SAYS it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested

apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God **THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE**. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

COMPARE THE QUALIFIERS

“THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE”

AND

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST’S FAITHFULNESS

(TRUST; FAITH; CONVINCED LOYALTY)]

[COMING] INTO ALL HUMANITY – AS WELL AS UPON AND INTO ALL THOSE BELIEVING



THOSE ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STATEMENTS - one crediting ourselves and one crediting Christ with having the key to salvation.






SO


WHICH IS IT?

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4:06









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Romans 3

ROMANS 3:22

Even the righteousness of God [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

δικαιοσύνη

righteousness

noun

nom-si-fem

δε

-

conjunction

θεου

of God

noun

gen-si-mas

δια

through

preposition

πιστεως

of sureness

noun

gen-si-fem

ιησου

of Jesus

noun (name)

gen-si-mas

χριστου

of Christ

noun (name)

gen-si-mas

εις

in(to)/un(to)

preposition

παντας

all

adjective

acc-pl-mas

και

and

conjunction

επι

unto

preposition

παντας

all

adjective

acc-pl-mas

τους

the

def art

acc-pl-mas

πιστευοντας

believing

participle

pres-act-par

acc-pl-mas

ου

not

conjunction

γαρ

for

conjunction

εστιν

it is

verb

pres-act-ind

3rd-si

διαστολη

distinction

noun

nom-si-fem



HOW COME A KEY STATEMENT,

“INTO/UNTO ALL
AND UNTO ALL WHO”

IS CONDENSED TO KEEP ONLY THE SECOND SEGMENT? Doesn't the coming
“BECAUSE, YOU SEE THERE IS NO DISTINCTION...” compute better in context
of the contrast?

“YOU CAN'T BRAG ABOUT BEING BORN INTO A CERTAIN CLAN
that brought you up to believe certain certainties because all have stumbled
but all are brought back into correctness by Christ's sacrifice”

THAT MIGHT SOUND SWEET, BUT WHAT TO DO WITH THE QUALIFIERS?

“[...] THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS, 25
whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, **TO BE RECEIVED BY
FAITH**. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine
forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his

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DISCERNMENT

righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the
JUSTIFIER OF THE ONE WHO HAS FAITH IN JESUS."

THE SAME SECTION READS:

**BECAUSE OF THE PAYMENT OF THE RANSOM WHICH IS RESIDENT
WITHIN CHRIST JESUS (OR: WHICH IS CENTERED IN [THE]
ANOINTED JESUS) ²⁵ WHOM GOD PUBLICLY SET AND PLACES
BEFORE [US] (OR: BEFORE PUT-FORTH; PURPOSED) [AS] A
SHELTERING, CLEANSING COVER (MERCY SEAT; LID OF THE ARK; =
ATONEMENT) THROUGH THE FAITHFULNESS (OR: THE TRUST,
FAITH AND LOYALTY) RESIDENT WITHIN HIS BLOOD – INTO A
DEMONSTRATION WHICH POINTS OUT THE PROOF OF HIS
RIGHTWISED SOLIDARITY (OR: HIS FAIRNESS IN COVENANTAL,
RELATIONAL RIGHTNESS, AND HIS JUST ACT WHICH ACCORDS
WITH THE WAY POINTED OUT), ON ACCOUNT OF (OR: BECAUSE
OF) THE LETTING FLOW-ASIDE, AND THE PASSING BY, OF THE
EFFECTS OF ERRORS (OR: THE RESULTS OF SINFUL ACTS; OFFENSES
AGAINST THE LAW; EFFECTS OF MISTAKES) HAVING PREVIOUSLY
OCCURRED (BEING ONES HAVING BEEN BEFORE BROUGHT INTO
BEING) DURING THE MIDST OF GOD'S TOLERANT FORBEARANCE
– ²⁶ TOWARD THE DEMONSTRATION WHICH POINTS OUT THE
PROOF OF HIS RIGHTWISED SOLIDARITY, WITH FAIR AND
EQUITABLE DEALING (HIS JUSTICE; HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; HIS
COMPLIANCE WITH THE WAY POINTED OUT), WITHIN THE
PRESENT SEASON (IN THE CURRENT FITTING SITUATION; IN
UNION WITH THE CURRENT FERTILE MOMENT), FOR HIM TO BE
JUST (OR: ONE IN COVENANTAL SOLIDARITY THAT ACCORDS**

WITH FAIR AND EQUITABLE DEALINGS WHICH COMPRISE THE WAY POINTED OUT) AND THE ONE PROGRESSIVELY TURNING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, MAKING JUST AND FREEING FROM GUILT WHILE CONSTANTLY PLACING IN THE WAY POINTED OUT WHICH IS RIGHTED, COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP (OR: THE RIGHT-WISER AND JUSTIFIER OF) THE PERSON ISSUING: BEING BORN FORTH FROM OUT OF THE MIDST OF JESUS' FAITHFULNESS (OR: FROM [THE] TRUST, LOYALTY, AND TRUSTWORTHINESS [EMANATING] FROM, AND [THE] FAITH WHICH IS, JESUS)!

AS WAS THE PROBLEM PREVIOUSLY, the position of the phrases point opposite progressions.

We can be proud because our opinion offers us an opt-out from the pain others would undergo **OR** we can undergo a painful process of rebirth.

EITHER WE PROVE RIGHTWISED SOLIDARITY WITH OUR SAVIOR OR HE WITH US.

The power of the red liquid of plasma and platelets that oxygenates our organs and proves the One that we are being made in the likeness of was one of us is EITHER RESIDENT IN THE PLASMA AND PLATELETS **OR** IN OUR OPINION OF THEM.

12 "ALL BEND OUT OF THE REGULAR LINE (TURN ASIDE; OR: AVOID [GOD]), [AND] AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE MADE USELESS; THERE IS NO ONE HABITUALLY DOING USEFUL KINDNESS (OR: KIND USEFULNESS); THERE IS NOT AS MUCH AS ONE. [Ps. 14:1-3;

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53:1-3] [...] 18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF OR RESPECT FOR GOD BEFORE (IN FRONT OF) THEIR EYES." [Ps. 36:1] 19 BUT WE KNOW FROM HAVING SEEN THAT WHATEVER THE LAW ([TORAH]; OR: CUSTOM) CONTINUES SAYING, IT CONTINUES SPEAKING TO AND FOR THOSE WITHIN THE LAW (OR: CUSTOM) – TO THE END THAT EVERY MOUTH MAY BE SHUT (FENCED IN; HEDGED AROUND; STOPPED; BARRED; SILENCED)! **AND SO ALL THE WORLD (ORDERED SYSTEM OF RELIGION, CULTURE, ECONOMY, AND GOVERNMENT; OR: SECULAR SOCIETY; OR: = ALL HUMANITY) CAN COME TO BE "UNDER FAIR AND EQUITABLE DEALINGS," IN GOD (OR: WOULD BECOME SUBJECT TO A JUST DECISION AND A POINTING OUT OF THE WAY, BY GOD; OR: SHOULD COME TO BE LIABLE TO GOD, "UNDER WHAT IS RIGHT"; OR: MAY BE BROUGHT TO A JUST TRIAL WITH GOD).**

ONE DAY WE WILL PERCEIVE HOW OUR OPINIONS OF THE PLATELETS AND PLASMA rippled through the paths of others and I for one will weep when witnessing the ways I've been wrong.

I won't want it to be, but my work will be weighed, not for how extravagantly exquisite the words were or even how veracious were the vocables I uttered, but for how well I lived (*WITH AND WITHOUT WORDS*) as a witness to the reality of a world with an unwanted ruler who reveals Himself as Love and wants to win over even those who have disavowed Him with the veridicality of that wonderful word that has been weighted down with layers and layers of affixed verdicts and vetoed previous ways of viewing it.

The warnings that for those that have refused to work through even a weensy wedge of our vices now, removing the Vader within us will be experienced as worse are valid.

Of course I won't want to undergo an examination and of course I don't enjoy the existence of divine consequences or the beeping alerts that I'm about to wander off,

but what unrealized value would be waived if I waved my white warning to anything that would want me to work on anything in me to withhold their words because I wasn't ready?

When would I want to have wounds unwound?

Never.

WOUNDS WILL BE WORKED ON IN EITHER THIS WORLD OR THE NEXT.

IF WHAT I'M WANTING TO EXPRESS IS VALID - that adversity won't wound beyond a way of recovery - shouldn't I want my wounds to be worked on even if it wounds while working into me the vitality I'm writing about?

UNIVERSALISM OF THE WORLDLY VARIETY MAY BE A WARRANT FOR WHATEVER - I wouldn't know - but the paradox of universal reconciliation is that even though we'll all eventually be well, the way there will be experienced as way worse for anyone currently counting on coming in unscathed because they said the correct sentence.

Being born is agonizing so being born again is also. As we could not choose to be born - we could not choose to stay in the safety of the dark space by the belly VS. come into the brightness all bruised and uncovered - we cannot choose to be born again.

I'm aware that I've barely scratched the surface of the concerns as to why/how that could be but binge the sermon series on the sixth book of the second section of

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the Bible by Peter Hiatt to cover it in depth²⁶². Surely I beg you.
When you come back, then we'll continue.

DID YOU COMPLETE THE SET?

Seriously - I can't summarize for you sixteen months of sermons. Take a couple of weeks and simply sit with what has already been said; digest his stories about his kids' and their disappointment at not being able to stay at a rest stop and the scary ride that seemed real and the phantasmas - frightened but friendly - that they found and the photo of a flying figure; the figuring out that they weren't evil because they didn't scorn the Savior, the door that his sweet bride saw and the commitment to keep it open for those who couldn't see it because they wouldn't believe his announcement of its availability.

Breathe through
anxiety

WHEN WE

FOLLOW THE FAMOUS “GOD HEAR ME”ERS WITH REINVIGORATED HALLELUJAHs

By Examining the Example of Esther, etc.

in progress

BREAKTHROUGH AWAITS WHEN WE

FOLLOW THE FAMOUS “GOD HEAR ME”ERS WITH REINVIGORATED HALLELUJAHS

*By re-Imagining ‘Hallowed be thy Identifying Handle’ (THE
HOW-TO INSTIGATED BY JESUS)*

Οὕτως οὖν προσεύχεσθε ὑμεῖς, [THUS THEREFORE PRAY YOU]

HERE – HEAR ME AND HAVE A GO AT THIS. When hollering at God, He'll
heed when you initiate:

Πάτερ ἡμῶν, [FATHER OF US]

HAAKORO, ISSI, KAKA, KOHAKE, MISSIER, MZAZI, ÔÈÈ, Ojciec, 'Opà,
Otec, Ootosan, Pa, Pala, Papa, Papai, Pappa, Pare, Parinte, Passe, Pita, Poæ,
Popà, Rama, Ray, Tata, Tato, Ubaba

Verily this world of Your youngsters yearns for Zion.

ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, [WHO [IS] IN THE HEAVENS]

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HALLELUJAHS

ALL OF THOSE BEAUTIFULLY BRIGHT STARS! I'm beyond awestruck! The brilliance crucial to capturing the simplest degree of its splendor leaves me dumbfounded.

Each dot that has been enumerated, each fixture/ galaxy that the finest geniuses have illustrated but have the greatest frustrations in investigating in detail, encompasses such an inconsequential fragment of the entire universe that is still too finite to establish itself as Your flat.

You exist exterior to dates and seconds - how can I begin to come to a deeper or even facile enlightenment of Your essence? How can I fathom that You - the “**GREAT I AM**” are?

Heaven is a hologram I've been informed but how can I imagine how that is? I have no idea where You are but I'll keep loving You with all I am - my Lord, my King, my Love. You, Love manifested, are outside our environments as we know them, but You move into and live in our neighborhood too. You are not ok with being put in some obscure harp-playing, far-off paradigm. You are observant, too interested, too much of an out-of-the-package philosopher to not be out of Your nuanced mind by the monotony of the monotone not-at-all outstanding “*PARADISE*” that I can picture.

Ours can't compare but Yours is not lost - right?

PAPA - PATIENCE IS PROBLEMATIC, peace more so, but the nuances of point to point to point can paint a portrait of Your paradise, not mine, if You lead. May latent meanings be known.

I know I can't pinpoint Your otherworldliness, but as You point out more of Your own personality, objectives, the optimal paths for the restoration of Your rightful place, would You put my picture, with its particularly questionable perspective, not quite right colors, perhaps ridiculous interpretations of a reality that I can start to script but can't see - in Your gallery, as would a proud parent.

Of course, my pictures aren't backed by all the research this world

has put together - which pales compared to the real schema. Still, I think You'll call them surrealist and show them off anyway because Tata?

That's what Ubabas are supposed to do. You understand this urge to try to take a snapshot of this unwieldy universe that only You can verbalize. You very much want to divvy up the joi de vivre that comes with a vision of a vitality yet unknown. With vehement vigor I watch and wait for a better view but I say now, **WOW**.

Expand our expectations. Expose our exaggerations. Extend extravagant exhortations to those we see as exceptions to Your forgiveness, Your goodness, Your home.

Ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, [HALLOWED BE THE NAME OF YOU]

MAY YOUR HOLINESS, YOUR GRACIOUSNESS, YOUR FAITHFULNESS, Your energy, Your dactylic compositions of commitment, the covenant that You have brought into the calculations - not to brutally annex or brainwash all who aren't about Your awesomeness, but to continue to demonstrate Your constant courtship of we who can't deserve Your calling upon us - bring us to always bow; in our actions, attitudes, and in what we ask of You.

Amazing; Beautiful; Caring; Disproportionately, Edifyingly, Fantastically Generous - how to identify Jehovah, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Majestic is Your name.

Your name is Overwhelmingly Powerful and yet Personally Omnipresent. Outside of the orders of this planet, You are recognized as Ruler and Role model alike.

Set apart; You are Supreme Thinker, Unraveler of take-over schemes

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HALLELUJAHS

by selfish suzerains, may You be recognized as Paradox of Paradox, Prestigious
and Respectable Papa.

Ἐλθέτω* ἡ βασιλεία σου [COME THE KINGDOM OF YOU]

MAY OUR REALM PARALLEL YOURS.

WOULD YOUR REALITY BE POWERFUL ENOUGH, real enough, sure
enough to reach through the tough separating blockages we've built up.

Would we become small as seeds so that we can slip into your realm
where the rules aren't subject to the same restrictions.

May we see, taste, test, and say surely, this is something different,
surely we can't demand the environment found far within, excessively deep
into the cells of a banana or an adam to behave as would the surface, to
conform to the demands we can explain, (*FOR EXAMPLE FRICTION*).

May we enter Your frictionless environment without fear, without
explaining away the differences as inconsequential, undesirable, cancelable
with a quick “*IT CAN'T BE*”.

Would we become as the children You cherish so that we could
connect to Your creation as would a kid in a setting designed especially for
them.

When we feel forced out of the field trips and entertainment
destinations because those destinations weren't designed for someone with
our specific disabilities, connect us with those who once struggled similarly
but who have been connected with destinations designed differently.

Your kingdom is clearly designed differently than ours. We stand
outside the kingdoms our co-dwellers on this earth have financed and feel

forgotten, not fully grasping that their full-featured entertainment fields don't fit them either.

It feels like everyone else is flying by their own effort - but when we discover camouflaged and denied support systems, would we be as forgiving and gracious as You are. May we have the humility to hold out our hand with a *"HEY - HEAVEN ISN'T AN ILLUSION THAT YOU HAVE TO IMAGINE YOURSELF INSIDE SO THAT COMPETITORS' JEALOUSY CAN KEEP YOU JUSTIFIED AS IMPORTANT. HANG ON AND GRANT ME THE HONOR OF GUIDING YOU TO WHERE YOU CAN FLY BECAUSE EVERYTHING WAS DESIGNED WITH YOUR CAPABILITIES ON THE BRAIN."*

We cannot brag about being able to soar when we can solely swing because you designed a space that can accommodate a chair, but may we soar and smile that You remembered us.

Γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου [BE DONE THE WILL OF YOU]

MAY YOUR REQUESTS COME TO PASS. May our requests open possibilities as we partner with You in opening up possibilities for others.

May we pass on the personal prizes we've received to the swelling thousands of unfed villagers - those who wonder where the hours went when all they wanted was to wait for another wonderful word from the One who understands them.

You understand our umbrage at being asked for our breakfast; we believe it is simply for You, not the crowd. We desire to keep it, we believe we are being sweet by sharing with our brother but the calculus stops us from saying *"SURE"* to a couple more kids who come up for a bit of our breakfast.

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We are allowed to walk away from them, You are bigger than us and we cave bitterly.

You acknowledge our anger and ask anyway because unless we offer our best to You, You can't do with it what You do - expand finite generosity into heavenly infinite justice for those we kinda care for AND those we consider unlovable.

We'd love to leave them out and leave ourselves as managers of the morsels, but You manage to make next to nothing into more than enough for the multitudes.

Ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς [AS IN HEAVEN, [SO] ALSO UPON EARTH]

HERE AS IT IS IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU RESIDE.

**Τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον [THE BREAD OF US -
DAILY GRANT US TODAY]**

WE SUFFER WITH THE TURMOIL OF SUPERFLUITY

**Καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν [AND FORGIVE US THE DEBTS OF
US]**

WE CREATE BARRICADES AROUND OUR ASSETS so we attempt to buy what You offer, but You cannot be bought.

Ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν [AS ALSO WE FORGIVE THE DEBTORS OF US]

BRINGER OF COMEUPPANCE, may Your designs for equity not be damaged by our desire to counterattack those that have discounted us.

Καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν [AND NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION]

Ἀλλὰ ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ [BUT DELIVER US FROM - EVIL]

WHEN I GAVE UP ON 31 YEARS OF NOT WANTING TO and watched the “*WHAT’S THIS, WHAT’S THIS*” fan favorite, I woke that evening after having a bad but “*CUTE*” dream, not even a eensy bit fear-inducing in the dream itself, but an intriguing heads up that I hadn’t been, as a girl, foolishly exaggerating when I refused the film, intent on insisting that it wasn’t for me.

In the dream, a chipmunk scampered across my bed, across the area where my brain would be. I can’t say where I was standing; could it be that I was a spirit, seeing my bedroom as would another? Bats clung to the ceiling

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HALLELUJAHS

and swooped through the space but they couldn't see me. Demons, in every form, filled in around me, with the eensiest inside, disgustingly crawling across my bed, ceiling, dressers and whatever they could.

A cobra and a couple bigger creatures stayed outside, salivating at the screen separating my space from the dark exterior: a flimsy excuse for a defense. The screen could simply be smashed in the second they weren't stopped by a second, stronger barrier - they had not been authorized to be in my abode, but they were obviously aware that others were and they awaited their opening. I acknowledged their appearance and acknowledged that they wanted to be as were the chipmunks and bats but I was not scared of them. I didn't see them capable of coming in, but I sensed the desire to destroy me. The creepy crawlers baffled me but were an annoyance, a bother, not concerning or demanding excessive decisions to clean up.

When I came to, I kinda chuckled. It was a "CUTE" bad dream that came because of something designed for kids. I was not a child and was a bit chagrined, disconcerted, embarrassed that a film would affect me at all but I felt that although I wasn't guileless and the film and what found an entrance because of it weren't guileless, they were harmless and would go away fairly easily.

The film's effect eventually faded, but I don't feel like I felt it was a gift, it was a "HEY - YOU'LL NEVER GROW UP, YOU DON'T GET TO BE WITH THE GROWN-UPS AT THE FAMILY FEASTS OR EVEN WITH THE DARING SEVEN AND EIGHT YEAR OLDS. YOU WILL FOREVER BE AN INFANT, TOO AFRAID TO FEEL ANYTHING, TO IMAGINE A FOREVER-GOING-THROUGH-HALLOWEEN HERO GOING FAR FAR FAR FROM THE GHOULISH HALLOWEENTOWN TO INVESTIGATE WHAT'S SO INCREDIBLE ABOUT THE HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTING THE INFANT JESUS."

I kinda knew it was likely that my night would open up in not-nice images - making me remember what I learned early on about limiting my mental manducation. I had been let in on a little of what I had let in. Maybe it was a “NIGHTMARE”, maybe not, but I merely looked at the movie as a “MY MISTAKE!” that I’d likely make again because look - those creatures were little and making a major “NO WAY” objection to a picture for preteens is perceived as overwhelmingly pricier with a pinprick of pressure.

My repose resumed readily after I presumed I was ok, I had muttered an apology and therefore had made up with my mentor.

(MOST OF WHAT IS MADE KNOWN ABOVE WAS LET LOOSE MAYBE A WEEK LATER, LINING UP LIKE WHAT COMES BELOW, BUT I WILL NOT RUIN WITH MY SWITCHING OF A COUPLE OF PHRASES OR EVEN THE PLACEMENT OF THE PARAGRAPHS WHAT REMAINS OF THIS PIECE REGARDING WRONGS BECAUSE IT WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN NOT ONLY A WEEK AFTER WHAT’S BEFORE BUT IMMEDIATELY UPON WAKING FROM ANOTHER.)

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MY PREMEDITATED NOTION OF MOTIONLESSNESS was
negated last night though by a new manner of

NIGHTMARE. Not the cute kind. There were

NO BATS, CHIPMUNKS, OR DEMONS, except those disguised as
concerned or indifferent key-holders to my brother's life. There was

NO CLEAR CAUSE for the cuffs keeping his hands clutched behind his back.
There was

NO DISCERNIBLE EXPLANATION, except to follow an express directive.
There was

NO EXPECTATION OF FINDING - or exploring - a different ending. He
had to die.

NO EXPLANATION.

NO FULL GRIP ON WHAT WAS GOING ON. This was

NO GAME! We were each

OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY for a last parting. I was

OFFERED AN OPTION to reorient my outfit or part from a place outside the
office turned prison.

PALE PATCHES OF PELLICLE

PEEKED THROUGH MY PATTERNED SLEEVES. The updo that I ventured
for a wedding vexed me as it undid the increasingly spare timetable
required for recovery of my sibling. I was

PROVIDED NO OTHER OPTION than to

PUT MY PLACE IN THE

QUEUE ON HOLD - a queue

RELEGATING US TO SIT IN A SMALL ROOM to speak to **(SCARCELY WITH)** their prisoner. No privacy, no protection, no purpose for the **"NO**

REMOTELY REVEALING OUTFITS" rule. I'm

STILL CRYING.

SYMPATHY MEANS you can understand what someone is feeling. Empathy means

THAT YOU FEEL WHAT A PERSON IS FEELING. Compassion is

THE WILLINGNESS TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF ANOTHER.

THE WORMY WIGGLING WRETCHES FROM LAST WEEK Xeroxed what was witnessed that afternoon.

THE WORRISOME WICKEDNESS witnessed last night was also not without an answer to **"WHY"** -

THIS DREAM CAN BE ACCREDITED TO MY BEHAVIOR ALSO. The

TOTAL TIME FOR ME TO SHUT OFF MY THOUGHTS at night is typically too much to stand so I

TURN ON A BOOK with a timer to shut itself off. Last night, I instead

TURNED ON SCRIPTURE - the Lord's prayer - the same section I was

UNABLE TO STOP stitching into this seemingly non-stop series of run-on sentences. Until an evening of envisioning heaven, this was an

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UNDERWHELMING UNDERTAKING. My vision for the

WAY THIS COULD GO WAS WEAK. Write out my book list, draw a few
connections. Work some quotes into the artwork. I listen at work to

WAY TOO MANY UNPLEASANT WORDS OF WISDOM from people who
have withstood

WAY TOO MANY WICKED DEEDS, but before bed last night, they never
swerved away from my waking hours before. Books were a spectator
sport and this Brain reflected that. But because, I believe, I wrote of
heaven before bed, hell - in the

WAY TYRANTS TOOK IDA KEELING'S SON'S HANDS BEHIND HIS
BACK -- worked its

WAYWARD WAY PAST MY WEAKENING SHIELD past the

WEAPON OF RELATIVE INDIFFERENCE - past the

WEAPONRY OF VERIFIABLY UNASSAILABLE UNTOUCHABLENESS.
The story ripped itself out of time and space's safe separateness and
I'm still shaking. I still can't truly sympathize, truly understand the

WEARINESS OF A MOTHER WEAKENED by a word that

WITHERED HER VISION for her grown sons to find peace in this world

WITHOUT WORRYING that their lives would be rendered worthless. No, I
may have

WITNESS MY OWN BABY BROTHER'S GROWN BODY

WRAPPED AROUND A DEPRAVED VERSION OF "*JUSTICE*", but I won't
be

WRECKED BY THE NIGHTMARE'S IRREVOCABILITY. I woke up. I was delivered from witnessing the

WRETCHED SCENE FOR REAL but delivered into wading in deep enough to empathize.

X-TEND OUR X-PECTATIONS of what can be defined as deliverance. I will never

YEARN FOR MY BABY BROTHER like Ida keeling yearns for her sons, yet

YESTERDAY AFTER WRITING ABOUT HEAVEN, I witnessed the heartbreak that is hell. I went to sleep listening to Scripture

YET I WOKE UP SHAKING. Once awake, I wanted to cry and write words for You and I alone

YET WHEN I SAID SO, You said no. I wanted to write without the words requiring work

YET WHEN I TOLD YOU - ***"I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE *ING BRAIN RIGHT NOW"***, I heard ***"I DO"***

Ἐῶτι σοῦ *[FOR YOURS]*

ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία *[IS THE KINGDOM]*

καὶ ἡ δύναμις *[AND THE POWER]*

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καὶ ἡ δόξα *[AND THE GLORY]*

εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας *[FOR THE AGES]*

Ἀμήν › *[AMEN]*



BREAKTHROUGH AWAITS WHEN WE
**GO FOLLOW THE FAMOUS
“GOD HEAR ME”ERS
WITH REINVIGORATED HALLELUJAHS**

By Making Medleys with Messages Laden in Code

CALL ME CRAZY (OR CRAZIER IF THAT WAS DECIDED BY SKIMMING THE BACK COVER) but this concluding section is structured as a songbook with the significance buried in code. Bear with me as I attempt to articulate why.

Again and again in this book I ask Abba for brilliantly creative beyond-the-boundaries-of-the-box answers to big questions that I can't begin to ask without His assistance.

As the book itself began as a bitty self-dictated challenge to comprehend concepts bigger than me by incorporating them into a bit of art, as did this section - I think. To be sincere, I can't bring back to my brain a clear catalyst for the desire to engage with the form.

Even so, I do clearly recall the surprise at the results and the subsequent songs by Dan - started because he saw what I did with some determination and decided that he could do that too. Someone who could barely comprehend the symbols that songs

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are written in scripted around twenty of them because the tools to do so were there, he simply and suddenly saw writing songs as a real possibility.

The outcome appeared quite removed from these - he scripted without the structure of the syntax that I cling to - but the book is beautiful.

CREATIVITY BEGETS CREATIVITY so I share strange stuff to say that He who defines creativity can shoulder it without cringing. I dare say He even enjoys our efforts to express ourselves dynamically.

CODE



LISTEN:

BIBLICAL ACROSTICS

<https://flat.io/score/64e22c5b6ce8944f6e904c2f-biblical-acrostics-5-5-8>

IN MY BID

<https://flat.io/score/61e74adbb160500013424cc9-in-my-bid>

Biblical Acrostics

$\text{♩} = 75$

[Only words between A - G represented]

Enter deliberate communication devices like

A believer before computers couldn't duplicate easily all they fancied.

[1]

chiasmus (dubbed an echo; an effect that duplicates the concept) or diatribe (envisaging a dialogue/comeback although alone).

[2]

Abecedarian acrostics are built by choosing diction/expressions that follow the general guidelines given by the alphabet.

A Bible converter commonly dismisses characteristics such as these as too difficult to keep when deciding on English equivalents,

yet this decision comes at a brant cost:

comparative d - u - l - l - n - e - s - s!

[All words (and in spots letters) represented; H=A, I=B, etc.; #s are spelled out]

Examine for yourself favorites such as these few: Proverbs 31:10-31 (the feared exemplary empress is in fact from an epode -

f piaz.

[3]

*Credible and correct are His decrees.**They**endure**forever and ever!*

[4]

Don't determine that it'll be easy to forget His extraordinary deeds.

47

*Determine Him dotting and compassionate.*

50



[5]

Establishing those that fear Him with food, He will not forget His engagements (& on downwards it continues)

52

V

53

54



BIBLICAL ACROSTICS

1 **A** Believer **B**efore Computers Couldn't Duplicate Easily **A**ll they Fancied. Enter Deliberate Communication **D**evelopments like

2-3 ① Chiasmus - Dubbed an **E**cho; an Effect that **D**uplicates the **C**oncept - or

4-5 ② Diatribe - Envisaging **A** Dialogue/Come**B**ack **A**lthough **A**lone.

6-9 **A**becedarian Acrostics **A**re **B**uilt **B**y Choosing **D**iction/Expressions that **F**ollow the **G**eneral **G**uidelines **G**iven **B**y the Alphabet.

10-11 **A** **B**ible Converter Commonly **D**ismisses Characteristics **S**uch **A**s these **A**s too **D**ifficult to **K**eep when **D**eciding on **E**nglish Equivalents, yet this **D**ecision **C**omes at a **B**rant **C**ost:

12 **C**omparative

13-15 **D**ullness!

16-18 **E**xamine **F**or **Y**ourself **F**avorites **S**uch **A**s **T**hese **F**ew: **P**ROVERBS
ThirTy-One Ten **T**Hrough ThirTy-One

19 (The **F**eared Exemplary **E**mpress **I**s **I**n **E**fact **E**rom **A**n **E**pode -

20 - 23 Envision **A** **D**OTING **D**EVO**T****E** **C**omposing **I**t **F**or **A** **D****A**T**E** **N**ight

24 - 25 **E**ach **F**ile **A**n **E**xtra **E**xplanation **O**f **H**is **E**motions.

26 Awww!!! -

27 OR PSALM One Hundred NineTeen

28 - 31 The Entire Disquisition, **Contains** One Hundred Seventy Six Brilliantly Ardent Bits About The Zeal The Author Boasts About His Creator,

32 In [EIGHT] Line

33 - 36 Expositions Following The Guidelines Of The Hebrew Alphabet - Aleph To [TAV] - And

37 PSALM One Hundred Eleven

38 -39 ① All That I Am Will Adore Abba In The Assembly.

40 - 43 ② BEAUTIFUL Is The Business Of The Lord, Breath-Takingly Beheld By All Who Will Be Blessed By Being Alert.

44 - 45 ③ Credible And Correct Are His Decrees. They Endure FOREVER And Ever!

46 - 48 ④ Don't Determine That It'll Be Easy To Forget His EXTRAORDINARY DEEDS. [GRACE]

49 - 50 Determine Him Doting And Compassionate.

51 - 54 ⑤ Establishing Those That Fear Him With Food, He Will Not Forget His ENGAGEments (And On Downwards It Continues)

IN MY BID

$\text{♩} = 80$

CHIN (VIOLIN)

fff

6 7 7 5

THE almost brother couldn't barge in to

FEI FEI (CELLO)

4

C

8va

3

FF

t h e c h a m b e r

8

C

3 3 3

FF

o f e x q u i s i t e

12

C

FF

s a d n e s s

28 focus. When he understood

C e n f o q u e . C u a n d o e n t e n d i ó

FF her pain

s u d o l o r

he could enter

32 p u d o e n t r a r

(enter - 6 please enter) 6

{E n t r a - p o r f a v o r e n t r a }

in order to be with

36 p a r a e s t a r c o n

her where she

FF e l l a d o n d e e l l a e s t a b a

4

40

C *mf* *8^{va}* *8^{va}*

v e r s u s t o d r a g o r c o e r c e o r b u l l y o r

FF

v s

43

C b e g o r c a r r y h e r b a c k o u t 11

FF

44

C *ppp* w h e n b e i n g

FF

s t i l l

48

C s o

FF *mf* b a r r i e r s

2

16

C *ppp* *mf*

b u t h e c o u l d

FF c o m e

3

8^{ba}

[Translation from Spanish: 'slowly ---->]

19

C d e s p a c i o

FF

after

changing

21

C d e s p u e s d e c a m b i a r

FF *ppp* s u

his

understanding

25

C c o m p r e n s i ó n

FF *ppp* y

and

IN AN ANIMATED KID'S BLOCKBUSTER *OVER THE MOON*, Chin's sister-to-be (*THEIR ADULTS ARE ABOUT TO BE A COUPLE UNTIL DEATH, AN EVENT THAT FEI FEI ISN'T EXCITED ABOUT*) is stuck in the Chamber of Exquisite Sadness, sinking into herself. The death of her mom has drained her and, in the scene, Chin barges in to save her from despair by charging into the barrier so that it breaks.

As if we are at camp, I composed a song about the scene and which section I'd switch. The song is two simple paragraphs, roughly sixty words stretched across six pages, sticking to a basic alphabet code with a couple key signature changes simply to set the tone. Simultaneously simple, challenging, and time-consuming; it speaks about how to approach sorrow and what becomes of abrupt attempts to bring someone out of the dark Chamber of Sadness with care but no carefulness.

It should be said that in the actual scene, the almost-sister is attempting to assist another but is sucked in herself. She is able to approach a barrier that none other can break because of her sadness, but she isn't capable of bringing someone out because she too has doubts that she'll ever escape.

Fei Fei has a good heart and honestly intends to help, but her grief is heavy. Instead of her getting to her friend so they can empathize with each other, she falls alone; each in a dangerous daze that can't consider any other.

In the beginning of the animation, Chin bounces off barriers but here he attempts again and is able to break into the Chamber by sheer determination.

In my summation, dogged determination doesn't cut it. By itself, stubbornness can't save anyone from self-destructing, but I'm convinced that dogged determination that is slow enough to step back and see a scene with compassion and discernment can crumble some crazy barriers.

His sadness at seeing her so sad should've been what allowed him to approach a barrier that no other could cross, but his conviction that he would not be sad forever because he would bring her out of it should've been what allowed him to abandon the chamber when she couldn't budge.

OTM After-Final Conformed Draft

96.

CHIN -- on the other side of the transparent barrier,

CHIN
(to himself)
...no barriers...

HE CHARGES DOWN THE HALLWAY. And he's headed for the
INVISIBLE WALL!

ON FEI FEI - TRANSFIXED. She starts walking through
the chamber towards Chin.

ON CHIN - CHARGING AT THE WALL his heart pounding,
his face showing fierce love.

CHIN *I LOVE THIS ! JUST LIKE BEFORE, HE'S*
" LOWERING HIS HEAD LIKE A CHARGING BULL ,..
(Battle cry) *[RUNNING.] STRAIGHT FOR THE WALL [...] "*
I WANT MY SISTER!

WHAT IF HE FAILED AGAIN THOUGH ?

~~THE WALL SHATTERS! CHIN PASSES THROUGH THE WALL!~~

ON CHIN - He floats STRAIGHT FOR FEI FEI. She runs
forward, grabbing him and pulling him down. They
embrace. FEI FEI and CHIN hug, clinging to each
other. FEI FEI [LAUGHTER]

ABSOLUTELY KEEP THIS LAST PART , BUT TO GET THERE , TRY THIS :

**HE GETS UP SLOWLY , GOES UP TO THE WALL , AND LEANS HIS HEAD
UP AGAINST IT. A TEAR BEGINS TO FALL .**

**(HE DOES THIS IN THAT FIRST SCENE TOO , BUT THIS TIME IT ' S IN
RESIGNATION INSTEAD OF PRIDE)**

**HE PULLS BACK IN SURPRISE WHEN HE STARTS TO FALL FORWARD ,
HIS FOREHEAD SLOWLY BREAKING THROUGH THE BARRIER . HE
REACHES OUT TENTATIVELY IN THE SAME WAY FEI FEI FIRST DOES .**

ORIGINAL 2020 SCREENPLAY WRITTEN BY AUDREY WELLS, PRODUCED BY PEARL
STUDIO AND NETFLIX ANIMATION, AND ANIMATED BY SONY PICTURES
IMAGEWORKS. REPRODUCED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FRIENDLY

CRITICISM/COMMENT AND FALL UNDER THE FAIR USE DOCTRINE: 17 U.S. CODE § 107

IN MY BID

1-3 [CHIN (C) / VIOLIN] THE ALMOST BROTHER COULDN'T BARGE INTO

THIS BEGINNING SEGMENT IS ALL STACCATO, *determined, short, stubborn. It's on a violin, a smaller, significantly chirpier string instrument than the cello, which is silent at this second.*

4-15 [FEI FEI (FF) / CELLO] THE CHAMBER OF EXQUISITE SADNESS

THE DEPTH OF EMOTION THAT FEI FEI FEELS *is expressed with dramatic slurs and turns. Instead of short bursts, she is slow, she takes her time, twenty-eight characters spread across twelve measures whereas the brother squished significantly more than that into a single line.*

He is shocked that she speaks and that she has so much to say; strange symbols suggest that the sound of her crying contains concealed undercurrents that cannot be seen.

He is silenced by the revelation.

16-18 (C) BUT HE COULD

SEE THAT WHILE CHIN STARTS IN THE KEY OF C, *simple and convinced, he has slowed down and switched to the sadness of her four flats. The staccato has transformed into slurs and although it takes some time, his sensitivity is regarded by her slipping in a request.*

18 (FF) COME

SLOW, SAD, BUT A START; the simple quarter notes slide into Chin's more complex sentence seamlessly before she sinks back into silence.

19-23 (C) **DESPACIO DESPUÉS DE CAMBIAR** [SPANISH FOR "SLOWLY AFTER CHANGING"]

CHIN CAN'T SAY, "**SHE SPOKE!**" and switch back to the staccato and key of the beginning without scaring her away.

Instead, he continues to see what else he can change about his style to make her more comfortable.

When scripting this, I switched to Spanish due to an epiphany about "**DESPUES DE**". I was searching the thesaurus for something to signify "**AFTER**" and saw that switching would keep me in this syntax.

In the animation, the almost-brother/sister are Chinese, but I see the change as symbolic.

He changes to something that he has solely a basic concept of because he sees that it better assists his aim - to bring her away from the blocked off area that can't be abandoned alone.

21-24 (FF) **SU** [HIS]

AGAIN THE ALMOST BROTHER'S ALMOST SISTER can't quite celebrate the boy's attempt, but can acknowledge it by coming into the duet with what she is capable of.

Her contribution is slow and sad but still not cacophonous squeaks that diminish his effort.

25-27 (C) **COMPREHENSIÓN** [UNDERSTANDING]

CHIN STARTS TO SNEAK IN some concealed statements of his own:

- *I see you*
- *I'm so sorry you're suffering*
- *Your song is beautiful so I'll sing it back to you.*

25-27 (FF) **Y [AND]**

SHE COMES IN WITH A CRY *that doesn't commonly come from a cello, but again it isn't aimed at burying the song being sung to her but instead it's a "THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME, I SEE YOU TOO"*

28 (C) **ENFOQUE [FOCUS]**

BOTH ARE COMMUNICATING *sections of the same sentence as they can.*

29-30 (C) **CUANDO ENTENDIÓ [WHEN HE UNDERSTOOD]**

CHIN CAN SOLELY START THIS SENTENCE; *he doesn't complete it. He sees something but still through a cup dimly. He comprehends her suffering only to a small degree but because he starts the conversation, she is able to come into it.*

28-31 (FF) **SU DOLOR [HER PAIN]**

IT BELONGS TO HER AND ONLY SHE CAN SAY IT. *Chin has simply created a safe space for her to do so.*

This is the most she's spoken since saying that she's in the Chamber, but Chin isn't surprised or scared but instead has set them up to be an actual duet - neither is covering or in the background of the other but they aren't competing either.

They also aren't attempting to be alike; they acknowledge that they are coming at the situation differently. Even though Fei Fei's engagement has escalated, it's even and a fair bit forced.

Instead of fighting his inclination to be dramatic, Chin includes her contribution in his. He's in step with her without attempting to be her.

32-33 (C) **PUDO ENTRAR** [HE COULD ENTER]

CHIN BEGINS ALONE WITHOUT ANY AWARENESS *of whether that aloneness will be short term or whether she'll sink back into silence.*

33-35 (FF) **ENTRA - POR FAVOR ENTRA** [ENTER - PLEASE ENTER]

BOTH CAN SING AS A COMBO - *don't exit to what's easier - invest in this friendship and find the feelings of unending despair dissolve - and Fei Fei feels encouraged enough to follow-up with a por favor that's firmer/faster than she's had the gumption for thus far.*

36-39 (C) **PARA ESTAR CON** [TO BE WITH] / (FF) **ELLA DONDE ELLA ESTABA** [HER WHERE SHE WAS]

THEY'RE FULLY ENGAGED *and doing decently considering the circumstances.*

40 (C) **VERSUS** / (FF) **VS.**

SEE THE KEY SIGNATURE CHANGES IN THIS COMING SECTION.

*This is a scenario to say what if Chin becomes confident because they were successfully becoming an actual both-creatively-contributing-duet and decides he can slowly **(FOR SOMEONE WHO SLAMS INTO BARRIERS, AT A SNAIL'S SPEED)** start to shift back to C major.*

The cellist senses the change and stops coming up with sentences of her own.

41-43 (C) **TO DRAG OR COERCE OR BULLY OR BEG OR CARRY HER BACK OUT** / (FF) **DRAG COERCE BULLY BEG CARRY**

COMING BACK TO THE BUOYANCY OF THE BEGINNING, *Chin drops another flat each phrase and yet Fei Fei refuses.*

Her echoes aren't dialogues but screams, the cacophony is staggering.

44-62 (C / FF) WHEN BEING STILL SO BARRIERS
WOULD/COULD DISSOLVE WOULD BE A BETTER WAY TO
BE

THE SONG SLOWS *and both share the spotlight, once again complementing one another beautifully.*

Good Friday's Explanation of the Dream in Everyday English

April 7th, 2023

I WAS AT A TABLE WITH TWO OTHER LADIES and I caught the eye of one of them and said, "I'M SO SORRY". The other looks back and forth between us, confused, and then sees the despair in the first's face. I had a flashback or somehow saw how she and her husband were fighting over where to live, neither willing to compromise.

My compassion was heartfelt but she had specifically sought me out for actual encouragement. I was also discouraged and having a hard time keeping my head up when Dan comes over. I feel a strong urge for the women to pray for the men - he seems to either read my mind or understand a few uttered words, I might have tried to explain in incomplete sentences, and he starts going table to table and just tapping guys on the shoulder and pointing at our table, some sleeping. I start laughing at the sheer absurdity of the thought that people would come without being told why and his bold display of love for me, doing something far out of his comfort zone because he loves me.

I stand up to make room for the men about to sit at the table but few sit, they want to stand too and circle the room. There is an energy pulsing through the room and I am feeling the urge to start praying out loud, but the guys are singing loudly and before I know it someone has found a microphone and is preaching a traditional Good Friday sermon over them, telling the story in third person, but not praying and showing no signs of stopping.

I feel the hope / energy in the room start to wane and I feel disappointed and relieved that I didn't have a chance to address the crowd. I am waiting for a break but it's apparent this person has an entire sermon planned and will be

talking for at least another half hour and by that time, all those who had woken up expecting something different will have gone back to sleep, feeling angry and tricked.

I think about starting a video behind her with my Asbury poem until she stops talking but am keenly aware that that's me trying to manufacture the energy, I still have a prayer pulsing through me for the men but would have to steal control to say it.

I wake up.

[WRITTEN GOOD FRIDAY, SECONDS AFTER DESCRIBING THE DREAM:]

I THINK HAD I CONTINUED TO SLEEP, *Dan would've gotten the attention of the room for me, but did I want it if it meant interrupting someone else's vision?*

Maybe someone was listening to the sermon and needed that message. It was a large room, I didn't see anyone paying attention, but if even one changed heart because of the informational approach, would it have been worth it?

Abba, I have never been able to fall asleep and pick up a dream where it left off, but will you show me another to explain it? Show me how it ends.

Was there a moment that I was supposed to start talking and I hesitated for a second which was long enough for someone to find the microphone and launch into a sermon?

Was I supposed to just start praying at that little table rather than tell/allow Dan to gather people. I don't feel like I asked for it but it was clearly what I wanted and he saw that.

[FOLLOWUP EMAIL TO A FRIEND ABOUT TWO HOURS AFTER SENDING HER THE AFOREMENTIONED DESCRIPTION/ INTERPRETATION:]

ANOTHER NOTE ABOUT THE DREAM, *I think it's extremely pertinent that the room was mostly full of men. It was just the three of us women at one table and the one female preacher who might have been the one who looked at me strange when I told my friend "I'M SO SORRY". So maybe three women total in the whole room.*

I didn't know her.

The guys, including Dan, acted on faith and gathered not knowing what to expect, trusting us to have something that they didn't.

They flocked to the one female table but didn't sit down at it, instead circling around as if they didn't want to miss what we were planning to do anyway.

I'm thinking of women representing humility and guys arrogant ambition as in my Adam/Eve time travel story (WITH EVE BEING THE FIRST TO CROSS INTO FORBIDDEN TERRITORY BUT ALSO THE FIRST TO REALIZE IT WAS A BAD MOVE).

The men - representatives of Adam - were fully trusting that we had something for them but quickly lost interest when a woman got on stage and mimicked their style - describing what she saw as truth but failing to see/draw it into a bigger storyline.

[OF COURSE, THROUGH THE CROSS THERE IS NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE, JEW AND GREEK. WOMEN CAN CHOOSE TO FOLLOW IN THE WAY OF ADAM AND MEN CAN CHOOSE THE PATH OF EVE, INSTEAD

OF US ALL BEING STUCK IN THE PATH OF ADAM AS IT WOULD'VE BEEN HAD THEY NOT BEEN SEPARATED. INSTEAD EVE GOT LOST AND, EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT SPECIFICALLY REFERENCED IN THE STORY, I THINK SHE FOUND AND REALLY UNDERSTOOD THE CROSS. EVE'S TREK THROUGH TIME TOLD AN OVERARCHING REDEMPTION STORY WHEREAS ADAM'S CONFIRMED HIS OWN BIASED NARRATIVE BECAUSE HE DIDN'T STICK AROUND LONG ENOUGH IN ANY ONE PLACE/TIME TO SEE ANYTHING BUT WHAT HE EXPECTED TO SEE. STEPHEN WALKED IN THE WAY OF EVE WHEN HE PREACHED A SERMON WHILE BEING STONED. IT MAY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN JUST INFORMATION, BUT HE WAS TRANSFIXED AND COULDN'T HELP HIMSELF. IT WASN'T PLANNED, IT WASN'T FORCED, IT WASN'T EVEN ON A SHELF WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT.]

IN THE DREAM, THOSE PREVIOUSLY WALKING IN THE WAY OF ADAM *were willing to walk in the way of Eve but instead a representative of Eve tried to keep their attention by giving them what they expected - something she had ready just in case the world seemed to pay attention, but not a right fit for the moment because it didn't pay attention to what had drawn in the crowd in the first place nor satisfy the sense of expectation.*

I don't think I was supposed to have jumped ahead and immediately launched into what I felt like I needed to say - I think they were still enjoying the shock of finding themselves singing together.

I don't know what I should have or would have done had I not woken up.

It wasn't about me, but I also think that it wasn't about the increasingly desperate attempt by the woman who had stepped on stage to keep the room's attention.

I think the kindest, most humble thing to do in that moment would be to gently go up there and put a hand on her shoulder and say, "that's not what this is about", just as it has been reported that the Asbury leaders did to those who wanted to come in waving American flags.

Humility is agreeing with God's assessment about ourselves, walking in the way of Eve - possessing and acting on a wider view of what is happening.

Sometimes that means taking the microphone back even if it means just softly saying into it, please continue, to those who are finding themselves surprised that a shift in the atmosphere is causing them to break out in spontaneous song and then just firmly holding onto it until the room starts to quiet naturally with a sense of expectation that you have something to say.

That is the time to remember what started it - deep, heartfelt sorrow at a couple being torn apart by deep discontent and an unwillingness by both to move to where the other is both comfortable.

The atmosphere shifted when a representative of Eve grieved the separation she witnessed between another representative of Eve, herself representing the Church, and her husband, representing the world we've been placed into and have been called to love.

It started with a deep urge, as a woman, to pray for the men, creating a shift in the atmosphere that even the men could feel, even if another representative of Adam had to tap them on the shoulder and point it out, representing a shift when the Church has a huge urge to pray for, not against, the government, our leaders, the world that we can't quite understand and are in the process of trying to split from.

That is what one representative of Adam, my own husband, a sweet and gentle man, sensed was about to happen and gathered his fellow men in to be a part of so they won't miss.

Dan risked something by gathering attention - much more than I did.

I feel strongly that governments, news outlets, the representatives of Adam, who are themselves doing what they believe they are called to do - doing everything they can to cultivate a better world - will risk something by giving the

600 - GOOD FRIDAY'S EXPLANATION OF THE DREAM IN EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Church space to speak.

So I pray that that trust not be placed in vain.

*For the Guys: Following through (IN EVERYDAY ENGLISH) with the
Dream Self's Desire to Bless Adam and his Offspring*

in progress

Endnotes

in progress

Dictionary

in progress

Concordance

in progress

Bibliography / Additional Acknowledgments aka BOOKS!

Although I may not agree with all of them and I am obviously not able to bring back to the brain all or even a bunch of the anecdotes they've allotted me as an avid audiobook absorber, these authors have aided this book by offering their own:

- | | |
|--|---|
| A.E. Van Vogt - Slan | Alyssa Mastromonaco - Who Thought this was a Good Idea? |
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David J. Miklowitz - The Bipolar Disorder Survival Guide	Elizabeth Acevedo - Clap When You Land
David Mann - Up Against the World	Elizabeth Carroll, James Carroll - Marriage Boot Camp
David Novak - The Education of an Accidental CEO	Elizabeth M. Bonker, Virginia G. Breen - I Am in Here
David Rawlings - The Baggage Handler	Elizabeth Willard Thames - Meet the Frugalwoods
David Rosenfelt - Dog Tripping	Elle Cosimano - Veronica Ruiz Breaks the Bank
Dawn Dais - The Sh!t No One Tells You	Ellen Pao - Reset
Dawn Raffel - The Strange Case of Dr. Couney	Elliott Neff - A Pawn's Journey
Del Quintin Wilber - A Good Month for Murder	Elysha Chang - A Quitter's Paradise
Delia Owens - Where the Crawdads Sing	Emily Colson - Dancing with Max
Delphine Menoui - I'm Writing You from Tehran	Emily Henry - Beach Read, Funny Story, People We Meet on Vacation, When the Sky Fell on Splendor
Denver Moore/ Ron Hall - Same Kind of Different as Me	Emily Lindin - Unslut
Derek Kunsken - The Quantum Magician	Emily St. John Mandel - Sea of Tranquility, Station Eleven
Diane Ackerman - The Zookeeper's Wife	
Dominica Ruta - With or Without You	
Don Lemon - This is the Fire	

- Emily Wibberley, Austin Siegemund-Broka - The Roughest Draft
- Emma Straub - This Time Tomorrow
- Eric Lindstrom - A Tragic Kind of Wonderful
- Eric Motley - Madison Park: A Place of Hope
- Eric Schmidt - How Google Works
- Eric Simonson - Bang the Drum Slowly
- Erica Bauermeister - No Two Persons
- Erika L. Sanchez - I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter
- Erin Chack - This is Really Happening
- Ernest Hemingway - The Old Man and the Sea
- Eve Schaub - The Year of No Clutter, The Year of No Sugar
- Faith Salie - Approval Junkie
- Farrah Penn - Twelve Steps to Normal
- Fatimah Asghar - If they Come for Us
- Francesca Zappia - Eliza and Her Monsters, Made You Up
- Francesca Ramsey - Well that Escalated Quickly
- Francine Prose - My New American Life, Reading Like a Writer
- Fredrick Buechner - A Crazy Holy Grace, The Remarkable Ordinary
- Fredrik Backman - A Deal of a Lifetime, A Man Called Uve, And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer, Beartown, Things My Son Needs to Know About the World, Us Against You
- Fredrik Bakman - Anxious People, Britt-Marie was Here
- Gabor Mate - In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts
- Gabrielle Douglas - Grace, Gold and Glory: My Leap of Faith
- Gabrielle Glaser - American Baby
- Gabrielle Meyer - When the Day Comes
- Gabrielle Zevin - Tomorrow, Tomorrow, and Tomorrow
- Gareth Brown - The Book of Doors
- Gary Chapman - Anger: Taming a Powerful Emotion
- Gary Schmidt - Trouble
- Gary Thomas - Cherish, Pure Pleasure
- Gary Vaynerchuk - The Thank You Economy
- Gayle Tzemach Lemmon - The Daughters of Kobani, The Dressmaker of Khair Khana
- Georgia Pritchett - My Mess Is a Bit of a Life
- Gerry Brooks - Go See the Principal
- Gill Hornby - Miss Austen
- Ginger Sprouse - Kinda Like Grace
- Greg Lukianoff, Rikki Schlott - The Canceling of the American Mind
- Gregory A. Boyd - Letters from a Skeptic
- Gregory Maguire - Missing Sisters, Wicked
- Gregory Zuckerman - Rising Above
- Haben Girma - Haben
- Hanif Aburraqib - There's Always this Year
- Hannah Hurnard - Hinds Feet on High Places
- Harold Kushner - The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person

Harriet Lerner - The Dance of Connection
Haruki Murakami - Men without Women
Hassan Blasim (ed.) - Iraq + 100
Heath Fogg Davis - Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter
Heather Lende - Find the Good, Of Bears and Ballots
Heather Sellers - You Don't Look Like Anyone I Know
Heidi Baker - Birthing the Miraculous
Helen Prejean - River of Fire
Helen Thorpe - Just Like Us
Helena Kelly - Jane Austen: The Secret Radical
Helly Acton - Begin Again
Henry Cloud and John Townsend - Boundaries in Marriage
Henry Marsh - Admissions: Life as a Brain Surgeon
Holly Smale - Cassandra in Reverse
Hope Jahren - Lab Girl
Howard Dully - My Lobotomy
Ibi Zaboï (ed.) - Black Enough
Ibi Zoboï - Pride
Ibihaj Muhammed - Proud (young readers edition)
Ibram X. Kendi - How to be an Antiracist
Ida Keeling, Anita - Can't Nothing Bring Me Down: Chasing Myself in the Race Against Time
Innovative Language - Learn Spanish Level 7 Intermediate
Irene M. Pepperberg - Alex & Me
J. Courtney Sullivan - The Engagements
Jackie Hill Perry - Gay Girl, Good God
Jacob Tomskey - Heads in Beds
Jacqueline Davies - Nothing but Trouble

Jacqueline Woodson - Another Brooklyn
Jacqueline Bussi - Outlaw Christian
Jaime Wright - The Very Worst Missionary
James Baldwin - The Fire Next Time, If Beale Street Could Talk
James Fallows and Deborah Fallows - Our Towns
James Garlow - Real Life, Real Miracles
James Goodhand - The Day Tripper
James L. Garlow & Keith Wall - Real Life, Real Miracles
James McBride - The Color of Water, The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store
James Moret - The Last Day of My Life
James Patterson - House of Robots
James Patterson, Hal Friedman - Against Medical Advice
James Sexton - If You're In My Office, It's Too Late
James W. Loewen - Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong
Jane Austen - Emma, Pride and Prejudice
Jane Goodall - Reason for Hope
Jane Rogers - The Testament of Jessie Lamb
Janet Skelslien Charles - Miss Morgan's Book Brigade
Jared Brock - A Year of Living Prayerfully
Jason Hardy - The Second Chance Club
Jason Jay & Gabriel Grant - Breaking through Gridlock
Jason Kander - Outside the Wire
Jason Rosenthal - My Wife Said You May Want to Marry Me

- Jason T. Smith - Outside-In Downside-Up Leadership
- Jay Asher - Thirteen Reasons Why
- JD Vance - Hillbilly Elegy
- Jeanne Ray - Calling Invisible Women
- Jeff Bowman - Strong
- Jeff Goins - Real Artists Don't Starve
- Jeff Smith - Mr. Smith Goes to Prison
- Jeffrey Archer - A Prison Diary
- Jeffrey Tambor - Are You Anybody?
- Jennifer Berry Hawes - Grace will lead us home
- Jennifer Egan - The Candy House
- Jennifer L. Armentrout - The Problem with Forever
- Jennifer Latson - The Boy Who Loved Too Much
- Jennifer McGaha - Flat Broke with Two Goats
- Jennifer Nielson - Words on Fire
- Jennifer Ridha - Criminal that I Am
- Jennifer Yu - Grief in the Fourth Dimension
- Jenny Lawson - Furiously Happy
- Jenny Lecoat - Girl from the Channel Islands
- Jeremy & Audrey Roloff - A Love Letter Life
- Jericho Brown - The Tradition
- Jessica Bacal - Mistakes I Made at Work
- Jessica Bruder - Nomadland
- Jessica Pan - Sorry I'm Late - I Didn't Want to Come
- Jhumpa Lahiri - In Other Words
- Jill Duggar, Derick Dillard, Craig Borlase - Counting the Cost
- Jim Daly (ed.) - The Best Advice I Ever Got on Marriage
- Jim Dwyer - More Awesome than Money
- Jim Gash - Divine Collision
- JK Rowling - Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find them
- Joan Dideon - South and West: From a Notebook
- Joanna Gaines - The Stories We Tell
- Joanna Goodman - The Home for Unwanted Girls
- John Elderidge - All things new
- John Gray - Win from Within
- John Lithgow - Drama: An Actor's Education
- John M. Perkins - Dream With Me, Let Justice Roll Down
- John Maxwell - Leadershift
- John Perkins - Confessions of an Economic Hitman
- Jojo Moyes - Giver of Stars
- Jon Ward - Testimony
- Jonas Karlsson; translated from Swedish by Neil Smith - The Room
- Jonathan Miles - Anatomy of a Miracle
- Jonathan Safran Foer - We are the Weather
- Joni Erkison Tada - Joni
- Jose Andres - We Fed an Island
- Jose Antonio Vargas - Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented American
- Jose Saramago - Blindness
- Joseph Selbie - The Physics of God
- Josh Hanagarne - The Worlds Strongest Librarian
- Joshilyn Jackson - Between, GA

Joshua Zeitz - Lincoln's God
Judith Newman - To Siri With Love
Judith Viorst - Alexander and the
Wonderful, Marvelous, Excellent,
Terrific Ninety Days
Judy Bachman - Glimpsing Heaven
Judy Christie, Lisa Wingate - Before and
After
Justin Brierley - The Surprising Rebirth of
Belief in God
Justin Halpern - Sh*t My Dad Says
K.A. Applegate, et. al. - #1 -45 --
Animorphs
Kamala Harris - The Truths We Hold
Kamau Bell - The Awkward Thoughts of
W. Kamau Bell
Karen Alpert - I Heart My Little A-Holes
Karen Kingsbury - Even Now, Ever After,
The Baxters Take Three, The Baxters
Take Two, Unlocked
Karen Swallow Prior - On Reading Well
Karen Swallow Prior about Hannah More
- Fierce Convictions
Karen Thompson Walker - The Age of
Miracles
Kate Braestrup - Marriage and Other Acts
of Charity
Kate Norris - When You and I Collide
Katharine Brooks - You Majored in What?
Katherine Applegate - The One and Only
Bob, Wishtree
Katherine Applegate and Michael Grant -
Eve and Adam
Katherine Center - The Rom-Commers
Kathleen A. Flynn - The Jane Austen
Project
Kathrine Switzer - Marathon Woman

Kathryn J. Edin - \$2 a Day
Kathryn Gay - FOOD
Katie Davis Majors - Daring to Hope
Katie Henry - Let's Call it a Doomsday
Katie J Davis - Kisses from Katie
Katie Tur - Unbelievable
Katie Williams - My Murder
Kelley Armstrong - A Rip through Time,
Disturbing the Dead, The Poisoner's
Ring
Kelly Osborne - There is No Fucking
Secret
Kelly Rimmer - The German Wife
Ken Abraham - When Your Parent
Becomes Your Child
Ken Foster - The Dogs That Found Me
Ken Gire - The Divine Embrace
Ken Wyttsma - The Myth of Equality
Kenneth Bae - Not Forgotten
Kenneth Oppel - Inking
Kent Herburn (ed.) - The Wisdom of the
Native Americans
Kevin Leman - When Your Best isn't Good
Enough
Kevin West - Angel in Aisle 3
Khizr Khan - This is Our Constitution
Kian and Jc - Don't Try this at Home
Kim Bearden - Crash Course
Kim Campbell - Flying in the Face of Fear
Kim Michele Richardson - The Book
Woman of Troublesome Creek
Kim Michelle Richardson - Godpretty in
the Tobacco Field
Kim Phuc Phan Thi - Fire Road
Kirsten Grind - Happy at Any Cost
Kristin Hannah - The Four Winds, The
Great Alone, The Women

- Kristin Levine - The Lions of Little Rock
 Kurt Vonnegut, Suzanne McConnell - Pity the Reader
 L.M. Montgomery - The Blue Castle
 Lalrissa MacFarquhar - Strangers Drowning
 Langston Hughes - The Big Sea
 Laura Coates - Just Pursuit
 Laura James - Odd Girl Out
 Laura Markham - Peaceful Parent, Happy Kids
 Laura Schroff & Alex Tresniowski - An Invisible Thread
 Laura Wides-Munoz - The Making of a Dream
 Lauren Casper - It's OK About It
 Lauren Fox - Send for Me
 Laurie Boyle Crompton - Pretty in Punxsutawney
 Laurie Frankel - One Two Three
 Lawrence Hill - The Illegal
 Leah Remini - Troublemaker
 Leah Stecher - The Things We Miss
 Lee Israel - Can You Ever Forgive Me?
 Lee Stroble - The Case for Miracles
 Leslie Jamison - The Recovering: Intoxication and Its Aftermath
 Leslie R. Crutchfield, Heather McLeod-Grant - Forces for Good
 Leslie Swartz - The Lost Chapters
 Liane Moriarty - The Husband's Secret, What Alice Forgot
 Lillian Li - Number One Chinese Restaurant
 Lin Manuel Miranda - Hamilton
 Linda Kay Klein - Pure
 Linda Sue Park - A Long Walk to Water
 Lisa Scottoline - Look Again
 Lisa Windgate - Before We Were Yours
 Lisa-Jo Baker - It Wasn't Roaring, It Was Weeping
 Lish McBride - Curses
 Liz Johnson - Beyond the Tides
 Liz Pryor - Look at You Now
 Lois Lowry - Gossamer
 Lola Milholland - Group Living and Other Recipes
 Louis Sachar - wayside school beneath a cloud of doom
 Louisa Hall - Speak
 Lucy Gilmore - The Library of Borrowed Hearts
 Lynn Steger Strong - Flight
 Lynne Gentry - Shoes to Fill
 Lynne Kelly - Song for a Whale
 Madeline Dean, Harry Cunnane - Under Our Roof
 Madhulika Sikka - A Breast Cancer Alphabet
 Maika Moulite, Maritza Moulite - Dear Haiti, Love Elaine
 Manjula Martin (ed.) - Scratch - essays about writing
 Marc Favreau - Crash
 Marcus Brotherton, Derrick Coleman, Jr. - No Excuses
 Marcus Eriksen - Junk Raft
 Margaret Atwood - The Heart Goes Last
 Margaret Terry - Dear Deb
 Margarita Montimore - Oona Out of Order
 Maria Bamford - Sure, I'll Join Your Cult
 Mariama J. Lockington - For Black Girls Like Me

Marie Benedict - The Other Einstein
Marie Coady - Fostering Us
Marie Kondo - Joy
Marilyn Johnson - This Book is Overdue
Marilyn Nelson - American Ace
Marisa de los Santos - Belong to Me,
Connect the Stars, Saving Lucas
Biggs, Watch Us Shine
Marissa LaRocca - Starving in Search of
Me
Marissa Meyer - Archenemies, Cinder,
Cress, Fairest, Heartless, Instant
Karma, Renegade, Scarlet, Stars
Above, Supernova, Winter
Mark & Delia Owens - Eye of the
Elephant
Mark Lukach - My Lovely Wife in the
Psych Ward
Mark Salzman - True Notebooks
Markus Zusak - The Book Thief
Martin Moran - All the Rage
Mary Buffet - The Tao of Warren Buffet
Maryn McKenna - Beating Back the Devil
Matt Haigs - The Humans
Matt Hay - Soundtrack of Silence
Matt Mikalatos - Imaginary Jesus
Matthew Desmond - Evicted, Poverty, by
America
Maureen Johnson (ed.) - How I resist:
Activism and Hope
Maya Angelou - I Know Why the Cage
Bird Sings
Maya Van Wagenen - Popular
Michael Card - Inexpressible
Michael Eric Dyson - What Truth Sounds
Like

Michael Gill Gates - How Starbucks Saved
My Life
Michael Licona - The Case for the
Resurrection of Jesus
Michael McCreary - Funny You Don't
Look Autistic
Michael Mosley - The 8-Week Blood
Sugar Diet
Michelle Kuo - Reading with Patrick
Michelle Obama - American Grown,
Becoming
Michelle Shocklee - Count the Nights by
Stars
Mike and Kristen Berry - Honestly
Adoption
Mike Berry - Confessions of an Adoptive
Parent
Mike Chen - A Quantum Love Story
Mike Lupica - Fast Break
Mike Rinder - A Billion Years
Mikita Brottman - The Maximum Security
Book Club
Miles McPherson - Do Something, The
Third Option
Mimi Baird - He Wanted the Moon
Molly Bloom - Molly's Game
Monica A. Coleman - Bipolar Faith
Monica Edinger, Lesley Younge - Nearer
My Freedom
Monica Hesse - They Went Left
Moziyah Bridges - Mo's Bows
N. K. Jemisin - The City We Became, The
World We Make
N.K. Jemisin - The Fifth Season
N.K. Jemisin - The Obelisk Gate
Nadia Bolz-Weber - Accidental Saints
Nancy Pearcey - Total Truth

- Naoki Higahida - Fall Down 7 Times Get Up 8
- Natalie Moore - The South Side
- Natashia Deon - Grace
- Naz Kutub - No Time Like Now
- Neale Donald Walsch - Friendship with God, Questions and Answers on CWG
- Neil Gaiman - The Graveyard Book, The Ocean at the End of the Lane
- Nell Painter - Old in Art School
- Nellie Bowles - Morning After the Revolution
- Nev Schulman - In Real Life
- Ngozi Adichie - Dear Ijeawele
- Nia Vardales - Instant Mom
- Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn - A Path Appears
- Nicole Chung - All You Can Ever Know
- Nicole Deese - Before I Called You Mine
- Niki Kapsambelis - The Inheritance
- Nikki Grimes - A Girl Named Mister, Dark Sons, Words With Wings
- Nino Cipri - Finna
- Nita Belles - In My Backyard
- Nita Sweeney - Depression Hates a Moving Target
- Nora McInerney - It's Ok to Laugh, Crying is Cool Too
- Nyle DiMarco, Robert Siebert - Deaf Utopia
- Ore Abaje Williams - The Three of Us
- Orson Scott Card - A Town Divided By Christmas, Children of the Fleet, Children of the Mind, Earth Afire, Earth Unaware, Ender in Exile, Ender's Game, Ender's Shadow, First Meetings, Shadow of the Giant, Shadow of the Hegemon, Shadows in Flight, Speaker for the Dead, The War of Gifts, Xenocide, Earth Awakens, Shadow Puppets
- Orson Scott Card, Aaron Johnson - The Swarm
- Pam Munoz Ryan - Echo
- Patric Gagne - Sociopath
- Patricia Volk - Stuffed
- Patrisse Khan-Cullors - When they call you a terrorist
- Patty Lou Hawks - Under Their Wings
- Paul A Offit, MD - Pandora's Lab
- Paul Fleishman - No Map, Great Trip
- Paul Kalanithi - When Breath Becomes Air
- Paul Matthew Maisano - Bindi
- Paul Ruggieri - Confessions of a Surgeon
- Paula Poundstone - There's Nothing in this Book that I meant to Say, The Totally Unscientific Study of the Search for Happiness
- Paula Szuchman and Jenny Anderson - Spousonomics
- Pearl Cleage - We Speak Your Names
- Peter Sczarro - The Emotionally Healthy Church
- Piper Kerman - Orange is the New Black
- Pope Francis - The Name of God is Mercy
- Preet Bharara - Doing Justice
- Preston Perry - How to Tell the Truth
- R. Manning Ancell, James G. Stavridis - The Leader's Bookshelf
- Rachel Held Evans - Inspired
- Rachel Zimmerman - Us, After
- Rafael Agustin - Illegally Yours

Ramona Ausubel - No One is Here Except
All of Us
Randy Pausch - The Last Lecture
Ray Bradbury - Fahrenheit 451
Ray Dali - Principles: Life and Work
Rebecca Alexander - Not Fade Away
Rebecca Alexander, Sascha Alper - Not
Fade Away
Rebecca Bender - In Pursuit of Love
Reginald Rose - Twelve Angry Men (LA
Theater Works)
Richard Brandt - One Click
Richard Elder - If I knew Then What I
know now
Richard Kadrey - The Everything Box
Richard Rohr - The Universal Christ
Richard Roper - Something to Live For
Rick Riordan - The DemiGod Diaries, The
Lost Hero
Rick Yancey - The Fifth Wave
Rob Scheer - A Forever Family
Rob Shenck - Costly Grace
Robert A Heinlein - Citizen of the Galaxy,
Time for the Stars, Tunnels in the
Sky
Robert Charles Wilson - The Affinities
Robert Heinlein - Stranger in A Strange
Land
Robert I. Sutton, Huggy Rao - The Friction
Project
Robert Kurson - Crashing Through
Robert Leleux - The Memoirs of a
Beautiful Boy
Robert Oxnam - A Fractured Mind
Robert Sawyer - Flash Forward
Robin Benway - Emmy & Oliver, Far From
the Tree

Robin DiAngelo - White Fragility
Robin Sloan - Sourdough
Robin W. Pearson - Til I Want No More
Ron Stallworth - Black Klansman
Rosaria Butterfield - The Gospel Comes
with a Housekey, The Secret
Thoughts of An Unlikely Convert
Ross Welford - Time Traveling with a
Hamster
Ruth Wariner - The Sound of Gravel
Sam Quinones - Dream Land
Sandra Uwiringiyimana - How Dare the
Sun Rise
Sara Novic - True Biz
Sarah Bessey - Miracles and Other
Reasonable Things
Sarah Gailey - The Echo Wife
Sarah Levy - Drinking Games
Sayaka Murata - Convenience Store
Woman
Scott Davis - If My Body is a Temple, then
I was a Megachurch
Sean & Leann Tuoeay - In a Heartbeat
Senator Tim Scott - America, A
Redemption Story
Seth Godin - Purple Cow
Shaka Senghor - Writing My Wrongs
Shannon Morell, Angela Hunt -
Misconception
Sharon Garlough Brown - Sensible Shoes,
Shades of Light, Two Steps Forward
Shauna Robinson - The Banned
Bookshop of Maggie Banks
Shawn Askinosie - Meaningful Work
Shawntelle Madison - The Fallen Fruit
Sheelah Kolhalkar - Black Edge
Sheila Heti - Motherhood

- Shelby Van Pelt - Remarkably Bright Creatures
- Sheldon Vanauken - A Severe Mercy
- Sheneska Jackson - Blessings
- Sherman Alexie - The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian
- Sheryl Sandburg - Option B
- Shomari Wills - Black Fortunes
- Shonda Rhimes - Year of Yes
- Simon Rich - Hits and Misses, Spoiled Brats
- Simon Van Booy - The Sadness of Beautiful Things
- Simone Biles - Courage to Soar
- Sloan Crosley - Look Alive Out There
- Sophie Kinsella - What Does it Feel Like?
- Sophocles - Oedipus Trilogy
- Stacey Abrams - Minority Leader
- Stephan Bauman, Matthew Soerens, Dr. Issam Smeir - Seeking Refuge
- Stephanie Wittels Wachs - Everything is Horrible and Wonderful
- Stephen Mansfield - The Search for God and Guinness
- Stephen Messer - The Library of Ever
- Steven Galloway - The Cellist of Sarajevo
- Steven King - On Writing
- Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner - Think Like a Freak
- Sudhir Venkatesh - Gang Leader for a Day
- Susanna Calahan - Brain on Fire
- Susannah B. Lewis - Bless Your Heart, Rae Sutton
- Susannah Charleson - The Possibility Dogs
- Suzy Favor Hamilton - Fast Girl
- Suzy Hansen - Notes on a Foreign Country
- Sybrina Fulton & Tracy Martin - Rest in Power
- T. D. Jakes - Disruptive Thinking
- T. I. Lowe - Lowcountry Lost
- Ta-Nehisi Coates - Between the World and Me, We were Eight Years in Power
- Tamera Alexander - A Million Little Choices
- Tara Wigley - How to Butter Toast
- Tatiana de Rosnay - Sarah's Key
- Ted Dekker - A.D. 30, A.D. 33
- Ted Dintersmith - What School Could Be
- Ted Koppl - Lights Out
- Tehereh Mafi - Furthermore, Whichwood
- Temple Brandon - Thinking in Pictures
- Terri Roberts - Forgiven
- Terry Felber - The Legend of the Monk and the Merchant
- Tess Vigeland - Leap
- Tessa Afshar - Bread of Angels, Daughter of Rome, Harvest of Gold, Harvest of Rubies, In the Field of Grace, Pearl in the Sand
- Thea Lim - An Ocean of Minutes
- Tiffany Haddish - The Last Black Unicorn
- Tim Lefens - Flying Colors
- Tim Stafford - Miracles
- Tom Angleberger - The Strange Case of Origami Yoda Series
- Tom Bissell - Apostle
- Tom Foreman - My Year of Running Dangerously
- Toni Morrison - Song of Solomon
- Tony Messenger - Profit and Punishment

Toshikazu Kawaguchi - Before the Coffee
Gets Cold

Tracey Hilton Mitchell - The Big Fix

Trudy Harris - Glimpses of Heaven

Tui T. Sutherland - Dragonet Prophecy

Vanessa Miller - Something Good

Veronica Roth - Allegiant, Carve the
Mark, Divergent, Four, Insurgent,
The End and Other Beginnings, The
Fates Divide

Vicki Grant - 36 Questions that Changed
My Mind about You

Victoria M. Adams - The House at the
End of the Sea

Victoria Ortiz - Dissenter on the Bench

Vincent Vargas - Borderline

Virginia Morell - Animal Wise

W. Lee Warren, MD - I've Seen the End of
You: A Neurosurgeon's Look at
Faith, Doubt, and the Things We
Think We Know

Walter D. Myers - On A Clear Day

Warren St. John - Outcasts United

Wes Moore - The Other Wes Moore: One
Name, Two Fates; The Work: A
Search for a Life that Matters

Will Schwalbe - Books for Living

William Browning Spencer - Downloading
Midnight and Other Stories

William Kamkwamba - The Boy Who
Harnessed the Wind

William Young - Lies we Believe about
God

Wilson Rawls - Where the Red Fern
Grows

Yanis Varoufakis - Talking to My
Daughter about the Economy

Yiyun Li - Where Reasons End

Yossi Klein Halevi - Letters to My
Palestinian Neighbor

April 2020's



Zeal for Your House Consumes Me

ZIG-ZAGGING THROUGH MY YEARNINGS is a way to weave my values into an unusual trap, not to ensnare readers - as a punishment for obtusely neglecting me or my message - but to newly obstruct the path and quiet us all as we regain footing. I structure this as a speed trap to slow us down.

I request readers and the Real Recipient alike to please perceive this as a prayer for revival. Private prayers really should stay silent if for the sake of self-righteous piety but please, I pray that people perceive this as poetry, repurposing the phrases into their own prayers.

Obviously, I'm predicting that this will be read at least by my parents - private opuses are often poorly planned and quotes from those rarely read like spoken word speeches so I would not spend so much time settling upon sentences that sound right if

I regarded this as a solitary thing that I wouldn't share but I request that this provoke Your people into quiet recesses where You can show them for themselves that You can still save us, where You can refresh them and send them back out, ready to prove Your power and publically pronounce, if pertinent, that You are real. Reveal to us the rightness and the wrongness of religions so that we may in turn solidify our own stances before standing behind the promises that we provide others on Your behalf. May apprehension at the prospect of providing phony hope not prevent us from offering any at all.

I pray that this poem practices what it preaches and praises You while pursuing the potential it possesses to be quixotically relatable and salient. I'll salvage every scrap of truth that I can set my sights on if it serves to reveal the quiddity of this path observed by innumerable masses and yet mistakenly mangled by just as many. May I not maim the message even more than others have before me.

I must manage the mounting misgivings about this manifesto because, while You've let me maintain my inadequacy orally, I'm obsessed with a new momentum and need for this news to be known that overtakes my own preference for obscurity. Knowing me, that can only come from You. Neutrality is not an option for You are not objective in Your opinion of how we are protecting Your people, but I prefer referring to someone else's perspective in place of my own.

Neutrality has been my main *modus operandi*. Not always in my mind, but it's not an outlandish proposition that I often overlook promoting, polishing, or often possessing an outlook of my own.

Participants at my wedding may quote my relishing subjection to someone else's steering of the scenario by telling of the time I shrugged when asked of a schedule, saying *"THEY TOLD ME TO SHOW UP IN A WHITE DRESS SO HERE I AM."*

SO I STRUGGLE TO SHARE THIS - I seek to escape the spotlight but that ship has sailed so yes--Savior--speak. I strive to seek You in turn. You tell me so that I can tell them so that they can share the truth too. Show them too. I must show this to someone

if they are to show it in turn to students as a template. Someone might save it until they can take it to sufferers struggling with unspeakable sorrow as a salve. I trust You when You speak a secret that saints have held sacred for centuries: that saints are sinners who recognize Your role - who still say through their tongues are sometimes silenced by unseen taunters, *"SPEAK LORD, I'M LISTENING."*

MAY SAINTS AND SINNERS ALIKE remember this when ready to quit practicing the purpose You've placed in them to pursue. May this be a quadrifid protection against our own objectives and a pronouncement of the prominence of Your plans.

I pray that quadricentary (*400 YEAR OLD*) rainforests would be planted to save for the time when the then unexpected occurs and the thriving centuries-old trees support a school's scanty roof.

I pray for quadriphyllous (*FOUR-LEAVED*) reliefs that will be quizzically perceived as presents from On-High. One person requested that if God were real, He tell someone to show off their resolute quadriceps and do pushups in the aisle. Since someone did so, may someone else strive to do the same if a similar small voice speaks to be silly too, but solely if they first seek out and recognize the unquestionable peace that comes only from You before pushing their own objectives.

I pray for quadragenarious (*FORTY-YEAR-OLD*) relationships that'll be safeguarded against the traps of selfishness that don't have to show themselves with time. May urges to be vindicated be weighed and found wanting. May You whisper to the vengeful voices inside of us that it is very well here so the 'wisdom' of worrying is not welcome. May we act with real wisdom so well that the world will examine the years and yearn to be wielded with such inexpugnable value. We understand that staying in a relationship regardless of quarreling is often impossible but I pray for Your patience to prevail.

I pray that quadruplex reasons to simultaneously trust You would show real righteousness to the prevailing reviewers.

MY REQUEST IS THAT THEY'D REMEMBER THIS when the war I want to ready them for is waging with even more vengeance than we've witnessed as of yet. I really

wish I was wrong, but I'm warning that if viewed visually, with visceral understanding and values, this world will look worse - soon.

I want them to see these sentences strained through someone else's standard stance and really question if, perhaps, opinions operate on another plane than the one we've adopted as our own. Maybe more nuances need to be noticed and new notions need to be nailed to the nucleus of minds that have mirthfully let kindness' gist go unadjudicated.

Kindness means loving many like kin, even kin that can't conceptualize that Letamosis leaves literature and lapses into the literal localities of loved ones. Even when one has listened to Marissa Meyer's *LUNAR CHRONICLES*, how could they know that (like the little robots that move to remove (*ALMOST IN THE MOMENT OF ITS MANIFESTATION*) *ANYONE WITH MARKS OF MALADY*) malls move in mazes of mistrust for anyone could be passing on the plague. Without knowing an observer of panicked people prevented from performing original obligations, how could one opine that the obstruction that one passes to prove that one is in their prime playing out in the pages of disquieting but revered stories shows itself today. Spots (*AS WAS THE SYMPTOM OF LETAMOSIS*) may suggest that not all is right, but a soaring temperature could spoil a simple shopping trip as symptom-showers are sent to a separate section of the city, reserved for those in quarantine, without the prospect of preparation.

I PRAY THAT
WE WOULD BE PREPARED.

REFRESH QUEASY PASTORS as they remember past Resurrection Sundays. Placed in the public eye as was the Queen of Persia, a poor pubescent previously at peace with her obscurity but pitilessly plucked in her prime from the place she held precious, their

purpose is to prepare their parishioners for persecution and that is a panic-inducing proposition!

Public personas and people without prominence or predilection towards popularity but a proclivity to pray for the revival we've been promised are often in pain, overworked and oppressed, needing the optimism of another in order to protect their own so I offer this as a present to those like myself, optimistically presuming that by quitting my practice of perching as an observer, perhaps one person may purposely pursue a parallel path of public outcry and perhaps another will privately pray a more profound plea than previously.

Perhaps they may perceive in a personal way the outstanding news that our mistakes are not nailed to our natures.

Many nurture opinions that no nurturing, no new observation, no ornate but nevertheless mostly meaningless language can knock out the jeering influences holding grievances as final examples to exemplify why a dead Christ cannot change anybody.

Anxious & afraid of being broken into bite-sized bait for cruel demons and their cronies (*BY SOME DEGREE OF CONNIVING MORE BRILLIANT THAN I COULD COME UP WITH*), I come close to bailing because of those challengers and consider buying into the call to acquiesce and announce (*IN THE ALONENESS OF MY BRAIN OF COURSE*) that the bullies that cozen me into believing that they could break me are correct - or worse: Christ is dead.

THE

END.

I DESIRE THE EASE OF THE FRAGILE BUT EVER-DEFENDING CUSHION OF BURIED ANONYMITY but I cannot cease so I carefully caress dangerous echos of faceless grief as a gift to hold when it's imperative that they either join Jehovah Jirah's

Kingdom or keep in step with the kind of leaders that lay claim to the knack to let many (*NUMEROUS AS NODES IN A NETWORK*) organize proudly as pockets of people pursuing pathos (*PILFERING PEEKS OF THE PROFOUND AND PROTECTING PROOF OF THE POWER OF PARTING FROM THE PROMINENT PRACTICES THAT PLAGUE THE PROSCRIBED*) while quietly querying runaways as renegades.

Citing safety risks, presidents and police and queens and reigning rulers will say that we're threats to society when we threaten their own tyrannical (yet tenuous) thrones because we've taken stock and selected a teacher seemingly shrouded in secrecy; the reticence of such a Savior is reason enough to regard supporters as sycophants, sympathetic to solely themselves and the sponsors subsidizing the riches that they refuse to share.

May they seek the stability of terrific truth over the seemingly safer tale that Satan will try to spin and remember that this is not a surprise - the spiritual struggle has been taking tit-for-tat since the time that the serpent slid sneaky half-truths into the sentences it spun for those who stated what they knew to be true - that You told them to stop - before relishing the savoring taste of stubbornness and refusing to relinquish the privilege to own their own outcome. Nevermind that You never opened that possibility, or perhaps You ousted our ownership before we even knew of our own existence.

WOULD THE QUESTERS BE READY TO RECOGNIZE THAT WHILE ALL THAT SEEMS STUPID, they're taken with the sound of the sentences and read on regardless. Some may even say that the statements seem somewhat sensible. May they sit silently before rudely saying that this is trash, searching the funny phrases for signs of insincerity. They may skim over run-on sentences ridiculously quickly, priding themselves in picking out problems and pinpointing every recalled quota, readily ridiculing me for seeking to show them something serious in such a silly scheme. They may take any trespassing across unexamined verges of their worldview as a wager of war, but I ask that they'd wonder whether there may be wisdom in working with words until they would vitiate the worrisome vindictiveness of unsuspecting viewers who would unwittingly unearth the whole before wrestling with a vignette like usual. May

they urge each other to vigilantly weigh every word for any whit of veracity - any variable that might vivify Your understanding of truth - a truth far superior to what someone who solely is a religious quack could present. Please.

I pray that they'd question whether, when patterns are overlooked, a point is obscured and I offer a puzzle. Of course, the mislaid letter may be laziness but mulling over the mistakes may make multiple metaphorical meanings more noticeable.

May Your meanings be miraculously unclouded. Let them know that this is a joint job.

I HESITATE because I imagine judges insisting that I'm haughty for insisting that I jive with a King who makes mature my mistaken nature. Their nurture overrides my prejudicial, quaint reasoning since rational people recognize that science teaches that the universe is a variable that would be explainable in x-number of years. A Zillion, perhaps?

ABBA - BRING COMFORT TO THE DISCOURAGED, DOWNCAST DENIZENS OF EXTORTIONATE ENVIRONMENTS, entombed by excessive expectations, financial obligations, gargantuan infestations of greed gone unhindered, helped by hypocritically grand gates granting access to the goods to the great and finding fault in the generally God-forsaken Earth dwellers called, if considered backwards, a body of ape's ancestors.

AND I BEGIN A COUNTDOWN. I bet that even in a crisis, bored aggravators will argue. Announcing it an abhorrent, belittling consideration, a charge could be commanded, beckoning a cacophony of cantankerous choruses, crying out for courageous champions to counteract the competitor's conclusions. Cowed crowds chafe that 1) I would challenge them with a bet that they'd argue and 2) at the initial accusation of being able to bear creatures determined extinct, exasperatedly explaining that earth falls forward, that generations fording epochs finally generated

happenstances that happen to gift the groundbreakers a finite number, but just enough digressions to create the broken bubble they belabor to bestow to its assumed author - us.

They attempted to allocate appropriate adoration to the architect but when the ballot was cast and the count considered, the concept of chance had a dizzying effect on the fragile, fractioning Earth-dwellers' effectiveness in the endless endeavor to find great happiness.

How? It happens that we all happen to have a great fragility - or is it an ego - a dire consequence of back and forth abstractions so when it was announced an abhorrent belittling consideration to be seen as an ape's ancestor but an absolutely bottom line non-assumption to be its child, chasms that charity cannot cross were created. Dignity was dismissed but the confusing and bedeviling compulsion/desire to be escorted to the now forbidden/forgotten garden still haunts us.

I imagine hearing a host of humanity holler *"THIS GIRL ISN'T REALLY TRYING TO START A DEBATE ABOUT EVOLUTION - IS SHE? **FEEDBACK FEEDBACK FEEDBACK F*\$%[#ING] FEEDBACK FEEDBACK SCROLL PAST, PERUSE FAST... NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO UNEARTH OLD DEBATES. HASN'T SHE DETERMINED THAT, COLLECTIVELY, THE CORONAVIRUS BEATS ALL?"***

I BELIEVE THAT COVID-19 IS BUILDING A BRIDGE but also a bigger challenge in that it's demanding us to elect one future or another, faith in one god or another. I feel that evolution is just one example of where, by deeming ourselves experts, we divide ourselves, creating choices where division should not exist. The fence is growing. Here - on this God-given, not forsaken Earth. Eternity exists, but I disagree with most Christians about the belief that belief alone can change or determine our own end. Fire is refining. God is good. Humans are humans and having to have Him give us a skin graft hurts like hell.

Like the girl in Hinds Feet in High Places, I imagine hearing a host of humanity hollering *"GOD? ARE YOU AS FEEBLE AS I FEEL?"* even if they don't determine their

cries to be asking 'ABBA', 'BURDEN CARRIER', 'DADDY', 'EVERLASTINGLY FAITHFUL FATHER GOD' for help. I hear their hopes as "GOD? I'M HOLDING ONTO HOPE IN YOUR GOODNESS BUT HURRY. GRANT ME FAVOR OR I'LL EASILY DROWN. COULD THAT BE YOUR BRILLIANT ASPIRATION?"

A believer (AKA CHRISTIAN BELIEVER) may ask (EVEN IF UNAWARE OF DOING SO), "ABBA - BLAME CYNICS BECAUSE THEY CHOOSE DOUBT EVEN AFTER BEING LOVED (**EVEN IF THEY CAN'T FEEL THAT**)".

Abba, instead I ask "**DO YOU BLAME THEM FOR BEING CYNICS?**" I KNOW I CAN'T BECAUSE THEY HAVE LESS TO CHOOSE FROM THAN I DO AND I DOUBT EVEN AFTER FEELING LOVED."

Grit and even grace alone cannot free me from the fearless forces that fight to find my foundation & effectively dismantle dreams of comfort & calm, displacing them with a despair that commits to destroy me. At least not on Earth. Eventually the demons that correct me ceaselessly will be blocked from bullying me any longer but all is not alright and so the battle continues.

I BEGAN THIS ATTEMPT AT ARTWORK ABOVE WHAT I BELIEVED I COULD DO because I cannot cease or desist either and so, although I do not desire to debate about ethics nor deities (*NOR COULD I IF I DID*), I carefully continue to climb through this cavern of back and forth abstractions in anticipation that it could be accepted as a blemishless atonement - an alter not to me or my poetry but to You and Your covenant with us all.

Dissect the expositions and fragments and fracture any greed that has held a home intermittently or interjected itself into Your jurisdiction and, like a kleptomaniac, leapt into the limelight mercilessly needing to obtain the overall procession of positive perceptions.

Pronouncing "*OH, NOT ME. I NEVER WANTED TO OBSCURE THE PICTURE OF MY IMPERFECTION*" is simply not true. I've struggled with a really petrifying picture of the path that I perceived as the only option: perfection. I was a perfectionist, always performing for the approval of the report card. I more readily receive rebukes than before, but I am still scared of the skilled readers who will read

right through my sentences and see the traps I've set for myself.

Still, I say these things because I cannot stop, not because I can't see or recognize that there are those who seem suited to this task (and that sets me on the sidelines - like I'd select). They have been screaming for centuries that since this stubbornly steadfast strife is supernatural, we should really question whether we're ready for the quiz. Perhaps their own natures were miraculously lifted from the muck and mutated into mini moving mirrors. Now they mimic their God with every movement without much need for over-the-top profundities.

Querying how to please that prelacy scares me, as it should. I know I skip around like S. Ramanujan, the skilled mathematician that marveled at numbers' shapes and whose proofs the most sophisticated scientists are still trying to solve a century later.

I sense that once a pattern is set, skipping the P's and Q's will displease those that presume that once a pattern is set, it's set in stone. This prayer is for revival for the screamers too. May they see You and stumble into something not subjected to typical standards.

REVIVAL IS NOT A RESPECTER OF PERSONS because revival represents You. Round up presidents and pastors and parents and poets and powerful orators and not-so-on-top-of-it pundits and progressives and promoters of over-the-top prerequisites to being regarded as salient and even safe.

Regardless of one's past, we're quick to roar shared rage regarding what is rightly received as shamefully intolerable sentences to the State prisons of public unresponsiveness when we perceive that a platform reserved for the sincere is stolen by those without a stake in the result; by someone who doesn't suffer in the same way, by someone insensitive enough to re-appropriate someone else's pain to progress their own pathetic standing in society. Reassure us that You can sympathize. Tell us that You don't treasure our torment - "using" victims for Your own zealous attempts to announce Yourself as better than the children You created.

No - I believe You cry when we dismiss one indignity only to command that we bow cheerfully down to another. Believers of course deny evolution but following the

example of describing eternity like Dante does is even more damaging. Creationists: be careful before bragging about beliefs that create chasms.

Yet I see Christ as a bridge and yes I believe that Christ is not dead. Christ is our broker, arbitrator, and advocate. But believers: be aware of the abusive ancestry of blaming Adam for the non-believers' certain doom/entrance into inevitable everlasting darkness. Ephesians 4:6 "Esmerelda's faith was greater than that of Frollo. God help those that inherit just another king's lies."

LISTEN TO THIS MESSAGE WITH MERCY. Know that it's not a perfect parable, not a perfect parallel, but I'll respin the story of the prodigal son so that perhaps it can present a paradigm shift with a simpler tone than this structure sanctions:

**A SLIGHTLY MORE GORY STORY: A SPOKEN WORD PIECE
WRITTEN FOR AN OPEN MIC NIGHT AT A LOCAL BAR; NEVER
GIVEN (JUNE 16, 2013)**

[As shared earlier]

I SEE THE TEARS STARTING TO SWELL IN STUBBORN SOULS because my own screen is starting to seem shadowy.

I RECOGNIZE THAT READERS HAVE STRUGGLED TERRIBLY and that I could never understand the trauma that they have undergone.

The verifiable, undeniable truth is that the structure of these sentences reveal my privileged role in society. I'm sorry that I have sat in safety when requested to stand strong with the suffering.

SAINTS ARE SINNERS who stand on stage sweating and shouting over the total unfairness of how villains are vindicated and victims are vilipended, urging more understanders to take up the torch and say "STOP." I say "THANK YOU" and "I'M SORRY FOR NOT STANDING WITH YOU SOONER" to all those unafraid valiant workers who have been yelling about worldviews that don't yearn for zero yearning worldwide.

WORKERS WILLING TO WATCH FOR ANY VESTIGE OF UNWILLINGNESS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH SUSPICIOUS SOUNDING RULES THAT THEY THEMSELVES DON'T THINK ARE TRUTH won't understand a vocabulary wiser than that which is usually tolerated. So they tirelessly try to unwind the virtuoso's expertly worked out words, vigilantly watching for extra explanations that can exonerate yesterday. The vociferously vehement wild weeds of war-mongers and wistful self-vindicating well-wishers are twain witnesses to worrisome wagers that have warranted unwarrantable favor. Even while wanting to want the withdrawal of wicked wrongs, we really want wider examinations and exposing x-rays to yield zilch.

Yet x-rays wouldn't validate tears of silent resentment so tell us that it's sufficient to simply state our trauma. Tell us that even when telling You anything seems impossible, You still see the tears that invisibly wear us out without voicing why we are weary. May any whine whatsoever be valued and understood as vocalizations of a void. May we venture to visualize the wails of a world wearied by xenophobic yelling zealots and yet do so without wounding worried victims further.

WHAT IS THERE TO SAY? We want what we don't want to want and don't want what we do. With such a viscous war why work towards waning the war waging around us? We're already weak and withering - or are we?

“VALERIE -
UNDERSTAND THIS”,

You say:

WHEN STUCK, I TRY TO REPURPOSE OLD TO ME BUT NEW TO ANYONE ELSE messages, mining them for meaning. You have been meaning for me to make manifest those messages for a long time but we both know that just because You've implanted Your hopes and goals into me fervently, that without You endlessly and earnestly equipping me, I falter and fail to fulfill Your ends not out of enmity but despite every efforts to be faithful.

GRATEFUL FOR EXPOSURE TO UNEARNED FAVOR I gracefully hope that; in this imparting of the intimate harbingers You gave me, hurting & grieving friends will endeavor to encounter a faith that can face expected disputes & not crumble, discovering for themselves evidence of a divinity calling *"BELOVED, COME. DON'T CHOOSE TO BLAME ATHEISTS FOR BEING TOO CONVINCING. DON'T CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE NOT CHOSEN TO DIVE DEEPER INTO MY EVERLASTING FINISHED GOODNESS. HAVE YOU NOT HEARD THAT I HOLD IN MY HEART A GIFT FOR YOU TO FIND? GIVE ME YOUR HOPES AND GRIEF - FINISH WHAT YOU'VE EVOKED. YOU'VE DIVERTED COURSE OVER THE COURSE OF DECADES, SUBTLY CORRECTING BEFORE THE CHANGE DARES TO DIRECT YOU INTO DARKNESS - CURSING AND/OR BABBLING AN APOLOGY, BEMOANING, 'ABBA! BE AWARE THAT MY ADORATION IS AUTHENTIC! BRINGING SONGS TO MY BELOVED IS NOT A CHORE, I CONSISTENTLY CHOOSE UNCEASING DEVOTION TO YOU WHO ARE NEITHER SOLELY BOSS NOR BEAU, YOU ARE NOT A BOYFRIEND BUT A CONSTANT COMPANION, A DIVINE EVER FAITHFUL FRIEND."*

GOD? HEAR OUR GROANS FOR IT IS HUNGER AND NOT GREED feeding our fervent entreaties for You to be our friend. We feel firm enough in our experiences to

express doubt and expect that eventually our frames will expand to fit the Earth's enigmas so engage us in fascinating (*AND FUN!*) field trips everywhere we follow You to. Engage us Lord!

We dare to consider disowning the deeply entrenched essence of our very existence so that our doubts can close the distance between instead of creating a deeper chasm.

Expand our definitions: Change blessings from "*BRING ME [FILL IN THE BLANK].*" to "*CHANGE MY DESIRES TO EQUAL YOURS.*" May 'FUN' mean "*FILL US WITH GLADNESS GOD-YOU HAVE MY ENTIRE HEART. HERE I AM LORD!*"

I IMAGINE THAT MANY HAVE BEEN INDOCTRINATED INTO A INFERIOR HOPE - a hopeless and unhappy gospel.

"HEY GOD?" I hear them saying. "*HI. UM, HELLO. HOWDY? I, UH, HALLOW THEE? HMMM. HALLOWED BE THY HEADSHIP OVER MY HAPPENSTANCES. YOU HOLD THIS HEART INTERMINABLY HOSTAGE. I AM INFINITELY IN YOUR HAND AND GIVE YOU MY GRATITUDE FOREVER AND EVER UNTIL THE DAY I DIE.*"

HUH?

I HEAR HIGH-MINDED INTENTIONS as haughty attempts to have You insist alongside us that we have the intimacy we hunger for - inferring that You don't hunger for it too.

"*I AM INCREDIBLY JUBILANT TO BE INVITED TO JOIN YOU IN THIS IMPORTANT HABIT - IT IS A HABIT YOU KNOW. I HAVE NOT HESITATED, EVEN WHEN NOT INCLINED TO DO SO, TO JUMP THROUGH INCREDIBLE HOOPS FOR YOU. GOD - I'VE BEEN FAITHFUL, EVEN WHEN OTHERS DODGE YOU.*"

The desire to confess a billion times and accept every alter call and be blessed by a church crew (*DIFFERENT EACH WEEK OF COURSE*) is not unfamiliar. I get it.

I can imitate homage. I have gone forever imitating devout saints. I sailed through that class. I desired my church-dodging brother to author a big, copious, detailed, excessively uncalled-for unforgiving gazette about his hesitance and disinclination to jump through incredibly unhelpful hoops, hoping that if he joined me in the hypocrisy, perhaps God would finally explain to us all the extreme dichotomies we kept seeing and confirm my bias that Abba, (*NOT ALLAH, BUT CHRIST - THE CHILD OF THE DIVINE*) was divinity. We were eight (*ISH*).

DENYING THE SIMPLICITY OF THAT CHILD'S DESIRE is to over-complicate a character that seemed complex but was sorta clear and direct. My destination was to be dutiful, was to ever-increasingly be the favored one, the goody goody, held up as immaculate.

Honest to goodness, God You know I've been there but I want to invite them into this hope that is not invisible. May my hope be enviable.

MAY THIS INVOCATION IDENTIFY THAT WE WERE IDEALIZING ILLUSTRATIONS OF IMPLIED INTIMACY instead of interrupting the hidden hatred of indifference in the inferences we allow to influence us.

I'll include an instance that I identify as impregnably prevalent: inaction when encountering imprudence. In endorsing inanity, we implore each other to judge kindness as the cry to "*LOVE ME NEGLECTFULLY*" (*OBSCURING THE ORIGINAL POINT*). Instead I pray that this prayer be in practice a parent that points out nonsensical meanderings and mends the mangled messes that materialize when levity delegitimizes the longings left by masterful nudges of purpose.

I purposefully present this petition in a particular pattern to make a point. Order can be powerful and I purport that by ordering our path, You've provided us a priceless present: purpose.

Only not the obscure and pointless order that needlessly means memorizing a

large list of meaningless nonsense to obey. Personal orders are practical and not pointless. Unlike phony requirements, they procure room to play with the phrases. They permit fun while protecting us from our own objectives. I pray for resolve: the single-mindedness, tenacity, and security of real, quintessentially quixotically persistent purpose!

RELEGATED TO IMPRACTICALITY BY SOME, I pray that religious and non-religious alike will relate to the supernatural revival You'll plant within them to pursue and prize the purpose they procure as a result of being part of Your plan.

OH THE PLEDGE OF PURPOSE. The potential of quotable, relatable, satiating, tenable, unattackable, tailor-made, saving, revigorating, quintessential purpose that queens the poor, prosaic pawn, promoting her to position of quester; the rejoicing seeker, saturated in the sensation of second-hand security.

We still see the tormentors that unwind their vociferous webs very unwillingly. They are vacuums that wield extraordinary yokes and yet exhibit weakness when waging against the always victorious, undefeated, triumphant, stabilizing reason to quietly persevere.

Renamed queens, we progress into priceless pearls, quaking yet resilient; queries of a reality unseen, untouched, unstoppable, unrivaled, unpronounced, unorthodox, unnerving, unmoving, unlocked, unkept & considered unjustifiable. "Justice jeers at the joker" is the jive of the self-proclaimed just while You universally invite us into unhindered, unguarded, unforgettable freedom.

Unfinished, ungrasped, unheralded and unimpeded, we were just unkempt, unlearned, unmanageable, unnourished, oblivious pearls in progress.

Our nearness to the mechanized loosening of our kinship to the ill-fated imaginary island of individualism kept us looking for it be a mistake. The news of the official offensive objective - to be processed through a perilous, practically imperceivable promotion that promises pain - panics the patient.

HAVE PATIENCE WITH YOUR PEOPLE as the pressure pushes us into even more petrifying places for the purpose of replacing parasitic opinions with Your pearls: prudence, patience, practicality... a really long list of the produce resulting from Your Spirit reaping what You have sown within us. It's scary, but to possess Your righteousness - Your supernatural tenacity, sanity, sophisticated reasoning... I'm petrified by pain but may we see what's at stake and say "*OK. PLEASE PROCEED*".

PEARLS REQUIRE QUITE A PRESSURE. Patinated panels quiver as they are replaced, their surface taken unceremoniously victim.

Unaccustomed to umbra, voices of woe are weaved into a violent undercurrent of threatening sadness. Still, a soft song relays the quintessence of the persona once named menace, now named mine: LIKABLE KID OF THE KING.

I CAN ONLY JUST INTERNALIZE THAT I, CONSTANTLY CONSIDERED A LIABILITY, more likely than not to miss my cues, messing up in the maze called the nexus of the network's norm, can be made, like a kid, to jump again - to rejoice again.

I just keep loyally moving forward, knowing that to look left or leave the median would mean that I was lost. The logistics of losing myself in the mystical loosely-associated leaps of kaleidoscopic crowds chills me. It would creep in until I could barely see the changes in my countenance and would continue to encircle me until it could derail the essence of the doctrine that I count on to deliver me.

Some (*ALTHOUGH I'D BE SURPRISED THAT SUCH A CRITIC COULD STILL BE SEEING THIS*) consider me sacreligious. That's ok.

I'VE SAID BEFORE AND I STILL STAND BEHIND THAT I DON'T CRAVE THE SPOTLIGHT, but I admit that this is not the first stage I've stumbled across.

**WHEN I WAS
AROUND NINE,**

A BASELESS OR BENIGN (*I STILL CAN'T CHOOSE*) concert of sorts at a church asked all the children to come down to the stage to be displayed on both knees while the congregation sang "*COME - NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP.*" I did. I closed my eyes and forgot who was in front of who, feeling good. Meeting with God before a group was new for me and I did fear it sacrilege, but maybe it sparked an inevitability. Even then, it was decreed, that I was a worshiper; that the shy child who could convincingly play Mary in one of our shows, caressing a stick as if were really a Baby would probably be a worship leader.

**WHEN I
WAS SIXTEEN,**

AFTER SINGLE-HANDEDLY BREAKING THE SPIRIT OF AN ENTIRE TEAM, because of my consistent whining during a week of difficult (*FOR ME*) climbing (*A CHALLENGE TO BACKPACK ACROSS THE MONTANA/ WYOMING BORDER THAT I NEVER SHOULD'VE ACCEPTED*) someone told me he had never seen anyone else worship so authentically.

**WHEN I
WAS THIRTY,**

AS BEFORE - BOTH ALONE AND BEFORE A CROWD - AS I HAD DONE FOR ALMOST A DECADE, I danced without an example, making a fool of myself. It wasn't great but this time it gave a humble girl, fourteen at most, enough dispensation to defy her inclination to sit, instead she chose to bless God and in turn us with a beautiful ballot.

Classically competent, she ceased when I did, ever afraid of exposure. When she digressed, disturbed at the calm countenance of the congregation, I carried on with my display of devotion even more foolishly - not to force a grade school girl's hand but because she handed me the great honor of hearing (*INTERNALLY*) "*HUNNY - GO AHEAD. THE FLOOR IS YOURS*". For eight years I've had an exotic lack of fear when feeling that urge. Sure, I generally hesitate first, thinking I'm getting too old for this, that I'd be fine with fleeing without having felt the familiar following of eyes impossible to read, unsure whether they had decided to disregard me as a disaster years ago. I always have a choice. I could sit or shift just a bit into the aisle and the automatic but accepted sway would begin to chase away any doubt that last time I made it up. I could try to explain all day or I could just enjoy it - familiarizing myself with a flow I can't exclusively accept as mine. I like, to an eensy tiny degree, to be out of control (*IN CHECKED CIRCUMSTANCES*).

BEFORE THAT CHURCH IN CLEVELAND - when I first danced after class as a stranger; before strangers trusted a stranger to actually want to pray rather than eye the audio equipment in the empty room set aside for day and night praise, I entreated that my tongue be freed and that gain a haste that I cannot interpret. I had heard that an impossibility was happening and so I invested my jealous requests into the quest to receive akinetic kingly language without learning how to mimic the mouths that moved so masterfully making those natural sounding noises.

One girl told me she persistently passed by people in public, pretending to be on the phone, a pasquinade that had yet to reveal whether she spoke in someone else's mother tongue. she said a few things for us but to tell you the truth, I still wasn't sure it was real. I thought to acquire a major paradigm shift I required the obtaining of an

objective proof of my own to make obvious that not everything supernatural was nonsense. maybe, if I could make the noises too, I would no longer need a ministry to reassure me that their message had meaning.

Laboring to know the truth had always been Kilimanjaro-impossibly higher than even God could reach, at least that's what it felt like. I wanted, even just once, evidence that I could depend upon - a capstone that wouldn't capsize under the weight of my back and forth beliefs. I coveted the calling to cry out in a distant dialect so clearly that the colloquialisms would seem congenital and perhaps they would be.

Born anew, I knew that the *"BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT"* as some call it (*ALTHOUGH AS WITH ALL, THERE IS CONTROVERSY*) wouldn't change anything in the deepest sense. I didn't worry about eternity or think of it as fire insurance. ever-lasting damnation was never a concern I took seriously (*AS FAR AS I CAN RECALL*) but I craved credence to the belief that anything could happen; that heaven itself could break loose of the arbitrary confines we try to contain it with. I tried to dismiss as dubious and maybe even a bit dangerous, anything distinctively unexpected but instead was filled with envy. I'll fess up that I felt like God granted them the honest illustration of His goodness that He had guaranteed me, like my fiance forgot that we were engaged. Finding that God was already at the altar Frankly angered me. I either needed Him to be faithful or leave me to my engagement with the unending debates within the confines of my own being.

"ABANDON ME OR BURDEN ME WITH AUTHENTICITY" I begged. *"CAUSE ME TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT BUT I DEFINITELY CAN'T CONTINUE LIKE THIS!"* Confused that I couldn't come through the chaos without blackening the clear-cut contract I thought we signed, I cried. Constantly.

DUBIOUS DIRECTIONS CHALLENGED ME TO BRING THE DEPTH THAT I CRAVED BY FORCE:

*"DUPLICATE THESE ELEVEN SYLLABLES
OVER AND OVER UNTIL THEY FEEL REAL.
SAY "SHA-LEE-AH".
IT MEANS 'I LOVE YOU'".*

TO WHICH GOD I WANTED TO KNOW and how the hell did they figure that out?

I interrupted a self-imposed instructor's imploding efforts to indoctrinate me as they struggled to show me how to harangue glossolalia as if it were French or Esperanto.

Fe Fi Fo Fum chewing gum dum. Governor plum. Principal sum. It's a fun way to play with *RHYMEZONE.COM* for some bumpy basil balm for a bird's uropygium or tickle the funny bone and postpone coming up with real rhymes, but whatever may come from fake God-given gifts will be human-inventions, imaginary Jesuses.

INSPIRED AND HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY JEERS FROM ILL-HUMORED HYPERCRITICS WHO INVESTIGATE HOW OTHERS INTERPRETATIONS WILL JOCKEY THEIR RANKS - killing any leverage that the would-be misanthropes would neglect to offer because of the perceived offense. Oh how petty and oafish their nonsensical mutterings - as if I could learn to labor to glean a clean kidney. I can't just insist on having health or harass God with guttural growling until I'm fluent in my extortionist distortion of the change that I've been awed by.

ABBA?
WE'RE ANXIOUS
BUT WE'RE
ALERT &

BREATHING. WE BARELY BELIEVE THAT
CIVILIZATION IS UNDER SIEGE, SO WE CRY OUT BECAUSE OF THE
CONSTANT
DISCOVERIES OF DEATH YET
EVEN SO, ESPECIALLY SO, WHEN ELSEWHERE
FORGETS TO
GRIEVE, WE GRATEFULLY
HOLD HIGH OUR HEAVENLY
INVITATIONS TO
JOIN THE
KINGDOM'S
LEGACY,
MERGING
NOT SO NEATLY INTO YOUR
ORGANIC
PEARLS OF PURPOSE.

*I'd like to listen to all You'll impart
And ask that You clean out my ears
I'd like to go back and restart
And be asked to relive those years.*

*In fast forward mode
No changes would be made
A challenge bestowed
To face the past that plagues*

*My present, for I don't always like life
Although I do not wish to switch it out
I'm a loved daughter, a beloved wife
And have a future I have no doubt*

*That depends on this past
And understanding its effect.
So teacher, please at last
Stop allowing my neglect*

*Of a tearful historic mystery
One I've been content to ignore
Lacking cheerful heroic movie scenes
I've been bent towards "Nevermore".*

*Nevermore I thought, I would weep
My crying days are over
Nevermind that to stop would mean
That unknown causes I'd have to explore*

*And eradicate, dissipate the triggers
That cause the endless flow
To place high rank and necessitate that I
Pause this ongoing show.*

*Stop me & tell me about
All that I once knew
Remind me, hug me throughout
As I start to construe*

*Just how hurt I've been and
Just how much I hurt them.
I've listened for the most part.
I've wanted to hear*

*You spoke assurance to my heart
That I had nothing to fear
That the path I was about to start
Was one you held dear.*

Abba? Please God - Give us ears to hear.

AMEN.

A bid to comprehend disastrous events from afar gives way to an honest, intimate, jarring, and kinda loco memoir in this notably one-of-an-order portrait of a (previously) quiet & reserved saint/sinner. Tautologizing to the uttermost, Valerie unwinds topics of all sorts and takes them to a Source she typically sees as superior but struggles to respect when the stuff she senses seems to be regurgitation of people's platitudes vs. originated from the Only Holy One.

Phrased partly as a questioning but quixotically persistent prayer and partly as a panoptic perspective into reasons for the paradigms and opinions that are - purposefully or unpremeditatedly - revealed whenever prayer pushes past the point of polite platitudes - this piece pulls parts from read and recollected stories into a taller tale that she takes to be truth.

Take turns skimming and studying this strange read that summarily resorts to sound because sometimes searching the thesaurus simply isn't sufficient to tell a story solo. Even so, a song may serve as a salve in some circumstances; but typically there is no trick, no song, no thought universal enough to very well exemplify yearning. "Zeal" accepts that as assumed and asks anyway that you ask for breakthrough from a creative Being named Abba, Burden-Carrier, Daddy, Ever-lasting Father God however intimidating that invitation is.

*I have a good feeling that God can handle your
intimately justifiable incredulity of His
goodness, hang-overed/ingrained horror at
guesstimated heresy, and other hurdles to having
an honest and gracious friendship with the
extremely different Creator that captivated me .
May this creation beckon you too to copycat the
Designer you were created to be connected with .*

Sincerely,



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Valerie Lukens began this ambitious acrostic before comprehending the definition or the cool bit that Biblical authors also aligned big bits with their alphabet (albeit this has a bit more alliteration because the cloud is a brilliant assistant!)