

# North and South

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# **1 First Things**

by Ben Huot

## 1.1 Logo



I should explain what the logo is meant to be representing. The guy is a pen, which is me, which comes from my first poem in Philosophy Core, called Creative Process, where I refer to myself as doing Tai Chi, with my pen being my body. The idea is based on "the pen is mightier than the sword" so I created "the Bible is mightier than the pen".

The Bible is shooting out flames because in Ephesians it talks about spiritual warfare and the Bible is the only armament that is offensive. (It means offensive instead of defensive. These are common terms used in combat. The sword is the only spiritual weapon. All the other armaments expressed in Ephesians are protective and defensive in nature like a shield, a helmet, a breastplate, etc.) The flames are meant as in James when it talks about being purified by fire or struggles with temptation in our lives. Isaiah also was purified by a live coal to his lips by a Seraphim. So the usage of fire is not evil or anything violent. Think of it as purifying.

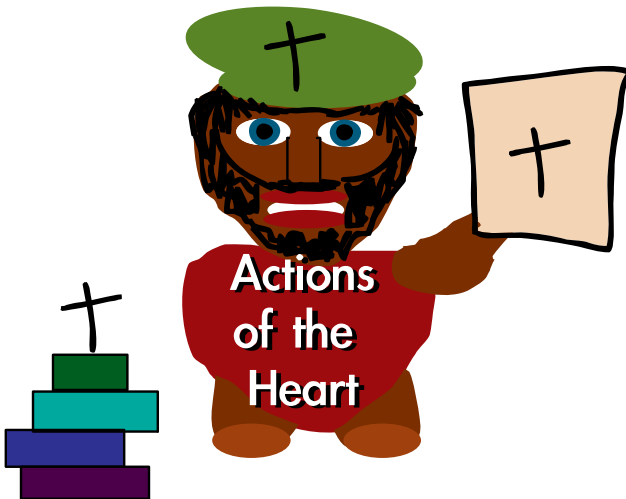
I would ideally like it to show the sword turned inward to his chest, symbolizing like in many fantasy books that when they defeat the great evil force in the world,

they are left with the greatest task, which is to defeat the evil within. The Bible is said to be a 2 sided sword, with the ability to cut between bone and marrow, and show the truth. Christ's tongue is said to be a 2 edged sword in Revelations, to defeat the Devil with. The reason I didn't show this is it looks like he is committing suicide.

The spiritual warfare is not against people, ideas, or even spirits. It is about fighting for the purity of our own minds. It is an internal thing. Like the Native American proverb "my greatest enemy is myself." This purity is in regard to our own sins and does not refer to purity in any other sense. But this is a process, not an outcome, as it is not possible for us to live without sin.

This warfare is only spiritual in the sense that it is not militant, social, economic, or political. This is for my own moral and ethical development and consists of practical qualities I try, with Christ's help, to cultivate like humility, compassion, kindness, and seriousness and do not correspond to anything supernatural.

## 1.2 Other Books



My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of

some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the worlds cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

### **1.3 For More Information**

For more books and information, visit me on the web at <http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com> I even enjoy constructive criticism

## 1.4 Cover Graphic



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## **2 Postmodernism for Christians**

by Ben Huot

## 2.1 Essays

### 2.1.1 Introduction to Postmodernism

**M**any people of my parents generation and many Evangelical Christians are perplexed about Postmodernism.

First, they fight the term and ask, "how can something be after the modern?" as that is often used as a term for the present. Postmodernism is a continuation of Modernism, as well as a rejection against it (more about this second part later). The word Modernism in philosophy is often equated with the Enlightenment and the two branches of philosophy that arose out of it: Rationalism and Empiricism. And Rationalism is another philosophical term that means something different than the common usage. Not being a Rationalist is not being irrational, illogical, or nonsensical, but, rather it means the person doesn't belong to a specific school of philosophy, which may very well mean that the person is actually more logical.

The second common reaction is to ask, "then what does Postmodernism mean?" The simple answer is that it is a shift in world views, from one dominated by a belief in a common set of values, like: that democracy is best for everyone, the idea of perpetual linear progress in society, the idea of the supremacy of Western culture, and the idea that Science answers all our problems (this is the one it keeps) into one dominated by Skepticism and atheism, where there is no dominant world view, except doubting anything that sounds like an absolute.

It is common thinking amongst many Christians that this puts Christianity in a negative light and that this is bad, for the spread of the Gospel. This is because they were taught theology from an Enlightenment perspective. They think that having more people claim to be Christian and to be agnostic or sympathetic to Christianity without having any personal faith is a good thing. They think that having more money and higher numbers of church members puts Christianity in a better position.

But there is a Christian response to this, that goes back to what the Bible really says and which has been

around for 150 years, but Christians are only just now seeing it in a neutral or slightly positive light. The Christian answer to Postmodernism is Existentialism. When a Christian stops fighting about proving God rationally and says that salvation is a mystery, while still advocating being born again, they shift from being the status quo 'rich white men' in power and become a minority that can attack the establishment, by attacking their weakness: Science.

The Bible is a direct opponent of Science, in addition to the occult. I am not talking about rejecting technology and becoming Amish, but, rather that we attack prejudices that are advocated by people who see Science, not as a creative process, but as a world view. It is not about questioning the existence of the material world all together, but it is about fighting the things that Postmodernism acknowledges as absolutes, while at the same time supposedly rejecting absolutes. There is a commonly accepted idea in Postmodernism and this is about the supremacy of Science, to be our savior, in place of Christ.

This is what the 'rich white men' are really about: they believe that Scientific proof means that something is absolutely true, but Biblical ideas only might be true. This has reached deep into the Church and it comes from Christians not understanding what Science is about. This is the establishment's goal and it is the way of the world, not of God. Christians need to confront and expose the lies that are perpetuated as fact, through the Scientific establishment, be it: corporations, the media, the school system, or the Church itself.

The final step is to embrace the positive aspects of Postmodernism, that agree with Christianity, including: multiculturalism and diversity, seeing life as cyclical, and supporting the individuality and complexity of people, Christian or not.

### **2.1.2 The Theoretical and Everyday Life**

In the first 30 years of the 20th century (1900-1930), discoveries made by leading physicists, challenged the old order of thought. Where we first saw the world in only

three dimensions and fundamental particles as simple, solid objects, we now found that the absolutes, rules, and language that we were educated in did not hold true in many situations which we found ourselves.

Most people who believe in Science as a world view do not really understand the Scientific process. Science was never meant to be a world view, but was a creative process that would evolve its beliefs over time and continually change the foundations of its theories, as more evidence came in. Science does not have any definite assumptions, that which it does hold true is under a constant evolution, and science can not say anything about God one way or the other, but scientists are just as bigoted as anyone else. Scientists are experts about the scientific process and established theories, but they are not experts on ethics or spirituality.

And we don't figure in the circumstances under which scientists work: scientists are usually employed by research institutions and get funding from the defense department and big business. They are taught to reject theories that are not approved, not only by independent verification, but also by the culture of assumptions that the Scientific community perpetuates. Announce to the world that you are a Creation Scientist and see how many publishers will publish your books, feature your work in established Scientific journals, or what research institutions will hire you.

Modern physics challenges everything we were taught in school. We are taught that the more we know, the more our questions will be answered, the more we will understand the world, and the easier things will get for us in life. But 20th century physics has proved just the opposite for us. And it is true as much in our everyday lives as it is in theoretical physics.

In the Postmodern world, nothing holds up as an absolute and there is no central or dominant world view. We have nothing to guide us, but our own intellects. For every view, there is a counter and the only thing that is believed as wrong is actually believing anything is absolutely true, or being committed to anything besides your job. We have no compass in this brave new world and the

more we learn, the more we realize our limitations.

We understand that we live in a world carefully crafted for us and we are standing at the edge of a cliff, trying to balance between chaos and totalitarianism. We cannot be free to the point of having no beliefs and no direction morally and expect to keep our affluent existence. We have to realize that building prestige and building wealth is not the answer to our problems.

There are two worlds in violent opposition to each other. We have the first world where we are dying from being so well fed and are biggest problem is getting rid of all our waste, where we are technologically advanced but morally bankrupt. The other side of the world is rich in culture, history, and diversity. But it is at the stone age in technology and the greatest problem is where the next meal is coming from.

We have to learn from each other if we are to survive, because technology doesn't always win. And when someone else is defeated, we lose more of our soul.

### 2.1.3 Phenomenology and Existentialism

The Objective world, the world that exists for me, that always has and always will exist for me, the only world that can ever exist for me –this world, with all its Objects, I said, derives its whole sense and its existential status, which it has for me, from me myself, from me as the Transcendental Ego, the Ego who comes to the fore only with transcendental-phenomonological epoch.

1

A Christian Existentialist believes in an objective God and doubts their subjective self/ego. An Existential Atheist or Skeptic believes in their subjective self and doubts the objective world/reality/God.

Which all boils down to the question: does God control people or do people control God? This all depends on your unstated *a priori* or basic assumptions about life.

How can you be Christian and be an Existentialist?

<sup>1</sup>Edmund Husserl in "First Meditation" in *Cartesian Meditations*.

Husserl shares the same *a priori* with Descartes, which is "I think therefore I am." So in the Husserl/Descartes view, ego is the starting point, but Husserl, instead of deducing God from self/human existence like Descartes did, doubts the objective world, based on the limitations of the ego to be certain of his perceptions (this is his subjectivity).

This also involves the idea that human evolution of culture is always progressive with Reason (or people in control) being superior to Mysticism (with God in control). I am a Christian Existentialist and I believe that Mysticism is superior to Reason, because I believe having God in control works better. And medieval and modern world history definitely proves my point.

Science  
and Phe-  
nomenol-  
ogy

Phenomenology can be reconciled with Science in that the transcendental subject (yourself) and the scientist exploring objective reality both gather information from experience. The scientist interprets it through an intermediary of measurement and analysis based on deduction, while the ego experiences the object directly, but must later filter out the psychological.

The Phenomenological *a priori* is fixed, but the ones of Science continue to evolve. This is because Science is based on a causality, viewed through the history of experiments and theories and phenomenology is concerned with the eternal present. This brings the modern mystical experience, as opposed to Biblical mysticism, or the general idea of Non-Duality, into a direct relation with Science, in the study of the paranormal.

Christian  
Response

The Christian Existentialist on the other hand focuses on the paradoxical nature of the foolishness of God where the mystery of salvation is based not on supernatural power or intellectual reasoning but on the free will of the subject and the undeserved free gift of the objective reality, Christ.

So in Existentialism, from a Christian point of view, while not denying the factuality of the supernatural or Scientifically understood phenomena, does not base his world view on either. Christians should not worry about Scientific or supernatural power, because it is in fact God who is in control of history and who has already defeated

the Greek's wisdom and the miraculous of the world.

#### **2.1.4 Rules of an Ashram**

Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith...

2

First of all, I should start by saying, I have nothing against Gandhi, or any other civil rights/equal right activists. They probably were part of the inspiration for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which I am sure I benefit from, being that I am mentally ill.

If it is humanly possible to live up to these rules and someone does that, to say I respect them deeply would be a great understatement. In an age of so much violence, I have to agree that peace is more powerful than the sword. Many of our wars are so childish, on both sides, most were just for material gain, and could never even be worth the cost of one life, even insect.

I don't serve any guru or religious leader no matter how famous. I get my rules straight from God as revealed in the Ten Commandments and interpreted by Jesus. This doesn't mean that I follow all the rules all of the time.

---

<sup>2</sup>Philippians 3:4-9

The Ten Commandments are an impossible standard and that was understood by Paul and even Jesus himself.

The difference in the rules is very significant in detail, but not so much in spirit. Some of the rules, like no sex between husband and wife, are hard to believe, but there may be value in this for some people. And I definitely agree that as an American, putting some ground rules for how much we eat has great value for our physical health alone. Also the rules on poverty should do wonders for our dealing with clutter and stress.

But I see the way of Christianity to be less about outward rules of behavior and more about attitude and relationship with God. I think it is great for there to be ways in which we can come together, from different belief systems, and work together for social progress. But I don't see true religion as the problem. I see sin as our greatest problem.

Our greatest division, according to Paul, is within our own lives: the struggle between the flesh and the spirit. I believe that there are many paths to God and many paths our lives follow afterwards, but true religion starts with repentance and continues into sanctification. It is very little about what we do, although that is essential, but almost entirely what God is doing for us.

We should learn to be more disciplined, as we grow in Christ, and maybe even many of us in planned communities, but we do not have the strength to go it alone. We may be good enough to start revolutions and win Nobel Peace prizes to the betterment of all humanity, but the only way we will live forever is by God's grace, in the form of the death on the cross and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **2.1.5 Diversity, Freedom, and Confidence**

Like phenomenology and theoretical physics of the early half of the 20th century, the modern art of Picasso was visionary for his time. The variety of his interests in art and the diversity of his creations reflect a complex person. His bold break from tradition showed a confidence in his vision. Picasso and his work are the epitome of freedom of

expression.

The twentieth century has brought in many concepts that are poorly understood, because they are strikingly different, than any ideas in the past, and they are so sudden, that there are few frames of reference for evaluating and relating to the revolutions in: art, science, philosophy, and politics.

Although few people understand Picasso and can describe his art in a way that gives him the credit for the changes he inspired, and his personal creativity, confidence, and unquenchable freedom of human spirit, we can see his art bringing about a fundamental shift in the range of forms in which artists are able to express themselves and be accepted by part of the population.

It is hard to understand abstract art and it is even harder to create good abstract art. This is partly because our imaginations are often confined to what we can see, hear, and touch. We do not dream big enough, to allow ourselves the freedom to capture ideas, that we have not been told by others.

Art is not what people think photography is. It is not a Science, and it is not intended to be a reproduction of images or an exact duplicate of what was seen. Art is a way of expressing emotions and if we want everything to be recognizable without thinking, we would probably prefer photography.

Art transcends the limits of a strictly empirical and rational approach to life, where we observe things in a way that can be measured, and hold to some predetermined beliefs about life that other people have come up with. Artists have to have the freedom, to imagine a world of possibilities, and their works are meant to elicit emotions, beyond just what the subject can be described in words.

Abstract art also allows more freedom of interpretation and encourages diversity in points of view. It is not as accurate as a worded description, but is not limited to narrow interpretation either. The whole creation is greater than the sum of its parts in art, which is much harder to do with words.

It is not an understanding of life that is academic,

in its strictest sense. It is something that must be experienced. The feelings it brings about, in the observer, are more important, than a technical understanding of how it was made, or the exact intent of the artist.

In a world when we get into wars over words, try to explain phenomenon in purely mathematical formulas, and reduce morality down to legalese, we need something to get us to see the world with our heart, instead of pursuing understanding, with only our heads.

## **2.2 Complexity Poetry**

### **2.2.1 Sources**

My sources of inspiration  
Are a web of relationships  
Which cannot be numerated  
In any kind of list  
Books give me direction  
And my experiences give me vocabulary  
But the Holy Spirit  
Is my muse  
This is an oversimplification  
Because I cannot track the source  
Of each line of verse  
Or how the topic came to be  
All I know is how I feel  
And what I want to communicate  
The words come in a stream  
Sometimes faster than I can type  
But understanding my method  
Would drive a person mad  
Even understanding where I come from  
Is quite a feat  
What is important is the message  
And hopefully nothing obscures the meaning  
I take responsibility  
For the errors  
And God deserves credit  
For the good points

### 2.2.2 Creativity

I reach but cannot grasp  
I struggle but it never gets easy  
The answers are numerous  
But the question is singular  
I simplify as much as possible  
But some things are just complex  
With a pen in one hand  
And writing on my heart  
My mind spins without ceasing  
And my body shifts slightly  
Where the light is bright  
You cannot see  
But even in the dark night  
You can make out some things  
You can know too much  
And things can be too easy  
Without struggle  
There are no rewards  
And without a path  
There is no destination  
I can change my mind  
But I cannot change the world  
Sometimes we think too big  
And miss what is right in front of us  
It is not that things are too complex  
But that we expect them to be too easy  
Big things can be divided into smaller things  
And schedules can give meaning to lengths of  
time  
We cannot expect to finish  
What we have never started  
We cannot expect to surpass  
The skill of the ancients  
We can invent something new  
But to solve problems  
We need to use our creativity  
To keep under the radar  
There is a way to change things  
Without violence or patience

But we must think  
In our own space  
And not wait for others  
To come on board

### **2.2.3 Organization**

As numerous as  
The needles of a Douglas fir  
As irregular as  
A guerrilla army  
Each aspect is unique  
And each discipline distinct  
They come together  
Like the organics in an ecosystem  
Each plays their part  
And each element is essential  
A projects has its limits  
A website can only be so big  
There are not just theoretical boundaries  
But practical ones as well  
Complexity is easy to create  
But difficult to manage  
Simplicity is difficult to create  
But easy to manage  
Plan when you are small  
And grow in a pattern  
Focus is the key to being understandable  
Consistency is the key to being clear  
Write with discipline  
Draw with intent  
Organization is easy  
When the components have similarities  
Separation is easy  
When the pieces are different  
Management is intuitive  
When you understand your field  
Public speaking does not frighten people  
When they know their audience  
Creating and organizing  
Must be done simultaneously

Creation must be done  
With thought to the completed project  
Organization must be done  
With creativity in mind

## **2.3 Celebration Poetry: Asian Edition**

### **2.3.1 Clear Snow**

Wind swept clouds of white debris  
Brilliant blue patches of Heaven  
Ascension means letting go  
While transcending our limits  
I relax my desire for control  
Because what I believe in is true  
With a step onto the bus  
I set foot in another world  
Of the Ten Thousand Things on my mind  
I can only remember one  
The ox is no longer yoked to the cart  
The bird's wingspan triples  
There is a subtlety  
That cannot be transmitted by words  
There is a reason some things are not written  
Sometimes writing is too direct  
But the joy of self knowledge  
Is comfort for the perpetual student  
There is little more satisfying  
Than being granted vision  
Of possibilities and potential  
That cannot be quantified  
The answers lie behind the dot  
At the end of a sentence  
But their complexity is too great for a super-  
computer  
And has more strangeness than a super string  
I walk a line perpendicular to my thoughts  
And I dance along the circumference of my  
room  
I do not wish to advance forward  
But rather to side step along

The world seems too small to me  
And too many things are already answered  
But I cannot even fit one Bible verse  
In my head with a fraction of its significance  
I feel as though I have completed a long journey  
But the adventure has just begun  
I wish I could explain one second  
Of the dream God has for us  
The snow has gone and it has come again  
But the sky is always blue behind the clouds  
And when the air pollution has dissipated  
The sunlight shines more brilliantly

### 2.3.2 Abundance

A pagoda of bright orange  
And bunches of arched yellow  
The blue heavenly lights glimmer  
Off the dew on the produce  
The fragrance of natural sugar  
Arouses the senses  
Within inches of each other  
Green leafy vegetables  
Bound and invisibly covered  
A brilliant rainbow of fruit from the tropics  
Diced and neatly stacked in trays  
People wearing matching aprons  
Tend to the harvested crop  
People wander in to smell and pinch  
And gently place the chosen ones in a colorless  
bag  
Weighing the fruits value  
In steel gages hanging from the ceiling  
The people place the bags in a cart with wheels  
Which the person pushes  
And they are loaded into brown bags made of  
paper  
Then they take off in their personal transportation  
vehicle  
Upon arriving at the place of rest and family

A blinding white door is flung open  
And the lights flash on in their full glory  
The packaged crops are loaded into drawers  
And the door is swung closed  
Such care and time is taken  
For something we will dispose of in a few days  
Cherish the moments  
When the fruits you like are in season and ripe  
And do not let brown and black spots  
Spread across the delicate harvest  
For every plant under the sun  
There is a harvest  
For every season  
There is a fruit or vegetable  
We rejoice in our abundance  
One day of the year  
But we live in abundance  
Every day of the year

### **2.3.3 My Home**

I sit down on my couch  
After a very full day  
The wind pressing the cold  
Through my jacket  
Many decisions and errands  
The routine and the rare  
With each step my legs  
Feel the brunt of the winter air  
Looking through long shelves  
For unforeseen treasures  
The house is saturated with heat  
And the cushions are fluffy and supportive  
My home is comfortable to live in  
And this is a great luxury  
My power went out for an hour  
A tiny inconvenience  
But in many parts of the world  
They are surprised when it is on  
And we have no shortage  
Of clean drinking water

If I were less exhausted  
I would dance and sing  
Because the elements are brutal  
And a warm home is a treasure  
I live in the suburbs  
In a good part of town  
Where the streets are safe  
Even at night  
And no one is pushing drugs  
Or driving around with weapons drawn  
I live in a college town  
Where books are plentiful  
The events are varied  
And the venues are numerous

#### **2.3.4 The Forest**

My time in the forest was predestined  
There was a reason for my forest years  
But I was not cheated  
And was not a victim of a petty game  
The forest is a time of building character  
And learning life lessons  
I learned new ways to fight  
I found weapons more powerful than a pen  
The forest is filed with trials and traps  
Mine were paranoid and obsessive compulsive  
I feared things that are irrational  
And was obsessed with the least important  
I learned that play is as important as work  
And that relationships with people are as im-  
portant as ideas  
I learned that I can survive things  
Most people will never have to go through  
The only way to learn is trial by fire  
And the only way to live is with wisdom  
God watches over me  
As I am one of His children  
And is ever ready especially in the deep forest  
When it is common for the details to be violent  
To help my character

As He writes the story of my life  
With special powers I can do more good  
The special power I want is to be normal  
But unlike the epic hero  
My forest journey is always with me  
Because it is a part of who I am  
And I am willing to go the distance  
With my tribulations  
If I can learn from each challenge  
So that I suffer less each time

### **2.3.5 Overgrown Path**

In the blink of an eye  
I stop in mid sentence  
I have absorbed the intent of the book  
After reading one line of verse  
Understanding is spontaneous  
It is the result of many years of toil  
When you are in the eternal moment  
The path does not matter  
Realization of the way  
Is unique to each person  
Studying the classics  
Is a noble path  
Truth is abundant  
In books tested by time  
Style is diverse  
The substance is pure and discrete  
Methods are multiple  
But principle is a unity  
It is most difficult to grasp  
When you are almost there  
With each concept  
Clearly eluded to  
Doctrine is clear as mud  
When the qi is brilliant  
There is no formula  
That gives the same result  
There is no way  
To mark the solution

The answers are not in the texts  
But in your heart  
There is nothing I can teach you  
That you don't already know  
Don't seek a guru  
Decide to become a sage yourself  
The road is not indiscernible  
But it is unclear where to turn  
The way is overrun with vegetation  
And the path is indefinite  
When you are totally lost  
You are almost there  
And when you have arrived  
Your journey has only just begun

### 2.3.6 Severity

I will never wear red again  
When going to church  
To miss the morning mass is a crime  
Punishable with death  
Before I set off for the Holy Land  
I must quit my job  
I must sever all ties  
That bind me to life  
Before I take the sacred journey  
As the road is dangerous  
I must realize that luxury is only temporary  
And that I will rest in a tomb  
I must perform the rituals  
With seriousness and reverence  
Doing the sacred rites correctly  
Is the equivalent of ten thousand hail Marys  
It is good to live as close as possible to Calvary  
But to commit one of the seven deadly sins  
Within eyesight of the Jordan River  
Can send the soul straight to Hell  
In our daily prayers  
Our focus must be only on Jesus  
Praying without concentration is like not pray-  
ing

The proper attitude and mindset  
Is what makes a prayer acceptable to God  
Acknowledging the unity of God is the first step  
But prayer and fasting are the bread and butter  
Part of our crop belongs to God  
And part of our income too  
Fasting for Lent  
Must not just be done in the light of the day  
And after fasting  
Succeeding meals must be light  
To fast diligently  
Only to return to gluttony  
Is missing the point

### **2.3.7 Proper Methods**

I run with joy  
To great my boss  
I embrace him  
And kiss his cheek  
He is everything I want to be  
He is my best friend  
Loyalty is next to Godliness  
And friendship is just good business  
With each new presentation  
I bring my boss more business  
I work for the government  
The only game in town  
I practice the only business  
Of noble worth  
After passing my government exams  
I was granted oversight  
Of many plots of land  
I represent Heaven  
To the farmers of the earth  
I am overburdened with a pile of books  
Which I carry everywhere  
To be a leader is to be a scholar  
Things must be run with virtue  
We learn from the ancients

On how to cultivate manners  
And proper business ethics  
And how to avoid vice  
Heaven must govern Earth  
And everything has its proper place  
Nothing is done without good reason  
Which we find in our books  
Planning is meticulous  
Especially at funerals  
We have so much respect for our elders  
That we show filial piety  
Long after death  
In public mourning for the proper time

## **2.4 Celebration Poetry: European and American Edition**

### **2.4.1 Dubious**

See the reason for everything  
But do not accept it  
Understand the proof  
Yet doubt its validity  
Be able to explain the cause  
But doubt the outcome  
Understand causality  
Yet see no connection  
Between cause and effect  
Just because you can measure it  
Doesn't mean its there  
You can understand the order of things  
Yet be in doubt  
That things will continue to function  
In the prescribed manner  
Develop a test  
And ignore the evidence  
Use a control group  
Yet doubt the objectivity  
What we perceive  
Is not reality  
And what we understand

Is only part of the truth  
When Science explains everything  
People will reject the conclusions  
When there is a analytical reason  
For human behavior  
People will breaks the rules  
When there is nothing unknown  
We are totally ignorant  
What holds the multi-verse together  
Is something we cannot define  
The power that lies behind matter  
And the momentum behind energy  
Is not fixed and logical  
Nor is it concrete and linear  
That which defies explanation  
Is the source of order  
The substance behind the material  
Exists beyond the limits of time  
The empty space between quarks  
Stretches beyond the fabric of space-time  
Gravity bends space time and even light  
But the power that rules the entire multi-verse  
Became a Man and dwelt among us

#### **2.4.2 Deceit**

It is the absurdity of life  
That we revile in  
And in the mistakes of others  
That we celebrate  
But our own foolishness  
We are too blind to see  
We seek the praise of others  
Based on dubious claims of merit  
We invent accomplishments  
Out of thin air  
We pad our resumes  
And announce products  
That will never be released  
We revile in the gullibility of others  
And end up deceiving ourselves

We get all the promotions  
And lavish benefits packages  
At the expense of others' retirements  
We pat each other on the back  
Even when we cost others their jobs  
Our whole marketing plan is a scam  
And we pay off officials to avoid penalties  
We are corrupt to our very core  
And our hearts were hardened at birth  
There is no reason to confess  
When we have no morals  
There is no reason to start fresh  
When we can continue the same scams undetected

### 2.4.3 Stalker

I am in love  
With a young lady  
She doesn't know me  
And I have never introduced myself  
But I see her everyday  
Through my telephoto camera  
To me love is a game  
And I am there to teach a lesson  
Not to commit and love  
Each day I get closer  
To meeting her  
While the photos of her are so numerous  
I have no wall space left  
When I finally touch her  
I relive it many times in my mind  
I fixate on her appearance  
I cannot forget her smell  
I describe every detail of her life  
In my journal in minute detail  
Every aspect of her life  
I analyze with amazing focus  
My goal is to have her dump me  
And find out love is a disappointment  
I want to scare her away from all other men

I never want her to find love  
Because I was never able to  
Commit to marriage soon enough  
And lost my love to another  
I have this wound inside my heart  
That never heals  
I know not what else to do  
But continue the charade

#### **2.4.4 Consistency**

I hear people of faith  
Try to win arguments  
As if they will convince others  
To convert to their belief system  
By cheap tricks  
And petty games  
True faith is a choice  
Made freely and with conviction  
Not based on who argues the best  
But on the basis of which one helps  
And which one makes life better  
You can try to convince people  
To give up on this life  
With a promise of eternal bliss  
But how can they understand  
If they can't experience  
A life more abundant in this lifetime  
Doctrine can be beautiful  
And rituals meaningful  
But if faith is not freely made  
Then there is no reason  
For the trappings of religion  
With a Bible in one hand  
And a sword in the other  
When people finally read the book  
They will realize the messenger is a fraud  
You cannot preach for toleration of the govern-  
ment  
And fail to call the government on persecution  
It is like talking out of both sides of your mouth

It is fraudulent and hypocritical

#### **2.4.5 Without Faith**

What is religion?  
Belief in a supernatural?  
How can we believe in a power  
Higher than ourselves?  
We explain everything rationally  
And have no provable records  
Of a more advanced species  
We understand we share  
Much in common with animals  
So we are so much better  
We are our own gods  
But we are really  
Just animals with over grown egos  
How ignorant they must have been  
How dull a society  
Without facts people are naked  
Without knowledge we suffer  
Wars have caused more suffering  
Since we believe only in ourselves  
But we say we need more time  
And Science is young  
Will our planet survive  
Another hundred years  
With no reason for values  
And no restraints on greed  
If we survive that long  
It will truly be a miracle  
But we have no time for the supernatural  
If we cannot put it in a lab  
It does not exist  
The only power is ourselves  
We are our own role models  
If there is nothing better than man  
We have no reason to exist  
Without a power  
Greater than ourselves  
We are just an accident

It would be better  
If we were never born

#### **2.4.6 Destructive Toys**

When we were young  
We made mistakes  
But we were limited  
By the power of our toys  
As we grew up  
So did our toys  
As we began to learn  
We got better at destruction  
We found creating problems  
Was easier than solving them  
We began to compete  
Bigger, better, faster  
At any cost  
First we dominated  
The land and the animals  
Then our mothers and sisters  
Then we moved on to our young  
And then to outsiders  
Eventually we conquered  
Whole ecosystems  
It wasn't enough  
To dissect and reassemble  
Believing man could make better  
Than what God created  
We created powerful poisons  
To destroy each other  
With greater efficiency  
People became afraid  
Of each other  
Instead of fearing  
The wilderness and the elements  
As we became stronger  
Than God's creation  
We became more arrogant  
As we learned what we destroyed  
And how to prevent it

We lashed out  
On the animals and the land  
And now little is left  
And much more is wiped out  
Faster and faster

## 2.5 Practical Poetry

### 2.5.1 Addicts

I have heard more sermons than I can count  
I have been to every church in town  
They all blend together  
And mean nothing to me  
I have believed what no one else understands  
I have written in koans for many years  
I cannot find anyone to share my joy  
I cannot find meaning in my culture  
All that line the pews are empty faces  
With blank stares  
No has the time to stop and think  
No one cares what is right  
My neighbors only care about sound bites  
And what is convenient  
They only believe what they were told  
There is no originality or creative spark  
I carry the world upon my shoulders  
And no one understands  
They say I am important  
But I am void of plans  
And see no way out  
God is always silent  
But I can always feel evil  
We are consumed by desire  
Our economy is based on destruction  
We don't care if the world ends tomorrow  
As long as we don't miss our TV show tonight  
We think we make a difference  
By watching the news  
But we are in too deep  
We have brought about our own destruction

There is nothing more to do  
But wait for the big one to get us  
Our media is obsessed about the end  
But we ignore the obvious  
No one cares about tomorrow  
No one cares if the white man  
Lives or dies  
We are a dying race  
And just a blip on the radar  
No one feels sorry for my country  
And everyone plots its doom  
There is no time for explanations  
Or even just time to talk  
They are too busy building bombs  
And planning attacks  
Will God intervene this time  
On our behalf  
Or will this time be worse  
Than the holocaust?  
Maybe if I clothed myself  
In the finest fashions  
And did a miracle diet  
And got hooked on meth  
Or acted like a fool on film  
And sent it across the web  
People would buy my book  
And listen to me for 10 minutes  
There is no reason to bore yourself with the  
truth  
Or stop listening to drivel  
There is a time for revolution  
But only to avoid our taxes  
We would rather save 10 percent on care insur-  
ance  
Than give to the needy  
We would rather watch NPR  
Than take the time to think  
Our solutions only cause more problems  
And there is no one who really cares

### **2.5.2 A crowded vehicle**

Each has their own destination  
Each exits and enters at different times  
Each stop is a routine  
Each stop is an opportunity  
We are all here for different reasons  
Some made the choice  
And some have no choice  
Each route links us to another path  
Each bus has determined ending and starting  
    points  
Each time the crowd is different  
Some destinations are more popular  
But they are never exactly the same  
Each time the bus passes by  
We know we are in for a wait  
Each stop we are closer to our end point  
When we board we seldom talk  
On each bus there is someone loud  
The rules are few  
And the penalties light  
Eating is a crime  
And our feet must remain down  
Exits are to the front and to the rear  
The bus is heated in the winter  
And cooled in the summer  
It is a refuge from the elements  
And we have time to dry off

### **2.5.3 Just say no**

Just say no to beef  
Just say yes to your bovine friends  
When you look into their big brown eyes  
How can you continue to participate in their  
    deaths?  
With each veggie burger and turkey jerky stick  
A cow's life is saved  
Eating other farm friends is not ideal  
But sometimes soy beans give too much gas

Eat more pork products  
My stuffed toy cows say  
Because we had stuffed toy pig who was bad  
It is not that I hate the taste  
Or that I am afraid of getting sick  
It is just that I cannot bear  
The look of sorrow  
On my little stuffed toys' faces  
There is nothing worse than the sound  
Of a crying stuffed toy  
There is nothing worse  
Than when you hurt their feelings  
I continue to avoid beef  
And they are happy  
When they smell piggy on my breath

#### **2.5.4 Ethics of shampoo**

The brand of shampoo you buy  
Is an ethical choice  
Little furry animals will thank you  
If you buy the right brand  
Do you want rabbits and mice  
To suffer for you saving a dollar  
You don't have to sacrifice safety  
For cruelty free shampoo  
And the shampoo will be just as effective  
Your hair will be soft and thick  
Look for "not tested on animals" on the label  
To save the little ones from torture  
If you don't want to be a guinea pig  
Think how much worse the little animal feels  
We can see how much we care  
By how we spend our money  
We should not worship animals  
Or torture them either  
They are our friends  
They are like little children

## 2.6 Memories of a Soldier

### 2.6.1 The Dark

Is is dark now  
And I fight to stay awake  
I never was this tired before  
But my time in the Army  
Sure was exhausting  
And many things I still remember  
Happened at night  
The night of our arrival  
At Reception Battalion  
Lasted far past midnight  
It took us hours to get into formation  
And to stop talking  
I don't remember  
What processing they were doing  
That took all that time  
The night watch was so long  
I read my green Gideon's pocket bible  
And scoured its indexes  
Finding helpful verses  
I still don't know  
What we were watching for  
At Basic Training  
Day started in a flash of light  
The light switch was flipped  
And we jumped out of bed  
And ran into formation  
Then we ran out into the dark  
And stopped under stadium lights  
My arrival to my Duty Station  
Was in the deep of night  
So idyllic with the palm trees  
And the fresh sea air  
I was lost of course  
Following Drill Sergeant's orders  
I didn't get on the bus  
With the rest of the soldiers  
But I found my way to my unit

With a lot of help  
Ironically the cab dropped me off  
Within feet of my assigned battalion  
I walked to and from my job  
Usually in the dark of dawn or dusk  
And I wore my sleeves long  
And wore mountain boots  
Because it can get chilly  
With the air conditioning so high

### **2.6.2 Fear and Excitement**

My experience in the Army  
Was full of fear and excitement  
I was terrified of being tortured  
But I was thrilled beyond imagination  
At being part of history  
The risk is beyond human  
But with the adrenaline going  
You forget all the problems that could arise  
I knew what I was doing was important  
And it was exciting work  
For someone just out of high school  
Hawaii was a dream on earth  
And the activities were plentiful  
The land and ocean are breath taking  
But the people are what keep you there  
One bus travels the perimeter of Oahu  
From North Shore to Waikiki  
By Scofield Barracks and Pearl Harbor  
Location is everything  
And that was perfect  
But my mind was tormented  
With long bouts of depression and paranoia  
In my barracks  
I was kept awake  
With fear of deployment  
And fear of chemical attack  
I had no trouble at work  
My supervisors were amazed at my performance

I tested out of a year of college  
And maxed out my sit-ups portion of the PT  
test  
But worries worked at my stomach  
And I could never relax  
I saw the island  
But had trouble enjoying anything  
It was not that I was just negative  
But my mood kept me on a bad course  
When I went in for counseling  
They knew something was wrong

### **2.6.3 Churches Numerous**

God was very real to me  
When I was in the Army  
And the church was the safest place for me  
A place where little was expected  
I went to church during Basic Training  
There were no Drill Sergeants there  
And there were no orders to follow  
At Advanced Individual Training  
I attended a Methodist church  
A block from our barracks  
The other soldiers wondered why  
I went every week  
But that was all I had left of myself  
When I arrived at my Duty Station  
I tried a number of churches  
I found a church next to my barracks again  
But I was the only white person there  
It was full of excitement  
And people even danced in church  
It was Church of God in Christ denomination  
But I don't remember their theology  
My roommate drove me to his church  
At the other end of the island  
This was the best church in Honolulu  
It was Word of Life Christian Center  
Or something like that  
This was the First Charismatic/Pentecostal

church  
I attended regularly  
It was a great place to meet  
Nice young women my age  
And they had activities for 20 somethings  
Another church I went to was called  
Oahu Church of Christ or something like that  
They met in the form of potlucks  
At a different place every time  
And there were always outdoor baptisms  
At every service  
The final church I went to  
Was just outside the base  
Every Sunday was a salvation message  
And members were expected to come  
Other times of the week as well  
Saturday nights the preacher answered ques-  
tions  
And there was prayer and speaking in tongues  
Every other night throughout the week

### **3 Religion and Ethics**

by Ben Huot

### 3.1 Time of Great Change

**T**ime in the West is perceived as linear and progressive. We believe that Science will always bail us out of our social problems. We believe that we can create a Utopia, if we learn enough about Math and develop the Social Sciences enough.

In the Non-Western world, time is perceived as a cycle, where we have different problems at different times but the cycle repeats itself indefinitely. Most belief systems see our present time as a period of social problems and moral decline.

We are coming to an energy crises, because we in the West want to have more and more material things, to make us happy. We are especially addicted to personal transportation and we consume so much, that we are running out of resources, that are not renewable.

We continue to push our way of life to the limits, wanting free reign, to do basically whatever we, want and not prepare for the future. We don't want to invest in education; we would rather spend our resources on entertainment. We don't want to be moral sexually and we feel we have a right to unlimited amounts of others' property that we can easily copy. We are eating ourselves to death and dying as a consequence of our sexual immorality.

We are already fighting wars over oil and will continue to do so, until there is non left, and not even the promise of any. We are addicts to cheap energy, especially oil, and continue to expand our needs exponentially. And the multinational corporations are getting more and more control of the government and don't care what the consequences are, as long as they can make one more dollar.

Those who are far sighted will prepare now for how to live, without personal transportation and to live, using less energy. We are at a time of crises and we may very well fight a civil war over this. The time to really worry about is when we elect our first environmental president. By the time that happens things will have gone too far, and instead of helping the ecosystem gradually recover over time, we will take great risks, in the hope of solving

our problems quickly. But the solution will create even bigger problems.

If we can get our consumption under control, we may well live thousands of years into the future, as the human race, but if we are unwilling to do with less now, while we rebuild, we may not make it to the end of this century. Ultimately it is in God's hands. If God wasn't bailing us out, then we would have destroyed ourselves long before, due to nuclear holocaust or a prolonged world war.

The best thing we can do is to pray for God's help and repent of our gluttony. The Lord our God is slow to anger and quick to forgive, so we still have hope in Him.

## **3.2 Heavenly Father Poetry**

### **3.2.1 The Perfect Programmer**

God is the perfect programmer  
We are all his programs  
I am a flawed program  
How can this be?  
My source code was perfect  
In every respect  
But I let others add code  
I started out stable and efficient  
I was useful to my Creator  
But the other code was sloppy  
And my executable became corrupted  
I kept on throwing up error messages  
I blamed the kernel and other software  
Everyone was wrong but me  
My file formats were universally compatible  
But I decided not to publish my new source  
code  
Or even document my APIs  
I would only release a software development kit  
If people purchased a service plan  
I used other peoples programs  
I downloaded illegally off the Internet  
I began to see nothing wrong  
With being infested with viruses

I was getting more bloated by the day  
And my features grew so great in number  
That I became too complex to compile without  
errors  
I began to seek other business models  
I released some source code but not all  
No one will develop me anymore  
I rely on my my public relations staff  
To buy my way into your computer  
I claim no responsibility for damage  
I would be recalled  
But people don't expect computers to work

### **3.2.2 Praise and Criticism**

I have a memory problem  
And a vision problem  
My eyes are fine  
And my mind works great  
But I have huge blind spots  
I constantly pray for protection  
And I have a great memory  
For how people have hurt me  
But it is only when I stop and rest  
That I remember to give thanks  
For all God has protected me from  
My greatest problem is fear  
And I have struggled with chronic  
Physical and mental suffering  
And my life has not been easy  
For a middle class American's standard  
But what I was saved from  
Is greater than I could have imagined  
I lost my mind due to my service in the Army  
But I still have all my limbs and organs intact  
I was able to get out of the military  
When my mental illness interfered with my job  
And my peace of mind  
I had allergic pink eye for 3-1/2 years  
But it ended with my first anti-psychotic medicine  
When we watch the news

It is mostly negative  
And people are quick to point out problems  
But rarely offer solutions  
It is easy to criticize others actions  
When they do not act heroic  
But how do we know what we will due  
When we are in a crisis

### **3.2.3 Praise God for Everything**

Praise God for everything good  
We know of or have experienced  
Praise God for everything good  
We have yet to or may never discover  
Praise God for everything good  
We have labeled as a coincidence  
Praise God for what we have learned  
Jesus is the best teacher  
Praise God for what we have learned  
Sins to avoid and the way to salvation  
Praise God for when we have peace  
Spiritual as well as physical  
Praise God for when we have plenty  
God provides for His creation  
Praise God for when we have stability  
In our jobs and in the universe  
Praise God for His forgiveness  
For when we treat each other bad  
Praise God for healing us  
From bad decisions and from injuries  
Praise God for everlasting life  
If we only submit to God  
Praise God for His suffering  
For our bad choices  
Praise God for our freedom  
We can choose good or bad  
Praise God for being who He is  
Supreme in character, wisdom, and power  
Praise God for loving us  
Even when we don't return His love

### 3.2.4 Awesome God

God is not your little sister  
Who you need to protect  
God is not in debt  
You don't need to finance Him  
God does not need an advocate  
He is God whether He is worshiped or not  
God is not pressed for time  
He has plenty of time for you  
You do not need to argue God's case  
Creation speaks out His name  
God doesn't need you to fulfill his plans  
God is in control of history  
If you can travel back and forth in time  
God is already there and everywhere else  
If we travel to another planet  
God is just as much in control  
If we have a multi verse and parallel realities  
It is there because God created it  
God is not limited by having poor followers  
God is all powerful in and of Himself  
God doesn't just watch you in church  
God sees all  
God doesn't like Christians better than unbelievers  
God loves us because He chooses to  
God will not do evil  
This does not mean His power is limited in any way  
God does not play favorites  
You don't get points for good deeds  
God will judge everyone  
And none of us will pass without Christ  
God does not struggle to defeat evil  
He destroys it in His timing and with His methods  
God doesn't care what we think is immoral  
He invented morality  
God is not fooled like people are  
God knows your heart

### **3.2.5 Family Appreciation**

Thanks God for my family  
Thank God for my mom  
Whose encouragement uplifts  
And who continually advocates for me  
Thanks God for my dad  
Whose advice has saved me from harm  
His prayers give me hope  
Thank God for my sister  
Who listens carefully to what I say  
Whose visits cheer me up  
Thank God for my Uncle Clive  
Who faithfully looks through my work  
Whose careful words brighten my day  
Thanks God for my stuffed cows  
Who are always near by  
Whose humor and thoughts keep my company  
Thank God for giving my a family  
That is always near in spirit  
And who put my needs ahead of theirs  
Who are anxious to hear what I have learned  
And who consider what I say  
With open minds and careful consideration  
Who care enough to consider my feelings  
And adjust their words and tone  
Who I can consider colleagues  
And who understand what I am doing  
Better than anyone else  
Thanks for your inspiration  
And your love

### **3.2.6 Tolerance**

Is is better that we not offend  
The pride of those doomed to eternal death  
Or better that more have eternal life?  
Is the preservation of one more year of life  
Of significance when we count in eternity?  
Is it so important that we have personal transportation

That we sacrifice our young men's lives?  
Do we seek to be so tolerant of the wealthy  
That we let the poor suffer violence?  
Are we so addicted to popular culture  
That we no longer care what is right and wrong?  
Are we so far devolved morally  
That we throw away our future?  
Because some people used Christ's named for  
evil  
Does that mean that there is no truth in the  
Bible?  
Why do we give to charity  
When we vote against those in need?  
Why speak out for what is wrong  
When we don't even try to live morally?  
Do we need to rewrite history  
To prove what we are doing is right?  
Isn't it a bad sign that we have no faith?  
There is more to the world than white America  
God values those in the Asia and Africa  
Even if we won't even help feed them  
When the rest of the world hates you  
You might think you did something wrong  
When you read the Bible and get offended  
Do you think you are you better than God?  
Who are we to judge the world  
From our Postmodern point of view?  
Atheism is a blip in world history  
And the future is more Christian than pagan  
And there are more Muslims than atheists  
Do we only tolerate those with big lobbies?  
Do we only look after those who can speak for  
themselves?  
When we choose to give some rights and not  
others  
What is the basis for this decision?  
Why do we put women and children  
Above the lives of our soldiers?  
Why do we disregard the lives of animals  
When our society is built on their labor?  
There is more to life than American football

And there is more going on in the world  
Outside Hollywood and Wall Street

### **3.2.7 God, Help!**

We look around us  
And we hear rumors  
All point to our destruction  
Our imminent demise  
Our fresh water is infected  
Garbage drifts in the sea  
Our forests are destroyed  
Daily more are burned down  
Our food make us sick  
And we eat ourselves to death  
We generate dangerous waste  
For ten thousand years  
Deadly incurable diseases  
Spread like wildfire  
Our rich steal from the poor  
And conduct scams without penalty  
Our president is a dictator  
He starts wars out of revenge  
Our politicians don't care about us  
They follow the largest sum of money  
Our religious leaders  
Preach hate and prejudice  
The people don't seem to care  
As long as they can see the football game  
And there is plenty of beer  
They will sell their souls  
To not have to get up off the couch  
God, we repent of our sin  
Please have mercy on us  
We take full responsibility  
And are willing to pay the penalties  
Please forget our sin  
And be our God  
And we will be Your servants  
We will put the poor and the rejected  
Above our own desires

We will honor You  
With our actions and not just our words

### **3.2.8 Walking Forward**

With back straight  
And eyes level  
A relaxed walk  
With long strides  
Brilliant blue sky  
And radiant sun  
Long rows of books  
Quick glances  
And moving on  
With each turn  
And a rapid survey  
Passing by numerous sections  
Already absorbed  
With each step  
I pass walls of books  
And with each shelf  
Years of study  
I am beginning to feel  
More relaxed  
And sure of my ideas  
There is a subtlety  
That exists in the mind  
And a slight change in pace  
That signals growth  
And increasing certitude  
The times of clarity  
Multiply in number  
I still don't have plans  
For tomorrow  
But there is a stillness  
And a gentle attitude  
Overflowing from my heart  
And my head is a little lighter  
On my shoulders  
The weight is slowly receding  
And I get glimpses of peace

And times of conviction  
That experience exponential growth  
And continued enthusiasm

### **3.2.9 Morning Sunshine**

In the cool of the day  
Darkness fades gently  
And the sun rises confidently  
Over the distant horizon  
At what point does it become day?  
Where exactly is the horizon?  
I learn sometimes in leaps  
Sometimes at a slow walk  
God continues to rise in my heart  
I do not know when I will fade  
But I know God will continue  
To outshine the darkness of my soul  
We bow to God's brilliance  
And are blinded by His Presence  
We are dark and low  
Not worthy to be the dirt  
On which He treads  
We live most our life in the shadows  
It is hard to watch the sun  
We hide from the intense light  
But are afraid when it leaves  
We scatter far and wide  
To our own devices  
When night falls  
But we need to return  
To the radiance of our Lord  
Before we start our day  
Under the direct light of the sun

## **3.3 Son of God Poetry**

### **3.3.1 The Missionaries**

God does not love America  
More than any other country

God does not condone wars  
Over natural resources  
God is not Republican  
He does not support the Religious "Right"  
Bush is not following the Bible  
America was never a Christian nation  
The Bible does not promote capitalism  
Christians should speak out against corporations  
TV evangelists are seldom  
Preaching from the Bible correctly  
The Bible is incompatible with Science  
The way it is taught in schools  
The Bible is more Scientifically sound  
Than the theory of evolution  
God is not in danger of being outdated  
America is regressing  
God is worshiped in the Third World  
Only Europe has no faith  
Religion is not a competition  
The Bible has no equal  
We don't need to denigrate others  
To support our beliefs  
God is not White  
God loves all races  
God is not a God of hate  
God loves all people  
No matter what they have done  
And no matter who they are

### **3.3.2 God Speaks**

God speaks all languages  
He speaks to us in our language  
Arabic and Chinese  
Spanish and Pali  
Hebrew and Russian  
Croatian and Pigeon  
Farsi and French  
There is a word for Christ  
In every language

There is a word for suffering  
There is a word for submission  
There is a word for sacrifice  
There is a word for humanity  
There is a word for hope  
There is a word for joy  
There is a word for peace  
There is a word for life  
There is a word for eternal  
There is a word for forgiven  
There is a word for repentance  
There is a word for belief  
There is a word for sin  
There is a word for good  
There is a word for heaven  
There is a word for love  
There is a word for victory  
There is a word for change  
There is a word for compassion  
There is a word for service

### **3.3.3 Religion Means Education**

The Bible is not just words  
For memorization and quotation  
It is not a means to control  
Or a way to win arguments  
The Bible is not a set of rules  
To conform to  
The Bible is not a goal to achieve  
Or a means to a higher consciousness  
Christians do not ascend  
And God is not trying  
To advance us technologically  
God does not make you rich  
If you are devout  
God is not a reason for bad behavior  
Or an excuse to give up  
God does not want us  
To be workaholics  
The Bible is a weapon

Against our own selfishness  
And our pride and stubbornness  
But we must plunge the sword  
Into ourselves  
God wants us to learn  
He wants us to grow  
Not to be wealthy or more advanced  
But to be moral and healthy  
We do not grow by secret knowledge  
Or by special powers  
We learn who God is  
And learn how to submit to Him  
We learn the source of our problems  
Is our own poor choices  
And we get deliverance from them  
To the extent that we give God control  
Of our minds, our hearts, and our souls

### **3.3.4 Campus Community**

Under the cover  
Of strong oak branches  
And on the carpet of  
Carefully manicured grass  
The entire campus  
Is overflowing with deep green  
And on these memorial benches  
Of weathered cedar and black iron  
I watch with fading eyelids  
As people pass the Frisbee by  
Which dogs catch in mid air  
And students cover the lawn  
Leading up to the ornate marble library  
Ivy is digesting the brick halls  
And the sounds of construction  
Permeates the adjacent buildings  
All the vertical wood surfaces  
Are covered in propaganda  
A gray bearded man  
Plays the guitar  
And sings songs

Only fully understood by him  
Softly a block away  
What a community  
What an idyllic atmosphere  
I like to think that  
Maybe some are believers

### **3.3.5 Open Market**

You can smell the incense a mile away  
And you can see everyone's toes  
It is Saturday again downtown  
The booths are all assembled  
And manned with merchants  
There are pamphlets and stickers  
Posters and pens  
All carrying the logo  
Of a charity or small business  
This is how capitalism was envisioned  
This is a diverse gathering  
Fresh picked produce  
And organic baked goods  
Hemp clothing and more  
Everything is produced locally  
Or a product of fair trade  
There is silver jewelry galore  
And every kind of clothing tie dyed  
The local charities are out in  
Solid numbers and well stocked  
With sign up sheets  
And passionate volunteers  
There are dozens of groups  
Fighting to save the forests  
And dozens of groups  
For equality and justice  
Globally and locally  
There is continual music  
And the aisles are crowded  
The lines slowly shift forward  
And the restrooms are portable  
A Christian group lurks in the distance

If you squint real hard

### **3.3.6 Epic Hero**

Christ is the greatest epic hero  
The most powerful and the strongest  
But His goal was not war  
And He did not kill  
His message was second  
To His example  
And greatest of all  
Was His humility joined  
With His divinity  
Conquering the spirit world  
Or starting an empire  
Was not His way  
He conquered the greatest enemy  
The most entrenched traitor  
Our heart and our minds  
And our sins and bad attitudes  
He healed and He prophesied  
He was merciful and had authority  
He was a descendant of the Jewish people  
And He was the One who created all  
Because of my Hero, Jesus  
I have eternal life  
He did the hardest thing anyone has done  
To make it as easy as possible for me  
I do not have the energy to do yoga  
Or the leadership to start an ashram  
I don't have the discipline to pray 5 times a day  
Or the money to journey to Mecca  
Christ has provided the only way  
For my salvation  
And He has invited everyone to join  
And the cost is free as in freedom

### **3.3.7 Ancestor**

Born as a descendant  
Of the Scottish monarchy

And with many castles to  
Our family name  
If we could prove it  
Starting out to free Scotland  
From the brutal English  
I later gave up  
The quest for nationalism  
Not only did the Stewards  
Inherit the throne of England  
But I have a greater legacy  
Which I have given up on  
The previous ancestry for  
I am born again  
And grafted into  
The lineage of Israel  
And am part of the inheritance  
Of the Son Of God  
The second Adam  
Christ, the Creator of All  
Has chosen me  
Before the beginning of time  
To be one of His children  
And any who will believe  
Are all God's chosen people  
Whether Asian or European  
African or North American  
Latin American or Australian

### **3.3.8 Center of Gravity**

Night has fallen on Europe  
And it is late afternoon in America  
But the sun is just rising in Africa  
And it is still morning in Latin America  
And it is a few hours before dawn in Asia  
Christ is universally understood  
And is available to all believers  
In Europe and North America  
The white man is diminishing in numbers  
And his power does not extend  
Beyond his own continent

Even at home, foreigners from the south  
Are overwhelming the West  
But Christ loves the South  
Just as much as the North  
But the white man has lost his religion  
And those from Africa and Asia  
Are embracing and comprehending God  
In ways that the West never could  
Christ is not just a moral teacher  
He is a living God  
Christ loves the poor  
And identifies with the losers of war  
The spiritual world is real  
Even more than Science could theorize  
Christ is not an abstract concept  
But a real force in everyday life  
God is not just our Creator  
He is our Ancestor  
He wants to adopt us  
To be a part of His lineage  
And to share His inheritance  
God shapes history  
In ways we could never imagine  
And God has a special plan  
For those in the Africa and Asia  
For the persecuted and the fatherless  
From those rich in Spirit

### **3.3.9 Crossroads**

We are at a turning point  
As believers worldwide  
We have passed on the torch  
To our friends in the South  
What does God have planned  
For those who understand Christ better?  
What more will God reveal  
In the 21st century?  
There is no need  
To spread the Gospel southward  
We need missionaries in the North

There is nothing we can teach the South  
Now we need to learn from them  
Africa is becoming the leader  
The younger child that God loves  
And we have become wealthy  
We have given up our inheritance  
For things of this world  
We can no longer see the truth  
Of God's divine intervention  
And the miracles available  
For those who truly believe  
We look down on the humble  
And reject those with problems  
We blame the sick  
The physically and mentally weak  
For our declining power in the world  
We don't realize  
Our lack of character  
And are unable to comprehend  
What sacrifice means  
We are an empire on decline  
Will those in the South pray for us?

### **3.4 Ambitions Poetry**

#### **3.4.1 Global Crises**

I am tired now  
I have stretched so much  
To get where I am now  
But my ambitions  
Keep moving farther ahead  
There is so much evil  
In the world today  
And most people in my country  
Are a big part of the problem  
We get used to having so much  
And we struggle to give up  
Even a little, now and then  
But the planet can only  
Withstand so much

And we are some of the most fragile  
Forms of life on Earth  
The planet may live on  
Minus humanity and its people  
Prayer is the only thing  
That can save us now  
We need God to intervene now  
Because the problem is too great  
For any human group to solve  
We wait until the last minute  
And then we do something radical  
But it backfires and things get worse  
This is what I fear of  
For the future of humanity  
There is so little time left  
And so much left to do  
If only I can reach someone  
Who can commit to prayer  
And inspire people to help in small ways  
I am certain that God will be faithful  
And multiply the effort applied  
I believe that miracles  
Are not just for the Bible times  
But that God is amongst us  
In purpose and in power  
That Christ is willing and able  
To bring us from destruction  
If only we submit ourselves  
To God and His plan  
And we are patient for His timing

### **3.4.2 Self Mastery**

Not only do I seek  
To help the world  
But I seek to conquer  
My own pride and selfishness  
I seek not to control others  
But to control myself  
To gain mastery of my mind  
By turning my heart to God

In more and more aspects  
Of my life and will  
I seek to grow quickly  
In wisdom and in purity  
Sometimes I push for too much  
And go forward too fast  
But it is hard to be patient  
When you know  
How long the road is  
And how difficult each step is  
It is easy to get discouraged  
When the reading only goes so fast  
And I can think of little to write  
There are no new technologies  
To develop and improve with  
There is no inspiration for art  
And no images to draw  
There is so much to absorb  
In just a few books  
If I knew how hard and long  
The journey would be  
I am not confident  
That I would proceed  
There is only so much  
That a person can handle  
All at once

### **3.4.3 Encouragement**

With a long nap  
And something to drink  
I feel energized  
My mood is up  
And my depression has ceased  
I am thankful  
My depression has not the severity  
Of my continual terror  
There is much to do  
And thank God  
My strength is renewed  
I pray that I have the will

To push myself far enough  
And I have the elasticity  
To rebound gently  
There is little I can leave to others  
My work is unique  
Few understand the significance  
And no one really grasps  
The methods to my madness  
People may be inspired to think  
But they do not wrap their minds  
Around the intent of my verse  
Or the mood of my thinking  
We are taught not to think  
And we develop a weakness  
For independent thinking  
If someone can follow my thoughts  
And the balance of ideas  
But have the courage and the will  
To chart their own course  
I will be satisfied  
That my work will carry on  
To another generation

#### **3.4.4 Fine Art**

Fine art is not imitative  
It is not photography  
Creations are not just objects  
They are representations  
Of the epic heroes  
And of the spiritual realm  
Art is meant to teach  
And people must understand  
Not just feel something  
The art does not mean just anything  
The meaning is determined by the creator  
Art is not meant to teach conformity  
Or imitation of a specific style  
It is meant to uplift the heart and mind  
Art is religion and philosophy  
We learn to create beauty

By learning morality  
We improve ourselves spiritually  
By God's direction  
And this is what makes art classical  
Art must communicate  
And people must contemplate  
Art is a reflection of culture  
And it does not evolve over time  
Or at least it hasn't in modern times  
When we seek to be expressive  
And to enjoy the appearance  
This is not fine art  
Art is serious and it is ancient  
We learn from the classics  
But emulate no one

### 3.5 Existential Ethics

Nature and history and their kingdoms do not stand on the same plane as Him...The sovereignty of the Word of God is distinguished by the fact that it has no competitors

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Existentialism mean human being and is about defining what is human by what abstract qualities that are uniquely human, rather than defining humans by a certain set of DNA. Existential ethics emphasize the responsibility of the individual and are a way to be more moral than the establishment, not less.

Sparta was one of the major Greek powers, at the time of Plato and Socrates. The Spartans were the conservatives of their time. They held the locals in slavery, to produce goods, for the soldiers to consume. They made the slaves get drunk and make fools of themselves, as an example, for the soldiers not to behave like. They paid off the religious authorities, to support their frivolous wars. Their male children were taken off, to indoctrinate into warriors, and when they came of age they were assigned a male lover. The women were only educated and

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<sup>3</sup>Karl Barth in "God's Word and the Decision of Faith"

kept in shape, to make them worthy of serving their husbands. Many babies who were not of the right lineage were killed, even after being born.

Existentialism is a break away from this kind of Greek culture, that is the basis for our modern society.

### **3.5.1 Christianity and the establishment**

If you hear popular evangelists on TV speak, it is often in blind support of the establishment. You might assume that the Bible says for us to give to the multi-national corporations that control these institutions and support their policies. What Jesus taught was non-violent resistance, a spiritual revolution based on humility to God and equality to other people and compassion for those society does not value. Jesus did not teach the detachment, that is prevalent in popular culture, nor the violent and negative view of the world, that is common of the establishment.

### **3.5.2 Why we should not support the establishment**

Nietzsche based his philosophy around strength. He did not like Christianity, because the kind of Christianity he saw in Europe promoted weakness and was the basis for a slave race of workers, who in the name of Christianity had an unquestioning form of patriotism and support of the establishment, much like it is today. Tolstoy was Christian, but took the example of the New Testament Church seriously and understood that the basis of God's interaction with humanity is unconditional love and the Church should be separate from society because the goals of society are at fundamental odds, with what Christ taught.

According to Foucault, the judicial system, the military, hospitals, and schools (the establishments TV evangelists traditionally support) seek to make people conform to society's values by observation, normalization and examination. Kierkegaard realized that Christ's life on earth and death was based on a paradox understood by faith and was not something reason out and understood intellectually. We were to realize that we cannot think ob-

jectively and to have the sense to not use our theories to have God-like control over the earth and other people.

### **3.5.3 Why they support the establishment**

These TV evangelists support the establishment, because they are funded by the establishment. People believe them, because they have been taught to think dualistically. Instead of recognizing that humans are both good and evil, and are free to choose, as the Bible says, people are taught today that man is at the center of the universe and that instead of all people having a dual nature internally, that some people are good, while others are evil and those who are in power are there because God put them there. They believe they can take everything apart and put it together better than God created it, because they believe in man and not in God. This can be traced back to the enlightenment with Descartes.

### **3.5.4 Free Thinking**

Most people follow an average course out of a desire for safety or for a lack of creativity. There are some amongst us who follow their own way. Why do they follow their own way?

They do not do well following others. It bores them. They cannot conform to the ways that others want them to live. They must run free with their desires. They must struggle with death. They must find who they are.

Free thinkers have a desire to explore and be fascinated with simple things. Free thinkers don't give up on their dreams. They fight for them harder when there is opposition.

Being a free thinker is a state of mind. Having the courage to start your own course and a desire to teach others are a part of it. There must also be a special spark that makes you want to write or create.

Writing is important for a free thinker. It is where they can fight their ideas out against those of others. They can know for themselves whether they really believe what they say.

Being a free thinker is not just about following a different course. It is about knowing your heart and the hearts of others. It involves a respect for all life.

Thinking freely means not setting arbitrary limits on yourself like jobs do. Being a free thinker means working when other are playing. It means rushing in from a day at the beach ahead of everyone else to write.

There are sacrifices for being a free thinker. You must be first not always to think of new ideas but to fight for another's right to do so. You must encourage others to explore the limits of their own creativity.

Thinking freely means thinking. You can't just rush out and do something on a whim. Free thinking is hard work and you might just want to give up.

Most people are only free thinkers in certain areas of their lives. Free thinking in all areas of your life requires commitment. Not just time but mental effort when you are tired.

Ideas can come at any time. You have to fight for them. They can be easily forgotten but so hard to put down.

You must constantly struggle to see life honestly. The easy way or the pleasurable way is not always the way you choose. You want to live your life passionately and take risks.

Thinking freely doesn't mean you're a freak. There is no set music or style of clothes that defines a free thinker. Being a freak is cool though and special.

Evangelizing is important. You have to want others to be free too. You must want to work to help others break out on new courses.

You are responsible for letting the truth out. You don't have to live a lie. Choose your friends carefully so they don't compromise your search for truth.

Thinking freely doesn't need to occupy all your time. Its ok to be normal if you are honest about it.

Free thinkers are defined by their commitment to the truth that they find. They live by what they write, even though they may not live by what they write.

Being a free thinker doesn't mean you have artistic talent. It means you take the difficult road when you

need to. Artistic talent does help you define your beliefs though.

Any generation can be free thinkers and you need to be accessible to different generations. There have been true free thinkers for generations and now there are a lot of wannabes.

Thinking for yourself doesn't mean defying the laws. Only if they violate truth that you believe do you want to resist the law. You don't get inspired very often in prison.

No one is going to confirm that you are a free thinker. Others will probably notice. You have to know what you are yourself. You can't count on anyone else.

There is no time when you reach a pinnacle of being a free thinker. You must fight for it each day. You must convince yourself.

You should be easier on yourself. Most free thinkers are too hard on themselves. You are already choosing to live life harder.

You don't have to be published to be a great free thinker. You're ideas are your ideas and you reveal them to others at your leisure.

### **3.5.5 Taking Responsibility for your Actions Means Thinking for yourself**

Human being is defined by action and a person determines their own destiny. When a person becomes part of a crowd and makes their decisions based on a value system, they lose that essence that make human being stand out, from other modes of being. People are treated inhumanely, when people do not think for themselves on an individual level.

When a person is thrown into the world, there is not a manual to life, within reach. A person experiences a consciousness which something, that just exists-in-itself does not have. There are no laws or standards as to how humans interact. For some people, their lives are a constant struggle to suppress their innate desire to self-destruct and take down others with them. As they grow older, they learn how to hold these desires, within a certain set of established parameters. For others, pre-conceived notions

about how they should interact with others do not answer the questions, that life throws at them. They embrace life for what it is. They celebrate all life, knowing that the suffering that serves to define consciousness and the absurdity that brings sudden joy play at each other much as shadows dance under candlelight. The joy is greater when the suffering is more intense.

Subatomic particles like quarks are the fundamental building blocks of all matter, in this space-time continuum. These particles have no mass and do not have definite locations. They exist, within a range of possible locations, and carry a given charge and direction of spin that define what they are. This kind of existence is being-in-itself. When people act within established parameters, and take on value systems, that were decided upon within a group, they do not have any more individual identity, than the fabric of space time. Laws and statistics describe how a person will act, to the same degree of predictability, that matter can be described, using Heisenberg's uncertainty principle. As the quarks exist, as separate entities, defined by their charge and spin, so can people, in mass, be defined by their value system and their economic status. People do not make use of their fundamentally distinctive quality of self-determination on a large scale.

When people behave in predictable ways, their consciousness can be abstracted. Abstractions like math and Social Science are the main vehicles that drive the technological buildup, that has changed the conceptualization of our bodies and our ecology as spiritual manifestations, that demand awe and respect to material ones, where components can be isolated and manipulated, without having any unpredictable effect on the whole. When certain pieces are singled out, that are seen on a given level of abstraction as harmful or useless, they are dealt with, without making any fundamental distinctions between human being and being-in-itself. When a human being is not treated, with a respect for qualities that are not transparently useful to the beholder instantaneously, there is no serious concern for ethics.

When people are not judged based on a value system and are not commoditized as material objects, they are

treated with a respect that acknowledges their unique human mode of being. When people no longer take identity from the crowd, they are faced with feelings of anguish, abandonment and despair. Anguish is felt when we realize that we are choosing what is best for all mankind and realize that we have no right to do so. Abandonment is felt when we realize that, without God, everything is permitted and we cannot use values to legitimize our behavior, or base our decisions on feelings, that we have not defined through action. Despair is felt when we do not rely on supernatural intervention, or a default nature of man, to help us make our decisions. These feelings do not stop a person from functioning as a productive member of society, but, on the contrary, motivate them to thoughtful action.

### 3.5.6 Animal Rights

Should we pride ourselves on our ability to capture [animals] and make them work for us? But that is no more than the advantage we have over each other; our slaves are in the same condition

4

What does define a human? A popular modern answer is DNA. But even a frog has 95 percent of the same DNA as a human. And DNA differs among races and even among families, right down to the individual person. What makes a person human is their humanity: having ideals and not living up to them.

We are famous for our technology, but we can't make our robots swim as well as fish. We learn about art and design from nature. Are some cultures more human because they have faster computers? Even the largest computers doesn't come close to the billions of processors inside each human brain. And with all the more information in our century, do we cherish ideals as a possibility, or are we too overwhelmed by the violence of the 20th century and how our knowledge just turns into better

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<sup>4</sup>Montaigne in "An Apology for Raymond Sebond"

weapons, weapons that don't make mistakes - they're just programmed wrong.

Animals also have compassion and humility as well as other ideals that we long to emulate. Does your cat get impressed by your new gadgets? Does your dog expect you to be economically successful? Does your cat comfort you when you are sick? Does your dog try to help you when you are hurt?

People often quote the Bible that there is a hierarchy of God, then angels, then humans, then animals. But, if animals are not considered to have humanity too, then are we considered to be less important or moral than aliens or angels? Is it ethical for aliens to experiment on humans? They are certainly more technologically advanced and more intelligent than us.

Even if we don't consider animals to have humanity by some technicality, then why do we not strive at least for our ideals of compassion and humility and consider their pain and their weakness? It is not because we believe deep down in our heart that animals are actually more cultured and sophisticated than us? Do animals destroy other species, in large numbers, or fight to kill off their own species, because they think differently.

### **3.5.7 Pumped up for War**

1. Bush: bush
2. Cronies: martial artists
3. America: oil drill
4. Saddam: whip
5. Cronies: babies
6. Iraq: s and m shop

In a vast expanse of desert  
For hundreds of miles in every direction  
With no one to observe our every action  
Anyone snooping can be seen from miles away  
The small pools of water lapping at the sand

Are quickly and silently sucked up into the hot  
air  
The wind caresses the soft sand  
And smoothies the mounds rising from the  
desert floor  
With a oil drill pumping up and down  
Deeper and deeper it penetrates the earth  
The sand falls away to the rhythm  
Of the hard pounding steel rod  
Dark liquid sputters up in bursts of oil  
And streams down the sides  
Clumping with some of the dirt  
The heat burning the sides of the dig  
A bush with prickly thorns rolled along  
Lingering long beside the oil drill in action  
The desert bush was losing too much water  
And began to wither in the heat  
The oil splattered on the bush  
And stained the fresh parts  
It picked up speed again  
And dropped some of its prickly thorns  
Into a bright pink and shiny black building  
Some men in black spandex slid down the pil-  
lars seductively  
And came inside  
There was a black leather whip hanging over  
the door  
Someone had left several children in strollers  
Under the dirty counter  
The floor was sticky with oil and sand  
They lit the floor on fire  
The babies were left in the building  
The Ninjas tried to run but they stuck to the  
floor  
The flames licked all the oil off the floor  
And the whip fell and slashed the back  
Of one of the Ninjas  
The rest of the Ninjas escaped

## **4 Poetic Evolution**

by Ben Huot

## 4.1 Histories

### 4.1.1 Going Home

I am going home today  
This home is like a dream  
Away in the Army  
For just over a year  
I feel great excitement  
And serious relief  
Today is the anniversary  
Of when World War 2 ended  
I shall never forget today  
August 15, 1997  
Everything is surreal  
And I do not believe  
Anything is real  
With the awesome release  
I feel a failure  
I did not serve my full tour  
I did not know now  
That I was mentally ill  
Or that this was why  
I was given a discharge  
All I knew  
Was my eyes burned  
And I would have this condition  
Indefinitely  
I met people from my home church  
And I heard of others  
Triumphs and failures  
I was introduced to a girl on the phone  
Who was a few years younger than me  
When we talked I realized  
I had no hobbies or interests  
I don't know how it was for others  
But the military life  
Did not allow me time for leisure  
Or maybe it was just the mind set  
That I could never let my guard down  
Or ever relax

I was told by my CO  
That I should enroll in college  
And I did so that fall

#### **4.1.2 Community College**

A few days  
After I came back  
I bought my first computer  
I was going to major in business  
So I bought a PC  
I had saved 5,000 dollars  
Of my military income  
And I got 10,000 dollars  
For college expenses  
Because of my service  
I realized that I had enough for tuition  
But not enough for housing  
So I stayed at my parents' house  
I did ok in calculus  
I excelled in economics  
But I had to take accounting  
5 times to pass  
I missed so many French classes  
Because I was using the Internet  
With the free hours from AOL  
I started out researching my pink eye  
But got diverted to finding  
A different way to be Christian  
Later on I would realize  
That the answers lay in the church  
I grew up in  
Despite those attitudes were the ones  
I was trying to escape  
I didn't study much  
And slept as much as possible  
As the pink eye never relented  
That summer I took several required  
English courses  
And started my website  
This was the first time

I was introduced to Postmodernism

#### 4.1.3 University

Not only did I have a Community College  
In the town I grew up in  
We also had a University  
And there are several other colleges there too  
Besides my business courses  
I took History of Philosophy  
And Chinese language course  
Both these fell through  
For different reasons  
The philosophy course required  
Weekly papers  
And I missed the first  
So I had to audit it  
As I missed the deadline to withdraw  
I stopped going as I thought  
Socrates was a smart ass  
In my Chinese class  
I couldn't learn as fast as they taught  
So I had to drop out of it too  
But I stayed in my Chinese Literature class  
And I really enjoyed it  
This is how I was introduced  
To Chinese philosophy  
That spring I had to find an apartment  
And I switched to Linux  
Cold turkey  
After researching it for 6 months  
I was trying to figure out  
How to get Microsoft applications  
From crashing  
So I looked into programming  
And all roads led to Linux  
That summer I went back  
To stay at my parents house  
And I took summer courses again  
For the credits I missed  
During the school year

I took several electives  
One was Existentialism  
One was about Ecofeminism  
I switched my major  
To Journalism  
Which made much more sense  
As I have always been  
Good at writing  
I took business initially  
As my dad recommended it

#### **4.1.4 Schizophrenia**

When school let out that winter  
I thought I was wrestling with  
Spiritual warfare  
But as I found myself  
In the mental ward of a local hospital  
I knew I was having emotional problems  
I didn't know until a month later  
That I had Schizophrenia  
My parents came to see me all day long  
But I only remember them  
Coming in the evening  
I was explaining trigonometry  
We were all afraid of one of the guys  
He was big and not very nice  
And he controlled the TV  
I remember how excited we got  
When we realized we could order  
More than one of the food items  
To one of the residents  
My pastor came to see me  
And said he could get me out  
I knew better for some reason  
I was so excited to leave the first room  
Which they called Hell  
And to go out into the next area  
In the hospital ward  
I remember we got to do  
Group activities there

One guy showed me how to dance  
I was hyper-religious  
According to my psychiatrist  
Who kept asking me if I heard voices  
He didn't introduce himself  
So it was a few days later  
Before I realized he was my doctor  
I remember how hard it was to sleep  
The dementia patients next door  
Kept screaming all night  
To get out  
I had to under go an MRI  
Which was very scary for me  
But my mom was there for me  
And I was given a mirror  
So I could see out  
When I left the hospital  
I watched TV most of the day  
And I slept a lot too  
I finally decided to read and write  
Which was very difficult at first  
I was only able to  
Write after 4 months  
It was hard for me  
To even ride across town  
At first  
I remember when I got back  
From the hospital  
I threw out  
Everything sharp in my room  
I was afraid to be alone  
For several months  
I started attending  
A local recreation group  
For the mentally ill  
I also worked on learning Javascript  
And eventually started  
On my website again

#### 4.1.5 Group Home

That fall I entered  
A group home  
I shared the house  
With 8 other men  
With mental illnesses  
And there was a staff person  
There at all times  
They basically ignored us  
We had to clean and cook  
All by ourselves  
There was no help in this  
They just required that we did this  
The TV was always on VH1  
And we had to leave the house  
For at least 1 hour at 11am  
I started volunteering  
At a local Internet Service Provider  
Doing tech support  
I also volunteered at a local music hall  
Taking tickets and checking IDs  
We had to be in  
By a certain time each night  
And had to stay inside until  
A certain time in the morning  
They wouldn't let me go to bed  
Before a certain time  
And I had to get up by a certain time  
The reason why I was here  
Was because I started out with only  
200 and some dollars a month  
From the state agency  
And this was the only place that would take  
me  
I visited my mom once a week  
She was on the other side of town  
And I got 20 dollars a week from her  
Which I spent mostly on books  
I kept writing poetry and reading  
Mostly about Buddhism at this point

And I continued to work on the website  
I started on a new medicine  
Which made me less tired  
When I was on the previous medicine  
If I didn't fight to stay awake  
I would always be asleep  
Then my money came in  
From the Veterans  
And I moved into my own apartment

#### **4.1.6 On my Own**

My first apartment was downtown  
I was only a few blocks  
From the bus station  
So I could get to anywhere in town  
With only one bus  
I lived on the 6th floor  
Of a 12 floor building  
I never lived up this high before  
And it was nice for a while  
But I had to go  
All the way down  
6 floors to get food  
Or something to drink  
And it was hot in the summer  
The place was heated by a boiler  
And I could not control the temperature  
We started off with cleaning help  
And realized we needed someone  
To do the wash for me  
And so we started with our several year  
Adventure with in home care  
One person couldn't walk or read  
Other people took 3 hours to dust a fake plant  
One of the guys waited until  
Half way through the time  
To cash the check for groceries  
One lady kept falling asleep  
One guy made fun of fat people  
Another one kept looking through my trash

One of them was mentally ill himself  
One lady said I wasn't supposed to  
"Snitch" food from myself  
With everyone things were moved  
Around everywhere except where they found  
them  
The next apartment was out in west side of  
town  
It was a few blocks from  
A Bible college  
Which I was thinking about attending  
Until they told me I shouldn't  
Watch sitcoms, die my hair, or study Buddhism  
The apartments were duplexes on ground level  
And the site was like a big park  
Most neighbors were young families with small  
children  
Which is good noise wise  
I continued with the in home service  
The big problem with the in home service  
Is that they wouldn't check my medicine  
So I was set up with a group  
The other side of town  
To hold my medicine and monitor it  
But I had to get there every day  
Within a one hour window  
Early in the morning  
This stressed me out  
And led to my next living arrangement

#### **4.1.7 Retirement Home**

At first this sounded fine  
Although unusual  
This group would take care of  
Managing my medicines  
Doing my laundry  
Cleaning my room  
And provided me with 3 meals daily  
This place was definitely cheap  
And I thought at first

That they were just smarter about things  
But I found out later  
That this basically summarized the place  
The food was too small  
It did not taste very good  
And it was all old people food  
They only spent  
1 dollar person/meal on food  
If you were a few minutes late for the meal  
You didn't get it  
The medicine was always screwed up  
The residents constantly harassed me  
If I was out for even 5 minutes  
10 people would want me to help them  
The rooms were tiny  
And they were just one room  
I was very patient at first  
But gradually lost patience  
As no one would leave me alone  
I lived there for almost 2 years  
The average age was mid 90's  
The average stay was 6 months  
And most people had a memory of 5 minutes  
Residents would scream insults at me  
They would physically hurt me  
They would order me around  
They would repeat the same stories  
For hours on end  
They were very loud and up all night  
The staff did nothing about any of this  
I got ants in my room  
I left no food in there  
And they gave me grief  
About wanting another apartment

## **4.2 Morality**

### **4.2.1 Sex and Violence**

Our knowledge of right and wrong  
Does not appear

To increase with time  
Should our songs, movies, and games  
Be filled with violence or sex  
How can something  
That reflects reality be bad?  
Do we need to see every aspect  
Of the act of sex  
In order to understand the plot  
Of a romantic comedy?  
Are only games  
Where we break laws  
And abuse women  
Worth playing?  
Are songs not filled  
With cuss-words  
Worth hearing?  
Are there aspects of life  
More mundane  
Worthy of art?  
Can our writers and artists  
Create jokes without  
Putting others down?  
Is there a world  
Worth exploring  
That doesn't require  
Parental advisories?  
We fight for freedoms  
But how do we use them?  
We pollute our minds  
With inappropriate thoughts  
We then speak  
Out of hearts filled  
With deplorable images  
Is every act of pleasure  
Ok under any circumstances  
Don't civilized people  
Show restraint in their passions?  
To what end  
Are we expanding our rights?  
Do we want no boundaries  
For our children?

Do we want to legalize  
Every act that is illegal?  
What has a search for equality  
Led us to?  
With what standard  
Do we judge decency?  
Have we lost all manners?  
Is there still such a thing  
As going too far?  
Do we need to continue to shock  
To get laughs?  
Shouldn't there be a good reason  
For acts of violence  
And a framework and a prerequisite  
For fleshly pleasures?  
Don't our hearts cry out  
For meaning beyond punch lines  
And reasons beyond what feels good?  
How many times do we need  
To see others having sex  
Or see people killed  
Until we are satisfied?

#### **4.2.2 Cause and Effect**

We see the women  
Covered from head to toe  
And they are separated from the men  
In jobs and status  
There are barbaric things  
Done to keep a women from infidelity  
But the men can have many wives and  
Can get a divorce without merit  
It seems that the worse  
Hollywood and the western media gets  
The more violence we see  
In the news  
In the Middle East  
Our opinion leaders  
Glorify adultery  
And their opinion leaders

Plan more bombings  
When will the cycle of sex and violence  
Be reduced and begin to dissipate?  
Is it worth the lives of our youth  
To partake in Hollywood fantasies  
On the TV and the computer?  
Isn't there something more useful  
To accomplish online  
Than reading trash about celebrities  
And practicing killing people in games?  
When we download music and software  
Without consent of the copyright holders  
We are committing crimes  
When we run red lights in traffic  
We are committing crimes  
The distinction between so called violent crimes  
And traffic violations is miniscule  
A car is more dangerous than a gun  
When the 3rd world sees us  
Jumping over each other to get the latest  
Video games consoles and cellular phones  
We look too wealthy  
And this inspires more attacks against us  
In the poorer parts of the world  
They see our luxury  
And our disregard for their lives and welfare  
As a legitimate reason  
For bringing about our destruction  
In many ways  
The west is morally bankrupt  
And the rest of the world is more civilized

### **4.2.3 Addictions**

We are a people of addictions  
We are addicted to alcohol  
We are addicted to personal transportation  
We are addicted to information  
We are addicted to everything on demand  
We are addicted to pastimes  
We are addicted to sports and video games

We are even addicted to food  
But the supply is not endless  
And our luxury comes at the cost  
Of other peoples' welfare  
People go without any food  
So we can stuff ourselves  
People live in slavery  
So that we can have the latest electronics  
People die in wars  
So we can have fancy jewelry  
People become killers themselves  
Because of our addiction to oil  
People live without medical care  
So we can play games  
Not all are simple cause and effect  
But the more we consume  
The less others have their needs met  
We can afford many things  
Because others work for starvation wages  
Our prisons are better than  
Living free in most of the third world  
How can we live in such peace  
And not speak out against the lobbyists  
When those of the same faith  
Are persecuted for practicing our shared religion  
How can we continue to throw away  
What others would be blessed to receive  
The arrogance and callousness runs deep  
We find the world depressing  
So we just ignore the problems  
But when others suffer  
We lose part of our own humanity

#### **4.2.4 America Inc.**

Our nation was founded by anarchists  
Who didn't want to pay their taxes  
Now we have sold our souls  
To corporations and big business  
We believe that greed brings good

And that it is immoral to share wealth  
We believe that we have a voice  
When the only ones heard  
Are the few who own everything  
We think we get free information  
But a couple people own all the outlets  
It is shocking for people to realize  
That what they believe and fight for  
Was promoted by those in power  
We fight for our freedom  
To be in financial bondage  
To the few and corrupt  
We are so desperate  
To save a few dollars  
That the wealthiest pay no taxes  
We are so scared  
That we might be convinced  
To become gay  
That we give up the fight for  
Clean water and air  
We are so afraid that  
We might lose the ability  
To get killed in our sleep  
With our own weapons  
We give up the fight  
For family wages  
We are so afraid  
That we might have to drive less  
That we give up our children  
In wars that we can't win  
We are so afraid  
That our team might not win a game  
That we give up on  
Basic medical coverage for all  
We are so afraid of alienating  
A big corporation  
That we leave our nations' computer networks  
Free for grabs  
We are so angry at those who bombed us  
That it doesn't matter  
If we get revenge

On a country not responsible  
We are so afraid of alienating voters  
That we allow people to come in our country  
With no background checks  
We are so quick to point out flaws  
Instead of finding solutions  
That we give the terrorists more options  
On what to bomb

#### **4.2.5 The Club**

A group of people  
From the community  
Meet in a building  
In folding chairs  
And on industrial carpet  
Once a week  
To discuss politics  
And sing along  
To live music  
Most people are conservative  
And affluent  
They spend most their free time  
Enjoying American football games  
They work together  
To bring Republicans  
Into power locally  
They raise money  
For their children's'  
Summer camps and activities  
They spend most the money  
On recruiting new members  
They meet  
Several other times of the week  
To socialize  
There are groups  
Just for women  
There are groups  
For each age group  
For the children  
And others

Just for men  
There are always coffee and donuts  
Whenever they gather  
People pay dues  
At the main weekly gathering  
There aren't many young people  
Most people are over 50  
And there are some small children  
The leader gives lectures  
About politics and sports  
They recite quotes  
That sound like cliches  
Can you believe  
That this is a church?  
Where is God  
In this group?

#### **4.2.6 Competitive Nature**

We think we are so much better  
Than any other nation  
We feel we need to win  
Every single Olympic event  
We have so little respect  
For other countries  
That we don't even count  
The fatalities of those  
Who lost the war to us  
We don't care what happens  
To most of the world  
We only want news  
On those who are  
Rich like us  
We don't bother  
To study world literature  
Because we think  
Rich white men  
Have more important  
Things to say  
Than everyone else  
We don't learn other languages

Before we go  
To other countries  
We expect everyone  
To speak English  
We think we are poor  
If we make 6 digit salaries  
While others survive  
On less than 3  
We think that  
We are too good  
To offer good service  
We think we are too good  
To grow our own food  
We shop like kings  
With giant versions  
Of every commodity  
We don't bother  
To get an education  
Because we think  
We can get money  
From our rich parents  
Once we complete high school  
We feel no need  
To ever read again

## **4.3 Toys**

### **4.3.1 Legos**

I still dream of legos  
Little blocks  
That fit together  
There are some basic shapes  
That keep on repeating  
And some specialized parts  
The box comes with instructions  
But they are only for  
People without imaginations  
The fun is not in  
Following the blueprints  
There are no rules

Except certain things fit  
In certain ways  
The joy of creation  
And the satisfaction  
Of something accomplished  
Thousands of hours  
And never the exact same  
Configuration or pieces  
It is not like a puzzle  
That you have to have  
Every piece to finish  
There is no beginning  
And their is no end  
It is the process that is fun  
And there is no reason  
To stop building

#### **4.3.2 GI Joes**

I spent many an hour  
Arranging my GI Joes  
3 inch tall  
Plastic action figures  
Good and bad soldiers  
The dolls boys play with  
They don't stand up very well  
Without leaning against  
Something else  
But they could move  
Their arms and legs  
And they could carry  
Backpacks on their backs  
And weapons in their hands  
I would spend all my time  
Admiring them  
And setting them up for battle  
But I never enjoyed  
Having them destroy each other  
I would make a terrible officer  
As I would never  
Want to risk any men

After putting all the money into them  
I wanted to take good care of them  
I remember my Christmas present  
When I got a troop transport  
An amphibious troop carrier  
So I could put the GI joes in seats  
And carry or roll them around  
I saw some GI Joes  
At the store recently  
I was not impressed  
As the GI Joes are now  
Much bigger  
And they aren't all plastic any more  
If I went back into the Army  
It would be similar  
I wouldn't recognize much  
And it wouldn't feel the same  
They actually play video games  
For training now

#### **4.3.3 Hot Wheels**

I still remember  
My Hot Wheels city  
I rolled my little toy cars  
Down the plastic hill  
I really liked  
The ambulance  
The fire engine  
The police car  
And the military jeep  
I also liked my  
Little gas station  
It is funny the jobs  
I liked at an early age  
Most kids like  
These kind of professions  
But few people  
Become one of them  
We liked the uniforms  
I guess

And the jobs seemed exciting  
Now in my life  
I get excited reading a book  
Writing a poem  
Taking photos  
Or watching a movie  
I remember the excitement  
In joining the military  
But there was a terror  
That accompanied it  
When you grow older  
You like different things  
Than when you are young  
I wanted to be an astronaut  
When I was young  
Now I am happy to do  
What I do  
I don't know if I could have  
Understood what was so great  
About being a philosopher  
When I was young

## **4.4 College Education**

### **4.4.1 Conservative Curriculum**

Some study to learn  
What others have dreamed of  
Some study to learn  
What is popular  
Some study to learn  
The values of the past  
Some study to learn  
The traditions of their ancestors  
Some study to learn  
What they already believe  
Some study to learn  
What is well understood  
Some study to learn  
To be respected by others  
Some study to learn

The path well traveled  
Some study to learn  
From a specific ideology  
Some study to learn  
From what others tell them  
Some study to learn  
To be opinion leaders  
Some study to learn  
To memorize information  
Some study to learn  
Rules others have made  
Some study to learn  
What is practical  
Some study to learn  
What is widely accepted  
Some study to learn  
What isn't controversial  
Some study to learn  
Without questioning

#### **4.4.2 Liberal Arts**

There are few colleges  
Where you can create  
Your own major  
There are few colleges  
That encourage you to think  
There are few colleges  
That care about  
More than reputation  
There are few colleges  
That don't bend over backwards  
For a few dollars in grants  
There are few colleges  
Who dare to have a vision  
There a few colleges  
Who don't depend on sports  
For getting funding  
And recruiting students  
There are few colleges  
Who are not indebted to

Government and big business  
There are few colleges  
Who control their own curriculum  
There are few colleges  
That challenge the status quo  
There are few colleges  
That prepare students  
For unpredicted changes  
In the future of society  
There are few colleges  
That take pride in  
Creating controversy  
On campus  
There are few colleges  
That spend as much  
On human development  
Than on Scientific research

#### **4.4.3 College Football**

America is a society  
Oriented around sports  
We believe that competition  
Brings positive change  
We believe that physical fitness  
Is more important than education  
We believe that winning  
Is the most important method for change  
We are aggressive in business and politics  
We are not interested in the community  
The leaders only care about  
Their own status and wealth  
Our young all believe  
That they will play  
American football for money  
They either want to get money  
For being famous  
Or get a welfare check  
Our athletes make millions of dollars  
For running a ball across a line  
The players feel tough

Because they run into each other  
We think that being a man  
Means memorizing sports statistics  
We spend most our time  
Talking about what teams win  
And about our football team  
We played on in high school  
We believe that we peaked in college  
And that the only thing important  
Is whose team won the game

#### **4.4.4 Lost Opportunities**

How will we compete  
When every one  
Has a college degree?  
Will we have to get doctorates  
For a family wage job?  
How are we to pay  
For our education  
When our families  
Are too rich  
To receive aid  
But too poor  
To afford to help?  
Will anyones be rewarded  
For a liberal arts degree?  
The only degrees that pay  
Are business and engineering  
Is that what  
We want to base  
Our future on  
Technology alone  
With no room  
For the arts or religion?  
We only care about  
What is the quickest way  
To build things  
Bigger, better, and faster  
We have no culture  
And no reason to create

We have no imagination  
Or reason to live  
Other than for  
Getting drunk after work  
Or losing ourselves  
In virtual worlds  
We are afraid  
To confront reality  
And solve real problems  
We are told  
The problems are too complex  
And we need  
To solve problems  
Through politics and business  
We don't have the creativity  
Or the time and energy  
To pursue positive change

## **4.5 Potential Futures**

### **4.5.1 Healthy Living**

Whenever I get energy  
I spend it on work  
But rest and free time  
Is as important  
As the effort  
I continue to reduce  
The weight on my back  
I need to keep  
Making time for music  
And stopping to watch movies  
And traveling for photography  
Americans tend to be too busy  
Always working  
And seldom leaning back  
I need to forget  
My awesome burden  
And take time  
To cool down  
In the night breeze

And sleep in late  
The reading needs to slow down  
And the writing needs to come  
When it is ready  
I need time to think  
And to take breaks from thinking  
I need time to experience  
The freedom and peace  
I continue to fight for  
It has been 10 years  
Since I returned from  
My service in the Army  
But I continue to  
Put in the same effort  
Even my free time  
Is used to further my cause  
I use recreation activities  
As a way to learn more  
I receive immense  
Joy and satisfaction  
From what I am able  
To give to others  
But even Jesus  
Took time for Himself

#### **4.5.2 Smart and Moral**

I know better  
Who it is I want  
To have a relationship with  
After years of meeting  
Different kinds of people  
I used to believe I wasn't smart  
But I finally gave up fighting it  
I use to think  
Intelligence didn't matter  
In a lifetime mate  
But so many things  
That are important to me  
Require a certain level  
Of intellect to grasp

I need someone  
Who can understand  
Why what I do is important  
And why it motivates me  
But more important  
I want to find someone  
Who follows her heart  
And does what  
She believes is right  
And is willing  
To make sacrifices  
For her convictions  
I need someone  
Who wants to make  
The world better  
And is willing  
To invest in it  
I need to get out more  
And invest the time  
In the pursuit  
But no matter  
Where I am  
We will meet  
When the time is right  
I have faith  
That God has a plan for me  
And I pray  
That someday  
That will involve  
An equal partner  
For the rest of my life

### **4.5.3 My Cows**

When I pass away  
I pray my stuffed cows  
Will join me for eternity  
After an initial interest  
In Hinduism  
They have converted  
To Christianity

Because when Jesus died  
No cows needed to die again  
I am unsure  
In what way  
They are connected to me  
Are they another  
Aspect of my personality  
Or are they part of my soul?  
Do they exist  
Only in my mind  
Or do they have  
An independent existence?  
How do I know for sure  
That the ideas I hear  
Are their own  
Or just another form  
Of my ideas?  
Am I talking  
To my objective self  
Or are they  
Separate souls?  
What is God's plan  
For animals?  
I know as an artist  
I don't throw away  
Good work  
So I know  
The Lord has a future  
For His other creations  
Especially since animals  
Are nicer than people  
And more willing  
To be born again