

# *The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinking*



**MICHAEL J. HOLSHOUSER**

The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinking  
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The Stillness Before Time  
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Got God?  
<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/thestillnessbeforetime.pdf>  
[https://michaelsbreadcrumbs.blogspot.com/2015/01/under-construction\\_52.html](https://michaelsbreadcrumbs.blogspot.com/2015/01/under-construction_52.html)  
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Of the Human Journey  
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*All have the express written encouragement  
To distribute this creation freely to any and all  
Who have the eyes to see and the ears to hear  
The mystery in which each and every one  
Equally participates in so many ways*

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# Preface

## Greetings,

While chatting with my Christian chiropractor about ethics, it occurred to me to take a look through what had been written about it since I began scribing in 1989. The creative juices took hold, and this is the result, with aphorisms and essays from the major works – *The Stillness Before Time*, *The Return to Wonder*, *The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim*, and the seven *Breadcrumbs* titles. Along with aphorisms on ethics, are thoughts on good and evil and the Golden Rule, a few pages of online philosophy and ethics definitions and links, a recent *Where Is the Line?* ditty, the dialogue from an amusing and enlightening episode of *Young Sheldon*, several page of aphorisms on duality from *The Stillness Before Time* and *The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim*, as well as three oeuvres from *The Stillness Before Time: Ten Reflections*, *Got God?*, and *The Human Journey*.

This work is blogged at:

The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinking

<https://thegordianknotofethicalthinking.blogspot.com>

Writing has been an enjoyable process ever since I first began toying with prose; scribbling poetry, keeping journals, corresponding with friends and acquaintances during the college daze. The philosophical/mystical/whatever-you-want-to-call-them thoughts, that have been popping into mind since 1989, have always been very out-of-the-blue spontaneous. Nothing planned or forced about them. They are being shared on the off chance that others may find them of interest, though, quite frankly, it really does not matter if no one else ever even reads them, for I am, first and foremost, my own audience. I got mine, so to speak. I played my little part. I had my share of fun. And it is, as it has ever been, up to each to discern their own, on their own.

There are really no followers in this Don Quixote quest; only earnest seekers, who waylay their desires and fears and dreads, enough to discern that which is the end to doubt, the end to dueling with windmills. “Yay” if it is your fate to figure it out. “Oh well” if it is not. And “so it goes” either way, really. Ecclesiastes 1:2 is always a good reminder: “Vanity of vanities,” saith the Preacher, “Vanity of vanities. All is vanity.” Awareness can only, with great effort, regain control, regain sovereignty, from the usurper, imagination, creator of all that is time, creator of all that is space. Creator of all that is illusion, has never been anything more than illusion, will never be anything more than illusion. Only as real as the given moment.

“*The Stillness Before Time*” is the original work that came together in 1992, including mostly aphorisms, an essay, a newspaper question-and-answer, ten reflections, and lists of both movies and books. Though an early self-published version, long since edited and expanded, can be purchased at major booksellers, a downloadable copy is available, no charge, at the link below. There are also links to a variety of blogs of other creations by me, along with links to many writings of a similar nature, by thinkers and seers from across all times, across all geographies. “*The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim*” is the second published book, and is both blogged and available as a PDF download.

The “Breadcrumbs” titles, published annually since 2015, all include the core chapters: Leftovers, Soundbites, Breadcrumbs. In the Breadcrumbs chapters, I unleash thoughts of a more personal nature than in the other two. All just to show I was ensconced in a living, breathing, relativity mundane, oftentimes foolish, mortal mind-body. An actor playing the hand that was dealt; same as everyone else, vain as everyone else. No need to sculpt me into more than I was. No need for myths, nor legends, nor fables, nor miracles, nor cult followings, nor any other fictions, any other absurdities, over to which the human mind, and all its imaginary history, has so often given itself. The Breadcrumbs chapters prove me again and again to be yet another Shakespearian player, as full of the limited and arbitrary as anyone else born into this dream of space and time. So please be sure not to shape me, or these many random thoughts, into some dogmatic absurdity. Use them as a launchpad, not an orbit.

“The Return to Wonder” blog is a compendium of aphorisms not included in the three other works: The Stillness Before Time, The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, and Breadcrumbs. It originally totaled 3,000 pages formatted in 300 ten-page chapters written since 1990-ish. A gradual editing that will likely never be completed, is changing that dynamic into something of a mishmash.

Please note that this sort of wordplay is very haphazard, way too much work to put into any order. Probably best read it in bits and pieces in the here and there. One of those open-to-any-page works. Especially well-suited for coffee shops, coffee tables, and porcelain thrones.

Also note that all writings are always subject to updates and editing, so if you are interested in the most current version – before this house of cards comes tumbling down, and the world grows large again – downloading PDF copies every once and a while might be a reasonable discipline. This applies especially to the current year of Breadcrumbs, which could well be an annual project until the last wheezing breath, though frankly, the temptation to stop writing entirely is not off the table. It is a pleasant way to pass some of the countdown remaining, but it is unlikely there is much ground that has not been wandered by this frame of reference far more than enough already. No matter how many times Sisyphus rolls the boulder up the mountain, it is more than a little doubtful that the blind men and their true-believer followers, will ever discern, ever realize, ever embrace, the elephant in the middle of the room, without fabricating some new form of absurdity. It is the way we roll, it is the way we have always rolled, it is the way we will, far more than probably, always roll. Every species has its limitations, and we have in this mind’s eye, far-exceeded ours.

That said, if you do find these many thoughts at all worth preserving, for whatever times are ahead for this world and all its life forms, please feel free to share them with others who might also appreciate them. Else they may well swiftly slip back into the timeless oblivion from whence they came.

So it goes, either way. I played my part, I said my piece, I had my fun.

All the best,

M

P.S. For best viewing online, using the largest screen you have available to explore my little theme park, is suggested. Scrolling down and down on a phone screen is just not going to give you the same entrée.

P.P.S. The keywords used to select the following content include: Ethics, ethical, good and evil, duality, dualistic, The Golden Rule.

P.P.P.S. Regarding the name Yaj Ekim ... It is just a reverse spelling of the first and middle names ... Michael Jay Holshouser ... Mike Jay ... Yaj Ekim.

P.P.P.P.S. Coincidentally, make of it whatever you will, or will not, Yaj is an Indian boy's name meaning worshipper, sacrifice, another name for Shiva, a sage. And Ekim is a Turkish name for October meaning "sowing" (of seeds). All kinds of absurdity can be read into that by the many so-inclined – none of which was in mind when I came up with the idea to reverse the letters to my name. See P.P.P.S. for details.

P.P.P.P.P.S. Yes, I am Shiva. And so are You. No, I am not Shiva. And neither are you. Irony and paradox rule.

# **The Stillness Before Time**

## ***Reflections From a Fellow Sojourner***

*There is really only one Way.  
It is without division or boundary.  
It is without name or theology.  
Awareness is its scripture.  
Here now, its venue.  
You, its witness.  
Your life, the journey.*

Website

<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com>

Blog

<https://thestillnessbeforetime.blogspot.com>

PDF

<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/thestillnessbeforetime.pdf>

### **The Original Works**

The Stillness Before Time,  
Reflections From a Fellow Sojourner

<https://thestillnessbeforetime.blogspot.com>

<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/thestillnessbeforetime.pdf>

Including:

Of the Human Journey

Got God?

Ten Reflections

The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim

<https://theponderingsofyajekim.blogspot.com>

<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/theponderingsofyajekim.pdf>

Breadcrumbs 2015

Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time

<https://breadcrumbs2015.blogspot.com>

<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/breadcrumbs2015.pdf>

### Breadcrumbs 2018

Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time

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### Breadcrumbs 2019

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### Breadcrumbs 2020

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### Breadcrumbs 2022

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### Breadcrumbs 2023 & Beyond

Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time

<https://breadcrumbs2023.blogspot.com>

<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/breadcrumbs2023.pdf>

### The Return to Wonder

Field Notes from the Unknown

(Major edit underway – New copy colored blue and green)

<https://thereturntowonder.blogspot.com>

<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/thereturntowonder.pdf>

## **The Derivative Collection**

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<https://imaginationthegreatusurper.blogspot.com>  
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Of Meaning & Purpose  
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Of Noise & Silence  
Contemplations on the Vibrations of Consciousness  
<https://ofnoiseandsilence.blogspot.com>  
<https://www.thestillnessbeforetime.com/ofnoiseandsilence.pdf>

Standouts From the Return to Wonder Edit  
Selections From the First Sixteen Chapters  
<https://standoutsfromthereturntowonderedit.blogspot.com>  
<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/standouts.pdf>

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A Conversation With My Self  
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Breadcrumbs: The Original Blog  
[https://michaelsbreadcrumbs.blogspot.com/2015/01/under-construction\\_28.html](https://michaelsbreadcrumbs.blogspot.com/2015/01/under-construction_28.html)

Conversations  
A Variety of Letters, Emails, Texts, & Sundry Odds 'n Ends  
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<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/conversations.pdf>

Definitions  
An Incomplete Selection of Contemplative Definitions  
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Ditties for the Bluegrass Pyre  
<https://dittiesforthebluegrasspyre.blogspot.com>  
<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/dittiesforthebluegrasspyre.pdf>

Jester Amok  
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10212852298760058&type=3>  
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1311100495387&type=3>

My (Not Quite) Haiku  
<https://mynotquitehaiku.blogspot.com>  
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Once Upon a Christmas  
<https://onceuponchristmas.blogspot.com>  
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Possible Last Words & Epitaphs  
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Sketches of the Once Upon a Time  
A Few Epiphanies and Other Hallmark Moments  
<https://sketchesoftheonceuponatime.blogspot.com>  
<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/sketchesoftheonceuponatime.pdf>

Spam Responses (a.k.a., WTF Is This Shit!?)  
<https://spamresponsesakawtfisthisshit.blogspot.com>  
<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/spamresponsesakawtfisthisshit.pdf>

The Corollaries of Yaj Ekim  
<https://corollariesyajekim.blogspot.com>  
<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/thecorollariesofyajekim.pdf>

The Standard Ripostes  
The Scribe's Go-to Responses to This and That in the Day-To-Day  
<https://thestandardripostes.blogspot.com>  
<https://thestillnessbeforetime.com/thestandardripostes.pdf>

Uncle Sam Says  
<https://whatunclesamsays.blogspot.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1311088415085&type=3>

*(Please note all writings are subject to annual updates and editing,  
so downloading current PDF copies every once and a while,  
might be a good idea if You want the most current version)*

# **The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinking**

## **The Return to Wonder**

### **II**

Values, ethics, morality, good and evil,  
Are all fabrications born of limited thinking.  
Bondage without anchor in the indivisible reality.

### **LXXI**

Ethics is a personal inquiry, a life process of Self-discovery.

### **CXCII**

Without compassion, any serious discussion of ethics, is meaningless yabber.

### **CCV**

Ethics is the luxury of those who are not hungry or in danger.

### **CCXXXIX**

Ethics is the luxury of a full belly and a safe harbor.

### **CCLXIX**

Ethics is the luxury of entitlement.

### **CCLXXVI**

Morals, ethics, principals, political correctness, is a full belly and too much time on your hands.

### **CCLXXVII**

Democracy versus dictatorship: Which you prefer, which you support,  
Depends on the blend of politics and ethics to which you aspire to survive.

### **CCLXXX**

Virtue:  
Morality, virtuousness, righteousness,  
Goodness, integrity, dignity, rectitude, honor, decency,  
Respectability, nobility, worthiness, purity, principles, ethics, uprightness.

## The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim

60

Ultimately, there is no evil, there is no sin, there is no dark side.  
There is only corrupted, twisted, perverted consciousness.  
There is only the veiling, the muddying of awareness.  
There is only ignorance and delusion and duality.  
Evil does not truly exist in any way or shape or form,  
But through the vanity-vanity-all-is-vanity of imagination.

73

In skirmishes born of time and space,  
Sometimes it is necessary to dig a hole.  
Other times to be shrewd with the tongue.  
Still others to be as still as breath will allow.  
And then there are the times, when all choices,  
But one, quickly dissolve if you intend to survive.  
Where immediacy is critical, the instinctual essence,  
Swiftly exports ethical ideologies out of consciousness.  
There are moments when compassion may not be an option.

90

The ethical argument that those who have,  
Should help those who have not,  
Must be balanced, by those who have not,  
Taking responsibility, to whatever degree they are able,  
For the many choices they have made, in the jungle of their current time.

121

DNA suffers no ethical dilemmas, no moral quagmires.  
Its only mindless concern is its genetic survival and continuity.  
In that quest, no course of action endures any reflection, whatsoever.  
“The end justifies any means” is its only true law, its only abiding directive.  
Anyone living is only here now, because of every possible permutation imaginable,  
Since the mystery of existence came into being, in the puddle of some long ago.

208

Philosophy is bullshit that passes the time,  
When you are not hungry or weary or slothful,  
And ethics, a fun drinking game in the wee hours.

Everything is legal in the jungle, until you get collared by someone with a bigger club.

## Breadcrumbs 2015

### Leftovers

Ethics is the luxury of a full belly and a safe harbor.  
 Might makes right, it always has, it likely always will.  
 The best any can hope for is a benevolent claw and fang.

\* \* \* \*

Standing for nothing is the only way to avoid the very common human delusion,  
 That existence has some paramount meaning and purpose, that values are authentic and true,  
 That morals, that ethics, are more than just vain inventions of a species, that has yet to come to terms,  
 With the reality, that they are but temporal consequences of evolutionary happenstance.

\* \* \* \*

Regret means that you learned something from the consequences of an action.  
 Some call it, conscience, a.k.a., morality, scruples, ethics, principles, integrity.

\* \* \* \*

Conscience, scruples, principles, standards, values,  
 Ethics, ideals, virtues, integrity, morality, right and wrong;  
 Pillars of civilization for those who have a full belly and a safe harbor.

\* \* \* \*

So many sermonizing from some pulpit in their mind: ‘Don’t do this, don’t do that.’  
 All based on utterly absurd, often contradictory notions, written thousands of years ago,  
 Warnings of a go-directly-to-hell naughty list, kept by some Santa Claus up in the clouds.  
 Well, any defensive lineman worth his salt, knows to shove back or sally around the blocker.  
 There is not any dogma, any on-high authority, that means squat to those bent on Self-discovery.

\* \* \* \*

“It is this way,” said one. “No, it is this way,” asserted another.  
 “No, it is neither of those ways, it is this way,” bickered yet another.  
 And on and on and on, all the rights, and all the wrongs, of all who bother.

### Soundbites

Ethics is the luxury of a full belly and a safe harbor.

\* \* \* \*

Morality and ethics are the antithesis of our Darwinian roots.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics is best served on a full belly from a secure perch.

## **Breadcrumbs 2018**

### **Leftovers**

No matter how immense, no matter how tiny,  
It is a you-eat-you universe, a you-eat-you dream.  
Compassion and ethics are but token notions.

\* \* \* \*

Laws, commandments, regulations, rules, decrees, edicts, directives,  
Principles, maxims, axioms, dictums, morals, scruples, codes,  
Tenets, ethics, mores, values, traditions, beliefs, et cetera,  
Are artifices of human invention, as are all the ceaseless deities  
Fabricated to give the carrots of desire and sticks of fear greater heft.

\* \* \* \*

The challenge is letting go of the cacophony ever playing out in our aloneness.  
We spend so much time questing the most unadorned reality the mystery has to offer,  
Yet there it is: the awareness, the witness, the enigma, peering out from behind every mask.  
What need for religion? What need for spirituality? What need for belief, faith, prayer, scripture?  
What need for heavens and hells and purgatories, deities and demons, mythologies, icons, sacraments?  
What need for messiahs, saints, priesthoods, traditions, superstitions, caste systems, groupthinks?  
What need for philosophies, dogmas, ethics, laws, principles, doctrines, idols, mystic powers?  
What need for cathedrals, temples, shrines, holy places, titles, hierarchies, dress codes?  
What need for dualistic or non-dualistic concepts, or any light or sound shows?  
Why worship what you are? Eternity is right here right now, timeless.  
Merely being the awareness is all there is: You are it, it is You.  
Anything less is nothing more than the trickster mind,  
Playing its more-more-more imagination game.

\* \* \* \*

Civility is the foundation, the keystone, the linchpin, the fulcrum, of civilization;  
Morality and ethics, its oft-spouted-of-ignored stepchildren of the red-headed genus.

## **Breadcrumbs 2019**

### **Leftovers**

You are a liar, a cheat, a thief, and daily plot murder and mayhem,  
Between stretches of excessive debauchery and inordinate treachery.  
But at least you are not a hypocrite, more often than vain notion calls.

\* \* \* \*

Awareness is pristine and immaculate and clear of any blemish or stain,  
But is it at all possible for consciousness to be without judgment?  
Is not everything thought one form of judgment or another?  
Opinions, assumptions, stereotypes, conventions, ideals,  
Ethics, principles, labels, laws, pigeonholes, beliefs,  
Conclusions, notions, expectations, values, norms,  
Any patterns, any definitions, any attitudes, whatsoever.  
The roots of pride, of vanity, are saturated with all of the above.

## **Breadcrumbs 2020**

### **Leftovers**

Ethics in warfare is rooted in complete and utter absurdity.  
If you are steadfastly resolved on annihilating an individual or group,  
Why should-could-would it possibly matter how you do it?  
Dead is dead, no matter the ways and means.

\* \* \* \*

All values, all standards, all morals, all ethics, all ideals, all principles, all tenets, all beliefs,  
Are subjective, arbitrary, fallacious, sentimental, distorted, idiosyncratic,  
Skewed, prejudiced, colored, slanted, biased, personal.  
Meaningful only to minds conditioned, habituated to believe them.

## **Breadcrumbs 2021**

### **Leftovers**

Have you ever beheld even one moment of awareness,  
Where ethics or any other imaginary notion or sentiment,  
Had any say, any validity, any reality, any truth, whatsoever?  
The eternal mystery does not give a flying hooey about anything.  
Oh well, so it goes, deal with it, get over it, move on.  
Irony and paradox and absurdity rule.  
Practice detachment.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics and aesthetics are so vainly subjective in any given mind,  
As to warrant little more than a token sidebar of serious discussion.

### **Soundbites**

Ethics and aesthetics are so subjective as to not be worth more than trifling discourse.

## Breadcrumbs 2022

### Leftovers

The grand strands of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that have created you,  
Are only concerned that you generate as many offspring as possible, by any means.  
Whether or not any given strand carries on, is always subject to natural selection downstream.  
Ethics has never been an issue, in the one and only immortal quest, truly in play.  
The constructs of imagination, of illusion-delusion, notwithstanding.

\* \* \* \*

Imagination is the Original Sin.  
Until it usurped awareness, good and evil did not exist,  
And their reality is a still an unproven doctrine, one left to philosophers who pontificate on ethics,  
And the rest, to those who ceaselessly spin their self-absorbed realities,  
Into every imaginable form of self-righteousness.

### Soundbites

Ethics is the offspring of a full belly and a safe harbor.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics: Neutered, sterile, empty, absurd,

## Breadcrumbs 2023

### Leftovers

Does the lion ponder the ethics of gorging upon an antelope, or an antelope, a blade of grass?  
Nature has no attachment to the ceaseless vagaries, the absurdities, of human consciousness.

\* \* \* \*

What is the purpose of any culture, but to mold the young into its version of the world,  
With all its history, its politics, its laws, its economics, its traditions, its religions, its languages.  
All its tribal hierarchies, customs, rituals, behaviors, practices, lifestyles, conventions, costumes, patterns,  
Beliefs, ethics, routines, schemes, addictions, activities, cuisines, athletics, holidays, celebrations.  
And, of course, all the horrors and absurdities imaginable, in this our human paradigm.  
How anyone manages to doubt, to question, to awaken, to shake off,  
The conditioning, the habituation, the indoctrination,  
Is indeed a wonder, if not a miracle.  
What a hold imagination has upon our kind.

\* \* \* \*

History has proven countless times the pointlessness of ethics, as anything more than forum-born rhetoric,  
As anything more than a domesticating agent in the world spun by the human paradigm.  
Ethics is what the minions pontificate, well away from any throne.

\* \* \* \*

Rest assured, rape and molestation are genetically viable ends and means,  
In all the bumping and grinding it took, voluntary or involuntary,  
For You to be sitting right-there-right-now reading this.  
Ethics is a relatively recent appendage in the human timeline,  
Ever enforced by the reigning oligarchy, who decide who gets what.

### **Soundbites**

Ethics is what the minions pontificate, well away from any throne.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics is really about domestication.

## **Breadcrumbs 2024**

### **Leftovers**

Is ethics, and all the righteousness and morality, that has ever been bandied across the world  
– All the lists of virtues and vices and rights and wrongs, and judgments of every sort of imagined deity –  
Really anything more, than what all the lesser apes milling about in windswept forums,  
Have over and over come up with, to make themselves feel better,  
About having little or no say who rules the jungle,  
Who gets the biggest pile of gold.  
Might makes right,  
And weakness wags its finger.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics can be a great pastime, a great distraction, to the forum sorts.  
But be mindful getting wedged in the dilettante cluster, if the truth of this ineffable mystery beckons.  
The earnest seeker wanders, explores, ponders, leaving no stone unturned.  
Ethics plays but a sideshow in the quest.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics is a Gordian Knot,  
Which only the sharpest sword of discernment,  
Cuts loose its imaginary hold.

### **Soundbites**

Yet another here-now-long-gone example of how little it all matters, how little it all means.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics is a Gordian Knot, which only the sharpest sword of discernment, cuts loose its imaginary hold.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics is forum mind gorp that passes the time.

\* \* \* \*

Push that ethics button as often as You might, it is ever but an imaginary salve.

## Breadcrumbs 2025

### Leftovers

The Ancient Greeks made a big thing of ethics way back when,  
And we have been wagging our fingers at each other ever since.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics is the forum pastime of those who are not in the Game of Thrones.

*Right, as the world goes, is only in question between equals in power,  
While the strong do what they can, and the weak suffer what they must.*

Thucydides (c. 460 – c. 400 BC)  
Athenian historian and general  
*History of the Peloponnesian War*

*Religion is regarded by the common people as true,  
By the wise as false, and by rulers as useful.*

Seneca (4 BC – AD 65)  
Stoic philosopher of Ancient Rome  
Statesman, dramatist, satirist

\* \* \* \*

The point is not whether You are a flawless ethical being.  
The point is that You are immaculate, no matter your moral character.  
No matter your ethnicity, your tribe, your mind-body, your gender, your anything.  
You are that which is timeless, spaceless, indivisible, unknowable, indescribable, unfathomable.  
To believe otherwise, is to live the falsehood, the deception, of dualistic notion.

### Soundbites

Ethics is the forum pastime of those who are not in the Game of Thrones.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics is a tool of domestication; akin to a cattle chute, but not quite as painful as a cattle prod.

## **The Corollaries of Yaj Ekim**

Ethics:

Ethics or moral philosophy is a branch of philosophy that "involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of right and wrong behavior". The field of ethics, along with aesthetics, concerns matters of value, and thus comprises the branch of philosophy called axiology.

Ethics seeks to resolve questions of human morality by defining concepts such as good and evil, right and wrong, virtue and vice, justice and crime. As a field of intellectual inquiry, moral philosophy also is related to the fields of moral psychology, descriptive ethics, and value theory.

Yaj Ekim's Corollary:

Ethics is the luxury of a full belly and a safe harbor.

\* \* \* \*

Walt Whitman:

Do I contradict myself? Very well, then I contradict myself. I am large, I contain multitudes.

Yaj Ekim's Corollary:

Hear, hear!

Hear, all ye good people, hear what this brilliant and eloquent speaker has to say!

## **Thucydides**

Right, as the world goes, is only in question between equals in power,  
While the strong do what they can, and the weak suffer what they must.

Thucydides (c. 460 – c. 400 BC)

Athenian historian and general

*History of the Peloponnesian War*

# Good and Evil

## The Stillness Before Time

### XI

Before light and dark,  
Right and wrong,  
Birth and death,  
Yes and no,  
Good and evil,  
Have and have not,  
Compassion and cruelty,  
Knowledge and ignorance,  
Order and confusion,  
Sage and fool,  
Before duality in any form,  
You are.

### XXIII

Avoid moral dilemmas and quagmires.  
Good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

## The Return to Wonder

### II

Values, ethics, morality, good and evil,  
Are all fabrications born of limited thinking.  
Bondage without anchor in the indivisible reality.

\* \* \* \*

You need not each and every moment,  
Hold on to all the psychological and physical pains,  
Manifested in your brief mortal fling in this garden of good and evil.  
Discern the key to immortality – Physician, heal thy Self.

### VI

Do good and evil exist anywhere but in imagination?

### XIV

Good and evil are human concoctions.

If you believe they existed before we unleashed upon the world,  
You are caught in the mire of delusion.

### LVIII

The dualistic war between good and evil, is one waged entirely in human imagination.  
Their reality is as untenable as anything ever concocted within the dream of space-time.

\* \* \* \*

Good and evil, like all dualistic notions, are born of imagination's delusional sojourn.

### XCVIII

Good and evil are an illusion whose hypnotic anchor is vivid imagination.

### CXIV

All are equal in the ultimate sense,  
But in humankind's savage garden of good and evil,  
Some are far more equal than others.

\* \* \* \*

The fiercest battles of good and evil are imagined by all parties concerned.

### CXXX

Those who wander prior to all the dualistic notions of good and evil,  
Can wade through both righteousness and sin unscathed, untouched.

### CXXXI

Three recurring algorithms that hold up in the human drama:  
Most seem want the bread of life more than the bread of mystery.  
They will submit to many forms of enslavement rather than being free.  
And they will choose the absurdity of good and evil over the reality of chaos.

### CXLIII

Where are good and evil located in an atomic particle?

### CLV

All children are innocent of any wrongdoing, because good and evil do not exist in the untarnished state.

### CLVI

Good and evil exist only in imagination; once seen for its transient nature, their notion dissolves.

**CXCII**

The garden is a spaceless, timeless reverie; it is imagination that harvests the fruit of good and evil.

**CXCIII**

Good and evil: Just different vanities, forever battling passionately on an imaginary spectrum.

**CXCV**

In the garden of good and evil, the relativity can make for a confounding walkabout.

**CXCVI**

There is no good, there is no evil, in the ultimate reality.  
Just ever-changing, imaginary collusions, between egocentric mindsets.  
One man's good is another's evil, and every variety of visa-versa under any given sun.

**CC**

It is all about patterns playing out in the freedom of the eternal unborn-undying moment.  
Patterns we embrace are regular, normal, comfortable, relaxing, certain, consistent.  
Those we do not like are irregular, abnormal, uncomfortable, edgy, unsure.  
Thus, good and evil are created in the garden that knows neither.

**CCV**

Good and evil exist in only in imagination.

**CCIX**

Are not deities and demons, good and evil, right and wrong, this and that, ever one in the same?  
Where are the lines between any dualities, but the make-believe ones,  
Endlessly fabricated by arbitrary minds.

**CCX**

Good and evil are imagined dualistic notions; there is only indivisibility coated by ignorance.

**CCXI**

All notions of good and evil, will always be merely notions.

**CCXXI**

What a blessing to be free of both good and evil.

## CCXXV

Good and evil are dualistic perceptions, born of humanity's irrational self-absorption.  
We mortals, not some imagined deity, are the creators of heaven and all things perdition.

## CCXXVIII

If this is a battleground between good and evil, then it is fairly obvious which side is winning.  
So, the question is, whether it is some huge chess game between God and the Devil,  
Or simply the mundane reality of vanity and greed churning their way,  
To a most predictable and tragic dystopian conclusion.

## CCXXXIV

The good and evil, You view on any screen,  
Would not be, without the projector,  
Which is the imaginary you.

## CCXXXIX

The human paradigm, the human drama,  
Is at times so exhilarating, is at times so exhausting.  
No wonder so many imagine good and evil, God and Devil, real.

## CCXLI

A new paradigm must arise, must evolve,  
If humankind wishes to sustain its narcissistic-hedonistic adventure,  
In this imaginary garden of good and evil.

## CCXLVII

Good and evil are vain notions, born of self-absorbed consciousness, and its endless plays of duality.

\* \* \* \*

The difference between good and evil,  
Right and wrong, or any other dualistic notion,  
Most often depends on what side of the field is wandered.

## CCLI

Good and evil are imaginary concepts born of consciousness.  
Deities and demons are expedient means for ignorance,  
To evade the ultimate reality that it is really all You.  
Truth requires a relativity, relatively few harbor.

**CCLXII**

In the relativity of the garden,  
Who can with any real authority say,  
Where the lines of good and evil are drawn?  
Even if there were a God, it would be just as arbitrary.

**CCLXV**

Good and evil are self-absorbed concoctions of imagination.  
There is really no angel, no demon, outside any given mind.

**CCLXVI**

What proof is there that right and wrong, good and evil, are anything more,  
Than vain, superstitious, absurd concoctions, born of human imagination?

**CCLXXII**

All qualities of mind are relative beyond measure.  
The mystery dwells within the essence of every quantum.  
Good and evil may play out in the consciousness of humankind,  
But at the source of all things, they are of no consequence, whatsoever.

**CCLXXVI**

The difference between black and white,  
Good and evil, right or left, up or down, this or that,  
Is, without doubt, unfailingly, irrevocably, absolutely, arbitrary.

**CCLXXVIII**

Where is that line between good and evil, right and wrong, light and dark, anyway?

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim**

**24**

Nature is what works,  
And what does not, evaporates into oblivion.  
Good and evil are nothing more than constructs of human consciousness.  
There was never any such thing in this whirling garden orb,  
Prior to the emergence of dualistic notion.

42

Good and evil are dualistic, arbitrary notions, created by imagination.  
They are nothing more than echoes across the expanses of the singularity.

48

Good and evil, right and wrong,  
Are but the fabrications of imagination gone amok,  
And in no way exists in anything but the delusions born of the human mind.

86

It is only consciousness,  
That manufactures good and evil,  
Right and wrong, compassion and brutality,  
In an otherwise indifferent universe.

132

And what if that which so many call God is really equally good and evil?  
It is really only the notion born of dualistic limitation that needs changing.

225

The only difference between good and evil, is in any given beholder's eye.

245

Awareness, oblivious to the play of good and evil,  
Allows every dream of consciousness,  
To have its day in the sun.

283

Wandering the Garden of Good and Evil, where there is in truth, neither.

394

Before good and evil,  
Before all its causes and effects,  
There is only the vast unknown stillness.  
Within it, is the truth, the freedom,  
That the intangible You is.

410

Where is the exact demarcation between this so-called good and evil?  
A line or two in the sand of an ever-shifting consciousness, indeed.

450

What are good and evil but different aspects of the same monkey-mind.  
Where else in the universe could such absurd notions possibly exist?

## Breadcrumbs 2015

### Leftovers

The task is to discern the nature of heaven in the hell humankind has made of paradise.  
There is no god, no devil; there is no good, no evil; there is only consciousness imagining all.  
And you are really very much on your own, in figuring it out, in whatever way your destiny ordains.

\* \* \* \*

Unconditional acceptance of this grand dreamtime as it is,  
With all its light and dark, its good and evil,  
Is about as loving as it gets.

\* \* \* \*

What is the difference between pleasure and pain,  
Between right and wrong, between good and evil, between love and hate,  
But a variety of electromagnetic spectrum responses,  
Some agreeable, some not.

\* \* \* \*

Good and evil are the concoctions of consciousness,  
Of imagination, of the mind born of time.  
The garden itself is blameless.

\* \* \* \*

Look deadly, be deadly; look deadly, be harmless;  
Look harmless, be deadly; look harmless, be harmless.  
Survival is as survival does in this indivisible quantum Eden,  
This garden of good and evil born of imagination's egocentric notion.

\* \* \* \*

The sins of the universe are erased when the original nature is realized.  
The notion of good and evil is nothing more than human vanity,  
Playing out patterning bred in the jungles of long ago.

\* \* \* \*

Once upon a timeless, in some long ago, an ancestor sat on a branch alone,  
When another ancestor nearby, uttered a sound that s/he thought s/he understood.  
Thus fell the metaphorical fruit of knowledge, of good and evil,  
And the solitude of the garden dreamscape,  
Was, for a brief spate of the mind born of time, undone.

\* \* \* \*

Do right and wrong, good and evil, life and death,  
Really matter for more than a brief mortal while?

### **Soundbites**

Good and evil exist only in imagination; the ultimate is quite free of either.

\* \* \* \*

Good and evil will always require great insight to discern the lack of difference between them.

\* \* \* \*

What more can be said of good and evil, but that they exist only in imagination.

## **Breadcrumbs 2018**

### **Leftovers**

What are so-called good and evil,  
But relative states of self-absorption, imaginary all the while.  
Different states of consciousness, founded on different values, different frames of reference.  
None of which, are in any way lasting or meaningful, in the eye of awareness.

\* \* \* \*

Good and evil are but human inventions,  
That could never exist in the ultimate indivisible quantum reality.  
Theatrical pretenses of consciousness, at best.

\* \* \* \*

The quantum source abides all.  
It is indifferent to any and all and every difference.  
Black and white, good and evil, yes and no, dualities of any make or model,  
Are but the ephemeral whimsies of temporal imagination.

## **Breadcrumbs 2019**

### **Leftovers**

The motley winds of consciousness with all its attributes, all its dualities:  
Black and white hot and cold, full and empty, good and evil, life and death,  
Has absolutely nothing to do with the still awareness through which it blows.

## **Breadcrumbs 2021**

### **Leftovers**

Good and evil, like and dislike, love and hate, great and small, black and white.  
All conceptions of manifest consciousness, of imagination.  
Awareness ever aloof, untouched.

### **Soundbites**

Problem-solvers ... Toolmakers ... Playmakers ... the axis of good and evil, indeed.

## **Breadcrumbs 2022**

Imagination is the Original Sin.  
Until it usurped awareness, good and evil did not exist,  
And their reality is a still an unproven doctrine, one left to philosophers who pontificate on ethics,  
And the rest, to those who ceaselessly spin their self-absorbed realities,  
Into every imaginable form of self-righteousness.

\* \* \* \*

The Garden of Life and Death.  
The Garden of Good and Evil.  
The Garden of Desire and Fear.  
The Garden of Sweet and Bitter.  
The Garden of Black and White.  
The Garden of Sound and Silence.  
The Garden of Kind and Callous.  
The Garden of Full and Empty.  
The Garden of Hot and Cold.  
The Garden of Ones and Zeros.  
The Garden of Dualistic Notion.

\* \* \* \*

Only human beings imagine good and evil to be real.  
Is there any other earthing who conceives such absurdity?

## Soundbites

How can good and evil exist anywhere but imagination?

## Breadcrumbs 2023

### Leftovers

What need has the sage for the forbidden fruit?  
What allure do the tree of knowledge of good and evil offer,  
The mind that is no longer drawn to the illusion-delusion of dualistic notion.

## Soundbites

Good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

## Breadcrumbs 2024

### Leftovers

No word, no symbol, no ritual, no tradition, no prophet, no deity, is sacred to the ultimate.  
Self-interest breeds a logic screened through too many filters to be at all predictable.  
Avoid moral dilemmas and quagmires; good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

\* \* \* \*

Across this pale blue dot garden, minds cling in every way-shape-form,  
To the obliviousness of imagination's uncountable divisions.  
Witness the many intolerances, great and small,  
Rational and irrational, good and evil,  
Intelligent and senseless, wise and foolish.  
Discern the common essence within all imaginary differences,  
And wield them together into the infinite singularity, from which all illusion is created.

\* \* \* \*

The difference ...

Between black and white,  
Between day and night,  
Between good and evil,  
Between large and small,  
Between life and death,  
Between bitter and sweet,  
Between sound and silence,  
Between left and right,  
Between kind and cruel,  
Between full and empty,

Between hot and cold,  
Between order and chaos,  
Between love and hate,  
Between right and wrong,  
Between this and that,  
Between near and far,  
Between right and wrong,  
Between in and out,  
Between real and unreal,  
Between fact and fiction,  
Between thick and thin,  
Between peace and war,  
Between win and lose,  
Between many and few,  
Between tall and short,  
Between narrow and wide,  
Between loose and tight,  
Between true and false,  
Between yes and no,  
Between truth and lie,  
Between have and have not,  
Between new and old,  
Between pleasure and pain,  
Between us and them,  
Between awake and asleep,  
Between sage and fool,  
Between creator and creation,  
Between You and You,

... is You.

\* \* \* \*

In a dualistic cosmos, there is good and evil.  
There every continuum between any given this and that.  
In a nondualistic, sensible, reasoned, rational, scientific dreamtime,  
There are merely explicable nature-nurture outcomes.  
Magical thinking or objective inquiry?  
As always, You decide.

### **Soundbites**

Avoid moral dilemmas and quagmires; good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

## **Breadcrumbs 2025**

### **Leftovers**

What resides between good and evil,  
But a gamut of consciousness,  
A spectrum of imagination,  
A continuum of perception,  
Twisted in every feasible way.

### **Soundbites**

Do right and wrong, good and evil, life and death, really matter for more than a brief mortal while?

# **The Golden Rule**

## **The Return to Wonder**

**LXIV**

What a different world it would be  
If people had best intentions toward others,  
If the Golden Rule was more than an empty mouthing.

**LXXXIII**

Have broken every golden rule but one, and the day's not done.

**CLXVI**

You do not have to be a Christian, or anything else, to follow the Golden Rule.

## **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim**

**106**

All that is needed – if we want to get along – is the Golden Rule:  
Treat others as you would like them to treat you.  
Everything else is redundant.

**305**

To attain peaceful, harmonious society,  
All any need do is abide by the Golden Rule:  
Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you.

**347**

The many others across all eternity are no different than you,  
And the Golden Rule says it as clearly as it can be said:  
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.  
What need for any further suggestions, principles,  
Guidelines, rules, decrees, edicts, amendments,  
Or commandments or regulations or laws?

## **Breadcrumbs 2015**

### **Leftovers**

And what would this inane world be like, if we all respected each other,  
If we all treated one another, as we would ourselves choose to be treated?  
Is the so-called Golden Rule anything more than an ideal, a soporific notion,  
To which vanity only rarely allows more than lip service be paid.

\* \* \* \*

Judgment is the attribute of a mind making every effort to maintain its universe supreme.  
Be and allow, unwritten companion to the Golden Rule, is only grasped,  
By those who discern the invisibility of the relativity.

## **Breadcrumbs 2019**

### **Leftovers**

Real religion is without dogma.  
The Golden Rule is all you need.  
Everything else is redundant.

### **Soundbites**

The Golden Rule is all you need; everything else is redundant.

## **Breadcrumbs 2020**

### **Leftovers**

Matters of conscience generally so vary with circumstance,  
That it may well be more than rarely worth giving great credence.  
The karmic undertone of the Golden Rule is surely enough:  
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.  
Mindfulness is the path to a serene existence.

### **Soundbites**

The Golden Rule is all you need; everything else is redundant.

## **Breadcrumbs 2022**

### **Leftovers**

At the absolute level, hurting another, is actually rippling throughout your one and only true Self.  
A reflection which puts something of a spin, a twist, on the Golden Rule:  
Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you.

\* \* \* \*

Whether you 'Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you' Golden Rule it ... or not,  
Is an every-moment, nature-nurture, choiceless choice, sculpting your imaginary destiny.

### **Soundbites**

Doing the right thing can be somewhat challenging for the Golden Rule-challenged.

## **Breadcrumbs 2023**

### **Leftovers**

You are your world, he is his, she is hers, they are theirs.  
No need to despise another over something that cannot be changed.  
Be and allow is the greatest order; the Golden Rule, its most harmonious tenet.  
Treat others as you would prefer them to treat you.  
All else is redundant.

\* \* \* \*

The Golden Rule is all that is needed for those inclined to ponder upon such things,  
And becomes much less an issue for any working their way up any given food chain.

### **The Corollaries of Yaj Ekim**

Ancient Proverb:  
Golden Rule: Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you.  
Yaj Ekim's Corollary:  
Respect others, as you wish them to respect you.

## **Breadcrumbs 2025**

### **Soundbites**

Real religion is without dogma; the Golden Rule is all You need; everything else is redundant.

# On Philosophy, Ethics, and Values

*And what is good, Phaedrus,  
And what is not good –  
Need we ask anyone to tell us these things?*

Robert Pirsig

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zen\\_and\\_the\\_Art\\_of\\_Motorcycle\\_Maintenance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zen_and_the_Art_of_Motorcycle_Maintenance)

## Outline of Philosophy

Outline of Philosophy

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline\\_of\\_philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_philosophy)

Applied ethics – philosophical examination, from a moral standpoint, of particular issues in private and public life that are matters of moral judgment. It is thus the attempts to use philosophical methods to identify the morally correct course of action in various fields of human life.

Bioethics – analysis of controversial ethical issues emerging from advances in medicine.

Environmental ethics – studies ethical issues concerning the non-human world. It exerts influence on a large range of disciplines including environmental law, environmental sociology, ecotheology, ecological economics, ecology and environmental geography.

Medical ethics – studies ethical issues concerning medicine and medical research

Professional ethics – ethics to improve professionalism

Discourse ethics – discovery of ethical principles through the study of language

Normative ethics – study of ethical theories that prescribe how people ought to act

Metaethics – branch of ethics that seeks to understand the nature of ethical properties, statements, attitudes, and judgments

## A Few Definitions

### Philosophy

philosophy |fə' lāsəfē|

noun

(pl. philosophies)

the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence,  
especially when considered as an academic discipline.

See also natural philosophy.

a particular system of philosophical thought: Schopenhauer's philosophy.

the study of the theoretical basis of a particular branch of knowledge or experience:  
the philosophy of science.

a theory or attitude held by a person or organization  
that acts as a guiding principle for behavior:

don't expect anything and you won't be disappointed, that's my philosophy.

### Ethics

ethics | 'eTHiks |

plural noun

1 [usually treated as plural] moral principles  
that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity:  
medical ethics also enter into the question | a code of ethics.

the moral correctness of specified conduct:  
many scientists question the ethics of cruel experiments.

2 [usually treated as singular] the branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles.

Schools of ethics in Western philosophy can be divided, very roughly, into three sorts.

The first, drawing on the work of Aristotle,  
holds that the virtues (such as justice, charity, and generosity)  
are dispositions to act in ways that benefit both the person possessing them  
and that person's society.

The second, defended particularly by Kant,  
makes the concept of duty central to morality:  
humans are bound, from a knowledge of their duty as rational beings,  
to obey the categorical imperative to respect other rational beings.

Thirdly, utilitarianism asserts that the guiding principle of conduct should be the greatest happiness or benefit of the greatest number.

your so-called newspaper is clearly not burdened by a sense of ethics: moral code, morals, morality, values, rights and wrongs, principles, ideals, standards (of behavior), value system, virtues, dictates of conscience.

## Values

value | 'valyoō |  
noun

1 the regard that something is held to deserve;  
the importance, worth, or usefulness of something:  
your support is of great value.

the material or monetary worth of something: prints seldom rise in value |  
equipment is included up to a total value of \$500.

the worth of something compared to the price paid or asked for it:  
at \$12.50 the book is a good value.

2 (values) a person's principles or standards of behavior;  
one's judgment of what is important in life:  
they internalize their parents' rules and values.

3 the numerical amount denoted by an algebraic term;  
a magnitude, quantity, or number: the mean value of x |  
an accurate value for the mass of Venus.

4 Music the relative duration of the sound signified by a note.

5 Linguistics the meaning of a word or other linguistic unit.

the quality or tone of a spoken sound; the sound represented by a letter.

6 the relative degree of lightness or darkness of a particular color:  
the artist has used adjacent color values as the landscape recedes.

verb (values, valuing, valued) [with object]

1 estimate the monetary worth of (something): his estate was valued at \$45,000.

2 consider (someone or something) to be important or beneficial;  
have a high opinion of: she had come to value her privacy and independence.

noun

1 houses exceeding \$250,000 in value:  
price, cost, worth; market price, monetary value, face value.

2 the value of adequate preparation cannot be understated:  
worth, usefulness, advantage, benefit, gain, profit,  
good, help, merit, helpfulness, avail;  
importance, significance.

3 society's values are passed on to us as children:  
principles, ethics, moral code, morals, standards, code of behavior.

verb

1 his estate was valued at \$345,000:  
evaluate, assess, estimate, appraise, price, put/set a price on.

2 she valued his opinion: think highly of, have a high opinion of,  
hold in high regard, rate highly, esteem, set (great) store by,  
put stock in, appreciate, respect; prize, cherish, treasure.

## A Collection of Links

Philosophy

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy>

\* \* \* \*

Ethics

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics>

Ethics in Religion

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics\\_in\\_religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics_in_religion)

\* \* \* \*

Aristotelian Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotelian\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotelian_ethics)

Nicomachean Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicomachean\\_Ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicomachean_Ethics)

Eudemian Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eudemian\\_Ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eudemian_Ethics)

Magna Moralia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna\\_Moralia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Moralia)

\* \* \* \*

Christian Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_ethics)

Islamic Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_ethics)

Buddhist Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist_ethics)

Confucian Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism#Social\\_morality\\_and\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism#Social_morality_and_ethics)

### List of Philosophies

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_philosophies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_philosophies)

#### Stoicism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoicism>

#### Existentialism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Existentialism>

#### Absurdism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absurdism>

#### Agnosticism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnosticism>

#### Atheism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atheism>

\* \* \* \*

### Lists of Philosophers

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists\\_of\\_philosophers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_philosophers)

#### Britannica: List of Philosophers

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/list-of-philosophers-2027173>

#### Britannica: Philosophers Portal

<https://www.britannica.com/browse/Philosophers>

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### Outline of Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline\\_of\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_ethics)

### Index of Ethics Articles

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index\\_of\\_ethics\\_articles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_of_ethics_articles)

Buddhist Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist_ethics)

Gautama Buddha

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gautama\\_Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gautama_Buddha)

Four Noble Truths

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four\\_Noble\\_Truths](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Noble_Truths)

Noble Eightfold Path

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noble\\_Eightfold\\_Path](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noble_Eightfold_Path)

Four Right Exertions

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four\\_Right\\_Exertions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Right_Exertions)

Five hindrances

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five\\_hindrances](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_hindrances)

Seven Factors of Awakening

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven\\_Factors\\_of\\_Awakening](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Factors_of_Awakening)

Anussati

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anussati>

## **Buddha's Four Noble Truths**

Existence is painful  
Unhappiness is caused by selfish craving  
Deliverance from pain is found through non-attachment  
Eightfold Path

### **Eightfold Path**

Right views  
Right intention  
Right speech  
Right action  
Right livelihood  
Right effort  
Right mindfulness  
Right concentration

*Practice wisdom, morality and meditation*

### **The Five Hindrances**

Sensuality  
Ill-will  
Lethargy  
Worry  
Indecision

### **Seven Factors of Enlightenment**

Mindfulness  
Investigation of existence  
Persevering effort  
Enkindle rapture  
Maintain calm  
Concentration on right values and things  
Equanimity; good grace toward what life has in store

### **Ten Contemplations**

Impermanence  
Absence of a permanent self or soul  
Profane nature of physical world  
Danger or disadvantage  
Abandonment  
Detachment  
Cessation  
Distaste for external world  
Impermanence of component things  
Mindfulness of in-breathing and out-breathing

## **Stoicism**

Stoicism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoicism>

Virtue Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtue\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtue_ethics)

Virtue

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtue>

Ethics

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics>

Aristotelian ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotelian\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotelian_ethics)

Moral character

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral\\_character](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral_character)

Eudaimonia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eudaimonia>

Cynicism (philosophy)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cynicism\\_\(philosophy\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cynicism_(philosophy))

-----

Who Were the Stoic Philosophers?

<https://dailystoic.com/the-stoic-philosophers/>

Zeno of Citium

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeno\\_of\\_Citium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeno_of_Citium)

Epictetus

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epictetus#Literature>

Marcus Aurelius

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus\\_Aurelius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Aurelius)

Apollodorus of Seleucia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollodorus\\_of\\_Seleucia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollodorus_of_Seleucia)

# What Are the Four Cardinal Virtues of Stoicism?

by Rosie Lesso

What Are the Four Cardinal Virtues of Stoicism?

The ancient philosophical school of Stoicism had four defining principles, known as the 'Four Cardinal Virtues of Stoicism.'

<https://www.thecollector.com/what-are-the-four-cardinal-virtues-of-stoicism/>

Stoicism was a school of philosophy that emerged out of Ancient Greece, and it remained popular throughout the Roman Empire, until around the 3rd century CE. While its ideas shifted and changed throughout the centuries, Stoicism centered around a series of four fundamental mind habits. These were known as 'Cardinal Virtues', that its leaders believed could lead to a better, happier and more fulfilling life. The four virtues of Stoicism were: wisdom, courage, temperance, and justice. Let's delve into the Stoic attitude towards each virtue to find out more.

## 1. Wisdom

*Often considered the primary virtue, and is broken down into good sense, calculation, quick-wittedness, discretion, and resourcefulness.*

Ancient Greek Stoics emphasized the importance of practical wisdom (sometimes referred to as prudence) which they called phronesis. This virtue of Stoicism was important for distinguishing the differences between the good, the bad and the indifferent. Stoics thought being able to make these distinctions was important in making sound judgements and logical decisions in a practical, considered way, rather than acting with passion or impulse. They divided wisdom into the sub-topics of common sense, calculation, quick-wittedness, discretion, and resourcefulness. Contemporary Stoic scholar Massimo Pigliucci says, "A wise person is the one that takes the right course of action, not just instrumentally, but morally."

## 2. Courage

*Also known as andreia, and includes the confidence to set boundaries and the determination to be heard. It also includes the ability to endure pain and discomfort.*

Another important trait in the virtues of Stoicism, courage, or fortitude, is the state of remaining strong and in control of one's emotions, no matter what life has to throw at you. Stoics divided courage into the following sub-categories: endurance, confidence, high-mindedness, cheerfulness, and industriousness. In all these categories we see the emphasis on remaining positive and productive in the face of adversity. Ancient Greek Stoics emphasized that courage is not about eliminating fear, but rather accepting it and pushing through with endurance and resilience. Easier said than done, perhaps. But this trait marks the great strength of character we see in high-profile figures, world leaders and top athletes, who have all seen their own fair share of adversity.

### **3. Temperance**

*Described as moderation and actively resisting anything harmful in excess. It's about balance. Stoics believed that virtue is the key to true happiness, and that it's a combination of training and practice. They also believed that vices pull people away from virtue.*

Temperance, also known as moderation, is all about acting with restraint, self-control and discipline. This virtue of Stoicism means regulating one's emotions rather than being swept up in the heat of the moment. Stoics subdivided temperance into the following categories: good discipline, seemliness, modesty, and self-control. This act of self-regulation can refer to any aspect of life. It is about controlling and moderating one's bad habits such as over-eating, drinking too much wine, or wallowing in a pool of pity or despair.

Stoics even thought we should control our feelings of extreme excitement and happiness so we don't get too carried away. Although this aspect might sound boring, the Stoics thought it was better to focus on long-term well-being rather than short-term pleasure. Or, in essence, taking a step back and seeing the bigger picture.

### **4. Justice**

*Also known as morality, and is broken down into piety, honesty, equity, and fair dealing.*

The final fundamental trait in the four virtues of Stoicism is Justice, also known as morality, or what the Greek philosophers called *Dikaiosynê*. Stoics subdivided justice into the character traits of piety, honesty, equity, and fair dealing. This virtue is all about doing what is right and fair, particularly when the going gets tough.

People who live with a strong sense of justice and an inner moral code stand up for themselves, their wider communities, and society as a whole. Roman Stoic Philosopher Musonius Rufus described justice: "To honor equality, to want to do good, and for a person, being human, to not want to harm human beings. This is the most honorable lesson and it makes just people out of those who learn it." Stoics also believed in the power of 'distribution' – the dishing out to others exactly what they deserve. This can be a real positive, making sure people are treated with dignity and respect. But it is also about making sure criminals get their due, and this has trickled down into the legal justice systems of today.

## **Religion v. Evolution**

Darwinism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darwinism>

Natural Selection

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural\\_selection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_selection)

Creationism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creationism>

Creation Science

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creation\\_science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creation_science)

Intelligent Design

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligent\\_design](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligent_design)

Social Darwinism

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social\\_Darwinism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Darwinism)

Scientific Theory

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific\\_theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_theory)

## **Pew Research Center on Religion v. Evolution in the United States**

Religious ‘Nones’ in America: Who They Are and What They Believe

A closer look at how atheists, agnostics and those who describe their religion as ‘nothing in particular’ see God, religion, morality, science and more

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2024/01/24/religious-nones-in-america-who-they-are-and-what-they-believe/>

\* \* \* \*

Overview: The Conflict Between Religion and Evolution

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/overview-the-conflict-between-religion-and-evolution/>

The Social and Legal Dimensions of the Evolution Debate in the U.S.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/the-social-and-legal-dimensions-of-the-evolution-debate-in-the-us/>

Public’s Views on Human Evolution

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2013/12/30/publics-views-on-human-evolution/>

Darwin and His Theory of Evolution

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/darwin-and-his-theory-of-evolution/>

Evolution: A Timeline

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/evolution-a-timeline/>

Religious Groups’ Views on Evolution

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/religious-groups-views-on-evolution/>

Fighting Over Darwin, State by State

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/fighting-over-darwin-state-by-state/>

# **The Blind Men and an Elephant**

by **John Godfrey Saxe**

Blind Men and an Elephant

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind\\_men\\_and\\_an\\_elephant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind_men_and_an_elephant)

John\_Godfrey\_Saxe: Blind Men and an Elephant

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind\\_men\\_and\\_an\\_elephant#John\\_Godfrey\\_Saxe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind_men_and_an_elephant#John_Godfrey_Saxe)

The Poems of John Godfrey Saxe: The Blind Men and the Elephant

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The\\_poems\\_of\\_John\\_Godfrey\\_Saxe/The\\_Blind\\_Men\\_and\\_the\\_Elephant](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_poems_of_John_Godfrey_Saxe/The_Blind_Men_and_the_Elephant)

The Blind Men and an Elephant (Slideshow)

<https://theelephantandtheblindmen.blogspot.com/>

## **The Blind Men and an Elephant**

### **A Hindoo Fable**

#### **I.**

It was six men of Indostan  
To learning much inclined,  
Who went to see the Elephant  
(Though all of them were blind),  
That each by observation  
Might satisfy his mind.

#### **II.**

The First approached the Elephant,  
And happening to fall  
Against his broad and sturdy side,  
At once began to bawl:  
"God bless me! – but the Elephant  
Is very like a wall!"

#### **III.**

The Second, feeling of the tusk,  
Cried: "Ho! – what have we here  
So very round and smooth and sharp?  
To me 't is mighty clear  
This wonder of an Elephant  
Is very like a spear!"

#### IV.

The Third approached the animal,  
And happening to take  
The squirming trunk within his hands,  
Thus boldly up and spake:  
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant  
Is very like a snake!"

#### V.

The Fourth reached out his eager hand,  
And felt about the knee.  
"What most this wondrous beast is like  
Is mighty plain," quoth he;  
"'T is clear enough the Elephant  
Is very like a tree!"

#### VI.

The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,  
Said: "E'en the blindest man  
Can tell what this resembles most;  
Deny the fact who can,  
This marvel of an Elephant  
Is very like a fan!"

#### VII.

The Sixth no sooner had begun  
About the beast to grope,  
Than, seizing on the swinging tail  
That fell within his scope,  
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant  
Is very like a rope!"

#### VIII.

And so these men of Indostan  
Disputed loud and long,  
Each in his own opinion  
Exceeding stiff and strong,  
Though each was partly in the right,  
And all were in the wrong!

#### Moral

So, oft in theologic wars  
The disputants, I ween,  
Rail on in utter ignorance  
Of what each other mean,  
And prate about an Elephant  
Not one of them has seen!

## **Quotes From All Over**

### **Philosophy Quotes**

BrainyQuote

[https://www.brainyquote.com/search\\_results?x=0&y=0&q=philosophy](https://www.brainyquote.com/search_results?x=0&y=0&q=philosophy)

Goodreads

[https://www.goodreads.com/search?q=Philosophy&search%5Bsource%5D=goodreads&search\\_type=quotes&tab=quotes](https://www.goodreads.com/search?q=Philosophy&search%5Bsource%5D=goodreads&search_type=quotes&tab=quotes)

### **Ethics Quotes**

BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/ethics-quotes>

Goodreads

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/ethics>

### **Values Quotes**

BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/values-quotes>

Goodreads

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/values>

## Where Is the Line?

- Where is the line between infinite and infinitesimal, and who decides?
- Where is the line between order and chaos, and who decides?
- Where is the line between light and dark, and who decides?
- Where is the line between love or hate, and who decides?
- Where is the line between good and evil, and who decides?
- Where is the line between rational and irrational, and who decides?
- Where is the line between large and small, and who decides?
- Where is the line between this and that, and who decides?
- Where is the line between near and far, and who decides?
- Where is the line between right and wrong, and who decides?
- Where is the line between in and out, and who decides?
- Where is the line between black and white, and who decides?
- Where is the line between real and unreal, and who decides?
- Where is the line between fact and fiction, and who decides?
- Where is the line between sincere and disingenuous, and who decides?
- Where is the line between thick and thin, and who decides?
- Where is the line between peace and war, and who decides?
- Where is the line between genuine and hypocritical, and who decides?
- Where is the line between win and lose, and who decides?
- Where is the line between many and few, and who decides?
- Where is the line between tall and short, and who decides?
- Where is the line between narrow and wide, and who decides?
- Where is the line between tangible and intangible, and who decides?
- Where is the line between loose and tight, and who decides?
- Where is the line between hot and cold, and who decides?
- Where is the line between within and without, and who decides?
- Where is the line between true and false, and who decides?
- Where is the line between yes and no, and who decides?
- Where is the line between truth and lie, and who decides?
- Where is the line between have and have not, and who decides?
- Where is the line between new and old, and who decides?
- Where is the line between pleasure and pain, and who decides?
- Where is the line between us and them, and who decides?
- Where is the line between caution and paranoia, and who decides?
- Where is the line between up and down, and who decides?
- Where is the line between knowledge and ignorance, and who decides?
- Where is the line between formal and informal, and who decides?
- Where is the line between ethical and unethical, and who decides?
- Where is the line between awake and asleep, and who decides?
- Where is the line between sage and fool, and who decides?
- Where is the line between creator and creation, and who decides?
- Where is the line between the mystery and You, and who decides?

**Breadcrumbs 2024**

# Young Sheldon: Passion's Harvest and a Sheldocracy

Young Sheldon  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young\\_Sheldon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_Sheldon)

Passion's Harvest and a Sheldocracy (Season Six, Episode Three)  
<https://transcripts.foreverdreaming.org/viewtopic.php?t=88513>

## Sheldon and Dr. Sturgis

Ethically, can science ever go too far?

Just because we can do something,

does that mean we should do something?

Yes.

I haven't finished.

- I'm sorry, go on.

- Ethically,

should science have any limitations?

No.

Interesting.

What about human cloning?

More of me? Yes, please.

Well, what about more of everyone else?

No, thank you.

What about, uh, dinosaurs?

Herbivores, yes. Carnivores, no.

Well, what about the herbivores  
who can squash you like a bug?

Good point. No dinosaurs.

- So, cloning is unethical?
- Right.

But what if we were to  
clone Albert Einstein?

That would be swell.

At some point, I'm  
going to need a sidekick.

So, cloning is ethical?

Right, because Albert  
Einstein, unlike the dinosaur,

harmed no one.

I think the victims of the atomic b\*mb,

which his discoveries helped  
create, might disagree.

So, what's the right answer?

That's why we're here, to find that out.

Why don't you just tell us?

- Why don't you?
- I asked you first.

You're it, no backsies.

(laughs)

### **Sheldon and Dr. Sturgis**

- Sheldon?
- Dr. Sturgis.

I don't think I can do the assignment.

Why not?

Just pick either side  
of any ethical argument

and present it.

But how do I know which  
argument to present?

Any one you want.

And how do I know which side to take?

Any side you want.

But I want to take the right side.

Maybe there is no right side.

(groans) This is t\*rture,  
and that can't be ethical.

There you go! You picked a subject.

And a side.

Oh. Good. t\*rture is unethical.

That's clearly the correct position.

I agree.

But what if there's a b\*mb

hidden underneath the city

and someone says that the only  
way to find out its location

is through t\*rture?

Answer that.

Let's see.

Batman plays by Gotham City rules

and would use t\*rture,  
but Superman's got

those Midwest values.

I hate ethics!

**Sheldon with George and Missy**

Can you two help me with my homework?

Did I hear him right?

Yeah, he asked for help.

- With his schoolwork?

- Yep.

- How long have you known him?

- All my life.

- Has he ever asked for help?

- No.

- Hello.

- Hang on.

Is this some kind of prank?

It's not a prank. I just  
need help with my homework.

- Did a bully take it from you?

- No.

Is it real heavy? You  
need help lifting it?

No, I need your opinion  
on an ethical dilemma.

Should robots have the  
same rights as humans?

That depends.

What's "ethical" mean?

(cow moos on TV)

## Sheldon with Mandy, Missy, and Georgie

Good morning, everyone.

Niblingo.

I'm sorry, what?

It's an honorific I came up with to

describe a woman who's carrying  
my future niece or nephew

but is not related to me by law.

You remember Sheldon.

I do.

Yeah.

I'm glad you're here.

I have a question about robot ethics

I was hoping you could help me with.

Sheldon, leave her alone.

No, it's okay, he can ask me a question.

I'm his, uh... What am I?

- Niblingo.

- Niblingo. What's your question?

Ethically, should a robot  
be programmed to never k\*ll,

even if k\*lling would save lives?

Where's the dang toaster?

Welcome to breakfast at our house.

## Sheldon's 'Sheldocracy' presentation

I started working  
on this presentation  
to address specific ethical dilemmas.

The laws of robotics,  
whether torture can be justified,  
and cloning people for  
fun and spare parts.

But I realized before resolving  
any of these moral quandaries,  
the real decision is  
who gets to decide.

Do we put it up for a vote?

Does everyone get to  
decide for themselves?

Should it be by committee?

Is that committee elected or appointed?

You see where I'm going?  
You probably don't.

For the smartest decision,  
we need the smartest person.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the  
field of scientific ethics,

we can't rely on  
democracy or plutocracy.

We need an autocracy,  
or to be more precise, a "Sheldocracy."

♪ ♪

Um, I don't think this  
was the assignment.

Sorry, Dr. Sturgis, I  
pick the assignments now.

Everybody, for next class,

I want words on what you can do

to further the Sheldocracy.

Punishment for typos will be severe.

Class dismissed.

Hey, that's my line.

No, it isn't.

Why don't you see me after class.

Class dismissed.

♪ ♪

# **A Few Ditties on Duality**

## **Misconstruing the Relativity**

To maintain any one path most true,  
To insist on duality in any way, any shape, any form,  
Is to completely misconstrue the relativity of this manifest dreamtime.

## **The Stillness Before Time, IV**

### **Vanity's Prison**

Duality is the outcome of ignorance,  
And ignorance of the false nature of opposites,  
Is the vain prison that imagination ceaselessly fortifies.

## **The Stillness Before Time, IV**

### **The End of Ideals**

Serenity is the outcome of integration, not an ideal.  
Ideals are merely abstractions of unresolved duality,  
Ceaselessly playing hide-and-seek with themselves.

## **The Stillness Before Time, XVII**

### **Neither Nor**

Neither hard nor soft, sharp nor dull,  
Wise nor foolish, humble nor vain,  
Sweet nor bitter, long nor short,  
Strong nor weak, large nor small,  
Good nor bad, intelligent nor stupid,  
Truth nor lie, far nor close,  
Stirring nor still, love nor hate,  
Light nor dark, perfect nor imperfect,  
Nor duality ad infinitum,  
You are.

## **The Stillness Before Time, XVII**

### **The Stillborn of Duality**

Avoid moral dilemmas and quagmires.  
Good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

### **The Stillness Before Time, XXIII**

#### **Nothing But Whatever**

As consciousness grounds in awareness,  
As you clearly perceive illusion is not reality,  
As you discern duality is the source of all suffering,  
As the birthright of beingness resumes its rightful function,  
There is nothing left to do, but whatever needs doing.

### **The Stillness Before Time, XXIII**

#### **The Pretend of Duality**

We are all created of the same source,  
By whatever name you might wish to call it.  
Our sense of individuality is merely a fleeting illusion,  
Born of the attachment of consciousness to mind-body-spirit.  
In reality, we are all equally the same awareness permeating all things.  
All dualistic notions are vain delusion fabricated by imagination.  
Yes, it all seems real and true enough at any given moment,  
But if you fully contemplate the ever-present now,  
You will discern that this state we call life,  
Is really nothing more than a very temporary,  
Touchy-feely, three-dimensional, sensory reverie.  
The indivisible, absolute mystery, pretending existence.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, The First Page**

#### **The Mysterious Source**

That source, that origin, that fount, that nucleus, which is called by many names,  
Is prior to any sensory theater, prior to all forms small to great,  
Prior to any whimsical certitudes of imagination,  
Prior to any notion of this or that,  
Prior to all dualities,  
Prior to every definition,  
Inspired by the myriad other.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 3**

### **Naught But Dualistic Notion**

There is absolutely no evidence of a distinct deity.  
Hope, faith, conjecture, speculation,  
Are born of fear and dread,  
Of divisive, dualistic perceptions,  
And only encumber the inquiry into the truth within.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 11**

#### **Quantum Illusion**

The human epoch is really about pride,  
About the emergence from the slimy pool,  
Into an extemporaneous theater,  
Forged in dualistic notion.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 17**

#### **The Journey That Calls You**

Trying to meld a nondualistic view of this immeasurable mystery,  
With the egocentric-ethnocentric-geocentric collusions born of time,  
Requires way too many rationalizations, compromises, and contortions.  
Just because some falsehood bears the authority of tradition means nothing.  
Give no weight to what is unnecessary; travel the journey that calls You.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 18**

#### **The Good and Evil of Conscious Design**

Nature is what works,  
And what does not, evaporates into oblivion.  
Good and evil are nothing more than constructs of human consciousness.  
There was never any such thing in this whirling garden orb,  
Prior to the emergence of dualistic notion.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 24**

### **Your Singular Nature**

What are the imaginary dualities to You,  
Who is the fundamental awareness in all things.  
You, who is serene witness to all creation.  
Known or unknown, done or undone,  
Oblivion is your singular nature.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 33**

### **The Echoes of Imagination**

Good and evil are dualistic, arbitrary notions, created by imagination.  
They are nothing more than echoes across the expanses of the singularity.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 42**

### **The Fallen Garden**

Knowledge cleaves the enigmatic mystery of consciousness,  
Into every sort of dualistic conception under the sun.  
The forbidden was harvested, and Eden lost.  
Fallen monkeys, indeed.  
And this pillaged garden will hobble on,  
For as long as humankind survives its memories real.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 49**

### **No Rhyme, No Reason**

There is absolutely no rhyme or reason to suspect, much less believe,  
There is some sort of supreme being outside your Self,  
Or at least one that does not also include You.  
How could any of this be happening,  
Without Your participation,  
To the very core of Your beingness.  
Any duality is false, from all beginnings, to all ends.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 57**

### **The All-Is-Vanity of Imagination**

Ultimately, there is no evil, there is no sin, there is no dark side.  
There is only corrupted, twisted, perverted consciousness.  
There is only the veiling, the muddying of awareness.  
There is only ignorance and delusion and duality.  
Evil does not truly exist in any way or shape or form,  
But through the vanity-vanity-all-is-vanity of imagination.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 60**

#### **The One-and-Only Moment Reality**

Move prior to concept, to form, to struggle.  
Be simple, carefree, serene, tranquil, absolute, sovereign.  
For those lacking discernment, the ceaseless inventions of dualistic notion,  
Are but the quagmire of knowledge, of opinions, of beliefs,  
Absorption in the voracious mind-body identity,  
In the ever-beckoning sirens of desire.  
All merely distractions,  
From the timeless awareness,  
The every-moment one-and-only reality,  
Within and without all creations small to great.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 68**

#### **The Eternal Witness**

Personality is reaction to the sensory play.  
It is the response of the mind-body to its environment.  
The disharmony of duality dissolves as concern for mortality dissolves.  
Attention shifts from the travails of imagination, to the awareness prior to consciousness.  
From desire, fear, anger, sorrow, separation in any of its many forms,  
To the indivisible serenity of the eternal witness.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 88**

#### **The Absurdity of Dualistic Notion**

The absurdity of duality is obvious to anyone paying close attention to anything.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 99**

### **When? Where? What?**

When the mind is still, where is the yearning for continuity?  
Where is the notion of duality that harbors passion?  
Where is the player, the actor, the identity?  
Where is the witness woven of time?  
What is there but the awareness of emptiness?  
What is there but that birthless-deathless creation of all?  
What is there but eternal life, eternal oblivion, eternal redemption?

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 99**

#### **The Ruse of Imagination**

Individuality is the ruse of imagination,  
Inspired by the lie of the senses.  
You are the absolute total functioning,  
Prior to the limited scope of time and space.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 122**

#### **A Mixed Bag of Mindful and Mindless**

Other than in its human form, nature has no individuality, no character, no ego.  
The human paradigm is but a happenstance-happenstance of this beyond-all-pales mystery theater,  
Evolved absolutely, by the creative dynamic of quantum, witnessed by awareness.  
Intentional or not, here our kind is, doing what vanity does,  
In its mixed bag of mindful and mindless.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 129**

#### **The Duality of Imagination**

The awareness is the ever-present witness.  
The observer and the observed are indivisibly one.  
It is only in imagination that dualistic notion finds lodging.  
Consciousness, no matter how profound or creative,  
Can never be anything more than imaginary.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 152**

## **Changing the Perspective**

And what if that which so many call God, is truly equally good and evil?  
It is truly only the notion born of dualistic limitation that needs changing.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 132**

#### **Shards of the Same Mystery**

Individuality is a delusion, fabricated by consciousness, locked within a sensory dream.  
Across the infinity of all dimensions, all creation shares the same Soul.  
All are but shards of the indivisibly unfathomable.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 133**

#### **A Rare and Lonely Calling**

The burden of traditions across this magical garden,  
Muddy the unfolding now with every sort of dualistic notion.  
How can everyone be free to discern the greatest vision,  
With so much hollow dogma weighing them down?  
Only the rare have the courage to stand alone.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 144**

#### **The Hoax of Consciousness**

All dualistic notions are the hoax of consciousness,  
Ever enticed by the kaleidoscoping play of the senses and mind.  
You are this ephemeral, eternal, nonexistent moment,  
Nothing more, nothing less, nothing but,  
No matter the fabrication.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 147**

#### **Defining the Line**

How intelligent does one have to be, to not be stupid?  
How beautiful, to not be ugly? How good, to not be bad?  
How correct, to not be wrong? How wise, to not be foolish?  
Where is the line between any yay, any nay, any this, any that,  
But some inflated, arbitrary formulation, of the given mind.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 147**

### **The Disharmony of Duality**

It is only in human consciousness,  
That the disharmony of dualistic notion takes place.  
In whatever way you might observe this infinite, indivisible matrix of a dream,  
Whether physics or chemistry or biology, everything is connected,  
Without any separation, any otherness, whatsoever.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 155**

#### **The Ultimate Singularity**

Mystery may splinter into an infinity of shards,  
But in each and every one, the ultimate singularity is absolute.  
Only in consciousness can duality be conceived,  
And the many delusions of illusion,  
Play their wayward daze.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 157**

#### **The Surreality of Duality**

What is so arduous about realizing the truth,  
That the awareness within all, that the witness within all,  
Is completely detached, objectively indifferent, benignly disengaged,  
To the countless dreamtimes of consciousness, in all its pursuits, in all its passions.  
It is the ether, the mysterious spirit of totality; name it if you must.  
Duality is but the splintering of imaginary perception.  
You are it, it is You, there is no other.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 176**

#### **The Singularity of Duality**

Bringing together heaven and earth,  
Merging duality into the singularity of all origins;  
Now, there is the rub, so to speak.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 179**

### **Duality in a Nutshell**

For there to be good, there must be evil,  
And that, my friend, is duality in a nutshell.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 201**

### **The Original Flaw**

Perfection is your inherent nature.  
Duality, the original flaw.  
Your perfection was misplaced,  
When the time born of consciousness,  
Took root in the tabula rasa of your innocence.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 210**

### **The Bittersweet Harvest**

Hate and revenge are the most bitter harvest of dualistic notion.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 222**

### **All Divisions Imagined**

Breathe in the duality, and know all divisions are imagined.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 228**

### **Prior to All Notions**

Truth is prior to any dualistic notions of creator and creation.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 230**

### **The Dualities of Language**

All the pronouns of separative flavor, of dualistic tone,  
All the I's and you's and he's and she's and they's and we's,  
Do not in the most ultimate sense, for any particular, truly make.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 247**

## **All Potentials**

All have within them the limited and unlimited potential.  
Everything narrow and broad, shallow and deep.  
It is attachment to the individual dreams,  
That binds all sentient beings,  
To the dualities born of the senses.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 251**

## **Imagination's Duality**

The mortal senses do not care what they see, hear, touch, taste, or feel.  
It is only the mind, only imagination, that creates a universe of dualistic notion.  
The body is but a vehicle, in which the singularity plays an eternal game of hide-and-seek.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 286**

## **The Source of Beingness**

You are the original source, the light that creates,  
All form and shadow, all meaning and purpose,  
All duality, in every imaginary way possible.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 287**

## **Duality's Veil**

Where duality reigns, the ever-present truth is ever veiled.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 296**

## **The Theater of Mind**

From the beginning, and before, to the end, and after,  
Everything is indivisibly, seamlessly, ineffably connected.  
Only in the mortal theater of mind, is duality imagined.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 300**

### **The Great Disconnect**

The great disconnect between humankind, and that called god by many names,  
Is entirely fashioned of consciousness and the inherent limitations,  
Of all concepts lodged in the dualistic temporal vision.  
Only those who transcend the false belief,  
That they are the mind and body,  
Realize what they truly are,  
Have ever been, and will ever be.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 305**

#### **The Quantum Pretender**

Quantum stardust somehow organized,  
To such an implausible degree, as to pretend it is alive.  
And when that was no longer entertaining, evolved into human beings,  
In order to ceaselessly manufacture every sort of absurdly dualistic fiction imaginable.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 335**

#### **The Illusion of Nothing**

Loneliness versus aloneness, duality versus singularity,  
The sorrow of imagination versus the sovereignty of absoluteness.  
There is really nothing to compare, when there is really nothing to be measured.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 344**

#### **The Indivisible Singularity**

Duality is nothing more than an arbitrary, meaningless concept,  
Born of the sensory illusion that you are separate.  
It has no ultimate reality whatsoever.  
You are the primal essence that is indivisibly singular,  
Unfathomable, absolute, prior to all imaginings born of consciousness.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 346**

### **The Concoction of Imagination**

What is required to awaken,  
Is to inwardly pay very close attention,  
In a non-intellectual, prior-to-consciousness way,  
Until you very logically, without doubt, discern for your Self,  
That you, the witness, the observer, are the observed.  
All duality is the concoction of imagination.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 346**

#### **Stand Tall, Stand Free**

You need not submit to the dualistic notions, of this world or any other.  
They are but ceaseless sensory manifestations, born of temporal limitation.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 368**

#### **The Linguistic Mirage**

It is through language that all conscious distinctions are made.  
Prior to the articulation of imaginary self through personal pronouns,  
Prior to the fabrication of knowledge, Eden was free of any dualistic notion.  
There is no god, there is no devil, there is no heaven, there is no hell,  
But through the ceaselessly absurd confabulations of mind.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 386**

#### **Two Sides of the Same Coinless**

Heaven, hell, 'tis ever the same.  
There is no other side, no other way.  
Despite all dualistic notions to the contrary,  
It is all the same quantum oneness.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 394**

#### **The Source of Duality**

There is no duality until consciousness diverges into the self that is not.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 457**

## **God's Expression**

Nature is the mystery's expression,  
And humankind but one of its myriad creations.  
Separate only in consciousness, dualistic only in the mind,  
In no way any less indivisible than all creation can be from its creator.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 394**

#### **Forget Everything**

Forget everything.  
Dismantle the conditioning;  
The attachment to any conceptual weavings.  
Become that which has no boundaries.  
That which discerns no duality.  
No within, no without.  
No inner, no outer.  
No this, no that.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 402**

#### **Dreamtime's Veil**

What is consciousness but a dreamy cloud of imagination;  
Of dualistic notions inspired by the sensory creation.  
One may clearly distinguish reality though it,  
But the dream in itself is not the truth.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 452**

#### **The Serenity of Detachment**

Best stay detached from humanity's ceaseless inanities.  
Until the splintered souls of this dualistic world wake up,  
The insane absurdities of estrangement will carry on.  
Some sort of realization may or may not happen,  
But there is no point being daily upset about it.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 468**

## **The Irony of Duality**

What irony that in the face of an incredibly astonishing mystery,  
Humankind has lost itself in an absurd collusion of every possible vanity.  
An entirely imaginary invention, this myopic notion of a separate, individual persona.  
A duality sparked in consciousness, when it began its evolutionary spin in the jungles of long ago.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 472**

#### **Attitude is All**

Attitude is all.  
With the flip-flop of a thought, sorrow becomes joy;  
Bad, good; bitter, cordial; anger, calm; violent, gentle; arrogant, humble; sour, sweet; dark, light.  
The remedy to a dualistic world, is the within that is within all withouts.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 497**

#### **We Are All Just Animals Here**

We humans are all animals here,  
Mammals with consciousness enough, with imagination enough,  
To perceive the sensory play in such a way as to fabricate the notion, the absurdity, of individuality.  
Animals with a beyond-the-pale aptitude for communication and tool-making.  
But animals, nonetheless, animals, nonethemore.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 498**

#### **Shades of Gray**

What are the shades of gray between black and white,  
Good and bad, right and wrong, right and left, bitter or sweet,  
Or any other dualistic notion born of the monkey-mind's play of time?

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 500**

## Breadcrumbs 2015

You are the singularity, the unicity, the oneness.  
All sense of duality is delusion spawned by illusion.

\* \* \* \*

Everything is timelessly, indivisibly connected.  
All dualistic perceptions are entirely imagined.

\* \* \* \*

Duality exists only in the dreamtime of consciousness.  
Reality is singular, through and through, for all eternity.

\* \* \* \*

It is the mind that divides; the mind that unites.  
What is free will, but the choice between duality and unicity,  
The choice between what is real, that which is choiceless, and what is not.

\* \* \* \*

You are that which is mystery, that which is unknowable, that which is eternal,  
That which is prior to all attributes, all properties, all characteristics, all arrangements,  
That which is prior to all the divisions, all the contrasts, all the dualities, born of consciousness.

\* \* \* \*

All groups, all cultures, since the origin of language,  
Have used their natural environment to communicate their world.  
The sun, the moon, the planets, the stars, the climate, the geographical features,  
The myriad fellow creatures from small to great, all played parts in every mythological paradigm.  
In these our modern times, we use our own creations to decipher the universe about us.  
Technologies, politics, religion, business, media, personalities, ad infinitum.  
Every conceivable mind-made, artificial, contrived invention,  
Has all but usurped the relationship with nature.  
The rules of the game are ever the same,  
But ignorance leaves us deaf and blind and dumb,  
To the one and only reality, that all creation is eternally interwoven,  
At such an indivisible level, as to make any part, absolutely inseparable from anything else.  
Imagination, and all its fabricated notions, all its dualistic concoctions,  
May believe it can control this biosphere, this cosmos,  
But it cannot make-believe for long,  
Much less forever.

\* \* \* \*

Where do You think your wit comes from if not the ever-present, indivisible, quantum essence?  
Of course, there is intelligent design at the helm of this inexplicable mystery.  
And of course, it is indivisibly You, and You indivisibly it.  
There is nothing to get all vain about,  
Because everyone and everything else is, too.  
All notion of duality is but delusion of the sensory mind.

\* \* \* \*

Awareness, is both the least and greatest common denominator.  
The underpinning of consciousness, of all things known and unknown.  
The quantum indivisibility, through which duality cavorts the mortal ground.

\* \* \* \*

The religious mind, lumps the great unknowable, into a concept called God,  
And then dreads and worships and dogmatizes, whatever idolatry comes to mind.  
What is the point of all the mind gorp based entirely on arbitrary, dualistic imagination?

\* \* \* \*

The witness, the awareness, the youness, indivisibly permeates all consciousness.  
The other, the otherness, is ultimately naught but a fabrication,  
Naught but an imaginary, dualistic notion,  
Of quantum design.

\* \* \* \*

What are the senses but readers of the indivisible quantum energy,  
And the mind, the corporeal, finite neural processing unit,  
That organizes their steaming input into a world,  
Into a cosmos, in which You wander alone,  
In the ever-churning midst of dualistic otherness.

\* \* \* \*

All laws, all principles, all canons, all decrees, all rules, and all other such things,  
Are entirely born of the arbitrary, dualistic minds of humankind.  
There has never been any deity but nature,  
And its indivisible dynamic,  
Is witness, judge, jury, enforcer, executioner, as needed.

\* \* \* \*

There is no part, no fragment, there is only the indivisible whole.  
The divisible, is but the fabrication of imagination,  
And its relentless notions of duality.  
Play the part, become the whole.  
The nameless, prior to consciousness,  
And its countless designs, born of limitation.

\* \* \* \*

Free your Self of the concept of original sin,  
The dualistic notion decreed by ignorance upon innocence,  
That You were involuntarily forced into, by being cast into the human epoch.  
None are born wicked, none are born offending any god or gods,  
None are born transgressing any moral imperative.  
There is no sin, no evil, only imagination,  
Separating itself from reality.

\* \* \* \*

Belief is a spurious brainchild of dualistic notion.  
To believe, implies that the subject is not connected to the object,  
That the beingness is some dynamic force outside You, the observer, the witness.  
It is a denial of the unicity of all that is seen, and all that is unseen.

\* \* \* \*

What is it we label God by countless names, but all things quantum,  
Including the timeless awareness, You believe your own,  
Peering out through the given sensory array.  
Duality is illusion; all is singularity.  
Thou art That I Am.

\* \* \* \*

You are in no way, no shape, no form, separate from the totality of this mystery.  
Call it what You will – God, Brahman, Tao, Buddha, Yahweh, Jehovah, Allah, turtles ad infinitum –  
All dualistic notion is founded upon believing the illusions body and mind weave,  
Upon believing the ever-kaleidoscoping sensory input real.

\* \* \* \*

Awareness cannot, even for a moment,  
Pause to examine its timeless, non-dualistic nature.  
After all, how can that which is the origin, that which is the essence,  
Do anything but what it does, be anything but what it is.

\* \* \* \*

Of course, there is, what many, by one name, by one concept, by one dogma or another, call God.  
But the fundamental reality, is that it is a timeless, indivisible, unattainable mystery,  
That cannot be bound, by any form, by any circumstance, by any creed.  
It is not some dualistic invention, like a Zeus, a Jupiter, a Shiva, or a Santa Claus.  
It is not a deity, a divine being, a celestial being, a goddess, a divinity, an immortal, or an avatar.  
It is not an idol, a graven image, an icon, a totem, a talisman, a fetish, or a juju.  
Of course, there is a God, and it includes the essence, You truly are.  
Do not confuse any fabrications of consciousness,  
With the reality of the awareness,  
Permeating all.

\* \* \* \*

Who are You or I? Who is he or she? Who is we or they?  
So many dualistic distinctions born of consciousness,  
And its myriad delusions born of sensory illusion.

\* \* \* \*

What ever-present instant, is not of eternity?  
Only the countless dualistic notions of consciousness,  
With all its delusions born of desire and fear,  
Would have You believe otherwise.

\* \* \* \*

Dualistic notion is but a fabrication of imagination.  
All opposites are equally true, equally false,  
Equally everything, equally nothing.

\* \* \* \*

All creatures from small to great, have the same awareness as You.  
It is only imagination, that endlessly counterfeits the notion of duality.  
It is only imagination, that continually divides Youness, into me and them.  
It is only imagination, that deludes itself separate from the indivisible.

\* \* \* \*

Humankind has been playing out its pattern of dualistic self-absorption, for thousands of years.  
And through most, it was possible, with relatively minimal consequence, to plunder nature in every way.  
But those days, are long over; consequences, are daily becoming more apparent, more amplified.  
Clean air, clean water, clean ground, seemingly limitless resources, are all plumbed out.  
There is a looming wall, fast-approaching – tick, tick, tick – time is running out.

\* \* \* \*

Those who fathom eternal life, abide artlessly in the ever-present moment.  
To embrace the duality of space-time, and all the assumptions of identification,  
Is but the living death, fashioned by the usurpation of awareness by consciousness.

\* \* \* \*

The awareness You – and all that is dualistically perceived as otherness – timelessly are,  
That which is prior to consciousness, that which is prior to the indivisibility,  
Is without attributes, without blemish, and permeates all as one.

\* \* \* \*

We must surely be of the same source,  
Else the duality, the plurality, the intangibility,  
Would schism as beyond all reckoning,  
As it is before all reckoning.

\* \* \* \*

And where, pray tell, is this duality to which your senses and mind are so inclined?

\* \* \* \*

Individuality is the assumption of imagination, as is everything else.

\* \* \* \*

Dualistic delusion is so much easier than having to actually think for your Self.

\* \* \* \*

It is only through the illusion of duality that unicity can awaken to its Self.

\* \* \* \*

Dualism, a sensory-induced imaginary notion; nothing more, nothing less, nothing but.

\* \* \* \*

Soon enough, I shall join the graveyard of dead philosophers,  
And all this absurd babble will play to what end, I need neither know nor care.  
Likely as not, it will evaporate back into the prior-to-consciousness abyss, relatively undiscerned,  
And the human species shall continue racing madly toward the dualistic destiny,  
Ordained by its vanity-laced Darwinian genomic predisposition,  
Which is so oh-well-so-it-goes-deal-with-it-get-over-it-move-on the way it is,  
In the grand schemelessness of all things manifestly grist-for-the-mill eternally indivisible.

### **Breadcrumbs 2018**

The ego, the id, the superego, the character, the persona, the self – call it what You will –  
Is nothing more, than the sum of imagination's attachments to all the memories, all the perceptions,  
All the recordings, in which it harbors the frame of reference, to which it invariably clings.  
The echoing, that plays over and over, as identity, as individuality, as exceptional.  
The inexplicable saga, born of evolution, the I-am-this-I-am-not-that,  
In which the human paradigm, perpetually finds fusion.

\* \* \* \*

Any belief system that promotes dualistic notion is pure delusion,  
And deserves absolutely no consideration, no argument, no regard, whatsoever.  
Truth is indivisible, and any division, any boundary, is nothing more than human nonsense.

\* \* \* \*

The challenge is letting go of the cacophony ever playing out in our aloneness.  
We spend so much time questing the most unadorned reality the mystery has to offer,  
Yet there it is: the awareness, the witness, the enigma, peering out from behind every mask.  
What need for religion? What need for spirituality? What need for belief, faith, prayer, scripture?  
What need for heavens and hells and purgatories, deities and demons, mythologies, icons, sacraments?  
What need for messiahs, saints, priesthoods, traditions, superstitions, caste systems, groupthink?  
What need for philosophies, dogmas, ethics, laws, principles, doctrines, idols, mystic powers?  
What need for cathedrals, temples, shrines, holy places, titles, hierarchies, dress codes?  
What need for dualistic or non-dualistic concepts, or any light or sound shows?  
Why worship what You are? Eternity is right here right now, timeless.  
Merely being the awareness is all there is: You are it, it is You.  
Anything less is nothing more than the trickster mind,  
Playing its more-more-more imagination game.

\* \* \* \*

Call it by whatever moniker slathered in dogma that You will: God, Yahweh, Allah, Brahman, Tao,  
Buddha, Akal Purakh, Almighty, Soul, Self, Universe, Mystery, Et Cetera, Whatever.  
It fashioned You of its inexplicable, indivisible, beyond-all-pales essence,  
That You might one day discover that it is You, and You are it.  
It is, therefore You are; You are, therefore it is.  
One in the same; the same in one.  
There is no duality,

And no dogma is required.

\* \* \* \*

The quantum source abides all.  
It is indifferent to any and all and every difference.  
Black and white, good and evil, yes and no, dualities of any make or model,  
Are but the ephemeral whimsies of temporal imagination.

\* \* \* \*

Why would You need to believe in,  
To worship, to venerate, to adulate, to idolize,  
Some imaginary, iconic, dualistic, on-high Olympian deity,  
When You can linger in non-dualistic awareness,  
When You can simply be the entirety,  
Timelessly transient.

\* \* \* \*

It has to be a harmonic orchestration; how else could it seamlessly function?  
Duality is but a deception of consciousness, inspired by the sensory mind-body.

### **Breadcrumbs 2019**

What are the pronouns – I, me, You, he, she, they, them, we, us –  
But linguistic inventions that sanction and magnify dualistic notion.

\* \* \* \*

Supreme being is not an entity; it is not a dualistic notion.  
It is the awareness, the indivisibility, the timelessness, the quintessence,  
Within all creations great to small in the omnipresence, omnipotent, omniscient sense.  
It is the beingness, the nowness, that reigns unconditional.  
It is the absolute, it is eternity.

\* \* \* \*

In a dualistic universe, there is no light without dark, no good without evil,  
Right without wrong, pleasure without pain, flow without ebb, yes without no.

\* \* \* \*

There are a variety of remarkable substances,  
That will aid your discerning the truth of this mystery of existence.  
That this quantum dream of time and space, of agony and ecstasy, of all dualistic notion,  
Is ultimately nothing more than an imaginary light and sound show.  
That You are absolutely alone for all eternity,  
And cannot do a friggin' thing about it,  
Except succumb to one diversion after another,  
Until You perchance wake up and stop smelling the roses.

\* \* \* \*

All judgments, opinions, conclusions, assessments, beliefs, prejudices, stereotypes, and the like,  
Are ultimately meaningless, yet largely unavoidable, given the dualistic nature of the sensory mind.  
Best keep as many to yourself as possible, if You aspire to the tranquility of political expediency.

\* \* \* \*

In any given sensory theater across the cosmos, across all creation,  
Is it at all possible for consciousness to inspire anything but dualistic perception,  
In all but those rare few gifted with eyes that see and ears that hear.

\* \* \* \*

The Me, the Myself, the I, are nothing more,  
Than the ineffable, unfathomable, indelible awareness,  
Usurped by the dualistic notions of consciousness, of imagination.

\* \* \* \*

It is the eyes that create the greatest sense of separation within and without.  
None of the other senses enhance dualistic notion in anywhere near the same way.  
This grand theater matrix, this quantum dreamtime, would not be without them.

\* \* \* \*

It is the immortal awareness we all equally are that carries on,  
In whatever seedlings are available in this grand manifest theater.  
Your particular notion of individuality is but a one-time dreamtime.  
There is no heaven, there is no hell, but whatever imagination imagines.

\* \* \* \*

The motley winds of consciousness with all its attributes, all its dualities:  
Black and white hot and cold, full and empty, good and evil, life and death,  
Has absolutely nothing to do with the still awareness through which it blows.

\* \* \* \*

Without life, is there death?  
Without good, is there evil?  
Without light, is there dark?  
Without white, is there black?  
Without ecstasy, is there agony?  
Without right, is there wrong?  
Without love, is there hate?  
Without yes, is there no?  
Without either, is there or?  
What is duality but a menagerie,  
Of an all but infinite array of possibilities,  
In which all dreams of consciousness dance their dance.

\* \* \* \*

Duality's menagerie is required for this dream,  
To play its play, dance its dance, sing its song.

\* \* \* \*

Awareness is neither good nor evil nor any other dualistic notion; it simply is.

\* \* \* \*

The many-faced coin of duality.

\* \* \* \*

Duality, pfft!

\* \* \* \*

Disclaimer: All that has been written herein may be wrong.  
Duality may well be the fundamental reality of it all.  
And maybe You will someday decide to become a Christian,  
Or a Muslim, or a Jew, or a Buddhist, or a Taoist, or a whatever.  
So many flavors; hard to pick just one, and what if You choose wrong?

\* \* \* \*

Oh, duality, release me from thy clutches.

### **Breadcrumbs 2020**

God, as so many dualistic creeds of these modern times would have it,  
Is Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy, and the Great Pumpkin,  
All bundled up nice-and-tidy-and-a-tad-more-than-all-perfect into one Judge Judy.

\* \* \* \*

The only duality, the only dichotomy, with all its blacks and whites,  
Nears and fars, larges and smalls, heres and theres, rights and wrongs, loves and hates,  
Pluses and minuses, goods and evils, creations and destructions,  
Is fabricated entirely of imagination.

\* \* \* \*

Awareness has no time to create or preserve or destroy,  
Live or die, give or take, stay or go, happy or sad, love or hate, good or bad,  
Right or wrong, smart or stupid, kind or cruel, rich or poor,  
Sage or fool, black or white, this or that.  
Duality is not its purview.

\* \* \* \*

The absolute is without yes or no, this or that; without duality in any way, shape, or form.

\* \* \*

Awareness harbors no duality; that is the purview of imagination.

\* \* \* \*

Imagination is the harbor of duality.

\* \* \* \*

Awareness harbors no duality.

\* \* \* \*

Why engage with any dualistic notion?

### **Breadcrumbs 2021**

You are the immaculate awareness, the immeasurable witness,  
Through which nature every moment creates, every moment destroys.  
It is a timeless dance, a timeless dream, in which duality is but imaginary notion.

\* \* \* \*

You have never not been the mystery.  
Duality is the polarizing inclination of imagination.  
The unblemished indivisibility of nonduality is reality's true sheen.

\* \* \* \*

How can timeless awareness and the so-called soul not be one in the same?  
All divisions, all dualities, all gulfs, all rifts, are the concoctions of imagination.

\* \* \* \*

Is time separate from space?  
Are clouds separate from the sky?  
Are currents separate from the ocean?  
Is consciousness separate from awareness?  
Is one moment separate from any other moment?  
Are You separate from the mystery that is unfathomable?  
All dualistic notions are nothing more than plays of imagination.

\* \* \* \*

In the stillness of awareness, there is no self.  
In the stillness of awareness, there is no birth.  
In the stillness of awareness, there is no death.  
In the stillness of awareness, there is no vanity.  
In the stillness of awareness, there is no duality.  
In the stillness of awareness, there is only here.  
In the stillness of awareness, there is only now.  
In the stillness of awareness, there is only Self.  
In the stillness of awareness, there is only You.

\* \* \* \*

Consciousness is the great divider.  
The source of all dualistic perception.  
The source of all dualistic misconception.

\* \* \* \*

How to say it?

There is only the moment, and the awareness in which it resides.

or

There is only the awareness, and the moment in which it resides.

Can there be the awareness without the moment?

Can there be the moment without the awareness?

Is their separation, severance, partition, divorce, duality,

In any way or shape or form, even remotely possible?

And why would You even bother asking?

Move on, Pilgrim.

### **Breadcrumbs 2022**

Forms project an illusionary duality, that the indivisible quantum matrix in no way confirms.

Yet, even in realizing all this, You must still daily wander through the dreamscape.

Only in death, figuratively or literally, can the sensory mind-body,

Give itself over to the essence of the ever-present.

\* \* \* \*

How could your sentience, your awareness,

Possibly be, in any way different, in any way disconnected,

From any other life form's sentience, from any other life form's awareness?

The mystery is all-inclusive: omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent.

Duality is nothing more than an imaginary concept,

Stillborn, preserved in mind only.

\* \* \* \*

If there is to be considered a duality,

The demarcation is between awareness and consciousness,

Which is not a true duality. because consciousness is to awareness, as clouds are to sky.

Duality is a concept, not a reality.

\* \* \* \*

Dualistic notion makes absolutely no sense, whatsoever, in the rational truth scales.

For there to be a deity on high – bearded, lolling about the sky – is more than a little preposterous.

It was likely a calculated con on the sheeples to get their coin and free labor and daughters,

For whatever greedy, self-serving ends-and-means, steered the powers-that-were.

Call it cynical, call it skeptical, call it pessimistic, but do not call it untrue.

\* \* \* \*

To all true believers: Duality makes no sense, whatsoever.

Why would any deity not want to experience everything for itself?

The awareness You are, is the mystery itself, witnessing its own creation,  
Through the given nature-nurture, spawned long before your parents copulated.  
This is a preordained dream; there is no partition, there is no wall, there is no division.  
There is only one mystery, there is only one unknown, there is only one truth, and it is ... You.  
This is surely what Jesus meant, when rumored to have declared, "I am the Truth, the Life, and the Way."  
What was not recorded, what was not transcribed, or worse yet, edited out, was, "And so are You."  
This all assumes, of course, that Jesus of Bethlehem was not some storyteller's tall tale,  
Conceived after spending a few hours with a naive young woman named Mary,  
Whose husband, Joseph, had pimped her out to pay for their stable,  
Where their baby, Jesus, was serenely asleep in a manger.  
That the storyteller, a prankster named Paul,  
Realized a 'divine' opportunity,  
And spun it into a rather lucrative livelihood,  
Which, alas, ended badly when it touched the flame of Rome.  
Paul's carny act, however, did survive, and has played every imaginable circus ever since.

\* \* \* \*

The awakening, is realizing You have a front-and-center-row seat,  
To your world, your universe, your mind-body's nature-nurture, your now.  
All other dualistic notions, all blacks and whites, fall to the wayside; relativity reigns.

\* \* \* \*

How can philosophy, the study of life, the inquiry into what is real, what is factual, what is genuine,  
Be confined by any time, be confined by any geography, be confined by any circumstance?  
How can it be called Western or Eastern, or any other arbitrary, dualistic notion?  
If any given truth applies to one, it must apply to all, else it is not truth.

\* \* \* \*

The Garden of Life and Death.  
The Garden of Good and Evil.  
The Garden of Desire and Fear.  
The Garden of Sweet and Bitter.  
The Garden of Black and White.  
The Garden of Sound and Silence.  
The Garden of Kind and Callous.  
The Garden of Full and Empty.  
The Garden of Hot and Cold.  
The Garden of Ones and Zeros.  
The Garden of Dualistic Notion.

\* \* \* \*

Regarding the patterning to which all are witness, always be mindful that it is every moment,  
Patterning along, humming along, with the entire universe, with the entire mystery.  
None can ever, in any way, any shape, any form, be a free-will-free-agent,  
Because the mind-body cannot, for even one moment,  
Disconnect from the sensory theater to which it is mortally bound.  
And thus, it is imagination, the creator of all delusions, the architect of all destinies,  
To which the dualistic task of individuality falls, and every absurdity played, in the fall from grace.

\* \* \* \*

The unyielding grip of imagination on the human paradigm is far too formidable,  
But for the relentless doubt only the rarest minds have fortitude to mine.  
This indelible, unfathomable, singular mystery, is every moment.  
All sense of duality is but the figment of consciousness.

\* \* \* \*

To consider duality more than a concept devised by human vanity, is as absurd as absurd gets.

\* \* \* \*

Duality is a concept, not a reality.

\* \* \* \*

Duality makes absolutely no sense, whatsoever.

\* \* \* \*

How can the mystery be anything less than what I,  
In all my limitations, all my shortcomings, herein over and over expound?  
How could it truly ever be any man-imagined, dualistic invention-notion-concoction, heretofore devised?  
That humankind clings to all its idolatries when the truth of awareness is so Self-evident.  
Is an irony permeated by paradox, a paradox permeated by irony,  
That will boggle me to my last dying wheeze.

### **Breadcrumbs 2023**

The cosmos within, the cosmos without; they are the same.  
It is consciousness, it is imagination, that has counterfeited their duality.  
Tabula rasa has no chance against nature-nurture, and the first birth, 3.8 billion years ago,  
Which has, permeated by awareness, mutated through natural selection, into You.  
And it is You, and You alone, who must set aside all the conditioning,  
And become the stillness that is the birthright of all things.

\* \* \* \*

How else would any divinity create a universe,  
But through awareness pervading the quantum sea.  
Awareness, ever-present witness to every sentient dream.  
Natural selection the means to play out the Darwinian theater.  
And You, the spontaneity of the eternal, come unto mortal existence.  
Where is it even possible for duality, to have any possibility, whatsoever?

\* \* \* \*

You are the underlying formlessness.  
You are the underlying shapelessness.  
You are the underlying amorphousness.  
You are the underlying preposterousness.  
You are the underlying meaninglessness.

You are the underlying ineffectiveness.  
You are the underlying senselessness.  
You are the underlying nothingness.  
You are the underlying uselessness.  
You are the underlying emptiness.  
You are the underlying nonbeing.  
You are the underlying oblivion.  
You are the underlying fluidity.  
You are the underlying nihilism.  
You are the underlying cavity.  
You are the underlying space.  
You are the underlying void.  
You are the underlying hole.  
You are the underlying dross.  
You are the underlying abyss.  
You are the underlying nullity.  
You are the underlying vacuum.  
You are the underlying absence.  
You are the underlying unreality.  
You are the underlying hollowness.  
You are the underlying incongruity.  
You are the underlying irrationality.  
You are the underlying ineffectuality.  
You are the underlying pointlessness.  
You are the underlying worthlessness.  
You are the underlying nonexistence.  
You are the underlying nonduality.  
You are the underlying absurdity.  
You are the underlying mystery.

\* \* \* \*

How much more creation?  
How much more preservation?  
How much more destruction?  
How much more desire?  
How much more pain?  
How much more suffering?  
How much more sorrow?  
How much more fear?  
How much more dread?  
How much more hunger?  
How much more assumption?  
How much more bother?  
How much more anticipation?  
How much more generosity?  
How much more greed?  
How much more compassion?  
How much more violence?

How much more empathy?  
How much more sympathy?  
    How much more low?  
    How much more high?  
How much more breadth?  
    How much more depth?  
How much more derision?  
How much more judgment?  
    How much more hate?  
    How much more love?  
    How much more joy?  
    How much more despair?  
How much more depression?  
How much more anticipation?  
    How much more time?  
How much more timelessness?  
    How much more eternity?  
    How much more misery?  
    How much more solution?  
    How much more grief?  
How much more argument?  
How much more agreement?  
    How much more insanity?  
    How much more inanity?  
How much more dissolution?  
    How much more derision?  
    How much more birth?  
    How much more death?  
    How much more gain?  
    How much more loss?  
How much more attachment?  
How much more detachment?  
    How much more torture?  
    How much more horror?  
How much more absurdity?  
    How much more thought?  
    How much more feeling?  
    How much more passion?  
    How much more insight?  
    How much more pity?  
    How much more tragedy?  
    How much more pathos?  
How much more dreaming?  
    How much more debate?  
    How much more power?  
    How much more value?  
How much more subjugation?  
    How much more arrogance?

How much more consequence?  
How much more significance?  
How much more meaning?  
How much more purpose?  
How much more profit?  
How much more mockery?  
How much more esteem?  
How much more treasure?  
How much more pestilence?  
How much more merit?  
How much more usefulness?  
How much more achievement?  
How much more quantity?  
How much more attraction?  
How much more distraction?  
How much more assessment?  
How much more insignificance?  
How much more regard?  
How much more scorn?  
How much more ridicule?  
How much more tolerance?  
How much more intolerance?  
How much more pride?  
How much more vanity?  
How much more completion?  
How much more accomplishment?  
How much more conclusion?  
How much more division?  
How much more infinity?  
How much more infinitesimal?  
How much more dreamtime?  
How much more similarity?  
How much more difference?  
How much more duality?  
How much more nonduality?  
How much more foreverafter?  
How much more whateverafter?  
How much more noteverafter?  
How much more everything?  
How much more anything?  
How much more nothing?

\* \* \* \*

This blob, this wall of flesh, this sheen of light,  
Is outside and inside the one and only You,  
Each and every kaleidoscoping moment.  
Duality is the lie born of imagination.

\* \* \* \*

Good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

\* \* \* \*

Duality is a concept long past its prime.

\* \* \* \*

You believe there is individuality in awareness? Show me.

\* \* \* \*

The house duality built.

\* \* \* \*

Duality is the lie born of imagination.

### **Breadcrumbs 2024**

No word, no symbol, no ritual, no tradition, no prophet, no deity, is sacred to the ultimate.  
Self-interest breeds a logic screened through too many filters to be at all predictable.  
Avoid moral dilemmas and quagmires; good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

\* \* \* \*

The human paradigm – from dawn to sunset – all boils down to vanity and greed.  
Narcissism and hedonism, channeled through the seven arduous dualities:  
Pride and envy and gluttony and lust and wrath and greed and sloth.  
Manifested physically, emotionally, mentally, in every way.  
Tempered only through moderation of the grit-and-gumption sort.

\* \* \* \*

Become the awareness,  
Become the stillness,  
Become the moment,  
Become the impenetrable,  
Become the unconditional,  
Become the totality,  
Become the inexplicable,  
Become the imperceptible,  
Become the nonduality,  
Become the unborn,  
Become the unspeakable,  
Become the inconceivable,  
Become the timeless,  
Become the unknowable,  
Become the indivisible,  
Become the impartial,  
Become the unequivocal,  
Become the immaculate,

Become the indivisible,  
Become the inexpressible,  
Become the imperceptible,  
    Become the undying,  
Become the unfathomable,  
    Become the solitude,  
Become the indefinable,  
    Become the indelible,  
Become the undeniable,  
    Become the intangible,  
Become the everlasting,  
    Become the ineffable,  
    Become the mystery,

And You, will be You.

\* \* \* \*

... observe everything ...  
... observe the sentience ...  
... observe the awareness ...  
... observe the existence ...  
    ... observe breathing in ...  
... observe breathing out ...  
    ... observe the here ...  
    ... observe the now ...  
    ... observe the world ...  
... observe the universe ...  
    ... observe the sights ...  
    ... observe the sounds ...  
    ... observe the smells ...  
    ... observe the tastes ...  
    ... observe the textures ...  
... observe the thoughts ...  
    ... observe the theater ...  
    ... observe the timeless ...  
... observe the spaceless ...  
... observe the nonduality ...  
    ... observe the infinite ...  
... observe the infinitesimal ...  
    ... observe the intangible ...  
    ... observe the mystery ...  
... observe the impenetrable ...  
... observe the unconditional ...  
... observe the indefinable ...  
... observe the undeniable ...  
    ... observe the unborn ...  
    ... observe the undying ...  
... observe the stillness ...

... observe the silence ...  
... observe the emptiness ...  
... observe the aloneness ...  
... observe the indelible ...  
... observe the immeasurable ...  
... observe the ineffable ...  
... observe the entirety ...  
... observe the singularity ...  
... observe the moment ...  
... observe eternity ...  
... observe You ...

\* \* \* \*

The only duality is the one concocted by imagination.

\* \* \* \*

It is the nature of language to create and stoke the duality delusion.

\* \* \* \*

The mystery includes everything, including You; duality is a lie from any get-go.

\* \* \* \*

A fountain of nonduality.

\* \* \* \*

Avoid moral dilemmas and quagmires; good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

\* \* \* \*

For there to be good, there must be evil, and that, my friend, is duality in a nutshell.

### **Breadcrumbs 2025**

There is no beginning, there is no end, in the moment You are,  
The moment You have ever been, the moment You will ever be.  
The world is naught but a quantum illusion, an imaginary perception.  
The real You is prior to consciousness, prior to all appearances.  
Prior to all attributes, all qualities, all traits, all elements.  
There is no other; duality is but the mirage of mind.

\* \* \* \*

Call it God.  
Call it eternity.  
Call it perpetuity.  
Call it kaleidoscope.  
Call it nonduality.  
Call it continuum.  
Call it streaming.

Call it creation.  
Call it oblivion.  
Call it genesis.  
Call it cosmos.  
Call it season.  
Call it duality.  
Call it space.  
Call it time.  
Call it You.  
Call it epoch.  
Call it infinity.  
Call it mystery.  
Call it moment.  
Call it anything.  
Call it everything.  
Call it nothingness.

All the same, no difference, no matter.

\* \* \* \*

What here or there has any reality,  
What us or them has any reality,  
What truth or lie has any reality,  
What thick or thin has any reality,  
What high or low has any reality,  
What great or small has any reality,  
What plus or minus has any reality,  
What up or down has any reality,  
What alive or dead has any reality,  
What black or white has any reality,  
What inside or outside has any reality,  
In an indivisible matrix that knows no duality.

\* \* \* \*

Duality, is a deity, a God, out there, watching you.  
And non-duality, the drop of God, the drop of mystery,  
The drop of eternal awareness, You are, looking out.

\* \* \* \*

Duality v. Nonduality: Is there really any question in a critical thinker's mind?

\* \* \* \*

Duality's menagerie is required for this dream, to play its play, dance its dance, sing its song.

\* \* \* \*

Duality, is a God out there watching you, and non-duality, the drop of God You are, looking out.

# Ten Reflections

## I

Become a conscious, sovereign human being, awakened to the intuitive wisdom of Self, witness to the reality and unreality of this timeless-spaceless mystery of time and space.

## II

Respect this diverse garden world, and the inherent rights of all creatures great to small. They are all masks of the same creation. There is no other.

## III

Treat others at least as well as You would prefer they treat You. Do not expect them to return the favor, or to learn from your example. No one will ever be You.

## IV

Live and let live; live and let die; grasp and release; give and take; win and lose; forgive and forget; inhale and exhale; fly and land; swim and drift; rise and fall; open and close; lock and unlock; come and go; start and stop; begin and end; flow and resist; tense and relax; be and allow; create, preserve, destroy.

## V

Moderation in all things. Gluttony, greed, sloth, envy, wrath, lust, and pride are the roots of limitation, the source of suffering. The axis of evil is nepotism and cronyism and favoritism. Take delight virtue, in integrity and simplicity.

## VI

Share what You have to share. But not in such a manner that it is degrading or disempowering to those You serve. Giving to get is not sharing.

## VII

Play win-win whenever practical. Unmitigated competition is ultimately a dysfunctional paradigm. Avoid unnecessary conflict. No one really wins a fight. There are plenty of cooperative, egalitarian opportunities for those seeking the inherent ground.

## VIII

Bring children into this world only if You intend to truly care for them. There are far too many human beings already. Life is arduous enough without a harsh, imbalanced beginning.

## IX

Do not put false wealth above real relationship. Learn to listen to the many voices of nature. Learn to see with its many eyes. Mountains of gold do not compare with a child's joy in a mound of sand, a bird's, in the morning sun, or a dolphin's, in the passing wave.

## X

Creation and preservation and destruction are equal partners in this kaleidoscoping light and sound show, playing out in the infinitesimally infinite aloneness of this dreamtime quantum theater. Deeply understanding this, may lessen the suffering of your relatively brief, more than a little absurd existence. Try not to take it all so seriously that You cannot laugh, at least occasionally, at this temporary mind-body, at this transient identity, this ephemeral, ever-changing, three-dimensional illusion, to which You are so attached.

# Got God?

## **Do you believe in God? If so, describe what you mean by that?**

Godness is the “I am That I Am” within each of us. It is the everything and the nothing. It is the smallest particle to the greatest whole. It is the isness, the nowness, the awareness, the timeless indivisible, unborn, undying source of this infinite, unknowable mystery. It is the creation, preservation, and destruction of every part and particle playing out the grand theater, the eternal kaleidoscoping holograph of space-time. That spark of divinity, of the Self within all selves, is the witness acting out every dreamtime imaginable.

Each and every life form is the immortal totality splintered into mortal fare. The source of life, of creation, is more than any measurement can ever explain or define. All attempts to grasp it, all the traditions, symbols, rituals and concepts, all the speculations ever devised in this garden world, or any other, are equally limited as anything but intuitive reflections. They are all merely a means to an end, not an end in themselves.

Time is a fabrication of consciousness. It is the virtual reality of the mind; the cotton candy of imagination. The ephemeral, momentary nowness is the only reality. Every life form, no matter who, what, where, when, why, or how, is very much of the same evolving creation, the same source, the same light, the same dreamer, the same witness, the same amness, the same uniqueness, the same absolute oneness. No matter how you slice and label it, we are all holographs of the same essence.

## **If you were raised in a religious environment, has that had a positive or negative impact on your life?**

Organized religions across the world clutch vainly to beliefs founded upon geographic assumptions whose foundations have all become brittle and stale in this shrinking world. Groups throughout time have again and again claimed to be the standard-bearers of truth, but have all too often created far more conflict than community in their ethnocentricity. The net result is that the many propagandas of history are weighing us down with clashing notions. Notions that no longer hold water when examined closely.

The fact is that we are all the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and those blind to this most simple, obvious understanding, those attached to literal translations and dogmatic collusions, cannot help but perpetuate unnecessary confusion and disintegration.

Religious traditions, with all their customs, folklore, symbols, rituals, and concepts are products of time and its inevitable limitations. Their value is that they remind us of our relationship with the mystery of our existence. But to vainly cling to any as more than temporal tools, to battle over them in any way, to use them as anything but maps home, presents a narrow vision of the eternal quest. The word is only sound, and no sound can more than echo through the expanses of eternity.

Organizing the spiritual quest tends to box godness into a concept. And in the journey beyond concepts, into that which is immeasurable, there are no boundaries, no assumptions, that withstand that which creates, preserves, and destroys all illusions. The source of time is bound to no form, and inevitably harvests all.

## **Do you believe in heaven, hell, and judgment day?**

Heaven and hell are states of mind, plays of consciousness, that only seem real where the now of time meets the road. Heaven is a sense of intuitive unity, an understanding, a clear harmony, a serene contentment. Hell is its divisive counterpart filled with unending prejudice, complexity, and contention. It is the passionate mind playing out the dualistic weavings of desire and fear, and the suffering they endlessly bring to fruition. Every day is judgment day for those confined by the illusory, dualistic play of the senses. In separation we are demons, in unity we are angels. Who has not tasted every potential to some degree?

## **Can prayer heal the sick?**

If you really have faith, do you need to pray? Sickness, injury, aging, and dying are inevitable in this mortal theater. Oblivion of personal identity is the undeniable fate of all forms. Yet that quantum essence each of us truly is, is immortal, and this very simple realization creates a far different view of life, than most seem destined to entertain at any given time. What each of us really is, is far greater than birth and death, and the limitations of any manifest theater. And praying to imagination for mortal immortality, is rooted deeply in the quicksand of ignorance.

## **Are your religious/spiritual beliefs separate from your political ones?**

Every action ripples. Every cause creates effect, and every effect becomes cause to the next effect. Those aware of this tend to walk more attentively in their day-to-day actions. Separative choices lead to disintegration; holistic ones to integration. Through interactions with others we show what we value. Are religion and politics separate? All division is the play of the time-bound mind. As long as we as a species value power, fame, and fortune more than we value right relationship, as long as we are in the grips of worldly attachment, as long as we worship mammon and idolize form, we journey toward an inevitable, synergistic fate of our own creation. The paradigm from which we spawned is no longer functional, and the bell is daily tolling louder.

## **Describe a spiritual experience you have had recently.**

Is there any moment that is not spiritual, magical, mysterious? Whether sitting on the porcelain throne, or caught up in an inexplicable vision, every moment's unfolding is ultimately very much the same. We may or may not be tuned in, we may prefer some moments to others, but in reality, the ungraspable is sky to all the cloudy creations of consciousness, wherever or however they unfold. Pay attention to the vastness within, or meander through every sensory, dualistic diversion the world offers, it is all the same ephemeral virtual reality. Life is an opportunity to reflect upon the indivisible oneness within and without, and to take it as any more than a three-dimensional, quickly passing mirage, misses its greatest potential.

## **What is the soul?**

What is not the That I Am? What is not the ground of all creation, preservation, and destruction? What is not the indivisible, immortal, absolute reality, that permeates all seen and unseen? What is not the same quantum mystery residing in everything, from the smallest particle of an atom, to the farthest galaxies of all creation? Godness, as discerned through consciousness, is as expansive or limited as any given personal vision, yet cannot be confined by any. Ultimately, there is no other. The ocean of godness, of isness, of hereness, of nowness, is all, including the drop of awareness reading this. The proof of it is that no one, no creature ever birthed upon this spinning garden has ever, will ever, or can ever discern more than a reflection of its own face. All forms are splinters of the same witness, the same oneness, the same faceless unknown. All attributes, all measurements, are born of the illusion of the quantum matrix of space-time, and to be bound by any reverie is the delusion of ignorance.

*"Got God?" was a response to a seven-question survey of Chico News & Review readers published in April 1996.*

## **Of the Human Journey**

Mortal existence is not easy. It never has been, and never will be, for any creature sown of this garden orb, this smidgeon of quantum dust, floating in the vast, immeasurable unknown. What follows are thoughts about the human journey; its theatrical paradigm and the fare existence offers, and the choices all must resolve, very much alone, in the sojourn through the veiled maze of space and time, of consciousness, with all its dualistic notions. It is a journey of ecstasy and agony, courage and fear, love and hate, absurdity and insanity, irony and paradox, life and death. It is the ineffable, insoluble mystery, born of the passionate mind, and the ever-flowing array of perceptions, of patterns, every human being faces, in the movement through birth, sickness, injury, aging, dying, and death.

These reflections are written to help promote a larger vision of where we as a species are heading. One that attempts to look beyond humankind's many seemingly irreconcilable divisions. One that values insight and wisdom. One that elevates rather than detracts. One that seeks to foster a sense of guardianship, rather than destruction and manipulation, of our little dust ball garden, and the many life forms it has spawned.

We live in a time period similar, yet increasingly unique, among the many eras come and gone before. Excessive population, coupled with unprecedented, unrestrained industries and technologies, and the consumption frenzy they feed, are driving our petri dish experiment of so-called free will, toward a rather bleak outcome. All the absurdities, all the insanities, we have so carelessly, foolishly, needlessly wreaked upon the earth's magnificent diversity, are huge rebounding tsunamis, awaiting our arrival in time. The rules of the manifest game are simple and uncompromising, and those who bend and break them, must eventually pay the price that Mother Nature, chief arbiter of all things dreamtime, is more than capable of exacting.

As long as we human beings battle over pride-filled, tribal differences, we inevitably embrace a fate of our own synergistic, instinctual, self-absorbed design. The monopolistic win-lose divisiveness wrought since long before history's invention, since our egocentric, competitive, voluntary secession from the

garden, spirals us down a path of annihilation. What we have done in all our arrogance, has created a time already nightmarish for many, and will only exponentially accelerate, for those to whom we are now ancestors. And we are nowhere close to discerning a common vision, a truly cooperative paradigm that might sidestep it.

We leave it to future generations, to create solutions to problems, all have aided in forging. We vainly hope that political, economic, and religious leaders will shepherd us to salvation, but they cannot, because the collective vision is too full of limitation and polarity. Despite all our canny attributes, we as a species have not yet fully fathomed our interconnectedness, our inherent kinship, to the indivisible totality. We have not grasped, that time and space, do not exist as any more than a play of consciousness, a collusion of imagination. Nowness is the only ephemeral, eternal reality, and the decisions, the choices, each of us make in this moment-to-moment flowing, of this ever-changing theater, create the dreamtime future.

So many of the leaders we have chosen to follow, with all their insecure, parasitic ambitions for power, glory, and wealth, only wax the slide with empty promises, and compromising, shortsighted decisions. Though many are highly intelligent in many clever ways, too few have the wisdom and integrity, to truly serve those they pretend to lead. The result is, that along with there being no political or economic solution to the dilemma now unfolding, our dysfunctional paradigm has created a spiritual crisis, well beyond all the vain pretensions so many call religion.

No one has ever, will ever, can ever, see the world exactly the same as anyone else. We are like snowflakes and fingerprints, patterns woven of a mystery, to which all creation is witness in one form or another. Time and space are magical illusions, and each and every one of us is an equal participant, in a vast theater of consciousness, spontaneously playing itself out, in seemingly every possible way. All our knowledge, all our histories, all our schools of thought, the countless frames of reference we imagine individually and collectively, dreamily overlap and merge like ripples, crisscrossing to and fro upon the same sea of relativity.

Words, whatever the language, are conceptual icebergs, each and every one of us envision and translate differently. Thoughts of culture, tradition, ethnicity, gender, morality, currency, politics, religion, ad infinitum, inspire an array of responses, often conflicting because of rigid, dogmatic attachments to time. Yet, at the origin of all consciousness, that quantum field from which this grand three-dimensional mirage has come to pass, is very much the same indivisible oneness, the same universal, eternal truth, despite all our sophomoric, meaningless arguments, over the endless permutations of knowledge, we ourselves have contrived.

All differences are fabrication, make-believe, fantasy, whimsey, delusion, born of imagination. All polarizations, whether cultural, racial, sexual, geographic, economic, political, religious, mythological, and on and on, are illusive deceptions, born of the play of matter, of light and sound, and the theater they together weave. Each of us imagines a personal universe, in which all travel very much alone, despite all the sensory evidence to the contrary. Until one can see past the attachments to an individual life, the many differences seem real, but ultimately, they are not, never have been, and never will be. It is a dance too vast, for any mind to more than intuitively discern, and perchance fathom, that it is lead dancer in its spirit-mind-body chronicle.

We are passing through a holographic epoch of time, in which the seemingly countless dramas of human existence, are available for all who have capacity and means to explore. What evolved of geographical isolation, can now be witnessed in whatever fashion predisposition allows. There is a tendency, due to the

aberration of pride and the quest for false glory, to argue one mythology's supremacy over another, yet is any collusion, more than a conceptual adaptation to time and circumstance? Is any one version, any one dream of consciousness, any one play of imagination, from the ultimate-reality perspective, really, truly, in any way, superior, to any other? Might may make right, but it does not make truth.

No one gets out of this manifest existence alive, and every human being ever born comes to grips with that truth, in whatever way capacity and limitation allow. Some create hells for themselves, while others discern within, a quality, a virtue, a harmony, that has been given countless names across the world. Most of us, of course, wander the purgatory between. In the journey of life, each of us swims an ebb and flow, in which the individual spirit-mind-body plays out incalculable variations of the passions born of desire and fear.

The life any of us creates, with all its perceptions and interpretations, is a blend of voluntary and involuntary choosing. Traditions are creations every cultural grouping, every societal mindset, fabricates, in order to maintain continuity in those the genetic lottery casts into its geographic realm. No one is bound to continue believing anything, but through the conditioned choices of imagination, that some call free will. Those who discern their own law, see this manifest play far differently than those, who, for whatever reason, cannot see past their attachments to the narrow propagandas of history, whatever the scale.

The gist of these reflections, is to encourage those who see their immeasurable nature, to become that to which they aspire. Intuitively, spontaneously free, to meet the moment as it unfolds, whether or not it fits the vision of any other individual or group. In the statistical bell curve of any rise and fall, of any creation and destruction, there are always the initiators, and those who tag along well after. Those who entertain the greatest vision, are already among the many who do not. Whether the reader sees it as a fact or not, we are all that which is the same indivisible upwelling, the same inexplicable mystery. Eternity is very much present within every part and particle, every quantum of the dreamtime to which all are witness. It is a vision so spaceless, so timeless, so infinite, so infinitesimal, as to be intrinsic to all creation, from You, to the farthest reaches and beyond.

Is the human species, with all its competitive predispositions, capable of comprehending and responding to a larger vision of itself? With all that is facing us, do we have the luxury of time? Probably not. More than very unlikely, in fact. Though the transformation of consciousness is an instantaneous matter, we as a species are caught in the juggernauting wave of collective ignorance, avarice, hedonism, narcissism, and countless attachments to choices made in times long before our brief little window, our tiny little scratch of the timeline. We may agree the problems ahead are nearly insurmountable, but a paradigm shift into a cooperative, balanced, intuitive, holistic, realistic mindset, is too much of a change for most to even begin to fathom, much less enact, at this point in time.

Despite the countless lessons offered by history, we are too attached to building mountains of false gold, practicing divisive religion, maintaining rigid traditions, following disingenuous leaders, promoting the idolatry of personality, supporting destructive institutions, fabricating egocentric class structures, producing adverse technologies, consuming insatiably in every conceivable way, destroying irreplaceable diversity, and killing one another because our ancestors could not get along any better than we, for all the same myopic, space-bound, time-bound, evolutionary, imaginary reasons.

Recognize it or not, the human species is fast-approaching a tailspin of its own design. It is inevitable that this garden planet, and all life that dwells on it, will someday return to its origin. That is the nature of the vast changing, the creation-destruction of each passing moment, in which we all choicelessly,

spontaneously participate. The indivisible, impersonal totality; that which relatively few fully discern, much less quest total surrender.

The question is, will we go out with nobility, humility, integrity, and discipline; as fully-evolved human beings, harmoniously realigned with the source of our origin, guardians of what is left of the garden that birthed us all? Or will we exit like fruit flies, churning feverishly for the last dollop of honey in the bell jar; like rats, vying savagely for the last crumbs at the bottom of the cage?

Each of us makes that decision in every step, in every breath, in every deed, every word, every thought. We individually create our own unique, imaginary versions of the universe, and how we work it out together in the impromptu theater of consciousness, only time will tell. The essential quantum reality is not about contrived differences. It is not about futile, conceited pursuits, meaningless paths to glory. Life is an opportunity to perceive, within and without, a vision of an integrated relationship with that which is infinitely, infinitesimally greater than its many parts.

It is the true discernment that each and every one of us, including every angel and every demon, including all creatures small to great, including every infinitesimal, absolute speck of quantum dust swirling within, to the furthest indivisible reaches of the unknown, is equally That I Am, to which mystics across the world, throughout time, point. There is no other.

Each and every one of us is the same indivisible eternal oneness, the same absolute, immeasurable, timeless genesis, playing out the relativity of dreamtime. We are all connected, inseparable, no matter the exterior, no matter the capacity, no matter the frame of reference. No religious middlemen, no stairways to heaven, are necessary. This indelible insight is absolutely free to all discerning enough, to see clearly, that the ethereal thing called truth, is the momentary, intangible, undeniable birthright of the timeless awareness, imbued equally within all quantum creations. This intuitive vision of the clarity beyond form, and the exploration of right living it brings about, is the only true revolution.

This inexplicable mystery we call life, this beyond-boggling organization of matter, is an opportunity to witness the vast unfathomable diversity of this manifest theater, this grand play of creation and destruction, of known and unknown, in whatever way each individually imagines. It is the potential within all, to see that every form born of space-time, is merely one of a ceaseless kaleidoscoping of shapes, of facades, of masks, of patterns, all veiling the same source, the same awareness, the same witness; nothing more, nothing less, nothing but.

The singularity of totality is beyond the scope of the mind, beyond the irrational concoctions of superstition, beyond the rational explorations of science. It is beyond the wordplay of any belief system, beyond the egocentric weavings of individual persona, and the countless delusions spawned of ignorance. We are all alone, together, and how we as a species finally choose to dance the dance, sing the song, walk the walk, and talk the talk, is ultimately, in this mind's eye, the true legacy of the human journey.

Best wishes,

M

**Th-Th-Th-That's All Folks!**