

# Requiem For God

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Look into the silvered glass of a mirror and what do you see reflected back into your own eyes? The image you see is that of the face of God.

If God is the “Ultimate Power”<sup>1</sup> of the Universe and if He was to look into the same mirror as you what image would He see reflected back into His own eyes? God must see the image of Humankind, as God made Humankind in His image.

Yet, it matters not whether God is the Ultimate Power in the Universe, but whether God is the Possessor of the “Ultimate Knowledge”<sup>2</sup> of the Universe. It is the Possessor of the Ultimate Knowledge in the Universe which controls the Ultimate Power and not the Ultimate Power which has with it no force or effect and is the reverse of true Knowledge. Therefore, the key to the Universe is not Power as is claimed by God but by Ultimate Knowledge solely. Since Humankind is the Possessor of the Ultimate Knowledge, in what scheme does God exist?

Certainly, Humankind has penetrated into the Inner Sanctum of God’s House and gained His Knowledge and that Knowledge has allowed Humankind to transcend God. Once Humankind absorbs all the Ultimate Knowledge in the Universe, what purpose will God serve?

Today, Humankind has no need for God, because they understand the Universe for what it is – vacuum, matter, and energy – answers which are neatly defined, scientifically explained, and annotated. Because Humankind has acquired such Knowledge, the Mystical God has become archaic, an anachronism and therefore unneeded and dead.

It was ancient humans who searched for answers beyond their capacity to reason – life, death, the sun, moon, and the stars – a physical world incomprehensible and foreign to them. What was Humankind to do without the answers to the images they saw and that which frightened them so?

It was God who whispered in Humankind’s ears. It was Humankind who heard the siren sounds of perfect Knowledge. It was Humankind who comprehended what God wanted them to understand – that He was All Powerful; that God was their Creator; and that Humankind was made in God’s image.

God even allowed certain Holy Men to venture through the Axis Mundi, <sup>3</sup> through the Radiant Light of Knowledge, to explore the invisible Universe beyond the stars and to be able to travel to a place where they could communicate with God. Shamans could only remain within the Light for a brief time because the Power was too destructive to survive in. All returned to earth with the Knowledge they had acquired. But who's Knowledge had Humankind truly acquired?

Carlos Castaneda, through his character Don Juan, explains, "At dusk there is a crack in the world, a place where a Holy Man can venture into the void, gain knowledge, and then return to earth. But for those who dare to venture more than once, they are forced to journey further and further within until they get lost, cannot find their way back, and are trapped within forever." <sup>4</sup>

There were Holy Men who sat with God, conversed with Him, saw His radiance – Moses gathered the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai; Jesus went to the desert and saw the Vision of God; Mohammed spoke with the Archangel and received the Word of God – but we are now too far removed from those times to be able to see God anymore, too sophisticated in our own beliefs to believe, too knowledgeable for superstitions to be a religion.

Through the millennia humans have had visions of great importance. Holy Men believed that such visions were granted by God Himself. Yet God did not understand Humankind anymore than Humankind understood God. The further we journey on the winged flight to the future the less we need God because we have been able to penetrate God's House, and once God's secrets are revealed in their entirety God is superfluous if He is not at this instant.

Is it possible that Humankind has never understood, intellectually, who and what God is, even though God is an extension of all our collective consciousness? If Humankind did not exist, could God exist independently of them? Surely the answer is no, because humans devised God, but God did not devise humans. It must be posited that Humankind invented God, because God possesses all the weaknesses and faults that frail humans possesses – He is unyielding, arrogant, selfish, unloving, and cruel – to mention only a few of His imperfections. Would God possess such negative traits if He were God? Or would God be loving, kind, protective, and understanding of His children?

From time immemorial, Humankind have represented God through the reflective image of their own eyes – with all their own prejudices, and misunderstandings – including all the monsters and demons that roam about inside Humankind's collective soul.

It was at the embryonic stages of chaos, at the very beginnings of recorded history, when Humankind realized there were Great Mysteries that he could not explain. The dangerous world in which he lived, for an example, that was insoluble to him. All grew bewildered and frightened by their lack of their ability to survive in their deadly environment. In their primitive minds a dim recognition dawned on them – there must be a Supreme Being guiding all their

fates; and if there was such an Entity then that Supreme Being must be All Knowing to them. Humankind molded God to their own images to answer the very basic questions that they feared the most – death, the sudden finality of life – and the physical world around them that was benign one moment and lethal the next.

There came to be recognition, by the priesthood, that fear, used as a device, was a powerful weapon to control their laity in order for God to be an effective Entity. Priests, of every persuasion, immediately consolidated their powers in their Religious Cosmos by warning their parishioners that they would die if they did not do as God had ordered. It was not long thereafter that the priests invented a place they named, “Hell,” to punish those who did not follow the “Word”, as they articulated the “Word” to be. Yet, as we all know, the words the priests bastardized were the same as Christ’s but the meanings changed to fit their own purposes.

At first God had no conscience, because Humankind had no conscience, as God had absorbed all of Humankind’s character faults, but God did not have the ability to comprehend why He had such faults as those whom He had created.

God has always been represented as being a human being akin to the Sistine Chapel in Rome but larger and more powerful than in life. God has always been depicted as a white male and not as a vaporous cloud floating in the vacuum of space because people were formed in the direct image of God, and people felt more assured when they saw a painted image of their God before them. Therefore we are, individually, God as God is the entire incorporation of ourselves.

It must be understood that Jews and Muslims consider such graven images found in Christian Churches to be blasphemous as they represent a living visible God and not a vaporous formless Entity as their religious teachings command. One must remember that in the Christian Religious Cosmos there are two Commandments that state, unequivocally, “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me,” and in the second, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:” So much for the Christian Religious Cosmos.

Now, at the beginning of the 21st Century, humans have the ability to extend life with medicine and surgery. Aren’t we playing God a God as defined by us? As humans, don’t we have the ability to make life and death decisions as to who lives or who dies? A bit of protoplasm placed into a Petri dish grows into a child. Doctors perform organ transplants that, if successful, will, as Jesus did for Lazarus, raise the dead to life. God has no more power than that to grant life – or take it back. Therefore, Humankind is on the threshold of bringing the dead back to life and of manufacturing new life with DNA particles.

It is my impression that Humankind is the only animals that can foresee their own death approaching. Animals, on the other hand, have no concept of what death is until violence or old age ends their lives. But it is only at the very last

instant of an animal's life that death crystallizes in the beast's brain and death is accepted without regret.

Western Culture is terrified by death because human beings can foresee it coming from afar, have time to contemplate its finality, and yet have no power to stop it. But death is only the fear of the unknown – it is beyond that which borders on our reality – and it is that fact which disturbs Humankind so. Maybe it is that gnawing fear – the perceived nothingness and blackness of all eternity that which is locked within each of our consciousness which demands that humans pray to God and ask Him for His salvation that may never come, or maybe does not exist. But, it is not death that must be feared, but life itself with all its vagaries that truly must be feared.

People, as well as God, have abused great power, as a child abuses power – without regard to its consequences or its actions. As an example, from Deuteronomy, 7:1-6:

*“When the Lord your God brings you to the land that you are about to enter and possess, and He dislodges many nations before you – the Hittites, Girgashites, Amortize, Canaanites, Parasitize, Hivites, and Jebusites, seven nations much larger than you - and the Lord your God delivers them to you and you defeat them, you must doom them to destruction; grant them no terms and give them no quarter...this is what you shall do to them; you shall tear down their altars, smash their pillars, cut down their sacred posts, and consign their images to fire...Know, therefore, that only the Lord your God is God who keeps his covenant faithfully to the thousandth generation of those who love Him and keep His commandments, but who instantly requires with destruction of those who reject Him.”*

A moral God would be incapable of ordering such violence, but a human being certainly possesses all the characteristics to do so. Can anyone believe that any God would order such destruction, genocide, plunder, and rape, and all in such horrific terms, and be so cold-blooded in His language? Or could the words invoked by God be that of a human being trying to motivate his troops into battle against an enemy? It has to be a human who invoked God's name, and God became an unwitting accomplice to the violence as God's name has been invoked whenever a warring army needed a victory against a real or perceived enemy.

Throughout all of human history God has been manipulated on all sides of a confrontation. In Northern Ireland – Catholics kill Protestants, and Protestants kill Catholics – and all in the name of God. In the Middle East – Muslims kill Jews and Jews kill Muslims – and all in the name of God. Why such bloodshed when all Humankind came from the same source?

Apparently, as if by chance, war is decided on whoever wins the violent confrontations and whose personal God is the most Powerful in His help to the victor of that conflict, because without that God's help then the victor would become the vanquished. One must only read Machiavelli, “The Prince,” to

understand that “might makes right,” and that God has nothing to do with either victory or defeat.

Didn't Adolph Hitler pray to his Christian God to destroy his enemies? As did the American and English Generals pray to their same Christian God and for total victory as well?

Even though God gained consciousness after Job the power He wielded was still arbitrary and capricious and caused great pain and suffering upon the very children He was supposedly nurturing. Humankind's many serious personality faults seems to have been absorbed into God's personality, and God became too human for humans to accept. God needed a makeover to make Him right.

There appears to be a radical change in God's personality between the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. In the former – God was very cruel and warlike. In the latter, He became more benevolent and loving, but one should not be fooled by such superficial appearances. God was God, and the priesthood still guided God in the direction that benefited them the most. God has never had the ability to lead, but only to follow, because God is truly Human.

Christ and Christian dogma, separate and distinct from one another, reshaped a cruel and warlike God into one of beneficence. It was Christ's disciples who incorporated Jesus' teachings of love and pacifism into Church dogma, and, therefore, God could not be both cruel and loving, but only loving as Jesus had taught. Yet, even with this assessment, it is abundantly clear that what Jesus' lessons preached, his priests debased. It was no longer the love Jesus preached as love but love as interpreted by a very corrupt clergy – corrupt then as well as today.

Christ died not for his personage – the Son of God – but for the political agenda that his farsighted priesthood saw as the power of the Church in the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th Centuries AD.

Historically, the purpose of the Pope in Rome was not for religious purposes as is thought. The Pope's occupation was to maintain absolute despotic power over the population at large and to seize any wealth he could for the Catholic Church's coffers – as attested to by the several centuries of the Crusades and the Inquisition. An example of the premise can be found in Seville, Spain, and the Jewish Quarter that was expropriated by the Catholic Church without any remuneration. The Jews and Muslims were given twenty-four hours to convert to Catholicism or leave Spain forever. Although many converted, many others still practiced their religious beliefs in their cellars, but was ever vigilant of the Church's spies.

God was already dying when He took Adam's rib and made woman, Eve. It was Adam and Eve who were God's children, His only children in a barren and desolate world beyond the gates of Eden. In most instances parents love their children but God did not love His own. God only tolerated them. His love was always at arm's length without any warmth or caring. God freely admitted the fact that Adam and Eve were his progeny and property but no more than that. Adam and Eve were caught in a web of intrigue – a cruel and unnecessary

contest waged between God and Satan that would affect Humankind to the very last moment of distant time. This was to be God's mindless lesson to the innocents.

When God dispersed Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, it was Satan who was the true victor, as he appears to be the winner in every contest he wages against God. God had allowed His own children to be entrapped in the intrigue without a thought or care. Since God did not love His children, He banished them. Then, to add insult to injury, God destroyed Eden without a qualm.

Certainly, Eve did abuse God's instructions not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge. She did, indeed, involve Adam in her perfidy (if the act could be called perfidy). But wasn't God supposed to be merciful? Shouldn't God have given his children a second chance, at least? Hadn't God made numbers of blunders on His own – in both His judgments and actions? Could it be that there was a conspiracy between Satan and God to entrap Adam and Eve into committing the crime so that God would have an excuse to rid himself of those whom He had made, and in whom He had no more interest?

Therefore, Adam and Eve had raised the Supreme Being to such heights that even God could not maintain his equilibrium and He fell. How could such frail human beings keep such standards as God had imposed on them if God Himself could not maintain His own standards?

Yet, there may be an obvious answer to God's anger with Adam and Eve. We all know that the fruit that Eve gave to Adam came from the Tree of Knowledge. If Humankind gained more Knowledge than God could Humankind then transcend God? If Humankind transcended God what purpose would God serve in the Cosmos? Obviously God tried to resolve his predicament with reason, but without His pre-Job consciousness His deductions<sup>5</sup> were deficient.<sup>6</sup>

In Eden, Adam and Eve had, in fact, transcended God for the first time with their acquired Knowledge. But this transcendence was to be repeated over and over again in the recorded history of Humankind.

Wasn't it the same God who turned his face away from Cain and put Cain in such a fury that he murdered his brother, Abel? Didn't God have equal love in His heart for both? Or could it be that God picks and chooses His favorites, as He would pick a favorite suit of clothes? And if that be the case God cannot be God, as we have defined the glorious attributes that a God must possess to be God, but someone other than God – God, therefore, must be a Human.

When God, with all His supposed intellectual capacity, listened to Satan out of curiosity, and allowed such an atrocity to be inflicted on such a good and upstanding man as Job, we must ask if God had any inkling to what He was doing, or if, in deed, He really cared? Certainly to Job, God is vicious to a fault, although that point is never mentioned in the Bible. Are we to suffer any malfeasance that God decides to administer? The answer is a resounding, NO!

Through God's scheme, Job lost his loving family; his loving friends; his servants; his animals; and all his fields. Every item, of any value, was taken from him by an invisible force bent on his destruction. Yet Job never cried out, nor did he blasphemy God, but bore his pain without complaint and continued to pray to his God. When God realized the errors of His ways, He restored all that he had taken from Job. But the valuables restored were not identical to those which were precious to Job, but only cheap replacements.

Therefore, Job was able to rise above God's own station because he had the capacity to feel grief and pain arbitrarily inflicted, but refused to surrender to it. Yet, God lacked the same capacity in His arbitrary and capricious cruelty. God was too obtuse to feel Humankind's emotions and pain. So obtuse was He, in fact, that He was oblivious to the game being waged on earth, the very same game He had allowed Satan to initiate. How could God, He who had made Humankind with His own hands, not be able to feel the same pain and suffering that He inflicted on His own children? Yet, it is clear by the record that God either did not care or He did not comprehend what he was doing to Humankind.

Therefore, God was only a petulant child who could not comprehend his Power to injure nor to understand why He did what He did. And worse, even if He did comprehend it would not have mattered. If God did not have the capacity to feel grief or pain inflicted on his children, and we are made in His image, how could God understand what He had so cruelty inflicted on Job? On the other hand, humans would have no qualms to inflict such pain on another human being. Therefore, all of Humankind must be God, and God must be a Human. The quandary, according to Carl Jung, the psychotherapist, was settled when God sent Jesus to the Cross so that God could feel and understand the same pain as He had inflicted on Job. God would then become "humanized" by sharing human emotions and pain, as we humans feel the very same agony.

But, do we really know if God cried when Christ, His Son, died on the Cross?

## Conclusion

It was God who refused Adam and Eve access to the Tree of Knowledge because God knew that Knowledge is the Ultimate Power in the Universe. God was afraid that if Humankind gained more Knowledge than He Himself, then Humankind would necessarily transcend God. If Humankind transcended God, God would have no purpose for His own existence. It is only through Knowledge that Humankind has developed the ability to transcend superstition and fear.

If humans made God in his own image, as I have suggested, God is incorporated into Humankind's intellectual consciousness from time immemorial. In ancient times, Humankind could not comprehend what they saw and they invented a Supreme Being to protect themselves, nurture themselves, and provide for themselves. Suddenly life's disasters and

achievements could be readily explained by a belief in a Supreme Being. Yet, today, we possess more understandings of the Universe than our primitive ancestors could ever have imagined possible.

What if God is truly dead, does not exist, or never did exist?

It is my impression that if a society is to be moral, whether God exists or does not is irrelevant because Humankind tends toward the moral. But, on the other hand, if a society tends toward the immoral whether God exists or not is again irrelevant because that society has chosen to be immoral and there is nothing that will change that society to the moral except by the members of that society.

Could it be that religious beliefs might not be beliefs at all, but religious enculturation and indoctrination forced down the throats of our very young and innocent and regurgitated verbatim until the moment of their deaths?

One last question: What happens if there be no life after death? And my answer to that question is – to the very moment of our deaths – each of us has lived; loved; gained Knowledge; been successful or not; happy or sad – all that makes up the human condition, and therefore, who cares to have another life after death? To me, one life was plenty.

In my heart, I know I have lived my life to the fullest. It has been a roller coaster ride, but it has been fun at times and disastrous at others. The specter of death holds no fear for me as I was dead when I went through my first bypass surgery.

I am an atheist by choice and knowledge. However, I am, I believe, more moral and ethical than most who profess being moral and ethical. My ex-wife and I have brought our children up to be as moral and ethical as we are, and they are, indeed, moral and ethical human beings.

I believe, profoundly, that within each of us there exists an Electrical Energy that flows through our brains and furnishes us with our Life Force. When I die, as each of us will die in our own turn, that Electrical Energy in my brain will be dispersed throughout the Universe and will travel ad infinitum. There shall never be any boundaries to that Electrical Energy.

1. POWER: Possession of control, authority, or influence over others. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition, 2003 Page 973.

2. KNOWLEDGE. The sum of what is known: the body of truth, information, and principles acquired by humanity. Ibid. 691

3. AXIS MUNDI: Turning point of the world: line through the earth's center around which the world revolves. In a Shamanic Culture, the Axis Mundi is the Sacred Pole where a Holy Man can travel through to communicate with the World of the Spirits. MJH Ibid. Page 1461.

4. Carlos Castaneda, "The Way of the Yakai."

5. DEDUCTION: The deriving of a conclusion by reasoning. Ibid. Page 324

6. DEFFICIENT: Lacking in some necessary quality or element. Ibid. Page 6