

THE
BOOK OF GRACE

GOD'S MESSAGE
FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM



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The Book of Grace

THIS IS THE TRUTH, as revealed to us during a period of sorrow, questioning and contemplation. The Truth about God and Grace and other things. At least the Truth insofar as humanity is capable of understanding it at this stage of its evolution. Why we were chosen as messengers is unknown. Perhaps the Truth has also been revealed to others in this new millennium, who have been reluctant to disseminate it due to fear of ridicule or persecution. All we can say is that we have faithfully recorded it to the best of our abilities for the benefit of those who seek the Truth. How do we know that this is the Truth? How does a newborn know to suckle its mother? It feels good, it feels right and it nourishes us.

We are not the first. Throughout the history of humanity, other messengers have been chosen - prophets, preachers, philosophers and fools. Some have tried to share the Truth, while others have remained silent. Some have cloaked the Truth in legends or myths to make it more sublime. But too many have distorted or perverted the Truth, or stood by and watched as it was perverted by those who claimed it as their own.

Those who have tried to share the Truth have frequently been met with resistance from others who are frightened of it, or can't handle it, or believe an alternate truth. Previous messengers have been ignored, called crazy, scorned, imprisoned, tortured, crucified and deified. John Lennon gained wealth and fame by sharing parts of the message through music, but then was murdered. We want none of those things, so we have chosen not to disclose our true identities. Call us Desmond and Molly.

The best news is that you don't have to believe us, or accept these words as the Truth. Whether you believe it or not, you were born in Grace and will remain in that state for so long as you live according to God's Laws, which are universal. Love your neighbor, be honorable, be charitable and you shall know Grace.

Please understand that you will not find all of the answers here, only those which God has chosen to reveal. At this stage of human enlightenment, many of the questions themselves remain unknown. Also, while we have tried to explain things as best we can, we don't fully comprehend it all ourselves. We were humble

theology students and not physical cosmologists. And when the brightest scientific minds in our world cannot even reconcile quantum theory with relativity, don't expect us to do it for you. The words are ours, but the message is indeed from God.

We also realize that there will be many skeptics, but our story is certainly not any stranger than those of burning bushes or buried golden plates. Finally, if you don't like the message, please don't kill the messengers.

Our Story

We met in a World Religions class at the Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA.¹ Molly was 23 and just starting work on a Master of Divinity degree. Desmond was 25 and in his second year of study for a Masters in Pastoral Counseling. He also dealt Blackjack at the Sands Casino three nights a week to help pay the bills. By happenstance as much by choice, we were both still virgins. Not just virgins, but essentially novices in the preliminaries too. Rather than admit that we were different than our peers, we had each convinced ourselves that chastity was part of the righteous path. Little did we know!

Now, let's be clear about something. Chastity as a personal choice is to be respected. Just as are monogamy and promiscuity. Chastity remains the most effective form of birth control, and it should be encouraged among those who are too young to make reasoned decisions or understand intimacy. But no one should deny themselves sexual pleasure or intimacy under the belief that such things are sinful, or that forbearance is a sacrifice that God expects from the faithful.

That said, the attraction between us was immediate, even though we got into an argument over the differences between the God of Christianity and the God of Islam. After class, we agreed to meet that evening for coffee and to continue our discussion. Instead, we spent several hours talking and laughing as though we had known each other for years. The evening ended in a chaste goodnight kiss, which was reckless behavior given the seminary's strict moral code.

For the next two months, we continued to have study dates and attended community dinners and social events together. Then came November 7, which we

will always remember as the Day of Grace. We had discussed in class that day whether the authors of the New Testament had borrowed the concept of wine symbolism from the Dionysian religion. As such, we decided that a bottle of wine sounded better than coffee. We shared it and a veggie pizza at Molly's apartment.

A simple kiss was followed by longer, more passionate ones. A bit awkwardly at first, we began to undress each other and touch places we had only dreamed of. We would've surely stopped, if one of us had suggested it. But neither of us wanted to stop. When we reached the point of no return, it proved to be a mere speed bump and a soft cry. Afterwards, we held each other and spoke of things we had been afraid to discuss before - love, sex and us.

After that first time we began using birth control, but it was too late. We discovered that Molly was pregnant during winter break, and she withdrew from school. Her parents were not pleased. Undeterred, we married in a simple ceremony in a nondenominational church on the Saturday before Easter. Our bliss lasted until the day in late April when our obstetrician explained the test results showing Trisomy 18 – a genetic disorder that usually results in infant mortality within hours to one month after birth.

Abortion was not a consideration for us, so the next three months were filled with prayer, hope, tears, anger and guilt. Under the circumstances, we could not escape the feeling that we were being punished. Our son was born on July 17th and was immediately placed in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). He looked normal, but had multiple serious medical issues. We named him Daniel, which means “God is my judge.”

That night we sat in the NICU, Molly holding Daniel gently, careful not to dislodge his breathing tube or the attached sensors. There were more prayers and tears, with Desmond trying to call on his training in grief counseling to no avail. “Why us?” Molly sobbed. Surprisingly, a voice behind us responded, “Why not you?” We looked and saw a nurse wearing scrubs, about 5’4”, short auburn hair with a hint of gray, indeterminate age and unremarkable features, except for her kind eyes. Her name tag read Donna.

“Pardon,” said Desmond, somewhat annoyed at being disturbed. Donna replied, “I asked ‘why not you?’ Parents have been dealing with the deaths of their

children for as long as there have been parents and children. Is there something special about you that should make you immune from the experience?”

“That’s hardly appropriate ...” Desmond started, but Donna interrupted him: “Listen to me. This child will die soon, and I understand your grief. But your next child will be perfectly healthy.”

“How can you know that?” asked Molly. “I know a great deal about you,” Donna answered. “For example, I know that you have been worrying that this child is some type of punishment for your carnal sin of fornication outside of wedlock. And that’s nonsense! First, it wasn’t a sin, and, more importantly, God doesn’t work that way.”

“What do you know of God?” Desmond asked her. “Oh, you could say that I’m a bit of an expert on that subject. I’ll be glad to discuss it with you and tell you the Truth, if you’ll permit me to sit vigil with you. All I ask is that you share what I tell you with others.” And so, for the rest of that night and the eight that followed, Donna sat with us and spoke of many things – some hard to believe at first and others hard to accept. She would appear shortly after the P-shift started at 7:00 p.m., pull the privacy curtain around our small area near Daniel’s crib, sit in a worn plastic chair and stay with us until we fell asleep.

On the ninth night Donna told us, “It’s time to let him go. The doctors have done all they can for him, and you don’t need to have them just keep doing things to him.” The next morning, Daniel’s breathing tube was removed and he died in our arms. He was buried on a sunny afternoon in August. We saw Donna standing at the back of the crowd of mourners, but could not find her after the burial. That evening, we called the NICU to thank her, but were told that no one named Donna or fitting her description worked there, or had worked there for years.

We made love for the first time in months that night. It didn’t happen immediately, but Molly was soon pregnant again. As promised, our little girl is healthy and we feel blessed. Of course, we named her Donna. We don’t know whether it was God who appeared to us in the NICU, or an angel sent to comfort us and deliver God’s message. She didn’t say and we were afraid to ask. However, we do know that is our responsibility to share the Truth with all who seek it.

The Truth About God

"I do not believe in the God of theology, but that there is a Supreme Intelligence I do not doubt." Thomas Edison

God is truly the universal intelligence/consciousness, which is best described as a type of energy that interacts with the other forces of nature. The actual name is unpronounceable by humans, so let's call it Y-energy (YE), because it explains why certain things happen. YE coexists with light, nuclear, gravitational and other types of energy, but can exert limited control over those, as well as over matter. In the early Twenty-First Century, science theorizes that 80% or more of our universe is composed of dark energy and dark matter that has not yet been identified. A substantial part of that unknown energy is actually YE. Further, the existence of dark energy and dark matter is generally accepted, even though it can't be seen or proven. Likewise, you don't have to be able to see, test, measure or explain YE to know that God exists.

In 1964 C.E., a Scottish physicist named Peter Higgs postulated the existence of a sub-atomic particle called a boson, which interacts with energy to create matter. Some have even mislabeled it as the "God particle." While Dr. Higgs was proven correct - such a particle has been discovered - his theory does not explain what controls those interactions and determines the results. Although some are indeed random, YE is the creative force that is primarily responsible for our existence.

God knows no physical form, but can assume one and has appeared to humankind in various shapes over time. God is neither male nor female, father nor mother, but can be any of those things. Yet it is improper to refer to God as "it". When speaking of Allah, Muslims use "He" out of dignity and respect. Given our experience, we will henceforth use feminine pronouns for the same reason.

God is not bound by the same space-time principles that we are. For instance, the speed of thought is much faster than the speed of light. Not when the thoughts are confined to the neural pathways of a body, but when they travel through the universe. As such, an intelligent being can generate a thought a million light years from God's core, and it will reach Her in less than a second. That does not mean that every thought is processed by God, however, as most are

filtered-out as insignificant. This also explains why humans can have a premonition of something happening before it does. The thoughts associated with an event can reach a person before it actually occurs in our time.

We understand that much of this may seem like science fiction. Indeed, it was initially difficult for us to grasp, and is even more difficult to explain. Further, we may be the first messengers to whom this specific information has been revealed. After all, what significance would it have been to people in First Century Palestine, or even early 20th Century India, when they knew nothing of bosons, dark energy or space-time.²

God is not all-powerful. As noted, Her power is coexistent with other forces. And the fact She can influence those others to an extent does not mean that Her power is limitless. By way of illustration, humans have considerable control over water. We can pollute it or purify it, travel over it or under it, use it for power, commerce or recreation, and dam it, divert it, collect it and move it great distances. But we can't make it rain or stop it from raining, nor can we prevent hurricanes, tsunamis or droughts. God gave us water, just as She gives us Grace. However, She can't constantly control all of the forces that affect water and everything else at the same time.

Neither is God all-loving. She is at Her core, but as the universal consciousness, God necessarily includes both (what we consider to be) good and evil. On a cosmic scale, evil is generally held in check because the universe works better in harmony than in dissonance. The core is composed of thought carrier particles that we'll call *lurons*, since they tend to attract each other.³ And just as stars do not contain all of the hydrogen in the universe, there is an abundance of *lurons* outside of the core.

Evil consists of a class of thought carrier particles that we will refer to as *vilons* for want of a better name. To simplify, we can think of *vilons* as representing base emotions like hatred, jealousy and greed, as well as urges to inflict pain, kill or destroy. Fortunately, all *vilons* carry a slight negative charge, so that they tend to repel each other. While they can exist in fields, they cannot accumulate in vast quantities to create a rival core. All thought carrier particles exist within the spectrum of YE.

This dual nature of God is not a new thesis among world religions. But the Truth differs from, say, the Taoist concept of Yin and Yang.⁴ Followers of that philosophy believe that Yin and Yang are complementary and interdependent, and that evil results from an imbalance. In contrast, it is better to think of YE as a rainbow, with *vilons* in the red-orange-yellow range and *lurons* in the blue-indigo-violet. The green or middle range represents things like pride, which can result in both favorable and undesirable conduct. Most “good” people live in the blue to green (on average), and only truly special people like Mother Teresa have managed to consistently stay near the indigo.⁵

Despite this duality, it is easier to speak of God as the benevolent intelligence and evil as something else. We recognize the inconsistency in saying that God’s Laws prohibit child abuse, when the evil that permits it is also part of the universal consciousness. However, we do not expect it will be confusing to the reader if we continue using the term God to represent only Her core and those aspects of YE that are beneficial to the world.

God created our world, in the sense that She influenced the physical forces to produce a planet that is capable of sustaining life. It is egocentric for anyone to believe that we are the only such world, or the first, or the most important one. Our world was not created in a day or a week as we know them, but then God doesn’t measure time the same way we do. For example, it took around two billion years for simple organisms known as cyanobacteria to oxygenate our atmosphere. God also created humankind, in the sense that She influenced life to evolve in a manner that resulted in *Homo sapiens* becoming the dominant species. Yet that is a very recent occurrence in the history of life on earth. God was not in a hurry.

The Book of Genesis is not incompatible with this Truth. It is a story told in a manner that people of a certain era could understand the same thing - that we would not exist unless God had willed it. As with other stories, myths and legends from ancient times, Genesis should not be taken literally. Similarly, the theory of evolution is not incompatible with this Truth. God simply influenced natural selection at a few important points, such as the K-T meteor impact that caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. Although dinosaurs were entertaining creatures, after 150 million years their brains had not developed to a point where they could accommodate souls. Thus, it was time for an evolutionary restart.

So, if God exists and is powerful enough to effect the creation of worlds, why does She permit wars, famine and other human suffering? That is a subject that will be discussed in more detail later, as well as the nature of God. For now, allow us to respond with more pertinent questions. When God has provided us a beautiful world capable of sustaining life, and told us to be good to one another, and given us the intelligence and talents to make it all work, why should we expect more? Are we special, or is it hubris to even think that we should be?

The Truth About Grace

“For me, every hour is grace.” Elie Wiesel, a survivor of the Holocaust

As previously mentioned, the Book of Genesis should not be taken literally. In particular, the story about the Garden of Eden is an unfounded myth. And blaming a woman for humanity’s plight is a prime example of what happens when it is men who create the myths. Humankind did not fall from Grace. If you are reading these words, you were born in Grace. Moreover, if you have lived your life according to God's Laws, you are and have been in a state of Grace, even if you've never received this message. Grace does not mean that anyone's life will be perfect - only better than it otherwise would have been. And as we learn to appreciate Grace, the things that depress us will seem less important, or easier to overcome.

This is not the same Grace that is embraced by Christianity; i.e., that the sins of man were redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and that “whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. Such beliefs are not necessarily inconsistent with the Truth, and Christians can know the Grace discussed herein without abandoning their faith. God is far more concerned about behavior than beliefs. The most significant distinctions are that people cannot commit evil acts throughout their lifetimes and expect to live in Grace or be saved at a later time, and there are certain sins that are unforgivable, as will be hereinafter explained.

Grace includes such things as love, friendship, beauty, music, cold beer and warm cinnamon rolls. It also includes sexual pleasure and intimacy. Those can be

viewed as both rewards for the faithful and recompense for the fact that bad things sometimes happen in life - even to good people. Sexual pleasure and intimacy are gifts that are meant to be freely shared, although no one should feel compelled to do so.

We realize that these words may be shocking or offensive to some, so let's touch on the subject of morality. We are all children of God, yet different cultures have different standards of moral conduct, especially as to sexual behavior. For example, in Bethlehem under the Palestinian Authority (PA), a Muslim man can have four wives if he can afford them, but liquor is forbidden to him. By contrast, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (PA), a man can have as much liquor as he can afford but only one wife. Similarly, it is considered respectable for a Japanese wife to purchase her husband an evening with a Geisha as a gift, whereas spending an evening with an escort is considered grounds for divorce in Japan, MO. The *Mosuo* in China do not practice traditional marriage, but rather have "walking marriages" where a woman can invite as many different men as she chooses to spend a "sweet night" with her. Is it morality or just geography?

The Truth is that the free exchange of sexual pleasure and intimacy between consenting partners are significant elements of Grace, regardless of societal customs, mores or laws. There should be no distinction between the rights or treatment of either men and women in this regard. But consent is paramount. A child is incapable of the reasoned decision-making necessary for consent. Neither is one who is in a state of intoxication or has diminished capacity. Let nothing written here ever be used as a justification for taking or attempting to take sexual pleasure without consent, or by deceit, or for forcing others to perform sexual acts against their will.

Also, as used above, the terms "free exchange" or "freely shared" refers to free will and are not necessarily synonymous with "free of charge." Prostitution is a profession that always has been and will be with us. So long as those who practice it do so of their free will, it is a worthy profession. Further, the practice of sacred sex shall not constitute prostitution.

Now, some may argue that sex can't truly be an element of Grace because prostitutes and their customers experience it too, as well as rapists and others who

disregard God's Laws. Simply put, the closer one comes to living in a state of Grace, the better their sexual experiences will be. Sex is less pleasurable without intimacy, and true intimacy cannot be achieved by those who are not in a state of Grace. Intimacy is the psychic connection between two people and their souls. It includes the looks, the scent, the promise, the anticipation and the afterglow. It is possible to enjoy intimacy without love, but love makes everything better still. How do we know all of this? Because God told us so. And because we briefly experimented with another couple before reaffirming our monogamy.

Of course, there are many more elements to Grace besides sexual pleasure and intimacy. We have focused primarily on sex here because it will likely be the most controversial concept. Who can argue that there is not Grace in a newborn's smile, or a hug from your *abuela*? Even those who are too young, too old or physically unable to enjoy sex, and those who are virgins or otherwise chaste, can know Grace, happiness and fulfillment by living by God's laws.

God's Laws

“If a ‘sister of god’ enters a tavern to drink, then shall this woman be burned to death.”⁶ Code of Hammurabi, No. 110

Hammurabi had 282 laws. God has but seven, which are hereinafter set forth:

First - Love your neighbor as yourself. Be good to one another. This has been expressed in many forms throughout the ages: "That which you want for yourself, seek for mankind"; "That which is unfavorable to us, do not do to others"; and "Make love - not war." It is time that we start paying attention!

Second - Do not harm children. Not your own, nor your neighbor's, nor those who were born of a different race or nationality. They are all God's children. Punishment for child abuse shall be comparable to the harm that was done to or pain endured by the child.

Third - Do not commit rape, which includes the promotion of sexual slavery. Rape of a child of tender years (13 years or less) shall be punished by death, regardless of whether the rapist is a pervert, a pimp, a priest or a parent.⁷

Fourth - Do not commit murder.

Fifth - Be honorable in all things. Do not steal, or cheat others in business. Do not commit perjury. Keep your promises or don't make them in the first place. Respect your father and mother, as well as your spouse or partner. Do not bring shame on yourself or your family.

Sixth - Be charitable. Give generously to help those less fortunate, and to promote dissemination of the Truth.

Seventh - Be good to the earth, for it is everyone's home.

The Truth About Souls

“To give a short answer: No.” Punnadhammo Bhikkhu, responding to the question of whether there is a soul in Buddhism.

Each human being is born today with what we think of as a soul, which is an infinitesimal part of the universal consciousness that is God. That has not always been the case. Early humans appeared some 2.5 million years ago, but *Homo sapiens* have only walked the earth for around 200,000 years. And it was only 70,000 years ago that our species was deemed ready to start hosting souls. With souls, we began to utilize previously dormant parts of the brain to form complex language, think abstractly, plan, imagine, create religious myths and migrate out of East Africa to conquer the world.⁸

At birth, the soul provides the spark of intelligence that jump-starts the brain. Thereafter, the brain generates YE, which is either consumed by thoughts and dreams, or stored as memories. At death, the soul survives and absorbs the stored YE. The soul is then reborn in another or rejoins the collective consciousness. Just as scientists cannot yet identify YE, the locus of the soul shall remain a mystery until God chooses to disclose it. Nevertheless, it interacts with the parts of the brain devoted to reason and emotion to create one's personality.

Although a soul remains connected to the whole, it functions independently when inhabiting a body.

Not all souls are the same. They can represent the full ranges of young and old, strong and weak, and good and evil. The Hindu concepts of *samsara* and *moksha* are partially correct, in that some souls do seek perfection so that they can end the cycle of being reborn, and thus become part of the core. When that happens, new souls are created to carry on. Other souls enjoy the experience of life too much - both the pleasure and the pain - to ever stop the cycle, and those are less likely to alter subsequent behavior.

The match between a soul and a body is oftentimes a matter of random selection. A majority don't care whether they come back as a girl working a window in Amsterdam, or as a guy who pays €50 for 20 minutes of her time. Others are more selective and may try to rendezvous with souls they have previously known. There are also instances where souls may be punished for sins committed in the past or present lives. For example, the soul of a child abuser may be reborn in an infant whose mother is starving in Sub-Saharan Africa, so that the soul will suffer during the lifetime of that body. How the system of punishment works was not revealed to us. We only know that it happens.

The brain is only aware of the existence of the soul on a subconscious level. While the soul may assert influence, the brain develops independently, so that there can be a check and balance system with the soul. But there are some instances where the soul is so powerful that it takes control temporarily or permanently, for better or for worse. Even when that results in acts of unspeakable cruelty, those acts are not God's will. God cannot fully control all of the evil in the universe any more than She can fully control the forces of nature.

A new soul is pure, but as it goes through life experiences it binds with various particles which give it a unique identity. Among those are what we previously referred to as *vilons* – the building blocks of evil – as well as the opposing *lurons*. The character of a soul is determined by the types and quantities of particles that bind with it, and it can change over time as additional particles are acquired or existing ones purged. There is at least a little bad in all of us, which is a good thing because it helps us compete and even survive.

We are primarily discussing souls here, but *vilions* also can and do infect brains. That happens through what a person sees, reads, hears and feels. And when a heavily infected brain coincides with an evil soul, a person capable of monstrous acts can result. Further, while *vilions* tend to repel each other, they also bind tight to the brain or soul. This creates a tension that can drive a person to madness. Hitler is a classic example, but it occurs on a smaller scale too, such as the students who murdered 12 of their classmates and a teacher at Columbine High School. The fact that we can explain such behavior does not in any way excuse it. The Truth is that humans can never use God as a justification for killing, except as otherwise provided herein, or for perpetrating evil.

To illustrate the relationship between God and Her countless souls, consider an ant colony. The individual ant has very little intelligence, but an ant colony can perform incredible feats of engineering. Working together, ants can construct an elaborate system of tunnels without plans or any member of the colony directing the work. The collective intelligence of the colony is far greater than that of any individual member. This is referred to as "swarm intelligence", and is not fully understood by human scientists. In comparison, God's intelligence is beyond our comprehension and vastly greater than that of any single soul. The difference is that a soul is intelligent, self-aware and may have certain ambitions or desires due to its character or past life experiences. Hence, whereas an ant will not act contrary to the interests of the colony, a soul can assert influence over a person that is inconsistent with God's Laws.

The soul does not necessarily control a person's behavior, however, as behavior is influenced by instinctual and experiential factors too. For example, a battered wife who is forced to kill to protect herself can become a killer, regardless of the character of her soul. And someone born with a nasty soul can grow up to know Grace, if raised in a loving environment and taught to obey God's Laws. Human beings are also blessed with willpower, which can override thoughts, desires and even instincts at times. Hence, a man who was abused as a child can choose to perpetuate or break the cycle of abuse with his own children.

This chapter began with a quote from a contemporary Buddhist monk regarding *anatta* (non-self), which is considered one of the three marks of existence in Buddhism. In his first *sutta* (discourse or sermon), Buddha taught that

there is no “self” nor an eternal, unchanging soul. But as with many theological or philosophical questions, it depends on one’s definition of the soul. For example, while Buddhists do not believe in reincarnation (transmigration of the soul), they do believe in the rebirth of consciousness. As we’ve discussed, the Truth is that a soul can and usually does change throughout a lifetime – for better or for worse. Hence, what Buddhists think of as consciousness is essentially the same thing as what we’ve referred to as the soul here (eternal but changing). Whether the Truth is closer to Buddhism than Christianity does not matter, anyways. If you want to go to heaven, or want a more favorable life when your consciousness is reborn, then you should seek to live according to God’s Laws in this life.

The Truth About Humankind

“...one giant leap for mankind.” Neil Armstrong⁹

Humankind is a product of over 3.8 billion years of evolution, though not necessarily the finished product. We are the only species on earth to whom God has chosen to reveal the Truth, but also the only one capable of causing its own extinction. Life on earth has survived multiple ice ages and mass extinction events, and it will surely survive us too. Whether our continued existence is to be measured in days, years or eons, we should cherish God's Grace and make the best of this world while it is ours.

Man and woman were created with the expectation that they would be equals. Not the same, but equals in significance and in Grace. True, men are generally larger, stronger and more aggressive, whereas women are able to conceive and are more nurturing. But it was never God's plan that men exert dominance over women, or that women tolerate it. So that we're clear, any laws, customs or religious teachings that place women at a lower status than men are inconsistent with the Truth.

That does not necessarily mean that a religion which fails to recognize the equality of women is without merit, as such religion may otherwise promote the observance of God's Laws. Likewise, individual believers in such a religion remain worthy of Grace if they live their lives according to those Laws.

Nevertheless, women should know that equality is the Truth, and those who would suppress it through coercion or force are not honorable.

Man and woman were not created in God's image, but rather in forms, varieties and colors that are pleasing to God. If your body is pleasing to God, then you should not be ashamed of it. Clothing is appropriate for protection, comfort and decoration, but nudity is your natural state. When you gather to worship or give praise, it is right and proper to do so in the nude.¹⁰

There is no predestination. Each human being is a product of their respective DNA, the combinations of which are not controlled by God. Neither does God control the environment or circumstances that a person encounters in a lifetime. In fact, God infrequently interferes with human affairs, and rarely with those of a particular individual. The most recent time was when Kennedy and Khrushchev decided to play "guts" with nuclear weapons in 1962. God didn't want to see the human race destroyed yet, and especially not by those two egomaniacs. So Khrushchev was compelled to back down and was deposed in 1964, while Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. Their respective souls have since been banished to a primitive world in the far reaches of the universe where they lead warring tribes that fight with sticks.

Humankind has control of its own destiny - not each individual, but collectively - until God decides otherwise. When we see what an ant colony can accomplish, just imagine what we could achieve working together, sharing resources and caring for one another. The swarm intelligence of even a fraction of humanity is capable of truly great things, such as sending men to the Moon. Instead, our history has been one of countless wars, wanton destruction of other species, squandering resources and little regard for the common good. That is all contrary to God's will, and it is our responsibility to change.

We say that the world is "ours" in a figurative sense, as the earth itself is a living organism and we are but parasites existing upon it. And the earth is just a grain of sand in the universe. While we have been blessed with Grace, we are not nearly the best that we can be, nor the best that God can do. Consequently, it would be unwise to keep tempting Her to do better.

The Truth About Prayer

“Why is it when we talk to God we’re said to be praying, but when God talks to us we’re schizophrenic?” Lily Tomlin

The human brain is generally incapable of more than one-way communication with God. Other than your humble messengers, people who claim that She has spoken to them are probably crazy, after your money, or seeking to gain or maintain a position of power. Divine inspiration comes from the soul. And while the soul remains part of the collective consciousness, it rarely receives marching orders. Thus, the Crusades were no more God’s will than the acts of the jihadis who flew airliners into the World Trade Center were. But when we pray, does She hear us? And if so, does She care? Accepting the Truth regarding these questions will require a fundamental change in beliefs for many.

First, you may have noticed that nothing in God's laws requires glorification of Her. God needs neither thanks nor worship, though she does not appreciate using her name in vain. That does not mean that we should be ungrateful, but gratitude is far better shown by living in accordance with Her laws. Similarly, while it is right and proper that we come together to share the Truth and celebrate Grace, such activities are important for humans and inconsequential to God.

Second, while human civilization has mostly evolved beyond the primitive stage, we remain low on the "love your neighbor" scale. See, for example, Psalm 137:9 - "Blessed shall be he who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rocks." Or Qur'an 9:5 - "Slay the idolaters wherever you find them." We have not yet destroyed ourselves, but have also not proven to be of much value in the cosmic scheme of things, except perhaps as a place to send souls for punishment. When we have done little or nothing to deserve the Grace we have been given, we should be circumspect about asking for more.

Third, God is generally concerned with the macrocosm, and rarely takes an interest in any individual or group. To continue with an analogy, an ant farm may be interesting to watch occasionally, but we don't pay attention to the individual ants. Likewise, we should not expect God to devote much attention to us, let alone to any one of us. Our souls make us more significant than ants, though, so She checks on us from time-to-time and has thus far prevented a nuclear annihilation.

God has also chosen to appear in physical form on occasion, but mostly speaks through messengers.

Although highly unlikely, it is not impossible that an individual prayer will be heard. When a million people call the same telephone number simultaneously, one of them invariably gets through. Otherwise, prayer or meditation can help a person contemplate the blessings of Grace, find clarity or purge *vilons*. When two or more pray together, the YE produced is shared among them and can lift the spirits of all participants, even to a state of euphoria.

Prayer can be beneficial and effective in other circumstances. As mentioned above, YE interacts with other forms of energy and matter. The effect is minimal when only one person is praying, but the combined energy generated by a large group can be significant. This is akin to swarm intelligence and explains such things as the so-called “home field advantage” in sports. Proximity is not necessarily a requirement either, as Scott Norwood learned when a greatly disproportionate number of people were praying that he would fail than he would succeed. But this phenomena transcends sports, as YE can heal, alter behavior and even influence random events. Sometimes – not always.¹¹

What About Jesus?

If we are all God's children, what's so special about Jesus?

Having been raised as Christians, we understand that many readers will want to know how or whether Jesus fits into this dogma. One of the hardest things for us to accept was that Jesus was a messenger, too. Perhaps the greatest one of all, but a messenger nonetheless. His message was communicated by word-of-mouth for at least a century before it was written down, and parts of it were lost or modified along the way. Some concepts like feminine equality were deemed too radical for societies at that time. In fact, the role of women in his life was de-emphasized by the male dominated church, such as Mary Magdalene who was mischaracterized as a harlot.

The same kind of things happened with his life story, especially the supernatural parts of it. Early Christians had to compete with the Hellenistic

religions of the Greco-Roman world, as well as such established religions as Judaism and Zoroastrianism. There were also pagan cults that worshipped deities like Mithras, Isis and Dionysus (Bacchus). It was not enough that Jesus rose from humble origins to become a great teacher with a message that still resonates. To attract converts, his followers deemed it necessary to make Jesus more god-like. So they borrowed elements from other sources. The notion of a virgin birth is one example. That is common in mythology, but it just doesn't work that way among humans.

Before dismissing us as heretics, Christians should ask themselves which of these propositions is easier to accept: that Lot procreated with his own daughters after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, as stated in Genesis 19:30-38; or that Jesus was born of the union of Joseph and Mary. In any event, belief in virgin birth is not a prerequisite to receiving Christ as your savior. It would serve no purpose to dwell on this topic. We would only risk further offending those who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, or giving additional credence to the skeptics who believe that Jesus was a myth. He lived, he taught, and he was crucified by those who feared his message.

What About Muhammad?

“A person did not shoot her; an ideology did.” Ziauddin Yousafzai, speaking of his daughter, Malala, who survived to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

While we do not wish to incur a *fatwa*, we must also discuss Muhammad, peace be upon him. Muslims believe that he was both God's Messenger and the last Prophet. We are unsure whether there is a distinction between those two honorifics, though we do not consider ourselves to be prophets. Muhammad was indeed a messenger, but he was not the final one. Nor do we expect to be. God speaks whenever and to whomever She pleases.

The Qur'an is believed to be the literal word of God, as given to Muhammad by the Angel Gabriel over a period of 23 years. After our experiences, we cannot dispute the claim that Gabriel did appear to him. But as with other holy texts, it would be arrogance to assert that the Qur'an is the definitive or final message from

God. Moreover, it is obviously inconsistent with the Truth that was revealed to us in several respects. Notably, *ayah* (verse) 4.34 declares that men have authority over women because God made them superior, which is diametrically opposed to that which has been previously stated herein. The verse further gives men permission to beat their wives for disobedience. Assuming that Muhammad ever preached that verse, the words did not come from God.

Among the problems with ancient religious texts are that we do not know exactly when they were written, who wrote them or what the authors' motivations may have been. Here, we know that Muhammad did not write the Qur'an, as Hadith states that he was illiterate. It was compiled years after Muhammad's death, so he never had an opportunity verify its accuracy. As Islam spread, Muhammad had little control over the words that may have been attributed to him by others. Consequently, certain verses included in the Qur'an were likely altered, or were never recited by Muhammad, or were not part of the message revealed by Gabriel in the first place.

Muhammad was a man of his time and place, and women in that time and place were generally considered to be little more than property. A girl belonged to her father and a wife to her husband. The concept of gender equality would have seemed more radical to him than monotheism, which was already a tenet of Judaism and Christianity. Convincing pagan men to worship one god instead of many was challenging enough, without also asking them to accept feminine equality. Muhammad was trying to attract followers and raise an army among such men, so it would have been undeniably more enticing to say things like: "Women are your fields; go into [them] whence you please." Qur'an 2.223.

It is not surprising that an androcentric (male centered) religion like Islam arose in a patriarchal society. Men have historically used societal customs, laws and religious dogma as means of repressing women. This was largely successful until the late 19th Century. God did not intervene, choosing instead to wait for women to affect change themselves. After all, a few thousand years is a brief period of time to God. In this new millennium, women have made substantial progress towards equality in much of the world not controlled by Islam. But relying on a literal interpretation of the Qur'an, far too many Muslims men still

insist that male superiority is the will of Allah, and far too many Muslim women acquiesce.

On the other hand, parts of the Qur'an are entirely consistent with the Truth, including two major concepts. First, it contains a different ending to the story of Adam and Eve than that found in the version of the Bible recognized by most Christians. In the Qur'an, they sought forgiveness for their transgressions in the Garden of Eden, and God forgave them. Consequently, in Islam humanity is not burdened with the sins of Adam and Eve, which is effectively the same as Original Grace. Additionally, Jesus is described as a messenger in the Qur'an, but he is not considered to be the son of God or otherwise divine. Qur'an 4:171. As mentioned, this is the same surprising message that we received.

Jews also agree that people are born pure and without sin, as well as that Jesus was not divine. Islam and Judaism diverge, however, on whether Ishmael or Isaac was the favored son of Abraham. The animosity between the two religions began with Muhammad. It obviously could not have begun before then, but the Jews rejected Muhammad's prophethood and the leaders of Jewish tribes reportedly tried to have him killed on several occasions. Muhammad was more fortunate than Jesus, Gandhi and some other messengers in that regard.

As with all humans, Muhammad's life was not without sin. According to Hadith, he consummated his marriage to Aisha when she was age 9. That may have been acceptable behavior in 7th Century Arabia, but most civilized societies today find pedophilia to be repugnant. It is an offense that carries a death penalty under God's Third Law aforesaid. Yet Muslims generally indulge the doctrine of *isma* (infallibility). Thus, since the Prophet was infallible, anything he did or said must be right. And some current Islamic clerics still claim that child marriage is permissible under the Qur'an and Sharia Law.¹² If it was good enough for the Prophet...

It is not our intent to denigrate Muhammad or the Qur'an. Historical figures should be judged in the context of their times, and all ancient religious texts contain passages that seem archaic and/or indefensible today. Our point is that you should not blindly follow the literal meaning of any document written over a millennium ago, much less someone else's interpretation of it. And what you

believe is not as important as how you live your life. Even if you choose to believe that every word in the Qur'an originated with God, you still cannot use those words as justification for harming or mistreating women or children, or for killing those that don't share your faith. You are responsible for your own actions. Qur'an 53:38-41.

What Is The True Religion?

“Give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day. Give him a religion and he may starve to death praying for a fish.” Anon

There is no true religion - there is only the Truth. And the Truth can sometimes be buried under bullshit. Religions generally are and have been elaborate myths created by men to explain things they do not understand, and to gain or maintain prestige, power and wealth. As previously discussed, even religions that were founded or inspired by messengers have been dominated and ultimately corrupted by men. Throughout history, religion has been used as justification for hatred, bloodshed, oppression, slavery, caste systems, homophobia and the subjugation of women. Those are true examples of using God's name in vain!

Even followers of different versions of the same faith have slaughtered each other. During the Reformation, Protestants and Catholics engaged in a series of terrible wars in Europe for more than a century, whereas Sunni and Shiite Muslims have been fighting for 500 years. But when religion has been replaced by political ideologies like Communism or National Socialism, all manner of evil has followed. The lines between politics and religion are sometimes blurred, but the Truth is that a difference in beliefs is never a valid excuse for the killing or mistreatment of others.

We don't mean to suggest that religion is necessarily a bad idea. Indeed, it has been one of the major unifying forces in the history of humankind, the source of laws, and helped bring order and stability to societies. And it has inspired great works of architecture, art, music and literature. Religion also promotes acts of charity and good will - often by the same people who disregard other elements of

God's laws. At times, it has stood against tyranny and oppression. Moreover, it has provided comfort to the sick and dying, as well as their loved ones, and hope at times when there was no other reason for it. Since we both have undergraduate degrees in theology, we may be a bit biased in favor of religion. Nevertheless, we believe that it has done far more good than harm in this world, except perhaps when it came at the point of a sword or gun.

Efforts to establish a religion based on the Truth have been and will continue to be resisted by followers of other creeds, governments - including those which purport to embrace freedom of religion - and men desirous of maintaining the status quo. Another impediment is convincing people to enjoy the blessings of Grace and those things that make their lives worthwhile, instead of counting on a utopian future. Many religions ask their followers to trade guilt in this life for the hope of salvation, obedience for something to believe, and individualism for identity - a sense of belonging. Then they sweeten the deal with the promise of paradise, heaven or nirvana. When a person has made such a bargain, accepting the Truth requires a paradigm shift. There are also millions who are seeking answers in their lives and may have already rejected religion. Whatever the challenges, the Truth must be made known to all who will listen, and celebrated by all who chose to do so! Any religion created hereunder shall be called *Gracism*.

The Truth About Other Things

“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”

Mother Teresa

The following topics are not small things, but were only discussed briefly during our revelations.

Abortion. You may consider abortion to be a mortal sin, as Mother Teresa did. But is it not better than bringing a child into the world who is destined to starve to death, or cause others to do so? Or will be unloved or abandoned. Every child is a blessing, but every fetus is not necessarily one, such as those conceived by incest or rape. Nature makes mistakes, and correcting one of those mistakes by aborting a fetus who would be born with a painful congenital disorder, or severe

brain damage, is a responsible choice and not murder. In fact, abortion cannot be murder (except the so-called partial birth procedure) because a child does not exist before a soul enters his or her body at birth. That does not mean that God favors abortion, but She disfavors the abuse, neglect and/or malnourishment suffered by unwanted children more. Abortion cannot be justified on the basis of the sex of a fetus, and is not a desirable substitute for contraception, which should be encouraged. But it should not be prohibited before the point where the fetus would be viable outside the mother, or when it is necessary to save the mother's life.¹³ Unfortunately, we foresee a time when the debate will change from whether a government can prohibit abortions to whether it can mandate them.

Alcohol. Alcohol has been a companion of humankind since the Stone Age. The earliest archeological evidence of fermented beverages dates to about 7000 B.C.E., but our ancestors were imbibing before then. The ancient Babylonians worshipped *Siduri*, goddess of wine and beer. While "sisters of god" may not have been welcome in their taverns, offerings of wine and beer were certainly welcome in their temples. Psalm 104:14-15 praises God for giving us wine that "gladdens human hearts." The New Testament tells us that Jesus drank wine at the Last Supper and on other occasions. Further, the Pilgrims who established Plymouth Bay Colony in 1620 C.E. referred to beer as a "good creature of God."

Alcoholism is an illness for which treatment should be sought, and both drunkenness and driving while intoxicated should be avoided. But moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages is a proper part of any celebration of Grace, though none shall be provided to minors. Furthermore, voluntary intoxication shall not be a valid excuse for any violations of God's Laws.

Confession. Having not been raised Catholic, we had limited knowledge of confession (the Sacrament of Penance), though Desmond did study the subject as part of his Pastoral Counseling curriculum. The Catholic Church deserves criticism for a number of things, including pedophile priests, bans on contraception, and various abuses of power by the Vatican throughout its history. However, confession is one thing that they pretty much got right.

Confession has been described as "low cost therapy" for dealing with guilt. It contributes to peace of the soul, which makes it easier to love (and forgive) your

neighbors. It can strengthen a person's willpower, and thereby make it easier to avoid future transgressions. Additionally, it is an important part of the process for purging *vilons*. Sincere regret is essential, however, as absolution is not available to those who merely seek a clean slate so that they can sin again. Moreover, there are some sins like child abuse, rape and pedophilia that are punishable, but not forgivable. Those are sins against Grace itself. Although a person may avoid punishment in this lifetime, the soul will surely know it in the next.

Heaven and Hell. It should come as no surprise to those who have read the foregoing chapters that heaven and hell do not exist as actual places. Rather, we make our own heaven and hell on earth, both for ourselves and for others. Each of us can enjoy and share Grace on a daily basis, whether it be through kindness, generosity or sex. Additionally, since our brains generate YE, we can contribute to the *vilons* or *lurons* encountered by those directly or indirectly affected by us.¹⁴

There are also certain events or conditions on earth that may constitute hell for those who experience them. Why such things happen will be more fully explored in the next chapter. And though some may consider God's core to be a heavenly place, it's probably boring as hell.

Marriage. Marriage is the formal union between two or more consenting parties for the purposes of mutual care and support, as well as raising children. A contract of marriage between more than two persons shall require the consent of all of them, and they must all be at least 18-years of age.¹⁵ Incestuous marriages are forbidden, as inbreeding is bad for the species, though brothers could properly marry the same woman or sisters the same man. Same-sex marriages are permissible, as no breeding is good for the survival of the species.

Other than incestuous relationships, God does not care whom humans choose to love or to marry. Neither does She insist on sexual fidelity among parties to a marriage. If the parties intend fidelity to be part of their contract, then their vows should include "forsaking all others" or words to that effect. However, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that fidelity was intended in all marriages occurring before the parties became aware of this provision.

Sacred Sex. The term "sacred sex" has two meanings, both of which are significant to this message. First, as an essential element of Grace, sex is sacred

in-and-of itself. This is hardly a new concept, in that humans have been worshipping various gods and goddesses of sexuality for thousands of years. As early as 4000 B.C.E., Sumerians built temples to Inanna, goddess of love and lust. The Hindus gave us the Kama Sutra around the beginning of the Common Era, and even today many still venerate Rati, goddess of carnal pleasure. In the Aztec Empire prior to the Spanish conquest, Xochiquetzal was worshipped as the goddess of female sexual power and patroness to both young mothers and prostitutes. Three imaginary deities created in different cultures over a period of five thousand years, all to explain the very real desire for sexual pleasure and/or to acknowledge sex as a divine gift.

Moreover, it is hardly news that sex and especially orgasm are often viewed as spiritual or religious experiences. For instance, the contemporary song *Take Me to Church* contains lyrics like, “She tells me ‘worship in the bedroom.’ The only heaven I’ll be sent to is when I’m alone with you.”¹⁶ The Truth is that worshiping sex as an aspect of Grace (while using proper birth control) is far better than worshiping power, fame, money or other false idols of modern society.

We’ve already mentioned the other connotation of sacred sex; i.e., that which was practiced by sisters (and brothers) of God in the temples of Inanna and elsewhere in the ancient world, where sexual favors were bestowed upon those who made contributions to the temples. It is mentioned again here because God has no objection to such practices, for so long as they are done of free will. Each temple or place of worship for *Gracism* shall determine whether and the extent to which nudity and sacred sex will be part of its rituals or otherwise permitted, and establish minimum ages therefor. Local laws as to the age of participants in such activities should be respected, though the minimum age shall not be less than 18.

Why Do Bad Things Happen?

“If it wasn’t for bad luck, I wouldn’t have any luck at all.”¹⁷ Anon

A commonly asked question in theology is, “Why do bad things happen, especially to good or innocent people?” Misfortune occurs in every life, but when it happens to a hateful person we tend to shrug it off as bad karma coming back

around, or the person getting what he or she deserved. That may very well be true, as souls are indeed punished. But what about the toddler diagnosed with a glioblastoma, or the nun who is raped and murdered while doing God's work in Africa, or the righteous folk who perish right alongside the sinners in an earthquake or cruise missile strike? Why does God permit those things to happen, or, more pertinently, how can such things be compatible with Grace?

The answer is multifaceted and includes some points that we have already touched on. But first, let's define what we mean by "bad things" for the purpose of this discussion. What is good or bad can frequently be a matter of perspective. For instance, an argument could be made that the extinction of humankind would be a good thing for the other species on earth. Also, a divorce, getting fired from a job, or your *futbol* team losing in the World Cup can certainly be traumatic events, but life goes on and those affected can still find Grace. There are worse things that can happen to a person, a family or an ethnic group, and that will be our focus here.

Bad things can result from the actions or failures to act of other humans, natural causes (disease, famine, etc.) and accidents. Virtually every human activity has an element of risk to it, and sometimes things happen by chance or for no reason at all. *Stercus accidit!* You can also cause or contribute to cause your own tragedy by such acts as driving while intoxicated, leaving a loaded handgun where it can be found by a child, or building your house out of straw.

We know that God is not all-powerful. She has to maintain order in the universe and does not have the ability to watch over and protect each individual intelligent lifeform simultaneously. We also know that evil is everywhere in the form of *vilons*, souls and brains that have been infected by them, and the actions they engender. Just as a human mind is not aware of every cell in its body, even one that is cancerous, and that cancer can proliferate, spreading to the brain itself before it becomes symptomatic, so it is with evil. It can begin with a single *vilon* and grow to the point where the soul and its host cause great harm before God becomes aware of it. And the Truth is that it's not God's responsibility to control the behavior of humankind, or that of any particular individual. It is ours!

The Nazi Holocaust is a perfect example. It was an abomination that was neither caused nor permitted by God. It was created by evil men and allowed to occur by the indifference or fear of “good” people who might have prevented it. If humankind was truly deserving of Grace, then it was our responsibility to stop this genocide. Although we did so, we apparently did not learn much from the experience, as the hatred, prejudice and disregard of human life that led to the Holocaust have largely continued to this day.

The Nazi’s “Final Solution” only proved to be harbinger of things to come. While Japanese civilians were training to defend their coasts with pointed sticks, the USA dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Soviet Union and Peoples Republic of China killed millions of their own people in various purges and “reforms.” At least one million children died in Biafra from starvation and malnutrition as a result of a blockade by the Nigerian government, with the support of the United Kingdom, and with the United Nations refusing to intervene. Viet Nam, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Rwanda, Darfur, Iraq, Syria and the beat goes on. Let’s hope that God has not been paying too close attention!

War is certainly a bad thing, and it’s worse if you lose. The earliest known archaeological evidence of humans being slain by weapons was discovered in 1964 C.E. near the border of Sudan and Egypt. At a site known as Cemetery 117, skeletons over 13,000 years old were found with pointed stone spear tips imbedded in them. But violence between hunting parties, bands and tribes of *Homo sapiens* and other hominid species was occurring for a hundred thousand years or more before that.

Although there have been extended periods of peace and cooperation in certain regions of the world, war has been a constant throughout recorded history. Wars have been fought for land and natural resources, king and country, political differences and alliances, pride and prejudice, protection and profit, mistake and madness, and even for the glory of God. If you take nothing else from this message, let it be that all war is contrary to God’s will. She does not take sides, or generally care who wins. The only exception would be when war is necessary to stop an atrocity like the Holocaust. Otherwise, killing is only justified in defense of an immediate threat of harm, or as punishment for violating certain of God’s Laws.¹⁸

Simply put, things like wars, genocides, ethnic cleansings, pogroms and the like happen due to humankind's own inhumanity.¹⁹ And because we don't listen very well. God keeps sending messages and we keep ignoring them. "Thou shalt not kill," was not merely a suggestion. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." Mathew 5:9. We are all God's children and we can all be peacemakers, if we choose to be.

Human beings are incredibly complex and amazing organisms. No two are the same, and none are perfect. The flaws can be harmless, cosmetic, crippling or fatal. They can be caused by heredity, genetic disorders, environmental factors, including the behavior of the mother, and random selection. Our Daniel's fate was essentially determined when an error in cell division resulted in an extra chromosome 18. When that happened, the only remaining question was whether Molly would suffer a miscarriage, or the child would be stillborn or live for a brief time. Although rare, that syndrome occurs in over 200 pregnancies per day worldwide, and we were assured that it did not happen because God was displeased with us. As previously noted, God does not get involved in the "creation" of any one of us. That does not mean She never has or never will, but don't blame God if you can't wear a Size 2 (Molly) or dunk a basketball (Desmond).

And while we're on the subject, take care of the body you have been given. Bad things can happen when you don't!

Instead of continuing to dwell on our experiences, let's consider the toddler - a young boy diagnosed with a glioblastoma. God did not cause that disease, and the parents are not being punished by reason of it. Even if they "deserve" bad karma, God would not sacrifice a child for that purpose (nor did She kill the firstborn of Egypt). Every child is a blessing and his parents knew Grace in the act of conception. The parents should extend Grace to the child through love and nurturing for however long he lives, and will receive it in return. The physicians and nurses who care for him will also know Grace through their acts of compassion. When the child dies, his soul will be reborn in another and have further opportunities to find Grace in the next life. As the soul is eternal, the

brevity of a particular life is inconsequential to it. But the Grace given to and created by the child will live on as memories.

The skeptic will argue that such a child could also be orphaned, born into abject poverty or abandoned, and never receive necessary medical care. While that may be true, it would not happen because God planned it that way. We have reached a point in our world civilization where essential health care should be available to every child, as well as food and clean water. And if we cannot provide those things, then perhaps there should be fewer children born into this world.

God could cure our toddler, of course, but then why should She not be expected to heal everyone with a disease or disability? Disease is a natural process which is both random and indiscriminate. Whether a man is mostly good or bad, or whether he believes in God, is not a factor that determines his susceptibility to a disease, how the disease affects him or the likelihood of a cure. God has rarely interfered with the course of nature, and particularly not on behalf of individuals. So beware of those who claim the ability to cure or heal through the power of God, if you will only make sufficient contributions to their ministries. They are charlatans and tricksters who have been corrupted by *vilons* associated with greed and/or megalomania.

Humankind has survived three plague pandemics. The disease pathogen was carried by rats and initially spread by fleas. It could also be transmitted through direct contact with a victim, so the caregivers were more likely to catch the disease than those who stayed away. The bacteria that caused the plague didn't care whether its host was a brown rat or a black one, a white human or a yellow one, a peasant or a noblewoman, a thief or a monk. Again, God neither caused nor permitted these plagues to happen. Nature did, and nature can be an indiscriminate killer. Humans are far more intelligent than either rats or fleas, yet it took us more than a thousand years and millions of deaths before we learned how to protect ourselves against plague. This illustrates how tenuous our position as the dominant species is. It is unknown whether God intervened to stop any of those pandemics, but it may take cooperation among all of us to stop the next one.

Natural disasters are similar to diseases. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, droughts and the like are acts of nature – not of God. It is geography

that determines where most of these events occur, rather than the morality of the victims. Human conduct such as pollution of the atmosphere and oceans will surely cause or contribute to future disasters, some foreseeable and others not. Fires can be of natural or human origin. But if God ever decides to bring fire, it will be far too late for these words to do any good.²⁰

Where Do We Go From Here?

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” Mahatma Gandhi

At the time souls were first introduced and our ancestors began to migrate out of Africa, *Homo sapiens* numbered less than 100,000. But by the year 2000 C.E., our world’s population was approximately 6 billion. It reached 7 billion in late 2015, and is estimated to grow to 8 billion by 2025. Earth does not have unlimited resources and can only support a finite number of humans, especially when the people of certain nations consume far more than their proportionate shares. As we approach the maximum number, mass starvations will inevitably occur, as well as wars over food and water resources. That maximum number is unknown, but the Truth is that we would have reached it long ago but for the all of the wars, genocides, plagues and disease epidemics, natural disasters and other bad things that have befallen humankind throughout our history.

This is another reason for God’s hands-off policy for humankind. She knew that saving one child from the Black Death in 1350 could result in twenty-five or more starving in 2050. And saving a city like Pompeii or Nagasaki from destruction would have only accelerated the overpopulation of earth. Although sexual pleasure is an element of Grace and children are blessings, God never intended for us to screw ourselves into extinction. Nevertheless, some religions still remain opposed to contraception or encourage their followers to “be fruitful and multiply.” Genesis 1.28.

We could feed the world. It would not be an easy task, but we have the technology, the plant and animal science, the transportation and communication capabilities, and still sufficient arable land to do it. The task would require a level of cooperation heretofore unseen in the world, some sacrifice by those who already

have plenty, and the likely use of force against those who would interfere. But humankind could do it, if we wanted to. Similarly, we could put an end to war if everyone simply embraced God's First Law - love your neighbor as yourself. To quote a previous messenger, "Imagine all the people living life in peace." You can call us dreamers, just like John Lennon, but making such dreams into realities may very well be essential to the survival of our species.

We should strive to eliminate world hunger, prevent or cure diseases, and end all wars. Those are the things God expects of people blessed with Grace. However, as we do them, or whether we do them, we must also institute reasonable population control. It does us little good to save a village from starvation, or develop an effective malaria vaccine, if it only means that we will have substantially more mouths to feed within twenty years. Reasonable population control does not have to include such measures as forced sterilization or China's one-child policy, which has resulted in a disproportionate male-to-female ratio among young adults and other unintended consequences. It does, however, include contraception and abortion.

Consistent with Her policy, God did not provide any specific solutions for population control. Instead, this message should be taken as a warning. The tide (of population) is rising, but we have a window of opportunity to stop it before it inundates us. There is still time. We believe that God would not have bothered with sending this message if it was too late. Yet the impetus will have to come from us – not political leaders who are more interested in gaining or retaining power than in facing the world's critical problems.

We each have a bit of divinity in us due to our souls. Utilizing swarm intelligence, or simply working together for common goals, we can make this world a better place for ourselves and generations to come. But we are more often like grasshoppers than ants – fiddling away the earth's resources without regard for the future – all the while singing "Ob-la-di-bla-da." If our selfishness or apathy results in worse things happening, we have no one to blame but ourselves. And that's the Truth!

Finally, beware of the ignorant, as well as those who preach hate or fear. They are everywhere.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities as messengers. The rest is up to you!

May the blessings of Grace be with you,

Desmond & Molly, 2016

Authors' Note

This is *The Book of Grace*, as it exists on the last day of March, 2016. This is not first nor the final version. We expect that it may be necessary to supplement it from time-to-time to answer questions, clarify parts that are misinterpreted, or correct any potential errors. Even so, the essential message will remain unchanged, for it is God's message. That message should be freely shared, but reproduction or use of all or any part of this work for sale or other commercial purpose without permission is prohibited.

NOTES

1. We have no connection to the Moravian Church or any other religious denomination. As with our names, certain places mentioned in this chapter were changed to protect our identities.
2. John Lennon's songs and writings give no indication that this information was also revealed to him. Perhaps he thought it was an LSD flashback.
3. The Standard Model of particle physics recognizes several types of elementary particles called force carriers, some of which have been discovered and others still theoretical. Similarly, there are several types or classes of thought carrier particles. We only discuss two of them.
4. Taoism is considered both a philosophy and a religion. Note that Yin – the feminine force – is equated with darkness and negativity.
5. Despite her dogmatic opposition to contraception and abortion, what she did for the poor was more important than what she believed.
6. 'Sister of god' was a name given to women who engaged in sacred sex at temples for ritualistic and fundraising purposes.
7. Depending on the circumstances, death, castration or similar harsh punishments are appropriate for other rapes.
8. Although not attributing it to the introduction of souls, Yuval Noah Harari called this event the Cognitive Revolution in *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*.
9. Stepping onto the Moon, July 20, 1969
10. No one should be compelled to worship in the nude. Also, until there are temples or other private places of worship available, it is recommended that you only do this in your homes or elsewhere that nudity is acceptable.
11. Apollo 13 is a good example, where the swarm intelligence of NASA engineers and the prayers of millions combined to bring three men home safely from space.
12. Salih bin Fawzan, Muhammad Al-'Arifi, et al.
13. The point at which any given fetus will be viable outside the womb is subject to so many variables that a general rule cannot be made. There are also medical situations where abortion may be necessary and appropriate even after that point.
14. Compare the feelings caused a typical political attack ad with one of Coca-Cola's "I'd like to teach the world to sing..." commercials. Your words can have similar effects.
15. It is understood that most civilized nations recognize ages of consent for marriage that are lower than 18, but multiple marriage requires a more mature emotional commitment and has greater potential for abuse.
16. Hozier (2013)
17. First attributed to E.K. Means in 1927, this quip appeared in several variations before being included in the song *Born Under A Bad Sign*, by Booker T. Jones and William Bell.
18. Qur'an 5:32 is consistent

19. Perhaps “inhumanity” is a misnomer, as the acts are perpetrated by humans, and ordered, condoned and even glorified by others.
20. It would be impossible to find new hosts for 7 billion souls within a short time.
Consequently, God would use fire to purify the souls so they could return to the core.