

GENESIS: PART I

CHAPTER I

In the Beginning...

There are two kinds of people in this world – those who are made of the essence of God and **KNOW** that they are one with this Essence; and those who are made of the essence of God but do **not** know it. This experience of existence, that we call life, is what allows one to come to KNOW his or her true relationship with the Creator. Now when I use the word “know” I am not simply referring to a person who has heard of God or believes in God or goes to church frequently. I’m characterizing the soul that comes to **know** that there is no distinction between the Father and the son or any other aspect of life. This is the goal of every soul to **realize** his or her true Essence.

This series is not meant to be a line-for-line interpretation of the Books of Genesis and Revelation; that would be far too boring of a book. It is meant, however, to be a symbolic comparison of the esoteric truths hidden in these two important books. Genesis represents the beginning of man and his purpose in creation. Revelation, so to speak, represents the “coming of age” of the soul. It is the culminating completion of the soul’s journey. We will attempt to highlight the important aspects of these points metaphorically representing the “starting and finishing lines” for man. And we will explore the spiritual truths that man need apply in his every day life, step by step, in order to progress along the path God has set us on. So let us begin with... “The Beginning.”

**1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness
was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved
upon the face of the waters.**

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

**4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided
the light from the darkness.**

**5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called
Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.**

The Book of Genesis opens with the line “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” The phrase “in the beginning” represents the opening of a story. The story obviously hasn’t been told yet but the storyteller is setting the scene. In this case, the storyteller is none other than God! And the story about to be told is this thing we call life. As with most books of interest, readers want to know a little something about the author. So the next question is who is this storyteller “God”?

Well, the first thing we can gather from the opening of this story is that the author clearly existed prior to the opening “in the beginning.” And any curious mind will naturally question, “how did God exist before the beginning”? “Who made God”? “How did he become all powerful enough to create everything”? Or “was there anything else that existed with God”? These and all the other possible questions we can conjure cannot be answered or grasped with the human mind. Since the human mind is part of this creation it cannot fathom a concept that exists outside or beyond this creation. And while it is impossible with the limiting ability of words to define a concept that is incomprehensible, infinite and indefinable; there are some words or ideas that more closely relate to the Creator than others. These ideas don’t encompass the Creator but they can point us in a direction that can lead to greater understanding.

First, we must understand that God exists in an Absolute state where nothing in Creation resides other than God. The Bible perhaps gives the best description of the Creator simply as “***I am that I am!***” ***Exodus 3:14*** The minute we try to define “I am” is the instant we cross over from His Absolute state to this state of creation that is based upon relativity. Saying “I am Joy” is great but only describes an aspect of Him. Saying “I am Powerful” may be profound but still only has meaning in relation to that which is not powerful. Saying “I am this or that” is still limiting because God is this, that, all of the above and none of the above. When something is Absolute then by definition there is nothing “relative” to it other than Itself!

Hence, this may lead us to the best explanation of why God began telling this story in the first place. It has been said that God being the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Question and the Answer simply wanted to experience Himself as such. Note I didn’t say that God wanted to *know* Himself; I said “experience” Himself. God already knows Himself as all things. But to experience Himself as such is another matter. Get it – “another matter”? The universe is made of substance we call *matter*... another matter... Oh never mind, but anyways I digress. The definition of **experience** is the process of direct observation or participation in events as a basis of knowledge. I guess you can say that God is directly observing as well as participating in the events that we call life.

Again since God is Absolute and the only True Substance there is, it in essence would be impossible for Him to experience Himself unless there was something to contrast Himself with. But where would God get the building blocks necessary to contrast Himself other than from Himself? The moment He tries to create something that exists outside of Himself or is separate from Himself, He would instantly falsify the truth of Him being Absolute. To be Absolute means there are no equals or other truths than His own. To be

Omnipresent means there is no place that exists where he isn't totally and completely present. See the dilemma? Here in lies a great mystery of Creation... HE COULDN'T!

I think this point deserves reiteration. Most of us who believe in a God accept the fact that He is Absolute, Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient. If this is true then you must acknowledge that He is totally conscious of every space, place, idea and action that takes place. Yes, He's even aware of you reading this book. And yet He, for some reason, remains quietly subtle; unobservable for most. This also means that it is a mathematical impossibility that any thing can exist that He is not completely and totally intrinsically intertwined within. If there is such a person, place or thing that exists then it would falsify His Absolute Presence. So why does God remain hidden? We'll explore this question in much greater depth incrementally throughout.

Now some people may have difficulty with the idea that there's something that God "can't do." But if we think about it, it's really not that hard to accept. For example, God cannot stop being God! To do so would negate His Truth of being all there is. Since everything comes from His Being, He is the Alpha and the Omega and there is nothing before Him or shall come after Him. Because He is all-powerful and all-knowing anything he creates must fall in line with these Absolute Truths. Anything that makes His Absoluteness "not absolute" would negate this first truth. Perhaps "limitation" may not be the right word but there are some things that have to coincide with being the Lord that cannot be changed otherwise He couldn't be the Source of all things.

If you haven't seen the movie "Dogma" I suggest you rent it. It is a pretty humorous movie with a nice cast of stars in it including Ben Affleck, Matt Damon and Chris Rock. In the movie these fallen angels have found a loophole created by the church in order to get back into heaven that would ultimately make the Lord fallible. Of course if this is to transpire then what would it say for heaven, much less God, if

His universal laws could be so easily manipulated by His own creation? If such a thing were even feasible I guess the entire universe would just implode or something. Of course this is an impossibility, which the end of the movie supports as well but it is enjoyable to explore as an entertaining story. Nothing in God's creation can violate, negate or override His Truth.

So the next best thing the Creator could do was to create the "idea" of something other than Himself in which to contrast and experience Himself. There you have it – the entire creation of the universe is nothing more than a collection of God's ideas. Now the next thing to understand is that any idea of God instantaneously becomes one with God and therefore immediately dissolves back into its Source being – God. In order for God to hold a thought or idea long enough to observe and experience it, He had to create an opposing thought. The act of these two thoughts acting or pushing against each other is what leads to this "world" of duality. It's the reason why we have polarities.

These dueling ideas or "forces" is the foundation of this creation of relativity. Remember in God's Absolute state there is nothing "relative" to Him. Only in the physical cosmos is there a sense of relation. Now let us also remember these two original "opposing thoughts" both originate from the same Creator. From *Isaiah 45:7* we have ***"I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things."*** As long as God holds these "ideas" in play we have what appears as the physical world. The instant God withdraws his ideas; the instant everything dissolves back into His Absolute state!

According to Newton's Laws of Motion:

1. A body continues to maintain its state of rest or of uniform motion unless acted upon by an external unbalanced force! And secondly...

2. To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

It can be said that God in His Absolute state is in a “state of rest.” In this state of being there is no motion just Pure Consciousness. The moment we explore God’s thought we transverse from His Absolute state into a state of motion or creation. This state of motion or creation can also be called energy. Energy in its finer form simply represents a “mass-less” idea or motion of God coming into creation or dissolving back into the Absolute.

In physics, the law of conservation of energy states that the total amount of energy in an isolated system remains constant. God is that isolated system and God is that constant! A consequence of this law is that energy cannot be created or destroyed only altered in form. This altering in form is simply changing thought. So to work backwards, the universe is made up of matter, matter is an appearance of mass, mass is a conglomerate of energy, energy is a result of God’s thought in motion, thought comes from Pure Consciousness – God! And yet God exists even beyond thought. God is Absolute!

It has been said that God is “center everywhere; circumference nowhere.” If you’ve ever thrown a pebble or watched a raindrop fall into a still body of water you would see the outwardly expanding ripples of water in a perfect circle in all directions. Of course in this physical creation we have friction; therefore that expanding ripple gradually fades the further out it expands. Likewise, in God’s Absolute state His idea would continue to expand infinitely outward unless some external, unbalanced force acted upon it. Again if we look at Newton’s second law of motion it states that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. It is these “equal and opposite” reactions (or ideas) which hold creation together; otherwise, these ideas, forces or reactions (whatever you would like to call them) would just instantaneously

expand and dissolve back into where they came from – God! These “equal and opposite” forces also represents a universal law that is known as karma, which is another discussion we will explore.

Again, I would like to reiterate that it is impossible to describe the Infinite and Absolute concept of God but I do think it deserves a little further penetration to understand our Creator, at least on an intellectual level, more personally. It doesn’t take a stretch of imagination to conclude that God being Absolute coincides with the descriptions in the Bible of Him also being omnipresent – “being everywhere at once;” omniscient – “knowing everything there is to know;” and omnipotent – “being all powerful.” Since everything in creation is a result of His thought and will, it is impossible for there to be a place that exists that He wouldn’t be present. It would be impossible for there to be an idea that is secret to Him or to even be thought of since everything comes from his Original Thought. Although the universe exists based upon a system of laws, since He is the creator of those laws, He is not confined or restricted by them in any manner. Hence no law, idea or experience can be greater than the Creator Himself.

Another important aspect of God is that He is always in a perfect state of Bliss. Some may question, “How do we know He is in a perfect state of Bliss”? In truth, the only one capable of testifying to the validity of God’s state of Bliss is one who knows God! And when I say, “knows” God I don’t mean a person who has read about, prayed to or simply believes in God. I’m referring to those very unique souls who have directly experienced God and remain in an eternal state of Oneness with the Creator. The simplest answer as to why God is a perfect state of Bliss is because He is unto Himself already Complete. There is nothing for God to achieve, work for or to obtain. He is the sum of all things... and then some!

To try and put this into terms we may better grasp, let’s explain it in terms of man. Most of us have had moments of serenity, joy, ecstasy, happiness and fulfillment. For every

person those moments will vary. For some, graduating from high school or college may feel like their greatest accomplishment in which for that one instant they could have “died and went to heaven!” For others giving birth to a child or marrying the love of their life or finding out the person you had a secret crush on for years likes you as well. For some, achieving a long-term goal such as buying their first home or starting their own business or receiving the praise of others for an accomplishment may have been the highlight of their life.

To others hitting the lottery becoming rich or even having the best sex of your life may have created a moment where you just felt complete and nothing else could have made that point in time any better! For the majority of us who may have actually experienced some of these moments we come to realize the actual event isn’t all that grand. And our grandest thought always seems to be the “one thing” we haven’t experienced yet. In other words, the “idea” of a previous experience or the expectation of an experience we desire always seems to be greater than the actual achievement.

But nonetheless, the shortcoming for most of us is that these spectacular moments in time are just that – a moment in time! They are always fleeting. We can’t capture these intense moments of pleasure or satisfaction and bottle it up to make it last forever. Well guess what – God is that Bottle! Imagine all the greatest moments of your life intensely happening all together at the same time! Then imagine before the height of that moment could subside it was intensified by the addition of even greater joy! Imagine before you could even ask the question of what could make it better – it was already better! Now imagine that state of magnificent happiness and then multiply it by a million! No, better yet, multiply it by Infinity! That still wouldn’t compare to God’s Bliss! God’s Bliss is Completion!

There is nothing else that can make it any better. There is nothing that can be added to it. There is no further longing or possibility that could make it more fulfilling. It is

Perfection and it is ever-newly replenished in the Eternal moment of Now. That is the state of being our soul knows! That is the eternal place in time that we crave! That is the center of perfection, the summit of completion, the pinnacle of love that our hearts yearn to feel! That is why nothing on this Earth, this plane of existence will ever satisfy us. Our souls already innately know this Truth. This is why we continuously seek the fulfillment of new desires – because no attainment or fulfillment of a worldly goal brings the lasting satisfaction and joy of being immersed in God! There is only one way to immerse our self in God and that's to look within.

According to the Eastern science of Yoga, creation has three possible qualities. They are sattvic (positive), tamasic (negative) and rajasic (neutral). Not only is all of creation made up of these qualities but because man identifies with the matter of creation, he too is made up of these potential characteristics. Man has the challenge of learning to first balance these traits but ultimately to transcend them. In truth, nothing is really good or bad but mostly the interaction, perception, intent and outcome is what determines the nature of an idea. Herein lies the great potential of mankind to realize that all ideas are meant to be tools that can be manipulated by the soul. The soul is the superior master of all ideas but it is through the ego's interaction with the world of ideas that the soul transcends the ideas and knows the ego itself to simply be the result of an idea.

While I was in college I underwent a pledging process to become a member of a fraternity. Of course pledging is now illegal by the fraternity as well as most state laws but originally this pledging process served a purpose. The concept was borrowed from the Masonic pledge process, which was borrowed from the Egyptian mystery systems of ancient times as well as other civilizations. There are many objectives of the pledge process but the main idea behind it is the notion that man possesses many unfavorable characteristics. In order to bring out the best in the individual

you must first “break him down” to his most basic components so that you can “build him back up.” This is accomplished through tests, trials, tribulation and adversity. For whatever reason man seems to rise to his greatest potential when there is a resistive force that he must overcome.

While on line for this fraternity we were forced to memorize the poem “**If**” by Rudyard Kipling. At the time that was all I did was *memorize* it. It wasn’t until years later that I was going through some difficult times that I made an effort to truly *understand* what it meant. At the time I had just lost the girlfriend I had been with for a number of years. I had also lost my job and only source of income. Thus I was on the verge of losing my apartment through eviction. Most of my luxuries such as cable and some utilities had already been cut off. My car at the time had an electrical problem so when I attempted to go out somewhere for a ride to relieve the stress I would find myself stranded on the side of the road. Finally, after being tired of the embarrassment I just avoided driving the car as much as possible. I felt helpless because I didn’t have the money to fix the car and all I could take care of was the basics to feed myself. Thank God for that little bit. It could have been worse.

It was at this time that I began dissecting the poem to truly learn to understand each and every line. I would take one line and not just memorize it but analyze it and examine it to see if I embodied the qualities in the verse. I would stare at the ceiling at night because I didn’t have cable to watch any television and I was having difficulty sleeping. So I tried to use my time wisely by making an effort to apply the characteristics suggested in each and every line. Then one day while speaking to my ex-wife, I asked her about how a couple we used to spend time with was doing. She said she hadn’t spoken to them in a while but gave me their number.

I called and spoke to my old friend’s wife who informed me that they were no longer together. She informed me that he was now living in Atlanta, the same city I was in.

So I called him just to say hello and see how he was doing. We caught up on old times and I told him what was going on with my life at the time. He didn't have much but happened to have a trailer hitch large enough to get my most important valuables out of the apartment that I had to be out of by the next day. And he offered me the bed in his spare bedroom. It just so happens I hadn't seen this friend in nearly ten years at the time so it was definitely a Godsend for me! It was the break I needed to find new work and begin to get back on my feet. I don't necessarily think it was the poem that brought about the blessing but more so the attitude it helped to instill. They say life is 10% what happens to us and the other 90% is our attitude.

Some time later I did some research about Kipling's personal life and found out that he himself may have had some character flaws. I don't know for certain if any of the hearsay was true so I won't bother repeating it. In my mind, the Bible tells us "he who is without sin can cast the first stone." And I believe we all have our shortcomings but even so we can have moments of impeccable inspiration. I believe his poem "If" to embody this regality. I think the poem captures the reality that life presents us with – positive, negative and neutral opportunities to choose how we define ourselves. But even in the midst of our choices the greatest choice lies in man's potential to choose to rise above the dual nature of the world. I believe the greatest good in speaking on any spiritual matters is not just to show the great things God can do but to show just how great man can be. So I'll share this poem with you and hope it inspires you the way it has inspired me.

The poem signifies how we are presented with many moments in life where we have to make a choice. The greatest choice we will ever have to make is to realize our relationship with the Creator and our potential to live as a Son of God. Thus we have a glimpse of the Creator and His Being. Each and every soul is born of this Being and is made in His image and His very essence. God is the Supreme Writer of life and

we are all his co-writers! In the Hindu religion they refer to God as the Supreme Soul known as Purusha. Not much more can be said about God through words. Some believe you must wait until heaven to get to know God any better but it is possible to not just speak with God but for Him to speak to you as well. You just have to learn from those who have achieved this relationship and follow their path to nurture the same for yourself. Now we know a little something of the Author of Life. Let's venture a little deeper into His story in which we all have not only a role but are the starring actors in our own personal director's cut version.

IF

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
But make allowance for their doubting too,
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise*

*If you can dream--and not make dreams your master,
If you can think--and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools*

*If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it all on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breath a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"*

*If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings--nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much,
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And--which is more--you'll be a Man, my son!*

--Rudyard Kipling

