

## Forward

My continuous praise and gratitude goes out to my Creator. I call this The Holy Spirit, God, and Jesus. I have no issues with what you may call **this energy** I also call **LIFE**. Something so overwhelmingly magnificent, **I believe** mankind was designed just TO BE. I AM that I AM. ( NOT my original quote of course ), but **pretty solid** I'd agree. **Ha**.

**I believe** God spoke those words to Moses, an Old Testament leader who as a spiritual base equates to The Law. **Unconditional** - in its DESIGN & FOUNDATION. But the APPLICATION of its principals – our **WILL** to **FOLLOW** the PATH - DIRECTED as CHOSEN ! This means that **WE are responsible** to a GREAT degree what our world consists of. **How much exactly** I doubt any “age” of Mankind *will ever* **KNOW**. Always expanding to new previously before ideas **BEing** manifested into a “reality” qualified and quantified INDIVIDUALLY and as a WHOLE also, it is WAY too complicated and inter-twined with strong connections and weak connections all having their affects known as the “Butterfly Effect”.

How this book affects you **I believe** will be with LAUGHTER, DEFINITELY TEARS, & heart palpitations which I hope WILL HAVE you're LOVE for others grow with amazement and splendor bringing you to **ponder new questions** to be considered as to how **JOY** may be **SHARED** and expressed **FREELY**. Plus whatever the “**Universal Consciousness**”, **God, The Holy Spirit, Jesus, Etc.**, may have for us all accepted **GRATEFULLY** and in **PEACE** because the **VIBRATIONS** (Karma) sent OUT will affect the creatures and creation I experience with those same vibrations. **Mine... I not only desire** to be full of **JOY and HAPPINESS** but **KNOW I ALREADY AM full of “Good things”** ! Again, they also will be returning somehow thus I daily input “My 2 cents” in to this theater of miracles and wonder. However that may be, I **CHOOSE** to **SEND OUT** what I **INTEND** to be **POSITIVE**.

I would like to give you all a couple little “heads up” as to this background information for a side-note (fact) , ha, I was NOT an “A”

student in English class during High School as I was in most every other class. So you (might?) notice ( a few? ) grammatical errors ( mistakes – no... **“first takes”** not quite in harmony with the ideal goal ) - like run-on sentences here and there. **Ha.** And funny, to me at least, is that when I was young I was kind of fascinated with **King Richard the “LION-HEARTED”** and had this connection and affect that I exactly don’t know even has any merit besides what I have created the connection to become. See? Please practice while reading to LOOK FOR and FIND the deep meanings only YOU will discover, then I wish...will SHARE! I would also **enjoy** IF that would include getting back with me at [Pictureofhope@hotmail.com](mailto:Pictureofhope@hotmail.com). or at P.O. Box 734 Monterey, California 93942.

I have figured out though that my path somehow has to do taking advantage of my lung capacity being conditioned to be efficient in exhaling using my trained to be AMPLE breath (**hot air?**) in the form of a ( **Kiai** ) – a loudly and forceful but mentally relaxed and focused release of energy, intent and efficiency learned from my twenty years of Okinawan Shorin-Ryu karate participation and instruction. See? Run-on sentence? **Ha.**

**This collection of poems** actually got started the very moment I first saw the woman I was to marry, the still to this day beautiful, Ronda Baldini. Marry TWICE actually. **Ha.** And not so much a “ha” now, divorced twice. But as with ALL things we experience, there are as many CONTINUOUS LESSONS to be gleaned from waking up every morning as we can dream and conceive, **believe and ACHIEVE.** She is the most special woman on Earth to me at this moment that God has me closest to ( 500 miles! Ugh. **Ha.**) but is now on her own path apart from me and still my best friend, as I am to her. Our paths are united to the degree we choose to unite them which would involve the principles I’ve expressed in this book to harmonize with a reality yet to be created for enjoyment of both parties and their world.

I **believe my** life has been the catalyst onto **my** PATH to gain EMPATHY and perspectives as to **HOW** LOVE works. ***Yours is too*** - **IF you CHOOSE to SEE LIFE that way.** I **believe** LOVE is described - very precisely -

throughout the Bible and specifically around 1 Corinthians chapter 13. Also, by the way, I've described it a bit in numerous poems. **Ha.**

This book actually got started, as did my GRAND AWAKENING to **INTIMACY, LOVE** and everything I saw as "**Good**" or "**Bad**" ...the first time I SAW Ronda:

I've told this story bunches of *times*.

It's hard for me to write without ending sentences in *rhymes*.

My angel came walking down the stairway after washing her *HAIR*. *HE Verbally spoke 9 words into my head; "THIS IS THE GIRL YOU ARE GOING TO MARRY"*. (must have been Heaven's? Ha)

**So I wrote her a poem** that turned her on to ME and **made her laugh** Because of *this...*

It said: I'd take her out on a date and it would end in a *kiss*.

**So out we went. Three times and it still didn't happen**

Till Ronda thought to herself; "**What the hell?... This is CRAP n'**

**Gave me the KISS I'd been waiting forever for.**

**You're invited to read what happened next in poem after poem** about LOVE plus things I abhor.

Our relationship started and *soon LOVE brought forth our daughter Rose.*

Even though Ronda KNEW I didn't really want a **child**, selfish reasons I *Suppose.*

**It was the best thing that could have ever happened.**

**We** were so blessed and happy, the only thing that would really dampen **My spirit** was that *my name is Rich* but **extra money was rare.**

I must have had ants in my pants and jazz in my jeans that lead me to **Dare**

To walk up to a line and cross it if it looks promising.

I put all my fears, doubts and anxieties in their place I've nicknamed "**Thomasing**".

I write my "**negative**" feelings down expressively then tear them up to "**Set them free**"!

The **“Good”** feelings I’ve written down ***for this book*** to keep alive and Grow so many, many may SEE.

See? Ha. One thing I’ve been taught and **believe** is the **foundation** upon all things lain upon **is: A man’s word** is only as good as his backing it up! P.S. Note: I ALWAYS “SEE” the man in the mirror – ME – as the filter for what I speak. God has been quoted as saying that “ALL men are liars” which means I AM TOO , but in perspective, it is again...PART of the process to “FIND PEACE – ( NO LIES WITHIN THYSELF) and “HOW LIFE WORKS”

I **believe** this starts with what I believe is God’s **WORD**. I also know that a “*lie*” WILL come back TO HAUNT YOU , karma stuff, although there is “A WAY” to overcome, which is up to YOU to DISCOVER. **Jeremiah 29:11** states that there is - ***by design*** - “**GOOD**” intended towards us. I BELIEVE THAT. ***SO our “Gift” is when we SEE positive stuff and DO positive stuff.*** As the saying goes; “It’s not how many times you fall down but how many times you GET BACK UP”! “Trips” aren’t even considered to be mistakes AFTER they HAVE BEEN overcome – ***only UNTIL*** – because **ONLY THEN** WILL we “SEE” it was **but part** of the conditioning PROCESS. \*see poem #27. This possibly might be seen as the “**Butt**” part where most of our “**PAIN**” is said to be “happening”? Ha?

Same goes for a crazy doctrine in my present opinion that there is NOT EVEN AN “**EVIL**” POWER in this world. Before the situation resolves itself **HARMONIOUSLY**, these things must be and **WILL BE SEEN as EVIL**. I even spent hours recording how many times in the Bible it says God “**Creates EVIL**”. **94 times** by my count in 2012! Interpret that as you will, but...come on now...believe what you want, but to me the **fact** the **word exists** means it has some essence of value. P.s. I have the list available upon request. **Denial is not TRUTH**.

So like too many young couples we didn’t share the financial burden of raising a child. This led to issues you will read about. Even sad things have a funny side to them. Laughing is encouraged while reading these little ditties. Y-2k was approaching and I was moved to quit, but only

temporarily for 4 years from my karate teaching and practice to read the Bible and many other sources involving spiritual **thinking towards GRACE, MERCY, KINDNESS and JOY.**

We decided to move away from cold Mishawaka, Indiana after both our moms died within a month and my dad only lasted right on average about 14 months without the **LOVE** of HIS life to **SHARE his with daily.** (actually, NOW, I **believe** that is what happened to my marriage relationship. It died for the same reason).

But the “**Miracle**” of “**Life**” as I **understand it** allows for ANYTHING to happen. ( Maybe except a 3rd marriage to Ronda? Not likely but see previous sentence. Ha. ) We “Love” each other still...just **differently now.** Life means change. **Life is change through choices made.** This could be seen as selfishness...depending...read on. I **believe** that Miracles only happen when HARMONY between **ALL** entities involved brings about their SHARED CREATIVE IDEA within LOVING, POSITIVE INTENTIONS and THOUGHTS aimed at growth in **JOY** for **God...US!**

An important bit of information that always has been a huge factor in my relationship with Ronda’s is that her dad had a serious head accident and was hospitalized when she was around three years old so she NEVER HAD the MALE SUPPORT that fathers bring to the family but did have aunts and uncles and a cousin in towns nearby. She still has her one and only brother and very minimal older relatives still living here among us in our realm while I still have three and a sister; so we have totally **different dynamics** and **different paradigms about life** and everything in it. Thus HOW our differences and issues became highlighted in our marriage and lives is brought much insightful light to these pages.

I want you to **keep an open mind when reading these** and I certainly don’t expect you to agree with some of them because, heck, I’ve mentioned that these journal MY JOURNEY and I DON’T even believe exactly as I did before. Mostly my view on “**Hell**” as the Catholic “**religion**” wants us to believe and HOW IT HAS CHANGED MY APPROACH TO OTHERS HUMAN BEINGS, and life in general! I hope it

will be ***very apparent*** my positions about Life and Love have been transformed.

We moved to Las Vegas, Nevada to warm up and experience lots of sunshine and light. Then new poems with new spirit started coming out. Mostly because I did NOT listen to Ronda AND The Holy Spirit who BOTH were saying DO NOT buy a house for 2 ½ times what we were leaving. Plus I KNEW there was going to be a BIG HOUSING BUST but I insisted on buying the house right next door to my guitar buddy from Indiana.

The WEEKEND we signed, the market CRASHED. It was MOTHER'S Day weekend 2007. It didn't take long for things to go south. My 4 different jobs kept laying me off due to the bubble bursting affecting everything, construction jobs first. We lost the house after 3 years and THANKFULLY (by Grace only paid during the 1st year then allowed to stay there for 2 more)! Plus the stress was **BIG TIME**. A shame and total BULLCRAP as far as I was concerned because the "Bank" - (THIEVES) got our government to pay the full price I tried to pay (at taxpayer's expense) ...PLUS sell it AGAIN! And for only \$100,000.00 this time which is what we left and what I could afford paying for everything by myself like I had been doing, but of course that was not God's "PLAN".

We ended up separating because I could not physically deal with both hands in severe carpal tunnel symptoms that made sleeping basically NON-EXISTANT and its HEALING properties vanquished into oblivion. The pain ran from both hands bottle-necking and crashing my party at my neck and shoulders (were lots of people hold secondary stress also). Plus a lower back that would also hold stress and get injured from karate falls during workouts, and back-breaking work 8-10 hours a day on a **buck rivet HAMMER GUN** to assemble aluminum truck bodies together...which I didn't seem to communicate the "HELL" of experiencing it. I figured it up one time that I personally could be hammering tight nearly **1 MILLION RIVITS / YEAR ! ! !** And I worked there nearly **12 years!**

She had her own issues which did not get out of the darkness and into the LIGHT where I wanted them to be dealt with properly and with the BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS.

This led to our second divorce. SOMEHOW, the very next day our daughter called me to see if I might be interested in moving out to the Monterey Bay area to temporarily help her out since going to school full-time and working enough to pay the bills as a single mom would, understandably so, seem to be too much to handle. Up until then I had only visited three times in California. It was to be basically a full-time job that I was **very happy** to be **in position to serve and enjoy**.

So off I went to be grandpa to my only grandchild from my own loins, though I do have **Joshua**, a step-grandson I guess he is called from Ronda's first marriage of quick duration – which also gave odd color to our own developing marriage and intimacy level.

I had barely got my bearings and still working on my **Balance** of this **NEW LIFE** and my new surroundings **when they all changed again** in an instant. **Yup. Another woman. Ha.** But no “voices” this time. Only our own saying “Hi”. The occasional chance meetings became less occasional and more for just friendly reasons. Her name was the exact thing I've been lacking for SO LONG...**JOY!** I was in my “Garden of Eden” so to speak. \* see poem # 124. Ha. I had beautiful surroundings and a new beautiful woman to hang around with. The local saying goes “Another Day in PARADISE”! And **what a joy the days had become**, for me at least.

I was inspired to start writing again with a **brand new level** of **Joy** never experienced before in my being. **I believe** I became **overwhelmed** so **God** had a surprising an **abrupt** about-face in store for me on the 4th of July, 2016. On my way back home from a 4 day fishing trip to “**Hell Hole**” reservoir in northern California I **believe** **God** (as the Devil) screwed with me. I got pulled over because of some words I had on the back end of my truck cap window while playing Hide-n-Seek with my granddaughter and **Joy**. **Joy told me** I should get rid of those words but I was too busy to care, because I really didn't think I needed to ...

thinking people CAN M.Y.O.B. as my sister used to tell me which means **Mind Your Own Business. Ops! Ha. And UGH!**

**One** of the four words caused some person vibrating from fear caused through intentionally and socially manipulating purposes ( which by the way is the definition of *witchcraft* – although witchcraft does not necessarily denote an energy or vibration NEGATIVE or contrary to ONE’S PERSONAL WILL since I’ve personally been told that by someone who said **she IS a “WHITE” witch! Thank God. Ha!**) to call the police to check me out. I know...another “rough” sentence. **Ha.**

Side note: I am a bit saddened that I never got to experience ANY of THAT MAGIC she claimed to be ABLE TO PRODUCE. **Besides** the **spirit** of “JOY” I was also wanting to **connect** with **some ‘MAGIC’** somehow. CALMING DOWN of our souls was first on my agenda. **My bad! Damn!** Ops. Wrong. I **DID** experience a bit of **magic**. **Quite a bit actually** but ***didn’t appreciate it***, so I believe I **screwed** up the path I thought I was on. \*see poem # 119. The **last bit of magic she did on me**, which I can’t say was not even funny on any level, except **NOW**, of course, **ha**, to make me “**DISSAPPEAR**” from her everyday visual world! **CRAP !**

I KNOW though that more magic must be in my future still **but** from where and who is still in the future... \*see # 120. This takes the ABILITY to **enjoy** the pleasant “**feelings**” I DESIRE . One must **LEARN TO EXPERIENCE - FIRST** - the “**FEELINGS**” **as though it ALREADY IS! THAT *is the trick*** I BELIEVE: TO BELIEVE IS Faith *in progress* MEANING ACTIONS. **JUST DO IT.** Do “WHAT YOU CAN DO “... \*see poem #122. **One MUST own HARMONY** with their *intended* vibrations. \*see poem #132.

**PROOF IN POINT:** I AM very happy **THIS MAGICAL BOOK** has been created mostly due to my meeting **Miss JOY** and experiencing a new **JOY** daily. The breath of **new life from getting this DONE** is what I have lately learned TO ENJOY.

So, back to **my “Independence Day”** which became a literal and PHYSICAL happening. I was pulled over. Asked to get out of the vehicle which I knew was NOT GOOD. I *knew even* clearer when he slapped me in **cuffs!** **Ha.** I asked what the heck? I was told I might have supposedly



been kidnapping someone because of my **dirty** (**STILL** and **stupidly** by me by THIS time) was the reason. I knew “CRAP just HIT the FAN” **big-time! Yup**. That situation was **not** an issue **but when** he checked out my driver’s license **he didn’t like** that it was from Nevada still and my plates were California. I told him the dude at the D.M.V. didn’t “Make me all legal” like I had gone there AND **ASKED FOR!** I put my trust unwisely in the DMV employee that probably didn’t give a hoot and maybe even does it on purpose? Ha. Ya. Funny dude. All for my “Good” though. Ha. NO GRACE TODAY. It’s independence Day for goodness sakes! Nope. **He didn’t care** since he could impound my truck, and MAKE \$\$\$ for the state, which he did.

I had to ASK for permission to get some provisions, like some clothes, food and water I had because I had no money for a motel since I now had IMPOUND FEES to pay A.S.A.P. (thank you very much you frickin’ punk-ass pig...bastard!. Only in my mind. I still love him, just not appreciating his actions at the moment. **Ha.** ) plus I NOW HAD TO FIND someone to sign for it to get I out or another \$65.00 / day.

The next **day was hell** walking around in over 110 degree weather. Finally after asking about a hundred people for help one empathetic man came through at the very last moment. I had basically given up hope for that day **just seconds before!** *Amazing co-incidence again?* **Ha. NO. Designed for my benefit.** Ouchie! **Ha.** I MUST CONFESS though, immediately when I saw the lights “**come on**” to get “**My ATTENTION**”, I FELT an **OVERWHELMING PEACE** that somehow “THIS DAY TOO...SHALL PASS” and I WILL “**come out**” even BETTER for the experience.

I got back *that evening* and my duties **ended abruptly** for reasons I *didn’t quite follow*. Also my getting to *friendship level* with **Miss Joy** ended very abruptly a few weeks later. **These 3 events threw me for a loop** for a long time. But **eventually I figured out it was to give me plenty of time to get this book finally together and published.** Hard times is when the **GOLD** gets brought to the top for forming ( creating ) something more **PURE** now that some DROSS has been **BURNT OUT** during the **PURIFICATION PROCESS** GOD has **DESIGNED**, THANK GOD. (ha)

\*see **poem #27**. One of my **Top 2** favorites. **My other is #119**. But MANY are very near and dear to my heart. All actually, depending on la-de-da? Ha. Ha. Ha.

Now I want to thank Kevin Smith, the owner of PIXELS in Monterey, Ca. for the **Grace** he extended towards this endeavor. Also my special thanks goes out to Quinton McKee my award-winning graphic designer, editor guide and final catalyst to “**get it DONE**”! Also the kind folks at the Pacific Grove and Monterey public libraries where the editing took place.

It has been my pleasure to watch how the *Devil of disbelief* hindered my progress due to the fact I had a certain due date which I desired to have my first copy delivered to *someone special*. I choose to believe whether that date is achieved or not, **God's WILL...WILL BE** done for my good and hers.

**So here it is!** Please read each poem with an open mind understanding I have grown a lot in how I see things. **I believe** you will be able to clearly **SEE** the shifts *in attitude*. **Possibly your OWN? ENJOY !!!**

Rich Kovatch  
2-22-2017