

God
and
the
Universe

Morning Writings 2014

By Rev. Thomas Janssen

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The following came in my morning writing February 20th, 2014. It reflects many of the limited ideas about God that I could not accept even from an early age. I could not believe in a God that was not fair, or punished the innocent, that favored one people over another, that demanded obedience and worship, or that wanted blood shed in His name. It became clear that God was not the problem but the definitions of God – the man-made definitions. God is truly omnipresent and available to all.

Traditional Definitions/Aspects of God

- God: Father, King, Creator, Source of all.
- Omnipotent: Nothing He/She/It/They cannot do.
- Eternal: Always was and always will be.
- Merciful: Forgiving.
- All knowing: Sees all, hears all, knows the future as well as the past.
- Just: The punisher - cross Him/Her/It/They and you will pay dearly for eternity and perhaps even your offspring for generations.
- Generous: He/She/It/They will reward those that follow the rules - at least some will be rewarded-those that "please" He/She/It/They.
- Loving: God loves you dearly, but only if you worship properly and follow the rules.

The above definitions of the *Force* much of mankind call God (in English) provides something for everyone to agree with as well as to disagree with. An atheist might say this description makes the case for a belief in no God.

The *observable universe* is all we see around us even though some say it is simply an illusion, a hologram perhaps. Stories of world-wide events are recorded in sacred texts, but were written at a time when 80% of the earth was still unknown. Observations of the starry skies seemed to indicate that everything in the sky revolves around us-this planet. This made sense and supported the perspective that God made the Earth, everything on the Earth and around the Earth for Man, his special creation. All cultures have their own creation story. Most will dismiss all other stories as myths since theirs is the *true story* of creation.

Humans like to anthropomorphize the animals we observe and especially our pets. We like to apply human emotions and motivations to the actions of animals. Humans historically have done the same with their view of God. It is this very humanizing of God that reduces or limits God the Creator (God, of course, is not limited rather it is the concept of men that is limited). It is these Human traits applied to God that may support and justify our human atrocities. With approval or even a command from God men have done and will do horrific things to other men, women and even children. But these commands always come through another human convinced it is *God's Will*.

In this divided world perspective we like to feel we are the *good guys* and our enemies are the *bad guys*. The chronicles of the Hebrew people are written, for example, from this *us and them* perspective. In the Jewish Bible/Christian Old Testament all enemies of the Hebrews worshiped *false gods*. Always the other guy's God is false. How do we know the Hebrew God is the correct God? - Because they, the Hebrew writers, told us so. The *doubting-Thomas* in me wanted to know why the *true God* only spoke to Hebrews throughout history?

As I have progressed beyond blind faith to deeper pondering, questioning and thinking for myself I have grown to believe and even know there truly is a *Source* of all that is, a truly *Loving Presence* that is available to all humans and even to all of creation. I hesitate to call this *God* only because there are many definitions and perhaps it cannot ever be big enough to be as Universal and all encompassing as It is. I do not argue with the existence of God but I do reject the limiting, divisive and human-like definitions and descriptions of God. I embrace a *universal and inclusive* God. Closely tied to this expanded knowing is the *Oneness* of the *God-Force* within the Creation. There is nothing existing in any form or any measure that is not a manifestation of this *God-Force*.

Seeing God as *the Source*, the *underlying Force* responsible for all that we see and experience is a foundation for a very inclusive belief system. Suddenly science no longer is at odds with spiritual beliefs. Rather's science becomes a new and exciting discoverer of details concerning the design and unfolding of Creation thereby revealing ever more about the God Force. Beginning with that instantaneous moment when the Creation first burst forth into all that is observed and measurable today. God is a Universal Force available to all mankind however each choose to define It. And God is the Universe Itself. Our choice is not between good and evil, or heaven and hell, rather it is the choice between affirming life or destroying life. From within our own body we can observe this phenomenon; cells that faithfully do their part serve to create a healthy body. Cancerous cells grow independently without regard for the greater good and are destructive to the body. They grow blindly and ultimately to their own destruction along with the greater body.

Science observes and discovers underlying patterns within Creation. The physical laws, once known, bring new understanding to why and how things happen in this physical world. Science may never discover how these laws came into being. However for those that believe in a Creative Force every scientific discovery reinforces God as the cause behind everything, unlike the ancient concept of God as *micro manager* of our lives and all happenings. It is the difference between believing in a God that actively punishes you for disobedience or believing in the natural consequence of ignoring a *Natural Law* created by God. Having been warned to stay away from a hot stove a child disregards and burns itself. Is the burn a punishment or a natural consequence? Or is further punishment warranted for such disobedience? A loving parent will not further punish a child so injured and neither will a Loving God.

Natural or *Spiritual Laws* were created much the same as the physics laws. Physical laws were discovered by science through observation, trial and error and found to be definable and repeatable. So too can *Spiritual Laws* be discovered, experienced, learned from and begin to master.

Gravity is perhaps the first physical law that all humans experience, it is a constant and always at work. It is there to be experienced from the first time an infant attempts to roll over and may result in crying and frustration. At toddler stage more is learned and usually with more crying and frustration. Eventually frustration gives way to mastery. Most every human learns to walk utilizing gravity as a dependable means to an end. And should we fall there is no mystery as to why this happened. Some go on to master it in new ways, rock climbing, diving, running, skydiving and ball sports of all kinds. The law is in place treating all equally and consistently.

Heavier than air flight once seemed a miracle. However it was the understanding of other laws that made it possible. It's not a miracle and it is not a violation of the law of gravity. The laws of aerodynamics work in tension with the force of gravity that allows flight to happen. Think of two children of equal weight on a balanced beam (teeter-totter). The force of gravity seems so different with a counterbalance. A slight push with the feet makes one child rise effortlessly and then the other does the same. Not magic and certainly not a violation of a physical law.

Why are there bad things happening in this world? Often because we believe in separation and superiority that creates an *us and a them*. The belief in separation, is a separation from God and each other. Without this belief situations such as war and famine become intolerable. As we see everyone and everything like cells in one great body we will see that we will flourish together or will be destroyed together.

The choice is for each of us to make.