

*Beautiful in elevation,
The joy of the whole earth,
Is Mount Zion on the sides of the north,
The city of the great King.*

Psalm 48:2

A VIEW FROM HIGH

**OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS OF
A SOJOURNER ON EARTH
FROM ATOP THE BEAUTIFUL MOUNT**

JOSEPH CHERIAN

A VIEW FROM HIGH

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Bible Books Abbreviations: *Am* Amos, *Cor* Corinthians, *Dan* Daniel, *Deu* Deuteronomy, *Ecc* Ecclesiastes, *Eph* Ephesians, *Eze* Ezekiel, *Gen* Genesis, *Heb* Hebrews, *Hos* Hosea, *Is* Isaiah, *Jer* Jeremiah, *Jg* Judges, *Joel* Joel, *Jm* James, *Jn* John, *Ki* Kings, *Lk* Luke, *Mal* Malachi, *Mic* Micah, *Mk* Mark, *Mt* Matthew, *Pe* Peter, *Pr* Proverbs, *Ps* Psalms, *Rev* Revelation, *Rm* Romans, *Song* Song of Solomon, *Th* Thessalonians, *Tm* Timothy, *Zec* Zechariah, *Zep* Zephaniah

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Dedicated to

*Everyone who desires to view the earthly
panorama from a higher perspective*

By the same author

THE BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL ENGLISH
THE ASPIRING WRITER'S GUIDE TO USING ENGLISH
BOLDLY, BEAUTIFULLY, AND INFLUENTIALLY

TUBAL-CAIN A VISION OF AN ENDTIME CITY

TOGETHER AGAIN IN FLESH AND BLOOD
WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW
YOU WILL MEET YOUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES AGAIN
GOD'S PROMISE TO ALL BEREAVED PEOPLE MADE PLAIN

RAISING YOUR CHILD TO GREATNESS
IN THE SIGHT OF GOD AND MAN
TRANSFORMATIONAL INSIGHTS FOR YOUNG PARENTS
ESPECIALLY FOR THE DEVOTED DAD

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Prologue

*Get wisdom! Get understanding!
Do not forget, nor turn away from
the words of my mouth.
Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you;
Love her, and she will keep you.
Wisdom is the principal thing;
Therefore get wisdom.
And in all your getting, get understanding.
Exalt her, and she will promote you;
She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.
She will place on your head an ornament of grace;
A crown of glory she will deliver to you.*

Those are the words of the wisest man who ever lived, which I have kept in the innermost chamber of my heart and at the forefront of my consciousness since the age of my spiritual awakening at sixteen. The wisdom and understanding I have gained from all that I have observed and pondered since my renaissance, I have earnestly sought to apply in my life. Here are the reflections I've gathered over more than fifty years – drawn from all that unfolded around me and all that arose within me as I sojourned thru this temporal terrain.

Joseph Cherian

10 Commandments – Attitude

10 Commandments

More than the churches, more than the Bible, more than the mighty preachers, more than all the good works in the world, the devil fears God's people understanding and keeping The 10 Commandments.

Abraham

Sarah was too old to bear a child. Abraham's body was 'already dead', since he was about a hundred years old. When the time came for the promise to be fulfilled, Sarah was obviously given the strength to bear a child, and Abraham, the libido and potency to perform the act required. But 'God's gifts and his call are irrevocable', and he does 'immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine', as the Scriptures say. So even after Isaac's birth, Abraham continued to perform – and even outperform himself. But Sarah's need for supernatural strength had ended.

I imagine that the sweet night moans, after a few continuous months of bearing the brunt of her husband's prowess, may have started turning into stark nightmares for her. Abraham, being a just man, knew the solution wasn't to try to suppress his passion while sleeping in the same tent, or even in separate tents near the object that was inflaming his groin. The solution was to remove his burning body as far away from his wife as possible. This, perhaps, is why he stayed away from Sarah for the rest of his life after returning with Isaac from Moriah.

My surmise is reinforced by the fact that not long after Sarah's death, Abraham's body was still strong enough to sire several

children thru his second wife, Keturah, and one or more concubines – a powerful testimony to the super-stud gift the father of the faithful received, and continued to enjoy for many years after its original purpose was fulfilled.

Now all glory to God, who is able, thru his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Eph 3:20 NLT

Abortion

In every country governed by the principles of democracy, there are essentially two opposing parties: one that believes the life inside a mother's womb is just as human as the life outside, and another that advocates for the dismemberment of an unwanted, pulsating human body – still nestled in the sacred place where life begins – reducing it to convenient pieces and casting them into an incinerator.

Acceptance

The ultimate human experience – the utmost that man can achieve in es temporal being – is the acceptance of es present situation, however painful or humiliating, with thanksgiving.

Accident

Far more deaths and destructions are caused by demonic interpositions than by sheer chance or carelessness. Many people don't simply drown – they are pulled under by unseen claws. Not all cars veer off course by mishap and crash into an oncoming vehicle; a diabolic hand turns the steering wheel in that direction. A large number of shootings don't occur by the shooter's intent alone;

rather, es finger is suddenly pressed against the trigger by an invisible digit. Often, a person falls off a cliff or balcony not because e missteps, but because e is pushed. A bolt from the blue doesn't always zap a random person – it may be aimed at one chosen by a principality on high.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Eph 6:12

On reading the news that three youths drowned in a flashflood near my town.

Accomplishing

When confronted with great disinclination toward a planned activity, the solution is to take it up in minuscule slots. One new word added to your vocabulary, one para of an article you are writing, one page of a book you are reading, a single phrase of a melody you are composing, five to ten sit-ups of an exercise regimen, a quick, easy segment of a pending chore – a tiny chip off a small block of a whole log of activity challenging you daily.

~ ~

Don't look for a certain pattern – some sort of regularity or routine – in your life. You cannot have a system, a schedule, not even a daily goal. Interruptions, ennui, loss of enthusiasm, paucity of ideas, and other emotional or physical impediments make your carefully laid-out plans for the day impossible. Therefore, just see how you can put your present disruption to some small use. Within what you cannot do, see what you *can* do. In your languor and disinclination, see if there's a trifling task your hands can be brought to tackle. Endeavor to live your utmost in your tiredmost state. Within the impossibility, seek the quantum possibility. Within what you do not want to do, see if there's a tiny act you *do* want to do. Within your

humdrum busyness, see if there's something bright worth pausing your banal activity for.

Accuracy

When David was learning to play the harp, his first aim was plucking the right string. When he was honing his skills with the sling, his sole aim was accuracy. Because he was able to always pluck the right string on the harp, he could play the exact notes needed to soothe a depressed king – giving the shepherd boy access to the palace and acquaintance with the royal way of life. And because of his unerring accuracy with a sling, he was able to save a whole nation with a single shot that hit its vital spot dead-on, catapulting him to the throne. The only way to excellence is by perfecting accuracy. From the amazing high-wire aerialist to the enthralling guitarist, from the rousing speaker to the gripping writer – all excellences in human endeavors are but accuracies perfected.

Achievement

Looking back on all your achievements, one widow or one orphan rescued from misery will be worth incomparably more, in the final perspective of your life, than several great multinational corporations founded by you.

Acting

A woman squirming in feigned pleasure under the body of a man not hers, a man clasping a woman not his own and wagging his tongue in her mouth, a woman lying naked under a blanket with a

man whose body belongs not to her and caressing him – these, in the sight of the actors and their directors, are mere portrayals, fictive performances, thespian arts meant to please an audience. But they are brazen acts of adultery; they are blatant abominations in the sight of Heaven.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Mt 5:27-28

~ ~

The dalliances of the full-bosomed virgins in the idyllic parts of my country, as invariably portrayed in local romantic movies, are similar to the amorous moves of the hens they rear. The eager lass clucks around all day long for a virile companion, and when one finally comes along, she flees frantically from him, eludes him by running around tall trees, over hedges and under bridges, and occasionally balances herself precariously on the ledges of dizzying peaks, right thru the five continents and the four seasons. When finally he manages to pin her down, she succumbs without a struggle, lets him do whatever he had been chasing her for all along, gets up, gives her ruffled body a shake, and goes her separate way as if nothing had transpired during the past few minutes or months.

Action

When one does or does not do something because of the premonition of the consequence of doing or not doing so, or because of the motivation of the reward of doing or not doing so, what e does or does not do is of transient and finite value only. For as soon as the repercussion or the reward ends, so too does what e has been doing or not doing. The only action or inaction that has

enduring and infinite value is that which arises solely from one's desire to bring happiness, or avoid causing unhappiness, to another, whether thru es intervention or abstention.

Activity

There is nothing more meaningless, nothing more futile, than doing something that does not produce some value for someone other than yourself. Every book you read, every film you watch, every fun you have, every plan you make, every dream you dream, if you can't extract some small nugget, some morsel, measly as it may be, that will sooner or later benefit someone beyond yourself, will be recorded as an utter waste of time and effort in the final chronicles of human endeavors.

Actresses

Those feted actresses who do not hesitate to bare their buttocks on the silver screens, to the delight of their raving fans, will one day walk thru iron screens baring both their butt and slut to their captors on that Great Day of Distress. Now, the most exquisite scents in crystal flacons herald their arrival and linger after their departure. Then, the most nauseating stench of scabies will announce their vile presence in the vicinity. The diadems they wear on their adorned scalps at glittering functions today will long since have been replaced by oozing scabs at slaughtering junctions then.

'As they carried Israel away to Assyria, they followed their typical custom. When the Assyrians depopulated and exiled a conquered community, they led the captives away on journeys of hundreds of miles, with the captives naked and attached together with a system of strings and fishhooks pierced thru their lower lip. (Am 4:2-3).' - Enduring Word Media

~ ~

Every actress, early in her career, comes to the inevitable juncture where she is forced to make a choice – end her career prematurely, or surrender her virginity premaritally.

Addiction

Do not assume that Godly people are left without a choice of addictions. They have plenty to choose from in the devil's array of super snares – those without any hint of being trapdoors to sin. He offers them the 'righteous fixations'. A popular one is 'sermon obsession'. I know a dedicated pastor who gets out of bed every morning with one ear glued to his mobile, imbibing a sermon. When he sits at breakfast, lunch, and supper, he is all ears to a fervent homily from his phone. Once, I even saw him emerging from the toilet clutching his mobile, from which blared an impassioned admonition about sin and gin. I also know a pious woman – incidentally, related to this pastor – who spends the major portion of her waking hours doing two things: when walking, she's usually setting awry pieces of household articles aright; when sitting, she's mostly listening to exhortations thru her earpods.

Adoption

Not to adopt a child, who is living without love, without a home, without a father and without a mother, when a childless couple – or even a couple with children – can, is an extreme act of selfishness and ingratitude. They will not let an abandoned child find love, a home, and parents only because their contentment would be strained by the extra burden and expense.

Adultery

It is one of the awesome mysteries of creation that, in the scheme of human relations, a man can commit adultery with a woman without that woman committing adultery with him. The Creator of man and woman himself affirmed this truth.

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Mt 5:28

Affliction

How can I know and fully appreciate the heights to which God lifts me till I have known the rock-bottom depths of life into which he first casts me?

that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge Eph 3:17-19

~ ~

Panic ceases and desperation withdraws, and a mist of peace descends upon me when I hit rock bottom, 'cause I know I can't fall any deeper.

Aging

Sometime in my early 60s, I stopped purchasing V-shaped jockeys and opted instead for loose boxers. For I realized there's no longer any need to keep things in my life so tightly under wraps. There's a freedom that comes with flaccidity.

~ ~

Aging flesh and hardened bones don't coo and cuddle easily. But beware – the aging heart, restrained neither by the cautious spirit of the virile years nor by the qualms of callow scruples, often works brazenly to lure beguiling flesh.

~ ~

Seventy is the ripe age to begin your loftiest adventures, to embark on your noblest mission, and to commence your defining life achievement. Now, if seventy sprouts you not with new wings, then surely eighty brings a more luminous launchpad for your dreams. Isn't that the age Grandma Moses – and even Moses – began their supreme work?

~ ~

After the age of forty, we no longer age linearly but exponentially, each year passing at twice the speed of the previous one.

Agonies, Past

My past agonies have mothered my present ecstasies, and my present tribulations are conceiving my future jubilations.

Agony Around The World

My steady cheerfulness is tempered by a constant consciousness of the moans of the millions of innocent hearts going thru daily excruciation. My smiles are quick and frequent, my laughs oft in a day, for my heart brims over with His joy, yet my silent tears flow unceasingly. The eyes on my face emanate serenity, yet the eyes

within my mind forever witness the squirming of sons and daughters being mutilated; my ears are soothed by the sweet melodies of lutes and harps, yet beneath that harmony, they forever hear the screams of fathers and sons being decapitated, and the anguished shrieks of mothers and daughters being ravished.

Written after hearing the testimony of a Christian convert in Syria about fathers and sons beheaded and mothers and daughters raped by ISIS.

Alcohol

The high I find in ethyl spirit keeps at bay the high I seek in the eternal Spirit.

~ ~

I cannot take the golden vessels in the Temple of God and fill them with corrosive elements, and still be considered an excellent housekeeper.

~ ~

Alcohol is a fluid slide for the devil to merrily glide into your brain and your groin.

~ ~

Alcohol brought about the second greatest tragedy in human history – after the fall of man in Eden: the emergence of black skin and kinky hair, along with their corresponding heart.

~ ~

I hate artificial plants. It's often impossible to tell by observation whether they're real or not. Even touching them won't always reveal

their true nature. Only when they remain unchanged thru all the seasons – without wilting, without yellowing, without blooming – do they reveal themselves as fakes, as dead as the decorative pebbles around them.

Even so are the sensations that alcohol offers. It's impossible to distinguish them from true sensualities while one is inebriated. Only later, when the mind resumes its regular state, is the artificial nature of the euphoria revealed. The merriness I felt, the cheery words I spoke, the smart thoughts that flowed, the novel ideas that effloresced – all were just fleeting delusions, as discardable as the empty bottles that held the potion I had gulped.

Alien

Every step I take on earth is a step on alien territory. Every encounter I have with the inhabitants of this planet is an encounter with an extraterrestrial species. Occasionally, I do come across some who, like me, are sojourners here – awaiting our spaceship to take us to the cosmos of our citizenship. Lord, teach us to walk circumspectly on this terrene, for if we tread amiss, the aliens will pounce on us like a raptor on a chick that has strayed from its mother's covering wings.

Amazement

Mine is the age of amazement fatigue.

Anger

Anger is short-term demon possession.

~ ~

Anger's most devoted companion is Folly, and faithful Remorse ever waits at their heels.

Animals

The most pathetic plight in the animal kingdom is that of a stray bitch with a litter of hungry pups. Yet she is incomparably happier than an overfed regal beast with a golden mane in a gilded cage.

Annoyance

Annoyance, and all its near kin – irritation, impatience, argument, self-justification, exasperation – lie simmering in the bosom of the one constantly at risk of becoming a fool equal in stature to the one in whose heart resides anger.

Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.

Eccel 7:9

Anthem, National

I have heard the anthems of several nations, but none is as primordial, tribalistic, and cheerless as that of my own country. Every strain sounds like an aboriginal composition played on a nose flute. Instead of stirring one's emotions to patriotic sentiment, it casts a pall of gloom over the listener's ears. The opening notes resemble the crackling of thorns in a fire – and the ending is an abrupt halt left hanging in the air.

Answers to Prayers

God will not answer all your prayers, but he will answer enough so that you have an abundant supply for every good work. God will not grant you full happiness in this life, but he promises you full sufficiency in all things.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

2 Cor 9:8

Anyway

Follow Mother Teresa's 'anyway' principle in all facets of life. If you must drive thru a desert and your vehicle is in perfect condition, make emergency arrangements anyway for a breakdown. If your plane is announced to arrive on time and you must reach your destination within a certain hour, have a plan anyway for alternative transport. If you're crossing a one-way lane and face no danger of being run over from the opposite side, look in that direction anyway.

It's an insane world, and no precaution is inane. For there was a time in my life when, had I not looked the other way in a one-way lane – tho it was illogical to do so – I would have been in danger of being run over by a vehicle reversing from the opposite direction.

'People are unreasonable, illogical, self-centered...love them anyway.' - Mother Teresa

Apologetics

Apologetics may convince a person, but it can never convert him. The tribals who came to Christ did not reason with their minds and make a decision; their hearts were moved beyond reason, and they simply chose to love.

~ ~

Apologetics is useful only for those who have already come to Christ, and who, by gaining a deeper understanding thru the reasonings of a more enlightened mind, become all the more amazed at God's handiwork.

~ ~

I apologize for those apologists who spend their entire lives, not primarily showing God's love to the lost, but mainly trying to convince skeptics, thru erudite polemics, of the irrefutability of the beliefs they propose.

Applause

No sound fades faster from one's memory tomorrow than today's applause.

Appreciation

The human mind, without the Creator's Spirit illuminating it, can never – except in meager measure – appreciate a blessing while in possession of it. Only when it takes flight do a man's eyes espy in its receding form the awesomeness of what he had. Thus, till a man is bereaved of his wife's relationship, he cannot fully fathom the value of her companionship. He can never know the preciousness of having someone to love him till there is none to love him any longer. He'll never treasure daily bread till hunger leaves him underfed. He can never fully rejoice that he can walk and leap till

he's lost his feet. Appreciation and gratitude are vested fully in a man only when he is fully divested.

The sweetest music in the world is the sound of your husband's footsteps on the stairs, coming home; ask any widow. Helen Rowland

Aquarium

A fish in an aquarium is like a child forced to live every day of es life inside a playpen.

Arguing

When a person refutes or accuses you, never interrupt. Let em exhaust the full supply of es indignation and ire. Even when e pauses, do not interject your point, for e may be merely catching es breath for the next volley. Wait a few seconds, and if e remains silent, then open your mouth and state, as succinctly and calmly as possible, your position. If you are interrupted mid-reply, stop forthwith and yield to es words. When finally es mouth is rested and es countenance calm – speak! That is the only way your words can travel beyond es tympanum.

Artificial Intelligence

All fears of artificial intelligence harming mankind are baseless. AI can neither equal nor exceed the evil in man – for man is its creator, just as God is man's Creator. Man can never equal or exceed his Creator in capability; likewise, a machine – tho it may surpass the human brain in the sheer quantity of information it can hold and manipulate – can never match the capability of its maker.

So fear the evil probabilities of natural intelligence in man, not the ominous potentialities of artificial intelligence in a machine. Only on the day when God breathes into a machine and puts His Spirit within it will it become a living being and act independently of man.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Gen 2:7

But there is a spirit within people, the breath of the Almighty within them, that makes them intelligent. Job 32:8 NLT

Ashamed

There's something worse than being a failure. It's being ashamed of your failures.

Asking

It's not that he refused what I asked of him that nettles me, but that I *asked* the dude at all.

Assurance

The only assurance you will receive from God for this life is not that you will be delivered from all your troubles, but that you will be strengthened to survive every tribulation. The greatest deliverance is not that your body is plucked from the fiery furnace but that your soul remains unscorched by the flames.

Atheists

Nothing so infuriates the atheist as the obvious truth.

Atmosphere

When you provide hospitality to a friend or a relative who is a drunkard, or an adulterer, or an addict, or an occultist, or an idolater, you are also hosting the familiar spirit that abides in es body. Such a person's presence affects the very air that circulates thru the corridors of your home. There is a bleakness in the living room, the laughter and conviviality feel shallow, the conversations sputter with guttural sounds, and the interactions turn farcical. The ceilings and the floors of your house seem to breathe a sigh of relief upon that guest's egress from your violated surroundings.

Attitude

Attitudes are not impressed by facts and verities. Attitudes are affected and influenced by respect, but transformed forever by humility, both of which are expressions of love in different forms. That's why you can never truly win an argument. Even if you win verbally, and your facts and reasonings are conceded, you remain the same old obstinate ass in the heart of the person you argued with.

Baby – Butt

Baby

Isn't it awesome that the coming together of the least honorable and the most unpresentable parts of two beings is how the most adorable and most presentable form of being comes about?

the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty 1 Cor 12:23 NIV

Baseball

Baseball is the simpleton's version of cricket.

Beautiful

She's not beautiful; there's nothing about her form that makes me want to behold her a second time; neither is she unattractive – everything about her nature has some appeal.

She's beautiful; every feature of her form makes me marvel at the handiwork of her Maker; neither is she attractive – everything about her manner makes me flinch.

Beautiful Being, 'The Most

Who is likely the most beautiful being in creation? I think it is still the one whose beauty once surpassed that of every other created being in heaven and on earth – The Morning Star, Son of Dawn. If the least attractive of angelic beings is more dazzling in looks than

the loveliest of human beings, then the beauty of the Son of Dawn must have been indescribably awesome. His transformation to wickedness warped his countenance, and instead of beauty's radiance on his being, there is now cruelty's most hideous imprint upon him. Nevertheless, some trace of his old supreme looks might yet be visible between the scales of his beastliness – enough to still make him, in his externality, more beautiful than any other created being.

Beauty

No created beauty can be beautifuler than its creator's beauty.

~ ~

Beauty without morality is the ugliest phenomenon in the universe.

~ ~

God, in all his omnipotence, could not create something more beautiful in the universe than a beautiful woman. It is the absolute limit of his creativity.

~ ~

Beauty is a fiduciary responsibility of its possessor, even as talent is an accountable endowment of the gifted one.

~ ~

Misuse of beauty is as disastrous and consequential as misuse of genius. The beauty of Samson's and Solomon's mistresses was as deadly as the genius of Hitler and Stalin. Many indeed are those who will be able to account well for their talents on that final day of

reckoning. Few indeed are those who will be commended for having glorified God with their beauty.

~ ~

Can you conceive of a being so beautiful that all you want to do is gaze on him continuously forever, and be so overwhelmed by the awesomeness of his beauty that you keep falling down every few minutes? A beauty that, to a man, eclipses the collective allure of all the breathtakingly beautiful women on earth, and to a woman, surpasses the combined charm of all the world's most captivating men? A sight so transcendently attractive that, if eternity didn't call for any other activity, just being close to this dazzling being, gazing on him, and falling down again and again, utterly stunned by his beauty, would be the only reason you would want to live forever?

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. Ps 27:4 NIV

And they do not rest day or night, saying: 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!' Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him Rev 4:8-10

Beauty, Spiritual

Twelve nuns entered the train compartment I was in. I looked at each face as they passed by me to their respective seats. And I thought, did they choose to don the spotless white garment of righteousness and live cloistered lives as virgins only because it's more bearable for them to live in a place, forlorn as it is, where their spiritual beauty would be appreciated, than to roam free in the wide world where they would be spurned for their physical unattractiveness? Had nature been kinder in sculpting the facial

contours of these twelve virgins, would any of them have boarded my compartment today, on their way, perhaps, to some retreat to ready themselves more earnestly for the coming of their Bridegroom?

Bed, Going to

Man collapses clumsily onto his bed and reposes upon it like an ox dozing on the crib floor; woman oozes into the mattress, slides silkily under the blanket, and lies cozily like the fragrant oil dabbed between her breasts.

Beer

With the exception of women, there is nothing on earth so alluring to men as chilled beer. Only the prospect of a lady's sizzling embrace can draw a boozier away from the exhilarating promise of a beer's inebriation.

~ ~

When I drink beer, there are two beings who perk up at the scent of the spirit and draw close to me. They stand by silently with bated breath – one, hoping I will not, in a moment of reckless cheer, allow my ethyl fluid to be infused with an alien spirit, and the other, hoping I will be inebriated enough for him to suffuse my cup of merriment with his seductive potion.

~ ~

A woman who prefers beer, over wine or margarita, is likely a female with oddity and, perhaps, infirmity in her heart. There may be a trace of the butch in her.

Behavior

Any transformation in the behavior of a loved one toward you that is driven by fear of the consequences of acting to the contrary is a pretense and a lie. True transformation in your loved one can happen only when his or her responses are the result of a change in attitude toward you. And attitude is determined by how the heart feels, not by the deliberations of the mind.

Belief

What I believe in my mind is not always what I want to believe in my heart. What I believe in my mind often ruffles my fondest feelings. Nevertheless, it is always the mind that I follow, for the heart is deceitful above all things. Jer 17:9

Better

There is always a better way to do whatever you are doing. Seek with your heart and search with your mind, and you will find it.

Bible

More than reading it devotionally, more than studying it diligently, more than pondering its spiritual profundity, read the Bible like a love letter from your beloved, separated for a while from your tumescent physicality, yet quivering with thrill at the sooncoming union with you. Keep it under your pillow, keep it next to your heart; let the warm breath of the tender words cooed to you from its pages remain ever fresh in your senses.

~ ~

If, after an earnest prayer, you open the Bible at random, hoping to receive thru it some sign of assurance that you will be granted what you have supplicated for, often the Devil himself will happily open up for you the most amazing passages that will elicit fervent hallelujahs from you. Therefore, before determining if the passage was opened to you by divine intervention or by diabolic interpolation, before praising God or rebuking the devil for showing it, wait for the harvest. You will know from the fruits the true source of that passage.

Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Mt 7:16

Bible Commentary

There's a Bible commentary online that my eyes, at first deliberately, and then many times accidentally, fell upon, which flabbergasts me each time with its unparalleled uselessness – offering neither a shred of added understanding nor clarity to a Bible student befuddled by a scripture, nor any spark of inspiration to explore God's Word further. Mercifully, the author has been dead for over three hundred years, or I would have sent him this comment, and tho it would have grieved him sorely, I would hope he would, as a result, either completely rewrite his banal tome or withdraw it from publication forever. Matthew Henry's Bible Commentary is the most useless volume of Biblical word salad in Christian publishing history.

Birthday

Only Christ can grow in a person, in the blessed sense of that verb. Everything else atrophies – es character, es brain, es wisdom, es

love, es usefulness, es beauty. Unless Christ is growing in a man or a woman, e becomes more despicable, more hateful, more deformed, more forgetful, and more foolish, year by year...till in his or her old age, e is the personification of the adage, 'There is no fool like an old fool'. As you celebrate your birthday each year, ask yourself in all frankness: Has Christ grown in me over the past year, or is my old nature more hardened today than it was a year ago?

Bishop

Some bishops are elected by heavenly decree, some achieve their bishopric, and some have the miter thrust upon their swollen heads by the devil himself.

Black

Black can never be found in the spiritual category of colors. For black is not a color, it is the absence of color. If sin has a color, it is black. The blessed races descended from Noah are white, and the accursed race descended from him is black. The ultimate punishment for wickedness is the blackness of darkness. Jude 1:13 Evil takes place in blackness. Truth takes place in whiteness. But the love of God for man is revealed in that the blackness caused by sin is atoned for by the red blood of Christ, and the black heart of the repentant person is replaced by the white heart of es Savior. Black can never be cleansed and converted to white, just as white can never be turned to black. When white enters a space, black is dispelled, and when white leaves a space, black fills its place.

You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 1 Thes 5:5

Black Holes

Black Holes – the portal to the spirit world?...the point where matter ceases its physical state and transmutes into spirit?

Blessing

The very moment a child of God receives a blessing for es earthly life is also the exact moment e gives it up forever. It matters not that the blessing stays with em for some while or for the whole span of es life, for es heart is not set on it for a moment, nor on anything else that time and rust and moth can eat away.

Bluff

Lord, I am just unintentionally bluffing my way thru this world. I don't mean to, but people who see me think I am exceptionally endowed – with character, with fidelity, with wealth, with sagacity, and with fortitude. If only they could see my natural state of deformities and depravities, they would be aghast. But, Lord, tho in my sight I am a masquerader to the world, I know that, in your sight, I am pure and glowing like the stars, for my soul has been cleansed and my spirit burnished brightly by the blood of your Son. Dan 12:3

Body

Where the devil cannot enslave a whole soul, he contents himself with damaging a portion of it. Thus, every time a man sends down his esophagus a bottle full of coke, it quenches to that measure the enemy's thirst for the clogging of human organs. Thus, when he

shoves down his gullet a big mac or a whopper, it satiates to that degree the devil's hunger for the bloating of the marvelous body of the Creator's masterpiece.

Bonsai

Bonsai is a craft that has its origin in a mind contorted and stunted by an adverse force. This force has generated distortions in various other aspects of human creativity. In the human body, such deformations are seen in the Chinese tradition of miniaturizing female feet, the Masai practice of elongating female neck, the genital mutilation of Somalian girls, the shaving of a woman's head, and, among the womenfolk of my own people till a generation ago, the hanging of such heavy ornaments on the ears that they stretch the lobes down to the shoulders. As you can see, like Eve, it is the delicate gender that easily falls prey to the devil's persuasions about enhancing their beauty by disfiguring their bodies.

Written after seeing a picture of a bonsai tree sent to me by a woman.

Book

Every parent should write several books to pass on to es children and grandchildren. Books that reveal es philosophies, convictions, struggles, failures, successes, joys, and sorrows. Even if the father or mother could write no other book, e should surely pass on the chronicles of es life journey. For there are many events in a father's and a mother's life that their children have no knowledge of – those incidents, anxieties, ecstasies, and agonies that transpired in their lives before they came together, during the time their children were growing up with them, and after their kids moved out to build their own nests. The descendants of the autobiographers would find the

stories of their progenitors' sojourn on earth both fascinating and insightful, and thus be guided to direct their own lives away from the pitfalls their forebears had fallen into, while being inspired by their struggles and triumphs thru hardships.

Born Again

If you are the same old good Christian today, having the same love for God, the same passion for Christ, the same virtues and vices you had in your twenties and thirties, and are a faithful member of the same church you were born into, it's the surest indication that your spiritual teachers have utterly failed you, and you need to find a fellowship where your life can turn around 180 degrees – a soul-purging environment where you will cry aloud in your spiritual birth pangs, 'What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?' And you will exclaim to yourself, 'Thanks be to God, who delivers me thru Jesus Christ our Lord!' Rm 7:24-25 And as Heaven heaves in parturition and bears you into her realm, you suddenly realize you are a born-again Christian – so drastically different in your thinking, speaking, acting, and feeling from the good old Christian you've been for all these past years.

Boxing

A world that promotes boxing between women has abandoned all sense of finesse, delicacy, and sensitivity toward the fair and delicate portion of mankind. As I watch two women bashing each other's heads during a televised boxing match.

Breasts

It's a wayward world indeed when one can no longer distinguish

many men from women by the length of their hair or the contour of their chests.

Brushing Teeth

When a person brushes es teeth can be a fair indicator of why e holds es religious beliefs. The conventional thinker follows the dental hygiene practices passed on by es parents, brushing es teeth first thing in the morning before eating anything. Inevitably, such a person is a Christian, a Muslim, a Hindu, a Buddhist, or an atheist because es parents were so inclined. The exceptional person thinks thru all the practices and beliefs that were instilled in em as a child. E finds it illogical to brush es teeth before a meal, for the purpose of the brushing is to remove the food particles lodged between es teeth so they don't cause tartar. Therefore, e only brushes after breakfast, not before. Such a person is likely to hold beliefs that differ drastically from those of es parents, daring to think beyond the boundaries set by tradition and custom.

'How thoughtful of God to arrange matters so that, wherever you happen to be born, the local religion always turns out to be the true one.' - Richard Dawkins

Bug

There is a tiny beetle in my country, the size and color of a mustard seed. I doubt whether even a hideous demon can exude a more putrid stench than this bug does when it lands on my body. And land it does, especially when I am deeply engrossed in preparing some fodder for my Master's sheep. It invariably falls on one particular spot on my body – on the right side of my nape. As I whisk it away, it immediately squirts an indescribably fetid odor that permeates the whole room. Then I have to set aside all work, get up, and scour my skin with water and soap. This disruption happens

with such frequency that I am inclined to think that the wee beetle, being the most odious member of the insecta class, may be directly assigned to this nefarious task by shaitan himself. But worse, the bug must have fallen among the mustard seeds in many of the curries I have slurped, its malodor camouflaged by the dish's spicy aroma. Lord, save your servant from this foulest agent of the fiend!

Bullfighting

Pentecostals condemn bullfighting, not because it gives pain to the bull, but because it gives pleasure to the spectators.

Bully

From my knowledge of the corporate world, the biggest bully is Nissan. They bullied a small-time businessman with the same name, dealing in computers. Long before the Nissan corporation had a website, this small entrepreneur registered a website with his name – nissan.com. When the carmaker saw that the prime choice of name was already taken, they began every intimidatory tactic, including suing the businessman for millions of dollars for his use of the carmaker's name. Years later, I found that they hadn't yet succeeded in snatching the domain name from its legitimate owner. But the bullying continues, and upon my last inquiry, the businessman was still not out of his troubles caused by the behemoth.

There is no attractiveness in a bully's features. He is churlish in his behavior, and burly in his lineaments. It is no surprise, therefore, that the drabdest of hulking vehicles that ever ran on earth's tarmac – the Patrol – is made by Nissan.

The bully is almost always larger than the average person. In the end, the bully always runs away from his smaller victim.

A bullying company like Nissan can only be headed by someone with corresponding qualities. In the end, its ceo hid in a box and was carted away to another country before the police caught him and cast him behind bars for corporate theft. I am not sure if the company's new head is another bully. I must check with Mr. Nissan one of these days – I had some correspondence with him many years ago, when the carmaker began bullying him.

Several years after I wrote the above post, I wrote to Mr. Nissan inquiring about the lawsuit, and he replied that the case had ended in his favor and was closed.

Business

My business on earth is to keep moving toward my destination. The itinerary is God's business.

~ ~

Do your business with all kinds of people, good and bad. But get your supplies only from the best ones.

Butts

I think the only area in which the nations descended from Noah's son, Ham, are better off than the descendants of Shem and Japheth, is in the cleaning of their butts. Whereas the peoples blessed by Noah wipe their rear ends dry after evacuation, the unblessed ones wash theirs. Therefore, while the former always walk around with some smut in their butts, the latter are always purged in this area. For surely, a smirched surface is not as much cleansed by wiping it dry with paper as it is by washing it with water.

Canadian – Customer

Canadian

Canadian women are the most beautiful beings that the Creator could mold with flesh and bones.

Canaanite

Kinky hair and broad nose and hoarse voice, as well as oversized genitals, are included in the tragic legacy Canaan passed on to his descendants.

Cashew

Of all the nuts God created that I have tasted, the cashew is indisputably the king, and the pistachio, the queen at its right hand. Even their shapes suggest gender. In fact, in my native tongue, the word for the king of nuts is the same as that for the male organ. And the slightly open shell of the pistachio – what does that bring to mind? These are the only two nuts I find worthy of a permanent presence on my dining room counter.

Cat

Oh, what a tangled web she wove when first she raised her tail to conceive.

About the cat that gave birth to four kittens under the plantain tree beside my bedroom. One of the kittens, whom I call Tom, when he was a few months old, had a traumatizing experience with me. I gave him the fright of his life when I encountered him sneaking into the kitchen to pilfer some food. In sheer terror, he fled past me out of the house. Eventually, I managed to win his trust and befriend him. He is still around, and I feed him whenever I see him. No matter how hungry he may be, when he sees the food that I offer him, he always first yowls mournfully before eating. I feel he is pouring out in his feline way the anguished memory of the gnawing hunger he experienced when he was a kitten.

Cause and Effect

If I didn't believe in God, I would worship cause and effect. But I do believe in God, and apart from his love and mercy, the force I most respect and obey is cause and effect.

~ ~

Fear cause and effect more than the devil, for they are inexorable, whereas the fiend's temptations are avertible or resistible. Therefore, after God, let this be the power you respect most.

~ ~

Every cause in the universe, except that which originates from the word of God — *'when he spoke, the world began'* Ps 33:9 — springs solely from the heart of a man or an angel and is set in motion by the mind. Nothing can prevent a cause from arising within a created being, except the spirit's decision to override the heart's pull and the mind's push. Effect inevitably manifests in the external state of the physical or spiritual creation; it can influence the internal state of a man or an angel only with the consent of es spirit. Thus, it is the spirit of a being that ultimately determines and originates every cause and effect in heaven and on earth.

Celibacy

I have observed that wedding services tend to be the longest in those churches where the clergy are forbidden the pleasures of conjugation. You can almost feel the frown of the officiating eunuch of God pressing upon the restless wedding guests, and hear his liturgical words subtly paraphrased, admonishing the congregants:

‘Now, don’t you folks be in a hurry to send this couple to bed. Look at us – we’ve been waiting patiently all our lives to enter the bridal chamber with the virgins when the Groom arrives.’ I suppose the unshakeable reason these shepherds can endure the agony in their groins is their expectation that, on that great day of recompense, they will be rewarded a hundredfold for what they renounced in this age. ‘And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.’ Mt 19:29 Ah, the indescribable pleasure of being thus rewarded thruout eternity for enduring a lifetime of tormenting pressure in the loins.

Written after returning from a tedious several-hour-long wedding at an Orthodox church.

Celebrity

The rich and the beautiful, the adulated and the celebrated — these are the gods and goddesses among us, sipping ambrosia and resting on celestial beds. The idolizing masses do not conceive of them as defecating and menstruating mortals, belching and releasing gas from their bowels as freely and loudly as commoners. These divinities pick their high noses as frequently as the ordinary folk do, entertain thoughts as sordid as the rabble's, and prove just as mean, as crafty, and often more arrogant than those who revere them. Worse still, many of these deities, held in awe by the hoi polloi, lead private lives far more uncouth than the most indecorous of the masses. In their inner and outer attributes, they differ little from the cab driver you hired – no whit better, tho perhaps prettier, than the man or woman standing in the queue before you.

Cemetery

On the way to work, as I passed by a cemetery, I saw a tombstone

with RIP painted in large letters on it.

For the Hindu, it may mean 'Roasted In Pyre', and the ashes preserved in the tomb.

For the Parsee, I suppose, it is 'Ripped Into Pieces', and the morsels of flesh uneaten by the vultures reverently placed in the sepulcher.

And for the Christian?

It can't be 'Rest in Peace', for tho there may be rest from toil, there is no peace for the one putrefying in the coffin six feet under.

Ahh, got it! 'Rotting Inside Plank.'

Change

Ordinary people go to their graves carrying with them the inclinations, thoughts, opinions, non-opinions, likes, dislikes, and impressions they have held since their age of perception. If a man breathes his last with his mind drastically altered from that which he grew up with, he is one among a thousand. A woman who dies with a different mental disposition than the one she came equipped with is such a rarity in creation that one like her cannot be found even among a thousand of her gender.

'One man among a thousand I have found, but a woman among all these I have not found.' Eccl 7:28

~ ~

Change with the times in how you impart skills and knowledge to the younger generation. You can't easily teach your new dog the tricks your old dog knows. And never attempt to teach any dog, young or old, the tricks you taught your cat.

Character

A man faithful in his marriage, who had never felt the seductive

vibes of a neighbor's voluptuous wife, naturally presumes he can never be guilty of adultery. A man ever surrounded by pacific circumstances that strain not his patience or fray his temper, surely thinks he is blessed with unfailing serenity. A man, never having encountered a fellow being who harmed him, justifiably considers forgiveness to be his natural trait. And a man or a woman who has never been hated by another cannot but believe es love is universal. Therefore, God created the tree of the knowledge of good and evil to sprout in the same garden as the tree of life; otherwise, Adam and Eve would have lived forever believing they were God's most faithful children under all circumstances. Remove the alluvial soil to see if it conceals a gem or a grub.

I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings. Jer 17:10

Chauvinist

Perhaps the most chauvinistic being in creation is the rooster. No other creature struts among its harem with its chest so puffed out and its head held so haughtily. Male chauvinist pig? Never seen one showing a hint of chauvinism. There are only chauvinist cocks.

Checkout Girl

All the smiling services of the salespeople in a supermarket, the finest quality products, prices lower than anywhere else, and the best facilities for customer convenience can't undo the damage caused by one lousy checkout girl.

Cheer

Lord, grant me the cheer without the beer!

Written while experiencing the melancholic withdrawal symptoms, soon after I quit drinking beer, which I had been enjoying for half a century.

Cheerful

There is more admiration in heaven over one weary sinner seeking to walk aright and trying to be cheerful in es unhappy circumstances than over ninety-nine saints rejoicing and praising God for all their blessings.

Cherian's Law of Accommodation

Items in the fridge increase to fill the space available for their accommodation.

We were happy with one fridge, which amply accommodated all the items that needed to be refrigerated. Then we were gifted with another, and now we are running out of space in both.

Cherian's Law of Preparedness

If you want to raise chickens, you must be prepared to step oft on chicken poop.

Child

Whether one acted in lust or love, the product is always an innocent child who is either cast into a fiery incinerator before its first breath or laid upon a warm bosom after its first cry.

Christ, Qualities Of

We ask God to give us more love, more patience, more forgiveness, and other qualities. We desire the fruits of the Spirit, and beseech our Lord to grant them in abundant measure. We earnestly pray for more faith, so we can trust him without doubting, like a little child trusts his father. Or, seeing the awful blemishes in our soul, we cry out to our Savior to deliver us from the anger and resentment lodging in our hearts, the lust that lurks in our flesh, and the sins that crouch at our door. O beloved of Christ, you do not grow in the qualities of God, nor do you cast out the evil qualities from your nature. There is no such entity as compassion, faith, or forgiveness, nor hate, anger, or lust. These qualities have no existence of their own, they have no measure or dimension to them. There is only a Person who loves, who is patient, who is forgiving, and in whom there is no hate, nor anger, nor lust. When that Person lives and grows in us, we grow with him and reflect his character and personality. As we grow, we are not showing more love and forgiveness and less hate and pride; we are showing more of Christ in us and less of our nature. Therefore, do not ask for more love, ask for more of Christ in you, for love is not a quality, but a Person.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. Eph 4:15 NIV

God is love. 1 Jn 4:7

Christian

If the true followers of Christ are to be recognized by their love, then the loyal followers of Antichrist are to be identified by their hate. One group is known by the fervor of their compassion, the other by the fury of their callousness.

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
Jn 13:35

~ ~

Every man and every woman on earth who professes to be a Christian belongs to one of two basic denominations. Either he or she belongs to the assembly of believers who regard a person lying carnally with another of the same gender as an act of fervent affection, approved by Heaven, or he or she belongs to the congregation that condemns it as an act of fetid abomination, revolting to the Creator of the erotic organs.

Christian Contemporary Music

Christian Contemporary Music is in a pathetic state of melody. Somebody must do something about it urgently before even God is affected by the drabness of the praises offered to him. Where are the Queens with their Bohemian Rhapsodies in the churches of God? Where are the John Denvers with their Country Roads and their Anne's Songs? Where are the real Righteous Brothers with their Unchained Melodies? The Guns 'N Roses with their Sweet Child O' Mines, or the Eagles with their Hotel Californias? Where are the Creedence Clearwater Revivals with their Bad Moon Risings? The Neil Diamonds with their Cracklin' Rosies, and the Lobos with their Will You Still Love Me Tomorrows? There is not one singer or band whose compositions in adulation of their Creator or in awe of his creation have thrilled me a tenth as much as those of the heathen. Isn't there one composer among God's people today who is inspired by the Holy Spirit to at least half the extent that the Devil's fiddlers are inspired by their father's spirit?

Thoughts that occurred to me as I endured another session of bland music in church.

Christianity

Ted Turner, after giving a billion dollars to charity, was reputed to have remarked that ‘Christianity is for losers’. He doesn’t realize that in one short sentence he stated two of Christianity’s foundational truths: Christianity comprises people who have lost everything they had to win Christ, and, second, till a person comes to realize he is an absolute loser he cannot become a Christian.

~ ~

No religion, since the various creeds began, has killed its followers in the name of its god as cruelly and in such great numbers as Christianity has.

~ ~

If Christianity were truly what most churches preach, I would have become a fiercer atheist than Richard Dawkins or Carl Sagan. I would find it far less terrifying to believe in a godless universe and embrace a one-time existence than to serve a god whose worship comes with the constant fear of eternal damnation – a hell where, as the sermons say, the worms never die and the fire is never quenched, all for failing to meet his impossible standards. Were it not for the truth about hell as revealed in Scripture – and personally made clear to me by the Holy Spirit – I’d be the most zealous apostate the world has ever known.

Twenty-five years ago, after enduring a long season of profound suffering – and after my church utterly failed to offer any spiritual support – I rejected the version of Christianity passed down to me by my spiritual mentors. Bitter and disillusioned by what I saw as betrayal, I began plotting a series of meetings across several countries to expose the falsehoods I believed the churches were spreading. These events were to be backed by a member of the Abu Dhabi royal family, a close associate of a prominent figure with whom I was connected. But in the midst of my plans, something extraordinary happened: Jesus revealed himself to me in a stunning, undeniable epiphany. From that moment on, I became a passionate, unwavering follower of him.

~ ~

Of all the professions that are conspiracies against the laity, the most pernicious has been the clergy – a confederacy of mitred heads and white frocks, in cahoots with theologians.

~ ~

The bane of Christianity is churchianity.

~ ~

Christendom is far more fascinated by Santa's sleigh ride to Lapland than by Christ's donkey ride to the Holyland.

~ ~

Till you have arrived at the same place as Habakkuk – where there's not a morsel of food left in the larder for your children, no milk for your baby, not a dollar in your wallet, not a single means of sustenance – you haven't experienced true Christianity.

Tho the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, tho the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, tho there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. *Hab 3:17-18*

~ ~

Christianity has fatally underestimated the devil.

Church

I have never let my church interfere with my relationship with God.

Church Service

Maybe some lay folks genuinely love to sit thru the three-hour weekly ordeal generally known as the Sunday church service. Maybe some fervent followers of the Lord really enjoy listening to their frocked spiritual leader's one-hour exhortation on abstaining from wine and beer, or anything else that brings them cheer other than that imparted by the Holy Spirit. But for the majority of the parishioners who sit in the pews on the first day of the week, listening to the sermons and participating in the rituals is, in reality, an act of penance, a self-inflicted castigation, for their past seven days of fun. The looks on their faces betray their outward expressions of praise and worship.

Citizenship

Infanticide deprives a child of adulthood and citizenship on earth. Infant baptism deprives a child of adult baptism and citizenship in heaven.

City

O Lord, the denizens of the cities are living in hell and do not know it, but are enjoying their habitation and wishing they could live like this forever!

Cleavage

Modesty ends at three inches above the cleavage.

Cockroach

In the rural parts of my country, one should never slide es foot into es shoes without first going thru the process of knocking them upside down on the floor to ensure the footwear's not occupied. If one doesn't, chances are es toes may rouse a cockroach reposing deep in es shoes. It can be the creepiest experience of es life. But a ruffled roach would be a pleasant experience compared to your wiggling toes encountering, instead, an irate scorpion or a vexed viper.

Written from personal experience with a roach in my shoes.

Colors

Except as placed by their Maker, the colors red and green in close proximity to each other are an incongruous sight. No artist, no painter, should ever juxtapose them. In nature, however, red and green are a most harmonious combination. Consider the rose plant.

Comforting

Silent company is more comforting to a grieving heart than consoling words.

Commandments, The Least Of God's

You can assuredly enter the Kingdom of Heaven without keeping any of the minor commandments of God – those which do not lead to eternal death. Enjoying communion with you in the everlasting land, and drinking wine on the lees and sucking out rich marrow

from heifer bones at the Lord's banquet, will be those who disdained the seventh-day Sabbath and observed the first day as the Lord's day of rest; those who counted prawns and pork among their favorite dishes; those who slept with seven wives and seventy mistresses; those who went into their wives in their bloody impurity; those who bowed down before the statuette of the queen of heaven; those who celebrated Christmas and Easter and other festivals borrowed from the heathens but never once observed the Feast of Tabernacles and the other holy days commanded in the Scriptures; and those who drank whiskey and tequila daily without fail and without measure.

But when the hugs of welcome from the Bridegroom and his angels are done and the wedding banquet has come to a joyous end, the King stands before his white-robed followers to give each one es well-deserved eternal reward. To one he says, 'Because thou hast been faithful in the least of my commands, be thou over ten of my most glorious cities'; and to another he says, 'Because thou hast not deemed the least of my commands worthy of keeping, be thou over some of the least of my cities'.

I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death...All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

1 Jn 5:16-17

Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. Mt 5:19

And he said unto him, 'Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities'. And the second came...and he said likewise to him, 'Be thou also over five cities'. Lk 19:17-18

Commitment

Only a fool sticks to his decision at all times. Sometimes, in the space of a few hours, you may have to change your mind about a

decided matter seven times. Not so, commitment, which you should honor at any cost. Making a commitment is fraught with risks. Unforeseen sweeping circumstances, or unexpected hindering factors, could prevent you from fulfilling a word of honor which you, in utter sincerity, gave someone at the time of your committal. This is why you should strive to avoid making any commitment as far as possible and proffer a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’.

Companionship, God’s

Lord, you lived happily for an eternity in the past without man and without a problem. And now you seek his companionship. Wherefore?

Complexion

The darker the complexion of a race, the lesser the proportion of attractive women to unattractive ones. The caucasians have about one unpretty woman among a hundred of them, whereas the aborigines have about one comely woman among a hundred of them. Nature seems unfair in its intrinsic composition, and mankind gazes at the cruel disparity and wonders why heaven lets it be so. The sin of your fathers, O man, passes on from generation to generation with grueling intensity – darkening, shortening, and besmirching the features of the descendants of the patriarchs who turned away from holiness and embraced ugliness. Ex 34:7

Concealment

We are all forced to put up a constant masquerade before our loved

ones, for they do not love the real us but what they think we are – and the best of us are not even fifty percent of what they think we are. If they could see the deep filth that lies submerged in our flesh, the shocking imaginations that float thru our minds, and the unmentionable cravings of our natural selves, they would not esteem us as they do now, nor would we regard our loved ones the same if we could see thru their masques. Concealment is a supreme contributor to contentment in relationships.

Condescending Attitude

Making oneself superior in the sight of another is as resented as making em feel inferior. It's the same attitude in both cases, for one condescends only to someone whom e considers inferior.

Confession

The secret fleshly lapses of the female parishioners are the sweetest reward for the celibate sufferings of the frocked eunuchs who receive their confessions.

Confrontation

Never oppose anyone at the point of your confrontation with em, for your disputer, upon hearing your words, immediately draws around es mind an impenetrable shield of dogma and prejudice, and thereafter all your logical reasonings and tangible proofs will ricochet back upon you. Penetrate his consciousness and subdue his arguments an hour or a day later when es mind is unarmored.

Conscience

A good conscience is the fruit of the mind's constant deference to the admonitions of the soul. A shipwrecked one, the consequence of the constant dismissal of them.

~ ~

I once belonged to a church where a deadly contagion – elephantiasis of the conscience – was spread from the shepherds to the sheep, and thereafter the affected flock, thinking they were now the chosen goats, strutted among the ordinary livestock with bloated cerebrums.

Consulting

Sometimes it may be wise to consult even an inveterate fool. It's one method of ascertaining what course of action *not* to take.

Content

Original content is the emerging commodity that will be in greatest demand. The world is hungry for virgin content. You will be valued first by the genuineness of your heart's yield, and then by the originality of your mind's output. Publications, movies, music, and entertainment that regurgitate or recast existing material will fall by the wayside. Original thoughts, both good and evil, manifested verbally or materially, will be the key factor in the economy of the 21st century.

Contentment

He is a man highly esteemed by God who, while being content with his humble lot in life, is given abundance and has his life elevated, and who, while living on this elevation, has all his gifted abundance suddenly taken away and is reduced to his first station, and feels not a whit deprived nor less content than he was when living with his added appurtenances.

Conviction

Lord, deliver me from errors of conviction, from future remorse because of the fallacy of my present suasions. Grant me only that which I need never revise in my heart.

Country

Whenever you are unhappy with the conditions in your country, visit Saudi Arabia. Anyone who has witnessed life there will find emself content to live anywhere else.

Couple

Oh, if only couples would look into each other's eyes, speak in the same tone of voice, put on their best appearances, smile, and mollycoddle each other, twenty-five, thirty-five years later as they do twenty-five, thirty-five days after they find each other!

Written while watching a young couple swooning over each other in a pub.

Courage

A sassy face is often a mask for a sissy heart.

Cow

There is a common expression among farmers in my part of the world which they utter whenever they discern it's time for their milch cow to meet a stud bull again, so that their milk supply is not disrupted. The farmer will remark to his neighbor, 'I want to send her among the crowd'. Probably the idiom originated in the fact that the cow is released among a crowd of horny bulls waiting to pounce on any bovine female straying into their midst. Many parents unwittingly do the same thing to their daughters. They send their innocent heifers among 'the crowd' grazing with inflamed members in the beckoning meadows of movies and music, so the family can be assured of their continual supply of the milk of life. Of course, not with the same intention as the owner of the milch cow, but often with the same consequences in the end – being pounced upon, frequently by more than just the nearest stud.

Creation

To say that God created the world, or the angels, or any aspect of creation, such as music, colors, pleasures, sounds, some thousands or billions of years ago, is to deny the timelessness of God. There was never a time when a certain thought came to God, never a time when he decided to create man, or a new dimension of existence called colors or melodies or textures or emotions. There was never a time when a beautiful song, or a breathtaking sight, or ecstasy, or agony, came into existence. There was never a time when everything

that exists today, good and bad, first appeared. All these have always existed in the Being who has eternally existed.

Crowd

Chosen ones, don't rush in where angels fear to tread. The people of this world often gather en masse – to revel in a festival, to watch a sport, to worship a god. For where the throngs are, there the sprites of riot rush in. Crowds among humanity are like fresh blood oozing from a wounded body in the ocean. They draw the diabolic sharks in droves and drive them into delirium. Wherever demons are in a frenzy, there arises panic, resulting in stampedes and crushed bodies.

Be ever alert that you don't accidentally stray into the fringes of alien territory – even if they are uncrowded and look serene – to explore or to familiarize yourself. For there lurk murderous spirits, there they operate invisibly, unrestrained by the lack of the prayers and fastings of the saints, there the presence of the Holy Spirit is wholly absent, and therefore any of the chosen sons or daughters wandering there risks being torn apart or raped to shreds.

On October 12, 2000, IDF reservists Vadim Norzhich and Yosef Avrahami were lynched by a Palestinian mob while detained at the el-Bireh police station in Ramallah after accidentally entering the Palestinian Authority-controlled city.

Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her. Gen 34:1-2

Curiosity

I judge a person by es avid curiosities, not by es ardent activities.

Cuckolds

Cuckolds, in general, deserve their state.

a prudent wife is from the Lord. Pr 19:14

Customs and Traditions

Every honored custom, every revered tradition, every sacrosanct ritual, all the august protocols of the highest courts of a kingdom, the holy festivals of a people, the procedures of the corporate world, the methodologies of academia, the gods and goddesses in the sanctum sanctorums, the turbans and the beards passed down from generation to generation, the music and entertainments of a culture, the hates and the loves of a nation, the cuisines of the masses, and even the preferred coital positions of a race, each has its origin in the mind of a single obscure, and often perverse, man, picked up by his devoted children and passed on till thousands and then millions and then billions cling to them ardently, and will die for them if necessary, considering them as inviolable statutes, ordinances, and precepts handed to man as sacred fiat.

Customer

Two placards that I would put up on the walls of my enterprise:

We are not doing business. We are building relationships. Every activity you see on these premises is for the sole purpose of building a lasting relationship with you.'

'The customer is not the most important person on these premises – our employees are. Yet, you are so valuable to us that we will drop whatever important task we are doing to serve you.'

Dare – Drunk

Dare

Train a child to dare, and you have trained an adult never to cower in trepidation before any adversary or tremble in timidity before any adversity.

Darwin

Some day in the cosmic future, Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Aldous Huxley, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and even Bernard Shaw, feted in the annals of humankind, are going to write the autobiographies of their previous lives, and each, like Malcolm Muggeridge, will find it most appropriate to title his book, ‘Chronicles of Wasted Time’.

Day, Measuring Your

Stop measuring your days by the degree of your accomplishments and accolades attained each day and start measuring them by the degree of your forbearance and forgiveness given from dawn to dusk.

Death

Do not grieve, my children, that I died after I lived. Rejoice that I lived till I died.

Decision

If you leave your decisions to your woman, you can trust her to keep her man secure and mediocre.

~ ~

When confronted with a choice that could turn out to be either adverse or favorable depending on the decision you make, always base your response on the maxim ‘If it can happen, it will happen’. The wise never act on the answer to, ‘Will it happen?’, but always base their actions on the answer to ‘Can it happen?’ – even if the chances of its occurrence are one in a billion.

Dentists

If most dentists around the world practiced the Golden Tooth Rule – Love thy neighbor’s tooth as thine own – there would be no toothpaste and toothbrush industries, no dental equipment manufacturers, no dentures. That you should brush your teeth with a chemical formula morning and night, and visit your dentist twice a year to fill the cavities caused by the daily abrasion of the enamel, will be exposed as one of the most outrageous medical conspiracies on that great Day of Revelation.

Dependence

The umbilical cord of dependence and expectation connecting you to your physical and emotional sustainers must be cut. Till you sever it and free yourself from those thru whom you were supplied and nourished in your nascent years, you will never be free, you can never be the sole director of your destiny.

Desire

Your desire is the true man in you. Not your actions, not your feelings. Nothing defines you, nothing justifies you, or condemns you, like the desires of your heart. For, as he desires in his heart, so is he.

~ ~

Above every other desire in your life, seek to live a remorseless life.

Destination

Our true destinations in life are not places, or positions, or states of being, but persons. We set our sights on reaching a particular place, or a specific position, not to find joy and fulfilment in that place or position, but to find joy in the person whom we meet when we arrive at that destination. We study, we get a job, we get a house, not just to acquire essential knowledge, not just to be successful, not just to live in a fine house, but to get a life partner, to have children, to have a family. The family is our ultimate destination on earth – the reason we embark on long journeys to reach our desired places and positions in life. And our terminus on this planet is the boarding point to our eternal destination – the Kingdom of God. And the Kingdom of God is not a place or a position, but a Person.

The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed or with a visible display; nor will people say, 'Look! Here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For the kingdom of God is among you [because of My presence]. Lk 17:20-21 AMP

Destiny

There is no salvation by chance. There is no perishment by happenstance. Randomness has no role in the ultimate fate of a

human being. There is one group predestined to be saved, and there is another group that will be solely responsible for their own extinction. Everyone chosen to be saved has an eternal place prepared for them in the Kingdom of God. Everyone who deliberately chooses the self-destructive path has a specific spot in gehenna where e will be turned to ashes. Thus, the destiny of every human being is set by deliberate choice – one made in heaven, and the other, on earth.

Devil

Don't overestimate the devil; he can never do anything to you without your Master's express permission. Never underestimate the devil; within the confines of the Lord's permit, he can lead you to vistas of temptation far more alluring than you can imagine and are prepared for.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Pe 5:8

Devil and The Deep Sea

If you happen to fall into the deep sea, and you have to choose between being ripped apart by the approaching great whites and being rescued by the devil who has cast his lifeline to you, stay in the waters without any doubt. For, if you let the devil haul you aboard his yacht, he will cut you asunder and feed the pieces to the same sharks.

Dilemma

In all our dilemmas, we struggle with the question – this or that, to

be or not to be. Often in my life, the dilemma has not been a perplexing question, but a profound answer: this *and* that, to be *and* not to be.

Discouragement

More than any temptation or deception, scarier than any tribulation or desolation, the devil uses discouragement as his dernier ressort, his last resort, to fell a servant of God. The two deadly tools he had tried with the saint before – fear and depression – were proven to be lies. Discouragement, however, is based on observable facts, on the tangible adversary towering over the believer. The only way to confront the threatening juggernauts of reality is to trust the promise of your Deliverer. He will either pave a way for your escape thru the monstrous death wheels or strengthen you to miraculously withstand the weight of the gargantuan crusher.

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Cor 10:13 NIV

Dissymmetry

In the incredible symmetries of sight and sound that surround me, I invariably also find dissymmetries within their shapes and sonorous tones. Without this dissonance, the continual beholding of the absolute alignments of the biota would indeed be monotonous and wearisome to the eye. Thus, symmetry and dissymmetry co-exist in beautiful harmony in all creation. In the habitation of organisms, death is the only dissymmetry that is not consonant with the surrounding symmetries. The carcass of a

gazelle torn apart, a fallen leaf browning in the soil, a dried twig still clinging to a living bough, or a withering flower that has finished its course and waits to be cast off. These are not attractive to behold in themselves; nonetheless, their departure only further adorns the beauty and harmony of those still living. For it has been ordained since creation that termination in the macrocosm occurs only in such proportion that the sight of the dead does not obtrude on the panorama of the living.

'The Japanese consider irregularities to be part of nature.' – Heard on a Japanese TV channel.

Diversity

If you want to know how diversely God created each man from another, just listen to each one's preferred cellphone ringtone.

~ ~

Diversity among humans has two origins – the divine and the diabolic. The different tribes on earth are ordained by God. The different races and languages are the result of demonic interventions in human progress. Then there are sports and entertainments, works and lifestyles, customs and traditions, in which there is an intermix of those granted by grace and those originated by greed. In sports, for example, racing and cycling, swimming and diving, throwing and jumping, football and tennis, wrestling and lifting, are inspired by divine afflatus. Sumo wrestling and boxing, karate and muay thai, bullfighting and base jumping, jousting and dueling, mixed martial arts and freediving, are the contests conceived by demons.

Dog

There are several animal names God uses to refer to various

categories of wicked people – evil beast, donkey, cobra, viper, scorpion, vulture, fox. But the name 'dog' is reserved for one particular breed of mankind. No other breed is so intensely passionate about thinking thoughts and performing acts that are diametrically opposite to what the flock of God thinks and does. When a sheep in the flock turns his right cheek to the one who strikes him on the left, a dog in the pack cuts off the hand of the person who strikes his cheek with it. When a sheep embraces his hurting enemy in an act of forgiveness, a dog decapitates his offending enemy with the sword of vengeance. When a lead dog howls in one corner of the land, several lead dogs in nearby places join in with their own high pitches, till the whole land is covered with one continuous wail for a few minutes – a combined vocal effect which one guiding sheep called the 'ugliest sound on earth'. For it is a sound that conveys in the sonic mode all the hate, all the terror, all the depression, and all the wickedness in the universe.

Door

There are many doors in life, like the one I entered some time ago at the Frankfurt airport – the most unwelcoming and brusque gateway to a nation I have ever trod thru. After a long security check, during which I had to dump all the contents of my cabin bag on the counter, I walked toward my boarding lounge. On the way, I came across a door with a sign above it that displayed a boarding gate number, which I presumed was mine, and I walked toward that door, which speedily slid open to let me in. But once I entered the other side, I realized I had made a mistake and turned around. On going back to the same door, I saw a different sign above it this time, and it warned in red letters: No Entry. I stood stunned for a while by my predicament. I realized there was no option but to start all over again from the beginning point of the security check. With

a resigned mind, I stood wearily in the queue again, put my bag on the conveyor again, and got patted all over again by another deutsche official, this one more brusque than the first one who frisked me. I had to dump the contents of my bag on the counter once more, and the official rummaged thru my items with even more scrutiny and frowning than the previous one.

Putting my checked waistbelt back thru the loops of my pants once again, I started walking to the boarding gate a second time. And I passed by that same blasted door again, but kept a wary distance from it. My mind then went to the many doors in my life I had walked thru easily, each time thinking I was taking the right one. Every door, except one, turned out to be the wrong one, but there was no going back. Whenever I tried to retrace my steps, I found to my dismay that I was forever barred from returning to the side from which I had entered the door. The door to my education, the door to my career, the door to my job, the many doors to investments that promised lucrative returns – sooner or later, I regretted entering every one of them, but there was no going back.

I was so disillusioned with the wrong university I had joined that I hated going to its campus; I was so bored with the wrong major I had chosen that I dropped out of college; I was such a misfit in the wrong career I had pursued that I sacrificed a good portion of my prime years to learn a new profession; I was so stuck for decades doing the wrong jobs that I never rose to prominence in any field of endeavor. The only one-way door I didn't regret entering was the one I went thru to make a woman on the other side my wife.

So, listen to this weather-beaten man...before walking thru any door that easily opens to you, it is most wise to pause and ask yourself, 'Once I get to the other side of the door, will I be able to turn back and come back to this same place again?'

Down-To-Earth

I have observed a common characteristic in a man or a woman whom other people view as ‘down-to-earth’. It is a more literal description of such a person than people who attribute this trait to em realize. Indeed, such a man or a woman belongs to a practical, realistic, and no-nonsense segment of humanity. They are not as gullible and pretentious as ordinary folk. They are prudent in handling money and subtle in making plans. They are not easily scammed, but they catch the crafty in their own guile. In all their dealings with others, they are shrewder than those more virtuous than themselves. But when you observe such down-to-earth persons thru your inner eyes, you see a notable feature that underlies their thinking and motivates their actions: their minds are mostly on matters of the earth and seldom on matters of heaven.

And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. Lk 16:8 NLT

Dreams

There are dark avenues in my mind where crouch terrifying diablos. They pounce upon my dreams and turn them into nebulous manifestations of the carnal man’s submerged frustrations, and a nightly exhibition of the day’s wayward desires that had been shoved back into the subconscious. The sardonic sylphs lurking behind closed eyes ravish one’s willpower and spawn grotesque minions in the womb of perversity, which hatch out and run amok in the dark labyrinths of the mind when the conscience reposes. Oh, that my slumbers were pure oblivion! For in the multitude of dreams, as in words, transgression is not lacking.

~ ~

Dreams - the rampage of the mind and the rape of conscience by mutant thoughts, each birthing yet more grotesque offsprings, breaking loose from their shackles in the subconscious when the will pauses to repose.

~ ~

Dreams – the confluence of the flesh and the spirit in man, the arena of conflict between the natural grappler chirked up by the diabolic spirits, and the divine wrestler cheered on by the angelic beings.

~ ~

Dreams are among the most irrefutable evidence of incorporeal intelligences directing one's subconscious. For the happenings in them are not only indeterminate and unpredictable, but the personalities involved are absolute strangers, the responses are antithetical to the dreamer's natural state, the emotions are antipodal, and the thrills and tribulations are uncongenial to the waking mind.

Drink

I think, therefore I am. – Rene Descartes

I drink, therefore am I? – Joseph Cherian

Drive

God has far more respect for the man who pushes himself forward by sheer will in his state of failure and humiliation than for he who propels himself forward in full sail by the fire of favorable circumstances and fortuitous events in his life.

Drunk

When a man gets drunk, it is a loathsome sight, drawing the scoff of sober men and the scorn of prissy women, but when a woman gets drunk, it is a staggering turn of events that befuddles other women and scares the shit out of inebriated men.

Ear – Eyesight

Ear

Isn't it amazing that the space between the top portion of the ear and the head is precisely what is needed to firmly hold a clerk's pencil or a subeditor's pen? Any wider, and the pencil falls off with jerks of the head, and any narrower, the pen is a pain in the pass.

Education

When this era ends, and mankind finally awakens to the age of enlightenment, the new history books will record among the modern age's greatest crimes against humanity the education system for young children. It has crippled more innocent lives than all the wars of this age.

~ ~

Formal education will make you a professional; self-education will make you a president.

Egg

Can anybody look at an egg, make an omelet from it, savor it, and say there is no God?

Email

A man of integrity will never send an email to a person and bcc it to someone else, for it is an act of dissimulation.

Emotionally Right

Unless it would be a sin, it is infinitely more important to be emotionally right with someone than factually correct. Many divorces happen because one spouse attempts to be factually correct with the other. Fact is servant to Emotion, and Emotion serves Love, and Love is the ultimate Fact.

Empathy

Lack of empathy is the cause of narrow backrests on benches, short railings on banisters, and low parapets on balconies. It is the reason for the presence of spanking paddles for kids and rigid hours for workers. It is why walled schools exist for children. Lack of empathy is the cause of millions of fatal accidents and the sufferings of billions. It is why prohibitions are enforced, why unpunctuality is common, why punishment is by isolation, and why arguments are vehement. It is often not the lack of love or concern, but the lack of empathy, the unwillingness to put oneself in the place of another.

End

What's in the spirit will grow to perfection, what's in the flesh will wane to perdition.

English

Only a lily-livered wimp of a person, after es eyes have been pried open to es abject submission to the imbecilic tradition in English spelling, would continue to use a p before an s or an n after a p.

Feeble-minded writers in every generation have been penning words such as psychology and pneumonia because they fear the ghosts of the senile grammarians of the 13th century watching over their shoulders to spook them if they stray in their spelling.

~ ~

Lord, enable me to mobilize the English language and send it marching jubilantly on the highway of verbal excellence for your utmost glory.

Enthusiasm

Excise aspiration, planning, and expectation – the three mental tumors that cause frustration, discouragement, and discontent – and enthusiasm, freedom, and gratification will come flooding into your soul and overflow into your every activity.

Entropy

The Law of Entropy is among the greatest disprovers of evolution. Entropy ensures every living and nonliving thing devolves with time, unless an external power intervenes to reverse the process.

Environment, Demonic

Just as my taste buds tingle on contact with food that's slightly spoiled, so too does my spirit stir in an environment permeated by demons. Such an environment is common in a heathen nation. The tones and the ambiance are invariably dark and dank and gray – the

halls of government buildings, the corridors of abandoned fortresses and derelict prisons, the walls and floors of temples and monasteries, the chambers preserving the sarcophagi of ancient kings – all constructed with morbid granite or grim mortar.

Ephraim

Even the lowly weeds in the wilds of Shem and Japheth are prettier than the ornamental flora tenderly cultivated in the princely gardens of Ham and Canaan.

'Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, and may he dwell in the tents of Shem; and may Canaan be his servant.' Gen 9:26-27 Written after seeing dandelions and other flowers carpeting a wilderness in British Columbia.

Equity

How can a mere mortal ponder equity in creation? Can he look upon the mincing goldfish and the lurking toadfish, and say, in all sincerity, that they were formed with the same fondness? Can he stroke the poodle and the cur and with his fingers sense an equal feel? Can he behold the Nigerian and the Belgian, or the Dravidian and the Aryan, and state in truth that they are equally beauteous? Can his eyes scan the blistering Arabian dunes and the verdant plains of Vermont, and believe that they were given to two equally beloved nations? Shallow philosophy seeks to discover universal equity. Ultimate philosophy confesses Nature's utmost discrimination on earth.

Erhu

I haven't seen a more graceful movement of the human body than

that of a fair and slender one from the Orient swaying rhythmically as her fingers flutter and her supple arms undulate, even as her benign breasts keep time, while playing the erhu.

Esteem

Lord, give me not the esteem in heaven that equates me to Winston Churchill or Abraham Lincoln in secular standing, or David Livingstone or George Muller in spiritual stature, or any other great and godly man in history. Grant me such a heart that the angels will see me as they saw Joseph of Egypt and Joseph of Nazareth.

Eternal Life

The four absolute factors needed to make eternity worth living are love, purpose, work, and randomness. Incomparably less horrifying for me to be dead eternally than to live forever without anyone to love me or anyone for me to love; unthinkable is an eternal existence, however pleasurable, meandering aimlessly thru the universe without end; most undesirable is a neverending destiny with no exciting work; most agonizing of all states of existence, an unending life in a deterministic universe, ever knowing what's going to happen next or eventually.

Eternity

Eternity is not the future. It is the infinite boundless present.

Ethics

Ethics is the impoverished third cousin of righteousness. Any instructor who discards the Bible and teaches ethics has a mind that's alien to righteous thinking and a heart impervious to the ultimate truths.

Evangelizing

Why do missionaries and evangelists go into the dense hilltops and deep forests of remote countries to save the illiterate tribespeople from hell and feed their hunger with loaves and fish when the streets of their own nations are teeming with millions of literate souls groaning with hopelessness and starving for the Bread of Life, even as they are tossed to and fro by the whims of the very demons they host in their fattened bodies?

Evolution

Do you think it's likely that the musical notes in Beethoven's and Mozart's compositions, coming together to create awesome melodies in the various scales, had their primeval origin in an ameba, and then, as it evolved into a higher species, the notes and the scales began to evolve with it, and the chord progressions began to develop with it, till by the time homo sapiens arrived, the twelve musical notes, all the scales and all the chords, and the circle of fifths, were completed in time for man to conveniently use them?

Exaltation

Man exalts man and puts him on a pedestal. He robes him in royal

colors, puts a miter on his hoary head, and bows down to him who was once as low as he was. Every high institution in the world, since one man found a way to hunt more boars than the others, began when a weaker man stood in awe of the one with more might, or more bite, than he. All the rituals in a religion, all the festivals celebrated, all the churches and the temples, all the customs of a race, all the traditions of a society, all the laws on earth, are but the ramifications of a single instance of a weaker man admiring a fellow man with stronger brawn or a bigger brain and putting him on a pedestal. An exalted man, when raised high enough, then sets about establishing a system to maintain his exaltation, and passes this system on to his successor, and before long, an institution, a custom, a tradition, a throne, a religion, comes into being. From kings to dukes, priests to popes, saints to bishops, gurus to celebrities, idols to icons, lords to gods – all originated from a single human being, and not from the One in whom all have their being. There was, in the beginning, only one king, one priest, one religion, one institution, one tradition, and one way. Then one man wanted to exalt a fellow man, and the contagion spread fully over the earth till God was wholly de-exalted.

Appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have'...'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. 1 Sam 8:5,7

Excellence

There is no excuse for a Christian to be in any state other than constant excellence. He or she can excel in all things because Christ is always excellent in em.

As for the saints who are on the earth, 'They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.' Ps 16:3

~ ~

A time will surely come when we will be too old to master a skill or be an expert on some subject, but we will never be too old to be excellent in any field of endeavor. And excellence in any skill or in any area of knowledge is all that God expects of us at any age, not mastery.

Written after realizing I can never be a skilful guitar player. It has been fifteen years since I began playing this instrument, and I still can't play it without making mistakes.

Excitement

It happens without fail. When an afflatus suddenly swamps my mind and excites my veins with anticipation, whether in the day or in the night – a new project, a wonderful opportunity to explore, a brilliant concept – and I sit down with enthusiasm to begin work on it, my bowels get even more excited, and I've to rise hastily from my inspiration point and head for the expiration point.

Existence

Darkness seems to creep into our environment and engulf it like a black cerecloth. Unhappiness seeps into our minds, and we can feel its palpable gloom in our thoughts. Fear is a terrifying force that we can feel threatening our very existence. Evil surrounds our serene dwelling, and we can sense it closing in on us. The truth is, none of these really exists, none is a universal element or an entity. All that really exist were created. But darkness, unhappiness, fear, and evil were not created. Yet, don't they all seem very real? The omnipresent truth is, it is not that they exist, but that where they seem to be present, light, happiness, peace, and goodness are absent.

Existence, New

Because you plan to have a child, neverending multitudes of people with your genetic dispositions will be able to experience in the future the delight of inhaling the scents of fresh flowers; they will have the blessing of seeing the sun rise and set, and other wonders of nature; they will be able to use their hands to build homes and societies, their legs to explore and inhabit new corners of the earth and space, and their minds to discover new dimensions of living – all of which will *never* happen if you decide not to have a baby.

Expectation

Expectation is the mother of apostasy.

Experience, Happy

Any happy experience, any delightful activity, any beautiful phenomenon, is happy, delightful, and beautiful not because of the experience or the activity or the phenomenon itself. You can have the same experience or object of enjoyment with not one whit of its features or ingredients diminished in another set of circumstances and be numb to all the delights it offers.

When you enjoy a dish of roast chicken at home served by the loving hands of your wife, your enjoyment is really not in the delectable poultry dish but in the circumstance in which you enjoy it. You can have the same roast chicken served by a prison guard just before being sentenced to a long period in jail for a crime you didn't commit, and find the flavor bland. You can enjoy a first-class flight from one city to another and bask in all the luxuries given to a privileged passenger. You can take the same flight to attend the

funeral of a beloved one who passed away unexpectedly, and find that all the champagne and caviar served to you can't give you the delight they did on your previous flight. You can live in a home and find every moment of your stay there meaningful and joyful. You can live in the same house, with the same set of furnishings and articles, many years later, and find your stay meaningless and lonesome.

You see, it is not the object of your experience that is the real source of your happiness and pleasure, but the people associated with that experience. Savor the people in your every experience, and only then the object of your enjoyment, and you will have no remorse in the end.

Eyes

The smaller the eyes of a person, the bigger the evils concealed behind them.

Eye-Glazing

When a man and a woman fall in love, both lovers are immediately stricken with a syndrome called eye-glazing. Eye-glazing is the happy malady of an amorous couple whose ocular organs have been glossed over with a layer of star sheen and are therefore unable to see the blemishes in their lover, but which defects are glaringly visible to a third person. The glazing falls off the eyes of the couple a few months after the nuptials, and the impaired vision of both returns to normal.

Face – Future

Face

The face I see in the mirror is not the face I see in the photo. They are different in configuration, in mien, and in attractiveness. The face in the photo is always the less attractive one. Which, then, is the face that other eyes behold on me? The disappointing reality is, till my soul leaves my body, I will never be able to see my face as everybody else sees it.

~ ~

Look at the female members of any country's political parties which are pro-abortion. I don't think it's coincidental that their faces are as contorted as their hearts, their bodies as gnarled as that of the witch who wanted to broil the two children, Hansel and Gretel.

Facilitator, God, My

I know my God is with me wherever I go by the way he facilitates my every path...clearing boulders, flattening mountains, raising valleys, leveling rough grounds, making rugged places plain, sending showers in the scorching desert, opening fountains in the wilderness, turning dry land into springs of water, opening locked iron gates, steering my steps away from the enemy's deadly snares, stopping my feet just before they take the next fatal step over the precipice, even turning poisonous herbs in my broth into nutritious potage, and bringing me smoothly to my desired destinations with wondrous eyes and a grateful heart.

Facts versus Truth

It is not the tangible facts and the stark reality besieging you that you should consider when determining the outcome of the dire situation you are in. It is Truth that your eyes should focus on. Facts are mere matter and physicality – bodily harm, incarceration, looming disaster, sickness, joblessness, financial calamity. You cannot appeal to any of them to spare you. Truth is a Person to whom you can petition for your protection and deliverance from all the perilous threats and implacable facts surrounding your life.

Failure

All that I am today, all the joys and blessings my family and I have today, I owe to my failures.

~ ~

God did not call me to succeed in life, he called me to succeed in living with failure.

~ ~

Only he is a true failure in this life who does not first seek his success in the next.

Faith

Faith is trusting God to give the best answer to what you asked for. And what do God's mature children ask for above all things in their every supplication – life, prosperity, deliverance, joy, a yes answer?

Without exception, the *only* thing they ask for in every prayer, and their *only* expectation in every desire sought of God, is that their Father's will *always* be done. The Father's will being done is the most blessed answer to the believer's prayer – life or death, healing or unhealing, poverty or prosperity, deliverance or undeliverance, joy or sorrow, yes or no.

~ ~

We can never fully know how faithful God is till we have been cast into the furnace. If we are only brought to the edge of the furnace and delivered, the experience of God's faithfulness is premature. We have to actually fall deep into the bowels of the flames, and perhaps even be scorched for a moment, before we can know how absolutely reliable, how perfectly timely, our Savior's deliverance is.

~ ~

Trust God not just in his deliverances, but equally in his undeliverances.

~ ~

Faith is not the undoubting expectation of things we ask for in prayer. Faith is the unflinching acceptance of the things received that are contrary to what we asked for.

~ ~

You have attained the ultimate Christian maturity and perfectness of faith on the day you can sit in a plane and continue reading your newspaper, while the craft is being violently tossed about in a fierce thunderstorm, with one wing struck by lightning and on fire, and

the whole cabin is reverberating with the screams of the hysterical passengers.

Faithful

God did not call me to be happy, he called me to be faithful.

~ ~

Just as God is strongest in us when we are at our weakest, even so his faithfulness is most revealed to us when we have most betrayed him.

If we are faithless, he remains faithful 2 Tim 2:13

Fall

The tragedy is not that he fell but that he did not get up.

Familiarity

Familiarity always breeds disillusion after a season, and disillusion left on its course always spawns contempt, and contempt invariably destroys the relationship. But when disillusion is always endured, and creeping contempt invariably despised with wilful love, familiarity softly begins to unveil its perpetual pleasures.

~ ~

You cannot naturally like and respect a person in the same way you did before his or her dark side was unveiled to you – perhaps in a moment of es rage, perhaps in the hour of es acute desperation, perhaps on the day a prying and unforgiving world suddenly

uncovered es scandalous secret. But you are not to like and respect the person because of what he or she is today. You are to love em because es Maker considered em so worthy that he died a most excruciating death for him or her. You are to respect em because he or she is being remolded daily, tho in imperceptible degrees, by Invisible Hands into es Maker's image. You are not to behold the present person conceived in sin and raised in depravity, but you are to gaze upon the ultimate person completed in Infinite Beauty.

Farewell

The nicest farewell I have heard, of all the adieus people in different parts of the world have bid me in their native languages, is the one extended to departing visitors by a dravidian race in South India. A Tamil, when he takes leave of his friends or kin, says, 'Poyittu varaen' – 'I go and I come back'. Wouldn't that also be the most comforting last words for a departing soul to utter to es sorrowing loved ones gathered around es deathbed?

Fathering

Every man who has seed within him is qualified to be a father in the sight of God. Even the wicked. Otherwise, the moment a man wilfully turns his heart to evil, his testes would automatically shrivel up. Why then does the wicked's reproductive organ still function? Because many vile men, perhaps most, have sired children who are not iniquitous like their fathers. Consider the progeny of vicious men such as Dr Mengele's son, Stalin's beloved daughter Svetlana, Saddam Hussein's favorite daughter, and at least one of Idi Amin's forty-three children – these offsprings seem to possess some human, even humane, qualities in them.

Father-in-Law

In my life, the only thing worse than not having a father was having a father-in-law.

Fathers

The single supreme cause of all evil in the world today is that the hearts of the fathers are not turned to the hearts of their children.

Fear

Fear cleaves to our heart as long as we cleave to our own life. Fear is begotten of unsurrender. Fear dies totally in us when we die totally to the self in us.

~ ~

Never be more concerned about the safety of your precious ones than is the One to whom they are far more precious.

Feelings

My feelings, after the devil, is my greatest enemy.

~ ~

You cannot love a person who has betrayed you based on your feelings, as you can love your begotten child if e turns to hate you. For you love your children instinctively, but you can never love any

other human based solely on your inherent feelings. Your love for any person other than those who are issued from you is absolutely conditional on the loved one's responses to you. Your heart cannot keep on giving love to a heart that is always unreciprocating – if your giving is based on how your heart feels. But the most critical truth about the constitution of man is that e can override the feelings of es heart with the will of es mind. By your sheer will, you can keep on giving love to an unresponsive person, even when your feelings keep screaming for you not to. Love based on feelings is sooner or later bound to end because feelings are fragile and transitory; love forced by the will can never fail, for the will is servant to the mind, and the mind is the child of thoughts, and thoughts are determined by the spirit in man. The spirit does not deal with the heart, for the heart is deceitful above all things. The spirit deals only with the truth. Therefore, the spirit directs the truth to the thoughts, and the thoughts enliven the mind, and the renewed mind determines the will, and the set will overrides the feelings of the heart.

~ ~

We cannot control our feelings. Therefore, we cannot control when we feel happy and when we feel unhappy. Therefore, if our passion for living is dependent on the ebb and flow of our feelings, woe to us, for we are dependent on inexorable forces that turn us into hapless beings moving thru life like feathers floating in the whirlwind.

There is a passion that comes from our natural feelings, over which we have no control. It comes when it comes, and goes when it goes, and we move around as passionately or as apathetically as our feelings direct us, like a zombie actuated by a life that possesses its body. But there is a passion that does not have feelings as its actuator. It is the passion that comes to life with action. Man's

greatest attribute is that he can control his every action by his will, and action invariably births feelings, and feelings generate passion. Therefore, the only way we can direct our feelings is by regulating our actions. And thus, the only way we can live passionately is by living wilfully.

Man has two perpetual choices for his life: live by the feelings that come and go naturally without a cause, or live by the actions forced by the will, which will inevitably induce the feelings needed for passionate living.

'Action seems to follow feeling, but really action and feeling go together; and by regulating the action, which is under the more direct control of the will, we can indirectly regulate the feeling, which is not.' - William James

Feet

How sweet the sound of the pit-pat-pattering of little feet on the floor above – pure innocence in motion.

Fire

This morning I attended what is billed as Asia's largest religious gathering – the Maramon Convention. Over two hundred thousand Christians – men and women, veterans and neophytes – sat reverently under a mammoth canopy of thatched coconut leaves, a highly combustible material. Several thousand more stood on the banks of the dried-up riverbed on which the convention was held, and I chose to stand among them. As I listened to the preacher waxing hot about the fiery fate of the unrepentant, a young man in a red t-shirt passed me by. The following words were emblazoned on the front of his shirt: 'In case of fire, grab the hose below'. Right under the words was a bright arrow, pointing downwards.

The first known use of this kind of extinguisher was in a forest about a hundred miles from my village. A fire was spreading quickly thru the undergrowth, and when a team of policemen, who were guarding a famous sanctuary nearby, rushed to the spot, they found no water anywhere to snuff out the flames. Their chief was no ordinary mortal. He ordered his men to pull down their pants and direct their hoses at the encroaching flames. The Indian Express reported that ‘the quick-thinking police inspector was given a gallantry award for putting out a potentially disastrous forest fire that would have destroyed the famous temple nearby’.

The incredible incident mentioned in the Indian Express is narrated in my book ‘The Bold and Beautiful English’.

Fish and Loaf

Whores and sycophants have a touching quality in common, which, among animals, is displayed so purringly in felines. Whenever I take my fishing rod and stand on the bank of the lagoon to cast my line, suddenly, out of nowhere, there appears a cat with tuxedo coat, and she begins to rub her body against my leg, whichever one she fancies. She caresses first with her head, then with her neck, and then with her trunk, till she reaches the tip of her tail. When the utmost limits of her body have finished stroking my leg, she turns around and repeats the whole process in the opposite direction. Thus she continues back and forth, following the leg wherever it goes along the bank. It doesn’t matter to her whether I like her or not, as long as I don’t kick her away. It doesn’t matter to her whether it is my leg or another fisher’s, as long as it’s the leg below the arm bearing the fishing rod. Fish and loaf arouse the tenderest affections in the lowest of humanity and the highest of animality

A prostitute will treat you like a loaf of bread Pr 6:26 EXB

I don't like sycophants. Unless you're a cat. Primadonna Angela

Fishing

I tried to learn fishing in my seventieth year, having always desired to do so since my young days but never having had the opportunity till that age. Then, as I fiddled with a tangled line, it suddenly dawned on me that I could never do it. Hooking a fish seemed fun till that moment, but now I realized that being pierced thru the roof of the mouth is no fun for the fish. As the squirming life writhes in death agony, I would wince in pain. Hunting an animal for the thrill of it and fishing for fun are equally sadistic acts that sear the Creator's heart.

Flute

The guitar dazzles, preens, screams, and swamps the senses of the audience. And the piano softly effuses its soothing euphonies upon the enraptured soul. But no instrument touches the tender chords of a woman's heart and captivates her like the undulating notes floating from a bamboo flute out of her sight.

Fly

Lord, let not my slip be showing when I am talking or my fly be revealing when I am walking. For I am a man prone to mix up my speeches and oft forget to zip up my breeches. Lord, never let my folly or my willy be exposed to the world at any time.

Food

All the things I crave most to eat are either without scales or without fins, or they don't chew the cud.

Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud – that you may eat...Whatever in the water does not have fins or scales – that shall be an abomination to you. Lev 11:3,12

Football

‘Football unites the world’ – FIFA slogan. Poppycock! Only war disunites nations more. Nothing unites the citizens of one country against another more than a football match between the two.

Forgiveness

Forgiveness blots out the spiritual and eternal consequences of sin but not the physical and temporal aftermath. The physical and temporal consequences last a lifetime and often spill into the next generation.

~ ~

The most impossible quality in human relationships is to keep forgiving a repeatedly offending person – hurt after hurt, insult after insult, injury after injury – when the wrongdoer seeks no forgiveness from the one he wounded. Only Christ in a person can keep on forgiving without count, in the unflagging hope that the abusive spouse, or friend, or neighbor, will change.

~ ~

Forgiveness works when every other action in the universe fails. In forgiveness alone there is absolutely no possibility of regret in the future. In kindness shown, in forbearance endured, in compassion given, in faithfulness clung to, in wisdom applied, there is always the possibility of future regret when fullness of truth is revealed. But in forgiveness there is never an element of regret lurking in its act.

~ ~

No act in the universe causes a man or a woman to love a person as much as being forgiven by that person. This is why Christians redeemed from their sins in this corrupt age will forever love God as their Creator, Sustainer, and Savior, whereas his offsprings born in a sinless world in the next age will look upon God as their Creator and Sustainer only.

~ ~

Forgiving does not happen when the offended person decides not to let the offense hurt em anymore. That can never happen in the human heart. The victim can never ignore the wound, e can never forget the words or act that caused the deep gash in es heart, and e can never be free from its recurring pain as long as the offending person emself does not come forth with es heartfelt apologies and remorse and heal the wound e caused. Forgiving happens when the injured person, even while bleeding and squirming from the wound, decides to endure the agony and not let the pain affect es words and actions toward the offender.

Forwards

There are people, as ubiquitous and pesky as the housefly, who send forwards to their friends, and worse, to the friends of their friends, with a zeal and frequency that put to shame the daily frenzy of a rooster chasing a hen. Some send a sentimental quote every day without fail. Some send a syrupy video seven days a week, as soupy as the daily quote. A billion people around the world have seen these forwards eons ago, but the ardent sender presumes his friends haven't yet. Without doubt, he – this is a male malady – is among earth's most undiscerning of creatures, for he has no inkling he is on constant sufferance among his recipients. Had his friends not

exercised forbearance by refraining from replying to his forwards with an ugly emoji, he would have been so aghast at their reaction that he would slink away for the rest of his life into a quiet corner, like a mutt kicked away from lying close to the feet of its owner for fouling the atmosphere. The mutt, you see, had not the slightest inkling its gassy action was not only obnoxious to its beloved master but also noxious.

Freedom

The devil hates freedom in every form – free will, free movement, innovation, spontaneity, randomness. He wants only zombies who live preprogrammed, deterministic lives. Which is why he sneaked in regimentation and uniforms in institutions, systems and procedures in organizations, methodology in science, tradition in religion, conformity in society, monotone in arts, trance music in entertainment, and monotony in human lifestyles.

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. Gal 5:13

I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. Ps 119:45

Friendship

Friendship in a man is like deep waters, but a persevering person can draw it out. Not so in the case of a woman, whose heart, because of its innate protective nature, lies in shallow waters, and even a brute can wade into it and lure her into a state of trust in him.

The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out. Pr 20:5 ESV

~ ~

A man and a woman cannot remain close friends for long; they either end up in marital conjugation, or they break up after multiple fornications. Flee from the camaraderie of a woman if you desire her not as your future wife.

Frustration

Frustration is the surest syndrome that we are not happy with God's pace of walking with us. We should always desire to walk at the unhurried, unlagging pace that the two travelers to Emmaus did with Jesus. Perhaps they had to slow their own pace a bit, perhaps they had to increase it a whit so they could walk alongside their new companion. Abreastness was the best position for them so that they do not miss a single word the Lord spoke to them.

Fun

The older we grow, the more consciously we must seek fun. For in the flaccid state of our body we need fun more than in the virile phase of our life, when thrills and pleasures eagerly beckon us wherever we go, whatever the season. Only those old people who are having fun in their cockled years have a pleasant visage, and are not held in sufferance by the robust generation.

Future

All that my heart achingly yearned for my children to enjoy when they were kids but couldn't because their father was poor, my grandchildren are enjoying today sevenfold more than I had ever desired for their parents when they were living with me.

Incomparably more joyful it is that my children were deprived of these enjoyments and my grandchildren given them than the other way round. Thus is the man blessed who loves the Lord.

Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace. Ps 37:37

Gauge Of A Man – Growth

Gauge Of A Man

There is a people who gauge the greatness of a man by his ability to dribble a ball past his opponents into a net on the other side of the field.

There is a large mass of humanity who deem the degree of a person's standing in society by the exquisiteness of his or her ability to act as another person on a screen.

There is a major segment of the world's population who think that a sweet song from a crooning man or woman blared thru the airwaves is worth incomparably more than the words of wisdom spoken softly by a sage.

There is a race on earth who believe the highest cadre of humanity are those with the largest amount of wealth in their coffers.

There is an uncountable number of human beings in every nation who eagerly devour the sedating homily of a preacher or the rousing harangue of a pedagogue and will follow them unquestioningly, if need be, to the slaughterhouse.

There are indeed far more such people of shallow thoughts and hollow hearts on this planet than there are people who can think their own thoughts and make their own judgments.

Generous

It's easy, even a pleasure, to give money away for a good cause if it wasn't earned but received freely. But it's another matter entirely when it comes to giving away money that was earned by the sweat and strain of the giver.

~ ~

The most generous people in the world are also the most broke on earth.

German

The Germans are such a grave and no-nonsense race that their jokes don't have to be funny. Don't laugh too loud when a Deutsch tells you a joke. Anything beyond a smile of acquiescence is an affront. I remember a former boss of mine advising me when we were talking about some business proposal with a German client. He told me aside, 'Be careful, don't be frivolous or humorous with him. Just state the facts of the business, and be done with it.'

'A German joke, which doesn't have to be funny.' – Pope Ratzinger to his successor Pope Francis, in the movie, *The Two Popes*.

Girlfriend, Boyfriend

A man can have a girlfriend, and a woman a boyfriend. But a man cannot have a woman as a friend, nor a woman a man as a friend. If they do, it is an illicit friendship. A faithful man can have a female friend only thru his wife and only in her presence, and a woman a male friend only thru her husband and only in his company. In their fidelity to God and their spouse, they can never have a separate friend of the opposite sex. If they do, they will draw closer and closer till the relationship strains their groins and an explosion occurs. Nature has ordained that the spouse of a man or a woman be not only es best friend but also the only friend of the other gender.

Giving Up

No husband or wife, no son or daughter, no father or mother, if they betray you, or forsake you, is worth giving up your happiness for. Because for a morsel of bread e will abandon you, given the circumstances. Give up your happiness, and if need be, even your life, only for one person – the one who gave up his eternal life so you can live forever in joy.

To show partiality is not good, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress. Prov 28:21

~ ~

Never let the fear of the devil dictate what you should or shouldn't do. Give up a bad habit, overcome a sin, or resist a temptation, not because of the fear of the consequences if you don't, but because of the thought of how it will affect your Beloved if you don't. Give up a pleasure, an indulgence, not because it is hurting you physically or spiritually but because it is hurting your Lover to see you hurting yourself. The novice Christian turns away from sin because it diminishes or deprives em of es reward in heaven. The ultimate Christian turns away from sin not because it will harm em or diminish es standing before es Creator but because of what it cost es Savior to save em from the consequences of committing it.

God

God has no needs, he has only wants. If you believe that millions of hapless souls in Africa, China, and India are on the road to perdition if more laborers are not found to redeem them, you are a babe in your thinking. God surely wants more laborers, but he has no need for any. Not one soul will be lost because the Savior found not enough helpers.

~ ~

God is infinite in image and constitution. In his infiniteness he manifests himself to man with a finite delineation. Even in his finite manifestation, even when he presents himself in a form with quantifiable lineaments, the Creator appears more beautiful than any other being in his creation.

You are fairer than the sons of men. Ps 45:2

~ ~

I have scant respect for a god who is not more to me than I am to my children – in forgiving them, in bearing all their weaknesses, in being patient with them despite their repeated insults and hurts hurled at me, in their failure to communicate with me daily, in their refusal to observe all that I instructed them to do, and in their not measuring up to my minimal expectations of them. No, I worship and serve a God who forgives me incomparably more than I forgive my children, who bears all my transgressions, and who is patient with me in all my failings infinitely longer than I am with my precious little ones.

God's Love

Jesus loved the robber who vilified him to the same extremity that he loved the one who venerated him. No greater way could he show that he loved them both equally than to be crucified equally for both of them. Amazing love, that God loves Nero and Pharaoh just as much as he loves the heavenly hero martyred for his Son. 'God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son.' Why then should we seek to love him more if the one who loves him less is loved by him the same? Because when we love him more,

we give him more joy. And when he has more joy in us, we receive more joy in him. The saint who pleased God, and the saint who pleased him more, tho both are rewarded with heavenly bliss, enjoy two eternally different heights of companionship with their Beloved.

God The Erotic Lover

Sex is a most important part of God's relationship with his beloved ones on earth. Only the very few gifted with the deep secrets of God can understand this. Paul said,

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord...For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. Eph 5:22, 31-32

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 2 Cor 11:2

We are Christ's bride and bridegroom. The word 'bride', in the spiritual sense, does not have a gender specification. It means betrothed or just-married spouse. For the woman who has given her life to her Savior, Christ is her ultimate male lover. For the man, Christ is his most beautiful sexual partner. A man who is in a marriage covenant with Christ is not only united with him in spirit, but in flesh too. Therefore, whatever he does to the body of his wife – in his kisses and his hugs, in his necking and his petting, in the nuances of his foreplay – he is doing it to the body of Christ. And just as your wife enjoys your tender foreplay, the feminine dimension of Christ enjoys it from you as much.

Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me. Mt 25:40

Goldfish

A goldfish swimming around in a bowl sends my soul whirling about in anguish.

Good People

From the perspective of eternity, there is absolutely no difference between a good Christian and a good Hindu, or a good Muslim, or a good atheist. Weighed in the balance of worthiness at the Final Judgment, all four will earn commendations or condemnations of the same corresponding measure. But, without Christ dwelling in em, the utmost goodness of a person will not gain em entry into the presence of God. The destiny of all the good people of the various faiths in whom Christ is absent is the same.

Glory

All the glory that this world can give you – all the Nobel prizes, all the Academy awards, the Olympic medals, the Knighthoods, and the Sainthoods – cannot begin to compare with just the one short word of commendation you receive from the Lord on that Day when he meets you eye to eye, witnessed by all the heavenly hosts and all the generations of mankind that ever lived.

Government

‘Power to the People’, I heard John Lennon singing. That is the highest form of government that human beings believe possible on earth. So, from the Adamic times to the Robotic times, from

Oligarchy and Monarchy to Democracy and Socialism, man has striven to be governed by the principle of power to the people. Millenniums of evidence of the utter failure of a few ruling over the many, or the many ruling over the same many, have not dampened the fervor of the people's belief in the supreme beneficence of power to themselves. Government of the people, by the people, for the people is just a euphemism for government never by the Creator. Power to the people has caused continual tragedy at an exponential rate in every society – from the fall of the first two human beings, who craved more power for themselves, to the Flood, which nearly wiped self-ruling humanity away, to the two world wars, and to all the conflicts and hatreds among the people today.

Once, in his earnest desire to show mankind that the only power that works for the good of the people is the very Power that created them, God selected a feeble nation, and ruled them directly. But no, the people were not willing to consider the irrefutable evidence of the benefits of theocracy, and even before the first generation passed away, they cried to the mediator Samuel, saying in effect, 'Power to the People'. When Samuel complained, God told him, 'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.' ^{1 Sam 8:4-6} The Creator thus gave up his only attempt in history to take power back from the people to himself.

A thousand years later, the same God, tho he was not seeking to take away the people's power, heard again this cry of rejection from his own kinsmen whom he came to save from the power of the people. When the crowd heard the question, 'Do you want me to release the king of the Jews?' they shouted in answer, 'No, not him! Give us Barabbas!' So fanatical was the people's obsession with power to themselves that they asked that the placard on the cross, which bore the taunting words 'King of the Jews', be pulled down.

Jn 18:39-40;19:21

The Creator has ceded all power to the people, and he will never again attempt to take it from them...no, not till mankind, on the edge of annihilation, fervently cries out, 'Power to God only'.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see me no more till you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' Mt 23:37-39

Graffiti Artists

Those pathetic souls, who, not endowed with the capability of creating anything beautiful or beneficial – neither a nice painting nor a fine book, neither a sculpture nor a moral stricture, whose legs can never run fast enough to win a race nor jump high enough to clear a bar, and whose arms can never lift a weight beyond the barest nor tug hard enough to draw a rope – find their greatest sense of worth and recognition in the adulation of feeble minds who admire their colorful scribbles and childish scrawls on the walls of subways and city buildings. These are the dangling heroes who risk their lives and their freedom by rappelling down the dizzying walls of edifices in the secrecy of the night, when the custodians of the city's scape are reposing. These pseudo-artists speedily work with crayons or spray paint to produce yet another product of a shallow cerebrum – the graffiti – the highest possible achievement of the lowest form of aspirants.

Grandchildren

The only thing that makes old people feel needed in this world is their grandchildren. Which is why the little ones are like shining crowns on the hoary heads. What a crown means to a king, grandkids

mean to a coffin dodger.

Children's children are the crown of old men Pr 17:6

Grandfather Clock

Have you observed the innards of a grandfather clock...the two ovoid members, on either side of the pendulum, one a little lower than the other, like the retired sacs of an aged signor? And then the pendulum itself, dangling in the center, and swinging from side to side as the clock moves forward in time, like the pendent organ of a grandpa as he plods wearily on.

Grandfatherhood

Grandfatherhood is nature's mercy on a remorseful father.

Greatness

He truly is the greatest among mortals who seeks to make other men greater than he.

Green

I think green must be the Creator's favorite color, if indeed he has favorites among his creations. It is the color of the radiance that surrounds his throne in heaven. Green is the most prevalent color among living beings. And there are more shades of green on earth than there are of any other color.

Growing In Righteousness

You cannot grow in a certain quality of righteousness. You cannot single out one particular virtue and work on that till it has reached the maturity level of Christ. If you have a certain vice in your life, you cannot be rid of it by working on overcoming that particular shortcoming. You overcome this fault not by focusing on it and battling it – you will only sink deeper into its pit with your struggles – but by loving Christ more. If you want to have more of a certain virtue in your life, say, forbearing more with people who hurt you, or trusting God more for deliverance, you cannot work on growing your patience or faith. Patience, faith, and the other qualities of righteousness grow when you focus not on growing these particular qualities but on Christ growing more in you. When Christ is growing in you, you are also growing a deficient virtue, or extirpating a persistent vice, in you. Give us more faith, cried the disciples. No, replied Christ, you cannot have even a mustard-sized faith by doing anything to increase it. But you can love me more, and faith will follow on its own.

You want to keep one particular commandment in a way that's more pleasing to God? You want to keep, say, the seventh commandment, in a greater way by resisting lust more diligently? You cannot. You have to keep all the other nine commandments equally more diligently to keep this one particular commandment more pleasingly to God. Even one commandment omitted among the ones you keep more diligently will prevent the other nine commandments from being kept in a greater way.

You want to love Christ and please him more? Then keep all his commandments equally more.

For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws. For the same God who said, "You must not commit adultery," also said, "You must not murder." So if you murder someone but do not commit adultery, you have still broken the law. Jm 2:10-11 NLT

If you love me, keep my commandments Jn 14:15

Growth

A birthday thought:

Only Christ can grow in a person, in the blessed and happy sense of that word. Everything else atrophies – es character, es brain, es wisdom, es love, es usefulness, es beauty. Unless Christ is growing in a man or a woman, e becomes more despicable, more hateful and more hating, more deformed, more forgetful, and more foolish, year by year, till in his or her old age, e is the personification of the adage, there's no fool like an old fool.

As you celebrate your birthday each year, ask yourself in the honesty of your spirit: Have I grown in Christ's nature over the past year – in compassion, in forgiveness, in humility – or is the degree of my outflowing attributes the same today as it was a year ago? If it's the latter, the truth is, it is not the same – it's lower today than it was a year ago.

the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts Eph 4:22

That old self becomes worse [is decaying/being corrupted] EXB

Hair – Humiliation

Hair

The devil views the human body with such extreme envy that he will try to make even the least portion of a being made in the image and likeness of the Creator as ridiculous as possible. If all he can target is a person's hair, that's quite enough. He influences a susceptible woman to shave her head, leaving it shining bald, or at least shear it so short that her head looks like that of a man. In a pliant man, the fiend induces him to grow his hair as long as a woman's, even coaxing some to weave it into a pigtail. Or he makes a man turn his hair into a mass of very tight curls surrounding his head. The mocker sometimes sways his male victim to tie his hair into a knot worn on the back of the head. In others, he impels them to shave all the hair from their head except for a strip running down the middle of the head. A most grotesque style that was popular for a few years till recently was the one where the whole back of the neck, from the nape to the top, was shaved and the rest of the hair kept at regular length. At the time of writing this, a style that has been popular for the past couple of years and is slowly dying out is the one where the hair around the head is shaved, leaving a circular patch of close-cropped hair at the crown of the head. The devil is nowhere near done yet. I wait with bemusement to see his next style emerging – perhaps in this new one, the human shaves his head a few inches wide from his left ear to the left over the crown, leaving the head with hirsute fore and rear portions.

Hair In My Curry

A strand of grey hair I find entangled with the meat pieces in my beef roast, as I dine in my home, while not a welcome sight, is an

endurable plight. I will just remove the hair and resume my fare. 'Cause I know the intruding ingredient was once a part of my wife's body, and there's nothing unclean about anything that was once a valued constituent of my beloved. For even the very hairs of her head are all numbered, says the Lord, so the hair that I find in my roast has an identifying tag in heaven's register. I also know it will never perish, even if I unknowingly ingest it, but one day it will be restored to her head. But a tiny length of hair in my mutton curry while dining in an elegant restaurant will be a horrific sight and will make me want to puke. I will look aghast at the costly dish and walk out of the repugnant restaurant, never to enter it again. In both cases, the unexpected ingredients comprise the same chemicals, they have the same molecular structure, they have the same form and flavor, and yet they appear to me as different as the witch of Endor appears different from the blessed virgin of Bethlehem.

Happenstance

Every mundane happening, every chance encounter, and every haphazard event that comes your way each day is the awesome moment-by-moment transpiration of the divine plan to mold you into the perfect image and likeness of your Creator. In infinitesimal ways the mortal mind cannot fathom, the momentary or prolonged temporal happenstance in your life works an eternal transformation somewhere in the infinite recesses of your spirit. If, by your supplications, that happening is averted or cut short by divine intervention, then the divine plan is modified to ensure another event in your life at a later time equivalent in its molding effect.

But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. Jm 1:4

Happiness

Receive eagerly into your heart every bit of happiness anyone gives you. But grant not any man or woman such a place in your heart that e can take away one iota of happiness from it.

~ ~

God did not call me to pursue happiness, he called me to pursue Jesus. He did not call me to enjoy prosperity, he called me to endure privation so I can enjoy eternity.

~ ~

Let no woman or man decide for you how happy or how sad you should be in your relationship with em or with another.

~ ~

You cannot base your happiness in life on how God is dealing with you presently, but on how he dealt with you in the past, and how he will deal with you in the future.

~ ~

He or she whose happiness depends on how much happiness another person gives em or denies em has found neither true happiness nor true love.

~ ~

Happiness, unlike success, is not attained; it is sustained. Success is destination reached. Happiness is destiny pursued.

~ ~

Happiness, for the delusional soul, is a feeble state of mind resulting from the solace of sheer ignorance or from the cheer of inebriation. Behold the happy cuckolds and the blithe buffoons, the merry drunkards and the gleeful gluttons. If they knew the truth of their plight, of how the world sees them, they would be suicidal in their depression or maniacal in their desperation. Only those who have renounced the happiness of this world can see the stark reality of their state.

Hate

No mortal can conceal es animosity toward another for long, unless the object is so obtuse e discerns not even the rage of a bear robbed of her cubs rushing at em. The vibes issuing from an embittered heart are palpable to those who have befouled it. The lips of the sour one avow es candor, es acts vouch for es charity, but es bile oozes from es every cell, es heart lets slip noxious fumes imperceptible to the envenomed one but breathed in by the object of es antipathy.

Head, Shaven

Never trust a man with a shaven head. Nor give your heart to a woman shorn of her hair. In the end, they will both sting like a viper and bite like a rabid vixen. Never trust a woman with wandering eyes, nor a man who doesn't look you in the eye. They are both shifty and shady, and will not rest till they have dragged you down to perdition.

Heart

Lord, grant me the heart of your Son that I, like him, can always meet folly with wisdom, competition with cooperation, arrogance with abasement, offense with forbearance, confrontation with concession, provocation with placation, persecution with perseverance, humiliation with submission, opposition with conciliation, denunciation with acquiescence, and accusation with quiescence.

~ ~

There are dark avenues in your heart where crouch hideous monsters you never imagined existed deep within you.

~ ~

A mind can be changed by another mind. Indeed, great are the transformations that a strong mind can bring about in another mind. A change in creed, a doctrine adopted, an affiliation begun, an opinion, an impression, a sorrow, happiness, anger, fervor, and sympathy infused. A mind can change only a mind – itself or another mind – but it can never change a heart. Only a heart can change a heart. A heart hardens only insofar as another hardened heart affects it. A heart softens only insofar as another heart soothes it. The hate in a heart can never be dispelled by the persuasions of a mind. The hate in a heart dissipates only when love from another heart suffuses it. And with the change of heart inevitably also comes the change of mind. A heart transforms both the heart and the mind.

~ ~

The heart that is kept soft doesn't break easily.

~ ~

Let your heart be as tough as tungsten, and your mind as hard as steel, but let your hand always be as tender as a falling petal, your voice as soft as a floating feather.

~ ~

A mind builds religions, a heart creates relationships. A mind winces in sympathy, a heart acts in empathy. A mind can console a suffering mind, but only a heart can comfort a grieving heart. A mind can be happy in good times, but only a heart can know joy in all seasons. A loyal mind changes opinions and fidelities, likes and dislikes, affections and disaffections, toward another mind, according to how it is affected by the other mind, but the faithful heart remains ever steadfast to another heart, no matter how the other heart treats it.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Pr 4:23 NLT

Heaven

What if heaven is one never-ending Sunday morning where saints perpetually flit from one church service to another?

~ ~

If heaven is one long church service, I would any day prefer to be eternally dead without my sinews than be perpetually hale in the pews.

Hell

Only the malevolently brilliant mind of Satan could conceive of an ever-burning hell and palm it off as divine truth to preachers, so he

could have a smidgin of pleasure watching the lifelong torment of Christians struggling to escape it.

Hen

A plea to the housewives in my village: Love thy neighbor's hen as thine own. Don't stone it.

Highway of the Lord

The highway of the Lord, unlike the freeways of the godless, is not broad or on even ground. Whereas the highways carrying the worldly people are filled with traffic in either direction, and the tarmac is mostly on level ground, and the occasional gradients are smoothly traversed, the highway bearing the Godly folk goes only in one direction – ever spiraling upward, thru rough terrain and narrow ledges on dizzying precipices, thru storms and inclement weather, upon which the wayfarer often wearily trudges, sometimes crawls, with es eyes ever upon the beautiful peak where stands the pearly gate to eternity.

On the highways trafficked by the unbelievers, rare are the encounters that stall one's movement. A crossing deer, a stranded moose, a marching family of geese, an obstructing accident. Such impeding encounters are the exception for the secular traveler. On the highway of the Lord, a journey without a severe obstacle on any stretch of the road is the exception. Threats from highwaymen brandishing dangerous weapons are among the least risks for the Godless traveler. Threats from ravenous fire-breathing dragons and rapacious dart-flinging ogres that suddenly appear are a regular feature on the narrow path. The traveler can neither move an inch forward, for e would be consumed by the evil flame, or pierced thru

by the devil's pointed tail, nor can e seek to circumvent the monster. For on es left is the bottomless abyss, and on es right the unscalable cliff. As e stands helpless, behold, there descends toward em from the azure sky the full armor of the Lord. Donning the helmet and the breastplate, and taking the shield in es left hand and the sword in es right, e boldly lurches forward, and the terrified monster flees more speedily than it arrived to thwart, nay, to devour, its victim. And the victor moves on, nothing daunting em, nothing haunting em, till e reaches the summit of perpetual joy.

Hoary Head

A hoary head that's horny is among the most obnoxious phenomena in human degeneration.

Holiness

Tho I consider myself, in my fleshly state, the chiefest of sinners among mankind, yet I know I am as holy as my God is in my inner being. For this purpose I was called – to reflect the mercy, gentleness, and patience of God toward a person of utter unworthiness in es natural state.

Home

A home is a house with your family in it. My house was my home for forty-six years till the last person living in it, my mother, passed from it. From then on, the home became a house without a spirit, like a dead person becomes a body without a soul.

Yesterday I saw the lifeless body of an old friend of mine, after

having seen it full of life for fifty-eight years. There was no change in his form – his face was the same, his hair still hoary, and his internal organs also remained the same. Just as my house, externally and internally, looked the same after my mother's departure. But to me, that building, which once sheltered me, is now only as meaningful and attractive as the body of my deceased buddy.

I don't want to stay in that defunct house ever again, just as I don't want to touch the cold body of my friend again till his regeneration.

Honey

The mouth-watering of a starving man for the honey dripping from a honeycomb in a forbidden garden is less excruciating to the craven senses than the salivating of a depraved man for the honey dripping from the lips of a woman in a forbidden relationship.

Human Life, Worth Of A

One human life is worth to es Creator infinitely more than all his non-human creations put together, including angels. Angels were made to serve man. For the human father, his son or daughter is infinitely more precious than all the servants in his house put together. Even so, a single man or a woman, being a child of God, is worth infinitely more to es Father than all the angels and archangels put together.

For to which of the angels did he ever say, you are my Son; today I have become your Father...Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve those who are going to inherit salvation? Heb 1:5,14

Human Body

Where the devil cannot destroy a whole person, he contents himself with damaging a portion of em. Thus, every time a person gulps a canful of fizzy drink, it quenches to that measure the enemy's thirst for mangling human organs. Thus, when a being made in es Creator's image shoves down es gullet a whopper, it satiates to that degree the devil's appetite for bloating the human body.

Human Nature

Don't assume for a moment that your old vile characteristics, your previous dirty habits, all your natural depravities, all of which you overcame many years ago – the very memories of which you recoil from – have really left your body. They are there, embedded in your flesh, as alive as ever, as filthy as before, but now confined deep in the tartarus of your mind, awaiting their destruction on that final day of retribution.

Some perversities, crucified on the stake, are unable to prowl around, but are still able to shout out obscenities, still able to wiggle their fingers and gesture dirty signs. But other elements of your old nature are able to roam freely in the abyss of your consciousness, some even able to reach high ledges on the remote cliffs of your mind, where you can see them in your dreams and in your straying imaginations. The acts they flaunt at you are shocking, for they are just as filthy as, often more intensely alluring than, the worst perversions of your old carnality. There is nothing you can do to dislodge them from their perches on your mind's deep ledges, but, as soon as you realize your thoughts have strayed into forbidden territories, turn your eyes away from them and speedily return to the haven of your redeemed soul. But you know the perverts are still in you, in the dark recesses of your flesh, waiting with trembling

eagerness to catch sight of you again. Only when your corporeal body ceases to exist will they too perish forever from the repugnant crevices of your mind.

Humiliation

Nobody can be humiliated except by es own willingness.

I – Ich

I

Lord, why am I I, and not another?

~ ~

O Lord my Creator, why am I the being that's the greatest your omnipotence could conceive, and not a centipede, like billions of others?

Ice

Perhaps the most important reason God made ice, and did not stop with snow or frost, is that his children can enjoy skating on it. A secondary reason is that they may enjoy whisky on the rocks.

Idea

Never trust any stellar idea that comes to your merry mind after taking a drink or two. Sobriety will uncover its astral cloak and expose it for the banal phony it is.

Idli

The idli, a most favored breakfast of my countryfolk, is one of the blandest foods that culinary fatuity could concoct from a grain. This dish is the product of a primitive gastronomy, the taste buds of

whose proponents have not developed beyond the inchoate stage of perception. It is among the savories of mankind on the extreme edge of appetency, as desirable to the refined palate as blue cheese or a 12-year-old whisky is to the aboriginal gustation.

Idol

Those who have trained their feet to deftly make contact with a ball, or have strengthened their arms to down an opponent in a ring with a single blow, or whose legs can outrun their competitors', or who, by skilled histrionics, can pretend to be another personality with accurate depiction, or who can croon to the soothing of itchy ears, are called idols. These are the gods and goddesses in mortal flesh, whom mankind – save the chosen – worship, adore, celebrate, emulate, and fawn over. The little flock scattered around the world, whom all in heaven look upon as the salt of the earth – the only ones with intrinsic value in them – are a breed held in low esteem, from whom people hide their faces.

Idolatry

Idolatry is adultery against God, and, just as it is to a betrayed spouse, it is the one act that wrings his jealous heart more than any other.

~ ~

Just as the greatest evil possible by a husband or a wife toward es spouse is adultery – which is one of them submitting es body to another person – the greatest transgression possible by a human being toward God is idolatry, which is a person subjugating es soul to another god.

Image

There is a race of humans whom some would have difficulty telling apart from shaven gorillas in suits, but whose souls mirror their Maker's image more than those of the ones adorned with beautiful faces and arrayed in fetching garments.

Immolation

Immolation by one's own hands, or at the stake by other human hands, is a far less agonizing way for a man to die than for him to be cast into the flames of Gehenna by an angel's hands.

Imperfections

The more I groan over the imperfections blighting the present earth, the sweeter my anticipation of their perfections embellishing the new earth.

Impression

All the best practices and outstanding customer service of an organization cannot undo the damage done by one rude parking lot attendant.

Independence Day

The time is coming when all the nations that celebrate their Independence Day as the jubilant anniversary of their liberation

from the British Empire will rename this occasion Repentance Day, and will memorialize it as the anniversary of the nation's official rejection of the bounties God mercifully extended to the gentile nations thru his chosen people.

Innocence

It is not innocence that God desires of his children. Innocence in a human being is just a state of not being guilty yet of a sin e will eventually commit. It is purity that was never put to the test, and hence it is a state that can never be perpetually trusted. Adam and Eve were innocent till they were tested. What God desires is holiness. Holiness is created only by cleansing. When a person's filth has been completely extruded in the fiery cauldron of testing, and es body cleansed by es Creator's blood, the person becomes holy, which is purity that can never be contaminated.

Infinity

Without infinity, eternity eventually becomes a constricted playground, within which your activities and explorations are forever confined. Without eternal randomness, life becomes a neverendingly predictable existence. To be alive forever in a bright deterministic universe is infinitely worse than being dead eternally in the dark grave.

Influence

Never let the devil moralize to you. Never let him suggest what's best for you in the sight of God. Never let him influence you in

what you should eat or drink, or what you should do or speak, that will please God. Remember, he knows what the scriptures say about every aspect of righteousness far better than any preacher whose counsels you trust. And in your dire state, he will quote those scriptures to you that seem relevant to your present acute situation. But let no spirit, no inner voice, no outer manifestation, no suasion, move you from your present stance before God. Let nothing stir you to action but your passion to love Christ to the utmost.

Innovation

What did Steve Jobs take with him when he left this world? Certainly not his billions of dollars, not a cent of them. Perhaps his talent for innovation? Perhaps he had hoped that in the next life, he would have the opportunity to come up with products that are incomparably more innovative than the Apple computer or the iPhone or anything else he had made in this life. Oh, the depths of disillusion he would feel when he rises in the regeneration and gazes at the products in the land of the saints! The most fantastic technological concepts queuing up in his brain will seem to him as marvelous as new designs for a baby rattle.

Inspiration

Inspiration is more important than imagination. If you're inspired enough, the imagination will come flooding in on its own.

Instinct

Maternal and paternal instincts are just God's way of guaranteeing to himself that the babies he births thru humans are given the

utmost care and love just as he himself would provide were he a human mother or father.

Intercession

Life has been so ordained that the course of a great servant of God takes another turn purely on account of the intercession of another saint, which course would have run without deviation but for the intervention brought about by the fervent plea of the intercessor. Who has been a greater servant of Christ than Paul, and yet he often beseeched his followers for intercessory prayer, that he might be speeded on his way, that his service might prove to be acceptable to the saints, that he would be plucked from the jaws of desperate lions, that a door would open for his message, that he might be delivered from wicked men. Surely, but for the petitions of other people, Paul would have walked a more troublous, even tribulous, course, tho his end would have been with the same fruits.

Intelligence

Intelligence without belief in God is the most severe form of mental retardation.

~ ~

There are a few women on earth – I haven't come across any such men – who are endowed with an intelligence quotient that's a couple of notches above that of a retard but who use their pint-sized brain to one hundred percent capacity and thus excel in mental proficiency, pragmatism, and prudence over many of the men in Mensa.

Internet

The internet is one of those rare inventions co-produced by the divine team and the diabolic crew. The version produced in the angels' atelier brings the admonition of the coming global holocaust to users; the model made in the devil's mill keeps viewers glued to the screen till the moment the cataclysm sweeps them away.

Intrusion

The ants accuse the mammoth of cruel insouciance as it flattens the tiny critters' magnificent cosmopolis on its rampage thru the forest in search of forage to fill its groaning belly.

The stork thinks evil of the eagle, believing the ravenous bird, gliding in the wind and circling hungrily over the earth for a warm prey, hinders its smooth migration to the unfrozen zone.

The mole, if it could, would imprecate the mower of the lawn for endangering the lives of its begotten ones snug in their home beneath.

The earthworm, crawled out from its damp shelter, ever fears the hard sole of the heartless pedestrian as it stretches on the pavement for a dollop of sunshine.

Thus every creature, large and little, thinks ill of some other creature for its unwitting intrusion into its private corner, knowing not the twain are put on the same path by their common Maker.

Irrational

There's always an irrational explanation for everything.

Ishmael, The Descendants of

A nation endowed with a temperament like no other – whose males hold a sword in their right hand and their phallus in their left.

'By your sword you shall live' Gen 27:40 'By the roadside you sat waiting for lovers, sat like a nomad in the desert.' Jer 3:2 NIV [See this verse in other translations]

Itch

It might seem like God overlooked a few things when designing the human body. Like, say, providing an extra length and flexibility to the arm so the hands could reach those unreachable places on the back of the body. Because he made my arms as they are now, I am forced to resort to an improvised limb, a backscratcher, to deal with that most pervasive of irritations among human sensations – the elusive itch.

Jaws – Knowledge

Jaws

Either blind evolution endowed the feline mother with the instinct to apply the exact amount of pressure in her jaws as she grasps her newborn cub between them, or her Designer planned it so. A trifle tighter grip, and the tender cranium she holds in her mouth cracks; a lighter one, and her baby falls to the hard ground.

Jazz

The diversity of music fills me with awe and thrills me to the core. I wallow in the vibes that emanate from an erhu in the gleaming hands of a lithe Chinese virtuoso, and bounce to the rhythmic breaths of the aboriginal didgeridoo sourced from Australia's eucalyptus woods. I savor the delightful intricacies of the carnatic raga breezed out thru the six holes on a bamboo shoot cut from the Indian forest, and my spirit is deferent to the augustness of the Gregorian chants pouring from caucasian throats in cloistered chambers. But jazz...jazz is utter cacophony to me.

~ ~

Jazz, in the final analysis, is musical disorder, and disorder is the mother of discombobulation. It is the muddled product of human syches deluded into experimenting with lawlessness and exulting in the ensuing jumble of uneuphonic notes.

Thoughts as I listened to a jazz version of 'How Great Thou Art' on the radio.

~ ~

The argument that jazz is a higher form of composition because it is created by the stochastic flow of melodies, and that all other combinations of musical notes are predictable after the first few strains, does not hold credibility if one ponders the matter deeply. To say that a song composed outside the deterministic scales of music is more profound is the equivalent of stating that human life outside the definite restraints of The 10 Commandments is more abundant.

~ ~

Jazz is music without melody, and music without melody is cacophony. I'd rather endure the sound of screeching tires, grating teeth, and a violin being violated by a retard playing it for the first time than lend my ears to jazz.

Joy

Enable me, O Lord, to have a sparkle in my eyes as I behold your wonders on my peregrinations thru earth, even while my heart bleeds as I witness the stark tribulations everywhere I tread.

~ ~

Every new joy brings integrally wrapped within it its own new agony. A man who has never known the tragedy of losing his wife suddenly becomes a potential bearer of such suffering from the day he takes a bride. A father who has not the faintest idea of what it means to be bereaved of his precious offspring is suddenly at risk of such agony from the moment he begets a child. A pleasure newly acquired is also a new pain waiting to afflict on the day the pleasure is denied. A jubilation, a celebration, hides within its merry sounds the shrieks of a coming tribulation, an impending trepidation.

Judgment

Lord, let not the detriment caused by my offender taint my judgment of him.

~ ~

I believe the best my understanding brings me, practice the highest my ideals convince me of, and preach the divinest of doctrines I would stake my life on. If the end sees me cast before a host of ten thousand angels crying in unison that I have not attained to the full measure of my calling, it will not waver one whit my confidence in my Judge's estimation of me on that great day of reckoning. For my heart knows I have pursued the best, I have lived my utmost, I have proclaimed the highest, I have loved to the end.

Justice Of God

God is no respecter of persons. He is impartial in his justice both in heaven and on earth. The justice he metes out to the wicked on earth is the justice he doles out to the wicked in the heavenly spheres. He will not consign the mortal wicked to everlasting inferno for their seventy or eighty years of temporal sin, and he will not punish the immortal wicked with infinite retribution for their rebellion in the finite past. Eternal punishment can be justified only for a being who has existed from the eternal past. Since no being, except God, has an eternal past, no being, including Satan, will have an eternal punishment. Oh, the depth of the riches of the justice of God!

Kalli Walli

If something is not from heaven, then it can only be from hell. There is no middle source. Therefore, once I know something is not from heaven, I say to it – in the language of the land where I spent many hellish years – Kalli walli, which is the equivalent of the expression in English, To hell with it.

Kingdom, Of Satan

The most devastatingly under-understood truth in the Bible:

Then the devil, taking him up on a high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to him, “All this authority I will give you, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Lk 4:5-6

What is the measure and scope of ‘all’ in Satan’s statement? Look at the power and grandeur of every authority existing in the world today, look at the honor and glamor of every leader and celebrity living today – the governments, the institutions, the organizations, the products, the cultures, the sports, the entertainments, the festivals, the religions, the politicians, the billionaires, the actors, the sports champions, the scientists, the innovators. Everything, and everyone, has the proprietary mark of Satan, subtly or blatantly, somewhere in their constitution. Even the sanctuaries of Christendom.

No congregation of God exists today that does not have the mark of Satan’s influence in some area of its doctrines and rituals. There is no follower of Christ in whose mind the Enemy has absolutely no influence over es convictions and conversations.

The only place where the devil cannot have any influence is that which is not of the kingdom of this world. This place is where the human spirit dwells with the spirit of Christ. Satan can make no incursion into the domain of God.

Kiss

When a little girl in third grade blows her kisses to you, then you can be sure you have wooed a little heart for life.

Knowledge

Every four-year-old you come across knows more about some things than you do. The wise man is ever alert to gain new knowledge even from a little child.

Leader – Lust

Leader

There are two kinds of leaders – those who boldly lead their followers on a well-trodden path, and those who machete thru uncharted frontiers and leave a trail.

~ ~

He is great who leads people to make them as great as he himself wants to be. Greater is he who inspires his followers to become greater than he himself can be.

~ ~

On a dog sled team, unless you're the lead dog, your state is not just that your view never changes, but that you take the same shit every day.

~ ~

The conquering general, the venerated statesman, the admired ceo, the idolized celebrity, the crowned victor – these have genuine admiration in the hearts of their followers and fans only if their adulation continues undiminished even after the exalted roles of the luminaries have come to an end and they take rank with the rabble. Otherwise, these personages are mere commoners feted and fawned over by their admirers only for their power or position, not for themselves. They are never truly loved or really respected.

Leaders, Inept

The inability to attain true leadership sends an inept man who is bestowed with oversized authority to seek recognition in the peripheral areas of his realm: checking for blemishes on the office walls, scowling at a cluttered desk, monitoring the coffee consumption in the staff kitchen, rebuking secretaries for their three-minute tardiness, setting strict grooming policies about tie knots and shoe colors, rearranging the office layout. And by so doing, he is able to delude himself into presuming his proficiency for the high position given to him. His frivolous scrutinies may sometimes even help postpone his dismal downfall by a modicum of time.

Leash

To leash a cat, that fiercely independent and most enigmatic creature, and perambulate it in a dog-littered park, or let an unleashed mutt, that most sycophantic of panting beings, stroll beside you in an alley of caterwauling felines, affronted and appalled by the repugnant visitor, are two of the more inexplicable impulses of the human female. After seeing a woman walking her cat on a leash.

Liberty

The evilness of any political or religious system is directly proportional to the height of the wall it erects to keep the people in, or the heat of the hell it threatens its adherents with. Happy are the people whose government and religion grant them full liberty to leave their realm.

Lieutenant, Devil's

Whether it is a Goebbels or a Beria, a Che Guevara or a Berthier, a Chemical Ali or a Jiang Qing, the devil always chooses the most apt lieutenant for his chief agents of evil.

Life

Life does not come in neat and orderly portions of time and circumstances. Grasp the fleeting chance that suddenly sprouts before you – a pending task, a reply to an email, a new word to look up, a mysterious alley to venture thru, but especially a spontaneous act of affection to a dear one passing by.

~ ~

Life is not a straight saunter on a broad promenade of aspirations. It is almost always a plod amidst the sharp shards of scattered dreams, over shitpits and right into filth-frothed puddles, around forbidden meadows and thru dank alleys. It is akin to the anticipated one-mile pleasant stroll on a garden path, which, soon after you start your amble, becomes a wilderness track that meanders endlessly over hills of ogres and thru valleys shadowed by macabre beings waiting with scythes.

~ ~

Life is never a choice between a painless life and a painful life. It is a choice between a less painful life and a more painful life.

In the world you will have tribulation Jn 16:33

Yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward. Job 5:7

~ ~

Life is 80 percent cause and effect, 19 percent time and chance, and one percent divine intervention.

~ ~

My life is 99 percent what I decide and one percent what God disposes, within 100 percent of his determined will for me.

~ ~

Only e who is devoid of sagacity expects equity in es endeavors on earth. The wise know life isn't fair to the one who is fair in all es dealings. Even the Originator of equity affirms this truth.

The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise,
nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill Eccl 9:11

~ ~

Till I reach the supreme juncture where I disassociate every happening in my life from my relationship with God, till I disconnect my daily joy and utmost living from my every suffering in this age, till I continue to trust him and remain faithful to him even as he is slaying me or my family, till I accept every agony he allows in my life while expecting nothing from him in this world, I have not reached the place where I can say, 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day.' 2 Tm 4:7-8

Tho He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Job 13:15

~ ~

The Twelve Truths of Life

Unhappiness is the offspring of unacceptance.

Sorrow is unavertable but can exist alongside Joy.

Depression is an absolute lie.

Loneliness is idolatry and the spurning of your eternal Spouse.

Anxiety continually stabs, but is calmly endured by trusting Surrender.

Boredom is blatant unappreciation.

Frustration is ungrateful ambition.

Discouragement is utter discontentment.

Impatience is arrogant condescension.

Fear terrorizes, but is vanquished by Faith.

Suffering is a cruel master, but cheerfully borne by The Promise.

Agony stays for life, but His Grace suffices for aye.

Living is Loving.

~ ~

In four words, I can sum up the most inexorable fact about life: It never goes on. In all the troubles of today, with all the human failures, with politicians and celebrities fading away faster than a weaver's shuttle, people stoically encourage themselves and cling to the belief that this is not the end, that the race is not finished, that the future bodes well and life will go on as before. But life – it never goes on. It never went on for any of the past, it will not go on for any of the present, and it will not go on for any of the future. Life always comes to an end.

~ ~

It is when one makes an art of living that e gets all kinds of heartaches. A sneaking sniveler who has mastered the art of living

still remains at heart a sniveling sneaker. But when one masters the heart of living, e masters the artful life itself.

Lifetime

It takes one entire human lifetime for even God to make a person fit for his Kingdom.

Light at the End of the Tunnel

The light at the end of the tunnel, which many claim to see after escaping the throes of hades, has always appeared to me as the headlight of a terrifying locomotive bearing down on me as I staggered, bewildered, on the tracks in the darkness. And there wasn't enough space for me to stand aside as the leeway on both sides of the track was narrow and I had to fall to the ground and cling to the mud with all my might so I wouldn't be sucked under the wheels of the bogies by their ferocious velocity.

Loo

One of the significant joys of living in the Kingdom of God that I look forward to is never having to go to the loo.

Loss

The most tragic, the most devastating, loss in your life is when you love yourself more than anyone else.

Loud Voice

I suspect the fidelity of a clamorous woman.

'She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house' Prov 7:11 KJV

Love

The beauty of someone or something we behold can be sustained only by our unflagging love for that person or object. Beauty by itself turns banal in six months, unsightly in six years, and repulsive sixteen years thence.

~ ~

The greatest, the highest, the purest love in the universe is that of the cuckold who, knowing of his wife's infidelity, continues to love her, who has submitted her body to another man, the same. The second greatest love is that of a man who loves as his own the child of the scum who impregnated his wife.

Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution...Go and love your wife again, even tho she commits adultery with another lover. Hos 3:2; 3:1

~ ~

If I seek to love my God and exult over him because of what he is doing to me presently, I would not be able to do so. Rather, I would feel offended, hurt, and betrayed. My love and passion for him can be based only on what he has already done for me at the cross and what he will do for me in the future.

~ ~

You cannot love your wife or husband who has offended you with

your feelings, as you can love your child who has hurt you. For you love your children instinctively, and your parents too, and to a lesser extent your siblings, but you can never love your wife or husband instinctively. Your natural love for your spouse is sustained only by es reciprocal feelings for you. But when feelings succumb to fatal emotional wounds, natural love ceases. But the joyful truth is that natural love can be superseded by wilful love. You can love your life partner who has sorely injured you just as much as you did when e pleased you – if you despise your feelings and love em with your will. Feelings are natural and conditional in origin, and everything natural eventually withers and dies. The will is spiritual and unconditional in its essence, and everything spiritual flourishes forever.

~ ~

The most reckless decision in eternity is to love someone who doesn't love you. God made that decision, and he's suffering for it now.

Love, Human

The purest of human loves, of such depth and height as will cause a woman or a man to give up es life for es beloved if need be, ultimately cools and finally devolves into sheer apathy toward each other. Love between two human beings, no matter how fiery its start, can only diminish with time, because the human heart, being flesh, only grows more degenerate with the passage of time. Only the love daily infused by the everlasting Spirit in a person can keep growing thru eternity. Just as life in a human being begins its death march from the moment it is birthed, so too human love begins its journey to extinction from the moment it is sparked in an amorous heart.

that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts Eph 4:22

That old self gets worse and worse, because people are fooled by the evil they want to do. ERV

Lover

Christ is looking for lovers, not lawkeepers. Lawkeeping is merely the doorway to the chamber of lovemaking.

Loyalty

The worth of a man's sense of loyalty is determined by the object of his loyalty. If he lives and dies for a noble cause, or for his country, or for his party, or for his faith, it is ultimately of utter futility. Loyalty, patriotism, passion, dedication, and love are utterly meaningless if they are not for a person. The true man lives and dies for a person. When a martyr is burned at the stake for Christ, he is not being a faithful Christian, he is being faithful to his Lover. When a true soldier dies in battle to save his country from its enemies, he sacrifices his life not for his country, but for each individual in his land whom he loves as his own life. The true patriot, when he salutes his national flag and sings his national anthem, salutes and sings not for his country, its constitution, its freedom, its culture, its religion, its cities, and all its other physicalities. He salutes only the living souls represented by that flag.

Luck

Luck favors those who disdain it.

Lust

Lust, like love, makes a critical difference to one's perspective of es actions. An act, which in the time of reason's dominance looked abhorrent, transmogrifies when lust swamps the eye. The continually beheld object soon becomes so desirable, so enticing in its dangled pleasure, too rare an opportunity to be missed, that the dire consequences of possessing it dim to the point where they seem somehow escapable, or, at least, endurable. Thus Eve, casting aside her Creator's stern admonition, plucked the forbidden fruit; thus Adam, tho undeceived, partook of his wife's repast; thus David, even while sipping the heady bounty gleaned from the vineyard gifted by his Lord, cast his eyes upon Bathsheba's gleaming body; thus Samson, moving about in his Master's strength, disdained the maidens of his own people and embraced the alien women he fancied; and thus, in our own times, Jim Bakker and Ravi Zacharias, renowned servants of God, fixed their gaze on the swaying hips of the women who served them.

Male Human – Mystery

Male Human

When a male human sees another male human overtaking him on the road, or lifting a heavier weight, or challenging his right of way, or attracting more females, he will always seek to overtake, supersede, prevail, and excel over the other brute. But is there any human endowed with a dominant organ of procreation who, instead, seeks to outdo the envied dude in being more loving, more forgiving, more gentlemanly?

~ ~

The peahen is the most beautiful creature on earth in the eyes of the peacock. But man, who has dominion over them all, considers the peahen's appearance plain compared with the magnificence of the peacock in full plumage. A woman is the most gorgeous being in creation in the eyes of a man. But the angels, who watched the creation of the male and the female human, consider the woman less physically attractive than the man. For man reflects the beauty of God, and woman the beauty of man. The reflection can never be as beautiful as the one being reflected.

he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. 1 Cor 11:7

~ ~

It's instinctive for a man to cheat as long as there's pressure in his groin that constantly tugs at him. Only he who applies a nurtured spiritual force can resist the innate physical tension. It's not natural for a woman to cheat, unless she was born with a deformity that congenitally makes her a helpless nymphomaniac. Show an ordinary

man a picture of a naked woman and his groin responds reflexively. Show a normal woman an image of a nude adonis, and she may linger over it for a few moments to see if she can recognize the shameless brute – just an involuntary act of curiosity. A woman craving a man on the presentation of his exposed genitals is a myth perpetuated by lecherous porn writers and randy movie directors.

Mankind

A warped section of humanity does naturally what is unnatural to the animal kind. A deviant man or woman mates with another who is of es own gender. No other living being exhibits such an anomaly in its mating habits. No dog craves any but a bitch, no rooster mounts any but a hen. No lioness pretends to be a lion without a mane, and no lion behaves like a lioness with a mane. Yet, many a man adopts a woman's manner, and many a woman assumes a man's demeanor. Animals, fish, insects, and plants...their reproductive organs are never used amiss. Perverse humans use their members in the wrong places.

Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her. 1 Cor 11:14-15

But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

Jude 1:10

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Rm 1:26

~ ~

God cast the basest of mankind to the east, and the better to the west. The dragon took over the east, and the lion over the west. This is what I've personally encountered in my travels. Strolling on an avenue in Calgary rejuvenates my spirit; ambling on a boulevard

in Calcutta disquiets my soul. Even a short eastward expedition from anywhere on earth reveals a subtle shift in people's attitudes. A foreigner's sense of acceptance in a pub in Alberta, for instance, is a whit less than what he feels in a similar place westward in British Columbia. A cab ride in Cochin for a visitor is perceptibly more endurable than the one he has eastward in Chennai.

Manners

A person of integrity does not reserve *es decorum* for the public. E does not have two sets of manners, one for others to see and one for emself when alone. He or she shows respect to emself in all *es* conduct just as e shows to others. If e does not vent *es flatulence* in someone else's chamber, neither does e in *es own* bedroom, but takes leave of emself to ease it out softly in the bathroom. If e does not pick *es nose*, or scratch *es rear* onstage, e does not pick it or scratch it backstage either, but goes to the only place where e allows such actions upon *es person* – the place where e relieves emself.

Man's Worthiness

Many a master of the house, when he loses his sense of worthiness by the loss of his means of livelihood, would rather flee than remain as an impoverished head of his household. In fleeing to some other place, he seeks to find a new start in life, perhaps with a new wife and new children, so he can begin afresh and return to the state he was forced to abdicate.

~ ~

As a natural man, you are far worse than you think you are, deserving of being dead forever. But when the new man rises from

the watery grave of your old body, you are far holier than you think you are, deserving of living forever in the presence of God.

Mansion

The bigger my mansion in this life, the smaller my dwelling in the next. Lord, let me dwell in this cottage all my days on earth.

Marital Union

While it occasionally adds spice to the marital union for the woman to unveil her man first and know him in his stark majesty, it should often be for the man to unravel his wife's shroud first and behold her in her bare beauty. In the Scriptures, it is always written 'the man knew his wife' and never 'the woman knew her husband'.

~ ~

It's not written in the Scriptures, 'And the woman went down upon her husband.' It's only written 'And the man went in to his wife'. Nothing is as meaningful and satisfying as the missionary style. Even mechanics attests to this natural arrangement: an electric socket is never thrust upon a plug, but it's always the plug that is inserted into a socket, which makes the union live.

Marriage

I demanded her love and respect, for I was her darling that she had placed on a pedestal and venerated with awe. And now, her eyes having opened, and her heart having closed to her beau ideal, she

has cast with disdain the icon from its high pedestal. The idol lies shattered forever. The body is broken, but the spirit hovers around her constantly. Her love and her respect, which once were bounteously granted, must now be sparsely earned.

~ ~

Too many marriages are woefully mismatched with an obtuse husband and an astute wife.

~ ~

The ultimate marriage is a single mind dwelling in two disparate brains.

~ ~

The defective life partner you have today is like a lump of alluvial deposit you found and took home. As you keep washing it gently, there slowly appear faint glints of the rough diamond that lies embedded in the ore. As you continue rinsing off the silt and gravel, the crude mineral takes shape and sheen, and finally, there emerges a most precious, iridescent, and unique gem, unmatched by any you have seen elsewhere or could have hoped for. Would you rather have a husband or wife, who from the beginning of your union till the end of your life has a consistent spousal gem grade of 5 or 6 out of 10, or would you rather have one who started with a gross grade of 2 or 3 and then thru your unfailing love and persevering forbearance eventually unfolds into a shining husband or wife of the scintillating marital grade of 10?

~ ~

When a wife has a good husband it is easily seen in her face, said a poet. I know a few abused wives whose faces beam cheer and whose lilting speech masks their tottering marriage. And I know a few whose morose looks belie their heart's contentment in being husbanded lovingly. It is a more pervasive truism that when a man has a good wife it invariably brightens his countenance and sparkles his speech.

Masterpiece

God commissions the masterpieces of my life. When my work is done, he adds the finishing touch, and then seals them up from the rampages of the despoiler.

Matter

Matter when broken down to its final particle is spirit. The physical world is but spirit in its lowest manifestation. Everything in the universe in its ultimate constitution is spirit. The finite matter is a momentary transience of the infinite spirit. And time is eternity infinitesimally condensed.

Maturity

A Christian has reached his maturity in Christ when he stops asking Why and starts asking How.

~ ~

You have attained spiritual maturity and fullness of faith on the day

you can sit in a plane and continue reading your newspaper, while the craft is being violently tossed about in a turbulence, with perhaps one wing on fire, and the whole cabin is reverberating with the screams of the passengers in mortal fright.

Meat

Lord, so that man may satiate his appetite with juicy steak and roast chicken, do you, thru the moments a blade slices thru the neck of a sheep or a chicken, suffer the agony of being decapitated? For you suffer in all the sufferings of your creation, you feel their merest feelings, you experience the slightest pulsations in their bodies, whether of pain or pleasure. For in you everything that is created has its being. Is this continual agony in you, thru the daily sufferings of millions of your creatures, an extension of the pain your Son endured at the cross, even as the agonies of the servants of God are a completion of his agonies at the cross?

In all their suffering he also suffered Is 63:9 NLT

For in him we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:28 NIV

I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

Col 1:24

Medicine

The physician who famously said that if all the medicines in the world were cast into the ocean, it would be so much better for humanity and so much worse for the fishes, obviously never suffered from peptic ulcer, or inflammation of the prostate.

'If the whole materia medica [medical drugs], as now used, could be sunk to the bottom of the sea, it would be all the better for mankind, and all the worse for the fishes.' - Oliver Wendell Holmes, American physician, writer, and poet.

Mediocrity

Lord, deliver me from mediocrity. And, Lord, deliver me from merely the good that you may give me the best.

Melody

Words can be formulated to fit in harmoniously with a discovered melody. But when a melody is concocted to adapt to constructed lyrics, it becomes contorted.

~ ~

Melody is the only element that will survive when the lyrics, the rhythm, the composer, the singer, and everything else of a musical creation are long forgotten. The greatest songs of this age are those with the most melodious tunes. The great bands – the ones whose music will survive into the next generation – are distinguished from the short-lived ones solely on the strength of the melody of their compositions. Which is why I think the music of Abba, Boney M, CCR, Queen, and the Beatles will go beyond this age while the names of Rolling Stones, U2, Aerosmith, and Spice Girls will scarcely find any place in the repertory of the yet-to-be-born music lovers. Melody is the soul of every music.

~ ~

Any musician who creates a vocal cover of an exquisite instrumental melody such as Fur Elise, Ninth Symphony, or The Blue Danube is not only dishonoring the melody but also committing musical abuse.

After hearing the vocal cover of The Blue Danube.

Mercy

When you can't pay back what you owe the government, never plead for mercy or leniency with its deputed authorities. It only tends to aggravate their feelings toward you, and you may be meted out a stiffer penalty. For mercy is an alien quality to those in subjection to the spirit of cruelty that rules the kingdoms of the world.

Then the devil, taking him up on a high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to him, "All this authority I will give you, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Lk 4:5-6

~ ~

When a vanquished one pleads for mercy at the hands of a wicked subjugator, it only tickles the sadistic nerves of the victor and provokes even severer cruelty upon the victim.

Mind

The most terrifying place to get lost is in the neverending murky labyrinths of one's own mind.

Ministry

Strive not to serve the Lord to your utmost; rather, strive to love him with all your heart and strength. Serving to your uttermost capability comes of its own accord when you are loving him to the utmost. Martha ran around to serve the Lord more, but ended up loving him less. Mary sat down to calmly focus on just loving and listening to the Lord more, and thus, in the sight of her Beloved, served him more.

~ ~

My ministry is fired far more by the millions of children suffering because they do not have the bread of the earth than by the billions of people living without hope because they do not have the Bread of heaven.

~ ~

My ministry is fired far more by the millions of infants that are going to be plucked from the womb, severed, and cast into incinerators than by the zillions of infidels that are going to be bound and cast into the midst of the inferno.

Mirror

How I look in the mirror is not how I look in the photo. They are two different faces. The mug in the photo is always the less attractive one.

Mistake

An earnest life set on a determined course thru turbulent waters and oft facing great tempests is what God esteems. He scorns a contented life set for anywhere and sailing smoothly on placid waters.

Modern Art

Man's perception of the beauty and glory of God's creation has so dimmed that his jaded eyes now find pleasure and admiration in contorted images and distorted sounds. Just look at abstract art and listen to jazz.

Money

The lack of money is a root of all evils.

~ ~

A businessman with normal acumen doesn't sit idle with the money he borrowed from a bank. He immediately invests it in a venture that brings him profit, and eventually returns the money, along with the interest, to the bank. If he doesn't invest in any profitable business, he still has to pay back the bank, not just the borrowed money but also the interest for the period the money was sitting unused with him. So he, failing to find a project to make a gain on the loan he took, puts the money back in the bank. A person serving in his Lord's vineyard, who is indolent with his talents and lazes around in the vinery, contributing nothing to the harvesting efforts, will hear the same rebuke his Master gave another of his servants: 'You wicked and lazy servant!...why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.' Mt 25:26-27

~ ~

In the scheme of a responsible and respectable life, making money should have a higher priority than preaching Christ. Let a man first earn an income to be a good provider for his family, and then, if he has any money left over, let him use that to preach the gospel. Such a man has served as a worthy servant of God by fulfilling his calling as a husband, as a father, and as a son. But woe to that follower of Christ who has been bequeathed more money than he needs for his provisions but who keeps on accruing his wealth and neglects to proclaim the One who has thus blessed him.

~ ~

The greatest of all the commandments is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. The second is to love your neighbor as yourself. The third greatest commandment is to make as much money as you can with all your knowledge, with all your skill, and with all your opportunity. There is no greater commandment than these three.

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Tm 5:8

Mongrel

I almost got eternally entangled with a mongrel race by nearly begetting descendants with crossbreed genes. This race has neither the natural virtues of an Anglian clan nor the common virtues of the Dravidian tribe. Instead, in them we find the basest of the western proclivities and the worst of the eastern iniquities. Praise God, he rescued me from her, and her from me!

Monster

The greatest, the most cruel, and the most sadistic monster in existence is not Satan but the ‘god’ of Islam, Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and mainstream Protestantism. This is the being who will burn alive his sons and daughters who reject him during their seventy or eighty years of miserable tenure on earth. And not just incinerate them, but once their skin is charred to toast, their father will give them new skin so they can feel the searing agony all over again...and this goes on forever and ever without end, all the while this god and his obedient children are banqueting and enjoying other neverending pleasures. Meanwhile, the hideous screams of their brothers and sisters writhing in the bottomless pit in some

corner of the universe are ever echoing off the fiery rocks and unscalable cliffs of hell.

Indeed, those who disbelieve in Our verses, We will drive them into a Fire. Every time their skins are roasted thru We will replace them with other skins so they may taste the punishment. Indeed, Allah is ever Exalted in Might and Wise.
Quran, chapter 4:56

The sacred writings inform us in what manner the wicked are to undergo punishment... they will again be clothed with flesh...indestructible, and abiding forever, that it may be able to hold out against tortures and everlasting fire...The same divine fire will both burn the wicked and will form them again, and will replace as much as it shall consume of their bodies, and will supply itself with eternal nourishment. *Lactantius - Divine Institutes 7:21*

Moth

Moths, whose overall frame and flutter of wings imitate those of butterflies, appear, on closer inspection, as the nefarious version of their gorgeous cousins. These species carry upon their outspread wings the ikons of perdition, and their ominous forms fly around brashly under the green canopy alongside the fair ones, like reeky fishwives promenading with the debonair models on a catwalk. They are spawned under the glow of infernal flames, and crawl their way onto the earth's surface thru the crevices of hades, suddenly emerging at some spot of earthly light as winged harbingers of the doom imminent upon humanity.

Mother

Beware, beware the creature with her young ones! Stray not into their midst except by invitation. Only a fool determined to commit some folly is to be more avoided than a bear foraging with her cubs, a viper coiled around her brood, a vixen nursing her pups, or an eagle stretched over her hatchlings. Only by the brutal dispatch of the ordained keeper of the offsprings can any raptor or predator touch the whelps and the fledglings without the maiming aftermath.

'Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool bent on folly.' Pr 17:12 NIV

~ ~

All the extreme maternal instincts, possessiveness, and fierceness seen in a mother are but an infinitesimal manifestation of the protectiveness of the Divine Mother, who squirms in travail every time She births an offspring thru the body of an earthly being. And when the human children born in the Creator's own image and likeness were in danger of being exterminated forever by the Enemy, the heavenly Mama died a most gruesome death to save her precious progeny.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I wanted to gather your children together,
as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings Mt 23:37

Motivation

What motivates you to do something or go somewhere? What is the stimulus that gives you the drive to wake up in the morning with eagerness and put your mind to a task? What fires you to your life goals? What is the purpose of all your strivings for success and recognition? Why do you go on a vacation to a beautiful place? If the answer to all these questions is that you are seeking to uplift yourself to a certain state of mind – a sense of achievement, or self-satiation, or personal glory – you are but a person of low esteem in the sight of your Maker – a totally selfish, profitless, and ignoble servant, not worthy of any responsible position in his Kingdom. The only motivation that drives the worthy man or woman to put es hand to all es activities, seek all es pursuits, enjoy all es pleasures, and pursue es every goal is not the elevation of es own state of mind, but the state of mind of es Savior. Es desire to give es Beloved in heaven greater delight can be fulfilled only by his or her earnestness in seeking to give es beloveds on earth more pleasure.

Movie

Any pervert or fool can make an X-rated movie. Only a person of integrity and courage can produce a G-rated movie for the present generation, knowing the odds are high that it will bomb at the box office.

Music

What a dimension of difference between listening to the best of skilfully contrived music and listening to the tunes that wafted down from heaven, which were discovered by chance! Music created by the ingenuity of mortals can never compare with the music floating in the celestial chambers, which, when a few strains drift down upon the cerebrum of some lucky musician, quickly becomes a perpetual melody in the repertoire of man's auditory pleasures.

~ ~

In one generation, musicians transitioned from the golden age of melodies to the era of bland music and are now happily engaged in the composition of sheer cacophony. The emergence of songs such as 'Toothbrush' and 'Toothpick' is an ominous indicator that today's composers and crooners are in a state of auditory dementia, and the world has entered the age of musical ludicravity.

After hearing the song 'Toothbrush' by American band DNCE. 'Toothpick' is a song by the Russian band Biting Elbows.

~ ~

No person can have completeness of the joys of living who has not learned to appreciate the dimension of music. A man or a woman can be spectacularly successful in life, receive laurels in literature or

technology, perform amazing feats of mind or body, explore exotic terrains and discover new species of organisms, and establish enterprises that span the continents...and yet remain deficient in es soul if he or she has not experienced the thrills of mellifluous sounds that emanate from throats and instruments.

~ ~

Christian Contemporary Music is in a pathetic state of melody. Somebody has to do something about it before even God's ears are affected by the drabness of the praises offered to him.

~ ~

Where are the Queens with their Bohemian Rhapsodys and the Beatles with their Yesterdays in the churches of God? Where are the John Denvers with their Country Roads and their Anne's Songs among the Lord's songsters? Where are the real Righteous Brothers with their Unchained Melodys? The Guns 'N Roses with their Sweet Child of Mines, and the Eagles with their Hotel Californias? The Neil Diamonds with their Cracklin' Rosies, and the Lobos with their Will You Still Love Me Tomorrows? Very rare, as rare as painite among gemstones, are the songs crooned to heaven that have thrilled me as much as those dedicated to the world. Why aren't there enough composers who are inspired by the Holy Spirit to at least half the extent the Devil's fiddlers are infused by their father's spirit?

Thoughts that came to me as I endured another session of bland music in church.

Music, Nature's

Every plant has its distinctive harmony of music. This is now common knowledge. What the world is yet to discover is that all

movements in nature produce their unique music. A skein of geese, a swallow flitting up and down, ants marching, a school of fish in motion, a wave rolling to the shore, a wind rushing over the treetops, clouds floating, an eagle circling overhead, a hummingbird hovering over a flower. Korsakov's Flight of the Bumblebee is just a man's imaginative depiction of a bee buzzing around, but if its flight pattern were transcribed to musical notation, I believe we can hear the real music of its aerial dance. This is just as true in the macro and micro worlds – blood flowing in a body, cells moving around in an organ, electrons spinning around their axes, atoms transposing, planets orbiting a sun, comets shooting thru space. All creation is gently suffused in music.

Musical Scale

Blessed is he who taught me, in my hoary-head days, the pentatonic minor scale, for henceforth the celestial chamber of music will find new melodies of praise continually added to its repertoire.

Mustache

The Great Mocker once led the razors of many shavers to trim their mustaches in such a way that they looked like a square wedge under their noses, and he made it fashionable by inducing some prominent actor or political leader to do it first. This style has died out, but it was so impactful in my parents' generation that this patch of hair under the nose, known as the toothbrush mustache, was what my father and several of my uncles proudly wore all their lives. Or he incites some crazed but prodigal artist to twist both ends of his mustache into a thin strand and then twirl it at the ends so it looks like a bicycle handle. A generous amount of beard wax is required

for this. In its purest form, this style, known as the Dali mustache, is worn with no other facial hair. Another mode, the pencil mustache, is not common anymore, except in my own state, where the local men, from the age when hair follicles appear under their noses, trim the mush vertically so narrow that it looks like a black streak lining the edge of the upper lip. The other styles are too numerous to mention here. But I wait to see the emergence of the ultimate mustache of all time – where the dandy shaves off the mustache on one side of his nose and retains it on the other...you know, the half-mush style.

Mystery

The greatest mystery in creation is the mystery of causeless wickedness. If the origin of causeless wickedness is causeless randomness, then that is the greater mystery.

Nadaswaram – Nuts, Mixed

Nadaswaram

If a man were capable of so constricting and loosening his sphincter muscles that he could control both the strength and direction of the gas from his bowels, he would produce a musical instrument with his body that sounds like the nadaswaram – a double-reed wooden trumpet of the Dravidian race. Because the instrument produces a sound resembling that which proceeds from the sacred orifice of the deities, it is, according to Wikipedia, ‘considered to be very auspicious, and therefore it is a key musical instrument played at almost all weddings and temple festivities of the South Indian tradition.’

Nagging

A nagging wife is a neglected wife. It’s her way of retrieving what she’s lost in her man. She was once wooed, swooned over, and the queen of his life. Now, she is a hag in his sight and a prattler in his hearing. As for the wife, the man who was once princely and fragrant is now perspiry and flatulent. He was once passionate but is now placid, he was once puissant but is now flaccid. Nevertheless, her heart still yearns for him to possess her like he did in her voluptuous years. But he can’t, ’cause the reality of the present state of her body and syche is too stark. So she nags, thinking to change him, and he, beholding yet more of the hag, retreats farther, and so she nags further. Thus they live till the end, when one deceases, and the nagging ceases.

Naivety

O Naivety, your name is mine, and mine thine.

Name

Sri Sri Ravi Varma, Mathews Mathews, Moon Moon Sen...giving babies such names is the result of, as Khushwant Singh once remarked of the last one, the double lunacy of their parents.

Natural Man

The natural man in me is actually my bastard son, begotten of a most vicious demoness. I have no choice but to destroy him every time a fresh incarnation of this demonic offspring emerges from the dark recesses of my flesh into my consciousness, as Ripley did to her extraterrestrial child in the movie *Alien Resurrection*. Any mercy shown to the birthed pervert is to the utter detriment of my soul and the lives of my loved ones, for I am aiding in the reproduction of this monster and the propagation of his innumerable spawn.

Nauseating

The only thing in my life that was more nauseating than seeing half a cockroach in my beef roast was accidentally seeing Leonardo DiCaprio open-mouth-kissing David Thewlis in a clip of the depraved movie *Total Eclipse*.

Neck

The posture of the human neck evolves thru the generations. Before the advent of movies, necks turned in every direction as they followed the eyes – upward to the skies and mountains, downward to the earth and the creatures, and straight ahead to the people and objects in front of them. When not outside the homes, necks were mostly turned straight ahead when the mouths were talking and the brains were pondering. In the age of theatres, newspapers, and televisions, necks turned most of the time straight ahead, or slightly downward. Then came a drastic change in the way necks were positioned for most of the waking hours of mankind. Straight down. The smartphone did to human necks in every nation what no other event or device has done in history.

The next drastic pivoting of necks will be a return to the positions they were in most of the daytime since Adam and Eve walked around the garden – in every direction and angle. This paradigm shift in a human's neck position will be ushered in by immersive virtual reality, starting with wearable devices and progressing to deviceless immersions into another environment with just a virtual switch on their persons.

Need

The greatest need of a human being is the conviction that he or she is absolutely needed by another human being.

Neighbor

There are many philanthropists who, inspired by their Lord's instruction to love their neighbors as themselves, are stirred in their

hearts to help the needy neighbors of other people in a distant city or country. These benefactors don't lift their pinky finger to help the impoverished people who live in their own neighborhood.

Prompted by seeing a Christian businessman sending donations to needy people in other countries, while overlooking the desperate poor in his own community.

Neutrality

Neutrality is never a virtue. It is a despicable weakness. One who sits in a neutral position is one who sits on vomit, nauseating to both the virtuous and the vile. Integrity always demands a choice. Far more respectable to stand with fervidity on the side of bad than to sit with tepidity in the middle of good and bad.

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Rev 3:15-16

Nations, Blessed and Cursed

The descendants of Shem and Japheth were blessed by Noah. Ham was not. And so you see the striking difference in the physical, material, mental, and cultural heritage between the two blessed nations descended from the blessed sons, and the nation descended from the unblessed one. All that is beautiful is characteristic of the two. Their complexion is white or at least yellowish white, and they have golden or other delightfully colored hair. All that is dark and ugly is characteristic of the unblessed one. Their complexion is black or at best brown, and their hair is black and wavy or kinky. All the good systems in the world, all the discoveries, almost all the inventions, have originated from the two blessed nations. All that is naturally crude and inferior and savage is inherent in the unblessed descendants.

Ham was not blessed, but neither was he cursed. Therefore, except for the descendants of his second son, all the other nations descended from him enjoy some crumbs of blessings. But his son, Canaan, was cursed to the core.

The offsprings of Canaan are the only people who were once slaves to even the low-class citizens of other nations. Today their progeny work as servants in countries that are themselves subservient to other nations.

Consider even the territorial portion of the earth given to the cursed descendants. The world calls it the dark continent, where dwell the blackest and basest of human beings, as well as the most venomous and repulsive of creatures. Its very shape connotes a misshapen and swollen penile organ.

But, hallelujah, when the darkest of mankind is cleansed by their Creator's blood, they are made whiter and beautifuler than any people among the physically blessed nations can ever hope to attain.

Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers [a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren. NKJV]. Gen 9:25 NIV

A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Rm 2:28-29

Nuns

Have you noticed that nine out of ten nuns have pleasing manners but unpleasing faces? Perhaps, had they possessed comely features, they would live in places where their looks matter, and not in cheerless cloisters where their facial contours hold no sway.

Nuts, Mixed

Is there any nut packaging company on earth that mixes its nuts in equal proportions in its 'Mixed Nuts' pack? In all my life I have never opened a packet of mixed kernels and seeds where the peanuts did not constitute around 75 to 85 percent of the contents, and where the far tastier cashews and pistachios were like specks of gold in a basket of sieved alluvium. I stopped buying packs containing mixed nuts. But today I took a chance with a brand that advertised its products as of the 'best' quality. So I bought their 'Assorted Nuts' packet, and opened it, and lo, it was the same peanut story. In this age, it's only when your own mama mixes the nuts and puts them in a pack for you that the various contents are sure to be in equal proportions.

Obedience – Oxymoron

Obedience

One who has power over my life can terrorize me into doing something e wants me to do, and I, fearing the consequences of disobedience, sans desire, sans feelings, do whatever e wants me to do. Or e can love me into doing something e wants me to do, and I, fearing to hurt em in the least, with desire, with earnestness, do whatever e wants me to do. My Creator chose the second way with me.

Obstetrician

No male obstetrician has the divine approbation to insert his fingers into the pudendum of another man's wife in the name of a prenatal examination.

Oil, Anointed

The most useless ounce of oil ever put into a vial: that phial of unctuous liquid which slick ecclesiastics apply solemnly on feverish heads desperate for a supernatural intervention in their inflamed bodies.

Remembering the utter futility of being prayed over and anointed with oil for my healing by a minister of the church I once belonged to.

Old Age

Is there a more loathsome plight or a more pathetic state than a hoary head hiding horny intentions? The thoughts of the common man past 60 are more venomous than the breath of a viper.

~ ~

As I grow older, the younger will overtake me in vigor, in intelligence, in speed, in innovativeness, in looks, and in the knowledge of current matters, but the young can never overpass me in experience, in understanding, in wisdom, in patience, and in love.

~ ~

Take care how you think and talk now. Your hatreds become more pronounced in old age, your likes and dislikes strongly ossified.

~ ~

No man grows old. He is cast headlong into it while asleep one night, and he wakes up in the morning to find, to his stupefying shock, he is now an oldster who has taken ranks with thousands of other elderly humans in his community, all lumbering about on unfamiliar terrain in an equal state of daze. He had heard about this state of existence in his vigorous days, but he had never once thought to prepare himself to survive peacefully thru it. Now, try as he may to find his way back to familiar territory, he always falls flat on his back as he attempts to clamber over the boulders in the valley of long shadows surrounded by unscalable cliffs. The shock reverberates thru the rest of his life, and finally, on his deathbed, he acknowledges life has betrayed him and chucked him into the bottomless abyss. As for the old lady in his life, she had always been stoically prepared for this transition in her body since she was 29 years of age, which is the juncture the average woman considers as the exit point of youth.

Old Men

Men who grow old without the Holy Spirit in them evolve into wretches. In their horny impulses, in their sly glances, in their smirks, in their morbid silences, in their silly loquaciousness, they are arrant snakes and scums. Don't drink beer with old men in whom you discern the voidness of their souls. For the wretched vibes of their degenerate minds will taint your cheer and sully your beer.

Old Women

Women who grow old without the Holy Spirit shielding their thoughts and without the grace of God radiating their countenance invariably turn into witches. In the bleakness of their apparel, in the glum contours of their face, in the deathly pallor of their skin, in the stoop of their body, in the stark objects they wield in their hands (often a broom, or a ladle), and in the eeriness of their laughter, they are veritable sorceresses. They are the ones who propagate 'old wives' tales' ¹ Tm 4:7. Never get too close to an old woman in whom you cannot discern the cheery presence of the Holy Spirit. For they are unwitting necromancers and an evil influence upon the younger generation.

Opportunity

Everything can wait and will have its chance with you except the present moment and the opportunity at hand.

Optimist

Optimists are convinced that the world will be a better place with

more education, more spirituality, and more civilization. They see the potential in every difficulty, the hidden gold nugget in every adversity, and thus whistle their way thru the jagged paths. Pessimists espy the beast crouching behind the door of every opportunity and will turn away from it. Both can see the light at the end of the tunnel. The optimist believes it is the rays of the dawn of a new order, the pessimist knows it is the headlight of the train that's coming to take the hapless people away to their Auschwitzes. The pessimists are the only realists left in the world today.

'A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.' – Often attributed to Winston Churchill, tho there is no record of him having said that.

Organization

The quality, the greatness, of an organization, including the overall caliber of its employees, can rise no higher than the level of its founder's heart.

The spiritual tide of his (David's) nation could rise no higher than the spiritual level of his own heart. - Billy Graham

Orgasm

Human orgasm is the absolute limit of human capacity. It ends at the very infinitesimal point where divine pleasure begins. Two insects making love can never experience even a quantum of what a man and a woman experience in their union. Even so, the mortal syche can never feel even a quark of what divine beings experience in their union with each other. Even tho human orgasm is unfathomably trillion to the power of trillion times greater than insect orgasm, the difference between the lovemaking of two ladybugs and a human couple is still finite. But the orgasm a divine being experiences is immeasurably greater than that of a human, even as spirit is infinitely greater than matter.

Oxymoron

What a miracle of the Holy Spirit! An evangelical Arab is no longer an oxymoron. Nor a beef-loving Brahmin, nor an uncircumcised Jew, nor an upright Palestinian.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:28

~ ~

An oxymoron, I think, is simply a moron with ox-like features.

Pain – Questions

Pain

We cannot eliminate pain from this world. But we can reduce it to a significant degree. We can make unbearable suffering bearable for many.

~ ~

There is a mercy in Nature that causes her to begin to shut down a person's synapses as e enters the threshold of unbearable pain. As the pain increases, so does the numbness of the body's sensitivity, till, in the state of absolute affliction, the sufferer is completely devoid of pain – a state medical science calls trauma or shock.

~ ~

The Creator can endure pain only to the extent his creation can bear it.

Written just after drowning a rat, when my heart panged within me to know that right then it was gasping with deathly desperation for air.

Painting

God's use of colors, shades, and shapes in nature is so awesome in their blend, harmony, contrast, and correspondence that I want to understand and appreciate his masterstrokes more deeply by taking up painting myself. I have been painting this wondrous life with my pen; now let me paint it also with my brush.

Today I decided to take up painting – as one more talent I want to use to the utmost for the glory of God.

Pappa

I am not a preacher, or a pastor, or a priest, or a prophet. I am just a pappa to my children in the Lord, and if that involves preaching, or pastoring, or prophesying, so be it.

Parenting

Every successful parenting begins upon the foundation of The 10 Commandments. The very beginning of all instructions to your child is not ABC or 123, but teaching him or her to love and keep The 10 Commandments with all es heart, soul, and strength. Every parenting that does not begin by inculcating the love of The 10 Commandments into the child's heart is tragically defective, and the child grows up to be an adult sorely deficient in the core element of his or her character.

~ ~

If your children are not more successful than you, then you have failed in some fundamental aspects of your parenting responsibilities.

Past

My past has shattered to smithereens all my fondest dreams, deterred me from every achievement, and nearly destroyed my life several times. My past was a relentless series of failures, one following closely on the heels of another, but it was those very failures that paved the way for my present triumphs. My past paths were sodden with the tears of my agonies, but those very tears watered the seeds of my present ecstasies. The past laid bare to the

world my shameful weaknesses and disgraced me before all, but the exposure only aerated my soul and strengthened me to reach a most honorable position in the sight of heaven today. My past has refined me in every grain of my character, but my past has not defined me in any iota of my personality.

~ ~

Events fade into hazy memories, inventions sink into obsolescence, substances crumble into dust, and even the purest gold and silver become corroded, simply because of one inevitable function in the universe – the entropy of molecules. The past is but entropy in relentless, irreversible motion.

~ ~

I was young and now am old, and have walked with God since my youth. There is one inexorable fact I can pass on to those who have not reached old age. No matter how righteous you are in the last years of your life, no matter how totally absolved of all your past sins by the blood of Christ, no matter how much you are reassured and encouraged in your frail years by the Comforter, the last quarter of your life will be filled with agonies as numerous as the sins of your virile age. No matter how much the peace and joy of Christ that abide in you, you will be daily pricked by the memories of your past iniquities, by the horrors and humiliations you had to go thru, by the follies you once committed, and by the wrong decisions that wrecked your cherished dreams. You will often grieve over your lost opportunities and forgone loves. Your sins are forever blotted out by God, and you will never be held guilty of them again, but the temporal consequences of your transgressions will cling to you till your last breath. Therefore, now in your active days, seek to live a life without remorse as much as possible, so that the agonizing memories may be fewer in your latter years. Love the Lord your

God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself, for this is the only way you can lessen suffering both in your present years and in your old age.

Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace. Ps 37:37

Pastors

Pastors and priests, ministers and missionaries, oh, how I once wondered whether they were angels in mortal garb – sans lust in their thoughts, sans dust on their frocks, sans avarice in their hoardings, sans stealth in their dealings. But half a century later, I see them no whit different in their proclivities and dispositions from the flock they shepherd. The bickerings, the backbitings, the peccadillos, the publicized aversions, the secreted perversions...they are just like us, plus some. Now, the only thing that remains a mystery to me about them – whether they really prefer the missionary position.

Patient Endurance

The swiftest deliverance from your painful trial is your unconditional acceptance of your suffering. The moment you decide to accept the agony as an integral part of your life is the very moment you receive your deliverance from it.

Peanuts

Because God wanted to show his love for man a nibble-bit more, he made peanuts.

Pedestrian

A nation is known for its callousness or for its caringness by how it treats its pedestrians.

After observing the utter disregard by the authorities in my country for the safety of pedestrians – no zebra crossings, no overbridges, no underpasses, no traffic lights, no sidewalks.

Pee, God's

Christ's spittle was so holy that when applied to the blind man's eyes, he received 20-20 vision. Was there anything unholy or unclean in the Lord's physical composition? If every element of Christ's body, including everything secreted by his body, was so cleansingly holy, what about everything that was excreted? Were Christ's urine and feces as sacred as his spittle? If one reasons that excrement was not really part of his body, but a byproduct of something clean ingested by Christ, then did God Incarnate allow the byproduct to turn into feculent matter within his body? Lo, he wouldn't tolerate his eyes beholding anything unclean ^{Deut 23:13-14}, so would he allow something impure to remain in his bladder and rectum for even a fleeting fraction of a moment? Furthermore, the food in his stomach was mixed with his renal secretions and digestive juices, and therefore, a few molecules of his bodily oozes would have been retained in his urine and excreta. So, if what was egested from him was as holy as what was secreted within him, then the Lord's pee and excrement would have worked equally efficaciously if they had been applied to the blind man's eyes.

Peeing

Not all natural functions are handled equally by men and women. A male child, as soon as he is out of his diapers, has to learn to pee.

Not so for a little girl. The boy has to learn to aim his willy right, and adjust its angle according to the anticipated force of the jet. It is such a subtle skill that even when he is an adult, the man's peeing proficiency fails him sometimes, and he misses the mark and sprays his jet all over the place. Not so for a woman who need never concern herself with the direction or force of her ejection. Even Omnipotence couldn't devise a natural tool for man that doesn't necessitate the dexterous handling of his hose several times a day. While nature has given woman travail in her groin which no man feels when his baby arrives, in this one privy matter it has given every male the onerous task of holding a slithery piece between his thumb and forefinger several times a day, which no woman, blonde, brunette or butch, is burdened with. Peeing is a load for a man, peeing is a lark for a woman.

Pentecostals

The Pentecostals have all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I crave. A most appalling sect of believers with the most appealing set of creeds.

~ ~

Plump, prosperous, pernicious pentecostals...sans mustache, sans color, sans jewels, sans beer, sans philadelphia, and worse, sans rock 'n roll.

~ ~

Jesus' lifestyle is the bane and embarrassment of pentecostals.

People

There are two kinds of people. Those who easily slide their car into the parking lot headfirst and uneasily leave the lot backward, and those who uneasily back their vehicle in and easily leave the lot headfirst.

There are two other kinds of people. Those who squeeze their toothpaste from the bottom of the tube and then work their way to the top, and those who squeeze the toothpaste from the top of the tube and then work their way to the bottom.

~ ~

There is a breed of people, millions of them, existing at the lowest stratum of society, whom, when we see their demeanor and consider their contribution to humanity, we are naturally disposed to look upon as repugnant as infectious vermin and as valuable as used toilet paper. But these filthy scum of the earth, whom we would scarcely touch with gloved hands, are so precious in the sight of their Maker that each one of these repulsive specimens is more valuable in his sight than all of the physical universe, yea, so precious that the Creator considered each one a joy to shed his blood unto death for.

Jesus...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame Heb 12:2

Perspective

To gain perspective is one reason for the aging process. The older we are, the more we see things differently from an increasingly distant perspective. The man on the peak of Mount Everest sees the world below from a standpoint that a man halfway up can never see. The astronaut on Mars can see the earth from a perspective different

from that of the spaceman on the moon. So too a man of sixty more than a man of thirty.

~ ~

Perceived perspective actuates the carnal mind more than prescribed truth. For a person with the mind of Christ, the perspectives e gains with es senses and the truths e receives in es spirit slowly coalesce till they become one absolute reality at the regeneration. Truth is the ultimate perspective. And the ultimate Truth is Christ.

For 'who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Cor 2:16

Personality

Plants, like people, have personalities and temperaments. Some are a joy to behold, some keep us away by their very appearance. Some exude happy fragrances upon us, some spray noxious fumes into our lungs. Some are a delight to put our fingers around, some sting us if we merely touch them. Some cling to us dearly till we gently clear them away. And some are creeps, and won't let go till we sever them off.

Perverting

The best gifts God gave for the delight of his ultimate creation are the cruelest instruments used by the devil for the affliction of man. The highest of bodily pleasures bestowed from Heaven upon a man and a woman is churned in the devil's toolroom into the basest of mortal perversions between two humans. The cheeriest of enjoyments given for the merriment of mankind in their sobriety is

twisted into the deadliest of crapulences for the ruin of both men and women thru their inebriety.

you cows of Bashan..who say to your husbands, 'Bring wine, let us drink!'

Am 4:1

Philosophers

Philosophers – not the absolute fools who deny the existence of a Creator, but the unenlightened ones, such as Schopenhauer, Hume, Carlyle, Emerson, Kant, and their ilk – are akin to a group of intelligent apes circling a mysterious slab that has fallen from the sky, taking cautious steps and edging nearer and nearer to the object, but never daring to touch it. The ones who venture closest to it would describe their abstruse experience in esoteric words to those farther away. They write tome upon tome of their ponderings on the nature of the object, speculations on its origins, arguments for its purpose, and considerations of its potentialities, but they never get to explore the object thru direct contact with it, for they fear to handle it. There are panels on the slab, which, if they would open, would show them infinite vistas of wonder that would lead them to their Maker. But no, they would rather sit around it all their lives, and perpetually ponder the purpose and scope of the supernal mystery.

These are the pathetic musers who have scaled great heights on the formidable cliffs of the lofty mountain of knowledge, but, having reached the highest ledge, are content to remain ensconced on the broad overhang for the rest of their lives. They can see the peak towering just above them but do not have the temerity to climb the last sheer stretch of the cliff, pull themselves over the final ridge, and stand victoriously on its summit. No, they are wilfully content to remain ever ruminating on the ledge below the glorious summit; they will not climb further, not because they cannot, but because

they dare not...lest on the pinnacle they encounter their greatest fear
– the surrender of their wills and the crucifixion of their selves.

Philosophy

Philosophy is the vain mind's attempt to shroud simplicity with abstrusity. All the knowledge mankind needed to build a civilization was given to them in the plainest language on just two granite slabs. Not content with that, they heaped absurdity upon falsity till every civilization they founded crumbled back to dust.

~ ~

Philosophical explications may impress a vile mind but can never extricate the bile from a heart. This is why apologetics, which is but philosophy in christened robe, may vindicate the believer's stance, but can never change an unbeliever's heart. The ultimate truths proffered in the simplest words are what change hearts and transform minds.

~ ~

Philosophy is but the febrile ponderings that issue from bloated cerebrums, which are recorded in protracted sentences laden with complex syntax and expressed with ponderous diction. Contrast philosophical discourse with the Word of God – simple, direct, short, and transforming.

~ ~

Philosophy begins with simple reasoning and ends in profound perplexity, while love begins simply without reason and grows in complexity thruout perpetuity.

Physician

The male gynecologist who, for a fetal check, dexterously inserts his digits thru the privy parts of another man's wife, and the female doctor who, for a fecal test, delicately shoves her finger into the rectum of a man not her husband, are both committing unchaste acts in the eyes of the Great Physician.

Pick, Guitar

Using a pick to play my guitar is like making love with a condom on. There is no direct bonding with the instrument – the skin-to-skin intimacy with the object of your fondling. But then, a barrier between the contact points is necessitated by the need to avoid a certain effect – a distortion of sound in the one, a conception of life in the other. Therefore, just as my skin has to give way to rubber, my fingers have to give way to plastic.

Piety

The more acts of piety a person performs, the fewer acts of compassion e shows.

Pigs

Pigs can't fly, but did you know that pigs can outrun dogs?

I saw a pack of dogs chasing a piglet that strayed into their territory. It outsprinted the dogs.

Plan

If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into

your wife's plan. And guess what she has planned for you? A safe and mediocre existence.

Pleasure

There is no sensation so intensely pleasurable as that offered by sin. The highest degree of marital ecstasy will not reach the orgasmic heights of an ordinary illicit union. Nor is there any consequence so excruciatingly agonizing as that which ensues from wayward pleasure.

~ ~

All delightful experiences, when assimilated continuously beyond a brief period of pleasure, take flight from us till, on encountering them again after some absence, they embrace us once more with their original intensity. Thus nature has instilled in pleasurable sensations the property of ebbing and returning, so man can continually, forever, enjoy the delights these sensations gift em without being surfeited by them. So fragrances fade, beauty veils, surprises subside, and orgasms end in afterglows.

~ ~

A pressing pleasure of lust yielded to deprives you of an incomparably more profound pleasure of love you could have had by resisting the former. It's like the choice given to a lonely, homeless, and starving man – an immediate gratification by being given an ugly nagging hag as a bed companion, a damp shack as their home, where repulsive vermins crawl on the floors and unsightly lichens cover the walls, and a roach-infested larder stocked with a year's supply of stale loaves...or a deliverance deferred by three

years, after which he is granted a beautiful princess as his bride, an opulent palace as their permanent dwelling, and a daily banquet of an endless variety of delicacies and the finest wines on the lees.

~ ~

Don't be naive about the pleasures of sin. They are as real and far more titillating than the pleasures of a righteous life. There is nothing like them. The ecstasies are paramount and supremely satisfying to the flesh and the mind. They are not just skin deep. They are soul deep. For the natural man, it's 365 times more pleasurable to have 365 women in a year than just one woman. But those who can afford more than an annual rotation of the harem, such as David and Solomon, are not content with just a different voluptuous body on their bed every night thruout the four seasons, but desire a different one every night for a thousand nights. But for the consequences...ahh, but for the consequences, there is nothing as desirable as a life overflowing with sinful pleasures. It's the consequences that make everything about unlawful thrills the most depressing and the most deadly of all choices available to mankind.

Possession

If I own anything on the day of my departure, I will die in disgrace. When I breathe my last, I want to have only the clothes I wear to cover my nakedness as my sole possession on earth.

"The man who dies rich, dies disgraced." Andrew Carnegie

Possible

A major portion of mankind's accidents can be averted if a person,

when pondering es course of action in a contingency, never asks emself, ‘Is it probable?’, but always acts according to es answer to ‘Is it possible?’. Such a person never preempts just what is probable, but always prepares for what is possible.

After spilling a glass of Pepsi on my laptop. I had kept the glass near my laptop, far enough to avoid contact with my fingers as I typed, but not far enough for any spilled drink to splash on my machine. But it happened. Had I kept the glass a foot away, even if it tumbled it would not have spilled on my laptop.

Potted Plants

A rosebud caged in a pot sends mother nature’s blood raging hot.

Poverty

Poverty and chastity are often incompatible bedfellows. The poorer the person, the stronger es urge to loosen the restraints in es groin in exchange for a purse or a promise.

Prayer

Pray fervently but never desperately. Desperation in prayer is proof that you are not willing to surrender your life to your Creator’s plan for it.

~ ~

God will have to give an account on the day of judgment for every careful word you have spoken to him.

‘But I tell you that everyone will have to give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.’ Mt 12:36

~ ~

The more a person grows to think like Christ, the more he or she realizes e need not be desperate in asking God to fulfil es desires. When e looks back, e finds that many, perhaps most, of the past desires e had prayed for, had they been granted, would have severely diminished, or even prevented, es present joy. Where he or she is now, and what e is now, are mostly not because of es desires but in spite of them. Since the Giver of All Good Things knows what things are good for you and what are bad, quietly and perseveringly make your requests known to God, never expecting them, no, not even hoping for them, but wholly trusting your Savior to grant you the very best Omnipotence can grant you – either giving you the desire you asked him for, or denying you what you had prayed for.

Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine. Lk 22:42 NLT

~ ~

If bringing oneself to get down on es knees to pray were as delightful as bringing emself to perch on a high stool in a pub and order a pint of chilled beer after sweaty work under the sun, then at any hour of the day or night you would find more than half of earth's population making earnest supplication to God.

Preachers

I was born innocent – the preachers ruined me. I was born intelligent – my teachers retarded me.

~ ~

I have never let my pastors and preachers interfere with my relationship with God.

~ ~

The puerile preachers vehemently promise that God always protects, always prospers, always pleases. The only difference between those preachers and toddlers is that the former don't wear pampers and the latter don't dispense promises.

Preaching

Never preach a word to anyone if you cannot first feed em. The shepherd's first duty is to feed his flock so they can have enough strength and motivation to move on from the parched fields to the green pastures he wants to lead them to.

~ ~

Hasten not to reach the unsaved in the dark continent with the gospel. Rather, delay not to explore the unreached dark recesses of your soul where crouch demons far more diabolic than those worshiped in the deep groves of Africa.

~ ~

Proclaiming Christ with bread and compassion, and no Scripture quoted, is a nobler ministry than exalting him with worship services and sermons replete with Bible verses.

~ ~

Imagine Jesus taking a collection from his followers to buy a donkey for his triumphal ride into Jerusalem. The point is, if you need a Falcon or a Gulfstream to whisk you to places where you think the

gospel desperately needs to be proclaimed, God himself will have prepared an excellent craft for you, just as he had prepared a fine colt for the Lord.

After seeing Jesse Duplantis pleading with his tv viewers to donate money to buy him a Falcon 7X, which costs about \$54 million. Duplantis, who owns three other private jets, claims the private jets are needed to help him do the Lord's work around the globe.

Pre-Owned

In my country, dealers in previously owned cars don't like to use words such as 'used' or 'secondhand' to refer to the vehicles they advertise for sale. You pass by the showroom of such a dealer and you are likely to see a signboard saying 'Pre-Owned'. Some even add 'As good as new'. In pondering these terms, I think 'secondhand' is suitable when referring to a remarried woman. A remarried woman is a secondhand wife, for the hand that strokes her body on the bed is literally the second hand upon her. As for those who are married for the third or subsequent time, words such as thirdhand and fourthhand are cumbersome. 'Pre-Owned' is the best qualifier. 'Pre-Used' is also an appropriate term. As for the phrase 'As good as new', it's a blatantly deceptive sales pitch in an ad seeking a buyer for a used car, or a husband for a divorced or widowed woman.

Presence of God

There is no such creation as darkness in the universe. There is only the absence of light. There is no such quality or state as hate and unhappiness. There is only the absence of love and happiness. Evil came into existence just as darkness came into existence, by the withdrawal of good and light. Lust comes into being when love ceases in a being. There is no such thing as death, there is only the absence of life. Therefore, when life ceases, death comes.

God brought evil into existence not by creating such a quality, but by creating the provision for his absence in certain situations. A person or an object doesn't become unclean or unholy by being contaminated by something that is intrinsically unclean or unholy. They become defiled when the presence that once made them clean or holy departs from them. A person becomes pure not by the removal of what's impure in em, but by the entry of what's pure into em. Therefore, seek not to remove your sin or to be freed from your emptiness. Seek to be filled with his Presence like a dark space is filled with light, and an empty balloon is filled with air.

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep...Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Gen 1:2-3

Present

There is no past or future in absolute reality. There is only the present that is ever happening, and ever advancing, and ever receding.

Pretty Woman

She sat in the row next to mine at a housewarming party. I observed that her philtrum – that fleshy portion starting from under her nostrils and ending at her upper lip – was inclined inward, the unmistakable signature of a comely and petite female. Her glances across the room were immaculate – pristine curiosity graced with a dose of demureness and laced with rapid winks of affectation. And then it happened. As I admired her chaste beauty and told her Maker, here's yet another example of your amazing creativity, she stiffens, stares toward the sky, protracts her cheeks, extrudes an inch of her tongue thru the pouted lips, her eyes take on a petrified

expression like she suddenly saw a naked apparition...and sneezes. The next fraction of a second, she was back to her sweet maidenly mien. But the cameo of the previous three seconds of her transmogrification was the only thing that was permanently etched in my mind of this exquisite piece chipped off from the infinite Beauty.

Moral: Daughters of God, just as you are always on guard against an unexpected squeeze, so too be always on the alert against an unexpected sneeze.

Prison

A nation that sends its hapless debtors to prison is a nation that will one day find itself unable to pay its dues to a merciless power, and therefore will be shackled and marched into captivity by its invaders.

Probability

Whenever I tried to plug a usb cable into the charger, far more often than not, I inserted the wrong side first. I thought I might outsmart probability by the following strategy: whenever I wanted to plug the cable in, I would reverse sides at the last moment. I did this experiment ten times, and I got it right four times out of ten. Then I tried plugging the cable in ten times the normal way, without consciously reversing it. To my utter surprise, I got it right eight times out of ten! I had expected it to be the other way around. I am almost sure that in the natural course of events, whenever I inserted a cable without thinking about it, I got it wrong more often than I got it right. But when I consciously inserted it, I got it right far more often than not. It's a mystery, like probability is aware of what I am about to do. It's so eerily like the quarks in quantum mechanics.

When you don't observe them, they go about their existence with unpredictable randomness, and no one can know where they are exactly at any moment. But observe them, and they immediately start acting in the most predictable way. The particles that I encounter every moment are alive, intelligent, and possessed of a will of their own.

Promises

Promises, vows, covenants, threats, rewards, fear of consequences, and any other reason for doing something, or not doing something, will eventually crumble on the day of the great tempests and floods. Because the act, or the absence of the act, was founded on sand, which is the fickle human heart. The deepest of bonds between two human hearts, the highest of covenants between two human minds, will be cast away for a morsel of bread, given the circumstances. Only the love of Christ stirring an act, or absent from an act, is the assurance of the permanence of that act or the guarantee of its eventual futility.

To show partiality is not good, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress. Pr 28:21

Prosperity

The prosperity gospel proclaims the cushy life, not the crucified life.

~ ~

We want to be readied for the Kingdom of God as beautiful, whole beings, without defect, without handicap, without wounds. Most of us, however, will enter there in a maimed state, sans one eye or one

limb, with a body scarred by severe affliction, with one or more thorns in the flesh, and a couple of daggers embedded deep in the heart, struggling to survive in poverty, often deprived of necessities. Christians who finish their race in a plump and prosperous state are anomalies.

Prostitution

There are women whose virtue hangs like a heifer's thigh in a butcher's shop, for sale for so much a pound.

Punctuality

I gauge the caliber of a man's character by the chronometer of his punctuality.

Punishment

When it comes to the matter of the punishment of the wicked in the afterlife, the god of most Christians is just as fiendish as the god of most Islamists, but nowhere near as cruel as the supreme deity of the Hindus, whose severest punishment for his incorrigible ones is to reincarnate them as dogs or frogs or other creatures, depending on the severity of their sins; or that of the Buddhists, whose worst offenders suffer pain for billions of years but can ultimately purify themselves thru countless future lives. These latter two punishments are infinitely merciful compared to what unrepentant Christians and apostate Muslims will suffer – being burnt and reburnt over and over again forever and ever in inferno.

Purpose

A man who drives himself to fulfil his purpose in life is not fired by the purpose of his life.

Questions

A man is deemed wiser in the sight of Omniscience by the right questions he asks than by the right answers he gives.

Race – Russians

Race

To see one race adorned with golden and flowing hair, matched with skin of soft white tone, and eyes of glowing blue, and another endowed with dark and kinky hair, accompanied by ebony skin and eyes of glowering blackness, and to vouch that these two races are equally favored by the Creator is the height of self-delusion and the most pathetic of mortal attempts at equitableness.

Randomness

This is the second greatest mystery in my life, after the mystery of freewill: Is there absolute randomness in the universe – or is there an ultimate cause for every movement and action? Why does one particular thought come after another, or not another? Why does a leopard resting sprawled on the savannah grass turn his glance from one point to another, when there is not an external cause for that movement? Is it just chance that I now write the word ‘bellicose’, and not another word? Did bellicose come thru the sheer randomness of my thoughts?

Many years after I wrote those words, the mystery was cleared when I began, in 2019, to study Quantum Mechanics. I have expounded on the nature of randomness in my book, ‘A Short History of Eternity’.

~ ~

Randomness is the stimulus of eternity. That's what makes possible the thrill of unexpectedness, of not knowing exactly what's going to happen next. Even God, to ensure his own perpetual suspense and surprise, has subjected himself to randomness. Just like man can only make a good guess about the probable location of the quark's

next appearance, even so God can never know exactly what the next event that will transpire is. When he made man he subjected his highest creation to randomness, and it happened that some turned out so bad he had to break them and remold them again, like a potter recasting the clay on the wheel that turned out to be a defective pot. It's the most unbearably agonizing hell for one who lives forever and ever knowing exactly how each moment thru eternity is going to turn out to be! Randomness, after love, is what makes eternity a perpetual paradise. Without love, eternity quickly degenerates into a frightening hell. Without randomness, eternity soon becomes terrifyingly unendurable.

The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth Gen 6:6 NIV

When Jesus heard this, he was so surprised Lk 7:9 CEV

~ ~

After the determined purpose of God, and the will of man, the third most decisive factor in the destiny of human beings is chance – the random happenings in their lives.

Rat

A baby rat writhing in agony sends heaven's heart wringing in empathy. After accidentally stepping on a stranded baby rat.

Reality

The reality is, above the scenic clouds in the clear azure sky, there are demons scanning the earth for their next victims; below the placid waters in the beckoning bay are sharks waiting to tear apart the surfing flesh; the pretty faces of maidens giggling as they bask

in the flowery garden conceal hearts sodden with filth; the cheery band playing mellifluous tunes on the stage are unaware of the murderous spirits crouching in the wings; hovering over the peaceful ambiance of a summer evening are the dark palls of depression waiting to engulf the unwary; watching the populace secure in the shelter of a caring government are preying eyes waiting to shackle the whole nation and lead them to the gas chambers. But the eternal Reality that effaces the evil temporality is the Light that dispels every darkness; the Power that restrains the desolating enemy, the Love that overcomes the bitterness of betrayals, the Joy that scorns the depressing vibes, the infinite Blood that cleanses the unimaginable filthiness, the Savior that saves his people from the principalities that seek to holocaust a chosen nation.

Reason

Never try to dispute with a four-year-old, or with a ninety-four-year-old. The one has not yet entered the realm of reason, and the other has long left it. *After my experiences with my granddaughter and with my nonagenarian mother.*

Rebellious

Thank God for the rebellious spirit in man. Except in the case of wayward men and women, in whom such a spirit is a catalyst for evil motives, a rebellious spirit in a person brings revolutionary and often long-overdue changes. A defiant spirit is the mother of innovation. It is the instigator of social change for the better. It is the root cause of the demise of blind tradition and silly customs that bind a society in cultural, mental, and even physical straitjackets for centuries or millennia. The greatest rebel in history, in fact, changed traditions and beliefs that had bound the world for four thousand

years, since the fall of man. Evil people with an insurgent spirit incite revolts such as those that spawned communism, socialism, and dictatorship. Conscientious people with a dissident spirit spark reformation and revolutions that render obsolete dreary and weary methods of working and oppressive systems of governance. When your teenage son or daughter starts to rebel against something you enforce in es life, you will be wise to take a closer look at the cause of es recalcitrance, instead of immediately acting to suppress or punish es defiance. Often, the cause for es disobedience may be justifiable, and even commendable, in the sight of heaven. His or her rebellious spirit may be a veiled cry for you to free em from a binding rule or a stagnant relationship.

Reconfirmation

Only a faithless and unreliable generation needs to use the word 'reconfirm'. On my need to reconfirm a confirmed ticket with an airline.

Reckless

The most reckless decision in eternity: to love someone more than your own life. God made that decision, and he's suffering for it now.

Regimentation

Reposing in my bedroom, I could hear, coming from the kindergarten school on the other side of the wall of our yard, the quick, terse shouts of little kids responding to their teacher's instructions. The pedagogue would bellow out short phrases, and the children would repeat them in the curt manner of army recruits responding to their drill sergeant's barked commands.

Rejoicing

I rejoice not because of the presence of happiness in my life but because of the absence of hopelessness in my thoughts.

Relationship

The ultimate feature of any relationship is spontaneity, anticipation, and unpredictability. In the highest level of love, there is no system, no routine, no regulation, and no regularity. You never know how your lover is going to love you next, and you never know how you will love your beloved next. Randomness, not determinism, is what moves your actions and reactions with your loved one. Without randomness, every relationship ultimately becomes an eternally unsurprising affair. Without randomness, eternity ultimately devolves into an eternally predictable hell.

~ ~

There are three things that matter in business: relationship, relationship, relationship.

~ ~

Welders say that when the two pieces of a broken steel rod are welded together, the fused joint is the strongest part of the whole rod. But the fact is, it is also the ugliest part of the entire rod. This is why it is infinitely better never to have sinned in any area of your life than to sin and be forgiven in that area. For there is no erasure of the ugly evidence of its having happened, no escaping the manifestation of the consequences of that sin sticking out in your memory for the rest of your life.

~ ~

God has no religion, he has only relationships.

~ ~

Outside of the matters of heaven, the most consequential responsibility on earth, the utmost success that a person can attain or the most damning failure he or she can suffer, the most important relationship in a human being's life, the one factor that causes the greatest joy or the deepest sorrow to a man or a woman with offspring, is his or her relationship with es children.

~ ~

One relationship – just one mundane ordinary relationship – where two people love each other as their own life, brings incomparably greater happiness and fulfilment than all the heights of success and glory a mortal can achieve in this life.

~ ~

It is by the ultimate betrayal of the one you trusted most that your unfailing faithfulness to her or him is confirmed. It is by the total abandonment of you by the one you loved most that your absolute reliability to em is proven. It is by the final rejection of you by the one you most relied on that your total acceptance of that one is affirmed. Near betrayal, near abandonment, near rejection will never do the work of building unfailing faithfulness, absolute reliability, and total acceptance.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Mt 27:46

Relationship With God

Indeed, e's a kid in Christ who thinks God is pleased with him or her in the corresponding measure of es prayers and services to him. Therefore, e is earnest to ensure e devotes enough time to praying, to praising, and to studying the Scriptures. As long as e is able to maintain es routine of prayers, worships, and services to God, e has peace, being assured in es conscience that he or she has done es part to please es Maker and receive his protection and blessings. If disruptions upset es daily routine, e is uneasy, insecure, and strives to get back to es routine at the earliest opportunity.

Moreover, e has been warned by es elder brothers and sisters in the church that praying is like eating; missing a meal or two is not going to affect es physical health, but when e misses meals frequently, or for long durations, e becomes weak and is susceptible to diseases. So too, when prayer is neglected often or for long, the child of God becomes vulnerable to temptations because e has not kept emself close enough to es protector by steadfast communion with God. The formula is simple for em: pray more, obey more, worship more = please God more, be blessed more, receive more. Pray less, obey less, worship less = please God less, be blessed less, receive less.

O babe of God, when will you realize your Father's love and care for you is not conditional on your acts of love for him!

Religion

The genuineness of a religion is inversely proportional to the loudness of its worship. The falsest religions have the loudest megaphones on the walls of their sanctuaries.

Remember

Who will remember a trillion years from now that a wisp of dandelion floated gently past me to oblivion today, or that a spark from a campfire died as it landed on my palm last evening, or that the mist that covered the meadow I sauntered thru this morning grazed my cheeks with a soothing wetness?

Remorse

In the closing phase of your life, when you lay your hoary head down to repose each night, the thoughts that will confront you worst, or comfort you most, will be about the opportunities you totally lost, or fully redeemed with your children, then with your wife or husband, and then with your other loved ones.

~ ~

Above every other priority in your life, seek to live a remorseless life.

~ ~

Repentance, for the redeemed, and remorse, for the condemned, are the mother of all agonies, the paramount state of all sufferings. The one caused by the scalpel of the heavenly Surgeon, and serves as the precursor of paradise; the other inflicted by the scythe of the devil, and serves as the presage of hell.

Repentance

The most acute agony, the severest punishment for es sins, that a

person, saved by the blood of es Savior, can experience is repentance.

Replica

Buying a replica knowing it is not an authentic one is an act of dishonesty. The man or woman of God should never possess a replica, an imitation, if e is keeping it to make others think e owns a genuine one.

Resentment

When a husband or wife does or says something that stabs the heart of his or her spouse, the wound quickly attracts the deadly pathogens of resentment into it. Unless the septic heart is treated quickly, it invariably either festers in hate or disintegrates in hurt.

There are three reactions available to the wounded spouse.

One: Respond with retributive words or actions, and injure the hurter just as much as e hurt you. But this only aggravates the infection, and, in the end, both you and your spouse will be equally wounded.

Two: Petrify the heart. Thereafter neither love nor hate from anyone can affect or afflict the stone-hard organ anymore. But this eventually deadens both the cells of affection and disaffection, and you turn into a living slab of concrete – lacking joys, lacking sorrows, lacking affection and every other emotion in a relationship.

Three: Refill your heart with new blood and flush away the toxic elements. Your own blood can never purge your hurt and offense. Only the Blood that cleanses all wounds can heal and renew a poisoned heart. Go speedily to Him when you are deeply wounded and get a transfusion urgently!

Responses

All the devotion of a wife, all her respect, the restraint of her words, the suppression of her emotions, her patient replies, her obedience and submission to her husband, are utter falsehoods if they do not come from the depths of her heart. All such whitewashed responses are tailored to her husband's expectations of her. Free her from the fear of the consequences of expressing her true feelings, and then her words and actions begin to pour forth as a vivid manifestation of what's in her heart.

I would rather that my lover openly expressed contempt for me in her words and actions, if that's what she feels within, than smile and honor me in her responses for fear that revealing her true sentiments would elicit a hostile reaction from me.

Give her the unfailing love and tenderness she yearns for in her heart, even as she continues to hurt you, and in the latter years of your life together, your marriage will radiate a serenity and happiness that surpasses your wistful dreams of the earlier years when you patiently endured all her shortcomings.

Revelation

Even as we enjoy the blessed fruits of our spirit's ultimate triumph thru Christ, we wince at the disastrous results of our body's conquest by Satan.

Reverend

I stand in jibing amazement, while keeping my yawning amusement restrained, at any man who adds the title Reverend to his name.

Some shepherds become so worthy of veneration in their own sight and in the sight of their flocks that their title is raised to The Very Reverend or The Right Reverend – the latter, I think, means ‘Downright Reverend’. The highest title of reverence that man accords man is ‘Holiness’. I couldn’t find Most Holiness used of a man anywhere. My search instead brought thousands of references to the Holiest of Holies in the Tabernacle of God. Below this singular title reserved for the One on the highest, there are several echelons of holiness. The lowest is Venerable, which is an honorific so low it is not bestowed upon a regular vicar or priest. In the Church of England, Venerable is reserved for the menial deacons who serve as caretakers of the Lord’s house. In the Catholic church this title is given to a dead member who has been accorded the lowest of three degrees of sanctity – the higher two being Blessed and Saint.

But talking about living people, a person who is called Reverend, according to my dictionary, is someone ‘worthy of reverence’ or ‘someone who is revered’, and revered, says my dictionary, is to ‘regard someone with respect tinged with awe’. Now such a person can only be a demigod who needs no bread for subsistence, for even the Holiest of Holies calls every human a despicable worm ‘because for a piece of bread a man will transgress’. Pr 28:21 ‘Those who revere worms are but sycophantic maggots, the basest of living creatures.

If even the moon does not shine, and the stars are not pure in his sight, how much less man, who is a maggot, and a son of man, who is a worm? Job 25:5-6

Stop trusting in mere humans, who have but a breath in their nostrils. Why hold them in esteem? Is 2:22 NIV

Richard Dawkins

A book festooned with patches of shallow ingenuity and bedecked with snatches of fleeting brilliance, with the whole reasoning

spangled unevenly with snippets of borrowed wit.

About 'The God Delusion' by Richard Dawkins.

Righteousness

Lord, let me never, when your Spirit says to me, 'You may'. Lord, let me ever, when your Spirit says to me, 'You can'.

Routine

Routine is the necessary plight of mortals. There is no routine among the immortals, but spontaneous living from moment to moment, within the purposeful life.

~ ~

God needs randomness for his existence. He has no clue what's going to happen next. That's how he enjoys eternity from moment to moment. Even when God became human, he lived as spontaneously as possible. There is not a single instance of his following any particular routine. He had no fixed time or place for his meals, no sleep schedule, no work hours, and no regular rest breaks.

Russians

The antipathy of the Russians toward the Jews is exceeded only by the abhorrence of them by the Germans and the hatred of them by the Turks.

Sacrifice – Suffering, God's

Sacrifice

Sacrifices made to prove es faithfulness to God are a continual price paid by the Christian for following es Lord. Sacrifices become progressively difficult, and, ultimately, the cost becomes humanly impossible to pay. For, the ultimate price to be paid is the one that validates and sanctifies all the previous sacrifices made – the giving up of something more precious than one's own life. The crowning sacrifice is as painful as cutting off one's own limb, or gouging out one's own eyes – humanly unthinkable, but supernaturally endurable when the Creator-Surgeon himself does the amputation of the offending part in our body.

If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Mt 5:29-30

~ ~

A sacrifice is not really a sacrifice but an expendable propitiation if it does not cause agony to the life being sacrificed, and if it is not an irredeemable loss to the sacrificing life.

Safety

When considering your or anyone else's safety in any situation, never ask 'Will it happen?' but 'Can it happen?'. Never base your, or your family's, or anyone else's safety, on the probability of something happening, but only on the possibility of its happening,

even if the possibility is only one in a trillion. For if it can happen, there is always a chance it will happen. For if it cannot happen, it will never happen.

Salvation

Parents can pass on to their children a legacy of good looks, wealth, health, success, fame, and noble qualities of character. But they can never pass on the salvation of Christ. Oh, the deluded infant baptizers! Eternity must be received by each individual on his or her own terms with es Savior.

Sarah Brightman

The immaculate conjugation of a celestial voice and an angelic face. If only she had a cherubic heart too...she'd have been heaven's choicest gift of aural pleasance and visual gratification in one package lavished upon earth.

Sassy

A sassy countenance is a ploy to hide a sissy heart, or perhaps, an incontinent bladder.

Scar

The blood of Christ heals every deadly wound in our soul, but it does not remove the hideous scars. Every time our eyes behold the markers of our past iniquities, the sight triggers the replay of the

scenarios of the terrible sins we committed, over and over again – in some cases, even daily – till our last breath. There is no escaping the filthiness that streams in our minds when the scars are unwittingly actuated. The inexorable reminders are excised only when God wipes our tears away. Only when he says, ‘I will remember their sins no more’, will our past transgressions never intrude into our memory again. Only then ‘the former shall not be remembered or come to mind’. Heb 8:12; Is 65:17

School

School – every child’s primary infestation point.

~ ~

Schools are among the devil’s fondest gifts from mankind. Only governments and churches are fonder to him.

Scent of A Woman

To a healthy human male, the finest perfumes of New York, London, and Paris crafted for femme, the most expensive scents the celebrated actresses exude, the most delightful fragrances the flowers exhale, the purest distillation of spikenard and sandalwood ointments, cannot begin to compare with the heady emanation that wafts from the pores of his beloved’s body.

Sea, Reclaiming the

An obtuse nation praises its ruler who pushed back the sea and expanded the habitable terrain of his people. Where once water

prevailed, now towering offices and sprawling parks occupy the appropriated space. Naivety, your name is human ingenuity. For the hero of his tribe who decided to confront the deep realizes not that water, whether it is a sea or a stream, will never yield a drop to any born of a woman, but when pushed away quietly encroaches on an equal space in some other land, perhaps a mile away, perhaps an ocean away.

Secrecy

We are all living a forced life of deceit and secrecy with our loved ones, for they do not love the actual us but what they think we are, and the worst they see of us is not even half as loathsome as what we really are. If they could actually see the deeply entrenched filth in our dreams, imaginations, and suppressed cravings, they would recoil in disgust and in no way be able to respect us or respond to our affections as they do now.

Security

Listen, if you want security and stability in your life, leave all your financial decisions to your woman. True, you'll have to abdicate your dignity and embrace mediocrity the rest of your days on earth – but, hey, you'll have lifelong tranquility, and be granted just enough money for all your beers and other cheers till death doeth part you from her purse strings.

Self

You have to end before God can begin.

Senior Years

Soon after a man celebrates his sixtieth birthday, the articles in his house conspire to make his daily life onerous for him, especially his glasses, his cellphone, and his keys.

Sequence

Sequence existed before time. Time was created, sequence was ever with God. God doesn’t need time, he is timeless, but he cannot move without sequence. Take away sequence, and time and motion and all life cease.

Service

Good service is the most acceptable form of hypocrisy, and a salesperson’s smile is the most blatant lie.

Sex

As much as a bladder that cannot be contained a moment longer, or bowels that the sphincters cannot restrain any further, or lungs that will burst if kept a few seconds more without air, or a thirst that throttles life if not quenched immediately, even so will a man’s groin explode if the burning litch in it is attempted to be bunged an hour longer.

~ ~

A man walking around with pent-up sexual tension is an extremely

sensitive touch-bomb, a constant danger to himself and others. Every inch of his body thrums with electric charge, primed to detonate violently in libidinous frenzy at the slightest touch of an oppositely charged finger.

Sexual Insinuation

A man insinuates his sexual intentions with the tautness of his facial muscles, the intensity of his speaking, and the heaviness of his breathing. A woman unveils her covert desires by the movement of her eyeballs and the contortions of her lips. One in ten women is snared by the man's blatant innuendos. Nine out of ten men are suddenly entrapped by the woman's subtle insinuations.

Shaven Head

Never put your confidence in a man with a clean-shaven head, nor give your stricken heart to a woman shorn of her hair. In the end, they will both bite like a viper, they'll sting like an adder. Never trust a woman with wandering eyes, nor a man who doesn't look you in the eye. They are both shiftY and lusty.

Shaving

Shaving is unnatural for men. If nature had intended men to be bare of hair on their faces, or if it had designed the beard only for those who desire it, then, after repeated attempts at regrowth, facial hair would eventually give up and stop bothering the facial hair hater. But no, shaving every day without fail for decades has not diminished one whit of nature's daily hope that one day men will

come to their senses and stop shaving. In this hope, the follicles keep sprouting every morning – only to be shorn before breakfast.

Shit

The shit of Miss Universe, whose face the world’s eyes are glued upon, and that of the most hideous woman on earth, whose face the world turns its eyes away from, are equal in every aspect of their contour and composition. The dainty delicacies that go into the mouth of the wealthy and the beautiful, and the stale and soiled morsels gobbled by the filthy and the ugly, both come out with the same shape and stench.

Sin

Sin blackens, sin shortens, sin curls. Sin gnarls, uglifies, hoarsens, flattens, broadens, hardens, fattens, enlarges wayward organs, and dwindles intelligence.

~ ~

Did just one curious gentle bite into an apple cause the global Deluge, the Dark Continent, the two World Wars, the death of the Creator, the Democratic Party, and all the other horrific human tragedies in the universe?

~ ~

The greatest sin I have committed is the latest sin in my life. For every earlier sin – even if the physical and emotional devastation caused by it was far greater than that of the most recent sin – was

committed when my relationship with God was not as long and as intimate as it was when I sinned last. You most hurt a person when you are most close with em.

Sincerity

Sincerity untested by the Law is like virginity that has not known temptation. One can be a virgin even while he or she is morphing into a gigolo or a whore. One can be sincere even when e is pondering the incineration of a whole tribe of mankind. The devil was sincere in his conviction about his denied promotion. Hitler was sincere in his certitude that the Jews were the bane of the human race. Never trust sincerity. Do not make sincerity the criterion for the rightness of your action or cause. The only criterion you can trust is the extent of your faithfulness to the Law.

Sky

The sky is, figuratively, the ultimate peak of triumph. If one reaches the sky, e has reached the pinnacle of es aspirations. The vault above is the absolute ceiling of all possessions, positions, and pleasures, beyond which no mortal can go further. But for the man or woman of God, the sky is the starting point of es dreams, the cosmic portal to achievements of perpetual glory. Beyond the firmament – where no human has gone yet – is where the adventure begins, where goals ascend to celestial heights, where the limits are infinity, where all successes last for eternity. Don't aim for the sky. Aspire for what's beyond it.

Slavery

Slavery was but emancipation for the people of the dark continent. Except in the cases of physical abuse of slaves, a person working in the cotton fields of America for the average white farmer was far less miserable, far less insecure, and far healthier than he or she was in the extremely savage society he was taken from. His capture was, in truth, a redemption.

Ask the average descendant of a slave, would he rather have his great-great-grandfather continue to live in a jungle in Sierra Leone or Ivory Coast, or would he rather have his ancestor sail on a slave ship to America – making it possible for this descendant to partake of all the blessings God can bestow upon a nation?

Smell

The best smell in the world is the woman sleeping beside you.

Soccer

If a child is a South American, or speaks Portuguese or Spanish, and his first name or surname ends with an ‘o’, and he aspires to be a footballer, the chances are that he will become a celebrity in the world of soccer. Maradona’s first name is Diego, and Pelé’s surname is Nascimento.

Solitariness

A person, once out of his youthful impetuosity, who, apart from enjoying a pint of beer or a glass of wine alone, sits in a theatre and watches a movie alone, who takes a rollercoaster ride with none

beside em, who goes on a luxury cruise without a companion, who is the only occupant of es house, is a person who has not known, or does not want, any deep relationship with another human. Solitariness is an acute form of misanthropy, which is selfishness at its worst manifestation.

Somber

I don't like somber-faced Christians, especially pentecostals and episcopalians, who laugh with restraint and a modicum of lip movement, as if to laugh beyond a certain decibel point, or curvature of the mouth, is indecorous and contrary to the venerable demeanor of a doyen in the Lord's business. Of such mien were the puritans who frowned upon bullfighting, not because it gave pain to the animal but because it gave pleasure to the spectators.

Sorrow

Profound sorrow is the deformed and sickly offspring conceived of your deep compassion. There is no choice, no deliverance, no mitigation, but to raise this offspring alongside your progeny of joy, and to endure es constant shrieks of torment all your life. For both the children are equally precious to you, the one issued of your anguished heart, and the other birthed of your rejoicing soul.

Speech

When you deliberately try to be grandly eloquent, you end up being burlesquely grandiloquent. Be sincere, be simple, be always yourself.

Spiritual Growth

A father wants to see his child grow up carefree without worrying about where es food or clothing, or protection, comes from. The little one strives not, struggles not, plans not, to attain a particular quality, a certain measure of eligibility to earn es father’s love and tender care. The happy child just grows. Of course, if left totally to emself, e would want to have ice cream and candies for every meal. If left to es decision, e would like to frolic in the playground all day. The father would never allow his little son or daughter to do that, except to the extent it is safe and good for em. The one who begot the little life knows what’s best for him or her, and accordingly does all that is in his power to see his precious one grow up safely and happily. Is our Father in heaven less caring?

Spontaneity

Life in Heaven is spontaneous and anticipatory every moment throughout eternity. Regimens and schedules are all devices propagated from hell. Haven’t the most regimented people in history also been the most cruel – the Romans, the Nazis?

Spouse

The tragic state of husbands and wives leaving each other to seek new partners stems from a singular illusion shrouding their hearts: the belief that there exists one ‘right’ person destined for them. Convinced they married wrongly in haste, they resolve to choose more carefully next time.

Months or years later, the searcher encounters someone whose looks, words, and deeds align perfectly with es ideal of a spouse. They

gaze into the newfound one's eyes – sparking a twinkle. They hear es voice – angelic. They feel es touch – exquisitely tender. Everything seems right, closeness deepens, certainty grows...and the wedding bells chime again.

It never dawns on em that millions before them followed this same path, each time believing they had found 'the one' – only to leave again.

'The right partner' is the most elusive fantasm in the unmarried or divorced heart. The Creator never placed two pre-made souls on earth. He scattered many eligible candidates across a person's path – from whom one may be chosen. However flawed the chosen becomes, that person alone is the right one. For the 'right' partner isn't discovered – she or he is sculpted thru patience and forbearance, day by day.

Stature

The shorter a person, the craftier es brain, and the taller a person, the less subtle es thinking. Don't employ a dwarf as an accountant, and don't put a giant in charge of matters that require finesse.

Success

The gauge of a person's triumph is not measured by the heights of success e has attained but by the depths of the failures e has risen from.

~ ~

The most difficult of all successes to achieve is success in living with

prosperity. The second most difficult is success in living with failure. They are both the truest and noblest of all successes in the sight of the Creator.

~ ~

Success is not reaching a place. It is what you do with what you’ve got in the place you are now.

~ ~

Do not make success your goal in life; make faithfulness to God your sole aim. Do not seek recognition for the excellent work you do; seek the excellence of the Lord in your every endeavor. Search not for possibilities to serve God with all your might; seek opportunities to love him with all your heart.

~ ~

God did not call me to succeed in life, he called me to succeed in living with failure for life.

~ ~

Success on earth is measured in heaven not by the achievements in one’s life, but by one’s accomplishments in another’s life.

Suffering

If the devil didn’t cause a particular suffering, then he does exacerbate it by his jeerings.

~ ~

The people who suffer the most in this world are not those whose lives are sorely afflicted by war or tragedy. It is not the miserable destitutes or the hapless prostitutes. It is not those agonized by bereavement or betrayal or bodily harm. The souls that writhe most in agony are the innocent children who have neither father nor mother, nor any other, to feed them with the merest of love and the barest of loaf. And immediately after them comes the widows weeping in their distress, whose sufferings are exceeded only by the wails of starving little ones.

Suffering, God's

I was troubled by the thought of the billions of babies and children gasping for breath as they drowned in the Deluge, and God himself merely watching it. But, no, he was suffering with them, and thru them, enduring their very same agony, even to the limit of their capacity to bear it – till both the humans and he passed into insentience. Thus, in truth, there is no such state as pain exceeding a created being's capacity to endure it...for there is no pain beyond the Creator's own limit of endurance."

In all their suffering he also suffered Is 63:9 NLT

No trial has overtaken you that is not faced by others. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tried beyond what you are able to bear, but with the trial will also provide a way out so that you may be able to endure it. 1 Cor 10:13 NET

~ ~

As I was drowning a rat that I had trapped, my heart panged within me to know that right then it was gasping with deathly desperation for air. The rat surely suffered, yet only to the brink of its endurance

– the very threshold the Creator imposed upon his own being. And as all creation flows from him, so too does the pain of all creatures remain bound by the limits he set for himself.

~ ~

The pain of the sacrifice made to atone for your sin is felt at the moment the atonement is made for that sin. The pain of the crucifixion didn’t end on Calvary. That pain was felt for atoning the sins the world was guilty of upto the moment Christ gave up his life on the cross, not for sins committed after that. For every atonement made thereafter, the crucifixion of two thousand years ago is relived and the pain is resuffered. That is the enormity of what it costs our Savior to forgive each sin you commit. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. His suffering is the same for yesterday’s sin and today’s, and for every sin in the future.

For without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. Heb 9:22

Taliban – Truth

Taliban

If you really want to know what the devil hates the most, just look at the Taliban. In this turbaned race, you can see his revulsion toward everything that is beautiful, soft, and pleasurable. As women embody these three qualities, you can observe that he hates them the most, for the Taliban subjugates them most savagely. The Adversary can never get over his resentment that the Creator made a companion for man, but not for angels. You can also see that he loathes music, and movies, and the other arts. And that he abhors beer and gourmet cuisine. He spurns color, and spice, and variety. He scorns shaving and regular bathing. He opposes everything that is sensible, sensitive, and sensational. He seethes to see people walking about freely without fear and with hope. And you can see that he hates, above all, people showing love to friends and foes alike.

Talk

I am not really a reticent or introverted person, as some people tend to think of me. In fact, I am more of a chatty guy – I enjoy talking with both friends and strangers. The problem is, most of the people that I talk to, talk at me – their mouths moving at a frenetic pace while their minds stay closed and their hearts remain sealed. After a while, talking to someone like that makes me think that life will be a trifle less onerous if I simply stop speaking. Give me a man who can talk *with* me, and I can converse with him tirelessly for hours.

Task

The task should determine the time, and never time the task. The clock should revolve around the task, and never the task around the clock.

Tattoo

A tattoo on a person's body is the outward indicator of an alien presence within es mind. It is the visible stamp of the devil's proprietorship of some correspondingly small or large aspect of his or her personality. The more skin covered in ink, the greater the territory of the mind surrendered to diabolic influence.

You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead nor make any tattoo marks on yourselves: I am the Lord. *Lev 19:28 MEV*

Tears

Tears help in keeping the eyes in fine fettle. Vision improves, and focus becomes sharper as life's grits are washed away with each shedding of the emotion-saturated dribblets. I can see clearer now than I could twenty years ago, when I had to use glasses for reading and when tears were shed far less frequently and less copiously than they are shed now. My vision is much crisper now, and the haziness is gone. There are still spots here and there that blur some of what my eyes scan, but more tears will sluice them away too.

~ ~

Nothing waters a wilting soul and revives a sagging mind like tears shed during a contrite prayer.

Temptation

The best temptations in life come when you are done with them.

~ ~

Unless heaven intervenes in a drastic manner in a man's dealings with the gynecic ones – those muliebral beings who were created with such sublimity they could topple crowned heads and mitred crowns with their teary implorations or moist inveiglements. All the diehard resolutions he made, all the impregnable mental defenses he has set up, all the morality he has mustered for an occasion such as this, melt faster than fat in a red-hot frypan when sizzling seducement suddenly swamps into his aloneness in the guise of a quiet, but quiescently susceptible, woman.

~ ~

A man's ironclad sense of morality, his virtuous character ingrained from childhood, his supreme aspiration to be righteous in the sight of Heaven, and even his inviolable vow of fidelity to his beloved, can never in themselves always resist the climactic seducements of ultimate pleasure. Only the unassailable Spirit flowing continuously thru the veins of his groins can keep him chaste when waylaid by the consummate lures.

~ ~

You can never really know what the best temptations in life are till you have crucified the flesh. Your most titillating fantasies don't transmute to reality till you start to really abhor them. At one time, your carnal self trod thru narrow dark lanes from which wafted irresistible scents, but they always turned out to be blind alleys.

Now, clamoring for your body in all your peregrinations thru life's broad avenues are the most beguiling nymphs. No more do you have to lurk in the street corners or sit in the forlorn sidewalks, like a randy bedouin in the desert waiting for some voluptuous form to pass by. No more do ecstasies tantalize you from a distance; now they trail you at your heels, ever pleading with you, ever unveiling to you the deep thrills hidden under their cloak. The ordinary mortals of this world have no access to the extraordinary temptations in life. Only the peculiar people are offered the singular pleasures.

By the road you have sat for them like an Arabian in the wilderness. Jer 3:2

Tenderness

Keep your heart as tough as steel, your mind as hard as granite, but let your hands always be tender, and your words as gentle as falling petals.

Theology

The volume of theology a person teaches is inversely proportional to the measure of teachings the Holy Spirit has given him. Bible colleges and university theology departments are a blatant contravention of Christ's words, 'But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know'. ^{1 Jn 2:27 NLT}

Thorn

Every thorn has its rose.

Thoughts

You are but the manifestation of your thoughts.

Tiger

There is no visage under heaven as august as that of a lion with a full mane. But nothing walks on earth whose countenance is as austere as that of a tiger. I would rather face an agitated lion any day than an annoyed tiger.

Time

This morning, as I took a banana off a bunch for my daily fruit consumption, I marveled at how this cluster of fruits were layered one upon another in a neat series of rows. I wondered, how long would it have taken the Creator to conceive and produce this masterpiece? Then, I pondered the six days of creation. They cannot be six days from God's perspective; six mornings and evenings are merely from the viewpoint of man. There are no time or space confines for God. Extents and extremities are for the finite creation, not for the boundless eternity. Asking how long it took for God to create the banana is the same as asking how many angels can dance on a pinhead. In the ultimate reality, there is no duration of time for doing anything, and there is no stretch of space for being anywhere.

~ ~

Time is the mortal's greatest reality. Chance is es next. For the Godless, time is the surest harbinger of es doom, and chance es only hope. For the Godly, time is the most conspicuous herald of es

dreams, and chance a mere hindering or helping pawn on the path of es destiny.

Time and Space

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He is not the beginning to the end but the beginning and the end. He is the I Am. There is no progression of time in heaven. Everything happens in the now, even the events of the past and the future. And that is how light exists – always in the now, always the same, always absolute, no matter how fast or how slow everything else around it moves.

But light moves from place to place. There is movement in heaven, not from one moment to another but from one point in space to another. But space is not absolute, but contracts and expands according to the movements of I Am. And time shrinks and stretches correspondingly. One day can transform to a thousand days and a thousand days to one day according as I Am moves. So only I Am is absolute and everything else moves in accordance with the shifts in I Am. Therefore all the movements I see around me are happening today, tomorrow, and yesterday as well.

I Am can call back the past and he can call for the future to appear today. And if I Am can do it, so can everyone who becomes like him. So when I am like I Am, the past I lived is ever present with me, for it is happening today and tomorrow as well. The future I will live is also ever present with me, for I am a spirit and therefore I am not confined by time or space.

God brings to pass again what was in the distant past and disappeared.

Ecc 3:15 Living Bible

God bringeth back again that which is past. Darby Translation

Timidity

But for my timidity and my uncertainty of muliebral responses during my libidinous years, I would've indulged in seven times as many sins as I managed to commit. If I had my present perception of human nature, I would've had the temerity to grasp every one of the innumerable opportunities that passed by me so tantalizingly near that their lingering fleshy scents haunted me for the rest of my carnal life.

Today

God has no clue what exactly you are going to do today. He has a general idea of your typical life, knowing how you have been living each day till the present hour. But you could surprise him at any moment by doing something atypical and impetuous.

Toilet

The caliber of a nation's composite character is directly proportional to the quality of the maintenance of its public toilets. As for an organization, show me one where there is a toilet roll in all its loos, and I will show you a boss who has the potential to run the whole of his nation's civic services with excellence.

~ ~

There is an indigenous people in my land who begin their day by performing a sort of obeisance to their rear orifice. If you visit the remote areas of their habitations, you can observe them rising with the sun, and, gingerly clasping a dented tin can in their right hand,

heading to a small shrine a stone's throw from their houses. Inside the sanctuary, the votary squats deferentially over a narrow bottomless abyss, purges es temporal body, and finally performs ablution over the aperture of es evacuation. Then e rises reverently and egresses from the holey booth, and another waiting devotee takes es place. Alas, most of the younger generation have forsworn this venerated tradition of the rural folks and have adopted the strange modes of the white man's morning ritual, which require neither water nor bowing down nor waiting in line before any common sanctum.

Toilet Paper, Indian

There was a time, not too long ago, when shopkeepers in my native land had no clue what a customer meant when e asked for a roll of toilet paper or a box of facial tissue. At best, the shopkeeper would hand em the day's newspaper, because that's what a good percentage of my fellow male citizens took with them to the toilet, or to their favorite seat in a tea stall, in those days. When I went abroad, every time I visited my home country, I brought with me several tissue boxes. Toilet paper was not a need in my country, because, in those days, everyone – even petite damsels and debonair men – used water for their bottom ablutions. Imagine my glee when, on one of my visits, I found tissue boxes on sale in a local grocery store. Thereafter, I never brought any more tissues from the Gulf.

Toilet paper, however, did not make its appearance till about half a decade later. Whenever I visit my birth land now, among my first purchases are toilet paper and tissue boxes. I am content and grateful that these are now easily available in my country. My only wish is that the people manufacturing these tissues were a little more discerning about their products. The facial tissues are rough compared to what one gets abroad, but at least they won't leave

scratch marks on your face. It's the toilet paper that I have some issues with. I can't help thinking the toilet paper in my country is made by sandpaper companies, and that this is just their ultrafine grade of emery paper. It is so coarse that it leaves reddish patches on sensitive buttocks, but with practice, it can be used gingerly on the rear skin without abrading it.

Touch

Beautiful things too long caressed lose their tender feel.

Tragedy

Tragedy happens in a believer's life purely for the purpose that Christ alone may be the sole motivation for es living.

~ ~

There is absolutely no way God could have created a being in his image and likeness without embedding in em the potentiality for causing inconceivably terrifying tragedies and unimaginably revolting perversions in es life. There is no way the omnipotent God could have averted any of the holocausts and abominations of the past 6000 years of human history and still be able to reproduce offsprings with the full measure of his freewill.

Transgender

The only transgenders accepted by God are those born with both a penis and a vagina, irrespective of their proportional sizes, or with

neither. Every other, born with either, but living as if having another, is a revolting aberration in his sight and a stinking abomination in his nostrils. Let the true transgenders put their trust in their Creator, and they shall, at the right time, enjoy a life better than that of the men and women who have spouses and children.

A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God. Deut 22:5

For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases me, and hold fast my covenant, even to them I will give in my house and within my walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters" Is 65:4-5

Tree-Climbing

A woman climbing a tree makes mother nature blush, as well as embarrasses the fondled bole and perturbs the caressed boughs.

Trees

In my peregrinations on earth, my problem was that I couldn't see the trees for the wood.

Tribulation

Don't trust the fervid preachers who swear by their bowels that God will surely pluck you from the jaws of the devouring monsters you encounter in the valley of the shadow of death. Hold on, they implore their devout flock, don't let go of the holy baggage of your faith, dragging as it is. If you cast it away and run for refuge under some sheltering crag, then when the travail's over, you will realize

to your eternal regret you'd flung away your ordained burden just short moments before your deliverance came winging swiftly from heaven. Unholy buldung! Almost always the redemption comes after the exhausted pilgrim has fainted, after e has been severely mauled on the perilous path, after the final desperate cry for help has faded away in the winds of futility, and after the last endurable moment has passed.

~ ~

Tribulation is the only way a child of God can attain an eternally greater standing in the eternal kingdom. Those saints who have gone thru a great tribulation before they sit at the marriage supper of their King will rule for all ages over the divine citizens who haven't. For no trial of fire is prophesied for any heavenly offspring begotten after the wedding of the Lamb.

~ ~

We can never know how absolute God's promises of deliverance are till we have been cast into the fire. If we are only brought to the brink of the furnace and delivered at the last moment, the experiencing of how faithful God is will remain deficient. We have actually to fall into the middle of the fiery pit, and perhaps even be scorched alive for a while, before we can grasp the full intensity of God's words, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'

Trouble

The very areas in our life we detest most to be tried are the very regions in which we need to be most tested.

~ ~ ~

God rarely reduces the pain of our suffering in the trials he gives us; he always increases our strength to endure the agony of his testing.

~ ~

If I seek to love my God and exult over him because of what he is doing to me presently, I would not be able to do so. Rather, I would feel offended, hurt, and betrayed. My love and passion for him can be based only on what he has already done for me at the cross and what he will do for me in the future.

Written while going thru severe crises, one after another.

Truth

The world is plagued with predisposed preachers and persuaded politicians, whose preachings and polemics are truthfully stated, but are not statements of truth. Presumptuous acts perpetrated on the basis of one's vehement convictions and perpetuated by the fervid suasions of another have caused a great percentage of the tragedies in human history.

~ ~

Truth does not come in different degrees or diverse shades, but it can be given in packages of assorted shapes and wrapped in coverings of vibrant colors.

Ugliest Phenomenon – Voice

Ugliest Phenomenon

The ugliest phenomenon among living beings is a profane old man, surpassed only by a godless old woman. Everything about them is repugnant – their shriveled skin, their shrunken heads, their gnarled nails, their quavering voice, their crackling laughter, their squinting eyes, their stooped walk, and worst, their venomous thoughts and lecherous intentions. The only elderly men and women who are attractive to the young generation are those whose hearts and faces are irradiated by the grace of God.

Unattractiveness

If a woman or a man has unattractive features, it is not es physical constitution, or es character, or es miserable circumstances, that are the cause of es unappealing looks. It's es great-grandparent, or grandparent, or parent that passed on the tainted genes to es progeny. The potency of sin to affect the physical, mental, and spiritual characteristics of a person upto es fourth generation is one of the inexorable laws in creation. When you sin, you are not sinning just against yourself, but also against your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. My skin is dark not because I am a worse sinner than a caucasian but because not one person in my ancestry stopped bequeathing es darned spiritual bugs to es offspring. A caucasian continues to bear fair looks not because es foreparents were righteous but because one ancestor in es lineage was so righteous es children upto the thousandth generation inherited es physical blessings, notwithstanding the spiritual state of es descendants.

People who sin against me become my enemies, and I will punish them. And I will punish their children, their grandchildren, and even their great-grandchildren. But I will be very kind to people who love me and obey my commands. I will be kind to their families for thousands of generations. Ex 20:5-6 ERV

Undeliverance

Trust your Maker not only in his deliverances but equally so in his undeliverances. If he chooses not to salvage your body from tribulation, he surely strengthens your soul to endure the travail that tests your faith.

Underwear

In my 62nd year, I stopped purchasing regular firm-fitting underwear and opted instead for loose boxers. For I do not feel the need to keep potentially unruly members of my body so tightly under wraps any longer.

Unhappiness

No man born of a woman, and no woman conceived of a man, can take an iota of your happiness away without your total cooperation. True loss of happiness happens only when it is displaced in your heart for an equal measure of sorrow that you intentionally take from a person and make it your own.

Unholiness

God's holiness in me does not diminish the unholiness in my nature. Instead, it only makes my old self more desperate, more perverse,

more bitter. But the Spirit of sanctity growing in me continues to crucify more and more of the depravities trespassing on my body till, at my last breath, my natural man can no longer surface to my consciousness but hangs totally lifeless on the cross.

Universes, Parallel

Imagine if creation were so created that every man and woman lives in a universe perfectly attuned to his or her desires. Which means, if there are ten billion individuals on earth, God would have to create ten billion parallel universes to accommodate the wishes of each person. In one universe you would find that all married lives are lived according to the possessive woman directing it, and that means not just her husband but every man in that world could make any decision of his own only if it is pleasing to his wife, and his whole life revolves around every desire and whim of his wife. Imagine. And in another universe, you would find that the inflamed man in charge of all lives has so directed them that every woman in that existence, except his next of kin, is his willing bed partner. And yet in another universe, all human lives and institutions are regimented in the perfect orderliness desired by the lord of that universe – dressing, speaking, socializing, education, entertainment, sports, marriage, family life, religion – everything happening exactly in accordance with that supremo's will. Imagine.

All empires were created with one man aspiring for such a universe. Every woman who enters wedlock does so with that hope in her heart.

University

The universities of this world produce great scientists, engineers, doctors, corporate chiefs, and government leaders. The higher

institutions of learning do not produce graduates of noble character. Their academic goal is not to develop men and women of integrity. Their programs are designed to create technological innovators, humanistic philosophers, and worldly leaders. They spawn graduates with skeptical minds conditioned to doubt the existence of a Creator. Their syllabuses do not teach compassion and mercy. They teach competitiveness and assertiveness.

Usefulness

Any product or service that originates from man and is not useful for eternal life is also useless for this life.

Utmost

When Omnipotence didn't grant me my utmost, my own potency raised me to my utmost, and Omnipotence smiled in delight.

~ ~

The cardinal Christian question to ask when making a decision is not, Is this righteous, or is this iniquitous before God? The fundamental question for the Christ life is, Is this my utmost for my Savior? The acme of a Christian's act does not end at the point of pleasing God; it ends only when it has well pleased him. Pleasing God is not well pleasing to him. Be not a Solomon, whose choice God was pleased with. Be like David, with whom God was *well* pleased. Seek not to be merely a good and faithful servant of your Master. Desire to be the utmost lover of your Beloved.

The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 1 Kg 3:10

By this I know that you are well pleased with me Ps 41:11

Variety

Infinity is not possible within finity. The permutations, combinations, and variations possible in a snowflake within its finite diameter of 0.1 inch have a limit, beyond which snowflakes will begin to fall with the exact form of snowflakes that had already fallen earlier. For infinite variety to happen in a piece of matter, that matter must have infinite dimensions.

Vets

Vets must be an exceptional breed of humankind. Probably the only genus that do not squirm in repulsion at the thought of inserting their digits into the orifice of a bitch or a jenny for a rectal examination.

Victory

Every victory is the triumph of the moment, or of the day, or of the season. The victory at one time in one place is no assurance that it will prevail a second time in the same or another place. Jesus' vanquishment of the devil in the desert was a victory for a season. The devil knew this. 'Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him till an opportune time.' Do you suppose that had Eve resisted the serpent in the garden, a similar verse would not have applied to her? 'Now when the devil had ended tempting Eve, he departed from her till an opportune time.'

My great battle against temptation yesterday, and my awesome victory of that day, was just for yesterday. It is no guarantee I will be equally victorious over the same temptation if it returns today or tomorrow. Oh, how often I have experienced this in my walk with God! I would be flush with the glow of a mighty subjugation of my

flesh and its inflamed desires, only to find myself crushed in utter defeat by the same seducer offering the same temptation at an opportune time another day.

Victory can never be accumulated. Strength to overcome a sin can never be reserved. It comes only at the moment of the battle, when we call upon the Lord for it. The tempter waits, but the Lord answers.

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me. Ps 50:15

Moment by moment, I'm kept in his love;
Moment by moment, I've life from above;
Looking to Jesus, the glory doth shine;
Moment by moment, Oh, Lord, I am thine!

Andrew Murray

Voice

The perversity of the fathers transfused into the genes of their progeny contorts the voice of the crying babies, flattens the nose of the crawling toddlers, and crinkles the hair of the growing lads and lasses of the accursed lineage.

~ ~

In the tone of your voice lies life or death. Only the tongue exceeds it in its power to give life to the ones soothed by it, or bring death to the ones slashed by it.

Waiter - Zoo

Waiter

Never quarrel with a waiter, or you may have to eat his spittle.

Walking with God

Never outpace God in your daily walk with him. Because he enjoys your company, he wants to walk alongside you, tho you are following him. But often in our desire to reach the place of our coronation more earnestly, we leave the Lord lagging a few steps behind us. As we move faster, we stumble on some of the boulders in our path and fall. The Lord is quick to rush to our side and steady us. Sheepishly, we walk alongside our helper once more. Should we then seek to reach our destination sooner than he who moves at his own restful pace?

Walter Mitty

There is a walter mitty in all men; only the intensity of it and the fantasticity of the imaginary situations vary. For some, the second life they lead secretly in the empyrean dimension is their real existence, unbeknownst to their wives, and concealed from their friends and colleagues. For most, it is their periodic getaway whenever matters in the actual world get onerous, and they flee to arcadia to be adulated by fawning fans and applauded by cheering audiences.

Waves

How awesomely similar is the booming of the waves breaking upon the seashore to the rolling of the winds falling upon the leaves of the conifers in the forest!

Written on hearing the sound of the swaying pine trees in a forest in British Columbia.

Weakness

I saw the following words emblazoned on the T-shirt of a muscular young man seated at the table next to mine in a restaurant: 'I know my weaknesses. That is my strength.' Indeed, isn't he the strongest who knows his weaknesses the most? And aren't those the most vulnerable who don't know their weaknesses?

Wet Cement

Many a time I have passed by a stretch of pavement with wet cement laid on it. The cement has been carefully leveled and smoothed over by a team of masons, and that stretch of renovated pavement now looks whole again, and a big placard is put on it warning, 'Wet Cement!'. The next day when I pass by it, there is at least one pair of footprints imprinted permanently on it.

Moral: There's always a dolt who will disbelieve a 'Wet Cement' sign and leave the indelible mark of his doubting folly on concrete for years to come.

Wickedness

The descendants of a wicked person are extensions of es wickedness.

The curse on em cascades down till the fourth generation of es offsprings, after which the evil legacy is dissipated from es lineage. Any curse that is passed on thereafter is the result of the virulent iniquities of the second and subsequent generations. The dark continent, for example, is the precipitation of the unrepented depravity of one man perpetuated without attenuation by each generation of es progeny down thru the millennia to this day.

'But he by no means leaves the guilty unpunished, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children and children's children, to the third and fourth generation.' Ex 34:7 NET

~ ~

Be cautious when you respond with goodness to someone who has done badness to you. If the recipient of your benevolent response happens to be a sociopath, then your unusual reaction only makes him nervous. It ruffles the normality of his assumptions, for you have given him the opposite of what he was expecting from you. Some may stand immobile in befuddlement, and some may sling away affrighted. But some, aggravated by your unanticipated counteraction, may turn and attack the hand that is graciously extended to them. So, don't linger around after you have returned a good deed to one who had maltreated you. You can never know how he will react.

~ ~

Perhaps the greatest mystery in creation is wilful wickedness. There exist an uncountable number of beings both in heaven and on earth who have deliberately chosen evil as their way of thinking and acting. It is as mysterious as a child, weaned from his mother who had borne him in great travail, and had nursed him with her milk of unconditional love, taking a kitchen knife and gleefully stabbing her in the back even while she is busy preparing him a delicious meal. It is as unfathomable as a group of kids I saw near my home, kicking

around a newborn puppy, squealing in agony, like a football. As terrifyingly inconceivable as two ten-year-old boys abducting a toddler and finding merriment in kicking and trampling the little one, then leaving his mutilated body on a railway line and walking away laughing.

Wife

All I know about the many actions and reactions of my wife is that I don't know.

Wine

A nation that serves wine by the peg has a long way to go before it can call itself developed.

After being told in a pub in my native country that they don't serve wine by the glass but by the same peg tumbler used for measuring whiskey. It takes around four pegs to fill half a wine glass, resulting in a cost that's enough to buy a bottle of wine at the beverage store.

~ ~

First whiskies seem a brute's brew, first brandies an apothecary's unpalatable potion, first beers and ales a bitter froth. But with repeated partaking of them, they unravel their covert flavors to the bibber, and what were once distasteful become sublimely ambrosial. Not so, wine, that kith of blood and kin of bile. It has not gained one whit a higher stature in the estimation of my gustation than it did when my tongue first felt its acrid bitterness three score years ago.

~ ~

Noah quaffed one goblet of wine too many, and he got a whole

continent of black souls. Lot gulped one chalice of vino too many, and he got two nations of libidinous brutes. The world would have known far fewer tragedies had those two swigged beer instead.

Winking

Winking is an ungodly act. A woman who winks at anyone is deficient in her fidelity to her God and her man. Winking is a lecherous innuendo, a subtle one-sided foreplay of fornication, except when a man winks at a man. A man who blinks at a man is simply indicating his words or actions toward a third person are but a clever repartee for a blunt riposte; it has no other connotation. A man who winks at a woman is venting his horny suppressions; it is an intentional and conscious act. I don't think a woman winks at a woman – unless her nature has been so distorted that she looks upon one of her own gender as a flirtatious woman looks upon a man. A woman who winks at a man is making a reflex action caused by her repressed carnal pining, tho she may not recognize it as such in her conscious mind. It is not a deliberate act, but a reactive twitch of her eye muscles spurred by a moment's lubricious impulse.

Wisdom

There is wisdom that is independent of experience, and there is wisdom that is dependent on experience. Wisdom, attained thru one's observation of the effects of unwisdom in others, and sealed by one's own obedience, is the incomparably greater wisdom. To not experience the forbidden fruit would have been blessed wisdom for our first parents. To savor the fruit and then repent of it is tragic wisdom begotten of agony and time; yet in the end, it is just as pure, having been refined seven times in the crucible of suffering. But so

excruciating is the way of experiential wisdom that God actually commands man not to choose wisdom thru that path, effectual as it is. But the ultimate truth is, both ways of attaining wisdom, either thru the sweet fruit of obedience, or thru the bitter yield of rebellion, lead to the same glorious destiny.

~ ~

An unwise worker can, to some measure, be compensated for his lack of wisdom by his competence. And an indolent worker who is brilliant is always at an advantage over an industrious dimwit, even if he exerts little effort. But what a sorry sight on earth is he of both meager sagacity and scarce aptitude who is entrusted with a job that needs skill applied with acumen.

Written after observing the actions of the Arab boss of a company where I was once employed.

Wives, Many

Many, perhaps, most, husbands who are faithful to their one wife secretly envy the genital opportunities that the renowned servants of God had in ancient Israel. Abraham did not seek a second woman to sleep with; he was persuaded by his wife to go into her maid. Carrying that erotic luck in his genes was his grandson, Jacob, who did not seek any additional life companion endowed with tender eyes but desired only she who was comely, but he reluctantly acquiesced to his employer who insisted his prospective son-in-law sleep with both his daughters. And his luck quadrupled when both his wives alternately pleaded with him to sleep with their maids. Talk of orgasmic opportunities being forced upon a man!

Now, it's not known how many of Jacob's sons had the sexual fortune of their father; only Joseph is mentioned as being monogamous, tho we don't know whether he waived or used his

privilege to access the palace harem. But his eldest brother Reuben had a tendency to stop and ask any lone woman squatting by the highway if he could go into her, and thereby he unwittingly generated two favored sub-tribes of the house of Israel. David had hundreds, and Solomon a thousand – both wives and concubines. But the modern churches have made polygamy a cardinal sin – tho I am ready to wager a hundred thousand dollars with anyone who can show me anywhere in the Bible a prohibition upon believers' having more than one wife. Only the Mormons acknowledged a man's dual and multiple marital rights, and did not forbid their members from sharing their bed with more than one sleep partner. I do not mean threesomes; sleeping with both wives at the same time might have been considered an uncongenial act by that denomination. I am referring to alternating the wives each night.

If blunt honesty were squeezed out of every one of the upright folks bestowed with a penile member, I think many, perhaps most, would admit that, if it were acceptable to the Institutor of the man-woman relationship, they might not be aghast at having several wives they could alternate every night. If the most righteous of men in the sight of heaven could have this fleshly bounty, why not they?

Woman

The infinite omnipotent mind of God couldn't conceive of a higher ecstasy, a more exquisite beauty, a fuller pleasure, and a greater trial for a man than a woman.

~ ~

A woman left alone without a man for a long duration is more likely to lose her mind to the devil than a man roving alone for seven lengths of her lonesome while. A man living alone without a woman

for a short span is more likely to lose his body to the devil than a woman left alone for twice his lifespan.

~ ~

Imagine the unthinkable hell this world would have been for men if every woman could enforce her concept of happiness in her marriage!

~ ~

Every young woman you see around you is a toddler in a grownup costume. She has more flesh on her, more knowledge, and more experience, but she is still a little child at the core of her being. Her mind and her aspirations have grown, but her heart and her needs have remained the same. When a man lusts after her, who is now moving about without the constant protective presence of her father or her mother, he is actually lusting after a helpless girl vulnerable to every predator. A man growing in the mind of Christ will never be able to look upon any woman, voluptuous as she may be, with anything but the protective eyes of a brother or a father beholding his precious little girl walking around in an adult costume. That's why Jesus could never fall in erotic love with Mary Magdalene. He always saw her as the precious baby he brought forth into the world with his own hands.

~ ~

There are two things a man should never do to any woman. One, never watch her climbing a tree, and, two, never watch her slurping noodles. These two acts were never designed into the female motor senses, and when a lady is constrained by circumstances to do them, angels weep at the sight.

Written after I watched a young lady, at the table right in front of me in a restaurant, struggling to get into her mouth the remaining strands of noodles dangling from her mouth, swinging from side to side, as she tried to slurp them in.

~ ~

God made woman the weaker sex but gave her the heavier end of the log to carry, said some sage. True. But God also showed woman the trick of carrying her load with half the strength that man exerts to carry his lighter load. O, the equitable ways of the Creator!

~ ~

I'd rather have a strong-willed woman who hurts me oft with her defiance than a weak-willed one who is ever pliant to my every desire.

Words

Words, words, everywhere in the book, not one worthy of a thought.

My thoughts about Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary, the most useless Bible help ever written.

~ ~

One right word is worth a thousand pictures.

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. Pr 25:11

~ ~

A menagerie of grotesque mutants that have long outlived their purpose for existence, doddering old beldams of the English language, ugly prudish spinsters with repressed carnal desires, undesired by any, but masquerading as mademoiselles, they believe themselves to be wanted by all.

Words such as inflammable, enervate, indefatigable, irregardless, and other useless and confusing words.

Work

Any fool can work hard, and the world remains not a whit changed for all his diligent effort. Only he who works with his heart makes a difference.

Worshiping Man

Man, seeing his own depravity and the utter impossibility of attaining any measure of righteousness, in thought or act, and craving for an avatar, a proxy, whereby he or she can partake of a measure of the piety of a deified supremacy, puts upon a pedestal a fellowman, or worse, a fellow woman – who, endowed with uncommon subtlety, ascribes some singular quality to emself and cleverly peddles es uniqueness to a depraved people of lesser guile - -and not only prostrates before this impostor but often is willing to sacrifice even es life on the behest of these beguilers. Thus we have the infallible popes and their pious padres, the virgin mothers and the reverend fathers, the cassocked monks and the castrated yogis, the mystic mullahs and the miraculous mahdis – all with thoughts as venomous as a viper’s breath and natures as perverse as those of their worshippers.

Stop regarding man, whose breath of life is in his nostrils, for why should he be esteemed? Is 2:22

To have respect of persons is not good, for that man will transgress for a piece of bread. Pr 28:21

Wounds of the Past

You can never heal the wounds of your past. You will always continue to bleed. When all your attempts to stanch the bleeding –

with beer, with food, with sex, with work, with prayer – have proved futile and the blood still oozes as profusely as before, and the past continues to daily agonize your thoughts, you put in one final effort, using all your strength and spirituality, to cleave wide open the wounds, stick your hand inside, and pull out the roots of your past agonies. Then the raw truth hits you hard between your eyes: the roots are inextricably tied to the ventricles of your heart. Pull them off, and you pull your vital organ off too. There is no recourse, no remedy, no mitigation. There is only acceptance and endurance of the unhealable lacerations till your last heartbeat.

Writing

There's no business like the business of writing books. It is priceless – does not fetch a cent in remuneration.

~ ~

Sometimes the English language is my cherished handmaiden, with oil and flour and sweat streaking here and there on her person, chatting carefree with me in the kitchen, even while her eyes are upon the dough she is kneading on the counter to bake me a delicious cake; sometimes it is my nattily attired butler who squares his shoulders as he opens the front door of my house and cordially greets the literary luminaries into my living room, and whose one focus thereafter is to serve my guests to their overflowing delight all the while they remain in my house.

Wrong

I believe the best my understanding brings me, practice the highest

my ideals convince me of, and preach the divinest of doctrines I would stake my life on. If the end sees me cast before a host of ten thousand haloed angels crying in unison that I have been wrong and calling for my condemnation, it will scarcely alter the estimation of me in the eyes of my Judge. For I have pursued the best, I have lived my utmost, I have proclaimed the highest, I have loved to the end.

Zoo

Any civilization that keeps a zoo hasn't progressed much beyond the menagerie they display in the cages.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joseph Cherian is a Bible exponent, Christian author, English Language reformist, and founder of World Daily Bread (worlddailybread.org), a mission for the relief of orphans and widows in affliction. His writings are the fruit of over fifty years of fervently seeking the understanding of man's purpose on earth and his ultimate destiny in the universe. During those decades, an unseen Benevolence prepared him for his mission by allowing him to go thru experiences so intense, and so peculiar that it is likely that his journey has no parallel in this generation: near-deaths, extreme profligacy, rejection of his traditional faith and attempts to suppress its proclamation, imprisonments, living as a fugitive, alcoholism, depression, supernatural rescue from the brink of suicide, and finally, his dramatic turnaround thru an incredible epiphany. It is the extreme experiences in his life that have enabled him to deeply perceive the causes and scope of human suffering, and to seek to alleviate it to his utmost ability and means.

