

# *The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinking*



**MICHAEL J. HOLSHOUSER**

The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinking  
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Ten Reflections  
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Got God?  
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Of the Human Journey  
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All have the express written encouragement  
To distribute this creation freely to any and all  
Who have the eyes to see and the ears to hear  
The mystery in which each and every one  
Equally participates in so many ways.

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# Preface

## Greetings,

While chatting with my Christian chiropractor about ethics, it occurred to me to take a look through what had been written about it since I began scribing in 1989. The creative juices took hold, and this is the result, with aphorisms and essays from the major works – *The Stillness Before Time*, *The Return to Wonder*, *The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim*, and the seven *Breadcrumbs* titles. Along with aphorisms on ethics, are thoughts on good and evil and the Golden Rule, a few pages of online philosophy and ethics definitions and links, a recent *Where Is the Line?* ditty, the dialogue from an amusing and enlightening episode of *Young Sheldon*, several page of aphorisms on duality from *The Stillness Before Time* and *The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim*, as well as three oeuvres from *The Stillness Before Time: Ten Reflections*, *Got God?*, and *The Human Journey*.

It is also blogged for online viewing:

The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinkin

<https://thegordianknotofethicalthinking.blogspot.com>

Writing has been an enjoyable process ever since I first began toying with prose; scribbling poetry, keeping journals, corresponding with friends and acquaintances during the college daze. The philosophical/mystical/whatever-you-want-to-call-them thoughts, that have been popping into mind since 1989, have always been very out-of-the-blue spontaneous. Nothing planned or forced about them. They are being shared on the off chance that others may find them of interest, though, quite frankly, it really does not matter if no one else ever even reads them, for I am, first and foremost, my own audience. I got mine, so to speak. I played my little part. I had my share of fun. And it is, as it has ever been, up to each to discern their own, on their own.

There are really no followers in this Don Quixote quest; only earnest seekers, who waylay their desires and fears and dreads, enough to discern that which is the end to doubt, the end to dueling with windmills. “Yay” if it is your fate to figure it out. “Oh well” if it is not. And “so it goes” either way, really. Ecclesiastes 1:2 is always a good reminder: “Vanity of vanities,” saith the Preacher, “Vanity of vanities. All is vanity.” Awareness can only, with great effort, regain control, regain sovereignty, from the usurper, imagination, creator of all that is time, creator of all that is space. Creator of all that is illusion, has never been anything more than illusion, will never be anything more than illusion. Only as real as the given moment.

“*The Stillness Before Time*” is the original work that came together in 1992, including mostly aphorisms, an essay, a newspaper question-and-answer, ten reflections, and lists of both movies and books. Though an early self-published version, long since edited and expanded, can be purchased at major booksellers, a downloadable copy is available, no charge, at the link below. There are also links to a variety of blogs of other creations by me, along with links to many writings of a similar nature, by thinkers and seers from across all times, across all geographies. “*The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim*” is the second published book, and is both blogged and available as a PDF download.

The “*Breadcrumbs*” titles, published annually since 2015, all include the core chapters: *Leftovers*, *Soundbites*, *Breadcrumbs*. In the *Breadcrumbs* chapters, I unleash thoughts of a more personal nature than in the other two. All just to show I was ensconced in a living, breathing, relativity mundane, oftentimes

foolish, mortal mind-body. An actor playing the hand that was dealt; same as everyone else, vain as everyone else. No need to sculpt me into more than I was. No need for myths, nor legends, nor fables, nor miracles, nor cult followings, nor any other fictions, any other absurdities, over to which the human mind, and all its imaginary history, has so often given itself. The Breadcrumbs chapters prove me again and again to be yet another Shakespearian player, as full of the limited and arbitrary as anyone else born into this dream of space and time. So please be sure not to shape me, or these many random thoughts, into some dogmatic absurdity. Use them as a launchpad, not an orbit.

“The Return to Wonder” blog is a compendium of aphorisms not included in the three other works: *The Stillness Before Time*, *The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim*, and *Breadcrumbs*. It originally totaled 3,000 pages formatted in 300 ten-page chapters written since 1990-ish. A gradual editing that will likely never be completed, is changing that dynamic into something of a mishmash.

Please note that this sort of wordplay is very haphazard, way too much work to put into any order. Probably best read it in bits and pieces in the here and there. One of those open-to-any-page works. Especially well-suited for coffee shops, coffee tables, and porcelain thrones.

Also note that all writings are always subject to updates and editing, so if you are interested in the most current version – before this house of cards comes tumbling down, and the world grows large again – downloading PDF copies every once and a while might be a reasonable discipline. This applies especially to the current year of *Breadcrumbs*, which could well be an annual project until the last wheezing breath, though frankly, the temptation to stop writing entirely is not off the table. It is a pleasant way to pass some of the countdown remaining, but it is unlikely there is much ground that has not been wandered by this frame of reference far more than enough already. No matter how many times Sisyphus rolls the boulder up the mountain, it is more than a little doubtful that the blind men and their true-believer followers, will ever discern, ever realize, ever embrace, the elephant in the middle of the room, without fabricating some new form of absurdity. It is the way we roll, it is the way we have always rolled, it is the way we will, far more than probably, always roll. Every species has its limitations, and we have in this mind’s eye, far-exceeded ours.

That said, if you do find these many thoughts at all worth preserving, for whatever times are ahead for this world and all its life forms, please feel free to share them with others who might also appreciate them. Else they may well swiftly slip back into the timeless oblivion from whence they came.

So it goes, either way. I played my part, I said my piece, I had my fun.

All the best,

M

P.S. For best viewing online, using the largest screen you have available to explore my little theme park, is suggested. Scrolling down and down on a phone screen is just not going to give you the same entrée.

P.P.S. Regarding the name Yaj Ekim ... It is just a reverse spelling of the first and middle names ... Michael Jay Holshouser ... Mike Jay ... Yaj Ekim.

P.P.P.S. Coincidentally, make of it whatever you will, or will not, Yaj is an Indian boy's name meaning worshipper, sacrifice, another name for Shiva, a sage. And Ekim is a Turkish name for October meaning "sowing" (of seeds). All kinds of absurdity can be read into that by the many so-inclined – none of which was in mind when I came up with the idea to reverse the letters to my name. See P.P.S. for details.

P.P.P.P.S. Yes, I am Shiva. And so are You. No, I am not Shiva. And neither are you. Irony and paradox rule.

## **The Stillness Before Time Website**

The Stillness Before Time  
Reflections From a Fellow Sojourner  
<http://www.thestillnessbeforetime.com/>

There is really only one Way.  
It is without division or boundary.  
It is without name or theology.  
Awareness is its scripture.  
Here now, its venue.  
You, its witness.  
Your life, the journey.

A PDF is available at:  
<http://www.thestillnessbeforetime.com/thestillnessbeforetime.pdf>

## **Main Blogs**

The Stillness Before Time  
Reflections From a Fellow Sojourner  
<http://thestillnessbeforetime.blogspot.com/>

The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim  
<http://theponderingsofyajekim.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2015  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2015.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2018  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2018.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2019  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2019.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2020  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2020yajekim.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2021  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2021.blogspot.com/>



Breadcrumbs 2022  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2022.blogspot.com/>

Breadcrumbs 2023 & Beyond  
Bits and Pieces From a Dream of Time  
<https://breadcrumbs2023.blogspot.com/>

The Return to Wonder  
Field Notes From the Unknown  
<http://thereturntowonder.blogspot.com/>

### **Breadcrumbs: The Original Blog**

Breadcrumbs: The Original Blog  
[https://michaelsbreadcrumbs.blogspot.com/2015/01/under-construction\\_28.html](https://michaelsbreadcrumbs.blogspot.com/2015/01/under-construction_28.html)

### **Other Blogs by Michael**

Michael's Rabbit Hole  
A Selection of Breadcrumbs & Other Aphorisms  
<https://michaelsrabbithole.blogspot.com/>

The Call of the Eternal  
A Conversation With My Self  
<https://thecalloftheeternal.blogspot.com/>

Imagination: The Great Usurper  
<https://imaginationthegreatusurper.blogspot.com/>

Lost in Translation  
The Human Paradigm's Linguistic Muddle  
<https://lostintranslationyajekim.blogspot.com>

The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinking  
<https://thegordianknotofethicalthinking.blogspot.com>

Mystery, Mystery & More Mystery  
<https://mysterymysteryandmoremystery.blogspot.com/>

Imagination, Imagination & More Imagination  
<https://imaginationandmoreimagination.blogspot.com/>

Doubt, Doubt & More Doubt  
<https://doubtdoubtandmoredoubt.blogspot.com/>

Science, Science & More Science  
<https://yajekimscienceandmorescience.blogspot.com>

History, History & More History  
<https://historyhistoryandmorehistory.blogspot.com/>

Patterns, Patterns & More Patterns  
<https://evenmorepatterns.blogspot.com/>

Reincarnation, Reincarnation & More Reincarnation  
<https://reincarnationandmorereincarnation.blogspot.com/>

Standouts From “The Return to Wonder” Edit  
Selections From the First Sixteen Chapters  
<https://standoutsfromthereturntowonderedit.blogspot.com/>

Of the Human Journey  
Along with Got God? And Ten Reflections  
<https://ofthehumanjourney.blogspot.com/>

To Be, or Not to Be  
<https://thetobeornottobeseries.blogspot.com/>

The Mystery of the Mystery  
<https://themysteryofthemysteryseries.blogspot.com/>

Who Was the First?  
<https://thewhowasthefirstseries.blogspot.com/>

The Real is Discovering  
<https://therealisdiscoveringseries.blogspot.com/>

59 Moments to The Way It Is (And Is Not)  
The Scribe's Guide to the Great Whatthe#\$\*!?  
<https://59momentstothewayitisandisnot.blogspot.com/>

Definitions  
An Incomplete Selection of Contemplative Definitions  
<https://definitionsyajekim.blogspot.com/>

Conversations  
A Variety of Letters, Emails, Texts, & Sundry Odd 'n Ends  
<https://conversationsyajekim.blogspot.com/2021/>

Titles, Titles & More Titles  
<https://evenmoretitles.blogspot.com/>

Even More  
<https://theevenmoreseries.blogspot.com/>

Sketches of the Once Upon a Time  
A Few Epiphanies and Other Hallmark Moments  
<https://sketchesoftheonceuponatime.blogspot.com/>

The Corollaries of Yaj Ekim  
<https://corollariesyajekim.blogspot.com/>

Possible Last Words & Epitaphs  
<https://possiblelastwordsandepitaphs.blogspot.com/>

The Standard Ripostes  
The Scribe's Go-to Responses to This and That in the Day-To-Day  
<https://thestandardripostes.blogspot.com/>

My (Not Quite) Haiku  
<https://mynotquitehaiku.blogspot.com/>

Once Upon a Christmas  
<https://onceuponchristmas.blogspot.com/>

Ditties for the Bluegrass Pyre  
<https://dittiesforthebluegrasspyre.blogspot.com/>

A Short List of Books for the Up and Coming  
Some Written Works That May Help Get the Young up to Speed  
<https://listofbooksfortheupandcoming.blogspot.com/>

Spam Responses (a.k.a., WTF Is This Shit!?)  
<https://spamresponsesakawtfisthisshit.blogspot.com/>

# **The Gordian Knot of Ethical Thinking**

## **The Return to Wonder**

### **II**

Values, ethics, morality, good and evil,  
Are all fabrications born of limited thinking.  
Bondage without anchor in the indivisible reality.

### **LXXI**

Ethics is a personal inquiry, a life process of Self-discovery.

### **CXCII**

Without compassion, any serious discussion of ethics, is meaningless yabber.

### **CCV**

Ethics is the luxury of those who are not hungry or in danger.

### **CCXXXIX**

Ethics is the luxury of a full belly and a safe harbor.

### **CCLXIX**

Ethics is the luxury of entitlement.

### **CCLXXVI**

Morals, ethics, principals, political correctness, is a full belly and too much time on your hands.

### **CCLXXVII**

Democracy versus dictatorship: Which you prefer, which you support,  
Depends on the blend of politics and ethics to which you aspire to survive.

### **CCLXXX**

Virtue:  
Morality, virtuousness, righteousness,  
Goodness, integrity, dignity, rectitude, honor, decency,  
Respectability, nobility, worthiness, purity, principles, ethics, uprightness.

## The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim

60

Ultimately, there is no evil, there is no sin, there is no dark side.  
There is only corrupted, twisted, perverted consciousness.  
There is only the veiling, the muddying of awareness.  
There is only ignorance and delusion and duality.  
Evil does not truly exist in any way or shape or form,  
But through the vanity-vanity-all-is-vanity of imagination.

208

Philosophy is bullshit that passes the time,  
When you are not hungry or weary or slothful,  
And ethics, a fun drinking game in the wee hours.

### Breadcrumbs 2015

#### Leftovers

Ethics is the luxury of a full belly and a safe harbor.  
Might makes right, it always has, it likely always will.  
The best any can hope for is a benevolent claw and fang.

\* \* \* \*

Standing for nothing is the only way to avoid the very common human delusion,  
That existence has some paramount meaning and purpose, that values are authentic and true,  
That morals, that ethics, are more than just vain inventions of a species, that has yet to come to terms,  
With the reality, that they are but temporal consequences of evolutionary happenstance.

\* \* \* \*

Regret means that you learned something from the consequences of an action.  
Some call it conscience, a.k.a., morality, scruples, ethics, principles, integrity.

\* \* \* \*

Conscience, scruples, principles, standards, values,  
Ethics, ideals, virtues, integrity, morality, right and wrong;  
Pillars of civilization for those who have a full belly and a safe harbor.

#### Soundbites

Ethics is the luxury of a full belly and a safe harbor.

\* \* \* \*

Morality and ethics are the antithesis of our Darwinian roots.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics is best served on a full belly from a secure perch.

## **Breadcrumbs 2018**

### **Leftovers**

The challenge is letting go of the cacophony ever playing out in our aloneness.

We spend so much time questing the most unadorned reality the mystery has to offer,

Yet there it is: the awareness, the witness, the enigma, peering out from behind every mask.

What need for religion? What need for spirituality? What need for belief, faith, prayer, scripture?

What need for heavens and hells and purgatories, deities and demons, mythologies, icons, sacraments?

What need for messiahs, saints, priesthoods, traditions, superstitions, caste systems, groupthinks?

What need for philosophies, dogmas, ethics, laws, principles, doctrines, idols, mystic powers?

What need for cathedrals, temples, shrines, holy places, titles, hierarchies, dress codes?

What need for dualistic or non-dualistic concepts, or any light or sound shows?

Why worship what you are? Eternity is right here right now, timeless.

Merely being the awareness is all there is: You are it, it is You.

Anything less is nothing more than the trickster mind,

Playing its more-more-more imagination game.

\* \* \* \*

Civility is the foundation, the keystone, the linchpin, the fulcrum, of civilization;  
Morality and ethics, its oft-spouted-oft-ignored stepchildren of the red-headed genus.

\* \* \* \*

No matter how immense, no matter how tiny,  
It is a you-eat-you universe, a you-eat-you dream.  
Compassion and ethics are but token notions.

\* \* \* \*

Laws, commandments, regulations, rules, decrees, edicts, directives,  
Principles, maxims, axioms, dictums, morals, scruples, codes,  
Tenets, ethics, mores, values, traditions, beliefs, et cetera,  
Are artifices of human invention, as are all the ceaseless deities  
Fabricated to give the carrots of desire and sticks of fear greater heft.

## **Breadcrumbs 2019**

### **Leftovers**

Awareness is pristine and immaculate and clear of any blemish or stain,

But is it at all possible for consciousness to be without judgment?

Is not everything thought one form of judgment or another?

Opinions, assumptions, stereotypes, conventions, ideals,

Ethics, principles, labels, laws, pigeonholes, beliefs,

Conclusions, notions, expectations, values, norms,  
Any patterns, any definitions, any attitudes, whatsoever.  
The roots of pride, of vanity, are saturated with all of the above.

## **Breadcrumbs 2020**

### **Leftovers**

Ethics in warfare is rooted in complete and utter absurdity.  
If you are steadfastly resolved on annihilating an individual or group,  
Why should-could-would it possibly matter how you do it?  
Dead is dead, no matter the ways and means.

\* \* \* \*

All values, all standards, all morals, all ethics, all ideals, all principles, all tenets, all beliefs,  
Are subjective, arbitrary, fallacious, sentimental, distorted, idiosyncratic,  
Skewed, prejudiced, colored, slanted, biased, personal.  
Meaningful only to minds conditioned, habituated to believe them.

## **Breadcrumbs 2021**

### **Leftovers**

Have you ever beheld even one moment of awareness,  
Where ethics or any other imaginary notion or sentiment,  
Had any say, any validity, any reality, any truth, whatsoever?  
The eternal mystery does not give a flying hooey about anything.  
Oh well, so it goes, deal with it, get over it, move on.  
Irony and paradox and absurdity rule.  
Practice detachment.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics and aesthetics are so vainly subjective in any given mind,  
As to warrant little more than a token sidebar of serious discussion.

### **Soundbites**

Ethics and aesthetics are so subjective as to not be worth more than trifling discourse.

## **Breadcrumbs 2022**

### **Leftovers**

The grand strands of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that have created you,  
Are only concerned that you generate as many offspring as possible, by any means.

Whether or not any given strand carries on, is always subject to natural selection downstream.  
Ethics has never been an issue, in the one and only immortal quest, truly in play.  
The constructs of imagination, of illusion-delusion, notwithstanding.

\* \* \* \*

Imagination is the Original Sin.  
Until it usurped awareness, good and evil did not exist,  
And their reality is a still an unproven doctrine, one left to philosophers who pontificate on ethics,  
And the rest, to those who ceaselessly spin their self-absorbed realities,  
Into every imaginable form of self-righteousness.

### **Soundbites**

Ethics is the offspring of a full belly and a safe harbor.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics: Neutered, sterile, empty, absurd,

## **Breadcrumbs 2023 and Beyond**

### **Leftovers**

Does the lion ponder the ethics of gorging upon an antelope, or an antelope, a blade of grass?  
Nature has no attachment to the ceaseless vagaries, the absurdities, of human consciousness.

\* \* \* \*

What is the purpose of any culture, but to mold the young into its version of the world,  
With all its history, its politics, its laws, its economics, its traditions, its religions, its languages.  
All its tribal hierarchies, customs, rituals, behaviors, practices, lifestyles, conventions, costumes, patterns,  
Beliefs, ethics, routines, schemes, addictions, activities, cuisines, athletics, holidays, celebrations.  
And, of course, all the horrors and absurdities imaginable, in this our human paradigm.  
How anyone manages to doubt, to question, to awaken, to shake off,  
The conditioning, the habituation, the indoctrination,  
Is indeed a wonder, if not a miracle.  
What a hold imagination has upon our kind.

\* \* \* \*

History has proven countless times the pointlessness of ethics, as anything more than forum-born rhetoric,  
As anything more than a domesticating agent in the world spun by the human paradigm.  
Ethics is what the minions pontificate, well away from any throne.

\* \* \* \*

Rest assured, rape and molestation are genetically viable ends and means,  
In all the bumping and grinding it took, voluntary or involuntary,  
For You to be sitting right-there-right-now reading this.  
Ethics is a relatively recent appendage in the human timeline,  
Ever enforced by the reigning oligarchy, who decide who gets what.



\* \* \* \*

Ethics is a Gordian Knot,  
Which only the sharpest sword of discernment,  
Cuts loose its imaginary hold.

### **Soundbites**

Ethics is what the minions pontificate, well away from any throne.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics is really about domestication.

\* \* \* \*

Ethics is a Gordian Knot, which only the sharpest sword of discernment, cuts loose its imaginary hold.

### **The Corollaries of Yaj Ekim**

Ethics:

Ethics or moral philosophy is a branch of philosophy that "involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of right and wrong behavior". The field of ethics, along with aesthetics, concerns matters of value, and thus comprises the branch of philosophy called axiology.

Ethics seeks to resolve questions of human morality by defining concepts such as good and evil, right and wrong, virtue and vice, justice and crime. As a field of intellectual inquiry, moral philosophy also is related to the fields of moral psychology, descriptive ethics, and value theory.

Yaj Ekim's Corollary:

Ethics is the luxury of a full belly and a safe harbor.

\* \* \* \*

Walt Whitman:

Do I contradict myself? Very well, then I contradict myself. I am large, I contain multitudes.

Yaj Ekim's Corollary:

Hear, hear!

Hear, all ye good people, hear what this brilliant and eloquent speaker has to say!

\* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \*

### **Thucydides**

Right, as the world goes, is only in question between equals in power,  
While the strong do what they can, and the weak suffer what they must.

Thucydides (c. 460 – c. 400 BC) Athenian historian and general  
History of the Peloponnesian War

# Good and Evil

## The Stillness Before Time

### XI

Before light and dark,  
Right and wrong,  
Birth and death,  
Yes and no,  
Good and evil,  
Have and have not,  
Compassion and cruelty,  
Knowledge and ignorance,  
Order and confusion,  
Sage and fool,  
Before duality in any form,  
You are.

### XXIII

Avoid moral dilemmas and quagmires.  
Good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

## The Return to Wonder

### II

Values, ethics, morality, good and evil,  
Are all fabrications born of limited thinking.  
Bondage without anchor in the indivisible reality.

\* \* \* \*

You need not each and every moment,  
Hold on to all the psychological and physical pains,  
Manifested in your brief mortal fling in this garden of good and evil.  
Discern the key to immortality – Physician, heal thy Self.

### VI

Do good and evil exist anywhere but in imagination?

### XIV

Good and evil are human concoctions.

If you believe they existed before we unleashed upon the world,  
You are caught in the mire of delusion.

### LVIII

The dualistic war between good and evil, is one waged entirely in human imagination.  
Their reality is as untenable as anything ever concocted within the dream of space-time.

\* \* \* \*

Good and evil, like all dualistic notions, are born of imagination's delusional sojourn.

### XCVIII

Good and evil are an illusion whose hypnotic anchor is vivid imagination.

### CXIV

All are equal in the ultimate sense,  
But in humankind's savage garden of good and evil,  
Some are far more equal than others.

\* \* \* \*

The fiercest battles of good and evil are imagined by all parties concerned.

### CXXX

Those who wander prior to all the dualistic notions of good and evil,  
Can wade through both righteousness and sin unscathed, untouched.

### CXXXI

Three recurring algorithms that hold up in the human drama:  
Most seem want the bread of life more than the bread of mystery.  
They will submit to many forms of enslavement rather than being free.  
And they will choose the absurdity of good and evil over the reality of chaos.

### CXLIII

Where are good and evil located in an atomic particle?

### CLV

All children are innocent of any wrongdoing, because good and evil do not exist in the untarnished state.

### CLVI

Good and evil exist only in imagination; once seen for its transient nature, their notion dissolves.

## CXCII

The garden is a spaceless, timeless reverie; it is imagination that harvests the fruit of good and evil.

## CXCIII

Good and evil: Just different vanities, forever battling passionately on an imaginary spectrum.

## CXCV

In the garden of good and evil, the relativity can make for a confounding walkabout.

## CXCVI

There is no good, there is no evil, in the ultimate reality.  
Just ever-changing, imaginary collusions, between egocentric mindsets.  
One man's good is another's evil, and every variety of visa-versa under any given sun.

## CC

It is all about patterns playing out in the freedom of the eternal unborn-undying moment.  
Patterns we embrace are regular, normal, comfortable, relaxing, certain, consistent.  
Those we do not like are irregular, abnormal, uncomfortable, edgy, unsure.  
Thus, good and evil are created in the garden that knows neither.

## CCV

Good and evil exist in only in imagination.

## CCIX

Are not deities and demons, good and evil, right and wrong, this and that, ever one in the same?  
Where are the lines between any dualities, but the make-believe ones,  
Endlessly fabricated by arbitrary minds.

## CCX

Good and evil are imagined dualistic notions; there is only indivisibility coated by ignorance.

## CCXI

All notions of good and evil, will always be merely notions.

## CCXXI

What a blessing to be free of both good and evil.

## CCXXV

Good and evil are dualistic perceptions, born of humanity's irrational self-absorption.  
We mortals, not some imagined deity, are the creators of heaven and all things perdition.

## CCXXVIII

If this is a battleground between good and evil, then it is fairly obvious which side is winning.  
So, the question is, whether it is some huge chess game between God and the Devil,  
Or simply the mundane reality of vanity and greed churning their way,  
To a most predictable and tragic dystopian conclusion.

## CCXXXIV

The good and evil you view on any screen,  
Would not be, without the projector,  
Which is the imaginary you.

## CCXXXIX

The human paradigm, the human drama,  
Is at times so exhilarating, is at times so exhausting.  
No wonder so many imagine good and evil, God and Devil, real.

## CCXLI

A new paradigm must arise, must evolve,  
If humankind wishes to sustain its narcissistic-hedonistic adventure,  
In this imaginary garden of good and evil.

## CCXLVII

Good and evil are vain notions, born of self-absorbed consciousness, and its endless plays of duality.

\* \* \* \*

The difference between good and evil,  
Right and wrong, or any other dualistic notion,  
Most often depends on what side of the field is wandered.

## CCLI

Good and evil are imaginary concepts born of consciousness.  
Deities and demons are expedient means for ignorance,  
To evade the ultimate reality that it is really all You.  
Truth requires a relativity, relatively few harbor.

## CCLXII

In the relativity of the garden,  
Who can with any real authority say,  
Where the lines of good and evil are drawn?  
Even if there were a God, it would be just as arbitrary.

## CCLXV

Good and evil are self-absorbed concoctions of imagination.  
There is really no angel, no demon, outside any given mind.

## CCLXVI

What proof is there that right and wrong, good and evil, are anything more,  
Than vain, superstitious, absurd concoctions, born of human imagination?

## CCLXXII

All qualities of mind are relative beyond measure.  
The mystery dwells within the essence of every quantum.  
Good and evil may play out in the consciousness of humankind,  
But at the source of all things, they are of no consequence, whatsoever.

## CCLXXVI

The difference between black and white,  
Good and evil, right or left, up or down, this or that,  
Is, without doubt, unfailingly, irrevocably, absolutely, arbitrary.

## CCLXXVIII

Where is that line between good and evil, right and wrong, light and dark, anyway?

## **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim**

### 24

Nature is what works,  
And what does not, evaporates into oblivion.  
Good and evil are nothing more than constructs of human consciousness.  
There was never any such thing in this whirling garden orb,  
Prior to the emergence of dualistic notion.

42

Good and evil are dualistic, arbitrary notions, created by imagination.  
They are nothing more than echoes across the expanses of the singularity.

48

Good and evil, right and wrong,  
Are but the fabrications of imagination gone amok,  
And in no way exists in anything but the delusions born of the human mind.

86

It is only consciousness,  
That manufactures good and evil,  
Right and wrong, compassion and brutality,  
In an otherwise indifferent universe.

132

And what if that which so many call God is really equally good and evil?  
It is really only the notion born of dualistic limitation that needs changing.

225

The only difference between good and evil, is in any given beholder's eye.

245

Awareness, oblivious to the play of good and evil,  
Allows every dream of consciousness,  
To have its day in the sun.

283

Wandering the Garden of Good and Evil, where there is in truth, neither.

394

Before good and evil,  
Before all its causes and effects,  
There is only the vast unknown stillness.  
Within it, is the truth, the freedom,  
That the intangible You is.

410

Where is the exact demarcation between this so-called good and evil?

A line or two in the sand of an ever-shifting consciousness, indeed.

450

What are good and evil but different aspects of the same monkey-mind.  
Where else in the universe could such absurd notions possibly exist?

## Breadcrumbs 2015

### Leftovers

Unconditional acceptance of this grand dreamtime as it is,  
With all its light and dark, its good and evil,  
Is about as loving as it gets.

\* \* \* \*

What is the difference between pleasure and pain,  
Between right and wrong, between good and evil, between love and hate,  
But a variety of electromagnetic spectrum responses,  
Some agreeable, some not.

\* \* \* \*

Good and evil are the concoctions of consciousness,  
Of imagination, of the mind born of time.  
The garden itself is blameless.

\* \* \* \*

Look deadly, be deadly; look deadly, be harmless;  
Look harmless, be deadly; look harmless, be harmless.  
Survival is as survival does in this indivisible quantum Eden,  
This garden of good and evil born of imagination's egocentric notion.

\* \* \* \*

The sins of the universe are erased when the original nature is realized.  
The notion of good and evil is nothing more than human vanity,  
Playing out patterning bred in the jungles of long ago.

\* \* \* \*

Once upon a timeless, in some long ago, an ancestor sat on a branch alone,  
When another ancestor nearby, uttered a sound that s/he thought s/he understood.  
Thus fell the metaphorical fruit of knowledge, of good and evil,  
And the solitude of the garden dreamscape,  
Was, for a brief spate of the mind born of time, undone.

\* \* \* \*

Do right and wrong, good and evil, life and death,  
Really matter for more than a brief mortal while?



## **Soundbites**

Good and evil exist only in imagination; the ultimate is quite free of either.

\* \* \* \*

Good and evil will always require great insight to discern the lack of difference between them.

\* \* \* \*

What more can be said of good and evil, but that they exist only in imagination.

## **Breadcrumbs 2018**

### **Leftovers**

What are so-called good and evil,  
But relative states of self-absorption, imaginary all the while.  
Different states of consciousness, founded on different values, different frames of reference.  
None of which, are in any way lasting or meaningful, in the eye of awareness.

\* \* \* \*

Good and evil are but human inventions,  
That could never exist in the ultimate indivisible quantum reality.  
Theatrical pretenses of consciousness, at best.

\* \* \* \*

The quantum source abides all.  
It is indifferent to any and all and every difference.  
Black and white, good and evil, yes and no, dualities of any make or model,  
Are but the ephemeral whimsies of temporal imagination.

## **Breadcrumbs 2019**

### **Leftovers**

The motley winds of consciousness with all its attributes, all its dualities:  
Black and white hot and cold, full and empty, good and evil, life and death,  
Has absolutely nothing to do with the still awareness through which it blows.

## **Breadcrumbs 2021**

### **Leftovers**

Good and evil, like and dislike, love and hate, great and small, black and white.  
All conceptions of manifest consciousness, of imagination.  
Awareness ever aloof, untouched.

## Soundbites

Problem-solvers ... Toolmakers ... Playmakers ... the axis of good and evil, indeed.

### Breadcrumbs 2022

Imagination is the Original Sin.  
Until it usurped awareness, good and evil did not exist,  
And their reality is still an unproven doctrine, one left to philosophers who pontificate on ethics,  
And the rest, to those who ceaselessly spin their self-absorbed realities,  
Into every imaginable form of self-righteousness.

\* \* \* \*

The Garden of Life and Death.  
The Garden of Good and Evil.  
The Garden of Desire and Fear.  
The Garden of Sweet and Bitter.  
The Garden of Black and White.  
The Garden of Sound and Silence.  
The Garden of Kind and Callous.  
The Garden of Full and Empty.  
The Garden of Hot and Cold.  
The Garden of Ones and Zeros.  
The Garden of Dualistic Notion.

\* \* \* \*

Only human beings imagine good and evil to be real.  
Is there any other earthing who conceives such absurdity?

## Soundbites

How can good and evil exist anywhere but imagination?

### Breadcrumbs 2023 and Beyond

What need has the sage for the forbidden fruit?  
What allure does the tree of knowledge of good and evil offer,  
The mind that is no longer drawn to the illusion-delusion of dualistic notion.

\* \* \* \*

No word, no symbol, no ritual, no tradition, no prophet, no deity, is sacred to the ultimate.  
Self-interest breeds a logic screened through too many filters to be at all predictable.  
Avoid moral dilemmas and quagmires; good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

# **The Golden Rule**

## **The Return to Wonder**

**LXIV**

What a different world it would be  
If people had best intentions toward others,  
If the Golden Rule was more than an empty mouthing.

**LXXXIII**

Have broken every golden rule but one, and the day's not done.

**CLXVI**

You do not have to be a Christian, or anything else, to follow the Golden Rule.

## **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim**

**106**

All that is needed – if we want to get along – is the Golden Rule:  
Treat others as you would like them to treat you.  
Everything else is redundant.

**305**

To attain peaceful, harmonious society,  
All any need do is abide by the Golden Rule:  
Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you.

**347**

The many others across all eternity are no different than you,  
And the Golden Rule says it as clearly as it can be said:  
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.  
What need for any further suggestions, principles,  
Guidelines, rules, decrees, edicts, amendments,  
Or commandments or regulations or laws?

## **Breadcrumbs 2015**

### **Leftovers**

And what would this inane world be like if we all respected each other,  
If we all treated one another as we would ourselves choose to be treated?  
Is the so-called Golden Rule anything more than an ideal, a soporific notion,  
To which vanity only rarely allows more than lip service be paid.

\* \* \* \*

Judgment is the attribute of a mind making every effort to maintain its universe supreme.  
Be and allow, unwritten companion to the Golden Rule, is only grasped,  
By those who discern the invisibility of the relativity.

## **Breadcrumbs 2019**

### **Leftovers**

Real religion is without dogma.  
The Golden Rule is all you need.  
Everything else is redundant.

### **Soundbites**

The Golden Rule is all you need; everything else is redundant.

## **Breadcrumbs 2020**

### **Leftovers**

Matters of conscience generally so vary with circumstance,  
That it may well be more than rarely worth giving great credence.  
The karmic undertone of the Golden Rule is surely enough:  
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.  
Mindfulness is the path to a serene existence.

### **Soundbites**

The Golden Rule is all you need; everything else is redundant.

## **Breadcrumbs 2022**

### **Leftovers**

At the absolute level, hurting another, is actually rippling throughout your one and only true Self.  
A reflection which puts something of a spin, a twist, on the Golden Rule:  
Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you.

\* \* \* \*

Whether you 'Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you' Golden Rule it ... or not,  
Is an every-moment, nature-nurture, choiceless choice, sculpting your imaginary destiny.

### **Soundbites**

Doing the right thing can be somewhat challenging for the Golden Rule-challenged.

## **Breadcrumbs 2023 & Beyond**

### **Leftovers**

You are your world, he is his, she is hers, they are theirs.  
No need to despise another over something that cannot be changed.  
Be and allow is the greatest order; the Golden Rule, its most harmonious tenet.  
Treat others as you would prefer them to treat you.  
All else is redundant.

\* \* \* \*

The Golden Rule is all that is needed for those inclined to ponder upon such things,  
And becomes much less an issue for any working their way up any given food chain.

### **The Corollaries of Yaj Ekim**

Ancient Proverb:  
Golden Rule: Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you.  
Yaj Ekim's Corollary:  
Respect others, as you wish them to respect you.

# On Philosophy, Ethics, and Values

*And what is good, Phaedrus,  
And what is not good –  
Need we ask anyone to tell us these things?*

Robert Pirsig

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zen\\_and\\_the\\_Art\\_of\\_Motorcycle\\_Maintenance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zen_and_the_Art_of_Motorcycle_Maintenance)

## Philosophy

philosophy |fə'läsəfē|  
noun  
(pl. philosophies)

the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence,  
especially when considered as an academic discipline.  
See also natural philosophy.

- a particular system of philosophical thought: Schopenhauer's philosophy.
- the study of the theoretical basis of a particular branch of knowledge or experience:  
the philosophy of science.
  - a theory or attitude held by a person or organization  
that acts as a guiding principle for behavior:  
don't expect anything and you won't be disappointed, that's my philosophy.

## Ethics

ethics | 'eTHiks |  
plural noun

1 [usually treated as plural] moral principles  
that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity:  
medical ethics also enter into the question | a code of ethics.

- the moral correctness of specified conduct:  
many scientists question the ethics of cruel experiments.

2 [usually treated as singular] the branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles.

Schools of ethics in Western philosophy can be divided, very roughly, into three sorts.

The first, drawing on the work of Aristotle, holds that the virtues (such as justice, charity, and generosity) are dispositions to act in ways that benefit both the person possessing them and that person's society.

The second, defended particularly by Kant, makes the concept of duty central to morality: humans are bound, from a knowledge of their duty as rational beings, to obey the categorical imperative to respect other rational beings.

Thirdly, utilitarianism asserts that the guiding principle of conduct should be the greatest happiness or benefit of the greatest number.

your so-called newspaper is clearly not burdened by a sense of ethics: moral code, morals, morality, values, rights and wrongs, principles, ideals, standards (of behavior), value system, virtues, dictates of conscience.

## Values

value | 'valyoō |  
noun

1 the regard that something is held to deserve; the importance, worth, or usefulness of something: your support is of great value.

- the material or monetary worth of something: prints seldom rise in value | equipment is included up to a total value of \$500.

- the worth of something compared to the price paid or asked for it: at \$12.50 the book is a good value.

2 (values) a person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life: they internalize their parents' rules and values.

3 the numerical amount denoted by an algebraic term; a magnitude, quantity, or number: the mean value of  $x$  | an accurate value for the mass of Venus.

4 Music the relative duration of the sound signified by a note.

5 Linguistics the meaning of a word or other linguistic unit.

- the quality or tone of a spoken sound; the sound represented by a letter.

6 the relative degree of lightness or darkness of a particular color:

the artist has used adjacent color values as the landscape recedes.

verb (values, valuing, valued) [with object]

1 estimate the monetary worth of (something): his estate was valued at \$45,000.

2 consider (someone or something) to be important or beneficial;  
have a high opinion of: she had come to value her privacy and independence.

noun

1 houses exceeding \$250,000 in value:  
price, cost, worth; market price, monetary value, face value.

2 the value of adequate preparation cannot be understated:  
worth, usefulness, advantage, benefit, gain, profit,  
good, help, merit, helpfulness, avail;  
importance, significance.

3 society's values are passed on to us as children:  
principles, ethics, moral code, morals, standards, code of behavior.

verb

1 his estate was valued at \$345,000:  
evaluate, assess, estimate, appraise, price, put/set a price on.

2 she valued his opinion: think highly of, have a high opinion of,  
hold in high regard, rate highly, esteem, set (great) store by,  
put stock in, appreciate, respect; prize, cherish, treasure.



Philosophy

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy>

\* \* \* \*

Ethics

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics>

Ethics in Religion

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics\\_in\\_religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics_in_religion)

\* \* \* \*

Ethics Quotes

BrainyQuote: <https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/ethics-quotes>

Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/ethics>

Values Quotes

BrainyQuote: <https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/values-quotes>

Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/values>

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Aristotelian Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotelian\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotelian_ethics)

Nicomachean Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicomachean\\_Ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicomachean_Ethics)

Eudemian Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eudemian\\_Ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eudemian_Ethics)

Magna Moralia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna\\_Moralia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Moralia)

\* \* \* \*

Christian Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_ethics)

Islamic Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_ethics)

Buddhist Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist_ethics)

Confucian Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism#Social\\_morality\\_and\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism#Social_morality_and_ethics)

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List of Philosophies

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_philosophies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_philosophies)

Stoicism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoicism>

Existentialism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Existentialism>

Absurdism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absurdism>

Agnosticism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnosticism>

Atheism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atheism>

\* \* \* \*

Lists of Philosophers

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists\\_of\\_philosophers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_philosophers)

Britannica: List of Philosophers

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/list-of-philosophers-2027173>

Britannica: Philosophers Portal

<https://www.britannica.com/browse/Philosophers>

\* \* \* \*

Outline of Ethics

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline\\_of\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_ethics)

Index of Ethics Articles

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index\\_of\\_ethics\\_articles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_of_ethics_articles)

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Outline of Philosophy  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline\\_of\\_philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_philosophy)

Applied ethics – philosophical examination, from a moral standpoint, of particular issues in private and public life that are matters of moral judgment. It is thus the attempts to use philosophical methods to identify the morally correct course of action in various fields of human life.

Bioethics – analysis of controversial ethical issues emerging from advances in medicine.

Environmental ethics – studies ethical issues concerning the non-human world. It exerts influence on a large range of disciplines including environmental law, environmental sociology, ecotheology, ecological economics, ecology and environmental geography.

Medical ethics – studies ethical issues concerning medicine and medical research

Professional ethics – ethics to improve professionalism

Discourse ethics – discovery of ethical principles through the study of language

Normative ethics – study of ethical theories that prescribe how people ought to act

Metaethics – branch of ethics that seeks to understand the nature of ethical properties, statements, attitudes, and judgments

\* \* \* \*

Buddhist Ethics  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist\\_ethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist_ethics)

Gautama Buddha  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gautama\\_Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gautama_Buddha)

Four Noble Truths  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four\\_Noble\\_Truths](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Noble_Truths)

Noble Eightfold Path  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noble\\_Eightfold\\_Path](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noble_Eightfold_Path)

Four Right Exertions  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four\\_Right\\_Exertions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Right_Exertions)

Five hindrances  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five\\_hindrances](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_hindrances)

Seven Factors of Awakening  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven\\_Factors\\_of\\_Awakening](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Factors_of_Awakening)

Anussati  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anussati>

### **Four Noble Truths**

- Existence is painful
- Unhappiness is caused by selfish craving
- Deliverance from pain is found through non-attachment
  - Eightfold Path

### **Eightfold Path**

- Right views
- Right intention
- Right speech
- Right action
- Right livelihood
  - Right effort
- Right mindfulness
- Right concentration

*Practice wisdom, morality and meditation*

### **The Five Hindrances**

- Sensuality
  - Ill-will
- Lethargy
  - Worry
- Indecision

### **Seven Factors of Enlightenment**

- Mindfulness
- Investigation of existence
  - Persevering effort
  - Enkindle rapture
  - Maintain calm
- Concentration on right values and things
- Equanimity; good grace toward what life has in store

### **Ten Contemplations**

- Impermanence
- Absence of a permanent self or soul
  - Profane nature of physical world
    - Danger or disadvantage
      - Abandonment
      - Detachment
      - Cessation
  - Distaste for external world
- Impermanence of component things
- Mindfulness of in-breathing and out-breathing

## **Religion v. Evolution**

Darwinism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darwinism>

Natural Selection

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural\\_selection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_selection)

Creationism

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creationism>

Creation Science

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creation\\_science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creation_science)

Intelligent Design

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligent\\_design](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligent_design)

Social Darwinism

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social\\_Darwinism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Darwinism)

Scientific Theory

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific\\_theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_theory)

## **Pew Research Center on Religion v. Evolution in the United States**

### **Religious ‘Nones’ in America: Who They Are and What They Believe**

A closer look at how atheists, agnostics and those who describe their religion as ‘nothing in particular’ see God, religion, morality, science and more

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2024/01/24/religious-nones-in-america-who-they-are-and-what-they-believe/>

### **Overview: The Conflict Between Religion and Evolution**

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/overview-the-conflict-between-religion-and-evolution/>

### **The Social and Legal Dimensions of the Evolution Debate in the U.S.**

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/the-social-and-legal-dimensions-of-the-evolution-debate-in-the-us/>

### **Public’s Views on Human Evolution**

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2013/12/30/publics-views-on-human-evolution/>

### **Darwin and His Theory of Evolution**

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/darwin-and-his-theory-of-evolution/>

### **Evolution: A Timeline**

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/evolution-a-timeline/>

### **Religious Groups’ Views on Evolution**

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/religious-groups-views-on-evolution/>

### **Fighting Over Darwin, State by State**

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/02/04/fighting-over-darwin-state-by-state/>

## Where Is the Line?

Where is the line between infinite and infinitesimal, and who decides?  
Where is the line between order and chaos, and who decides?  
Where is the line between light and dark, and who decides?  
Where is the line between love or hate, and who decides?  
Where is the line between good and evil, and who decides?  
Where is the line between rational and irrational, and who decides?  
Where is the line between large and small, and who decides?  
Where is the line between this and that, and who decides?  
Where is the line between near and far, and who decides?  
Where is the line between right and wrong, and who decides?  
Where is the line between in and out, and who decides?  
Where is the line between black and white, and who decides?  
Where is the line between real and unreal, and who decides?  
Where is the line between fact and fiction, and who decides?  
Where is the line between sincere and disingenuous, and who decides?  
Where is the line between thick and thin, and who decides?  
Where is the line between peace and war, and who decides?  
Where is the line between genuine and hypocritical, and who decides?  
Where is the line between win and lose, and who decides?  
Where is the line between many and few, and who decides?  
Where is the line between tall and short, and who decides?  
Where is the line between narrow and wide, and who decides?  
Where is the line between tangible and intangible, and who decides?  
Where is the line between loose and tight, and who decides?  
Where is the line between hot and cold, and who decides?  
Where is the line between within and without, and who decides?  
Where is the line between true and false, and who decides?  
Where is the line between yes and no, and who decides?  
Where is the line between truth and lie, and who decides?  
Where is the line between have and have not, and who decides?  
Where is the line between new and old, and who decides?  
Where is the line between pleasure and pain, and who decides?  
Where is the line between us and them, and who decides?  
Where is the line between caution and paranoia, and who decides?  
Where is the line between up and down, and who decides?  
Where is the line between knowledge and ignorance, and who decides?  
Where is the line between formal and informal, and who decides?  
Where is the line between ethical and unethical, and who decides?  
Where is the line between awake and asleep, and who decides?  
Where is the line between sage and fool, and who decides?  
Where is the line between creator and creation, and who decides?  
Where is the line between the mystery and You, and who decides?

### Breadcrumbs 2024 & Beyond

# Young Sheldon: Passion's Harvest and a Sheldocracy

Young Sheldon  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young\\_Sheldon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_Sheldon)

Passion's Harvest and a Sheldocracy (Season Six, Episode Three)  
<https://transcripts.foreverdreaming.org/viewtopic.php?t=88513>

## Sheldon and Dr. Sturgis

Ethically, can science ever go too far?

Just because we can do something,

does that mean we should do something?

Yes.

I haven't finished.

- I'm sorry, go on.

- Ethically,

should science have any limitations?

No.

Interesting.

What about human cloning?

More of me? Yes, please.

Well, what about more of everyone else?

No, thank you.

What about, uh, dinosaurs?

Herbivores, yes. Carnivores, no.

Well, what about the herbivores  
who can squash you like a bug?

Good point. No dinosaurs.



- So, cloning is unethical?
- Right.

But what if we were to clone Albert Einstein?

That would be swell.

At some point, I'm going to need a sidekick.

So, cloning is ethical?

Right, because Albert Einstein, unlike the dinosaur,

harmed no one.

I think the victims of the atomic b\*mb,

which his discoveries helped create, might disagree.

So, what's the right answer?

That's why we're here, to find that out.

Why don't you just tell us?

- Why don't you?
- I asked you first.

You're it, no backsies.

(laughs)

### **Sheldon and Dr. Sturgis**

- Sheldon?
- Dr. Sturgis.

I don't think I can do the assignment.

Why not?

Just pick either side of any ethical argument

and present it.

But how do I know which  
argument to present?

Any one you want.

And how do I know which side to take?

Any side you want.

But I want to take the right side.

Maybe there is no right side.

(groans) This is t\*rture,  
and that can't be ethical.

There you go! You picked a subject.

And a side.

Oh. Good. t\*rture is unethical.

That's clearly the correct position.

I agree.

But what if there's a b\*mb

hidden underneath the city

and someone says that the only  
way to find out its location

is through t\*rture?

Answer that.

Let's see.

Batman plays by Gotham City rules

and would use t\*rture,  
but Superman's got

those Midwest values.

I hate ethics!

**Sheldon with George and Missy**

Can you two help me with my homework?

Did I hear him right?

Yeah, he asked for help.

- With his schoolwork?

- Yep.

- How long have you known him?

- All my life.

- Has he ever asked for help?

- No.

- Hello.

- Hang on.

Is this some kind of prank?

It's not a prank. I just  
need help with my homework.

- Did a bully take it from you?

- No.

Is it real heavy? You  
need help lifting it?

No, I need your opinion  
on an ethical dilemma.

Should robots have the  
same rights as humans?

That depends.

What's "ethical" mean?

(cow moos on TV)

## Sheldon with Mandy, Missy, and Georgie

Good morning, everyone.

Niblingo.

I'm sorry, what?

It's an honorific I came up with to

describe a woman who's carrying  
my future niece or nephew

but is not related to me by law.

You remember Sheldon.

I do.

Yeah.

I'm glad you're here.

I have a question about robot ethics

I was hoping you could help me with.

Sheldon, leave her alone.

No, it's okay, he can ask me a question.

I'm his, uh... What am I?

- Niblingo.

- Niblingo. What's your question?

Ethically, should a robot  
be programmed to never k\*ll,

even if k\*lling would save lives?

Where's the dang toaster?

Welcome to breakfast at our house.

## Sheldon's 'Sheldocracy' presentation

I started working  
on this presentation  
to address specific ethical dilemmas.

The laws of robotics,  
whether torture can be justified,  
and cloning people for  
fun and spare parts.

But I realized before resolving  
any of these moral quandaries,  
the real decision is  
who gets to decide.

Do we put it up for a vote?

Does everyone get to  
decide for themselves?

Should it be by committee?

Is that committee elected or appointed?

You see where I'm going?  
You probably don't.

For the smartest decision,  
we need the smartest person.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the  
field of scientific ethics,

we can't rely on  
democracy or plutocracy.

We need an autocracy,  
or to be more precise, a "Sheldocracy."

♪ ♪

Um, I don't think this  
was the assignment.

Sorry, Dr. Sturgis, I  
pick the assignments now.

Everybody, for next class,

I want words on what you can do

to further the Sheldocracy.

Punishment for typos will be severe.

Class dismissed.

Hey, that's my line.

No, it isn't.

Why don't you see me after class.

Class dismissed.

♪ ♪

# **A Few Ditties on Duality**

## **Misconstruing the Relativity**

To maintain any one path most true,  
To insist on duality in any way, any shape, any form,  
Is to completely misconstrue the relativity of this manifest dreamtime.

## **The Stillness Before Time, IV**

### **Vanity's Prison**

Duality is the outcome of ignorance,  
And ignorance of the false nature of opposites,  
Is the vain prison that imagination ceaselessly fortifies.

## **The Stillness Before Time, IV**

### **The End of Ideals**

Serenity is the outcome of integration, not an ideal.  
Ideals are merely abstractions of unresolved duality,  
Ceaselessly playing hide-and-seek with themselves.

## **The Stillness Before Time, XVII**

### **Neither Nor**

Neither hard nor soft, sharp nor dull,  
Wise nor foolish, humble nor vain,  
Sweet nor bitter, long nor short,  
Strong nor weak, large nor small,  
Good nor bad, intelligent nor stupid,  
Truth nor lie, far nor close,  
Stirring nor still, love nor hate,  
Light nor dark, perfect nor imperfect,  
Nor duality ad infinitum,  
You are.

## **The Stillness Before Time, XVII**

### **The Stillborn of Duality**

Avoid moral dilemmas and quagmires.  
Good and evil are the stillborn of duality.

### **The Stillness Before Time, XXIII**

#### **Nothing But Whatever**

As consciousness grounds in awareness,  
As you clearly perceive illusion is not reality,  
As you discern duality is the source of all suffering,  
As the birthright of beingness resumes its rightful function,  
There is nothing left to do, but whatever needs doing.

### **The Stillness Before Time, XXIII**

#### **The Pretend of Duality**

We are all created of the same source,  
By whatever name you might wish to call it.  
Our sense of individuality is merely a fleeting illusion,  
Born of the attachment of consciousness to mind-body-spirit.  
In reality, we are all equally the same awareness permeating all things.  
All dualistic notions are vain delusion fabricated by imagination.  
Yes, it all seems real and true enough at any given moment,  
But if you fully contemplate the ever-present now,  
You will discern that this state we call life,  
Is really nothing more than a very temporary,  
Touchy-feely, three-dimensional, sensory reverie.  
The indivisible, absolute mystery, pretending existence.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, The First Page**

#### **The Mysterious Source**

That source, that origin, that fount, that nucleus, which is called by many names,  
Is prior to any sensory theater, prior to all forms small to great,  
Prior to any whimsical certitudes of imagination,  
Prior to any notion of this or that,  
Prior to all dualities,  
Prior to every definition,  
Inspired by the myriad other.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 3**



### **Naught But Dualistic Notion**

There is absolutely no evidence of a distinct deity.  
Hope, faith, conjecture, speculation,  
Are born of fear and dread,  
Of divisive, dualistic perceptions,  
And only encumber the inquiry into the truth within.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 11**

#### **Quantum Illusion**

The human epoch is really about pride,  
About the emergence from the slimy pool,  
Into an extemporaneous theater,  
Forged in dualistic notion.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 17**

#### **The Journey That Calls You**

Trying to meld a nondualistic view of this immeasurable mystery,  
With the egocentric-ethnocentric-geocentric collusions born of time,  
Requires way too many rationalizations, compromises, and contortions.  
Just because some falsehood bears the authority of tradition means nothing.  
Give no weight to what is unnecessary; travel the journey that calls You.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 18**

#### **The Good and Evil of Conscious Design**

Nature is what works,  
And what does not, evaporates into oblivion.  
Good and evil are nothing more than constructs of human consciousness.  
There was never any such thing in this whirling garden orb,  
Prior to the emergence of dualistic notion.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 24**

### **Your Singular Nature**

What are the imaginary dualities to You,  
Who is the fundamental awareness in all things.  
You, who is serene witness to all creation.  
Known or unknown, done or undone,  
Oblivion is your singular nature.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 33**

### **The Echoes of Imagination**

Good and evil are dualistic, arbitrary notions, created by imagination.  
They are nothing more than echoes across the expanses of the singularity.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 42**

### **The Fallen Garden**

Knowledge cleaves the enigmatic mystery of consciousness,  
Into every sort of dualistic conception under the sun.  
The forbidden was harvested, and Eden lost.  
Fallen monkeys, indeed.  
And this pillaged garden will hobble on,  
For as long as humankind survives its memories real.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 49**

### **No Rhyme, No Reason**

There is absolutely no rhyme or reason to suspect, much less believe,  
There is some sort of supreme being outside your Self,  
Or at least one that does not also include You.  
How could any of this be happening,  
Without Your participation,  
To the very core of Your beingness.  
Any duality is false, from all beginnings, to all ends.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 57**

### **The All-Is-Vanity of Imagination**

Ultimately, there is no evil, there is no sin, there is no dark side.  
There is only corrupted, twisted, perverted consciousness.  
There is only the veiling, the muddying of awareness.  
There is only ignorance and delusion and duality.  
Evil does not truly exist in any way or shape or form,  
But through the vanity-vanity-all-is-vanity of imagination.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 60**

#### **The One-and-Only Moment Reality**

Move prior to concept, to form, to struggle.  
Be simple, carefree, serene, tranquil, absolute, sovereign.  
For those lacking discernment, the ceaseless inventions of dualistic notion,  
Are but the quagmire of knowledge, of opinions, of beliefs,  
Absorption in the voracious mind-body identity,  
In the ever-beckoning sirens of desire.  
All merely distractions,  
From the timeless awareness,  
The every-moment one-and-only reality,  
Within and without all creations small to great.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 68**

#### **The Eternal Witness**

Personality is reaction to the sensory play.  
It is the response of the mind-body to its environment.  
The disharmony of duality dissolves as concern for mortality dissolves.  
Attention shifts from the travails of imagination, to the awareness prior to consciousness.  
From desire, fear, anger, sorrow, separation in any of its many forms,  
To the indivisible serenity of the eternal witness.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 88**

#### **The Absurdity of Dualistic Notion**

The absurdity of duality is obvious to anyone paying close attention to anything.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 99**

### **When? Where? What?**

When the mind is still, where is the yearning for continuity?  
Where is the notion of duality that harbors passion?  
Where is the player, the actor, the identity?  
Where is the witness woven of time?  
What is there but the awareness of emptiness?  
What is there but that birthless-deathless creation of all?  
What is there but eternal life, eternal oblivion, eternal redemption?

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 99**

#### **The Ruse of Imagination**

Individuality is the ruse of imagination,  
Inspired by the lie of the senses.  
You are the absolute total functioning,  
Prior to the limited scope of time and space.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 122**

#### **A Mixed Bag of Mindful and Mindless**

Other than in its human form, nature has no individuality, no character, no ego.  
The human paradigm is but a happenstance-happenstance of this beyond-all-pales mystery theater,  
Evolved absolutely, by the creative dynamic of quantum, witnessed by awareness.  
Intentional or not, here our kind is, doing what vanity does,  
In its mixed bag of mindful and mindless.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 129**

#### **The Duality of Imagination**

The awareness is the ever-present witness.  
The observer and the observed are indivisibly one.  
It is only in imagination that dualistic notion finds lodging.  
Consciousness, no matter how profound or creative,  
Can never be anything more than imaginary.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 152**

## **Changing the Perspective**

And what if that which so many call God, is truly equally good and evil?  
It is truly only the notion born of dualistic limitation that needs changing.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 132**

#### **Shards of the Same Mystery**

Individuality is a delusion, fabricated by consciousness, locked within a sensory dream.  
Across the infinity of all dimensions, all creation shares the same Soul.  
All are but shards of the indivisibly unfathomable.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 133**

#### **A Rare and Lonely Calling**

The burden of traditions across this magical garden,  
Muddy the unfolding now with every sort of dualistic notion.  
How can everyone be free to discern the greatest vision,  
With so much hollow dogma weighing them down?  
Only the rare have the courage to stand alone.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 144**

#### **The Hoax of Consciousness**

All dualistic notions are the hoax of consciousness,  
Ever enticed by the kaleidoscoping play of the senses and mind.  
You are this ephemeral, eternal, nonexistent moment,  
Nothing more, nothing less, nothing but,  
No matter the fabrication.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 147**

#### **Defining the Line**

How intelligent does one have to be, to not be stupid?  
How beautiful, to not be ugly? How good, to not be bad?  
How correct, to not be wrong? How wise, to not be foolish?  
Where is the line between any yay, any nay, any this, any that,  
But some inflated, arbitrary formulation, of the given mind.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 147**

### **The Disharmony of Duality**

It is only in human consciousness,  
That the disharmony of dualistic notion takes place.  
In whatever way you might observe this infinite, indivisible matrix of a dream,  
Whether physics or chemistry or biology, everything is connected,  
Without any separation, any otherness, whatsoever.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 155**

#### **The Ultimate Singularity**

Mystery may splinter into an infinity of shards,  
But in each and every one, the ultimate singularity is absolute.  
Only in consciousness can duality be conceived,  
And the many delusions of illusion,  
Play their wayward daze.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 157**

#### **The Surreality of Duality**

What is so arduous about realizing the truth,  
That the awareness within all, that the witness within all,  
Is completely detached, objectively indifferent, benignly disengaged,  
To the countless dreamtimes of consciousness, in all its pursuits, in all its passions.  
It is the ether, the mysterious spirit of totality; name it if you must.  
Duality is but the splintering of imaginary perception.  
You are it, it is You, there is no other.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 176**

#### **The Singularity of Duality**

Bringing together heaven and earth,  
Merging duality into the singularity of all origins;  
Now, there is the rub, so to speak.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 179**

### **Duality in a Nutshell**

For there to be good, there must be evil,  
And that, my friend, is duality in a nutshell.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 201**

### **The Original Flaw**

Perfection is your inherent nature.  
Duality, the original flaw.  
Your perfection was misplaced,  
When the time born of consciousness,  
Took root in the tabula rasa of your innocence.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 210**

### **The Bittersweet Harvest**

Hate and revenge are the most bitter harvest of dualistic notion.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 222**

### **All Divisions Imagined**

Breathe in the duality, and know all divisions are imagined.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 228**

### **Prior to All Notions**

Truth is prior to any dualistic notions of creator and creation.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 230**

### **The Dualities of Language**

All the pronouns of separative flavor, of dualistic tone,  
All the I's and you's and he's and she's and they's and we's,  
Do not in the most ultimate sense, for any particular, truly make.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 247**

## **All Potentials**

All have within them the limited and unlimited potential.  
Everything narrow and broad, shallow and deep.  
It is attachment to the individual dreams,  
That binds all sentient beings,  
To the dualities born of the senses.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 251**

## **Imagination's Duality**

The mortal senses do not care what they see, hear, touch, taste, or feel.  
It is only the mind, only imagination, that creates a universe of dualistic notion.  
The body is but a vehicle, in which the singularity plays an eternal game of hide-and-seek.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 286**

## **The Source of Beingness**

You are the original source, the light that creates,  
All form and shadow, all meaning and purpose,  
All duality, in every imaginary way possible.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 287**

## **Duality's Veil**

Where duality reigns, the ever-present truth is ever veiled.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 296**

## **The Theater of Mind**

From the beginning, and before, to the end, and after,  
Everything is indivisibly, seamlessly, ineffably connected.  
Only in the mortal theater of mind, is duality imagined.

**The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 300**



### **The Great Disconnect**

The great disconnect between humankind, and that called god by many names,  
Is entirely fashioned of consciousness and the inherent limitations,  
Of all concepts lodged in the dualistic temporal vision.  
Only those who transcend the false belief,  
That they are the mind and body,  
Realize what they truly are,  
Have ever been, and will ever be.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 305**

### **The Quantum Pretender**

Quantum stardust somehow organized,  
To such an implausible degree, as to pretend it is alive.  
And when that was no longer entertaining, evolved into human beings,  
In order to ceaselessly manufacture every sort of absurdly dualistic fiction imaginable.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 335**

### **The Illusion of Nothing**

Loneliness versus aloneness, duality versus singularity,  
The sorrow of imagination versus the sovereignty of absoluteness.  
There is really nothing to compare, when there is really nothing to be measured.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 344**

### **The Indivisible Singularity**

Duality is nothing more than an arbitrary, meaningless concept,  
Born of the sensory illusion that you are separate.  
It has no ultimate reality whatsoever.  
You are the primal essence that is indivisibly singular,  
Unfathomable, absolute, prior to all imaginings born of consciousness.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 346**

### **The Concoction of Imagination**

What is required to awaken,  
Is to inwardly pay very close attention,  
In a non-intellectual, prior-to-consciousness way,  
Until you very logically, without doubt, discern for your Self,  
That you, the witness, the observer, are the observed.  
All duality is the concoction of imagination.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 346**

#### **Stand Tall, Stand Free**

You need not submit to the dualistic notions, of this world or any other.  
They are but ceaseless sensory manifestations, born of temporal limitation.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 368**

#### **The Linguistic Mirage**

It is through language that all conscious distinctions are made.  
Prior to the articulation of imaginary self through personal pronouns,  
Prior to the fabrication of knowledge, Eden was free of any dualistic notion.  
There is no god, there is no devil, there is no heaven, there is no hell,  
But through the ceaselessly absurd confabulations of mind.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 386**

#### **Two Sides of the Same Coinless**

Heaven, hell, 'tis ever the same.  
There is no other side, no other way.  
Despite all dualistic notions to the contrary,  
It is all the same quantum oneness.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 394**

#### **The Source of Duality**

There is no duality until consciousness diverges into the self that is not.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 457**

## **God's Expression**

Nature is the mystery's expression,  
And humankind but one of its myriad creations.  
Separate only in consciousness, dualistic only in the mind,  
In no way any less indivisible than all creation can be from its creator.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 394**

#### **Forget Everything**

Forget everything.  
Dismantle the conditioning;  
The attachment to any conceptual weavings.  
Become that which has no boundaries.  
That which discerns no duality.  
No within, no without.  
No inner, no outer.  
No this, no that.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 402**

#### **Dreamtime's Veil**

What is consciousness but a dreamy cloud of imagination;  
Of dualistic notions inspired by the sensory creation.  
One may clearly distinguish reality though it,  
But the dream in itself is not the truth.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 452**

#### **The Serenity of Detachment**

Best stay detached from humanity's ceaseless inanities.  
Until the splintered souls of this dualistic world wake up,  
The insane absurdities of estrangement will carry on.  
Some sort of realization may or may not happen,  
But there is no point being daily upset about it.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 468**

## **The Irony of Duality**

What irony that in the face of an incredibly astonishing mystery,  
Humankind has lost itself in an absurd collusion of every possible vanity.  
An entirely imaginary invention, this myopic notion of a separate, individual persona.  
A duality sparked in consciousness, when it began its evolutionary spin in the jungles of long ago.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 472**

#### **Attitude is All**

Attitude is all.  
With the flip-flop of a thought, sorrow becomes joy;  
Bad, good; bitter, cordial; anger, calm; violent, gentle; arrogant, humble; sour, sweet; dark, light.  
The remedy to a dualistic world, is the within that is within all withouts.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 497**

#### **We Are All Just Animals Here**

We humans are all animals here,  
Mammals with consciousness enough, with imagination enough,  
To perceive the sensory play in such a way as to fabricate the notion, the absurdity, of individuality.  
Animals with a beyond-the-pale aptitude for communication and tool-making.  
But animals, nonetheless, animals, nonethemore.

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 498**

#### **Shades of Gray**

What are the shades of gray between black and white,  
Good and bad, right and wrong, right and left, bitter or sweet,  
Or any other dualistic notion born of the monkey-mind's play of time?

### **The Ponderings of Yaj Ekim, Page 500**

# Ten Reflections

## I

Become a conscious, sovereign human being, awakened to the intuitive wisdom of Self, witness to the reality and unreality of this timeless-spaceless mystery of time and space.

## II

Respect this diverse garden world, and the inherent rights of all creatures great to small. They are all masks of the same creation. There is no other.

## III

Treat others at least as well as you would prefer they treat you. Do not expect them to return the favor, or to learn from your example. No one will ever be you.

## IV

Live and let live; live and let die; grasp and release; give and take; win and lose; forgive and forget; inhale and exhale; fly and land; swim and drift; rise and fall; open and close; lock and unlock; come and go; start and stop; begin and end; flow and resist; tense and relax; be and allow; create, preserve, destroy.

## V

Moderation in all things. Gluttony, greed, sloth, envy, wrath, lust, and pride are the roots of limitation, the source of suffering. The axis of evil is nepotism and cronyism and favoritism. Take delight virtue, in integrity and simplicity.

## VI

Share what you have to share. But not in such a manner that it is degrading or disempowering to those you serve. Giving to get is not sharing.

## VII

Play win-win whenever practical. Unmitigated competition is ultimately a dysfunctional paradigm. Avoid unnecessary conflict. No one really wins a fight. There are plenty of cooperative, egalitarian opportunities for those seeking the inherent ground.

## VIII

Bring children into this world only if you intend to truly care for them. There are far too many human beings already. Life is arduous enough without a harsh, imbalanced beginning.

## IX

Do not put false wealth above real relationship. Learn to listen to the many voices of nature. Learn to see with its many eyes. Mountains of gold do not compare with a child's joy in a mound of sand, a bird's, in the morning sun, or a dolphin's, in the passing wave.

## X

Creation and preservation and destruction are equal partners in this kaleidoscoping light and sound show, playing out in the infinitesimally infinite aloneness of this dreamtime quantum theater. Deeply understanding this, may lessen the suffering of your relatively brief, more than a little absurd existence. Try not to take it all so seriously that you cannot laugh, at least occasionally, at this temporary mind-body, at this transient identity, this ephemeral, ever-changing, three-dimensional illusion, to which you are so attached.

# Got God?

## **Do you believe in God? If so, describe what you mean by that?**

Godness is the “I am That I Am” within each of us. It is the everything and the nothing. It is the smallest particle to the greatest whole. It is the isness, the nowness, the awareness, the timeless indivisible, unborn, undying source of this infinite, unknowable mystery. It is the creation, preservation, and destruction of every part and particle playing out the grand theater, the eternal kaleidoscoping holograph of space-time. That spark of divinity, of the Self within all selves, is the witness acting out every dreamtime imaginable.

Each and every life form is the immortal totality splintered into mortal fare. The source of life, of creation, is more than any measurement can ever explain or define. All attempts to grasp it, all the traditions, symbols, rituals and concepts, all the speculations ever devised in this garden world, or any other, are equally limited as anything but intuitive reflections. They are all merely a means to an end, not an end in themselves.

Time is a fabrication of consciousness. It is the virtual reality of the mind; the cotton candy of imagination. The ephemeral, momentary nowness is the only reality. Every life form, no matter who, what, where, when, why, or how, is very much of the same evolving creation, the same source, the same light, the same dreamer, the same witness, the same amness, the same uniqueness, the same absolute oneness. No matter how you slice and label it, we are all holographs of the same essence.

## **If you were raised in a religious environment, has that had a positive or negative impact on your life?**

Organized religions across the world clutch vainly to beliefs founded upon geographic assumptions whose foundations have all become brittle and stale in this shrinking world. Groups throughout time have again and again claimed to be the standard-bearers of truth, but have all too often created far more conflict than community in their ethnocentricity. The net result is that the many propagandas of history are weighing us down with clashing notions. Notions that no longer hold water when examined closely.

The fact is that we are all the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and those blind to this most simple, obvious understanding, those attached to literal translations and dogmatic collusions, cannot help but perpetuate unnecessary confusion and disintegration.

Religious traditions, with all their customs, folklore, symbols, rituals, and concepts are products of time and its inevitable limitations. Their value is that they remind us of our relationship with the mystery of our existence. But to vainly cling to any as more than temporal tools, to battle over them in any way, to use them as anything but maps home, presents a narrow vision of the eternal quest. The word is only sound, and no sound can more than echo through the expanses of eternity.

Organizing the spiritual quest tends to box godness into a concept. And in the journey beyond concepts, into that which is immeasurable, there are no boundaries, no assumptions, that withstand that which creates, preserves, and destroys all illusions. The source of time is bound to no form, and inevitably harvests all.

### **Do you believe in heaven, hell, and judgment day?**

Heaven and hell are states of mind, plays of consciousness, that only seem real where the now of time meets the road. Heaven is a sense of intuitive unity, an understanding, a clear harmony, a serene contentment. Hell is its divisive counterpart filled with unending prejudice, complexity, and contention. It is the passionate mind playing out the dualistic weavings of desire and fear, and the suffering they endlessly bring to fruition. Every day is judgment day for those confined by the illusory, dualistic play of the senses. In separation we are demons, in unity we are angels. Who has not tasted every potential to some degree?

### **Can prayer heal the sick?**

If you really have faith, do you need to pray? Sickness, injury, aging, and dying are inevitable in this mortal theater. Oblivion of personal identity is the undeniable fate of all forms. Yet that quantum essence each of us truly is, is immortal, and this very simple realization creates a far different view of life, than most seem destined to entertain at any given time. What each of us really is, is far greater than birth and death, and the limitations of any manifest theater. And praying to imagination for mortal immortality, is rooted deeply in the quicksand of ignorance.

### **Are your religious/spiritual beliefs separate from your political ones?**

Every action ripples. Every cause creates effect, and every effect becomes cause to the next effect. Those aware of this tend to walk more attentively in their day-to-day actions. Separative choices lead to disintegration; holistic ones to integration. Through interactions with others we show what we value. Are religion and politics separate? All division is the play of the time-bound mind. As long as we as a species value power, fame, and fortune more than we value right relationship, as long as we are in the grips of worldly attachment, as long as we worship mammon and idolize form, we journey toward an inevitable, synergistic fate of our own creation. The paradigm from which we spawned is no longer functional, and the bell is daily tolling louder.

### **Describe a spiritual experience you have had recently.**

Is there any moment that is not spiritual, magical, mysterious? Whether sitting on the porcelain throne, or caught up in an inexplicable vision, every moment's unfolding is ultimately very much the same. We may or may not be tuned in, we may prefer some moments to others, but in reality, the ungraspable is sky to all the cloudy creations of consciousness, wherever or however they unfold. Pay attention to the vastness within, or meander through every sensory, dualistic diversion the world offers, it is all the same ephemeral virtual reality. Life is an opportunity to reflect upon the indivisible oneness within and without, and to take it as any more than a three-dimensional, quickly passing mirage, misses its greatest potential.

## **What is the soul?**

What is not the That I Am? What is not the ground of all creation, preservation, and destruction? What is not the indivisible, immortal, absolute reality, that permeates all seen and unseen? What is not the same quantum mystery residing in everything, from the smallest particle of an atom, to the farthest galaxies of all creation? Godness, as discerned through consciousness, is as expansive or limited as any given personal vision, yet cannot be confined by any. Ultimately, there is no other. The ocean of godness, of isness, of hereness, of nowness, is all, including the drop of awareness reading this. The proof of it is that no one, no creature ever birthed upon this spinning garden has ever, will ever, or can ever discern more than a reflection of its own face. All forms are splinters of the same witness, the same oneness, the same faceless unknown. All attributes, all measurements, are born of the illusion of the quantum matrix of space-time, and to be bound by any reverie is the delusion of ignorance.

**"Got God?" was a response to a seven-question survey of Chico News & Review readers published in April 1996.**



# Of the Human Journey

Mortal existence is not easy. It never has been, and never will be, for any creature sown of this garden orb, this smidgeon of quantum dust, floating in the vast, immeasurable unknown. What follows are thoughts about the human journey; its theatrical paradigm and the fare existence offers, and the choices all must resolve, very much alone, in the sojourn through the veiled maze of space and time, of consciousness, with all its dualistic notions. It is a journey of ecstasy and agony, courage and fear, love and hate, absurdity and insanity, irony and paradox, life and death. It is the ineffable, insoluble mystery, born of the passionate mind, and the ever-flowing array of perceptions, of patterns, every human being faces, in the movement though birth, sickness, injury, aging, dying, and death.

These reflections are written to help promote a larger vision of where we as a species are heading. One that attempts to look beyond humankind's many seemingly irreconcilable divisions. One that values insight and wisdom. One that elevates rather than detracts. One that seeks to foster a sense of guardianship, rather than destruction and manipulation, of our little dust ball garden, and the many life forms it has spawned.

We live in a time period similar, yet increasingly unique, among the many eras come and gone before. Excessive population, coupled with unprecedented, unrestrained industries and technologies, and the consumption frenzy they feed, are driving our petri dish experiment of so-called free will, toward a rather bleak outcome. All the absurdities, all the insanities, we have so carelessly, foolishly, needlessly wreaked upon the earth's magnificent diversity, are huge rebounding tsunamis, awaiting our arrival in time. The rules of the manifest game are simple and uncompromising, and those who bend and break them, must eventually pay the price that Mother Nature, chief arbiter of all things dreamtime, is more than capable of exacting.

As long as we human beings battle over pride-filled, tribal differences, we inevitably embrace a fate of our own synergistic, instinctual, self-absorbed design. The monopolistic win-lose divisiveness wrought since long before history's invention, since our egocentric, competitive, voluntary secession from the garden, spirals us down a path of annihilation. What we have done in all our arrogance, has created a time already nightmarish for many, and will only exponentially accelerate, for those to whom we are now ancestors. And we are nowhere close to discerning a common vision, a truly cooperative paradigm that might sidestep it.

We leave it to future generations, to create solutions to problems, all have aided in forging. We vainly hope that political, economic, and religious leaders will shepherd us to salvation, but they cannot, because the collective vision is too full of limitation and polarity. Despite all our canny attributes, we as a species have not yet fully fathomed our interconnectedness, our inherent kinship, to the indivisible totality. We have not grasped, that time and space, do not exist as any more than a play of consciousness, a collusion of imagination. Nowness is the only ephemeral, eternal reality, and the decisions, the choices, each of us make in this moment-to-moment flowing, of this ever-changing theater, create the dreamtime future.

So many of the leaders we have chosen to follow, with all their insecure, parasitic ambitions for power, glory, and wealth, only wax the slide with empty promises, and compromising, shortsighted decisions. Though many are highly intelligent in many clever ways, too few have the wisdom and integrity, to truly serve those they pretend to lead. The result is, that along with there being no political or economic

solution to the dilemma now unfolding, our dysfunctional paradigm has created a spiritual crisis, well beyond all the vain pretensions so many call religion.

No one has ever, will ever, can ever, see the world exactly the same as anyone else. We are like snowflakes and fingerprints, patterns woven of a mystery, to which all creation is witness in one form or another. Time and space are magical illusions, and each and every one of us is an equal participant, in a vast theater of consciousness, spontaneously playing itself out, in seemingly every possible way. All our knowledge, all our histories, all our schools of thought, the countless frames of reference we imagine individually and collectively, dreamily overlap and merge like ripples, crisscrossing to and fro upon the same sea of relativity.

Words, whatever the language, are conceptual icebergs, each and every one of us envision and translate differently. Thoughts of culture, tradition, ethnicity, gender, morality, currency, politics, religion, ad infinitum, inspire an array of responses, often conflicting because of rigid, dogmatic attachments to time. Yet, at the origin of all consciousness, that quantum field from which this grand three-dimensional mirage has come to pass, is very much the same indivisible oneness, the same universal, eternal truth, despite all our sophomoric, meaningless arguments, over the endless permutations of knowledge, we ourselves have contrived.

All differences are fabrication, make-believe, fantasy, whimsey, delusion, born of imagination. All polarizations, whether cultural, racial, sexual, geographic, economic, political, religious, mythological, and on and on, are illusive deceptions, born of the play of matter, of light and sound, and the theater they together weave. Each of us imagines a personal universe, in which all travel very much alone, despite all the sensory evidence to the contrary. Until one can see past the attachments to an individual life, the many differences seem real, but ultimately, they are not, never have been, and never will be. It is a dance too vast, for any mind to more than intuitively discern, and perchance fathom, that it is lead dancer in its spirit-mind-body chronicle.

We are passing through a holographic epoch of time, in which the seemingly countless dramas of human existence, are available for all who have capacity and means to explore. What evolved of geographical isolation, can now be witnessed in whatever fashion predisposition allows. There is a tendency, due to the aberration of pride and the quest for false glory, to argue one mythology's supremacy over another, yet is any collusion, more than a conceptual adaptation to time and circumstance? Is any one version, any one dream of consciousness, any one play of imagination, from the ultimate-reality perspective, really, truly, in any way, superior, to any other? Might may make right, but it does not make truth.

No one gets out of this manifest existence alive, and every human being ever born comes to grips with that truth, in whatever way capacity and limitation allow. Some create hells for themselves, while others discern within, a quality, a virtue, a harmony, that has been given countless names across the world. Most of us, of course, wander the purgatory between. In the journey of life, each of us swims an ebb and flow, in which the individual spirit-mind-body plays out incalculable variations of the passions born of desire and fear.

The life any of us creates, with all its perceptions and interpretations, is a blend of voluntary and involuntary choosing. Traditions are creations every cultural grouping, every societal mindset, fabricates, in order to maintain continuity in those the genetic lottery casts into its geographic realm. No one is bound to continue believing anything, but through the conditioned choices of imagination, that some call free

will. Those who discern their own law, see this manifest play far differently than those, who, for whatever reason, cannot see past their attachments to the narrow propagandas of history, whatever the scale.

The gist of these reflections, is to encourage those who see their immeasurable nature, to become that to which they aspire. Intuitively, spontaneously free, to meet the moment as it unfolds, whether or not it fits the vision of any other individual or group. In the statistical bell curve of any rise and fall, of any creation and destruction, there are always the initiators, and those who tag along well after. Those who entertain the greatest vision, are already among the many who do not. Whether the reader sees it as a fact or not, we are all that which is the same indivisible upwelling, the same inexplicable mystery. Eternity is very much present within every part and particle, every quantum of the dreamtime to which all are witness. It is a vision so spaceless, so timeless, so infinite, so infinitesimal, as to be intrinsic to all creation, from You, to the farthest reaches and beyond.

Is the human species, with all its competitive predispositions, capable of comprehending and responding to a larger vision of itself? With all that is facing us, do we have the luxury of time? Probably not. More than very unlikely, in fact. Though the transformation of consciousness is an instantaneous matter, we as a species are caught in the juggernauting wave of collective ignorance, avarice, hedonism, narcissism, and countless attachments to choices made in times long before our brief little window, our tiny little scratch of the timeline. We may agree the problems ahead are nearly insurmountable, but a paradigm shift into a cooperative, balanced, intuitive, holistic, realistic mindset, is too much of a change for most to even begin to fathom, much less enact, at this point in time.

Despite the countless lessons offered by history, we are too attached to building mountains of false gold, practicing divisive religion, maintaining rigid traditions, following disingenuous leaders, promoting the idolatry of personality, supporting destructive institutions, fabricating egocentric class structures, producing adverse technologies, consuming insatiably in every conceivable way, destroying irreplaceable diversity, and killing one another because our ancestors could not get along any better than we, for all the same myopic, space-bound, time-bound, evolutionary, imaginary reasons.

Recognize it or not, the human species is fast-approaching a tailspin of its own design. It is inevitable that this garden planet, and all life that dwells on it, will someday return to its origin. That is the nature of the vast changing, the creation-destruction of each passing moment, in which we all choicelessly, spontaneously participate. The indivisible, impersonal totality; that which relatively few fully discern, much less quest total surrender.

The question is, will we go out with nobility, humility, integrity, and discipline; as fully-evolved human beings, harmoniously realigned with the source of our origin, guardians of what is left of the garden that birthed us all? Or will we exit like fruit flies, churning feverishly for the last dollop of honey in the bell jar; like rats, vying savagely for the last crumbs at the bottom of the cage?

Each of us makes that decision in every step, in every breath, in every deed, every word, every thought. We individually create our own unique, imaginary versions of the universe, and how we work it out together in the impromptu theater of consciousness, only time will tell. The essential quantum reality is not about contrived differences. It is not about futile, conceited pursuits, meaningless paths to glory. Life is an opportunity to perceive, within and without, a vision of an integrated relationship with that which is infinitely, infinitesimally greater than its many parts.

It is the true discernment that each and every one of us, including every angel and every demon, including all creatures small to great, including every infinitesimal, absolute speck of quantum dust swirling within, to the furthest indivisible reaches of the unknown, is equally That I Am, to which mystics across the world, throughout time, point. There is no other.

Each and every one of us is the same indivisible eternal oneness, the same absolute, immeasurable, timeless genesis, playing out the relativity of dreamtime. We are all connected, inseparable, no matter the exterior, no matter the capacity, no matter the frame of reference. No religious middlemen, no stairways to heaven, are necessary. This indelible insight is absolutely free to all discerning enough, to see clearly, that the ethereal thing called truth, is the momentary, intangible, undeniable birthright of the timeless awareness, imbued equally within all quantum creations. This intuitive vision of the clarity beyond form, and the exploration of right living it brings about, is the only true revolution.

This inexplicable mystery we call life, this beyond-boggling organization of matter, is an opportunity to witness the vast unfathomable diversity of this manifest theater, this grand play of creation and destruction, of known and unknown, in whatever way each individually imagines. It is the potential within all, to see that every form born of space-time, is merely one of a ceaseless kaleidoscoping of shapes, of facades, of masks, of patterns, all veiling the same source, the same awareness, the same witness; nothing more, nothing less, nothing but.

The singularity of totality is beyond the scope of the mind, beyond the irrational concoctions of superstition, beyond the rational explorations of science. It is beyond the wordplay of any belief system, beyond the egocentric weavings of individual persona, and the countless delusions spawned of ignorance. We are all alone, together, and how we as a species finally choose to dance the dance, sing the song, walk the walk, and talk the talk, is ultimately, in this mind's eye, the true legacy of the human journey.

Best wishes,

M