

# The Game of God

*Recovering Your True Identity*

by Arthur B. Hancock

and

Kathleen Brugger

Cartoons by

Arthur B. Hancock

copyright ©1993 Arthur B. Hancock and Kathleen Brugger

AEOGIA Press

Revised Edition 2014

ISBN: 978-0-9893582-5-5

[www.gameofgod.com](http://www.gameofgod.com)

Cover Image: Hubble Space Telescope,  
Hubble Images 30 Doradus: NGC 2060 Tarantula Nebula

## Praise for the original *The Game of God*

**Oprah:**

“A great book about God!”

**Tim Allen**, in recommended books from his bestseller *I'm Not Really Here:*

“And, if you *really* have your shit together [read] *The Game of God*.”

**Minneapolis Star-Tribune:**

“It’s seductive to hope that someone has finally made sense of the purpose of human life. Knitting together the development with the conclusion the authors say we are God in disguise. Sensational!”

**Peter Russell**, physicist, author of *The Global Brain*:

“I enjoyed *The Game of God* immensely—and found it most valuable. It’s very much in line with my own thinking these days. In fact, I think we are all getting closer and closer in our expressions of the universal teaching.”

# Table of Contents

Preface to Revised Edition....	<i>page i</i>
Introduction: Why We Need to Forgive God....	<i>page vii</i>
Part One: Incentive to Play....	<i>page 1</i>
Chapter One: The Problem with Having it All....	<i>page 3</i>
Chapter Two: The Limitation of the Unlimited....	<i>page 39</i>
Part Two: Game in Progress....	<i>page 61</i>
Chapter Three: The Reunification of Humpty....	<i>page 63</i>
Chapter Four: Evolution of the Game....	<i>page 91</i>
Chapter Five: The Human Being....	<i>page 115</i>
Chapter Six: Prevailing Beliefs....	<i>page 139</i>
Chapter Seven: Who Am I?....	<i>page 163</i>
Chapter Eight: The Mask of Ego....	<i>page 189</i>
Part Three: Winning the Game....	<i>page 217</i>
Chapter Nine: Love....	<i>page 219</i>
Chapter Ten: Transcending Survival as Form....	<i>page 241</i>
Chapter Eleven: The Awakening....	<i>page 263</i>
About the Authors....	<i>page 293</i>
Credits for Quotes....	<i>page 295</i>

# Preface to the revised edition

## A Metaphysics For the Twenty-First Century

All of us seek the truth. Ignorance is never bliss; in fact, the unknown is the source of all fear. We hunger for answers to questions such as “Who or what are we?” “Why does the universe exist?” and “Does life have a purpose?” Absolute truth, which answers every question, is epitomized in the human concept called “God.”

What we want is a God that makes sense.

Western religions are rapidly losing members in the developed world because they require a believer to accept, on faith, irrational doctrines rooted in pre-scientific worldviews. Eastern religions are similarly freighted with outdated concepts.

*The Game of God* is a theology that integrates many aspects of current scientific understanding—cosmology, biology, evolutionary theory, and psychology. In addition, profound spiritual insights from various traditions such as Hinduism, Taoism, Zen, and Christianity are incorporated.

*The Game of God* answers some pressing theological questions, chief among them the problem of theodicy: why would a loving God create a universe that included evil?

The common conception of God is that of a separate divine entity who created the universe and watches it from a detached perspective. *The Game of God* contends that the universe is literally “God in disguise.” There is nothing that is not God, eminently including so-called “evil.” Every experience is an essential part of the whole.

This metaphysics promotes the highest ethics: every thing and every one in the universe is AEOGIA, An Expression Of God In Amnesia.

Today, our arbiters of reality are increasingly the humanists and atheists (representing a significant portion of the scientific/academic

community), who offer the bleakest view of existence imaginable. Life is meaningless, there is no purpose, the cosmos is hurtling towards eternal entropic death, and any mention of that which cannot be seen in a telescope or microscope is scorned as the wishful thinking of a religious fanatic. Atheists often delight in attacking metaphysics by focusing on and ridiculing the most primitive religious dogma (God as bearded man in the sky, for example).

This dismal worldview does nothing to satisfy our instinctual hunger for meaning, and in fact it can be argued that this doctrine of meaninglessness heavily contributes to the widespread anxiety and depression of modern times.

*The Game of God* was originally published in 1993. There has been one major change in our theology since that time, and that change is reflected in this revised version.

Twenty years ago, we believed in a willful Creator.

As we reflected on our work over the years, we realized that in order for God to have created the universe, *desire* would have been necessary; a *motivation to change* would have been required. God would have had to experience desire.

But desire means dissatisfaction with the way it is. Being motivated to bring about change means something in the present is missing. But God as infinite Oneness, a state of divine inertia, must be utterly free from all desire and motivation. Desire is a limitation; in fact, according to the Buddha, it is the root of all suffering. So what could cause the infinite One—an absolutely unlimited state of completeness—to *want* to experience incompleteness, to *choose* to degrade itself, to *desire* the experience of limitation?

We finally concluded that God did not create the universe. God is not a “Creator.” We now say the universe (or multiverse) is simply a natural facet of the One.

The original version of this book described the universe as “God in a self-induced state of amnesia.” The amnesia component of our formula remains valid (as the only way the unlimited can experience limitation) but the amnesia *is not self-induced*.

We also came to see that the concept of “free will” is a monstrous and destructive lie, and we address this misconception in detail in

our second book, *We Are ALL Innocent by Reason of Insanity: The Mechanics of Compassion*. This work greatly expands on the psychology presented here.

**Notes:**

About the cartoons: in the original print version, every left-hand page contained a cartoon with the accompanying text on the right-hand page. In this ebook version, the accompanying text flows *after* the relevant cartoon.

Humans Anonymous: The original version of *The Game of God* included a chapter called “Humans Anonymous.” In this revised edition we removed this material because we wanted to keep the focus on the metaphysics. There are many paths to awakening, and the 12-Step program is one of them. The original Humans Anonymous text can be found online at [www.gameofgod.com](http://www.gameofgod.com).

Arthur Hancock  
Kathleen Brugger

Asheville, NC  
October 2014

Allons! Whoever you are come travel with me!  
Travelling with me you find what never tires.  
The earth never tires,  
The earth is rude, silent, incomprehensible at first.  
Nature is rude and incomprehensible at first,  
Be not discouraged, keep on, there are divine things well envelop'd,  
I swear to you there are divine things more beautiful than words can  
tell.

—Walt Whitman, *Song of the Open Road*

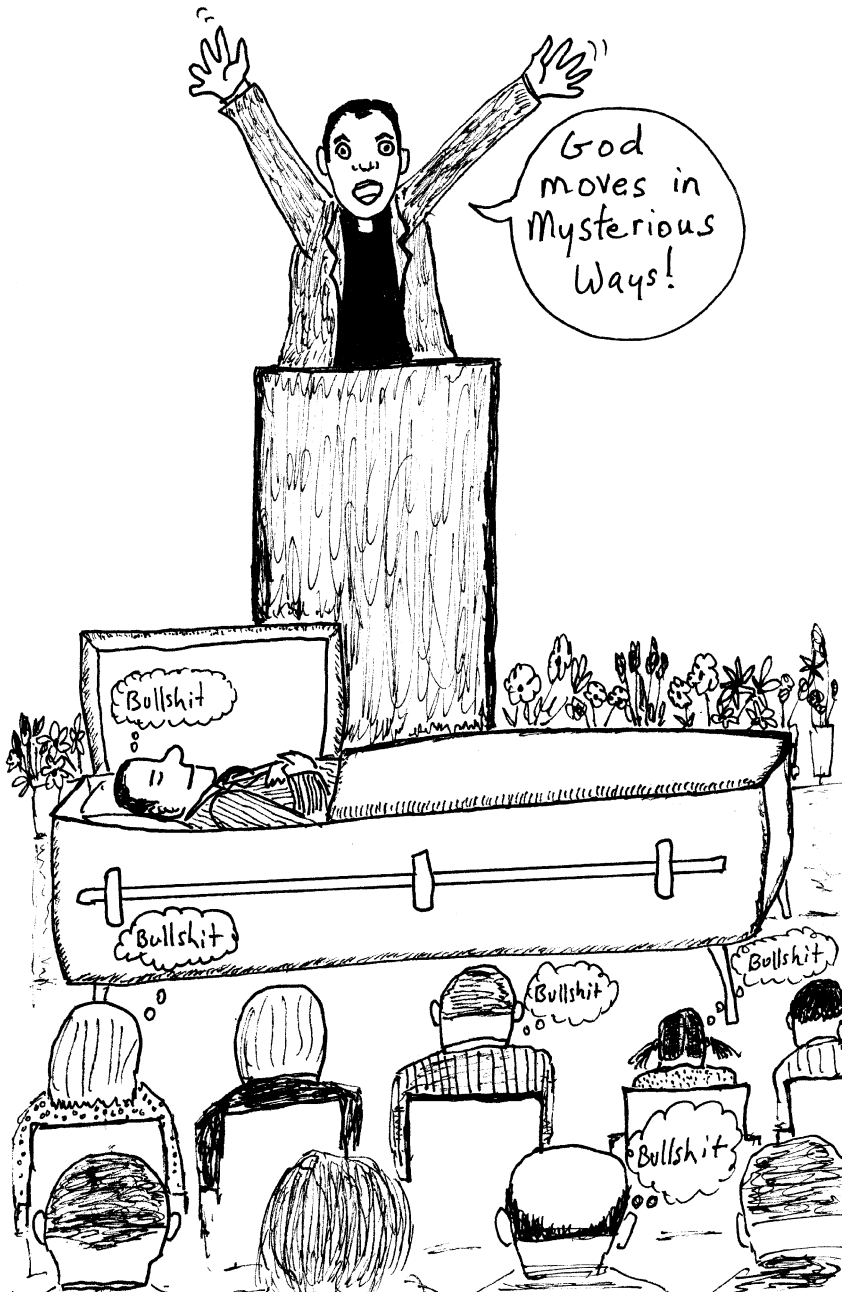


## *Introduction*

# Why We Need to Forgive God

“And don’t tell me that God moves in mysterious ways,” Yossarian continued, hurtling on over her objection. “There’s nothing so mysterious about it. He’s not working at all. He’s playing. Or else He’s forgotten all about us. That’s the kind of God you people talk about—a country bumpkin, a clumsy, bungling, brainless, conceited, uncouth hayseed. Good God, how much reverence can you have for a Supreme Being who finds it necessary to include such phenomenon as phlegm and tooth decay in His divine system of creation? What in the world was running through that warped, evil, scatological mind of His when He robbed old people of the power to control their bowel movements? Why in the world did He ever create pain?”

—Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*



A friend recently told us that,  
of all the funerals he had ever attended,  
he had yet to hear a minister  
satisfactorily answer  
the question,  
“Why did God create death?”

He went on to say that,  
in fact, he had yet to hear  
a minister (priest, rabbi, etc.)  
make any sense of why God had created  
anything at all!

Our friend concluded that  
the most sensible explanation  
for this dangerous and mysterious universe  
is that there is no God.

We live on a tiny planet  
lost in a huge and seemingly indifferent universe.  
Life is a continuous struggle  
that inevitably ends with death.

**Life is a terminal disease.**

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit



Does life have any meaning or purpose?

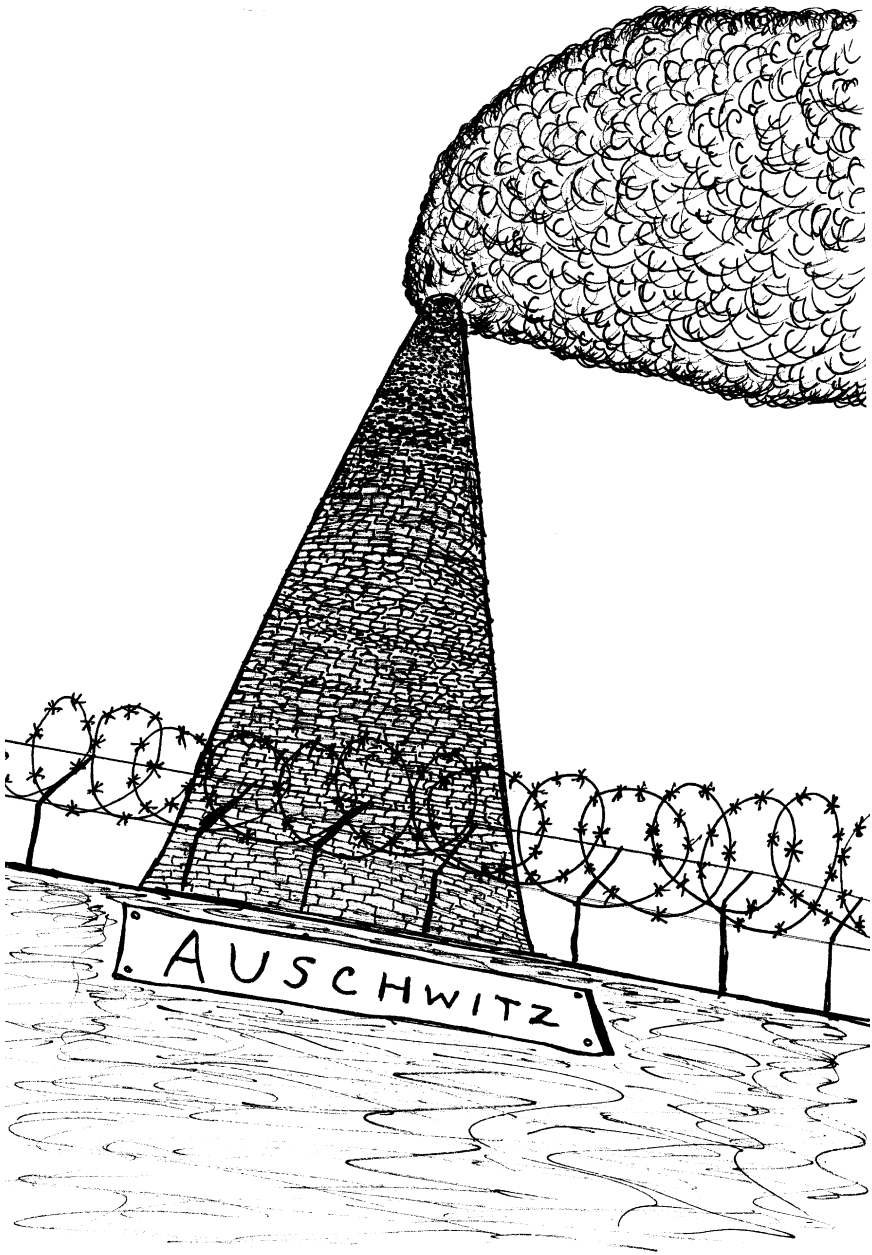
Is there a God?

And, if God exists, why create a universe?

Many religions  
have tried to explain  
God's motives for creating the universe—  
a universe filled with suffering and death—  
but these theologies are often  
illogical and filled with contradictions  
and thus fail to provide comfort  
when a true test arises:  
when real disaster strikes.

A minister once told us that,  
in his experience,  
the death of a child  
was particularly difficult to explain,  
and often resulted in  
expressions of hatred for God  
by the parents, and  
even the abandonment of their faith.

After all, isn't God supposed to be "loving"?



Whatever “His-Her-Its” motives  
(let’s not sex-type the ineffable!)  
how could a God of love  
knowingly create a universe that includes:

cruelty,  
death,  
concentration camps,  
torture,  
child molesting,  
murder,  
rape,  
war,  
disease,  
mental illness,  
starvation,  
slavery,  
greed,  
addiction,  
violence,  
racism,  
gossip,  
sexism,  
etc., etc., etc.?



God moves in mysterious  
ways? Ours not to question  
why? puppy's gone to  
a better place?  
Et.....

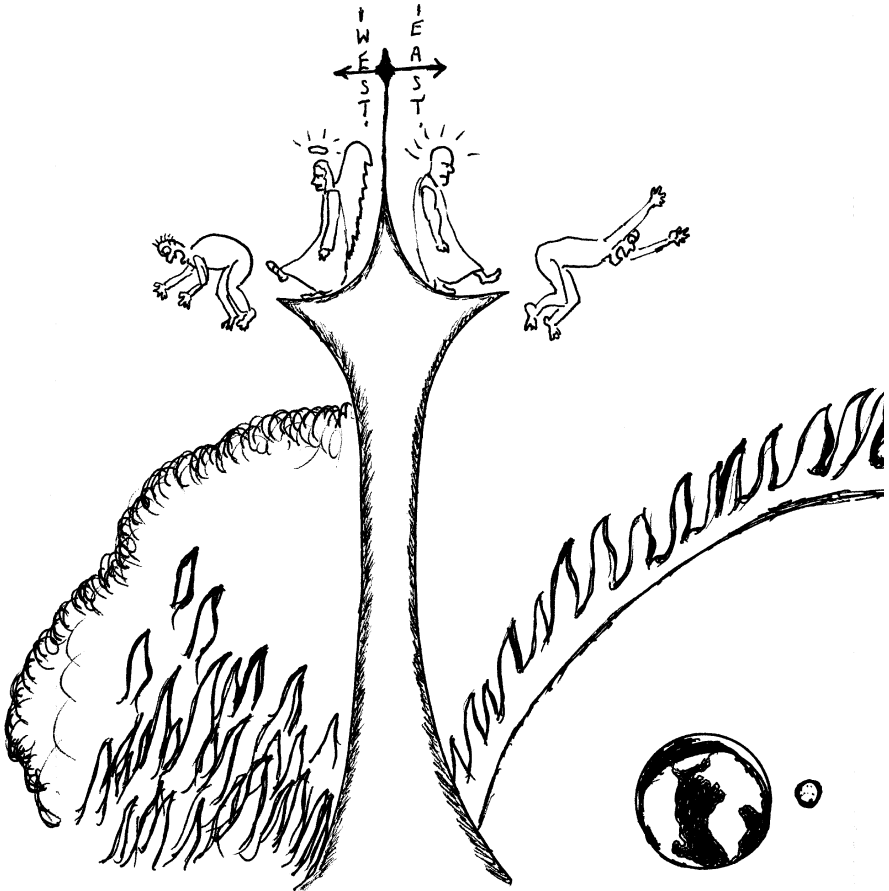


The child's question,  
"Why did God let my puppy die?"  
cannot be satisfactorily answered  
by many of the world's great religions.

We are taught we must love our creator,  
but how can we when we behold His-Her-Its creation—  
a creation that lacks any sensible explanation  
for suffering, ignorance, and death?

It might be argued  
that the positive aspects of life  
are reason enough to love God,  
but the question remains:

Can all the good in the world  
justify the suffering of a single one of God's creatures?



Judgment Day  
West and East

It would seem the best we can do is *fear* our creator,  
and suppress our anger towards a Supreme Being  
who chooses to remain silent and aloof  
while humanity writhes in ceaseless agony.

Some religions believe  
that the ultimate horror comes after life—  
to those who, after a brief sojourn  
in a world of total confusion,  
fail to locate and correctly believe in God.  
These “sinners,” “infidels,” etc.  
wind up in a place of  
never-ending torture called Hell.

Other religions believe  
in an endless cycle of birth and rebirth—  
that unless we live an exemplary life,  
we are doomed to return  
to the hellish struggle for another round.

Both theologies appear to have one thing in common:  
wretched humanity is held hostage  
by the whim of God.



Throughout the ages, so-called saints have taught that the only way we know we're loving God is when we're loving everyone.

If this is true, the loveless state of the world shows that "love of God" is, to put it mildly, exceedingly rare. There is a reason for this: something is blocking our love for God.

The source of all fear is the unknown.

The source of all hatred is fear.

What we fear is what we hate.

What we hate is what we fear.

We are afraid of a mysterious Deity who would deliberately make a universe of suffering, and we hate this Deity for putting us in it!

We cannot love God until we forgive God.

Inside  
More of  
The Same!

# THE DAILY GLOBE

weather  
TORNADO  
WATCH

Vol. 150, Number 28



anyday

## Mass Murderer stalks City

=====



latest victim

## HAITI HAS H-BOMB

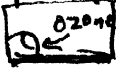
New superpower  
Lists Demands

=====

## Water revealed to cause Cancer

=====

"We've Had it  
Folks," say top  
experts



=====

## Day Care Center was running "Dial-a-child" Prostitution Ring

=====

## Woman Shoots Dog, Then Self

=====



As long as we see the Creator as separate from creation, as most do, we can only be resentful towards the Creator (no matter how deeply we deny and suppress it), because

She-He-It must have  
*knowingly*  
created suffering in others  
(this means us).

An all-powerful creator who willfully designs suffering in inferior creatures is a monster.

The notion of “free will”  
(self-inflicted suffering)  
is ludicrous because God,  
as creator of all,  
must have created evil  
in order to give us a choice!  
And, observably,  
God created humans  
with an overwhelming inclination  
to choose evil (count the true saints).  
Therefore, even if free will was true (which it isn't),  
to be punished by God  
for succumbing to the tempting evil  
She-He-It created is unfair, to say the least!

It is impossible to fear/hate God and love God at the same time.

We fear and hate God because we are misunderstanding God's nature.

Until we face the reality of our fear and hatred towards God, and relinquish it by gaining a deeper understanding, we can never love God.

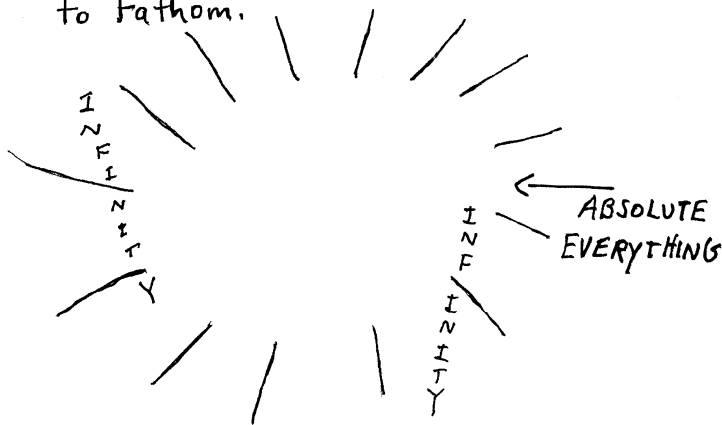


### THE LOGICAL SCIENTIFIC VIEW:

The entire universe suddenly spewed out of absolutely nothing, and many billions of years later, rocks turned to meat and started thinking.

### THE ILLOGICAL METAPHYSICAL VIEW:

The universe exists for reasons we do not yet understand, for purposes we are only beginning to fathom.





This book is about recovery in the ultimate sense of the word: in the sense of universal recovery.

We will present a theory that the evolving universe is actually the recovering universe.

What the universe is recovering is lost consciousness.

What the universe is recovering from is the pain that is the result of lost consciousness.

Our theory proposes that the universe exists, in part, for the adventure of being lost and found.

In this book we will offer a model of God and universe as one. God did not *create* the universe. God *is* the universe—and more. The universe is a Game of God. We hold that this model allows us to understand, thus forgive, thus love, God.

In fact, as we will see, there is absolutely no forgiveness necessary.

Loving God is the only way to win the Game.

# Part One

## The Incentive to Play

I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know God's thoughts, the rest are details.

—Albert Einstein

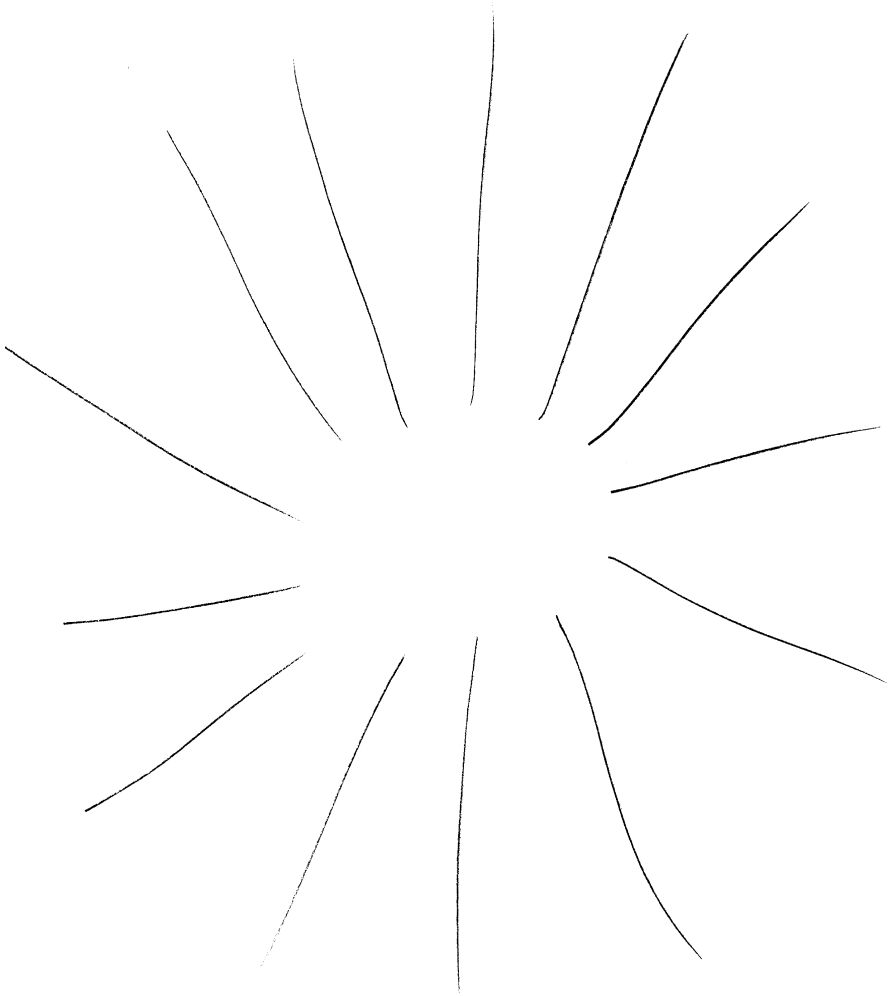
## *Chapter 1*

# The Problem with Having it All

Under heaven all can see beauty as beauty  
only because there is ugliness.  
All can know good as good only because there is evil.  
Therefore having and not having arise together.

Difficult and easy compliment each other.  
Long and short contrast each other;  
High and low rest upon each other;  
Voice and sound harmonize each other;  
Front and back follow one another.

—Lao Tzu, *Tao te Ching*



INFINITY

A fundamental question for those who believe God created the universe is,

“Why?”

In order to attempt to answer this question we need to first try and imagine who God is. The word *God* is surely one of the most misunderstood—thus abused—words in any language. A common definition of “God” is: *the creator and ruler of the universe and source of all moral authority; the Supreme Being* [Oxford New American Dictionary].

Although we will use the word “God” throughout this book, it will become clear that we do not subscribe to the above definition. While it may seem presumptuous folly to attempt to understand God from our ant-like perspective, the truth is we are all attempting it anyway (believer and non-believer alike). Consider this model of God:

- God is absolute experience.
- God is absolute truth.
- God is absolute reality.
- God is absolute consciousness.
- God has no limits.
- God is absolutely unlimited.

THE BANK of WILDEST DREAMS

"We aim to please."

today

\$ 4,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

PAY TO: (Your name here)

THE SUM OF: ONE BILLION TRILLION DOLLARS

For: Anything You Like!



OFFICIAL SCRAWL

*“What does having no limits look like?”*

As all of us are limited, this is virtually impossible to visualize, but let's try anyway.

Let's attempt to make *you*, for example, as unlimited as we can.

To get things rolling, let's imagine that you have one billion trillion dollars.

At an interest rate of 5% per year, you would have an income of almost one million trillion dollars a week without touching the principal...let's guarantee that you would always be this rich.





Now let's make you the  
happiest and  
most beautiful,  
intelligent,  
talented person on Earth.

We'll also give you  
total love for everyone and everything,  
complete satisfaction,  
and eternal life in perfect health.



You never make a mistake,  
you are never afraid or in doubt.

You have complete power;  
you are made King or Queen of the Earth.

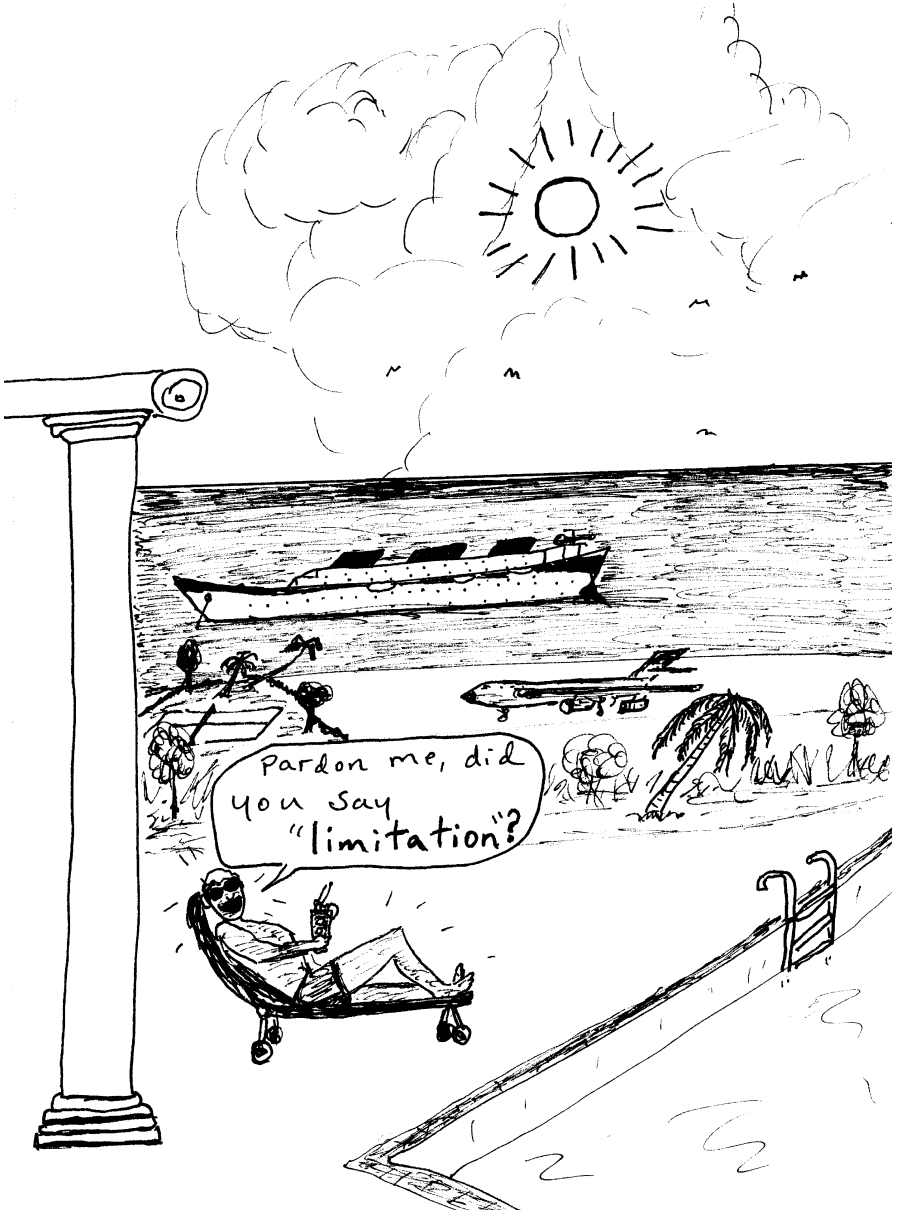
You experience perfect peace,  
you love everyone and everyone loves you.

In short, you have no problems whatsoever.

What, are  
you kidding?  
Just show me  
where I sign!



**Sounds good, right?**



pardon me, did  
you say  
"limitation?"

As illogical as this might sound, can you see any

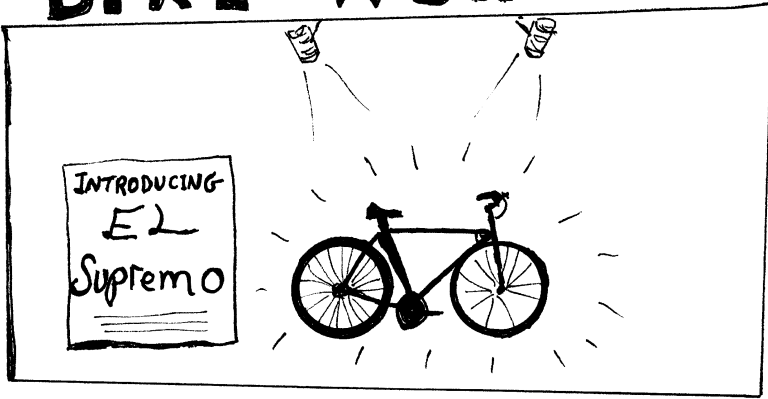
*limitations* to being unlimited?

Any limitations to being:

all-knowing,  
all-powerful,  
immortal,  
wealthy,  
healthy,  
loving,  
satisfied,  
wise, and  
problem-free?

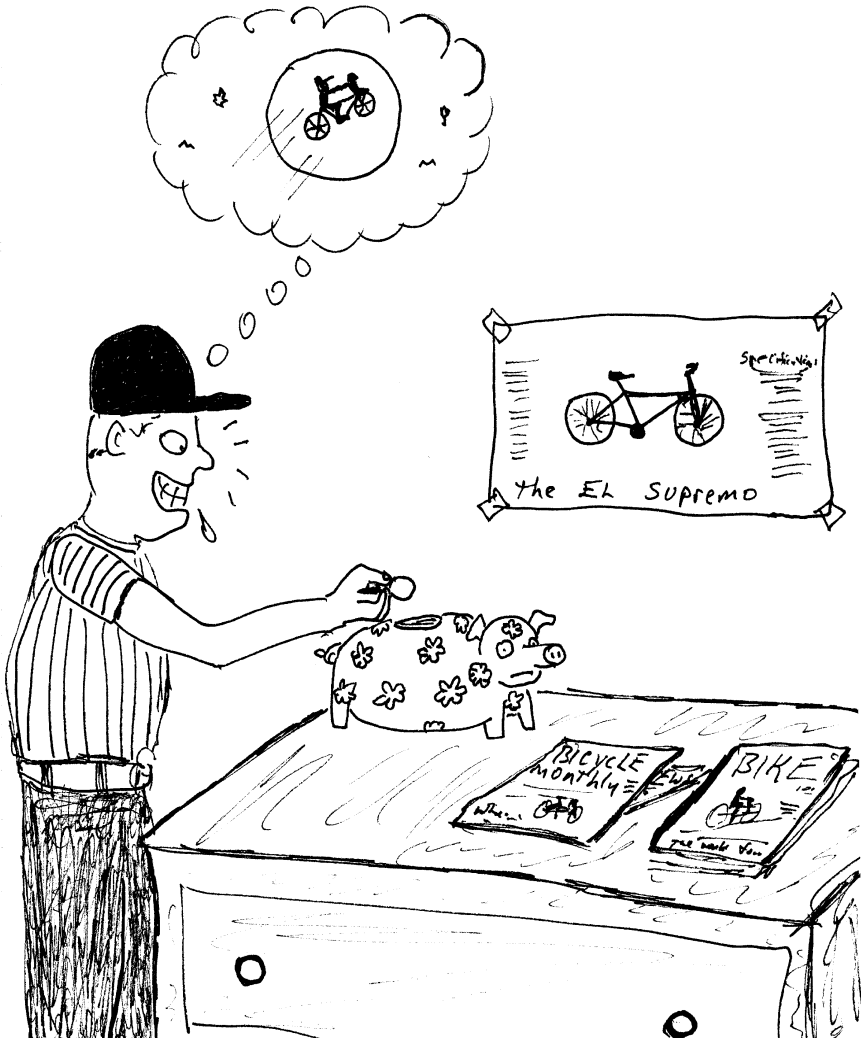
Let's look.

# BIKE WORLD





Remember a time  
when you  
really  
wanted  
something  
...but couldn't afford it?



Remember

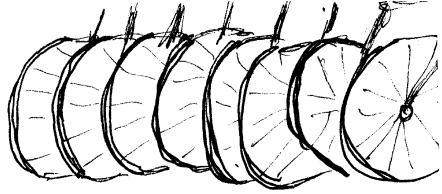
how you saved your money to buy this desired thing,

how you anticipated ownership,

how you spent countless hours dreaming about it,

how happy you thought you would be

when the day finally arrived when you would own it?



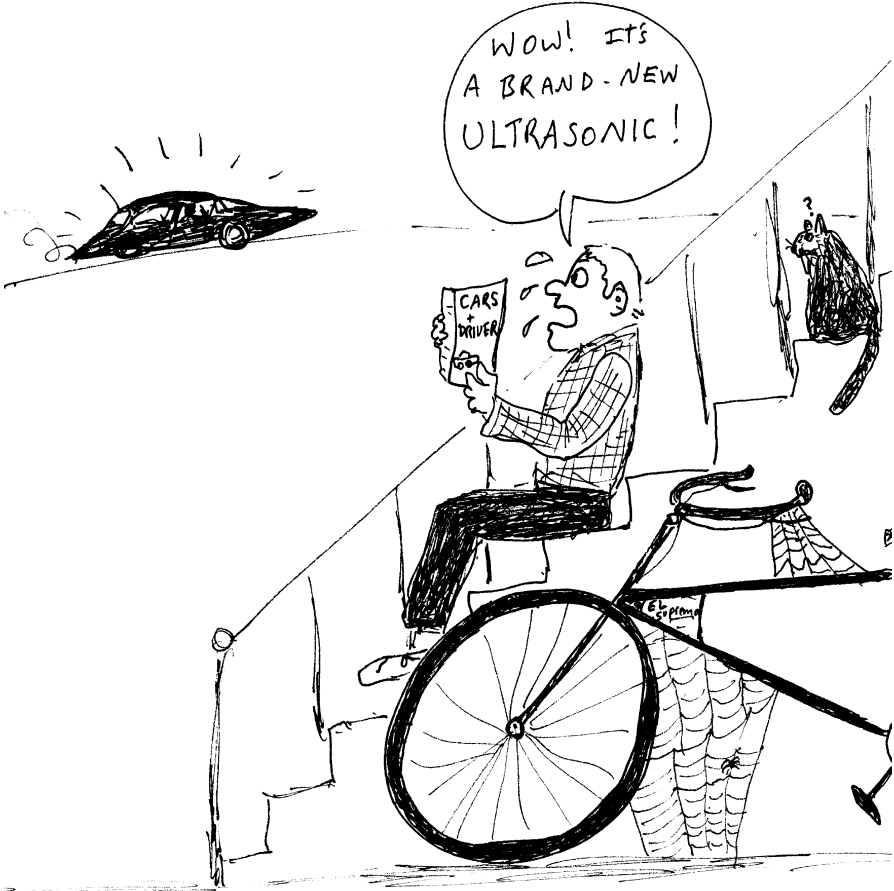
Golly I can't decide!  
I'll take them all! Here's  
a blank check, write in a  
million dollars for yourself  
for being so helpful! 'Bye!



As a sextillionaire, it would soon be absolutely impossible for you to experience anticipation or longing for anything with a price tag. Price could literally never be an object.

*“What’s wrong with this?”* you might ask.

There’s nothing “wrong” with it—in and of itself—we are merely pointing out a limitation to being incredibly wealthy: the inability to experience deprivation and unfulfilled desire.



It is  
an interesting  
and observable truth that  
**anticipation**  
is often more pleasurable than  
**possession.**

The object of one's desire, once attained, can often become commonplace and routine.

Therefore, to be denied the experience of anticipation  
is no small thing.





Might there be some other experiences denied to you, the “person who has it all”?

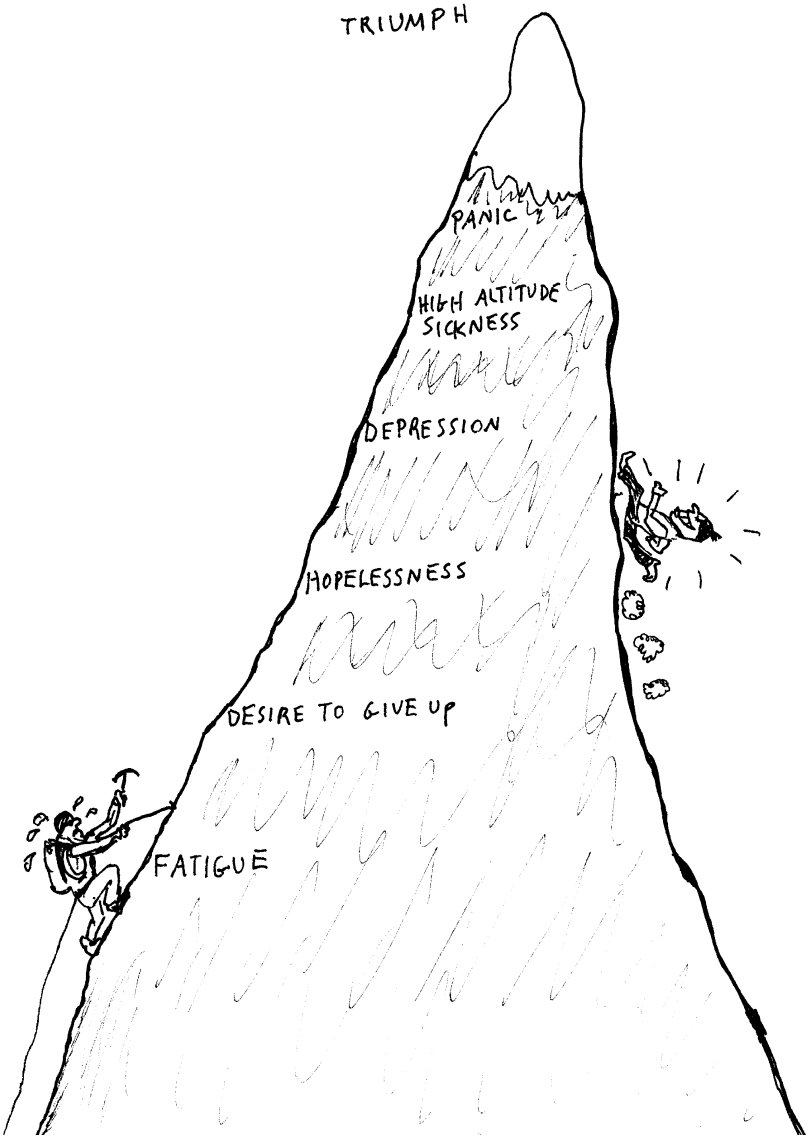
How about the inability to fall in love?

“*But,*” you might ask,  
“*I thought you said I was already in love with everyone?*”

Exactly.

Because you *are* in love with everyone, it is impossible for you to ever experience *falling* in love, that dramatic shift from a loveless state into the experience of love.

Another interesting and observable truth is that  
the experience of falling in love  
is made precious  
due to its  
rarity.  
Again, to be  
denied the experience  
of this ecstatic shift,  
from lovelessness to love,  
is no small thing.



Let's see if we can detect some other limitations that are the inevitable consequence of "having it all."

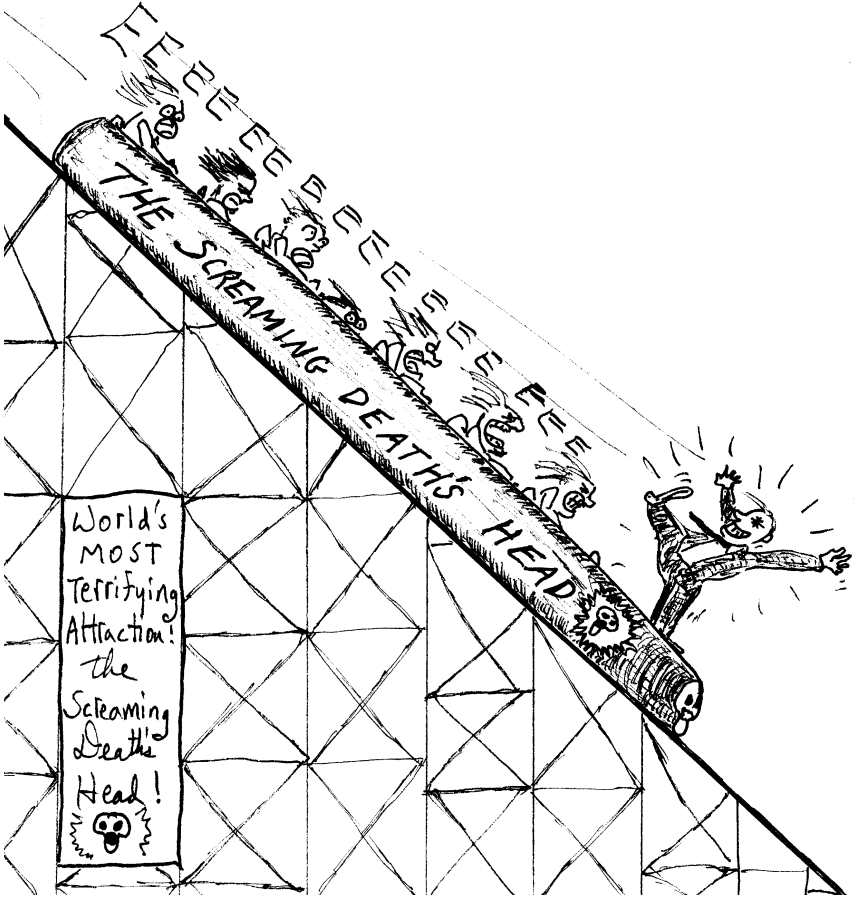
If you never make a mistake and never have a problem,  
it's impossible for you to ever have

the experience of defeat, or  
the experience of struggle required to overcome an obstacle, or  
the experience of triumph when the obstacle is overcome.

These experiences—

the risking of defeat,  
the struggle against it,  
the sting of failure, or  
the triumph of success—

define life as we know it,  
and to be denied them  
is, again, no small thing.



World's  
MOST  
Terrifying  
Attraction!  
the  
Screaming  
Death's  
Head!



Finally (though we could easily go on), your state of immortality would make it impossible for you to experience that perpetual fear of death that haunts all living things...as well as the experience of death itself.

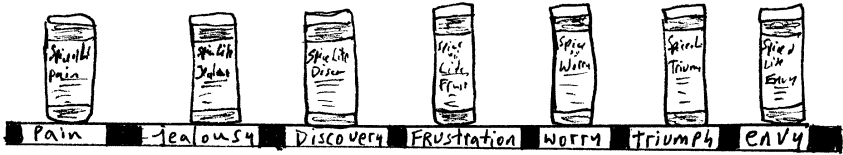
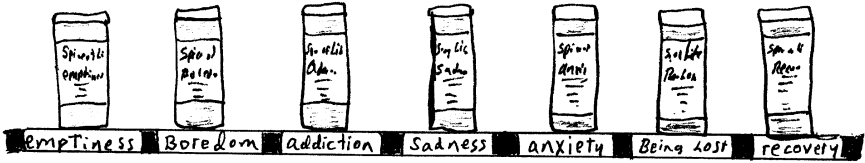
“Surely,” you might say,  
“*there could be nothing negative about this!*”

Let’s see. With your survival guaranteed, you could never be afraid of anything, you would have nothing to lose; there would not be the slightest tension or risk in all of life.

You would be like a person who gambled for eternity and could not lose: who won every game every time. “Winning” would lose all meaning, as life without death would lose all sense of adventure.

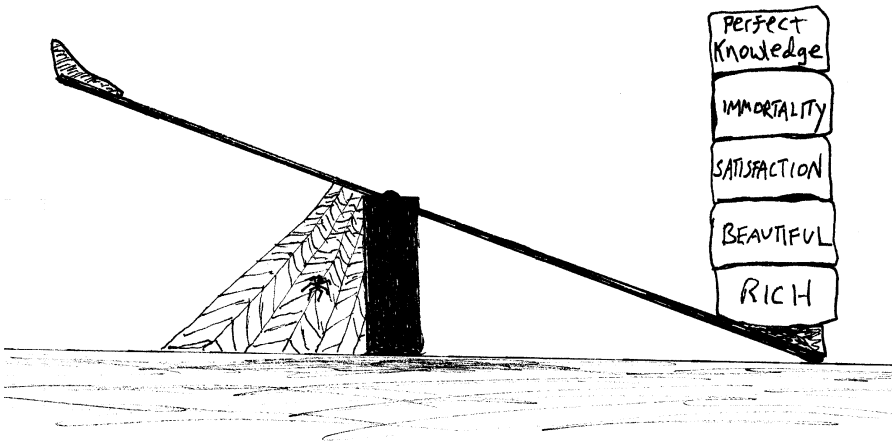
Death is the ultimate unknown,  
and being denied the experience  
of knowing that death could at any time come for you,  
as well as the experience of death itself,  
is, once again, no small thing.

# THE SPICE OF LIFE SELECTION



Looking then, at “having it all,” we see that you do not really “have it all” after all—that any number of very high-quality experiences are utterly denied to you.

But again you might ask,  
*“Why bother with all of these negative categories?”*



Perfect  
Knowledge

IMMORTALITY

SATISFACTION

BEAUTIFUL

RICH



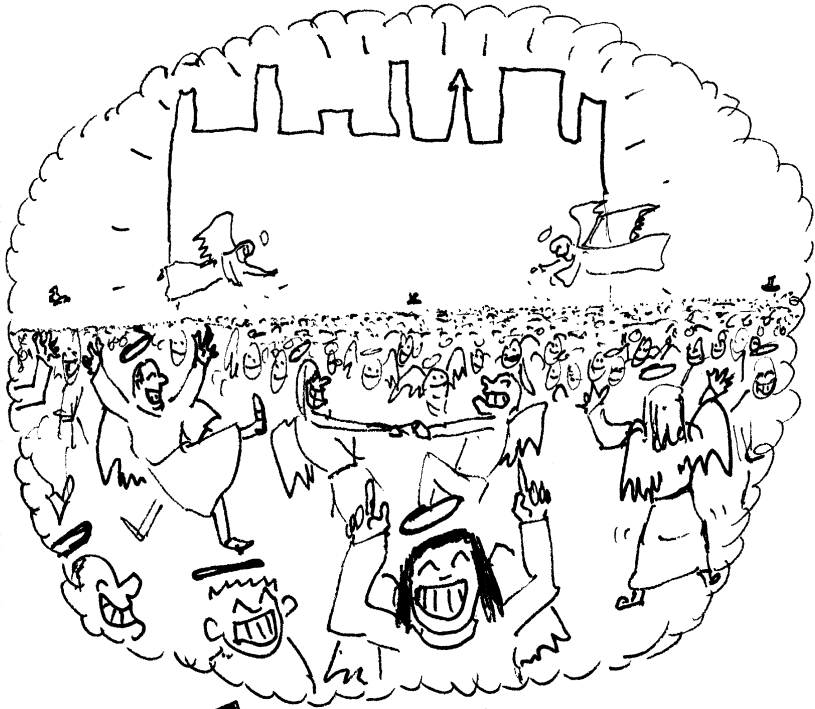
These “negatives” are the obstacles that make the experience of life interesting. A life comprised of all “positives” would be a life without challenge...there would be no growth because there would be no incentive to grow. There would be no need to change because everything would be fine exactly the way it is.

But would it really be fine?  
Experiences on the negative  
(adventurous and exciting?)  
part of the scale would be  
forever denied you.

Should you ever wish to experience any negatives you would be unable to do so...in fact, you could never even have the wish!

You would be stuck as “you” forever!

After a few million years or so of being healthy, wealthy, and wise, can you see that there might be a certain nightmarish sameness to “having it all”?



FIFTY BILLION  
YEARS LATER...



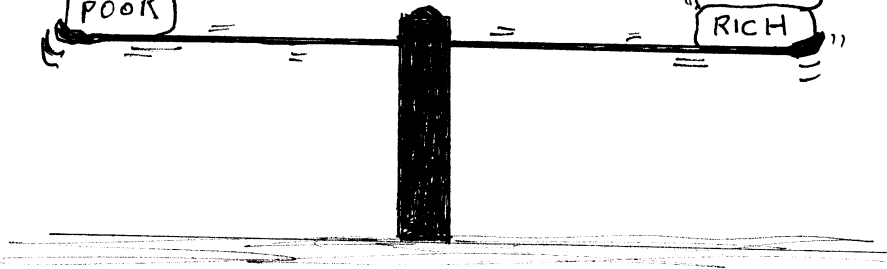
We know someone who,  
as a small child,  
used to have a horror  
not of Hell,  
but of Heaven.

He would sit  
and think  
about never-ending eternal life  
and slowly  
begin to chant,  
“Forever,  
    and forever,  
        and forever...”

until he would be  
almost frozen  
in terror  
at the idea of  
ceaseless existence  
in some static location—  
no matter how glorious—  
and no way out!

IGNORANCE  
DEATH  
dissatisfaction  
UGLY  
POOR

Perfect Knowledge  
IMMORTALITY  
satisfaction  
Beautiful  
RICH



A fine balance

of positives and negatives,  
of weaknesses and strengths,  
of wisdom and foolishness,  
of laughter and tears,  
of love and hate,  
of life and death,

is what makes for growth and action and purpose and meaning...  
and perpetual change!



