

## THE CREATOR IS AN INFANT

I would like to share that I have always had an unusual mind. One of my earliest memories is the joy I experienced each night before falling asleep as I would look into the darkness of my bedroom and see the swirling of multi-colored brilliant neon points of light that I associated with the streaming of stars throughout the Universe. At times this visual lightshow would inspire me to wonder what was beyond the farthest star. This puzzle challenged me until one day I awoke before sunrise and watched the lightshow in the darkness for a while. Then I became aware that they were beginning to fade as the beginning of daylight penetrated my bedroom. Eventually the lightshow ceased and my room and its furniture became dominant. Suddenly it came to me. The space between myself and any object was visually empty and wow, that's what it looks like beyond the farthest star.

Throughout my life I have had unusual, but to me, enlightening insights to various aspects of life itself. Mostly when I attempt to share it the message coming back to me is that it's either too deep or what I am sharing is a simplification of G-d's Creation and therefore my input is sophomoric. Anyway, these pieces, as I look at them, are parts of the puzzle that makes people feel that life itself is G-d's mystery and therefore we are incapable of grasping It. Thus, when tragedy occurs we are comforted somehow by the sentence, "God works in mysterious ways." These insights regardless of the less than encouraging feedback excited me to look ever deeper and instead of me sharing my thoughts verbally I decided to share them with at least myself by writing them down. Thus...the following.

Human Creation in the West was conceptualized by Michelangelo in his religious painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, which presents the Creator as an elderly man, wearing a light colored linen like gown, with long grey hair and a full flowing beard. The very image of G-d in this form with his finger extended toward Adam not only portrayed Adam's creation, but also a very powerful portrayal of G-d as being so very wise. Omniscient! Now this was a bit disconcerting to me as I am Jewish and for Jews G-d is infinite, thus formless. Still, as a not yet awakened young artist, the impression dug deep into my psyche. Being that I was taught that G-d is wise, all-powerful, and present everywhere I found this so very puzzling. Why? Let's take a peek.

I was raised in West Los Angeles during the late 1940's and mid-50's. Our first home was a two bedroom, one bathroom house with four of us kids sharing one bedroom. Our neighborhood of W.L.A. was a working middle class community with lots of kids playing outside without parental supervision. It was a good life with enough food, warmth and clothing even if we had to wear hand-me-downs from older siblings. When I became 17 I was able to get a lifeguard job at the Los Angeles Swim Stadium. This was an eye-opening experience for me as the stadium was located in a very impoverished area populated at that time largely by African Americans. I had no previous experience with poverty and it was for some reason very upsetting to me. No, I can't say anyone was starving; yet the conditions of the communities were far below the middle-class experience of my childhood and youth. How was this possible? What could be done? What could I do?

Initially, and I may share that initially was for many years, I came to look at what makes up our American society and began to see that while it teaches democracy it

doesn't provide an even playing field with equal opportunities. So was it not then the blame of capitalism? I looked at politics and the relationship between politicians and their money supporters and I saw that money could buy politicians and the one's with the most money could change the rules to support their position of dominance. Were they to blame? I also looked at religion on and off for many more years and saw that what is being preached in the name of G-d is rarely practiced outside of the Church. Was this then the cause of the inequity of society? Then one day, in another flash of insight I realized that I was looking at only human behavior. Why only human behavior? This evolved into the inquiry into the source of human behavior. Well, by tracking humanity back to its inception I came to the Creator. Yes, the Creator created humanity with both strengths and weaknesses. Why weaknesses? Why did G-d give the advantage of dominance to the strong and cunning? You know, the survival of the fittest. Conquer or be conquered! Who's to blame for this? Well, people have been carrying the implication that we are directly responsible for the massive dysfunction that is being experienced. We are taught that we are to blame because we have Free Will and Choice and we choose to mess up. But, did we so choose? I mean, who is running this show? People or G-d who created people?

In having this portrayal of G-d as being All-Wise and All-Knowing did G-d not know about this? Eventually this question generated a disconnect for me that I could no longer ignore. It raised the question of how could the All-Wise and knowing Creator have created people and the human conditions for such anguish and resulting depression. I was no longer able to shield myself from the basic structure that groups of beings including humans basically have to fight each other for the sustaining resources of life. It hit me between my eyes. It isn't life's fault that it operates on the foundation of consumption. No, life was designed and then created to only operate within the dynamics set up by the Creator. No matter how hard good people fight to live in peace, love and harmony, the game is overwhelming rigged, like a game of Shoots and Ladders where if you throw the dice on a long enough board everyone will eventually hit the square that drops you down back to the starting point. It's in the design of the game. Life!

In order to maintain a good relationship with the Creator, given the apparent discrepancies between the image of the Creator being good and the creation being so destructive, humankind has had to create a massive illusion to rationalize the conflict between reality and belief. What else could humankind do? Faith. The Creator's ways are mysterious. There's a reason for everything, even for the strong over the weak. Humans cannot perceive the Grand Scheme. Suffer in love...

What a role model for the first created beings, when with only one mistake Adam and Eve are thrown out of their home into the wilderness. What a role model as a result of frustration that all but Noah's family and the chosen animals are drowned. What a role model when the children attempt to seek out their Creator, an understandable intent, yet as a result they are cursed with languages that no one else can understand so that people can't work cooperatively. What a role model, that on the cross a mother's child, Jesus is abandoned to pain and suffering as the condition for a miracle leading to the Resurrection. What a repeating role model that to spread a religious belief, the uninitiated are given a choice, conversion or the sword. What confusion in understanding can there be when the faithful, in living their life following this role model, recreate the inequities originally fostered by the Creator?

My personal struggle with this is not unique. Really, this so far isn't anything new, as many people besides just philosophers have investigated the above in endless arguments and details. None of which I would like to share has resolved the conflict between the image of goodness and the general violence of the reality of life. Something from the streets that I found to be very helpful in understanding who a person is can be learned from the phrase, "Don't pay attention to what a person says. Instead, pay attention to what the person is doing." For me it all came down to the behavior of G-d and the inconsistency between the Word and the Action. Still I wasn't into abandoning my relationship with G-d for that wouldn't solve the puzzle of the mystery that I was so determined to unveil.

I would like to share that I am basically a puzzle solver. I remember during the High Holidays sitting bored to death on the hard pew looking for something to distract my self. The prayer book had a piece of ribbon to mark the page. So, I would tie it up into the tightest toughest kinkiest knot and then spend the rest of the time working to untie it. This taught me to start at the end and work my way back to the beginning...to the source. This strategy allowed me to take on more challenging puzzles. By working from the end each step was taking me back to the source, and at some point I would be able to see the pattern, and once that was achieved the outcome was assured. Then one day when I was in graduate school I was visiting a friend and he had a puzzle that had a number of colored lines inside clear plastic blocks. The puzzle requirement was to turn the boxes until the lines inside the clear plastic blocks lined up in a certain pattern. Well, I became obsessed with the challenge and yet no matter how hard I tried I couldn't achieve the goal. Anyway, one night I was thinking real hard about the puzzle and I was so focused that I could see the blocks of clear plastic with the jumbled lines in my mind's eye. And then, just like that, I saw the solution. I opened my eyes and as by this time I had the puzzle with me at my apartment I reached out to the night stand where I left it in frustration before laying down and picked it up, turned the plastic blocks one, two, three, and voila, the puzzle lined up and was solved. Wow! I didn't know I could do this. Well, combining this ability with the strategy of working my way from the end to the beginning opened up the solution to what's messed up and perhaps how to improve the puzzle of human existence. I felt I could do this by not working through from beginning toward the end, but instead working from the current moment back into time. This allowed me to see the cyclical patterning when I used the Bible as my source of G-d's engagement with humanity. This coupled with intense focus I was thereby allowed the grace to see and grasp the cause of the breakdown that described humanity's situation. Yes, what describes humanity's situation was an outcome of G-d's situation. If humanity was dysfunctional then as we are all part of G-d, then G-d must be caught up in the same dilemma. But how could this be?

In this situation in which I felt that G-d wasn't living up to most of my expectations of doing the right thing, I decided to let go of my image of the elderly and all knowing One, for this image didn't fit the human condition. Once I let it go in my mind's eye I sought to reach for an image that actually matched the behavior with the condition that the image had to be such that it allowed me to continue to have a devoted commitment to our relationship. Then like it always does, I experienced an insight that would fit. The image of the Creator that resolves the inherent conflict between Its promise and life being experienced is the portrayal of the Creator at the moment of self-

creation as being an infant. By imaging G-d as a baby, all of the interactions between G-d and humanity that I found so difficult to resolve with G-d being Beneficent, shifted. For me, it was as a great burden was lifted off. This reframing of G-d filled me with insight that was rejuvenating.

In the beginning, the “Word,” and in Its own creation so did the Creator manifest. It created Itself and as a Self all of Life was as a newborn. However, It was a newborn having all the powers, but none of the knowledge that comes from experience of its proper use. So, in G-d’s image we are created, being born with no knowledge, at least not until the apple was eaten. The Infant G-d, having Created Itself, did not comprehend that It would be born motherless and fatherless. This being so, G-d missed out on the very critical aspect of being nurtured, nursed in the warm loving arms of a Mother. Having no Father, G-d had no guidance from which to role model. The consequence was a great deal of deprivation in the developmental stages of growth leading to psychological challenges in the areas of trust, acceptance, and patience. These voids led to unreasonable expectations of it human creations, being easily frustrated and quick to react without the ability to anticipate outcomes.

By physically creating Itself, It externalized the powers and in atomizing Itself manifested without restraint. The Universe was filled with all potential, boundless energy shifting endlessly within and without. Potential manifesting spontaneously and without direction, and for those on Earth, a flight from death where everything lives through consuming other life.

The image of the Creator as an infant, creating only as an infant can, with absolutely no attachment to its creation, for the creation is within the focus of an infant for only as long as the infant plays with it. As the infant Creator’s attention shifts away from that toy/creation it no longer exists for the infant. For the creation, it is left on its own. In a human sense, it is abandoned. For us, on this planet Earth, as the Creator moves onto other creations, we feel abandoned, and doesn’t it seem as the Creator no longer focuses on us. For many of us do we not wait for the Creator’s return? Has not our Western religions built in The Return into the story of creation, to give humankind the hope that at some point the Creator will get us out of this mess, a mess that was created thoughtlessly, yet in innocence; for is not an infant, a baby, innocent?

Just imagine in our ignorance, by imaging the Creator as an older, wise, and mature adult, the kind of pressure our prayers place on the innocent infant Creator? We ask/pray for all sorts of interventions, yet to a baby wouldn’t those expectations be unreasonable and even damaging to the infant’s sense of self-esteem and well being? Wouldn’t this Baby feel like a failure as a result of being unable to respond, yet still have to exist with the expectations placed on It for being all-aware. Wouldn’t this Baby, by being unable to please, feel inadequate and maybe even frightened? What’s more, wouldn’t this Baby begin to fail health wise, without the nurturing so critical to healthy development? Physically, emotionally and mentally this Baby would be underdeveloped, and wouldn’t life, being that life is created in the image of the Creator, also manifest the Creator’s state of being? Could global warming be a fever, an illness originating in the loss of health in this Infant Creator?

The image of the Creator as a baby would change the dynamics of the relationship between the Creator and humanity. We would no longer ask for help through prayer, rather we would in the beginning, through prayer, offer the Creator any support and help

possible. The Creator, being a baby, has been mostly alone for such a long time in Its infant state, because without the nurturing so critical to development, it has been trapped in that original form. By accepting this image of the Creator as a baby allows humanity to step outside of our misery. As we all do in an emergency, we join together to help each other in order to survive. With realizing that the Creator is a baby, that most humane of all human emotions that causes an uplifting of spirit and willingness to just give, manifests. Now, in this image, it shifts consciousness and allows us to take this same rare yet incredible capacity and direct that wonderful communal and unified energy to the Creator in a form of nurturing and support.

Imagine the wonderful change in humankind when we begin to perceive the Creator as a baby. It can only bring out the best in us, and the best in us is great and mighty. In this image we suddenly are able to reach out to the Creator and cradle the Creator in our collective arms, and take the Creator into our homes and thereby into our hearts. This reaching out is a great healing for the Creator and thereby for us. In this way, the Creator and we, as the creation, enter into the living awareness of family. We are the Creator's creation and at the same time the Creator's parents, for in the end, do we not all become our children's infants?

How do we actually cradle Baby G-d? When a part of our body is cut off from sufficient nourishment it begins to become diseased. These diseased cells are still critical to the wholeness and welfare of the body. As we make this connection we make every effort to open the blockage and assure the healing flow of life force. Using this as an analogy, G-d is The Body, and the diseased part are the people living in poverty who have been cut off from sufficient resources to live a healthy life. How do we care for Baby G-d? By caring for these people who are part of Baby G-d. By clearing the societal blockages that keep them in poverty and in illness we thereby nurture the Baby and as we do, G-d begins to heal. So in taking the responsibility for the health and welfare of the excluded parts of humanity, so do we reach the baby Creator, pick It up in our arms, and feed and care for this Baby. As we care for our Baby so does the health of our own fringe beings begin to recover and reconnect, spreading health to our whole being.

It is through and in caring for the Baby that it can now start to be healthy and secure enough to begin to develop toward maturity. In doing so, as we are created in Its Image, so too does humanity mature and truly begin to prosper as it was meant to be. All Connected, Together, United, Aware...Now it will be, not what can the Creator do for us, but what can we do for the Creator.

What a change in consciousness. Finally we understand how critical it is to assure the health and welfare of all of humanity. As we experience this we can thereby more easily grasp how important it is to also consider our planet as part of G-d and that we need to act to heal the illness that we have inadvertently inflicted on Earth. It is this sense of conscious awareness that will nurture our Baby. The most wonderful aspect of this imagery is that by our caring for all people and our planet, G-d through humanity's compassion and generosity comes to live among us.

As we thereby nurture our Baby G-d, It begins to thrive and develop. As the Baby G-d grows in maturity this developing Being can manifest more fully within each of us. This loving interaction supports the fuller Spiritual Family of G-d and Humanity. In this way Our Family can realize our fullest potential as we learn to trust each other

sufficiently to experience that we and all life are parts of The Creator and therefore we all are parts of each other. In Love and Unity We All Thrive!