

The Universal Self-Evident Truth

A Study of the Ideal Person
and the World

Sang Ik Choi (Papasan)
Human's Club

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Humanitarian's Club

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The Universal Self-Evident Truth

The universal self-evident truth is the study of the original heart/mind centering on the human being. It surpasses the established theologies, philosophies, religious doctrines and academic theories, and is the scientific, self-evident true knowledge that elucidates the ideals of creation and its function based on the laws of Heaven and earth. Accordingly, it clarifies the answers by unraveling central academic questions and religious mysteries, and by clearly defining central issues.

1) Definition of the Truth

Introduction

What is the truth? Humans have struggled to answer this question for millennia; it is the alpha and omega of science, philosophy, and religion. However, there has not been anyone who could satisfactorily define a universally acknowledged standard of truth to this present day.

Whether we speak of physical or mental disease or criminal behavior, the cause of human unhappiness can be seen as a deviation from what is truthful, or more

simply, not practicing it even when there is the knowledge of truth or law. The reason we are unable to treat the diseased world, and subsequently incapable of prescribing a cure, is often a willful ignorance of the truth.

Both human beings and all things in the universe are living organisms that operate based on the truth that gives each existence original value and purpose. Each human being is born with an original mind engraved by Heaven, and he or she will find answers to the most important questions of life only through an earnest spiritual search and patient effort to find the highest standards; a search that involves questions such as, "Who am I?", "What is the value of humanity?", "What is my origin?", and, "Where am I going?" If we cannot answer these questions, we will wander through our lives in ignorance inviting waste, unhappiness, and destruction; perhaps even engaging in unlawful behavior. You may ask, "Do the answers to the above questions truly represent the ultimate theme for our lives?"

That there is no clear definition to what the truth is, despite the thoughts and words of so many saints and sages throughout history, underscores that we have not recognized the truth clearly. It is especially ironic that

what has been proclaimed as the "truth" by various religions is mostly subjective, prejudiced doctrine which spawns numerous denominations and incites division and conflict, even as it purports to be divine revelation. Moreover, other theories outside of strictly religious doctrines have borrowed and stood on the influence of certain well known scholars. In all of these cases, those who speak out for their various doctrines, hypotheses, and theories, fall short of being able to claim them as the universal, reasonable, and self-evident truth. Are we destined, then, to *never* be able to find the way of life? We *can* find it. It is urgent that we do so here and now.

In the world of natural science, since nature has always maintained itself without denying the laws that drive it, the truth can be found relatively easily through axiomatic scientific research. However, such "truth" is valid only until a later more profound theory appears and disproves the former theory or shows it to be incomplete. In this way, with regard to natural science, new truth emerges step by step, and contributes toward the steady advancement of culture and civilization.

In contrast, what about humans? Do today's civilizations exemplify a true and genuine humanity? As we observe our current world, filled with

selfishness, crime, inhumanity, and unhappiness, we can affirm that the answer is “no.” Human beings represent, in religious terminology, a *fallen* race that has lost its original state of being. As such, there is no way we can have the right perspective of life and value by analyzing and researching this fallen race. However, there is still a heavenly heart/mind within each person, what I refer to as our *original* mind, which is far beyond the external intellectual mind and one that is forever unchanging and universal.

As it is today, however, humanity is not conscious of the original heart/mind in the current situation where we are not living in accord with our original inborn selves. In short, our civilization is chaotic and fallen because we have lost touch with the conscientious core of our being. Yet, a true person, a good person, will emerge someday, and the day will come when we can restore the original heart/mind inherent in every human being. At that time, we would actually recover six great original minds.

Let me explain: First, the physical original mind which seeks a strong and healthy body; Second, the original mind of the conscience which seeks a universally good human being; Third, the rational original mind which seeks knowledge and wisdom; Fourth, the aesthetic

original mind which seeks beauty through the arts; Fifth, the heartistic original mind which seeks true love; and finally, the spiritual original mind which communes with and reveres the spiritual realm and Heaven. The day will come when we are at last liberated from ignorance about life, firmly understand the answers to the long sought after questions such as, "Who am I?, Why am I living?, Where have I come from?, and Where am I going?" Discovering the true value and meaning of life will allow each of us to realize a happy and fulfilled destiny.

Once we have found the truth, the principle of all things becomes quite simple. The truth of all existences exists *within* all existences as natural law. This, of course, includes the truth of all human beings, which exists as law within each person's original mind.

If we speak of the human fall (as accepted by this text) at the beginning of history, it is important to note that the existences in nature around our human ancestors was not mentioned in the classical narrative of the fall of man (in the Old Testament of the Bible.) Nature has continued to operate by natural original law throughout history; we can elucidate this truth through science, physics and physiology. Human beings, however, by the act of the fall lost contact with their

pure and complete 6 great original minds, thereby contaminating our hearts and spirits. Given the reality of conceptual distortion, it is difficult for us to observe and think correctly when it comes to knowing the truth about man, or, more closely, ourselves. Why? Because the human tendency - rather than viewing things through an objective and universal perspective - is to take a subjective and self-centered, or biased point of view. The truth is not simply the subjective belief system or theory of one particular individual or group, but is a universal and appropriate axiom which everyone can acknowledge.

Putting it in other words, it should be equivalent to natural law such as the law of physics, chemistry, or physiology. Even with today's studies of human social science the truth centering on human beings still remains very speculative and inconclusive. Questions regarding the ideal man, family, and ideal society are not truly dealt with. Can we yet claim to have completed our search for the truth? In reality it still remains partial, abstract, and subjective. It isn't exaggerating to say that many of our social scientists have been conditioned by partial and biased viewpoints. We could compare this to the old story of the blind men touching an elephant and then explaining their experience...The first man, having felt

the elephant's belly, said the large animal was like a wall; another argued, after touching the elephant's ear, that it was obviously like a fan; after feeling the animal's leg, a third man, laughing at the other two previous opinions, proclaimed that the beast was absolutely like a pillar. It goes without saying that each one insisted on only what he had touched, then opposed and split with the others. It's true that each was accurate in his description and experience, but failed to recognize the 'whole elephant.' In the same sense, it's no wonder that so many in our human population are skeptical of the various "truths" presented by religion or human social science.

a) **Why do we have to know the truth?**

In this universe, centering on man, countless things and living organisms exist. As mentioned previously, for humans there is a certain way for us to maintain our existence and live our lives successfully. For all things throughout the natural world around us there are laws that must be observed to properly maintain and preserve the various existences. The truth we refer to here can be defined as the original and demonstrative true knowledge and wisdom within the laws involved in the creation of the universe. We intend here to focus particularly on humanity and the way things should be

in order to maintain our human lives. In a sentence, we can define this truth as, "The true law that *synthesizes* the self-evident, demonstrative, and beneficial scientific studies such as the humanities, social science, natural science, and religious studies." If we don't know the way of life as a human being we are living without the true knowledge of the laws of the universe (which have been steadily sought for, clarified, and verified academically through continuous historical studies), given this reality we can easily live our lives like any other instinctive animal existence - in ignorance of our human purpose and potentiality. This can easily lead to unhappiness, mistakes, and regrets - even to wrongful and criminal acts. Who, when asked, wants to end up in living an evil and hellish life on this earth?

Unlike the subjective theories of various philosophers, or the dogmatic doctrines of religious leaders, the truth should be able to show us the path of goodness based on the idea of a 'oneness with Universal Will' and, living for the sake of others. In short, truth should be instructive and able to guide people to live as true human beings. In other words, it is the innate and original lawful way to live a true human life.

This is the reason why, as mentioned previously, unless we understand the central reason and purpose for life,

we'll never co-exist peacefully or maintain secure families, communities, and societies. To add to this, without understanding the positive and scientific truth, we can never expect genuine and balanced progress and prosperity in the kind of society where we can enjoy a convenient, affluent, and highly civilized way of life.

It does us well to reflect on just how much our modern lives owe to a decent social order and security in comparison to earlier ages. Of course, it is plain that we live in a time of growing social and moral confusion yet, we cannot deny the tremendous development in our way of life due to the almost daily gains in natural and social sciences. The key reason why human life lags in technical and social development in many parts of the world is because the level of consciousness and technology remain low due to the lack of solid education. The answer to this problem lies in the elevation of the morality and social cohesion centered on solid principles and truth.

As for religious truth, many people, especially highly educated people have, in recent decades, become increasingly skeptical. The reason is that leaders in various religions and sects claim their particular doctrines to be "the absolute truth," using the name of

God, Jesus, or Buddha, or words like "revelation" so as to justify their beliefs. Moreover, they claim that their teachings represent absolute goodness. This has always, to this day, brought confusion and continuous religious conflict and struggle. Is it any wonder that when intellectuals observe this reality that they are skeptical of religious truth?!

Then why do we have to come to understand the truth? Existing doctrines, theologies, and philosophical theories are mostly limited to the personal and group level or represent the partial biased views, thus, far from the universal self-evident truth. So, this leaves it for each of us to choose whether to come to understand or not to understand the truth, or, subsequently, to believe it or not.

The truth is a synthesis of true knowledge concerning the life of a human being, thus, the constructive direction of his or her life; as with all existences in the universe. This same truth should be substantiated and recognized by everyone. In this way, human character can be elevated instructively, thereby bringing development and progress toward truly civilized societies. Put simply, I speak of a true knowledge that can lead to the realization of happiness and fulfillment in our lives, in short, what everyone should

understand, realize, and practice. This is basic and indispensable.

Rather than studying books full of knowledge about everything else, doesn't it make more sense to *first* prefer the knowledge of the most foundational and essential truth? With this fundamental understanding established, then we have a matrix for a universe full of studies and learning. The knowledge and value we share as to who we are and why we are here remains the eternal and most fundamental and foundational starting point for all other genuine development.

In spite of the great efforts made by many people, mankind is still seeking for the answers to questions such as, "What is the true way of life?" "Who am I?", or, "Why am I living?" Without clear answers, human struggle and misery will continue.

It is of primary importance, once we are liberated from chaotic lives and societies, to find solutions to all the various problems we currently face in our lives. As we come to find the essential value and purpose of each existence in our universe through scientific research our lives are obviously improved. The development of our societies comes as well from our knowledge of ourselves and our fellow man; this means, both formal

knowledge and our own common sense gathered from experience.

In history, without our knowing the truth about the natural world, because of our ignorance of various existences, i.e., minerals, plants, animals, etc., had no way to fully exert their value and remained relatively useless and even obstructive to us. Contrarily, the greater value of all things comes to be manifested as man discovers the truth of these existences that make up our natural environment. As more advanced nations came to place importance on physical, chemical, and biological research, many discoveries and inventions made way for a world of great civilizations and cultures, thanks to this far greater utilization of the elements of the natural world.

By comparison, those less developed nations, relatively ignorant of the application of natural science, couldn't take advantage of the treasures, both under and above ground. Their destiny proved to be one of unhappiness and poverty. Accordingly, we can see the great differences that result from knowledge of the truth as compared to ignorance of it.

On the other hand, since the spiritual world, speaking of "heaven" and the realm of "life-after-death" remains

an unknown and mysterious world by comparison to our physical universe. It is, plainly, a difficult world to understand, or even accept, for we, who live in a three-dimensional physical reality. With our limited knowledge and conventional wisdom thus far, a credible theory positively proving this realm has not been presented. In many religions or sects, the devotees are instructed to “just believe” or “have faith.” This is often strongly tied into the desire of the believer to go to heaven, which is a powerful impetus to follow the preacher’s words - at times, blindly.

Indeed, no small number of charismatic religious leaders has misled their congregations’ by taking advantage of their blind faith. Consequently, religious doctrine has not yet inspired a clear, deep, and true conviction within people. Instead, struggles caused by division and conflict continue. As a result, many otherwise devoted religious followers lead their lives of faith in a rather unsettled way. If you can know the truth clearly and decisively you come to have substance and conviction. It follows naturally that strong will power and life practice will emerge.

The purpose of knowing the truth, beyond simply head-knowledge, is to put the laws of our life into practical use and implement our genuine purpose as a

human being. Through this way of life, working together, we can cooperate to build a peaceful and prosperous world. As we come fully into the 21st century we are in an era of rapidly developing science, rational analysis, and sound evidence. In this new century, the realms of religion and theology should also be able to advance in a new way where God, the Creator, would be elucidated axiomatically and demonstrably so that our human population can have a better grounding for their faith and conviction with regard to God's existence. In this way, we can build our individual character, and contribute to building our communities and societies toward the realization of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Isn't this, after all, the final purpose of our religions? My conviction is that this day will arrive sooner than we expect.

What if such spiritual, moral, and ethical truths are *not* clearly established in the near future? What if only the truth of science predominates? Even though our physical/high tech environment may reflect tremendous development, without the development of the character and spirit of our common humanity, our world will become increasingly chaotic. With our current and future weaponry, we would subsequently be on a slippery slope toward the destruction of our entire humankind.

The core genuine truth, as enunciated by various great figures in history, represents the true knowledge of the very reason and purpose for our lives and the universe around us. This isn't just a matter of 'belief,' it is an original knowledge that each of us should know and implement.

b) **The Truth has Centrality, Orderliness and Collectivity**

➤ *Centrality of the Truth*

The universe is an infinite and boundless expanse - therefore, the truth about life is also boundless. Knowing this, we can make our lives abundant only by coming to understand and know the overall truth about the universe. If I say "truth" here, it means a truth that is *central* to all things. Unless we can grasp this central truth and - as opposed to various 'truths' and claimed truths, - its value and meaning, we have no way to realize the purpose and ideal of existence.

As we look back through history leading up to this very day, religions and philosophies have presented us with countless doctrines and theories, yet they fell short in elucidating the central question of life, "What is

life?" In this sense, it is no exaggeration to say that all of their efforts have largely been wasted. Christianity, Buddhism, Confucianism, and many other religions have variously claimed to possess the truth, yet these claims have fallen short of comprehending and demonstrating in real life the definite and complete truth. Unless we can solve the problems of our lives as humans, we cannot realize true happiness nor establish the kingdom of heaven on earth, in other words, the will and purpose of the Creator. The reason for this may sound overly simple, but it is true - Despite all our human efforts throughout history to build this kingdom of heaven (by whatever name we may use) and our failure to find the keys to personal fulfillment, we have failed because of the inability to answer this question of, "Who, truly, am I?"

Many saints and sages have appeared in our various cultures throughout our earth and left great words of inspiration but it remains a conundrum to find an answer to the questions, "What is life?" and "Why is this person I call 'myself' here?" The humanities and social sciences regard this question as an 'eternal theme' with research continuing yet to this day. How many more generations do we have to wander the earth pursuing the question of "my true self"? It may sound imprudent, but many books and scriptures

claiming to be God's or Buddha's word are, more directly, collections of good proverbs; however, these words don't get to the central question, "What is life?" You might compare this to a fresh cream-filled éclair that is missing its essence, the cream filling!

The reality of so many people unable to break free from their unhappy state lies with the lack of a true and comprehensive answer to the question just mentioned. Ironically, and to our worldwide benefit, there have been tremendous successes through our research into physics, chemistry, and natural sciences, contributing greatly to our global convenience and affluence. If we can but answer the final 'cream filling' questions, "What is the true human life?" and "Who am I?", all humankind can be liberated from ignorance, and be able to build a true, unified, and peaceful society.

➤ *Orderliness of the truth*

The center of truth is "the way of life," with its central feature being 'character.' The essence of character is what I will call here, "the conscientious original mind." Beyond the gifts of talent, knowledge, and even a religious faith, if one is missing the awareness of "the reason for his or her life," that person will realize relatively little value. The value I speak of derives from

the conscientious original mind, which enables one to build a good character. Without a solid character a person has less resistance to thoughts and behaviors which are against the direction of the conscience, which can, at worst, lead to all kinds of crimes and evil.

As we reflect on the above, the center of the truth about you and I rest in understanding "the reason for our life," which is even more important than knowing the truth about all things in nature. Furthermore, the essence of this truth (the reason for our existence) is within the conscientious original mind which enables each person to build his or her character. It is for this reason that, out of all the great teachers of humanity throughout history, it has been those who lived and taught morals and ethics in relationship to the purpose of life are most respected, called even 'saints' or greatly virtuous.

The center of all value in this universe is the human being, as a microcosm of the universe whose essence is the conscientious original mind, the bearer of spiritual value; the body follows in its value and abilities; finally, comes the value of all things in the natural world around us.

The truth should have orderliness. Everything,

consequently, has different value according to its order and place in the scheme of existence. For example, good is always good, and cannot become evil. Likewise, evil is always evil, thus, can never become good. This conclusion comes from our common sense as human beings. Yet, we need to know that if the order is changed, then what is commonly understood as good, can become evil, and what is commonly understood as evil can become good. Let me lay out an example here...

Most of us assume that all crimes come from human desire. However, when that desire is used for the sake of others, i.e., for the benefit of society and the public interest, then it is no longer considered to be evil, but can turn to good, which brings happiness to the other *and* to myself as well. In this way, claiming your own right while preferring the service to others and society as a whole is not evil at all; on the contrary, if you insist on your own right at the expense of others and society as a whole, your desire becomes evil. Likewise, while your exertion of filial piety with respect to your parents is generally considered to be good, if you regard your family happiness first, at the price of sacrificing a good society or good nation as a whole, then your filial piety turns to a family level egotism which will bring unhappiness to society, and becomes evil. If the society

emphasizes the importance of filial piety in the family rather than the public benefit, that society's development will be slower than a society which emphasizes public mindedness and benefit. This is the reason we need to know the importance of the orderliness of the truth.

We should always make our judgments dispassionately as we consider the individual, group, people, or nation. Without recognizing the orderliness of the truth, and simply following our emotions, we can so often invite the conflicts and struggles we see in the society and world.

In general, when someone wants to commit a crime, following irrational and non-conscientious feelings and emotions, he or she may feel pangs of conscience - then they may catch this wrong temptation and hold themselves back from the subsequent thought and action. Yet, as we look at today's society, to make the correct judgment between good and evil, without the all-important consideration of the orderliness of the truth, may be very difficult - this includes even recognizing the problem itself. Subsequently, it is hard to prevent the confusion or crime in society beforehand. Therefore, we need a deep discernment of the truth, and practical wisdom.

➤ *The totality of the truth*

The truth teaches us not only the value and purpose of each individual, but also of the whole, which includes the society, nation, world, and the universe. Speaking of the individual, his or her existence is not solitary. It is important to recognize the fact that we are living collectively with family, society, nation, and the world. In spite of everyone's desire and effort to live happily, the reason we are still unable to achieve it is that we don't know the importance of the overall, or collective, nature of the truth.

Again, in a brief review of the preceding section, even if we claim to know the truth about everything, without our knowing the *centrality* of the truth, this knowledge is like an empty skin without content; without the correct *orderliness* of the truth, good and evil would become confused; and, without the overall, or *collective*, nature of the truth, an ideal world, or, the dream of an earthly paradise would not be realized literally for ages. Truth is more than philosophy or doctrine, it is true and concrete knowledge and is the reason for and *way* of life that we, as human beings, should all know.

In philosophy the truth is interpreted, for the most part,

as abstract and subjective theory. In fact, as we observe just how much philosophy, or religion, actually contribute to our happiness it is hard to see them as genuinely indispensable, or able to offer us a choice relative to our core needs. Reality testifies to the fact that they represent no more than theory or sophistry rather than the truth. Since the genuine truth teaches us the value and purpose of existence of all things in the universe centering on man, it is imperative for all of us to know concretely and practically in order to come out of ignorance and live a happy and valuable life.

Throughout history, whether east or west, highly educated people in developed cultures have sought to understand and express the truth, and have contributed to the advancement of human civilization. Conversely, those cultures that ignored the search for truth, beyond old tradition and superstition, remained underdeveloped and were destined to lag behind. Consequently, it is important to note that the development of human character and culture are in direct proportion to how much we know and implement the truth.

Today's world has greatly advanced, becoming much more affluent, not to mention, convenient. Rockets are being sent out to explore and examine distant planets,

telescopes are peering out into light that left its sources multi-millions of years ago; these were simply Hollywood fantasies 60 years ago. At the same time, the scale of economic activity has increased to the point that consumption has become more problematic than productive. All of this is the result of humankind's research of the natural environment and the principles behind it; with the acquisition of this knowledge, the way is made for application and development. The law of nature and nature's ways of development can, hence, help us meet our needs and purposes, and is a *gift* earned through our research of natural sciences, such as physics, chemistry, and biology. Indeed, our advances in understanding the truth of things can bring infinite development to our human family. Still though, even in today's highly developed world, it is difficult to find a true human being.

This reality is because humanity fell away from our original place and condition at the dawn of history, and has been struggling with two contradictory natures – one that originates in the original good mind, and, a second, bogus but powerful fallen nature which, as we experience it, is habitual and strongly subjective. Given this state of affairs, it has been an historic 'Gordian knot' to find humankind's original status no matter how much research and analysis are done. If we can at

last realize the ideal of a happy and peaceful world, we have to first clearly locate an answer to the question, "What kind of existence is a human being?" This answer will need to have everything to do with the social scientific truth about the happiness of more than any one section of humanity, but include our entire human family.

Our dream, the perfection of character and the realization of the ideal world, can be achieved when the definite truth which gives us a useful and realizable philosophy appears. In this writer's perspective, today is the very time for this to occur. With this in mind, since heaven or the spiritual world is not easy to perceive through the five physical senses, atheism has, as well, emerged. At the same time, we have to acknowledge the fact that a significant number of our people have retained their spiritual beliefs and faith. This, in fact, has been the case going back for thousands of years. This fact demonstrates a proof that there is what we could call a 'faithful instinct', that is, an original and inherent spiritual mind which dwells even in the unsearched depths of those who may identify themselves as 'atheists.'

Even an atheist in a desperate or life-threatening situation may well shout, raising his or her hands to the

sky, "Help me!!" as they are frighteningly confronted; and, at another time, may mumble, "Oh, thank heaven." These feelings come up from a person in a deep and natural way, far beyond intellectual conclusions about the non-existence of a Divine power or being." When we observe this reality, we can realize that, far different from animals, we do have a sense, or more properly, senses, that reach beyond this three-dimensional world. Yet, the spiritual world is an invisible and abstract existence not easily explained by the standard theories or logical systems with which we explain the material phenomenal world. Thus, many believers in what they may call "the afterlife" believe with a nearly blind faith.

If one holds a blind faith, in a leader figure, a group, or, in this case, the existence of the spiritual world, one's faith may easily become unstable, infected by doubt, or fraught with fears. This can lead to a difficult or uncertain life of faith. The question is, "Are we forever destined to argue back and forth about the existence or non-existence of the spiritual world?" With the ongoing development of today's science, and the growth of human consciousness it is not an empty claim that in the not-so-distant future the core religious or spiritual truth can be verified and accepted universally. This is not to mention the confirmation of

the spiritual world's existence through the research of spiritual science.

These kinds of developments could usher in a profound reformation throughout the religious world. Imagine the tremendous benefit as answers to our age-old questions are clearly elucidated and demonstrated. This means more than simply a new set of beliefs, but rather, it means an open door to establishing a civilization of character, positive and creative lives, and a fulfilled and happy society and world.

Let me once again sum up this section - The world we need to understand is actually three different worlds; heaven/spiritual world, the natural world around us, and our human world. Heaven and the spiritual world, which we cannot perceive with our five earthly senses, exist. The fact that we cannot sense it with our earthly senses does not mean that it is not there, after all, can one see *love* itself? The un-fallen natural world around us, plainly perceivable by our physical senses, exists in its natural and original order. Finally, our human world is unique, in that it is the result of countless generations of people who have two minds, an original mind given by heaven, and a fallen mind or habit of behavior that results from the human fall at the beginning of our history.

Our human world, with our complex set of 'two minds' (as mentioned above) has presented us and our ancestry with an unnatural and chaotic challenge. The key to meeting this challenge is to establish a correct understanding of our lives, i.e., come to know 'who we are', beginning with 'who I am.' This is not speaking of some mystical process, but of clear education and practical application in our families, our schools, and our society at large.

Finally, I want to reemphasize the importance of knowing God, Buddhahood, the world beyond this time and space realm, and liberating ourselves from the fear of death. To know that we do not simply cease to exist when we come to the day of our physical expiration, but pass into a spiritual realm, as, most essentially, a spiritual being, gives a profoundly new dimension to the very meaning of our existence. For this reason, a new religious science and theology needs to appear.

c) How Can We Know the Truth?

A human being is inherent of the nature and ability for self-realization which can enable him or her to know the truth in a transcendental way. As mentioned

before, the truth in the natural world equals the natural laws that govern all of nature, and is the law of life that is inherent in every existence. Let us take a look at some examples: with regard to astronomy and astronomical physics a planet rotates in order to fulfill its revolutions around a central star (as with our own solar system.); there are laws behind the movements and relationships of physical and chemical elements within the mineral realm; there are the laws of biology in the plant and animal kingdoms, including the physical bodies and instincts of human beings. Unlike animals, however, each human possesses a spiritual nature and character, unique to each individual that have the potential to grow and develop according to certain spiritual laws.

Within each of us lies a conscientious original mind which seeks to live for the sake of others, or the whole; a rational original mind that is the root of our ability and wisdom to comprehend, utilize, and manage the natural world around us; a heart which enables us to appreciate and participate in the beauty of the arts. Furthermore, this spiritual heart can love in a transcendental way, and in doing so, transcend mundane love and hatred - that which we observe on endless TV dramas and in our daily lives. Finally, we each possess a spirit, that is an eternal existence, and

which seeks for an ongoing eternal life. Essentially then, each of us is a living body of truth which resembles our perfect creator. In reflection, the truth is imminent as the original essence and nature in each life, given with the birth of each individual life in the original creation. If we could know the value, purpose, and the law of life of each existence through the reasoning ability of human rationality it would certainly prove to be, as mentioned before, very useful and rewarding. If we, however, remain ignorant of the truth of existence our efforts will become of far less value no matter how great the potentialities in us, and around us, may be.

d) Definition of the Truth

- *The truth is an axiom that has universal validity, and an eternally unchanging nature.*

Numerous words spoken by many saints and sages have been recorded historically. Especially, regarding quotes within various religions, the names and authority of God, Christ, Buddha, or others, were often dogmatically insisted upon as being their absolute sources, thus, they came to represent “absolute truth.” In so many cases the result of these absolutist attitudes, carried on for generations, has been division, conflict,

and even bloody struggles. I dare say that since the original truth, or law of our lives, has validity and rationality there is little or no possibility for division or conflict.

The truth is applicable, unchanging, and everlasting, beyond time and region - not to mention, that it represents our own original 'common sense'. If only the genuine truth appears, it should resolve division and conflict and bring integration, consensus, and peace.

➤ *The truth is a corroborative fact.*

The truth is a fact, an axiom representing corroborative evidence and a genuine reality. In today's world, whether we speak of scripture, philosophy, or religious doctrine, unless it can be demonstrably proven with corroborating evidence, it cannot universally be called the truth. If it cannot be realistically proven, it is, for many, whether pro or con, blind faith or superstition and may well indeed be a falsehood and a deception in the name of divine favor.

➤ *The truth has an informative, instructive, and beneficial nature.*

The genuine truth should be able to contribute to the improvement of character, bring social order and peace through morality and ethics, and benefit the advancement of culture and civilization. Any religious or philosophical writing filled with abstracts, but absent of any instructive nature to its reader is, in this writer's opinion, not worth the paper it's written on, and an interesting speculative theory at best.

Starting from a conceptual understanding, the truth should guide us toward a perfection of our character and advocate the reason for filial piety forming an ideal family. Furthermore, beyond filial piety, the truth should give us clear reasoning for the quality of loyalty, needed to build a good nation, world, and ultimately, an earthly kingdom. So, far beyond the individual life alone, this is why the truth needs to be instructive and practical.

As we can see today, the truth of the natural sciences, such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology, has become very useful rendering great service in the development of a civilized society and world, in fact, these sciences have given us indispensable knowledge for our modern lives and world.

On the other hand, religious or philosophical theory is,

for the most part, left up to each person's freedom to decide whether to believe it or not. Unlike the case of proven science, these varying beliefs don't guarantee their usefulness in real life, that is, they fall short of overall workability in our human situation on both individual and collective levels.

The reason that the study of the humanities remains confused until the present day, while the world of the natural sciences has been advancing, gives us the clear impression that the understanding of the truth of the internal world remains behind that of the material world. While nature maintains the original state of creation, human society is daily contaminated with falsehood and corruption.

e) Judgment of and Practice of the Truth

In order to judge whether something represents the truth or not, one is required to have an ability to observe, think, and discuss correctly. With this in mind, what of the continuing conflict and struggle in our society in spite of the efforts by our ancestors and ourselves to achieve peace in our world? This can be explained by the following four points:

1. Actions out of ignorance

2. The truth one thought he or she knew was found to be erroneous, thus, following it led to mistakes.
3. One did not know the truth and failed to live accordingly due to negligence or contempt, or, took unreasonable action by exceeding his limit and balance.
4. Even with the knowledge of truth, one is compelled to take action that goes against his own conscience and reasoning power

Even when we know how we *should* live by following our conscience and reason according to the truth, we are often tempted to do evil. A human being is such a noble existence; as the saying goes, "Man is as precious as heaven," and yet, he or she is ignorant about themselves, still looking for the answers to questions like, "Who am I? "Why am I living?", and, "Where did I come from, and where am I going?" Though we were born as human beings, in reality an overwhelming majority of us are groping in the dark, ignorant of the most important truth about ourselves. We have lost the original state of creation, often living in an environment of crime and conflict; acting at times like beasts. Can we, then, call ourselves the most advanced creatures? We are born with the genetic structure of human beings yet our human spirits do not seem to have evolved very

far beyond animal instincts.

The hypothesis of the theory of human evolution has been widely accepted until the past few decades, with the advancement of science and, subsequently, advanced alternate theories. Prior to these advances, it was the consensus that our human species appeared to have evolved from anthropoids since we largely observed ourselves in more gross material terms. Given advanced study in genetic biology, however, many scholars claim that in various species genes are found to be unchanging, maintaining their original genetic structures, thus, their evolution is impossible according to the theory about the invariable gene of DNA. In other words, the idea that the creator made all existences species by species (or, 'kind by kind') has proven to be more scientific than the theory of evolution insisted upon by materialists. In reflection on the theory I've just mentioned, DNA is the matter that exists in an organism, in the nucleus as the main part of its multitude of genes, and is considered to be unchanging throughout that organism's lifespan. In the case of humans, this DNA is used to identify individuals involved in criminal investigations. DNA is a 'blueprint' that differentiates a man, for example, from a monkey or a canine. This invariability of a species is maintained by the self-reproductive function

of DNA. Though the mutation view of DNA has emerged in recent years, it has not developed as a theory that can negate the theory of the invariability of species at this point in time.

Regardless of how many times mutations have occurred throughout history, an invariability of species will not change forever. This is because God, the creator of all things, is an absolute, unique, and unchanging existence; consequently, each individual is created in the likeness of God with uniqueness and an unchanging nature.

Incidentally, we do see the emergence of genetically modified food, crops, and animals in today's world. This is a field still very much in the process of research, with a fair amount of dispute and suspicion as to whether such food is safe for consumption. At any rate, though this modification of genes is done artificially with new species being developed. My point here is not to argue the pluses and minuses of this work, but to say that humans, given the position of a second creator by God, can work with the natural environment that God created. This proves that God can create a new species - not by mutation - but based on the work of another species.

As the lord of creation and the manager of this

universe, humanity should be able to dedicate ourselves to growing our character, implementing it in our lives, and ultimately working together in bringing about a social movement toward the realization of the earthly kingdom. However, the same religious leaders who were meant to spearhead such a movement preach from start to finish that people can be forgiven their sins by merely calling on the name of God, Christ, or Buddha and live eternally in the heavenly kingdom or paradise. Simply idolizing God or Holy historic figures should not be the focus of a true religion yet, most religions of today wander around unable to escape from formality and the idea of benefit. Does this truly bring out the nobility and great potential of humanity?

Two thousand years ago, Jesus spoke of "...the blind leading the blind." He proclaimed the truth powerfully that we should be reborn through God's love and exercise the spirit of public welfare toward the earthly kingdom which is the essence of true religion. Unfortunately, very few understood his words deeply and followed him. Much like the Israelites of Jesus' time, so few of today's Christians are ready for true rebirth and participation in the work of the realization of the earthly kingdom. Instead, most of them, as described before, seek to be forgiven of their sins so they may enter into heaven *after* their physical death.

Though it may surprise some readers, this is very regretful.

While there is very little room for the problem of wrong knowledge in the natural sciences, in the world of religion and the humanities, institutions that deal with fallen man, there is a large share of incorrect knowledge. Thereby, these institutions are unable to solve our most serious human problems. Subsequently, chaotic societies full of crime and conflict continue.

In significant parts of the religious world there is a misunderstanding that if only you can accept and believe in the words and revelations of God, Christ, or Buddha, you are forgiven, you can be unconditionally good, receive salvation, and be blessed. However, one does not become a good man or woman simply because you believe in God or have had a wonderful spiritual experience. You become good in the process of not harming but helping others, and serving others from your true conscience. Again, whatever the strength of your belief and faith, unless you live from your conscience and act for the sake of others, you cannot claim to be a good person. We all have to reflect on the words of Jesus to the Pharisees; he called them hypocrites for their pride of position and faith, but

accept what you say since he insists on what he sees through the glasses. This is why, should we want to observe things correctly, we need to lay aside any distorted views and take on a perspective void of all ideas and thoughts, that is, through our original eye.

To know the self-evident truth on which everyone can agree, we first have to be able to see things with the heart of an innocent child. This is a heart that sees things purely and genuinely with unadulterated thought or bias (much like the child in the story of the "Emperor's New Clothes" who was the only person who saw the truth in a ridiculous situation.) From this pure and genuine perspective come unadulterated thought, words, and action. These are all part of knowing the self-evident truth.

It is, indeed, hard to discern the genuine truth without a pure heart. For example, when we ask people, "What is the definition of good and evil?" very few will be able to give an accurate answer. A religious person would most likely offer an answer out of their creed or faith, an intellectual or philosopher may well reply based on his own subjective system of conviction. In short, many people would give many different answers. Is it any wonder that down through the ages it has not been easy for anyone to give a truly universal

failure in loving and serving the needy people around them. His story of the 'good Samaritan' was perhaps the best illustration of this teaching, and, in fact, his own example during his public life.

What brings the development of great culture and civilization is the universal truth of pure conscience and reason, not a lower class of revelations. We need to be reminded that the impetus for the development of today's civilization owes to the age of the Enlightenment based on humanism rather than strictly theism or spiritualism alone. Thorough reflection is required here when we review our history, and how religiously centered ideology that relied heavily on revelations claimed to be from God or Christ brought the dark ages of Christianity. In comparison, it was the Renaissance that represented a great advancement for humankind. So often we have seen the attachment of faithful followers to various claims of heavenly revelations, when in fact they emerged out of the lower realms of the spiritual world, given by the deceptive spirits who dwelled there. Erroneous knowledge is not unlike a pair of colored spectacles worn by an otherwise normal person. This person cannot recognize how a pair of these colored glasses causes him to see the world differently; so, however you may try to convince him otherwise, it is difficult for him to

definition of good and evil upon which we can all agree? However, when we ask one small innocent child the definition of good and evil he or she may easily answer, "If you harm others it is evil; if you help others it is good." In this child's simple reply, we can realize that the truth exists in man's common sense, and, originally, anyone can know it quite easily.

This clear comprehension is an inborn gift given to everyone by our creator, and yet, so many tend to insist on his or her own idea being better, with themselves and their experiences providing a self-centered framework; thus, moving away from universality.

The writer of this book wants to emphasize that his expression and perspective are the result of having spent years of studying and following his own original mind outside of religious and philosophical teachings. He carries with him the constant awareness of sages throughout history who reminded us that we have to possess a pure heart to see things as they *truly* are. Once again, truth is the common sense of one's pure original mind and heart.

Since the universal truth exists as the common sense and self-evident truth within one's original mind and instinct in the original world of creation, anyone with a

pure heart can understand it. Such an individual can live freely within such truth, perfect his or her morals and ethics, and, therefore, become a free person in heaven and earth.

f) **The Cause of Spiritual Pollution**

➤ *Self-centered, subjective bias and prejudice*

Given the reality of societies blessed with remarkable progress materially, why is it, that in our more internal world we are still looking for the answer to the fundamental question, "What is the meaning of life?" The main reason for this is while all things in nature maintain their lives by following the natural laws and principles, human beings live in a vicious cycle of unnatural, abnormal conditions. Namely, only human beings are living in a state of being fallen, and not according to their original state in creation. Since a fallen person is largely self-centered and self-seeking, there is no way we can find a clear answer however much we may analyze and research. The fact is that in its fallen and insecure state humanity is neither truly universal nor reasonable, thus, tends to create biased, subjective theory.

If we want to know the clear and objective truth about

humanity, we have need to observe an unfallen man, or, the person who reached the height of Christhood or Buddhahood. This means a person who has been 'reborn' by getting completely rid of the fallen nature; this is the only hope for us to solve this problem of humanity. As we learn from history, those who spoke the truth about humanity had overcome their fallen natures, or embodied innate character that was pure.

Of course, it is not easy for anyone to let go of knowledge or certain convictions that he or she has been building all of their lives. This is especially true for those who have been living with the faith and conviction that they have been forgiven of their sins through an act of atonement and will go to heaven upon their physical death. It is very difficult to abandon this belief. I know from personal experience.

It takes a kind of 'life or death,' or very deeply serious attitude to find the truth by emptying one's mind of all concepts and presumptions. Studying the truth and disciplining oneself to follow it requires great effort; but abandoning a preconceived or pre-learned faith, reasoning, and set of beliefs in the light of such effort is just as difficult if not more. Consequently, people are prone to err on the side of prior beliefs and conditioning.

Two thousand years ago, a great holy child, Jesus, was born. As his first days of public ministry began, it was the common folk - fishermen, village people, and generally, non-intellectual people - who were more open to him. They didn't carry the baggage of too many preconceived notions and judgments. Conversely, those who opposed Jesus, even drove him to death, were religious leaders, high priests, and Pharisees schooled endlessly in the Torah and religious legal argument.

Is our modern society any different than what I've just described from two millennia ago? We have indeed advanced in so many ways, but this problem of preconceptions and inability to see with a simple and pure heart is yet holding us back - perhaps even more than in the past.

There is a saying that, "The stake that sticks out is the first to get hammered down." In the past, whenever a great pioneer appeared, most of those who had already acquired intellectual credentials or were established leaders opposed such a person. It was, rather, the ordinary undistinguished people, those with a pure heart, who often followed him or her. Unless one has a pure and unadulterated heart, it is difficult to

objectively observe and correctly judge a fallen society and world.

- *Selfish desire (selfishness, salvation, atonement, prayer for blessing, and entering into the heavenly kingdom)*

Humans are originally pure and true and possess the ability to know the truth, and gain knowledge and wisdom. We all were given the full potential for self-realization within our original mind and instinct. However, if we fall into self-centered lifestyles, we may lose our universality and subsequently, our power to observe, think, and judge clearly from a position of genuine objectivity. This is why we need to lay aside self-centered thoughts and desire, especially when it comes to the idea that only believing and wishing are sufficient to fulfill our needs. They are not. Our own sincere efforts and growth are indispensable in order to gain salvation, atonement, to enter the heavenly kingdom, and to find divine favor.

If our mere belief enables us to receive the forgiveness of sin and the blessing of entering into the heavenly kingdom, it is no exaggeration to say that such "blessing" is equal to the profit gained without labor. Freedom and peace, or, the earthly kingdom, which

true religion should advocate is attained by people of good character, and a nation made up of people who have reached a state of truly pure heart and mind – what those in the East have called “Buddhahood,” and those in the West may refer to as a “Christ-like nature.” This would insure that prosperity would come in direct proportion to the meritorious behavior and deeds of each individual; and, not the grace of God alone. This is the reason that we need to go back to the pure and innocent child’s heart, so as to know the truth correctly. Then, as a fountain’s spring flows naturally from its source, we can realize and live the truth simply and without assumption.

➤ *Fearful mind*

Originally, a human being is equipped with six great original minds; instinct (or physical mind), conscience, reason, emotion, heart, and spirituality. Thereby, he is able to perceive and judge everything, both internally and environmentally, with clarity and correctness. As long as these original minds function rightly, there can be no wrong perception or judgment. The reality, however, is that we tend to do more *wrong* which we don’t desire, than *good* which we truly wish for. Because of this conflict within ourselves we lose peace of mind, and bring unhappiness, to ourselves and

others instead. Especially when we live with fear we lose our peace of mind and our sense of balance; consequently, losing our way as to what to do.

Those who have some form of faith in a higher power, whether God, Christ, Buddha, or Divinity by another name, teaches goodness and punishes evil, thus, the faithful individual who practices good will attain happiness. Conversely, if one practices evil, they will be punished and sent to hell. God is generally, thought of as one to love and revere, as well as to fear (as in *deeply respect*) for those who believe in Him. Hence, believers, in general, have a stronger fear toward God than non-believers. These non-believers are often dominated by fear and insecurity to the extent that they cannot discern rationally what happens in front of them. They tend as well to become rather narrow in thought and perspective, thus, in their judgment.

It's important to solve the problems of how we can clearly observe, think objectively, and judge things correctly. We need to leave behind the kind of faith that seems to assure our personal benefit, and liberate ourselves from various fears such as the idea of punishment in hell, or the threat of a cursed future. If we can but maintain a pure and innocent heart, we can open the way to know the truth of life and become free

of fear.

➤ *Blind faith*

A human being has an inherent ability to know the truth through his or her original conscience and reasoning power, thus, can come to know the way of life and gain true and comprehensive knowledge by the power of conscientiously based reason. The role of religion, in good part, is to lead its followers to live a life guided by *conscientious common sense*. Doesn't this fit together with the idea that the major role of religion is to establish the earthly kingdom for all people. This boils down to the job of educating the individual to develop a true character through living a correct life of faith and goodness.

If we are to be honest here, the reality of many religions seems to be in building larger temples or churches, or in idolizing their leaders. This is not to forget that many members of these various sects are led to believe that they have a place reserved in heaven if only they believe and follow.

Of course, there are many inspirational teachings and good people who are believers; however, once their authority is established and their organizations are

built up, it is too often that these groups become more secularized, and can tend to become an end-in-themselves. Moreover, if each denomination claims that its doctrine represents the absolute truth, then schisms will almost always be the result. Consequently, ceaseless disputes can take place over who is more orthodox, and who is the heretic. In this way, so much confusion and loss is brought to society, leaving the essential theme and value of religion lost to humanity. Doesn't this bring us back to the words of Jesus, about the blind leading the blind?!

If we wish to return to the spirit of true faith we have to free ourselves in this day and age, from the kind of blind faith that comes from the self-justification, claimed revelations, and tradition and authority in the name of God.

One key reason that many believers find it difficult to leave their own faith - even if they find it to be rather blind - is because the spiritual realm, following our earthly life, has not been clearly explained to them. Another reason is the teaching that they can be 'saved if only they believe' regardless of their character or behavior - This represents an attractive lure for many.

Each human has the birthright of an original mind and

conscience, as well as a spiritual nature that seeks a relationship of love and respect with his or her original creator, and to live in goodness. Consequently, in light of this very palpable relationship to our source, it is very hard to deny the existence of this creator. Speaking of the original conscience, it offers us a 'safety mechanism,' which you might call a 'pang of conscience,' that makes it very difficult to live as an evil person. This represents truly substantial goodness coming from the original heart, and far outdistances the abovementioned lure of salvation through, simply, belief and efforts to be good so one can have a reward in heaven.

It is so important to be able to observe and reflect on everything with a pure and genuine heart. Especially as we evaluate religious leaders we need to ascertain whether he or she is living a life of good character and virtuously contributing toward society. The simple truth is that many religious founders live lives far below the standards of the saints that we uphold historically. A true saint is not a person who is caught in rituals or the promise of personal benefit. He or she should be someone who is exemplary in moral conduct, and who lives for others inspiring the realization of the earthly kingdom of God.

➤ *Mystery and superstition*

While so many of us enjoy this era of highly developed culture and civilization full of knowledge and amazing development, there are still many undeveloped countries in the world full of poverty, disease and strife. Many tribes and backward societies still practice various superstitious rites, and long-held local mysterious types of worship that have been passed down generation to generation. For the greater part, these forms of practice represent a lower level of consciousness as far as their universality or virtue is concerned. The truth emerges, on the other hand, through humanity's conscientious reasoning power. It is, therefore, important to practice this reasoning and conscience by moving upward and away from mysterious and superstitious beliefs - this, of course, applies to developed as well as underdeveloped countries. By and large, superstition most often comes from a lower level of understanding of the spiritual realm which can be dangerous for those who are captivated by it.

➤ *A biased view due to the fallacious impact of emotion*

A human is an emotionally driven being. In general, emotion is stronger than reason, so we often can act in an emotionally driven and relatively unconscious way.

If we want sincerely to live correctly we have to learn to balance this tendency by learning to discern situations through the application of conscience and our faculty of reason. Conscience is the intellectual ability to recognize the difference between good and evil, while reason can help us clarify the law and the principles of the universe.

To expand here, emotion is the feeling, for example, of joy, anger, sadness, or pleasure, and can lead to mistakes if conscience or reasoning are cast aside. Since emotion represents a powerful force in our makeup, and is generally stronger than reason in our daily lives, we can become blinded by emotion and subsequently get into significant trouble, which usually leads to unhappiness or even disaster.

If we wish to observe and make correct judgment, it is first important to manage and control our emotions. On that foundation, we can use our pure dispassionate reason and conscience, as well as practical wisdom, before taking action. As I've repeatedly emphasized, the truth is the common sense within a person's original mind, and an instinct that can be clearly understood as the universal axiom, or self-evident truth, by anyone with a pure and innocent heart.

On the other hand, if we disregard our common sense

and reason, become biased, or hang on to a distorted view, we can easily miss genuine reality – the result is most always a blind, false, or cynical conclusion.

g) The concrete way to recognize the truth

- Self-awakening by the nature and ability of self-realization in the original mind

All existences in the universe, from their very creation, have inherited the natural law of original nature and quality according to their kind - This is not to mention the greater expression of individuality in the more highly developed creatures. A human being is described as 'created in the likeness of God,' meaning a substantiation of God, while at the same time, a microcosm of the cosmos itself. This means that a human integrates and resonates with all the realms of creation, including mineral, plant, and animal as well as our human race. This means that it is inherent within us to recognize the truth, and true relationship, by fully exhibiting the nature and capacity for self-realization within our original mind.

- *We can come to know the truth through a teacher*

Though we may partially come to know the truth

through our own personal efforts, it isn't easy to comprehend the whole truth by ourselves; each of us has a limited capacity. However, if we can find a good teacher and learn from him, we can acquire the kind of knowledge we can never gain by our individual, even lifelong, effort. If we can maintain a humble attitude in our learning and open the door of our heart, we can then come to know the truth provided by a good teacher and great books.

➤ *We can know the truth through our experiences*

We can also come to know the truth and gain wisdom through our daily experiences. The truth we have gained through reflection on our various direct experiences can bring us solid grounding, common sense, and wisdom. We can also come to know truth through indirect experience; this means being open to the wisdom that others have gained through their own journeys of life.

➤ *The truth received through revelation from the spiritual world*

Human beings are inherent of a, commonly called, spiritual sense; this represents what many names as a "6th sense" beyond the five physical senses. When a

person reaches a state of detachment beyond ego-centered desire and thought, he or she may well find a greater sensitivity (via this 6th sense) to and, possibly, communication with the realm of spirit and those who are there. Subsequently, via the exchange of questions and answers with these spirits, the person may receive certain truth. Unfortunately, many people tend to interpret any knowledge they may have thus received as "divine truth" when in fact it is more likely to have come from spiritual beings that represent knowledge or opinion that falls far short of any divine source. Consequently, many doctrines that originate from these less-than-divine spirits are not as divine as their adherents believe and advertise.

The value of revelation-based truth is ultimately determined on how much it contributes to improving of individual character, the development of culture and civilization, and, the happiness of humanity. However, many religions based on revelation are more focused on a mystical or conceptual God, and place heavy emphasis on formality and self-centered benefits, while deficient in social concern or practical application. As a result, these sects are not generally received very well by the public at large, or the intellectual class. Plainly, the truth for our lives should be known by everyone otherwise, we stand in danger of social confusion,

waste of time and effort, dissatisfaction, and unhappiness.

h) The ultimate purpose of the truth

Why, someone may ask, is it so crucial for us to know the truth? In simple terms, it offers us the answers to the fundamental questions in our lives such as *how we can live our lives successfully and happily*. As mentioned before, most problems and unhappiness in our lives originate with ignorance of the truth. On the contrary, if one becomes a well-educated individual with a richness of the knowledge of truth and good character the result is respect and the gratitude of society. This is not to mention the value and meaning of life that one comes to feel.

The reason that intellectuals become skeptical of the truth offered by religious people is that the biased views and logic presented are often proclaimed as “the truth” by borrowing the authority of none other than the creator, or the group’s founder or leader. The original truth, however, is scientific, academically valuable, promotes character, and enriches our lives. It is vitally important to discern false or less than complete ideas for the very future of our people.

Those who are genuinely enlightened by reason and

conscience do not need religion or philosophy that twists logic and human purpose. Genuine self-evident truth teaches the purpose, value, and laws and principles of life as they center on human beings and all things. Since this axiom coincides with the religious world, human society, and the natural world, conflicts and divisions can be resolved.

There is an ideal to be accomplished here on earth. This writer's conviction is that it originates from our creator, and was deeply planted within each human heart from our beginning. In accomplishing this ideal we can fulfill the purpose of an earthly kingdom of harmony and unity, as well as a continuing spiritual kingdom beyond any particular group, sect, or religious or political order. This is the very destiny and highest blessing that heaven has bestowed on humanity.

2) The Creation and Realization of the Earthly Kingdom

a) How did the world begin?

- *From creation until the realization of the earthly kingdom*

Most Christians believe in the idea that God created human beings as well as all things in the universe according to the Bible description. As of this day, there is very little concrete and proven scientific theory regarding how God created heaven, earth, and man.

It is very difficult for many to believe in something that they cannot perceive with their five sensory organs. This point is frequently referenced by many materialists; and atheists use it as a point of argument for their 'no God' beliefs. After all, we do live in an era when it is demanded that belief must be founded on solid scientific proof, not only on reasonable theories. However, faith is something which each individual chooses and decides by his or her own personal free will, even if the proof or evidence may not be sufficient. Of course, this freedom of faith must be guaranteed.

What then *is* the reason for religious faith to continue despite insufficient universal theory and proof? It is because each of us as a human being is both a physical and spiritual existence. Unlike animals which have only physical instinct we have spiritual instinct and sensitivity through which we revere divinity, i.e., God, and have the desire to live in love and goodness.

Humanity's religious consciousness and faith can be

traced back to the roots of our human cultures and history, and is thriving throughout the world today.

In our modern age, atheists have emerged as religious oppressors, seeking to eliminate a variety of religious rights through the mobilization of public authority, using political organizations, and lobbying for legal sanctions. We can observe, however, the original strength of human religious and spiritual instinct by the powerful opposition to would-be suppressive anti-religious forces (communists and materialistic atheists), and the lack of any lasting success by those negative forces.

One aspect of our original mind and consciousness is what I might call the "religious original mind," or, "the mind of respect toward heaven." Knowing this, not one of us can take a stand as a total atheist or reject our divine source with complete validation. Although humanity has seen its share of errors such as idol worship, blind belief or corrupted leadership, or, putting too much emphasis on self-centered benefit or favor, still a majority of us have continued to hold beliefs in God, Christ, Buddha or other great spiritual leaders who encouraged the good and fought evil. Even if someone claims to be an atheist, when hard pressed he or she may utter the words "Oh, God!"

consciously. The old saying goes, "It's hard to find an atheist in a leaky lifeboat."

We are an existence who have the potential to recognize our creator, and quite capable of making oneness between that creator God and ourselves. However, the reality of so many religious groups and denominations is to defend the point that, since God and the spiritual world are super human existences unable to be understood by our five senses or reasoning power, we should be 'humble' and just believe and obey. It is no wonder that members' faith becomes unstable in light of this call for simple belief and compliance.

There is no doubt that we need a universal, reasonable, rational and provable recognition of our creator and the principles that govern our universe. This approach and understanding is the basis for a firmly rooted faith and daily life. In this new century, everything will be clearly revealed by scientific and self-evident reason and proven fact. By this means, the existence of God will be revealed much more clearly by self-evident and reasonable theory.

Another breakthrough is communication with those who now live in the spiritual world (those that so many

of us have pronounced 'dead and gone'.) Thanks to various theologies and psychic studies, not to mention the broad awakening of ESP (extrasensory perception) in the experience of a growing number of people, this will become a more and more common phenomenon. Jesus himself predicted this when he stated, "The time will come when you will worship God in spirit and truth." It is in this 21st century that the truth will be plainly and believably explained, not only in the realm of materialistic science but in the world of internal spiritual science as well.

We can trust and believe in something new to us when it is presented in a convincing way and verifiable through our five senses. Since our reasoning ability and conscience works in this manner, when we encounter something unreasonable we express our disapproval automatically, perhaps rocking our heads side to side, or rolling our eyes toward the ceiling. Then again, when we hear something that really makes good sense we almost always nod in approval - this rather universal common response goes beyond any particular language.

The idea that a creator, in fact, exists is a reasonable theory. Can even a simple piece of paper or a pencil exist as the result of accident, or natural evolution

without a creative force as its genesis? Even a small child would say that this doesn't make any sense.

It has been commonly stated by scientists that in the latest stages of evolution, humans developed from monkeys. Yet, as we observe the animal world today there is clear division in the characteristics among the innumerable species, with many differences in characteristics within the monkey kingdom alone. Also, we don't observe species in the midst of development into more advanced species. The animal world was created 'kind by kind,' to quote the Old Testament.

Of course, there are those who may explain that with the process of evolution, some monkeys no longer used or needed their tails, began to walk on the ground, and eventually became you and I! This thinking represents a jump in hypothesis that is neither logical nor satisfying to the listener. The question is whether or not the DNA of one species can morph into the DNA of a totally different species.

Today's science declares that the nature of a particular DNA remains unchanging forever and is transmitted species by species. The idea that a human being is the evolutionary descendant of monkeys represents tainted

and twisted logic.

Every existence has a maker without exception; this should be a valid and adequate conclusion. Additionally, the beauty, balance, and harmony within the natural world also suggests to us the existence of a common creator with a harmonious, beautiful, and balanced nature.

Though there are those that protest, it is also crucial to understand that we are beings with, both, physical and spiritual existence. In essence, we live in what we might term as two worlds or dimensions at the same time (though the physical three-dimensional world is more believable for us through our 5 physical senses.) However, it is shortsighted to reject another (spiritual) realm simply because we can't detect it with our everyday senses. Though it is limited to very few people, it is recorded that through something called "psychokinesis," or the power of extreme concentration, these persons can move objects without touching them. You yourself may have had the experience of thinking to call a friend or relative at exactly the same moment when they had the same feeling to call you. These are just examples of what the pure mental concentration and heart can achieve when fully focused. Is it, then, beyond belief, that an invisible

creator materialized his ideal through the creation of physical existence and phenomena through the power of great contemplation? When we can see beyond the limits of our physical senses and world, we are much more open to understand the reality of such an event. This line of thinking makes much greater sense than the unscientific theory that all things emerged naturally from nothingness. Rather than the idea that our human race evolved from an anthropoid, it makes more sense that the creative conception of a creator was the root of our universe and of ourselves. With this in our minds and hearts, we can have a greater sense of dignity and value in our lives. This amounts to a deeper awareness of who we are.

It seems true that there is not much difference between an ape and a human being when we consider their outward appearance. Of certainty, they may belong to the same animal species, mammals, physically. Also, their subsistence through animalistic instinct toward survival and the reproduction of their species function in the same way. Again, this is why, as we observe the functions and structures of the birth of the physical body, its growth and reproduction, there seems to be almost no difference between apes and humans.

Yet, as we look more deeply, we begin to see a

profound difference between the two species, especially in the aspect of reason and spirituality. For instance, human beings have, both, a potential for reasoning power far beyond that of even the most advanced anthropoids, allowing us to deal in abstract and philosophical realms that go far beyond the very basic instinctive reasoning of apes, concerned with food, sex, or tribal roles. Humans also have an inborn original conscience which goes beyond the self-preservation instinct of the anthropoid realm. There is the seeking of goodness, not only for oneself, but for others, even, at times, to the point of self-sacrifice. Conscience is, in a sense, a 'mind' or 'heart' within us which seeks to live for the public benefit and to act in support of one another. Conscience brings morals and ethics into our lives, and enables us to build peaceful and publicly beneficial societies.

Conscience also seeks to co-exist with all things beyond simply human society, including animals, plants, and our natural environment in general. We can see this in our current world, with all kinds of nature protection initiatives. Reflecting on the nobility and goodness of this original conscience, we can begin to understand why the Old Testament scriptures have noted that the creator gave us the title "Lord of creation." It is clear that our existence has implications far beyond those of

the anthropoids on this earth.

Another point here is that human beings have been given the gift of creativity, i.e., the fine arts, music, literature, dance and a host of other creative expressions, as well as the reason, abilities, and wisdom to bring these expressions into a kaleidoscope of forms. In essence we are given the freedom to literally *continue* the work of creation by exerting our knowledge, wisdom, and inspiration. Simply put, creating gives us a deep joy and fulfillment. It is especially important to know that the idea of the human being made in the 'likeness of God' refers more to our inward qualities, like those we're discussing here, and not so much to our material shape or outer form.

Animals of higher intelligence also have an instinct that allows them to emulate or copy the actions of one another. Think of the parrot that can build amazing humanlike vocabularies through listening to their owners. Then again, certain monkeys or gorillas have learned various skills and behaviors from trainers, such as riding a bike. Many other animals have learned multiform skills in keeping with agriculture, performance art, etc.

This element of 'heart' as mentioned herein is another,

and perhaps, most central element of each of us as a human being. It is from this spiritual center within us (not the tissue organ beneath our ribs) that we empathize with those around us, and feel their pain, loneliness, love, and joy. Not only this, but the heart reaches out to all of nature and the universe; there is a kinship that cannot be denied. In scripture, we are exhorted to love even our enemy. This original heart is proof that we have inherited deep within ourselves the creator's own heart.

Just as we love and yearn for our parents, thankful to have been given birth and raised by them, we also – whether we have yet experienced it or not – have a faithful mind of love and respect to our Divine Parents, our creator, especially, once we have come to know Him/Her. This mind seeks to reach far beyond the realm of status quo goodness, but seeks for a Divine standard – think of the standard of a Mother Teresa, or St. Francis. It is only in our life as humans do we find the seeds to fully appreciate the happiness of nirvana, or oneness between God and ourselves.

Being that we live in a world that caters too much to our animalistic instincts it is, for a great many of us, quite hard to believe what I have just written. This is understandable. We are, in actuality, each a

substantiation of God on earth, capable of embracing the truly sacred and meaningful, seeking the highest love, and, experiencing profound spiritual feelings that lift us far above the senses of the body at special moments in our lives. As I have already shared, we may look at ourselves in the mirror and conclude that we are roughly shaped like anthropoid existences, therefore, must be highly evolved apes. Then, I want to ask you - Are you, in total, your body alone? Who are you if that is not your conclusion? Better than 99% of you is invisible to your material eye. How absurd and unsatisfying it is to settle for the claim that we simply evolved from apes.

Complete nothingness remains nothingness forever, for it has no function of life or growth. DNA, the gene of life, is forever unchanging and has no possibility for evolution. Nevertheless, the fact that atheists and materialists continue to advocate the idea of natural occurrence and mutation raises a concern that we are delaying any true academic advancement. It shows a certain contempt by us for who we truly are, justifying struggle for existence and possession by claiming we are nothing but highly evolved animals; thereby, justifying, in the eye of the materialist or atheist, their championing of violent revolution and overthrow. What *is* the origin of all things in this universe? If there

is, in fact, a certain world and dimension beyond time and space, it would be a spiritual existence, since only a non-material world can transcend the time/space realm. For us, who live our lives totally within a time and space frame of reference, it is admittedly very hard to imagine anything beyond this experience, but the study of advanced physics itself has, already decades ago, begun to hypothesize the existence of such a realm. After all, we have to deal with such questions as, 'What existed before material existence, or time?' We have to infer that there was a spiritual mind/heart prior to the creation of the universe.

When we consider what this heart/mind is, first, it contains limitlessly good thoughts and ideas, which will, likewise, produce something good and genuine that represents an ideal of creation. Secondly, heart/mind has its own rule, or guidelines, which is what I've called the 'law of life' in each human being. In short, then, the two aspects of heart/mind are, #1.) Creativity and #2.) The law of the original mind (what I call 'heart/mind.')

Let us remind ourselves again: If the origin of this world is nothingness (total emptiness), the emptiness will remain forever. Quite simply, you get nothing from nothing. The origin of all things is spiritual heart,

which holds the ideal of creation and boundless goodness; this same spiritual heart, or core of all things, contains the law for the existence of all things.

How did the idea of creation progressively express itself? If we were to study every infinitely small and detailed step, it may take far more than one lifetime...So I will request the freedom to streamline the process here: From this original heart/mind power was released in the form of energy, this energy produced movement, the movement emitted heat, this heat released light, light eventually produced the infinitesimally small particles called photons which became an element and a building block for the atom, the atom bonded with other atoms to make a molecular structure, and these structures of molecules clustered together in various formations to create physical material, like gases, liquids, and solids. Over the billions of years, this is how our earth emerged.

Water swept across the boiling face of our planet, and life-giving air came to form a mantle around the earth. This water, air, and the minerals from cooled magma and rock gave birth to living organisms of countless forms. Plants and trees rose high above the algae-covered ground and bore fruits, which prepared the environment for animals of every kind, size, and shape

according to their inborn DNA. Of course, this process took place through the laws of physics from the same origin that was the genesis of all things. Taken as a whole this process could be called the creation of the universe through the logos. This resultant beautiful world is indeed the substantiation of the original ideal of creation, and can only be managed by a substantive and intelligent non-material existence beyond time and space.

This invisible 'lord of creation' created humankind, giving each person an inherent divinity and capabilities that reflected Him; what many may call 'the substantiation of God on earth. Created thusly, we each represent the invisible creator as a 'second God' (or, 'in God's image' as the scriptures express it.) If we use the phrase 'child of God' in reference to man, what does it portend? Is it simply a title? No, it means that each of us carries a responsibility to care for the creation around us, including our fellow men, and act in a responsible and loving way throughout our lives. It is important to note here that the 'heaven on earth' cannot be created by some sudden direct transcendent act of God or heaven, or by a returning all powerful messiah; it remains for each of us, as a child of God, to take responsibility for its creation throughout our lives. Today's society continues to be in turbulence, disturbed

by many forms of irresponsibility and lawlessness. The root causes of this degradation lie in the loss of an original view of value, our own, and that of the people and world around us. Modern scholars, ignorant of the worth of the original creation - though they place a value on knowledge and wisdom - have too often tended to bring human status and subsequent value down to that of a mere physical being, or, more simply, animals. Under the influence of such thoughts, particularly on the left, we have lost an awareness of our preciousness as, in essence, a spiritual existence, or child of God. These kinds of materialistic teachings and convictions become blind, self-fulfilling prophecies, taking shape in the resultant social behaviors of those who use them as false guidelines for self-justified, self-centered actions. The results are societies that experience cultural rot, the loss of morals and ethics.

In the past, there seemed to be a stronger recognition that we are different than animals and should live in goodness. Today, however, people seem to accept and claim that they are only naturally following what all animal species do, often stating, "Hey, isn't it natural?" We're surrounded by movies, TV, and societies in general, that echo this *ad infinitum*.

Originally, we could feel a pang in our conscience in

the face of this social deterioration, but because of the repetitive malfunction around and within our own lives there is a greater and greater unconsciousness among us, and we drift into a state of 'sleep.' The question, then, becomes, 'How do I wake up?'

The most important thing for us as human beings is to have the right answer to the question, 'Who am I?' Having the correct view of our lives we should be able to state, "No, I am not simply an animal species. I am a person who is the substantiation of God on earth." Of course, this needs to be a continuing realization each day, each moment of our lives. It brings us to a totally different kind of self-respect - not based on ego, but from a higher view and awareness.

When we have internalized this awareness and truth we can live with pride, character, and, develop new attitudes as we live our daily lives.

b) The human being has changed from the original world of creation

A person's original nature (or mind) is created with an eternal direction of goodness, and does not change according to the whims of his or her social environment or personal situation. As long as a person is living in

goodness, centered on the original mind and conscience, he or she is free of self-accusation and inner conflict, and able to live a happy life. Conversely, if a person lives against their conscience and involves with an evil or degraded lifestyle, they will feel a sense of shame, self-accusation, and the loss of will power, thus they cannot continue such a lifestyle. The faculties of a person's original mind are designed this way. A person who lives from their original nature is inherently directed toward a heart that delights in goodness, and repels evil, thus will not do evil as long as he or she lives a principled life.

The obvious question that presents itself in light of the preceding statement is, "Then why has humanity so often followed the wrong direction, and taken a fallen path?" (The word "fallen" used herein means the condition where one has separated from the original mind and heart of goodness, thus, bringing oneself and the social environment into a hellish state of existence.) With regard to the origin of the fall of humankind, there is the story of 'Paradise lost' in the Old Testament that speaks of Adam, Eve, and the serpent. However, the narration of this ancient situation is described in symbol and metaphor, and needs to be decoded in a more concrete way if its true meaning is to be of any use for us. There is no way to liberate humankind from

crime, conflict, and unhappiness if we remain ignorant of the root cause of the human fall.

Although many saints, scholars, and truth seekers have sought to reveal the motivation and meaning of the first crime of humankind, it has not been elucidated as yet and remains “the mystery of paradise lost.” What is the real meaning of Adam and Eve’s sharing the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? What does the fruit signify? Is it a literal fruit, a fruit of the heart, or, one of, perhaps, intimate desire? Every possible supposition has been made. Unfortunately, a universally convincing interpretation has not yet been presented. Meanwhile, especially in many modern theologies and edifices, there have been interpretations presented that are subjective according to social environmental trends (often left leaning), destructive, and even harmful to society.

Is this puzzle of the story of the Garden of Eden forever unsolvable? No. As the saying goes, “It’s always darkest beneath the lamp.” The answer has been close to us – right at our side. This is the time to solve the riddle of the Eden story.

In spite of the many great inspirational and moral works of saints and sages throughout history a clear

understanding of the holistic intention of the creator has never been fully revealed. The Old Testament, in Genesis, describes the creation of heaven and earth, though in a relatively brief account much like a grandfather may tell to his grandchildren. It is a mystical account that doesn't give us a scientific or academic perspective. Yet, from Biblical times until recent history, there have been prophecies of the coming of 'the Messiah, the Maitreya, or the True Man; and the clear explanation of all truth, about God, humanity, and the purpose and meaning of our existence.

Paul, though not a disciple of Jesus' during his 33 years on the earth, was powerfully converted to Christ after Jesus' death and resurrection, and was perhaps the greatest Christian missionary of all time. Among his letters to the various early Christian congregations he made the statement, "What we know now is vague, but, in the end of the world, everything will be plainly revealed." Now is that end time. What actually happened in the Garden of Eden can be clearly understood today.

Our conscience always seeks for goodness, but there is a stronger power than conscience within each person. It is the power of emotion, the power of love. Man has

often been called 'an emotional animal.' When we become emotionally excited, we cannot restrain ourselves by the power of conscience alone and risk derailing; for the power of love is supremely strong and can easily make a person blind. Truly, the power of love is stronger than the power of death. Once having fallen in love, a person can become deaf to his parents,' siblings, or best friend's most heartfelt advice. The overpowering of conscience by the emotion of love can make a person reckless, even to the point of committing criminal acts.

We can begin to see the real meaning of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil that was shared by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In the Bible, a man is often compared to a tree, thus, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil must signify a man who can make the choice to do either good or evil - For example, Jesus made the statement that, 'By a man's fruits you will know him.' When a person grows and matures his or her conscientious original mind, as a good fruit, should show that person's direction toward the good. Therefore, the 'fruit' must pertain to the conscientious original mind, while "ate" means that he did something related to this mind. Then what is our conclusion?

The meaning of the 'fall,' namely, that the progenitor of

the human race ate the forbidden fruit against the warning of God, is that he acted against his conscientious original mind. Then what was the process of the fall?

Since the Bible describes Adam and Eve being naked, the location of the Garden of Eden they lived in could be assumed to be within a tropical zone, something like the Amazon area of South America. When we learn how Amazon natives once lived naked, there seems to be a similarity to the time of Adam and Eve. In fact, just like the indigenous people of the Amazon forests lived peacefully without worry about food, clothing, and shelter, the earliest named parents of humankind, Adam and Eve, also must have lived innocently and in a state of peace.

If we don't have to worry about our basic material needs we are more liberated to pursue our aesthetic feelings and the longings of our hearts. These more internal appetites, inspired by beauty, art, and the natural realm itself are inborn within us as part of our original beings as humans. Adam and Eve must have lived this kind of existence in the Garden of Eden, much like totally innocent children.

Nevertheless, even in an original, innocent, childlike

society, like that which I have mentioned here, it is possible for provocative and ultimately destructive human desires to find their way in. For instance, a particular man may be attracted and tempted inappropriately to the beauty of a certain woman who lives in his neighborhood, or suddenly appears at a gathering, dressed in a revealing outfit.

Let us look at the foregoing with an eye toward our original inheritance as creations rooted in a divine source. Humankind, that is, each one of us, has inherited from birth what I have called here a conscientious original mind; even if tempted, he or she is created in such a way that the conscience will respond with an alarm or 'pang' that activates feelings of shame or guilt within an individual as a warning sign. Those who are historically called saints or persons of noble character overcame such temptations, for example, a sexual attraction to a beautiful woman or charming man, by deeply focusing on his or her own pure conscience and putting it to use, beyond momentary emotions. On the other hand, if the emotions override the warning of the conscience there is a clear possibility to violate it, and 'fall' into a state that brings one to a point of lesser status than an animal.

In brief, desire, in this case, has taken precedence over

the conscience, thus, anesthetizing its normal function. What most usually follows is a self-justification through the use of twisted logic that, in effect, justifies wrongdoing or evil as well. If this pattern is continued the conscience is rendered more and more ineffective as a check to the unpredictable and often raw emotions tossing around within us. An example and often repeated justification we hear is the man or woman who asks in the face of their adultery, "Why is it wrong? It's only natural instinct?" This kind of justification will break down the traditional family, and eventually, the whole of society. We need to speculate on the human fall -

Our first ancestors, Adam and Eve, should have lived like innocent children feeling no shame or embarrassment with their being unclothed, following their conscientious original minds and exchanging true love. We can gather, however, that they consummated an adulterous relationship with a third party and got off their original track as the tragic result. According to the book of Genesis in the Bible, Adam and Eve - after eating the forbidden fruit - knew they were naked and felt a strong sense of shame, covering their lower parts of their bodies. It is a natural reaction to cover a shameful place or act. The eating of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is, by all

evidence, to have committed adultery in violation of their consciences.

Originally, man and woman were meant to grow to full maturity, both physically and spiritually, by cleaving to one another as husband and wife after receiving their Divine Parents' permission, and after being granted the blessing of marriage. Unfortunately, this whole Divine process was degraded by wrongly motivated and premature adultery. Many in today's world would say this description of the real meaning of the fall of Adam and Eve is puritanical and outdated; yet, look at all of the problems that the misuse of love has brought us throughout history. The moral decay and confusion of our own modern societies has continued to this day, full of justifications and claims of *sexual liberation* and personal freedom. These patterns have woven their way deeply into the fabric of our modern cultural and social climate, and have helped open the doors to numerous kinds of criminal activities. So many don't want to admit or accept these realities, but, sooner or later, whether in the life of one person or that of a whole society, the effect will be disastrous.

Observing our modern societies, it becomes more and more obvious that we, who should have been the substantiated image of God on earth, have deviated

from the track of our original minds. Social and personal conscience has been numbed and violated by countless self-justifications, tracing back through innumerable generations - back to our very first ancestors.

Whether or not a person lives a virtuous moral and ethical life begins with the original mind and conscience within. A truly conscientious man guided by his original mind will not take unfair advantage of or harm others, and does not live only by written laws or dictates from outside himself. His true worth begins with his own connection to his inner original character.

The question as to how we can put out the fires of crime in our modern world is, at its root, quite simple. Since the root cause of sin - committed by our first ancestors - involved behavior which was plainly counter to their individual original consciences and self-justified; the most effective measure for each of us is to never justify ourselves or act out of opposition to our conscience. Many may prefer a far lengthier and more philosophical discussion here, however, when we boil it all down, it is more a matter for understanding with the deeper heart, and not just the intellect.

Even if we don't have a great knowledge of theistic or

philosophical thought, as long as we live following our conscientious original mind and heart, we can live as we should and become truly free people. This is because the natural laws within our world, as well as the original moral and ethical path of life, have the conscience as their foundation. Jesus' pronouncement, "The truth shall make you free," meant that if we understand and act out of the conscientious original mind and heart we can gain complete freedom and liberation.

With this elucidation of the truth of Paradise Lost in Eden, we can liberate ourselves from evil, and achieve a good character by following our conscience and overcoming the problem of self-justification. Those who can establish and implement sound morals and ethics through their daily lives are destined to enjoy true value and meaning. The Garden of Eden story isn't a fairy tale, but a narrative involving symbols, which have very much to do with both our problems in this modern age, and indicate at the same time, solutions that can profoundly impact our modern society.

Our conscientious original mind, which coincides with the heart of God in origin, is indeed the most precious gift our creator gave us, as He created us in His likeness

and form. We have been given the internal 'seeds' that can grow and mature into good character. We can build, through that maturation process, an earthly paradise. As Jesus realized freedom in understanding the truth, now is the time when we can liberate ourselves from religious doctrines and philosophical thoughts so often filled with falsehood. All we have to do is to restore our connection with our conscience based on our respect for our origin. As we come to realize our own original value, how can we fail to see and serve that same core of original value in those around us?

c) Let us realize the earthly kingdom

Even though we can see the effects of the human fall throughout history, it is so important to know that the original goodness at the core of each of us is engraved in eternity; it can never be lost. No matter how much crime a person may have committed in their life, the heart to seek for and act in goodness remains unchanged in its direction. As before, it is an eternal core within us. Consequently, even if our human ancestors fell by eating the forbidden fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, which has been inherited right to this day, there is hope for restoration back to our original status. The desire of heaven is that human

beings live in goodness, centered in the original conscientious mind. This entails many aspects including: enjoying an abundant life through the development of knowledge and ability based on the rational original mind, appreciation of beauty and love through the emotional and aesthetic original mind, oneness with Universal Will, eternal values and existence through the spiritual original mind, and the cultivation of all that has been shared with us by our creator in this material universe. God placed the conscientious original mind at the center of these 6 great original minds and instincts. This is so for obvious reasons - to insure that all our thoughts and actions are in the original direction of goodness.

In brief, when we are living according to our conscientious original mind everything is tuned to a good and constructive direction, however, acting against this conscience and its direction brings forth evil, or direction destructive to the original purpose of our creator, and deeply within ourselves. We can find these negative examples in every aspect of life: Religious people without conscience can become hypocrites; art without conscience can bring confusion and ugliness; philosophy absent conscience will bring division through twisted logic; love without conscience can easily fall into problems of unfaithfulness and

adultery; scholars without conscience can spread deception and fraud among impressionable students. As it has been emphasized here repeatedly, whether or not we can realize the earthly kingdom of Eden depends on we who are on earth, and not on heaven.

Heaven surely dwells in man's original mind, always working by the eternal law through both our original mind, and our instincts. However, whether we listen to that voice or not is up to each of us since we choose to act by our free will. Connected with the heart of heaven, our original mind is forever unchanging, and seeks for goodness and the realization of the world of goodness and original value. Sages, saints and wise teachers of noble character have come to know the will of heaven described above and have expressed this will and path for humanity throughout history. To express it bluntly, these historical voices represent the scream of heaven's heart, reached by these individuals through their own original minds and hearts. Though these various sages and saints, whether from east or west, varied in their expressions, they spoke of the same ideal world. In general, history is said to be the records of when, where, who, and what was done, yet there is very little written about the spirit or *purpose* of history.

Ever since the human fall occurred, humankind, in the

midst of repeated conflicts and crimes, has continued to yearn for a peaceful, prosperous, and happy earthly paradise. This was, in fact, the very purpose of heaven in the creation of humanity. To be certain, that purpose and standard, in terms of the *entire creation*, is universal and eternal. It is this writer's belief that such a purpose can be fulfilled by our humanity not many years in the future.

Human history is not merely a collection of diverse or random incidents. It has been a history, on one side, of human crimes and conflicts committed by generations of a fallen humanity; while on quite another side we can see, through the lives of great saints, sages, and righteous men and women, a vision and effort to bring the realization, by whatever name, of a world of goodness and love.

These efforts, by noble religious figures, great scholars, and visionary scientists, among others demonstrate the development, internally and externally, of a history reaching toward the good of humanity, and the fulfillment of heaven's purpose.

Thanks to our ancestors' efforts, we have seen the steady achievement of lost human original rights, i.e., equality, dignity, and individual freedoms. Though

this cannot be said to be the reality in a total sense, with much yet to be done, still, the democratic society has represented a tremendous step ahead for billions throughout the world. Modern civilization has also provided us with a more convenient and affluent culture. Communications have also developed unbelievably in the past few decades. In many places, it almost looks like we have drawn close to an earthly kingdom. However, without the cultivation of a conscientious and unselfish character and motivation among our people, the keys to the kingdom are missing. With the education and change of mind and heart among our world's people, we can bring the internal revival of a society that not only looks good, but *is* good.

Historic figures like Jesus or Buddha were not simply men who taught wise words about how to live. These enlightened souls, and others, were conscious of the purpose of creation, and the responsibility of humanity in fulfilling it. Jesus spoke of the "kingdom of heaven," and Buddha sought the enlightenment of anyone who could understand his liberating message.

Jesus knew that if he spoke the truth in a plain and straight manner, the Jewish society and people at large would not understand it, so, he performed miracles to

demonstrate the Godly authority within his teachings. Beyond the miracles, we can see the core of his teaching in his statement to Nicodemus, an intellectual, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." -(John 3:3) When Jesus sent his disciples out to give witness he taught them to tell those who they spoke with that the kingdom of God was at hand, and, to pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." - (Matthew 6:10) He stated that those who had seen him had seen the Father, and, "Be ye, therefore, perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." - (Matthew 5:48)

In this manner, he taught those who would listen, the highest view of life, that they were children of God who is our Parent, and, to give all for the public good. He also made the revolutionary statement that we are the substantiation of God on earth. He was an activist who aimed at fulfilling the restoration of the earthly kingdom, and took the mission of the messiah for all humankind.

Unfortunately, the religious leaders and authorities of his time did not comprehend his vision and intention. Thus, out of their conflict with his belief and teachings, they treated him as a criminal and drove him to the hill of Golgotha, and crucifixion. Even today, many

Christian leaders interpret his crucifixion as a fulfillment of the divine will from his birth, when, in fact, misunderstanding and distrust caused his death on the cross. There is the claim that the cross was the only way to purchase the salvation of a fallen humanity, thereby moving away from the original will of God. This subjective and biased doctrine produced many different sects in the last two millenniums, resulting in constant conflicts and struggles.

This brings up an important question: What if Jesus' words and teachings had been successfully promulgated by the 12 disciples who lived with him day by day, heard from him directly, and should have had the best understanding of his teachings and the aim of his ministry? As we examine the teachings of Paul, who never once met Jesus during his life on earth, we see a unique and very different message regarding the aim of Jesus, and the reason for the crucifixion. Had Jesus' disciples had the missionary success enjoyed by Paul, and successfully spread his teachings as a movement to realize the earthly kingdom, based on a solid spiritual faith and character education, the ideal kingdom could have been built many centuries ago.

It brings a sharp remorse to contemplate this fact. Nevertheless, heaven is still tirelessly working for the

restoration of this kingdom on earth through our original minds, for the happiness of all humanity.

The establishment of an ideal nation, of course, requires the creation of a constitution, the organization of a representative governing body, and the institution of rule through a sensible body of law. These are necessities for the outer order of a society, but there is an inner necessity that stands above them all - that is the moral/ethical excellence of the people of the nation. As we observe the reality of corrupt politicians, who abuse their office and authority even in a democratic society, we are reminded that we can never realize an ideal nation unless our passion for public morality (the inner spirit) is the fundamental basis for our eagerness to set up a political authority (the outer body).

Numerous times during the 20th century, even into the 21st, atheistic communists devote their lives to construct communist regimes by taking over political power. However, even with the establishment of a communist nation, unless its citizens, especially its leaders, are men and women of character equipped with a oneness with Universal Will, love for people, and a devotion to the advance and prosperity of the common citizen, every initiative would face severe limitations and eventually end with failure. More

simply, whether a nation – of any political system – becomes a good nation or not depends on the character of it and its people, and political leadership. Politics is only the means to create an ordered society, but when those we put into political position become self-serving, greedy for power, wealth, and personal benefit a nation can be brought to ruin.

We live, at this time, with the question, “How do we clean up government?” It isn’t a matter of shopping around for a new system, but of finding capable, moral, courageous, and honest individuals who can humbly and courageously serve their nations. This becomes poignantly important at this dangerous and unstable time in our modern history.

It is not only important to face up to international threats from outside any nation’s borders, but to the threat against well-being and peace *within* the society. A very important part of the solution to domestic problems is in the education our younger generations receive in their schooling process. It isn’t enough to build stronger and larger police forces, courts, and prisons, if we don’t start *before* the problems erupt, with proper moral and ethical values-oriented education.

Our universities already have well established courses

for the study of political science, economics, the arts, and culture, not to speak of many other fields. What we need now is to understand “the path” to putting these many fields to use in the establishment of a solid and healthy nation. That noble path comes out of the conscientious and unselfish original mind, if only we recognize it, and can learn to distinguish it from the ego-self. Why do we admire people like Gandhi, the Dalai Lama, or Mother Teresa? Isn't it because they represent the very thought and attitude of the conscientious, unselfish, and original minded individual we write of here? Which path do you and I plan to take with our lives? – The answer that we settle with is genuinely important.

d) Heavenly fortune occurs by riding on history

About 500 B.C., Buddha and Confucius appeared in the orient. Thereafter, Mencius, Zhao, and other great saints and sages emerged, presenting elevated and enlightening philosophical thoughts and morals. Most of today's oriental philosophies and moral/ethical educational systems derive from their pioneering visionary work.

In the west, centering on Greece and Rome, great saints and wise men came forth with teachings and ideas that

opened the gates to the development of instructive social philosophy and academic breakthroughs. About 500 years ago, through the Renaissance and the Enlightenment eras, the great ideas of the Greeks and Romans were revived, and had a tremendous impact throughout the Western world. The destiny of humankind, both physically and spiritually, has advanced remarkably through the abovementioned eras and individuals.

Indeed, just over 2000 years ago, a great saint was born in Israel, a land populated by those who knew themselves to be a monotheistic 'chosen people,' who worshipped the one God, Jehovah. This man was Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus was the son of Joseph, a carpenter, and was an exceptional child, given to a fascination with the Jewish temple and the elders who presided within its religious structure. As he grew, it became more and more obvious that Jesus was a wise man with a tremendous capacity to teach, yet, he had no formal academic or philosophical training. He was, nevertheless, someone who claimed to have been given a mission from God to restore the world of purity and goodness which our first ancestors had lost. God sent John the Baptist as a forerunner for Jesus and to finally assist Jesus' mission

to realize the earthly kingdom. John proclaimed quite powerfully that the Kingdom of God was at hand, fulfilling the forerunner role. Likewise, when Jesus sent out his disciples, he taught them to announce this same coming kingdom in the same way as John.

However, the people of his time, for the greater part, could not believe in the person or teachings of Jesus regarding the immanent kingdom. They saw this son of a common carpenter in the poor village of Nazareth, as one who didn't follow the traditional faith they had long followed. For one thing, he called their Jehovah God "Heavenly Father," interpreted by many to be a sign of arrogance and an outrageous and bogus claim to being a "son to God." In addition, Judaism was uniformly strict about the Sabbath observance, yet Jesus stated that the master of the Sabbath was the human being, and not heaven.

Those who accepted and followed Jesus were humble fishermen, people from the lower rungs of society, and even common prostitutes. The upper classes of people such as religious leaders and intellectuals regarded Jesus as a heretic who disturbed the social order, and overwhelmingly stood against his teachings and activities. Subsequently, while Jesus had passionately undertaken a great mission, without the acceptance or

approval of the social elites of the time, he was forced to turn to other stratagem, face abuse by his enemies, and was betrayed in the end by his own disciple, Judas Iscariot, who sold his life for a paltry 30 pieces of silver. Jesus left this world with a remorseful heart at the young age of 33 unable to realize the earthly kingdom that God had shown him.

Nevertheless, even in the agony of the crucifixion, he was concerned about the future of his Jewish brethren; thus, praying fervently from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" This cry has echoed throughout the ages with its power and appeal for God's forgiveness. Amid his death struggle, he thought of his people and all of mankind, including his self-proclaimed enemies, praying for God's forgiveness for even those who had called for his death. It is this heart that represents absolute love, and has never existed, as far as we know, before or after Jesus' 33 short years on earth.

In reflection on the above, today's Christianity has made a great mistake in its reading of Jesus' life purpose. The vast majority of Christian churches believe that it was God's original will that Jesus die on the cross as a sacrificial offering for the atonement of the sins of all humankind. Harking back to the

atonement theory of the sacrificial lamb in Jewish scripture, Christianity placed Jesus in the place of that lamb, as God's son. This, of course, was the teaching of Paul, who had never heard Jesus' direct teachings during his 33 years of life, nor met him.

The theology of Paul, who was a persuasive and brilliant missionary, had simply never known the true will of God, and had taught an interpretation of Jesus' purpose on earth that was deeply flawed. For 2000 years, to this day, Christianity has spread the message of the teachings of Paul (widely known as the *Pauline Gospel*), and the redemption through the cross.

Has there been even one sect of Christianity that has concurred with Jesus' true mission, 'the realization of the kingdom of God on earth through rebirth?' Not that we know of. This is a grave and regretful matter for all humankind. We live in a time when we need desperately to know the providence of God and the work required of humanity to bring that providence to fruition. We cannot afford to repeat the failures and vain efforts of the past. What remains for us to do? Personally, to become a person of solid and unselfish character who can live and contribute to the kingdom on earth and the happiness of humanity. This is the very desire of our original mind, not to mention,

undeniable common sense.

Jesus proclaimed the realization of an earthly paradise through rebirth, Buddha advocated the actualization of a nation of nirvana through each person's attainment of Buddhahood, Confucius taught the moral training of each individual, managing the family, and the creation of a peaceful society, Plato spoke of the kingdom of philosophers (wise men), and Immanuel Kant advocated the moral society through the power of conscience. The reason that the abovementioned teachings have been central among many studies and philosophies to this day is because they represent aspects of the original purpose of humankind, and are related to eternal and unchanging truth.

The 21st century is rapidly approaching a time of judgment if we continue to follow the old familiar ways of being and acting, and miss the focus toward the establishment of God's kingdom.

Throughout the long history of humanity, beginning with the fall of our first human ancestors, many saints and sages have given their lives to elevate the original minds of our ancestors. Morals and ethics have also been improved with the development of our civilization, along with the idea of oneness with

Universal Will, and love for our creator. At the same time culture and civilization has developed through the recovery of the original reasoning mind; society has, through the arts, cultivated the original emotional and aesthetic mind; faith and the developing consciousness of the spiritual side of ourselves represents, in turn, opening more people to the spiritual original mind within each one of us. Our human population is moving toward the ideal society in so many ways...but the final turn of the key must be made within the deepest heart and mind of each of us.

If only we can recover the conscientious original mind, the mind that we lost touch with in the Garden of Eden at our human beginnings. The recovery of this, what I might call "heart mind," is waiting for each of us to rediscover it and discover a true motivation toward a world of goodness and beauty...This kind of world cannot be established by governmental edicts, words from the pulpit alone, or armed conflicts; it will grow out of our person by personal rebirth of character and daily lives and relations in every walk of life.

This earthly kingdom of God can be realized depending on the success of a movement of character revolution centering on those who have restored their conscientious original mind (c.o.m.). While there is

always room for improvement in the system of government, the legal system, or structure of society, the key to genuine change for the better lies within each individual. When we learn to live in accord with our c.o.m., that is, a pure and heavenly heart; then great goodness can come and we can live in harmony according to the universal law within each of us. Democracy, without this c.o.m. will always, in time, fall into ruins; in plain fact, we can see our own democracies declining due to the weakening in human conscience. Once again - it is not merely a matter of 'changing the system.'

If we speak of 'the messiah,' this is the person who comes to generate the movement to restore the conscience based on the idea of respecting heaven, or, the original heart and will toward goodness and love. We currently live at a time when such an opportunity exists for our human race. If one wishes to call this a time of 'heavenly fortune' it is simply another term for the kingdom of God on earth. In this modern age of the worldwide internet, this hope and idea can spread throughout the world. That such a planetary character revolution or what I call an 'earthly kingdom' movement can occur is not something beyond possibility in this age of instantaneous communication. A messianic figure could come on the wings of the

internet, and the entire world could see this figure in one second – This is certainly more believable than the return of a messiah on the actual clouds in the sky. Truly the opportunity to recover the Biblically named “Garden of Eden” is imminent.

This new century is standing at the crossroads of moving toward an earthly kingdom or self-destructing in the smoke of human conflict and Godlessness. The final day in which to determine the future of humankind is no doubt coming closer. As we look at modern popular trends the world looks so shallow, ignorant, and dark...Our humanity needs to see modern time and events with a clear eye and decide which way we will choose!

In more ecclesiastical terms, the 21st century is the era in which we must make a choice, of either the earthly kingdom, or a hellish conclusion to civilization as we have known it. We need to be grateful for the expectation and blessing of heaven and participate in the movement of the restoration of the Garden of Eden. At the same time, may we have the wisdom to listen to the voice of those sent to us with original truth. It is tragic to think back to the righteous men and women who have been rejected or killed throughout our human history for simply speaking the truth. Using the

common sense of the pure conscientious original mind and the pure reasoning original mind, let us observe our world out of clear judgment and realize a world of happiness.

3) What is True Religion? - Practical, sustainable religion in the New Century

When we talk about religious people in general, they respect God, and of course, His great messengers throughout history, and, are dedicated to live for goodness. In reality, however, there are many who cannot be called truly religious people. Because of the ignorance and blind faith of the believers in their various founders' names and status, the pure and noble lives of those founders are all too rarely *lived out* by those same believers. In a very real sense, 'golden calves' are created out of originally true, deep and great ideas - and become beliefs alone, that are guaranteed to get the believer into heaven after death; does this not taste of self-benefit? Jesus spoke of the "blind leading the blind..." in his day - we need to understand what he was referring to. It is no wonder why people in many parts of the world have become skeptical of religion.

Another point here: though many religions teach about

God, there is a lack of logical explanation with regard to the existence of God. Additionally, there is still a very incomplete understanding of life after physical death, that is, the spiritual world. Looking at this reality, it is easy to see why atheism has grown in its counter arguments and subsequent influence. The main point of religion is to answer the questions of 'who we are, why we are here, and how to live.'

When we observe reality, it is apparent that each religious sect insists on their own doctrine as "the absolute truth." Thus, the division, confusion, and conflict that has dominated so much of human history continues to this day - For those with eyes to see, the 'truths' expounded by these various sects may not yet be the ultimate truth as claimed. In more developed countries, there seem to be attempts to reexamine the role and value of various religions, since certain harmful aspects are mixed in with the positive points they represent.

What is the true religion that is reasonable and useful? To begin with, the true religion should teach the living God in our daily lives and faith. At the same time, it should lead us in such a way that our life of faith can be realistically linked with good practical social activities, and make genuine contributions toward the happiness

of mankind and the realization of a peaceful world.

It is important here to note that religious teachings are not simply 'social, moral, and ethical guidelines.' At its greatest depth, religion helps us to become conscious that we are each, unique substantiations of God on earth. It is written in Genesis that the creator God made human beings in His own image. In the New Testament, we read the words of Jesus to his disciples, "If you have seen me you have seen the Father," or, that a person must be perfect as the Heavenly Father is perfect. Furthermore, he gave those around him the admonition and hope that if they lived by following God's Will, they would do greater things than he himself had done. The meaning of these words is that when a person grows and matures his or her own character through spiritual and moral education, he or she can become truly aware of their innate or God-given character and discovers the true self within themselves.

Throughout history, the great scriptures as well as many sages have conveyed, directly or indirectly, the value of human beings, and that each is born as a unique substantiation of God on earth and the inheritor of a heavenly heart. This does not mean, however, that each of us is the creator God himself. What do we

mean by this last statement?

Each person is an existence which is a part of the infinite creator God; a tangible and fully unique being – originally representing an aspect of God, and possessing a noble and heavenly nature derived from God.

This new century is not an era of traditional religion that teaches conceptual or dogmatic forms of faith. Rather, each of us should become conscious of and recognize our self as being a uniquely substantial image of God who is meant to manage and govern the world we live in. With that self-realization, I should mature my character, beginning with my own family, and, within my workplace, my society, and my world. This is the only true way to realize the kingdom of God on earth. This is an age to fulfill this profound purpose. It is this that has always been the final purpose of religion.

Despite the deepest efforts of our greatest and most inspired saints and sages throughout history and in today's world the fulfillment of the providence for the earthly kingdom of God, and the perfection of the individual human character have not been realized. This is not for lack of efforts and sacrifice, but because

of the misunderstanding of just who God is, who we are, and, who I am. So, we fight endlessly within and among ourselves about this matter of purpose in life and how to fulfill it.

To this day, religions and sects have largely emphasized humanity's fallen aspects and that we are all sinners, weak, incompetent, and often worthless. While these things may be recognizable in our lives to one extent or another, if we had a proper education that could focus on our God-given original potential as a good and Godly existence we could be born anew. There is no other way to build a good family and society than to live a life of goodness and character. Do we see that happening today? I have seen a few ignorant religious people who identify themselves as being of less value than a worm, and claim that as some kind of 'humility.' We were made to soar in the skies, fully exhibiting our potentialities. Would you call this high potential 'being arrogant? - Not at all. Humility means to bow to one's own divine purpose.

While the perfection of character is achieved by a healthy self-respect and confidence, if one, contrarily, regards him or herself as simply 'a sinner', they can become very vulnerable, relying on the grace of God, and identifying as "a sinner forgiven by grace." This

results in a kind of resignation, holding on to God's coattails so to speak. While there are many who may think of this as a good posture, with this attitude and consciousness there can be no genuine self-confidence or capability, no great enthusiasm or living hope. Subsequently, the one who thinks this way will not be able to fulfill their potential and purpose, and the original will for their life.

For us to accomplish God's Will, we need to hold the firm conviction that, While God has created the providence of restoring humanity and building the earthly kingdom, whether or not it is actually fulfilled depends on human responsibility. Though this statement and understanding may be criticized as arrogant in its glorification of the human role, it is not for a moment arrogant. Once we become aware of humanity's actual and original value, such a statement is very natural and a matter of fact.

True faith in this new century should be able to inspire everyone to attain heavenly divinity and dignity as the substantial God in this world. Jesus himself spoke of us as 'children of God.' Knowing and, importantly, coming to a genuine understanding of the deepest truth of these words can instill the kind of knowledge and confidence needed to achieve the ideal. This positive

kind of faith, understanding, and attitude can lead to the fulfillment of the historic dream of all mankind.

Traditionally, building a grandiose temple, cathedral, or church has been considered to be a great expression of faith and the blessing of God. In such a life of faith, the faithful have often been taught that devotion to God, Jesus or Buddha is to be preferred. The other side of this coin, however, is that the life of the individual follower has so often been neglected. Even the daily judgment as to whether one was "good, or evil" has been determined by how much it benefitted God, or the original founders of the faiths. The true religion would not preach a conceptual service to God.

A true religion and faith should guide us, yes, to revere God, and, at the same time, love our fellow man who represent a substantialized God in our daily life. Thus, the standard of good and evil, is finally determined by how it truly benefits those around us or not.

Let me assert here that whether a person or a nation is judged as good or evil has very little to do with whether or not that person or nation has an internal belief or faith alone...The judgment of good or evil will be based on the application of the positive guiding principles lived by that individual or society in daily

life here on earth. It was Jesus himself who spoke about the good he did for others being the result of the good deeds that had been bestowed on him...When questioned about helping others on the Sabbath (a day of rest) he answered that, "I am the master of the Sabbath," which meant that the very spirit of the Sabbath was to do good unto one's fellow man.

Most of what is known as "faith" up to this day has been rather conceptual, holding on to a too-often idolized God, Christ, or Buddha. However, heaven's purpose was not simply the creation of a handful of divine figures among all the billions of people that have walked our earth in history. Each of us and our fathers and mothers before us was created to be the substantiation of God on earth. This substantiation involves each of us perfecting our character according to God's ideal of creation; this is no different than the ideal for the universe itself. Of course, this perfection of character is not for a few individuals to achieve, but for families, societies, nations, and the world itself - what we have called in these pages, 'the earthly kingdom,' or simply, a world of happiness, creativity, and fulfillment.

a) **The concrete image of a substantial God**

➤ *A divine person*

From what we have learned so far, we are the being with the divinity of God on earth. A person who has matured and realized this divinity is truly a *God-like person*, thus, we can call this person a *divine person*. However, realistically speaking, can we, who live with pangs of conscience and conflict because of our daily mistakes and shortcomings, embrace the idea that we are a substantialized God-on-earth, or, even dwell all day in Godly thought? In all honesty we may feel very distant from such an identity, being that the reality of life on earth is so often depressing, even degrading.

➤ *Concretely, what sort of person is a divine person?*

Certainly, it is hard to fathom the idea that a person could resemble God in their daily lives. After all, *who* could live a life of omniscience and omnipotence, embodying divinity, and having God-like capability - we have enough problems to make sure of our prosperity and survival through the next week. Even the recognition of God's existence itself is difficult enough for many people, not being able to perceive such a deity, or the *heaven* we've mentioned herein with our five physical senses. Moreover, if God is good, almighty, and all knowing, why is it that the world he created is filled with such troubles and conflicts? As a

plain fact, it is difficult for many to believe in the existence of God altogether.

For so many there is simply the daily matter of coming to grips with their own personal value and purpose of existence, let alone try to figure out the whys and wherefores of some invisible, universal, divine creator. In short, the big question is, “Who am I?” and “For what reason am I here?” In such a state, it follows that that there will be great difficulties in approaching the idea of oneself being an originally divine existence.

Unfortunately, various teachings set forth by past saints, mystics, and sages have too often been rather abstract and partial; this is especially so in the backdrop of our modern world of scientific and technological advancement. It is for this reason that we need a comprehensive and concrete explanation of universal, self-evident truth.

➤ *A concrete theory of God's existence*

It is common that we judge by reason as to whether a given person's opinions make sense to us or not. In the case of religious doctrine or philosophical theory this is especially true, so, we ask ourselves in hearing a newly introduced doctrine or theory, “Is this reasonable; does

this strike me as having substance?" In the same manner, the ultimate judgment as to whether a thing is good or evil is up to the pure conscience. Regardless of age or gender, a human being has an inherent, inborn conscience that guides his or her ability to judge right from wrong – this could be called the *pure original mind* given by our origin, or, as a religious person might say, "given by heaven." You can also call this "true knowledge" if there is no contradiction between the truth of life attained by the conscience and universal reason as understood through our reasoning ability.

Concerning the existence of a Supreme Being or God, if we ponder deeply through our pure reason, it becomes quite natural to come to the conclusion that this universe was created by the conception and design of a creator. The reason for this is that there is 'no thing' that can emerge from nothingness if there is no maker or creator. For example, it is unscientific to think that a plant can be germinated without a seed, or, that the smoke of incineration can appear without their first being a fire. No article can emerge without a maker or causal force. Especially when we think of higher grades of goods, i.e., shirts, technical tools, or the lenses for eye deficiencies, it's clear that these things can never materialize without a person or persons of knowledge and skill.

Throughout this world, we humans in the process of creating and producing many invented goods are in the veritable role of God's 'second self.' Almost every article utilized in our human society has emerged as the result of creation and production. In plain fact, is there even one article that was created by a series of accidents? - Consequently, when we hear atheists claiming that a thing, whether a coin, a car, or a corporation, emerged as a total accident, it is neither reasonable nor rational. Atheism, materialism, and the theory of evolution are on their way to being 'retired,' however passionately argued for, as concepts of the past that invariably fall short of proving their conclusions.

The theory of evolution claims that primordial minerals evolved into plants, then into animal forms, which finally became anthropoid and eventually humanoid. However, as described before, this is only a hypothesis and not the objective truth. The truth is that natural law remains unchanging forever. What doesn't exist now cannot exist both in the past and in the future. In the design of the original creator, a DNA gene was intended to remain the same forever.

Today, with regard to the creation of heaven, earth, and

humankind, we can explain as follows: Before any article is created, there must be a good idea that precedes it. A good conception with the necessary materials added through human effort can be substantiated in due time. Humanity invented and made operable the submarine, which resembles nature's fish in the water; on the land, cars have been created, which surpassed the swiftest horses long ago; in the air, airplanes imitate birds, and carry hundreds of millions of people every year; not to mention, space vehicles, which have already ferried our astronauts to the lunar surface, and will in the near future carry interplanetary explorers to Mars and other planets. There is so much more development far beyond this brief listing, but, in essence, humankind's creative capabilities resemble an extension of God's own creations.

While human creations are realized based on material based science and technology in time and space, in the case of God, the material world emerged out of an original non-material ideal that was beyond time and space; truly, from an eternal realm. This may sound like religious jargon to some, but there are known instances where gifted and highly developed individuals have materialized various objects out of nothing by what many may call powers of the mind.

Perhaps this psychokinetic ability was most famously demonstrated by Jesus, when as a young man, at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, he turned a cistern of water into wine.

➤ *If indeed there is a creator God, who is he?*

The creator God is a spiritual existence whom we have no way of perceiving by our five senses. There are those who are convinced that, since we hold love and truth as our highest ideals, that God is the very heart and source of those ideals. It is out of these convictions and understanding that God is omniscient and omnipotent - our Divine Parent. On another hand, there are those who hold that God is a jealous God, and a creator who renders judgment of the most frightening kind over our humanity.

As a matter of fact, there is a whole diversity of subjective and abstract views of God that have been passed down by saints, sages, prophets, theologians, and fire-breathing evangelists throughout the ages. While these various viewpoints have points that strike many as valid, still, a comprehensive view of God that can satisfy everyone has yet, in this writer's opinion, to be presented. Are we, therefore, fated to never finally know who this God is in a complete sense? My

conclusion is that the answer is “no, we can truly know our creator beyond all the partial perspectives.”

However, just how can we fully comprehend an invisible God whom we cannot see, hear, or touch? We can do so through man, who is the mirror image of God.

More than a few saints, wise men, and prophets have spoken or written historically that, “a human being is a reflection, or image, of God.” Jesus himself made the statement that the person who had seen him had seen God. Given the era and the thinking of Jewish religious elders at that time many found his statement to be enraging; they simply couldn’t comprehend or accept this young man’s words, nor the source of his understanding. The question remains even today; “Are we each truly a substantiation of God on earth, and the inheritor of a pure and original Godly heart and mind (heart/mind)? If this is true, how wonderful and hope-giving to hear this news! If we are indeed substantiated as the physical expression of God on earth, it means that we are here to take loving responsibility in caring for the natural world around us. This loving and responsible attitude extends from that original heart/mind to our human family as well.

As we come to study and understand the original

heart/mind of the human being, we can come to know concretely the nature of God.

Right up to our present day, while we have come to see certain deeper aspects of the human heart/mind, there is no knowledge that could be called truly comprehensive. I want to state here, however, that a historic and inspired fortune has come to those of this generation; everything has been clearly elucidated.

b) What is the original mind (heart) of the human being?

The existence called myself begins with the moment one has a physical body. The secular life closes when my physical body dies.

The physical body is the fundamental condition for myself to exist. There is a physical original mind and instinct, which together are the foundation for the function, growth and completion of the physical body. The physical original mind and instinct begin their work at the time of birth and remain absolutely necessary for development through childhood, adolescence, youth, and throughout adulthood.

The original heart/mind of each of us begins its

function through the physical original mind which goes into action according to the program of growth and perfection set up by our creator.

In the original world of creation, all creation instinctively knew the order of life, and grew and perfected by following the natural law. Plants germinate, grow, blossom, and bear fruit, and, in due course, their fruit drop the seeds that will succeed their species. Animals also are born and grow through the individual programming of their DNA structure, finally giving birth to their offspring. In their realm, the animal instinct, which is acutely focused on self-preservation, drives them to fight much of their lives for their survival, and bearing and protecting their next generation.

Materialists may want to argue that man is "like any other animal," fighting for self-preservation and procreation. However, there is a profound difference between the human realm and the animal kingdom. The human species was created ultimately to fulfill the Will and dispensation of God which is to realize the ideal world of co-prosperity (live-and-let-live) as the substantiation of God on earth. We are born with an inherited conscientious original heart/mind which, unlike the animal kingdom, seeks to live, *beyond* mere

physical instinctive drives, for the good of the family, the society, nation, and world. The original human spirit is altruistic which means we prefer to help others and the whole, enabling us to create a mutually prosperous society; clearly, while there are some animal species that are quite high in intelligence, there is no animal on earth that reaches out to create a society of this description. It is because of the special qualities we've mentioned here that we humans are originally qualified to become masters of the creation.

It is important to note here that we don't use the word "masters" in the sense that it has been used in our history, namely to define those who were so often ruthless, power hungry, and autocratic. It is used here to delineate spiritually fully developed persons whose lives are based on humility, universal love, and truthfulness. Again, it is the conscientious, original heart/mind that bears a Godly disposition and is the origin of goodness within our human race. This includes having an inborn sense to distinguish good from evil. Accordingly, if we try to act against the original mind given by God, there is an inner 'alarm bell' or safety device, often called "pangs of conscience" that alert us against personal evil actions. Indeed, if we choose to ignore this internal alarm bell, and act out in a criminal or evil way, we're destined to cause others

and ourselves pain, unhappiness, and ultimately self-destruction. Whether we will live in a peaceful and prosperous world or doom ourselves to continue to struggle in a hellish world will depend on whether we live by our conscientious heart/mind or ignore and deny this inborn God-given compass.

Unfortunately, our first human ancestors, Adam and Eve, failed to follow their consciences when they ate the "fruit of the knowledge of good and evil." (This story is symbolical in nature; an explanation of its meaning has been included in an earlier chapter.) From the point of this man and woman's transgression, the Garden of Eden was transformed into a fallen and evil world. Humanity has had the historic challenge - whether known of or not - to restore the original conscience lost in the Garden, and to expand that precious original conscience to the family, the workplace, society, and the world; thereby completing the purpose and providence of heaven.

It is imperative, for this historic purpose, to understand and embody God's character by thoroughly observing the central role of our conscientious original heart/mind. Humanity is, originally, a mirror image of God, thus, we can inductively understand the characteristics of God through man's character and

conscientious heart/mind.

This original character and ideal of God is meant to be embodied in each of us both physically and spiritually as we live out our daily lives; again, in the sum, substance, and relativity of our thoughts and actions. I say this for the obvious reason that thoughts alone do not complete a life, however, thoughts can birth our motivation toward a certain action, all the way from picking up a piece of paper to building a better nation or world.

Our rational original mind and instinct serve to help us develop our intellectual ability and wisdom. With this acquired knowledge and sense we make efforts to know the value and purpose of everything, and the natural laws operating within the universe. Our ability to think and create can be compared to God's creation of the universe. Think about the great cities, universities, sophisticated inventions, and many other aspects developed through human civilization. Though many may not think of it in this way, does *not* this flowering of human brilliance represent the material foundation for the earthly Kingdom of God?

As it is written in the biblical text, "In His likeness, He created man." When we observe the many great

accomplishments of our human race - from the time of the great pyramids of Egypt, to today's astonishing high tech industries - we can't deny, if we have even a shred of faith, a great admiration for the great characteristics and abilities of our original creator and source, God.

As we begin our ascent into the 21st Century, it is hard to fathom just what amazing discoveries and inventions will take shape in even the next couple of decades. Yet, given the infinite creativity that humanity was given by our maker, we are still in the rudimentary stages of our upward climb toward limitless possibilities. Truly, if we are indeed created in the "image of God" then we have to know that that image is largely our internal world of mind, heart, spirit, and infinite potential. It is childish to imagine that God merely made us in His material shape, much like a copy machine...that was not the meaning of the "image of God."

It is not enough for a man to intellectually know truth. The happiest and most fulfilled life is one that is lived joyfully in exchanging a heart of love in a civilized, peaceful, and prosperous world; this includes an appreciation of the aesthetic world as well. When one is stimulated through an appreciation of these different

aspects in our lives and environment, their sense of love will be elevated to ever greater levels.

Indeed, love is the highest and most powerful emotion for us as individuals. Suppose you possess a royal crown on your head, and enjoy all prosperity, prestige, and luxury. Still, it is only the experience of genuine love that will complete the life of a man or woman. Think of all the great novels or films that revolve around the subject of love; quite simply, if love isn't woven into the plot in some way it just isn't complete in most cases. We cannot discuss life in any depth if love is not involved in the interchange.

Think of a friend or someone you may admire from afar, chances are they are a person that can embrace people and fill their lives with a special sense of value, joy, and vigor. This admired someone you may hold in your heart will almost always be the person who can give him or herself for the sake of others. Perhaps the most admired person we can think of was Jesus, who gave his life for the sake of others, his brothers and sisters. When we ourselves can live in true love based on our consciences and reason we can experience the utmost happiness. True love is the highest sensibility originated in God.

In reality, though, most people struggle in rather tragic,

unfortunate love situations, not in the happy embrace of true love. Quite simply, this is because their experience does not have a foundation of conscience and reason. Clearly, we should never ignore or distance ourselves from conscience and reason. This ignorance or distancing ourselves is never a way to gain any kind of genuine happiness in love. This fundamental truth will never change, whatever else may. There is a spiritual and original heart/mind in each human being. When we revere our creator and origin through this heart/mind the love of God flows through our heart enabling us to love others. We can then build person-centered public morality through this kind of liberated heart, and, can look forward to living happily in an earthly kingdom. Yet, this happiness doesn't end with the end of our physical lives but continues into a spiritual realm that is timeless and eternal.

In conclusion, there is only one way to know the creator of the universe more scientifically and concretely - It is to know our own original and true identity. Quite simply, each of us needs to become aware that the one we call God does not live at the other end of the universe, but within us. This person called "I" is the substance of original goodness who can be called a substantiation of the infinite God and carries

within an original heart/mind. An important note here: Though one may be sullied with the grime of a life lived in a world whose humanity has fallen from its original purpose, that original purpose, substance, and self has never changed within you and me - far more ageless than any diamond.

The true religion of this new century should be able to advocate and embrace an era of unity between God and a humanity that represents the substantiation of this infinite God. The past era has celebrated and worshipped God as often separate from each of us, who are so often identified as "sinners forgiven by grace." This is a time to become aware that "I am a child of God;" one who is to be born anew, grown into a truly mature human being. What does this mean? It means to develop self-discipline, becoming capable of exerting our original divine nature, standing tall as a person who has self-respect and pride, and one with the clarity and vision toward establishing the earthly kingdom. As before, this kingdom is not some fairy tale place in a child's book, but a place of families, businesses, communities, societies, and nations that have come to realize their true and original purpose of living. Our creator never intended a world of wrongdoing, with a couple of saints here and there spread over the centuries. It *remains* our creator's intention to end the

wrongdoing and separation by awakening each one of us to whom we truly are.

I want to add something here; our original mind can be compared to the relationship between our body and our original physical heart/mind and instinct. In parallel, our creator, having projected His own image into each of us, is the very genesis of the original heart and mind within every one of us with no exceptions. Just as our body is the vehicle for these internal gifts, the entire creation in all its parts is the very body of God. Because God Himself is invisible He has no physical instinctual sense as we have and, therefore, has no possibility to fall as our first ancestors did.

God is the original source of goodness, conscience, our reasoning ability, love, emotion, beauty, and the reverence we feel for heaven. His providence is carried out through the original heart/mind in each of us toward the realization of goodness and love, what I have been mentioning as the 'earthly kingdom,' through the recreation of each human being.

Up to this point, we have come to know that heaven equals, not so much a 'place' in the spatial sense, but the realization of a divine nature and intelligence, of the sense of profound beauty, love, and heart, worthy

of our unending respect. We also learned that a person is originally a unique substantiation of God as the image of heaven. Today is the time, beyond the discouragement we may see and read about each day, to realize the earthly kingdom that our creator and each of us wish for. We are asked by history to take on a completely new view of our life and tremendous value. We have learned about the key and central problems and questions concerning the misunderstanding of the purpose of this creation, our own purpose and value as human beings, and our relationships with the creation around us - including one another; it is now that we have the opportunity to take on the mission of truly addressing the problems and answering the historic questions...We no longer need to wander around without a compass.

We need to move forward bravely toward the life of true meaning and value. The reason we have created hell on earth is because we haven't lived according to the original heart/mind. Even if we start from today, we can liberate ourselves from evil and build a peaceful earthly kingdom without the bonds of ignorance and lawlessness.

Even if you experience unexpected or unfair hardships, in this struggling world created by the free will and

wrong actions of humans, please never resent God or the people around you. The first key to begin change is to reflect on oneself, and repent and take responsibility for self-improvement in terms of character and actions. The improvement of my own character and my participation in the work of building the earthly kingdom through my daily activities is paramount to any hoped-for change.

Now that we have understood and put ourselves and our world in proper perspective, we can take up a strong conviction that we can accomplish our highest and best desires. We can gather many good people together, overcome our current confusion through wisdom, and fulfill our dreams and ideals of building an earthly kingdom.

c) **The realization of the earthly kingdom**

Suppose you have tremendous power and authority, or, have great wealth and capability; these assets have the potential of great value, no doubt. However, you have no real way to lead another person or persons, a community, nation, or a world unless you are equipped with the fundamental root of moral and ethical values and consciousness whereby you can reach others with moral and ethical training. It is this that is the very

foundation required to build the good family, govern the nation, and, step by step, create a world of goodness.

It is here that I must state that even with what I've said in the last sentences, the very realistic problems faced by all of us on this globe cannot be solved by wonderful ideals, or reason alone. When those who plot against goodness and decency use sly and oppressive means against good people, we have to face the fact that conscientious conviction alone, even among those who hold high positions of social or governmental authority, does not of itself solve our problems.

We are called upon to use superior wisdom, rightly motivated personnel, financial power, and, to assemble far sighted, practical, and deeply thought out plans to overcome evil. The realization of the earthly kingdom can be possible only after the following elements come together: First, a comprehensive socio-scientific theory for the building of an ideal nation; with this vision in mind, the providing of solid and practical character education for our young people including a high moral education along with the academic training that can hone their various skills and intellectual abilities. With this strong fiber, a new generation can enter our

corporations, schools, public services, hospitals, governments, and every sector of society and imbue it with positive and forward-looking drive that can benefit all of us.

Consequently, we have to recognize the coming of a new era, or, what some may term as a "new age." The key to the changing of our world to a far better and more positive place lies with a new level of conscientiousness and character in each one of us. So many, east and west, are awaiting the arrival of a new leadership which carries the authority of original goodness, honesty, wisdom, capability, and virtue which can be looked to by each of us. If we see this leadership emerging, we need to check our own deepest minds and hearts, and humbly participate in this movement with true love and truth. Make no mistake, if we judge only by currently popular political opinions or popularity polls, or, by our preoccupied concepts, it becomes much more difficult to distinguish true from false. It does us well to remember that truly great men and women, great ideas, and great and good forces in our history were most often greeted by derision, complacency, or threats of death at their public arrivals. We cannot afford to see this happen at this perilous present historical moment.

We now know the necessity and importance of

restoring the pure and conscientious original heart/mind. With the restoration of the pure conscience, reason, and heart, let us objectively observe and determine our own reality and that reality around us - this is the time to stand up.

As those of us who share the same ideal and goal can come together hand in hand in cooperation, a lasting happiness and peaceful world will surely be realized.

DECLARATION OF A

REVOLUTION

*A living and practical religion within one's daily life,
through the application of religious science*

Up until today, the practice of religion has been, for the most part, formalistic, formulaic, and, too often, self-serving, all in the name of God. However, a true faith and religion should be able to be lived out daily by all of us together. Today's humanity has a need for both a practical and believable scientific teaching that can, at the same time, instruct its adherents and students to affirm and respect our higher spiritual potential, or in religious terms, heaven; and to live unselfishly for the sake of family, society, and the world at large. This change and improvement, of course, can only begin with the growth and perfection of our own individual character; this alone is the necessary starting point of a revolution spreading outward toward benefitting the goodness and happiness of those in the world around us.

The true goal of religion is for each one of us to revere and attend our creator God and to realize one's original self as the substantiation of God on earth endowed from conception with a divine spirit and capability.

With these inner treasures we each carry, it is our task to realize the earthly kingdom for the happiness and fulfillment of all mankind.

It is this writer's conviction that the true religious conviction we need to carry is the following:

That each one of us renew our lives with the authority of children of Heaven and of our Creator; that we develop and exert our Divinely given virtues and capabilities in building lives and families of love, expanding into our places of work, our communities, and the larger societies in which we live. Is there a better alternative than this? - After years of searching my deepest heart, I have not found one.

This earthly kingdom that I have mentioned so many times is, by no means, impossible. Now, more than ever, we are asked by the numberless generations who have preceded us to do our best to become a person who can live and work toward the earthly kingdom, embodying peace, prosperity, happiness, and lives that demonstrate Divine love.

The end.

The following is a list of the main writings and lectures by

this author. These will be the available in the future.

- 1) Chapter on truth - The definition of truth; why do we have to know and understand it?
- 2) Chapter on life - What is the value and purpose of life?
- 3) Chapter on peace - What is true happiness and how can it be realized?
- 4) Chapter on origin - Evolution or creation? What are the answers to the mystery of life and all things?
- 5) Chapter on the spiritual world - Is there an existence after death? If there is existence after death, what is the theological ground?
- 6) Chapter on the origin of crime - What is the origin of crime, and, what is the solution?
- 7) Chapter on the realization of the ideal - What is the spirit, purpose, and future of our human idealism?
- 8) Chapter on human history - What is the spirit, purpose, and future of human history?
- 9) Chapter on value - Is there a universally appropriate value? What is the solution to the split and conflict between ideologies?
- 10) Chapter on good and evil - What is the definition of good and evil?
- 11) Chapter on ideal man - The concrete image of the ideal (human being) and the method to implement it

- 12) Chapter on the ideal nation - The structure and the policy of the ideal nation, and how it can be realized
- 13) Chapter on the destiny and responsibility - Is there such a thing as a "destiny"? What is my responsibility?
- 14) Chapter on religion - The true significance of the self-evident truth which can unite all religions The free and practical religion of the new century

What is the Truth?

This has been considered to be the most important question and theme, the 'alpha and omega', for human beings to solve throughout our long history. However, there has not been anyone who could satisfactorily define a universally acknowledged standard of truth to this present day...until NOW!

This book answers the biggest questions we all have.
We can know the Truth.

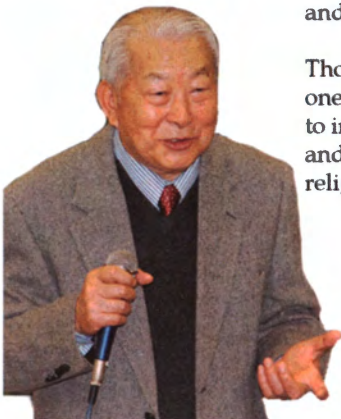
The Universal Self-evident Truth is the study of the original heart/mind centering on the human being. It surpasses the established theologies, philosophies, religious doctrines and academic theories, and is the scientific self-evident true knowledge that elucidates the ideals of creation and its function based on the laws of heaven and earth. Accordingly, it clarifies the answers by unraveling all academic questions and religious mysteries by clearly defining central issues.

If you have been seeking answers to life's biggest questions and you have been frustrated that you cannot seem to find the answer, this book is for you. Discover the truth you have been looking for.

May you be blessed in your discovery of Truth.

The author, Sang Ik Choi, devoted the most of his life for world peace and prosperity through his teaching of how to become an ideal person by awaking our conscientious common sense that is our inner-most and innate human nature. He is now 92 years old and he wants to dedicate this book to the generations to come.

Though he was the founder of Unification Church in Japan and one of the original U.S. missionaries for the church, he moved on to initiate Humanitarian's Club for World Peace to bring peace and happiness to all mankind by going beyond organized religions and churches.



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