

# Rantings & Ravings

1999 - 2007 jw.

The following ramblings will have little format or direction and be no more than "thinking out loud" sessions. Please do not assume that I actually know what I'm talking about.

**PART 1 :** First I want to comment on the "paranoid" links and the dozens like them I looked at before picking my favorites. I don't know which is more fantastic, the possibility that some of these conspiracies could be true or the fact that people obsess about these things to the point where any half-truths get lost under layers of self indulgent dogma. Let's pick on the white supremacy groups for a moment about this. At the risk of stereo-typing all these groups, basically they believe that the human gene pool is being contaminated, the United States is being over-run by non-whites, and that our government (as well as others) is involved in this and plan to use the situation (pending race war / anarchy) to instill a new "order" on mankind. Well, first of all I can't presume to understand the processes and correct direction of human evolution, so who's to say if the gene pool is "contaminated" or merely "homogenized". Assuming a "manifest destiny" for any race is a green light for extermination. History repeats this over and over, most recently with what we did to the native American Indians, slavery, and what the Germans did to the Jews. Really, to me "manifest destiny" is little more than "majority rules". Consider this irony : The American Indians were more or less exterminated, even though they welcomed us here, because they were considered savages since they could not or would not jump on the 'techno-train of progress'. The irony here is that it's this very way of thinking that keeps us prideful and set in our own ways religiously, politically and so on. And so for that reason then, is it ultimately our own "manifest destiny" to succumb to a "righter" force as well because of our stubborn idealisms? Is the real destiny here *accelerated evolution of the species as a whole through selective extinction* ? Put simply one could say 'what goes around comes around', but it's more like 'what goes around just keeps going around'. If selective extinction really is the best way to accelerate evolution then shouldn't we embrace a more 'lemming-like' mentality instead of waging war with our dominators? I should hope not. Bottom line is, if this process is in fact the quickest way to move the human race along, then all humanity must accept that any sense of right-ness we have is an illusion since the very mind-set that perpetuates manifest destiny is the same mind-set that eventually sends us the way of the dinosaur.

Personally, I do not buy into any of this. To me racism and cultural pride are merely a cover-up for territorialism, or good old-fashioned greed. When we take something that does not belong to us we fear more of losing it the same way. And for any race, is it too much to want a good life with good things for your family? Certainly not. Freedom, prosperity & happiness should be elemental to any family in any country. Then why is the good life spread so thin, causing one group to take it from another group only to have it taken from them by another group? I think the territorialism & greed here does not spawn from the ethnic masses like so many hate groups would like to think, but from *within* these ethnic groups and the people who use their cultural legacy to further their own monetary, military, political or religious agendas. And so long as the masses keep marking their territories and remain 'race-prideful', humanity will remain segregated while big government becomes bigger, big business becomes richer, big religion becomes more corporate, dictators become more ruthless, and organized crime becomes more powerful (shades of NWO?). Unfortunately, these 'big' things and that ever-elusive group known as 'they' are not tangible elements that can be dealt with in real-time. So what we end up with is cross burnings, allegiances to Hitler, preachy pep rallies and parades, and an obsessive uneasiness with the fear of being outnumbered. But it's not about numbers anymore, it's about the powers that be and how those numbers and their attached prejudices are being manipulated to enhance goals far more reaching than any racist considerations.

Which brings us back to 'half-truths under layers of dogma'. First, is the human gene pool contaminated? Well, I think of the human race (and all life for that matter) as a single yet exponential genetic time-line. So can a single pool of water contaminate itself? No, it can only become stagnant. Second, are the white races being over-run by non-whites? Most definitely they are, just read population statistics. However, remember the Indians. They were in a NO-WIN situation. They could wage war early on destroying any chance at all of gaining white support for addressing the *real* issue at the time, (again, manipulation of the masses by government and big business), or they could wait until it's too late and they were so far outnumbered that it became genocide not war. I can only hope we've learned something from that time, although I have no solution to offer other than I know hate- monger groups are NOT the answer. Third, is the government using all this in some grander scheme? Again, how many half-truths does it take to screw in a light bulb? Certainly there are individuals or groups of individuals within specific and diverse sectors of every aspect of government from the military to the Mafia that have hidden agendas, but the big scare for me doesn't come from some singular covert- style secret society, but from the collective direction of global society in general. Everyday decisions made not out of maliciousness but out of process and protocol, from generals and politicians on down to the guy who buys a pair of shoes not knowing they were made by slave labor. By a billion people who believe in a coming apocalyptic world power that will enslave us all. Since time is fluid and constantly being altered drastically by even the most insignificant actions of every living thing, I personally do not believe in prophecy. I do believe though, that the collective belief in prophecy can manifest that prophecy into being. The story of Jesus is a good example. He knew of Judas' betrayal at the last supper and could have headed for the hills instead of waiting in the garden to be arrested. King Pilot and King Herod begged for something, ANYTHING that would allow them to spare his life. In fact I think he could've gotten out of that whole mess at any time, but it was his belief in the prophecy that allowed the prophecy to fulfill itself, and the world has not been the same since. For most of us, our prophecies fulfill themselves not by trying to force its fulfillment through radicalism, but by sheer coincidence, or because it was the most likely outcome of the events in motion, or because enough people believe it and subconsciously contribute to it in a nearly infinite number of invisibly subtle ways.

So... is it our manifest destiny to play out testimonial historical events over and over through some collective subliminal prophecy? So long as all we have is half-truths the other half may very well be subliminal. After all, how many layers of that self-indulgent dogma are actually created by the *individual*?

Hence the epitome of the old cliché "a LITTLE knowledge is a dangerous thing".



**PART 2 :** And what about them flyin' saucers? There is so much information on the subject of government ufo cover-ups it's impossible to tell what's real, what's disinformation and what's just kooky. Although it would be absurd to think that all the stars in all the enormous universe are there simply so we have something to look at at night (especially since we can only see 1 millionth of 1 percent of them), I'm not ready to say yes in fact we ARE being visited from beyond. I still have a problem with that 'speed of light' thing. At this point in time we still don't know if space travel is actually even *possible*. If matter (and time and space for that matter) loses its structural integrity at the speed of light and ceases to exist, and if there's no such thing as a "wormhole" in space that can be used as a shortcut, then no one could survive a trip long enough to get here from even the closest star systems. In our case, though, what if they were ALREADY here. When I was a child I had this wacky notion that the planet Mars, being so much 'older' than Earth (it's a cool-down thing) may have evolved a race capable of local space travel. As Mars aged and its atmosphere slowly evaporated the temperatures cooled and the surface was subjected to centuries of meteor bombardment. This is what happens to small planets when they age. It was my theory that at least some of Mars' inhabitants were able to migrate to a then virgin earth. Who knows, they may have even bred with the existing "cavemen" to create what we call "modern man". (where were the Klansmen when you *really* needed them?) I had it in my mind that descendants of the original pure Martian race (not the hybrids) eventually evolved beyond the physical plane and left here to exist in a state of "temporal stealth" where they could still watch over their "children".

Now this could make for good writing in the great tradition of Asimov, H.G.Wells and Bradbury, but I have to say that now I'm embarrassed to admit I entertained such a notion even though I was just a kid. Worst part is, I have since read similar theories by GROWN-UPS, some even wilder (if you really get bored check out the Cydonia sites on the net). Who knows, maybe we really ARE Martian mutts. Maybe it's something far more fantastic. Like I said before, there is way too much information out there, and all it does is create more speculation, perhaps by design to draw attention away from top secret experiments that sometimes are briefly exposed. One thing is for sure. If we are in fact being visited by ETs there are people out there who know *for sure*, but either they're not talking or they're talking but can't prove it. Ironically, the ones who aren't talking probably *can* prove it. Then you have guys like Gary Stollman, who at first I thought might be part of some "Blue Book" type organization, but he's too kooky even for disinformation purposes. However, the fact that there needs to be disinformation programs at all to me confirms some sort of cover-up conspiracy. I can't believe it's to protect the general public from being scared. If you wanna get scared just watch the evening news.

So it looks like we really do have an 'X-Files' kind of scenario going on, to what extent and to what end I can't begin to speculate on. The easy answer would be that this is an ongoing hoax created or at least perpetuated by elements of the military to smokescreen sensitive aerospace projects. The hard answer is that these same military elements have known for years about these visitors and have kept it secret so they could "vulture-ize" (hey, cool! I made up a word) any of their technology that turned up without being scrutinized, regulated, or be forced into sharing their discoveries. The UNTHINKABLE answer is that we have had CONTACT for years kept secret as part of some covert colonization or "re-integration" program (return of the Cydonians?). The answer I WANT to believe is that they are here completely oblivious to us all like anthropologists hiding in the grass and are watching over us making sure we don't self destruct before the time comes to make first contact. (wow! I could be in a cult!)

I suppose there is a fifth answer. That would be *all of the above*. It's possible that all these things are happening at some level but are not as tightly linked together as we would like to think. We think of 'them' keeping secrets from 'us', but how many secrets do 'they' keep from each other?

Covert agencies could exist within the same governmental framework and yet be completely unaware of each other's agendas, even at the highest levels of security clearance.

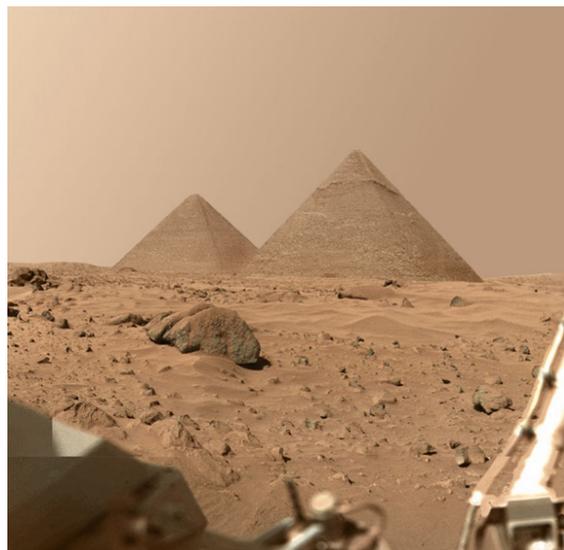
I really don't know what to think about all this, but for that matter, does anyone really care? If all these things are true and tomorrow everything from the last 50 years was de-classified *would it change the way people work, live, and take care of their families* ? not really. you will still be paying on your Visa/Mastercard until the day you die. *Would the religions of the world collapse* ? shaken but not stirred. biblical subjectivity is down to a science. *Would the nations of the world seek to take up defenses and wage war with one another* ? oops! too late, never mind. *Would it be the biggest news story ever* ? It would go on a long time but not as long as the Monica Lewinsky story.

*Would people lose trust in their leaders* ? okay now we're just gettin' silly. *Would it change our perspectives on the future and our place in the grand scheme of things* ? Bingo! now you're talkin'!

Even if the world was notified tomorrow that 'resistance is futile - prepare to be assimilated', at least it would be a much needed swift kick in our complacency. Most likely first contact would be to notify us that this little genetic experiment has been a huge failure and it's time to hit the reset button. On the upside, we did make them laugh.

Seriously, though, I don't understand why this is all so hush-hush cloak & dagger top secret, unless 'they' really DON'T have anything beyond their own scavenger hunts, or the end motives are so sinister that if known would spark anarchy.

Well, to coin a phrase, "the truth is out there". Someday someone will offer up prove positive of the existence or non-existence of ETs visiting Earth. I've read stuff by those who claim to speak the truth and insist that they will not be silenced because that would prove them right. But really, since when has that been a deterrent to assassination? Whoever spills the beans on this one will have to do more than talk. It will mean the theft of government evidence and documents with an immediate thrust into the media limelight, and a powerful, well hidden third party to entrust this evidence to when he gets busted, discredited or silenced. If and when this person does finally come forward I only ask for one thing : PLEASE, no more creepy autopsy videos.



**PART 3 :** How many black holes does it take to screw in a light bulb? It doesn't *matter*, the light can't escape from it anyway. Stephen Hawking would appreciate that joke, Albert Einstein would've insisted on reviewing the notes on this hypothesis, and Carl Jung would have said my preoccupation with black ho's screwing in things indicates a repressed attraction to Oprah.

Nonetheless, these 3 contemporary 'big thinkers' have no doubt changed the way we understand outer space and inner space. In all honesty though, I must admit that very little of what I've read by Einstein made sense to me. If someone else puts it in plain English then I get it. That's why I enjoyed Hawking's book 'A brief history of time', because he doesn't belittle you with how he figured this stuff out. I'll take your word for it, and it wouldn't do any good to show me the numbers anyway. Even in layman's terms, much of what Hawking talks about is over my head. At least it gives me some parameters to formulate some ideas of my own (uh oh, what was that about "a LITTLE knowledge"?)

In a minimalistic nutshell, I see all of what we call reality as a spatial illusion. If you consider the distance between molecules, the distance between atoms, the distance between electron and nucleus, and the distances between stars planets and galaxies, it seems apparent that even the most "solid" matter is actually 99% EMPTY SPACE. That remaining 1% is a very thin layer amidst endless layers of reality outside our sensory perceptions that are visible only when viewed from afar, the way a galaxy or nebula takes shape from a great distance. We can see and touch that which exists as physical structure only because we are far enough away from it. If you were to put your nose close to a very large jigsaw puzzle, even though the puzzle was fully assembled it would be just squiggly lines that appear the same no matter where you look. Only when you back away does the big picture become perceivable. Another way to look at it, this computer screen is made up of hundreds of thousands of tiny dots. By themselves, any of these dots would look exactly the same, and even clusters of these dots look the same except for variations in color. Only when you're far enough from it to see all of them together can you perceive an image or, in this case, read the crazy ideas of a hopeless analytic in a small midwestern town. Like this screen, everything is made up of "just dots". So the perception of physical reality (or at least the parts of it we can perceive within the restrictions and limitations of our 5 senses) exists to us because of MASS relative to DISTANCE. OK, then what about *non-physical* reality? If the physical reality can best be described as the manifested result of a given process, then non-physical reality can be described as the process itself, those collective intangible "laws" that unyieldingly require particles and forces to behave the same no matter where or when they are in the universe. This process hinges on ATTRACTION relative to VELOCITY. All particles in their free state move in straight lines near or at light speed, and are manifested into physical reality when they encounter ATTRACTION, that electro-gravitational inertial vacuum that sucks everything towards everything else. If the force of this attraction overcomes the velocity of the particle, it will slow down and become part of a very specific process, either interacting with other particles to form atoms or be destroyed by impact. So the difference between physical and non-physical reality can be equated to STRAIGHT-LINE motion vs. CIRCULAR motion. Put another way, reality exists simply because the particles stay in one spot long enough to be observed. In another respect, where TIME is *also* relative to VELOCITY, reality is energy frozen in ANTI-TIME (yeah, I have a problem with that word too). I call it that only because where velocity increases the process of time decreases (works backwards don't it? Like the particles can actually OUT-RUN time). From a theoretical state at the *exact maximum* speed of light where time is at "relative zero" to a state of *perfect rest* where time is at it's "relative quickest", it appears that the process of time we experience is a REACTION or by-product generated when particles lose momentum. Personally, I can't warm up to the idea that VELOCITY actually "generates" TIME, but it does illustrate how paradoxical relativity can seem. Again, reality exists because the particles that make it perceivable stop long enough to be perceived.

So back to our minimalistic nutshell, the 'reality statement' can be slightly simplified by saying physical reality is actually 99% space but is perceivable because of mass relative to distance, and that this spatial illusion occurs because particle straight-line movements become circular and come into "real-time" (I refuse to use the word "anti-time" again) upon deceleration.

So does this mean that all of this is just some "temporal stereogram" with no purpose or end?

Some religious fundamentalists would say this is mocking the idea that God created the universe and reducing it all to just an endless series of random events. Actually, there's nothing random about these events at all. You can spend a lifetime figuring out HOW things work, but you'll never know WHY they work.

Two particles can create a hydrogen atom, but why is it always a hydrogen atom no matter where or when you are in the universe?  $1 + 1$  will ALWAYS equal 2, but WHY does it have to be 2? Why not 3 or 4? These intangibles of the non-physical universe are PRECISE, UNBREAKABLE and CONSISTANT even over trillions of years. Here's where a "Jungian" philosophy might help. Carl Jung argued with Freud for years that 'sometimes a cigar is just a cigar' (and you thought Bill Clinton made that up), but he actually was a big proponent of symbolisms and metaphors, not just in the contemporary human psyche but on some primordial collective subconscious level. If you try not to treat the world's holy books as science textbooks (after all, the writers thought the Earth was FLAT) and think 'metaphorically', it might take some of the sting out of these so-called "conflicts". For example: 'And the Lord said, let there be light'. At the moment of the big bang, the particles that were "created" most likely shifted through various wavelengths contingent on VELOCITY, from x-rays to infra-red and yes, tons of white light. The atoms that followed were assembled from these "particles of light". *God created the universe in 6 days.* As mentioned, time is relative to velocity. Before any atoms were formed, these particles were running free through space at various near-light speeds. From a state of near-rest, thousands of years would pass while seeming like seconds to the "particle observer". *God created man in his own image.* Newsflash: God IS the universe, we are made from the same atoms that make up all the stars and planets in ALL the universe. Be interactive rather than just reactive. By our own long overdue self awareness we can be more than "God's little walking camcorders", seeing existence as not just a "temporal stereogram" but as a holographic manifestation of infinite possibilities.

Okay, I know I'm stretching things here a bit on the biblical interpretations, but you're never gonna know exactly what the writers were trying to say anyway, and everyone puts their own slant on these stories besides. Entire religions are built on these "slants". My own opinion is that these ancient holy writers were not trying to be scientists and were merely using a genesis platform to set a prologue and premise for much more important stories and lessons. Bottom line, the universe IS alive in a way that cannot be defined. It is the space between electron and nucleus, which is the same space between atoms, the same space between molecules, the same space between planets, the same space between stars and galaxies. The void that is the invisible fabric holding it all together giving everything a place to exist. And as living entities we are like red blood cells that bump into each other in their daily mundane routines, living in darkness and having no way of perceiving the much larger entity that created them and which they serve. The very most we could hope for is to understand in some small way the poetry in motion that makes it work. You can call it God or Ra or Allah or Tao or Steve or anything you like. The name is for your convenience only and yours to keep and use as often as you like absolutely free.

amen.



**PART 4 :** Since we keep lifting the lid on that Christian can of worms, let's just dump the whole can and get it over with. Let's talk about EVOLUTION. Did God create man, did evolution create man, or is God simply evolving?

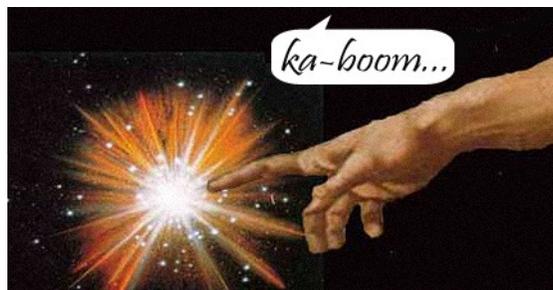
First of all, let's not confuse this with DARWINISM. Darwin spent too many years overstating the obvious, and probably did the most to taint popular Christian opinion on the subject with his repugnant implications that we are all just "hairless apes". This certainly causes the human ego defense system to rear it's ugly head. I've even been told that every anthropological artifact ever discovered are actually "fakes" put here by legions of Satan to undermine our belief in God. When my eyes glaze over from this kind of talk and it's apparent that I'm not getting it, I am reassured that this is in fact true because 'the Bible says so'. Well call me dense 'cause my eyes are still glazed over. I thought the Bible was the written word of God, not a back issue of National Geographic. We need to loosen up on the translation a little, especially when it comes to the english language. We don't even have a pronoun for the word "God". "IT" sounds so impersonal, "SHE" is totally out of the question, so we're stuck with "HE", which automatically creates the subconscious notion that God has a penis (and a rather large one I'm sure). Attached to this is a whole host of human bio-chemical neural attributes that make us think "HE" has the same emotional framework as us mortals. Such literalism has also prompted the notion that the universe is actually less than 20,000 years old, and that scientists have conspired all these years to cover up the carbon-dating "hoax" to preserve their credibility. First of all, carbon-dating is not all that complicated. It involves measuring the half-life of isotopes which DOES NOT CHANGE no matter when or where you are. Secondly, carbon-dating has nothing whatsoever to do with determining the distance of objects, which is how the age of the universe is estimated. Doppler effect spectral shift shows the speed and direction of stars (light stretches and compresses just like any other wave), which shows distance by calculating movement relative to other stars. If you can see an object that is 1 million light years away then it has to be at least that old to even be visible since the speed of light DOES NOT CHANGE no matter when or where you are, and the recent creationist theory that God created "light-in-transit" makes no sense to me because I think, if nothing existed before, where is the light in transit from? I try to believe there are 2 sides to every argument and that it's all a matter of perspective, but no matter how hard you believe the sun revolves around the earth, it doesn't. Debunking evolution by refusing to acknowledge basic high school physics is not only futile, it's irresponsible. That's what you get for trying to mix religion with church. Too many "sectual perversions".

Again, I think the problem is confusing evolution with Darwinism. And not blaming Darwin (who was a Christian) for having his ideas used as ammo by both sides in an argument he was not even addressing. He studied the mechanics of adaptation, not the origin of those mechanics. You can believe God created the Universe and you can believe the Big Bang created the Universe, but it's most likely that God created the Big Bang, so what's all the fuss about? I see the entire universe as a SINGLE EXPONENTIAL PROCESS, from big bang to big crunch and back again, like a ball hooked to a rubber band that stretches as far as it can go in one direction, experiences a very brief moment of perfect rest, then snaps back to the opposite side, back and forth and so on. If you think of time itself as the elastic, where the ball is at the center and the rubber band is completely slack, velocity is at it's highest (and relative time at it's lowest tension). At each end of the stretch, where the ball reaches that brief state of rest, velocity is at it's lowest (and relative time is at it's highest tension). Sorry Albert. Put another way, it's like God walks between 2 perfectly parallel mirrors facing each other. The images replicate in both directions forever and are exactly the same on both sides while exactly *opposite* at the same time. We exist as the infinite images and time is the light itself (okay Albert, I'm *really* sorry about that one). But back to the subject at hand, why some folks are offended by the fact that we are just a nano-second of manifestation in this process is beyond me. It's got to be the ape-thing. Primates and early man were just links in the chain like everything else, and if it's a matter of "close genetic proximity" then consider the concept of evolution as 3-dimensional as opposed to straight line gene-stacking. Think of it like the *inverse square law* where as the universe seeks to perceive itself through fragmentation, there are close proximities that occur within the dispersion that may or may not be directly related.

If you were to trace the genealogy of any life form through every single parent/child connection clear back to the beginning of life on Earth, you would find that it's not so much evolution as it is *mutation by interaction*, especially when you trace it all the way back to the single and multi-cellular level. You can break it down all the way from animal/vegetable to genus to species to race all the way down to mother/child, where the INDIVIDUAL is a sub-process unto himself (or herself). If this sounds too "mechanical" think of it as simple REINCARNATION. No, I don't mean your aunt dies and comes back as a cow. Think of reincarnation not as *one individual having many lives*, but as *one life having many individuals*. Thinking of this as three dimensional makes it nearly impossible to differentiate between linear proximity and "surrounding" proximity. Chimp DNA is 96% identical to human DNA, however the common sewer rat is closest at 97%. That doesn't mean we evolved from rats or that we'll reincarnate into rats. It just means that evolution/reincarnation isn't about connecting the dots, it's about a nearly infinite number of dotted layers connected geometrically, the Universe experiencing itself one dot at a time, all dots simultaneously.

So, if reincarnation is merely fragmentation of a single entity perceiving itself, then does this mean that when we die we're done? This may in fact be the case, but I choose not to believe so. Think of the body's primary purpose being to move the brain from one place to another. Our five senses' primary purpose to gather input for the brain, which is completely closed off in it's protective housing. The brain itself is like a massive computer but with no hard drive, it's RAM kept in tact by a continuous power source (what is it when we're sleeping, 'battery backup'?). When the computer is shut down, all the information in it's RAM is lost, unless it is has been backed-up on an external disk drive. Well, if it's true that we are just components of a single entity then nothing really dies, and even without hard drives we're at least on the NETWORK and retained by some grand spiritual AUTOSAVE program. Even if there is no "autosave" at least the PROGRAMMER retains all knowledge of the program and what it did. And who knows? Maybe these memories are stored in their own little DIRECTORY FOLDER and can still exist as individual entities and interact with all the other "dead files".

Okay, I admit that is the silliest analogy I've come up with yet, but I guess what I'm going for here is some common ground for evolutionism/darwinism/creationism/reincarnationism by relating the universe through physics, metaphors and maybe just a little humor. There's no reason why scientists and fundamentalists should be polarized. Just because they disagree doesn't mean they're not on the same side, and that side is that of knowledge and the pursuit of truth. So again, what's all the fuss about? I suppose the big issue is what our schools are teaching our kids. Should they teach evolution? Sure why not. How about Creationism? Sure why not. Intelligent design? Go for it. Shinto, Zen, Buddhism? I say give it all to them. It's not so much what you teach as it is how you teach it. Just let children know up front that NO ONE has all the answers, and that they will have to find their own way when they get older. We can at least give them the widest cultural diversity as possible to draw from when that time comes. And no matter what beliefs they choose, so long as those beliefs center around loving each other instead of killing each other, I think it'll be okay and we can all put these silly arguments to bed once and for all.



**PART 5 :** I would rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy.

I know, the first time you heard that you laughed so hard you broke your mom's water. It is still relevant to the current mental state of mankind. Some people can alleviate all their stress with an ice cold beer or a glass of wine, or for some people a workout or other exercise does the trick. For some sex is their drug for taking the edge off. Others have to resort to more extreme chill-out methods like tranquilizers or psychotherapy or even brain surgery. In those cases it is most likely there is some physiological dysfunction causing the brain to go koo-koo. For the most part people (especially Americans) are stressed out or clinically depressed because they are SPOILED ROTTEN. We want and expect so much for ourselves and our families that our careers become all consuming and the demands on our time so great we feel like rats on a treadmill and STILL are in debt up to our ears. Stress comes from that nagging over-anxious urge to break this vicious circle, and depression comes from surrendering to our inability to do so. Well I'm sorry, but if you want stress go to Kosovo or Baghdad, and if you want depression just visit a Hospice center or nursing home. As Americans we make up less than 10% of the world's population and use up at least 70% of it's resources to maintain our product-driven lifestyles. Nobody holds a gun to our head and makes us move to the big city suburbs where we spend half our waking hours at work and the other half in our cars, and if it gets to be too much to bear then either find a way to deal with it or change it. Bottom line, if you're not happy then life is pointless, and happiness can only be experienced in the MOMENT. Not to say we shouldn't look to the future, but the future does not exist because it hasn't happened yet, and the past does not exist because it's already happened and at best is partially imaginable using bio-chemical sensory storage, that which makes evolution possible, MEMORY. Whether any joy or despair comes to us from these memories or from what we anticipate will happen in the future, that joy or despair is experienced in the MOMENT, and as linear thinking life forms the MOMENT is all we ever have. And at any given 'moment' we could experience one or more of the following :

hunger, thirst, fear, pain, suffering, or loss. If you don't feel ANY of these and are still stressed out or depressed it's because you want or expect *too much* . How many throughout history and even today can say they don't experience one or more of these things on a regular basis? We really are of the *chosen few* , unaware that humanity has waited all it's life for this very MOMENT, and not appreciating all who went before to make it possible (shades of *Watership Down* ?).

So, in a nutshell, let's stop whining and get on with it.

Now you may have noticed that in my list of "bad things", or as I like to call them, *attributes of linear physical existence that hinder the individual natural evolutionary rate defined by the collective process* (you know, "bad things"), I did not mention things like loneliness, despair, anger, jealousy or hate. These are things *created* by us and do not exist in real-time. However, the result of these things can often result in hunger, pain, fear etc. and these things are quite real. This suggests that, by some abstract manifestation, creating these "non-real" emotional attributes we do in fact *create* our own realities. Call it Karma or proactive reincarnation or simple cause & effect, or think of it as what goes around comes around. We are similar to radio "receivers", tuned to that very narrow bandwidth we call reality, and in a similar way act as radio "transmitters" causing undefinable ripples in the ether by our thoughts, emotions and actions that somehow manifest as real-time attributes that are again "received", like some Karmic feed-back loop. This seems to go along with the Einsteinian 'time-space curvature' concept, and where TIME is relative to VELOCITY (here we go again), thought/action at the speed of light could go full "circle" through a domino effect chain of events that might come back to bite us on the rear. Of course, as with any domino effect there is a 'random factor' to be considered, although as I mentioned before I don't see it as random at all, rather just a process we could at best know HOW but not WHY.

Nevertheless, it kinda makes me want to think and act in such a way that is conducive to that *individual natural evolutionary rate* if not for the sake of the collective subconscious, to try and cut

down on "bad Karma". In any event, you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, so it can't hurt us all to do a little less whining and be a little nicer to each other. The capacity for compassion is exclusive to the "more evolved" life forms on earth (primarily us mammals), and because of this exclusiveness it makes me think it's a real important part of evolution. Selective extinction should of become obsolete eons ago when language and communication came into being. It is no longer necessary for "only the strong survive" when we have the ability to communicate these strengths and weaknesses and reach equitable solutions to cultural co-existential problems. Compassion combined with reasoning is a far more versatile and upgradeable tool than defensive pride, and with all our creature comforts and modern conveniences you'd think it would be second nature. Our desires still seem to dominate, though. And it's just never enough no matter what. It keeps going back to that inability to exist in the NOW, haunted by that which has already happened or worried that things that have not happened yet will not be the way we WANT it. All we can do is remember the past, plan for the future, but live in the MOMENT, because that is the only thing in linear time that exists for us. And if you're not happy at this MOMENT life sucks.



**PART 6 :** "We have nothing to fear but fear itself". Well, duh. Franklin could've done a little better than that. I guess you have to take it in context to the whole speech. It does reflect however, that fear is one of the primary basic instincts in all life forms, along with the instinct to feed and reproduce. This is not necessarily a bad thing though. Without fear we would constantly put ourselves in potentially dangerous situations and consequently reduce our life span considerably. From experience we learn what's "safe" and what's not. So fear and wisdom are the same in a sense, but how we react to it defines what we are. And using fear as a tool is not exclusive to humans. Cats are especially good at "faking out" their attackers with their evil hiss and ability to make themselves look bigger and meaner by fluffing their fur. Human manipulation of fear goes a little deeper though, because we fear more than just pain or death. We fear losing something just as much as dying, whether it be losing a loved one, losing all we own, or losing our dignity. Fear has become more than just a "warning mechanism honed by experience", but has integrated itself into our desires as well. And so the word *extortion* comes into our vocabulary. The fear of losing what we desire can be used by someone to obtain what he desires. Just as a merchant pays "protection" for fear of losing his business, we conform to the laws of a government for fear of incarceration, we behave according to moral guidelines for fear of going to Hell, we interact with one another in accordance to accepted social behaviors for fear of being an "outcast", and so on. Don't get me wrong, this is what keeps order in our lives. And although I may be a bit of an anarchist, I readily admit that anarchy would create a whole new set of fears that none of us want to see. Point being, it's how we *react* to these fears that balance us between those who are "too dumb to be afraid" and those who live in a state of mental and emotional ransom until they have no spark or passion left and take comfort only in their "comfort" (more shades of *Watership Down* ?). By this analogy "fearless" is merely "reckless" and the implementation of fear becomes submissive melancholy.

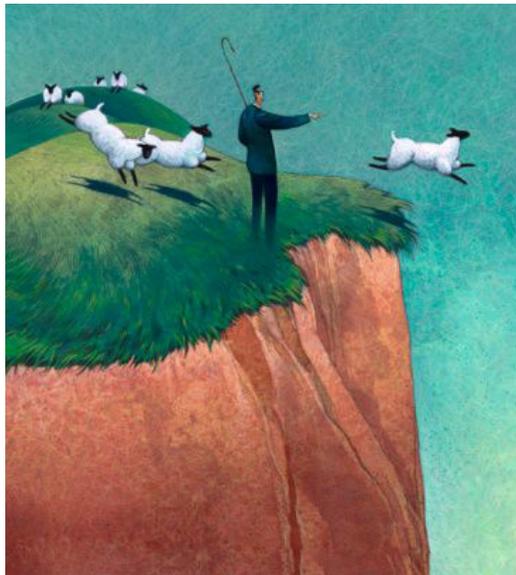
So how is this "balance" achieved? Only by how we *react* to our fears, and every fear is unique since every situation is different and every individual has something different to lose. For the most part, fear needs a willing partner. Physical, emotional, intellectual or spiritual extortion only work well if you *allow it to do so* . Since fear and wisdom go hand in hand, we can evaluate the magnitude of a given threat and the consequences of any actions created by it, and *react* accordingly. Then the real hard part comes, living with the results of your actions (or lack of action). It sure was a lot simpler when all there was to worry about was whether you're going to eat today or are you going to *be eaten* today. Maybe that's what we're missing today, a little old fashioned "primal fear". We no longer have to fear starving, or freezing to death, or being hunted for food, so we indulge in what could be called *long term intangibles* , where the few "big fears" are replaced by lots of "little worries" ranging from "how am I going to pay this bill" to "gee, I hope a comet doesn't hit the Earth". Granted, there are many people in the world who live with those "big fears" every day, but for most of us in the "civilized" world, it's the intangibles that cannot be directly addressed that make us susceptible to all manner of behavior control manifested through our subconscious desire for answers and solutions. And through psychological manipulation and the "mental extortion" mentioned earlier we see rise to whacked out religions, satanic cults, and entire armies that follow madmen. Through fear comes discipline, and through discipline the fear magically "disappears", and so confirms that *any way* is the *right* and *true way*. The ego-vangelist Jim Jones could've talked about Armageddon till the cows come home (when are them cows comin' home anyway?), but it was the aforementioned "subliminal propaganda" that caused most of his flock to willingly take their lives. Young minds seem to be especially vulnerable to this, evident by the large number of youthful Allah-chanting terrorist groups, street gangs and occult wanna-be teens sacrificing the neighbor's cat by a full moon.

As I stated before, I believe all things are fragmentations of the ONE, perceiving itself through every possible manifestation. But even though these freaks and groups of freaks may be

considered just another curious manifestation, they are *counter-evolutionary* because their *separation* from the ONE is exactly OPPOSITE the natural process of *re-integration* to the ONE. In my mind this is much closer to the definition of EVIL than any of the usual dogma that defines it in supernatural terms. Sting states in his song *The River Flowed* , "men go crazy in congregations - they only get better one by one". You know, the old boy might be on to something (or he might just be *on* something). Suffice it to say, we don't do well in large groups. And it's not all our fault I suppose, as there is an inherent universal tendency to embrace mob mentality. A single solitary ant is a wondrous and magnificent creation, simple and efficient in design, yet infinitely complex in structure. A living testament of graceful adaptation that nears perfection within the intents and purpose of its existence. A *million* ants, however, is an infestation that needs to be eradicated before it completely destroys everything around it. Are we that different?

In summary, it would seem through fear comes domination, through domination comes submission, through submission comes purpose, through purpose comes everything from the Crusades to the Nazis to the Manson family, their sense of *purpose* making them the most single-minded and dangerous people in the world.

I guess maybe Mr. Roosevelt was right after all. Weapons can't hurt you unless someone's there to pull the trigger, and so long as there are aggressors driven by purpose through fear, there will be those who are forced to defend themselves and their families. and so the wheel turns.



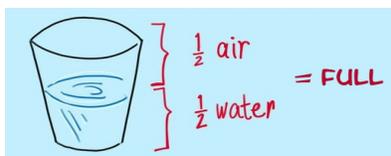
**PART 7 :** The pessimist sees the glass as half empty, the optimist sees the glass as half full. Our minds are like computers, analyzing every sensation and thought with an endless speed-of-light stream of "1's and 0's". No wonder everything seems so polarized. Two dimensional thinking gives us the reference points like yes/no, right/wrong, black/white and so on, and physical reality exists because of this positive/negative interaction. Non-physical reality, though, is more multi-dimensional (or perhaps *non-dimensional* ?), and as the universe evolves, it's self-perception becomes increasingly multi-faceted. Difficult as it is, we need to think less polarized or less *absolute* , since "black & white" is actually just infinite shades of gray. And even this is a narrow perspective when you consider white as a combination of all colors. It's not just black & white *or* infinite shades of gray, but rather every possible wavelength *visible* in light, which is still just another narrow bandwidth that's part of a larger bandwidth. So is the glass *half empty* or *half full* ? Maybe the glass is simply *too big* .

Unfortunately, objectivity is a rare commodity these days. Points of view are no longer perspectives but rather pragmatisms carved in stone, where just about *anything* can be rationalized to an absolute idiom (in fact, I'm doing it right now). The power of language can make us change our ideas even to the opposite extreme, and it's the "internal dialogue" of the mind that streamlines our arguments and make them convincing through verbalization. How different the human race would be if we never evolved vocal chords, and how different it would be if everyone everywhere spoke the same language. Most of us would agree that without words, no matter how limited they may be by cultural boundaries or by descriptive inadequacies, logical reasoning would not be possible. However, animals do in fact have rational thought without vocabulary, mental or vocalized. Call it learned response through sensation memory, call it genetic encoding through evolution, or call it good old instinct, it is an aspect of the multi-dimensional thinking we humans seem to lack. In non-verbalized thinking there are no absolute polar reference points, no black & white, just shades of gray. In verbalized thinking, all the shades of gray are thought of as compromises between two diametrically opposed extremes. When both processes are used, words and imagery come together to perceive the "big picture". It goes back to the jigsaw puzzle analogy where you see the picture the puzzle makes and not just pieces linked in abstract asymmetry, and not just in physical reality where molecules are loosely grouped together perceivable because of mass relative to distance, but non-physical reality where the *process of reality* can be thought of all-encompassing or omnipresent and not merely sequential in linear time. So if these 'shades of gray' are imagined beyond their isolated linear frequencies, all the color frequencies can be said to exist like transparent layers between the two absolutes (black & white), the bandwidth as a whole just another transparent layer between even broader absolutes.

Now of course the whole black & white thing is just an analogy or metaphor as is the glass of water. It just helps to illustrate how important it is to expand our perspectives beyond the inner mechanical workings of our minds (DON'T make me use the word "paradigms") and think of all our disagreements and conflicting ideas not as straight-line mirror images but as opposing points on a sphere, where there are no absolutes, no right or wrong, no optimist or pessimist, no black & white. Just different points of view that by themselves are meaningless and are only visible by contrast.

Now as far as the proverbial glass is concerned, is it *half full* , is it *half empty* , or is the glass just too big for the liquid inside? The answer is that the glass and the liquid are trying to occupy the same space at the same time and since they cannot because of their different densities create the illusion of a half-full / half-empty glass.

(and you thought the answer was going to be ALL OF THE ABOVE. That's what you get for thinking multi-dimensionally)



**PART 8 :** There are no problems, only opportunities for solutions. This is the kind of optimistic enthusiasm that goes over big in the workplace, and from a relative point of view is essentially correct, but most of our problems at work or at home are just variations of old problems requiring a modified version of an old solution, so do we really want or need these "opportunities"? I suppose it keeps our rationalization skills sharp and motivates us to "think outside the box" (I hate that cliché too). To me it's all just "routine maintenance", and it's sad how much creative energy and precious time is wasted on the mundane. Whether it's a teen on the edge of suicide because he can't handle the 'peer pressure' and feels like a social outcast, or the couple whose marriage is seemingly beyond repair, or the diplomat who can't reach a compromise with his political adversaries, it would seem all of us too often take life *far too seriously*. There's always so much that *has* to be done and never enough time to do it. Everyone agrees that every year seems to go by quicker, and the older you get the worse it gets. Like a roll of toilet paper, the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes. This may not be merely perceptual. Keep in mind that EVERYTHING is getting older ALL the time, so there is NO outside frame of reference that we can use to actually measure the *speed* of time. If we go back to the idea of time relative to velocity it does indeed suggest that as the universe slows in its expansion from the original big-bang the process of time would accelerate like a marble spiraling down a vortex (or a roll of toilet paper). If this is true and we do perceive on some subconscious level this acceleration, then this suggests we have the capability to be aware of the universe in its autonomous whole and not just our own component existence. No wonder we all suffer from a certain sense of "urgency" from time to time and feel compelled to problem-solving even if we have to make up problems just to have those opportunities for solutions. Unfortunately, there is growing evidence that the Universe has actually, at some point in the past, started to *accelerate* in its expansion due to the influence of so-called "dark energy", which throws all of this out the window along with most of Einsteinian temporal mechanics.

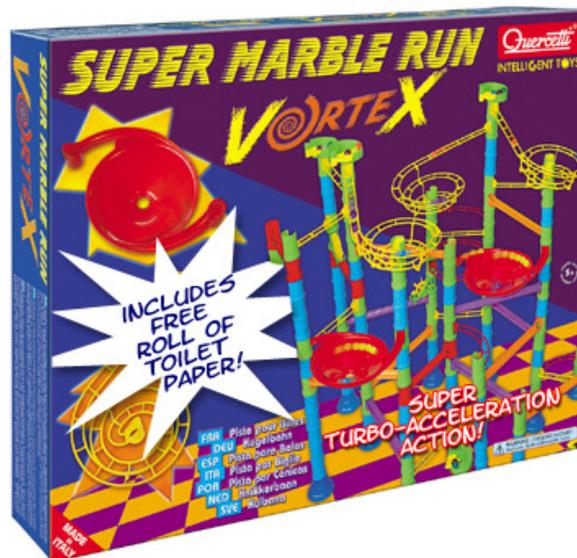
Regardless of how it actually is, it does *seem* this way, so how do we cope with this so-called "life in the fastlane"? Perhaps there is no coping with it, and it's just *jump in and hang on*. One good thing about being busy all the time is it makes you appreciate your 'quiet time', although sadly too many of us have actually forgotten how to relax. Like I said before, we take life far too seriously sometimes. Not to say life isn't *dead serious* at times, but for most of us it's not like we are working on a cure for cancer or creating new laws or on the verge of a scientific break-through, or deciding the military fate of a culture. What we do is important in its own omni-karmic existence, but 99% of it we will not even remember a year from now (I can't even remember what I did last week), and will not have any radical effect on evolution a thousand years from now aside from its subtle contribution to the collective process. So why do we obsess about things and worry and run ourselves ragged? Perhaps partly because of the accelerated time syndrome, partly because we are raised with a high expectation of responsibility and "ownership", and perhaps because of our DESIRES. We push ourselves because we WANT very specific "things" for ourselves and our families ("things" not only material but states of being like health, safety and peace). Now don't get me wrong, this is not necessarily bad, but at *what cost*? At the time this was written, it was just a few days after the Littleton, Colorado high school shootings, and looking at the community and the homes of the killers on TV I was bewildered and angry that these kids could be so full of bitterness when they came from well to-do families, lived in one of the most beautiful places on Earth, and probably never went to bed cold or hungry a SINGLE NIGHT IN THEIR ENTIRE LIFE. My then 14-year old son pointed out to me however, that maybe their parents never gave them the attention or time they needed, so they looked elsewhere for guidance, and we all know how gullible teens are, they can be talked into ANYTHING, from what clothes they like to what music to listen to, to what celebrity demi-gods they should worship. Hmmm.... I don't know if this is the case here, since the scope of this manipulation is too broad to be by design.

There is no puppet master, we remain puppets only because of our imaginary strings. But I suppose there are cases where kids get sucked into a doctrine or mindset or even a cult because there's no one or nothing else to fill the "void" in their lives. Well...maybe if they GOT A JOB that would fill the void, or at least they would be too tired to have voids in the first place.

Getting back to our DESIRES, it seems like these 'voids' indicate we don't push ourselves *hard enough* instead of *too hard*. Or maybe we desire TOO MUCH and can never live up to our own expectations. Or maybe we desire the wrong things and should focus more on the emotional and spiritual needs of our families instead of material wealth. Or maybe it's a combination of all these factors amplified by the subliminal intuition of *accelerated time* that make us never "stop to smell the roses".

The only piece of advice that comes to mind regarding all of this is 'RELAX, you'll get there'. Or from a darker perspective 'What doesn't kill you makes you stronger', which is a stupid thing to say because if it kills you, you're NOT GOING TO GET ANY STRONGER. Jeez...

Personally, I'll take McCartney's line from 'Band on the run' that says 'The rain exploded with a mighty crash as we fell into the Sun, and the first one said to the second one there "I hope you're havin' fun" '. So wherever it is we're all headed to, save a seat for me cause I'll probably be late.



**PART 9 :** How do you impress a woman? Flatter her, comfort her, make her laugh, be supportive, show her respect. How do you impress a man? Show up naked with a 12-pack.

The so-called "battle of the sexes" has waged on since the dawn of PMS, and even today we continue to stereotype each other in all the traditional ways. And you hear of guys who are actually "women trapped in a man's body" and vice-versa, and you think 'okay, whatever'. Aren't we all trapped in somebody's body? (actually, I think I might be a lesbian trapped in a man's body). I just can't believe we are two separate species. Aside from the obvious physical differences I think we're identical in every way. I guess it depends on if you believe whether or not there is a male and female soul (assuming you believe in souls). I think it's simply the subtle genetic differences in our physiology and the consequent bio-chemical variations that affect our emotional framework. All the rest is the result of generations of social programming. And how extreme indeed is the extent of this programming. Men have been taught by example to desire control of his surroundings regardless of the cost. Men have been almost entirely responsible for every war that has ravaged the nations of the world since history began, and have systematically raped the Earth to fulfill these desires for control (think about it, women don't commit rape). This is a prehistoric perversion of men's original role as provider, and the male ego still takes this obligation quite seriously. We learn early in life what our traditional roles are supposed to be, and many of those roles arose from the awesome responsibility of motherhood. Our duties and limitations have been contingent on whatever it takes to most efficiently raise a family, because without children there would be no human race. How different that human race would be if we were hermaphrodites like some plants and organisms, where both sexes could bear offspring (although as a man I thank God we're not). In any event, regardless of how subtle or how exaggerated our differences are, it would appear that men and women are actually just one lifeform, but riding around in different vehicles. While the evolutionary construction remains consistent for the species as a whole, it does seem as though the female version is a little more stable and adjusts easier to the relentless process of this construction.

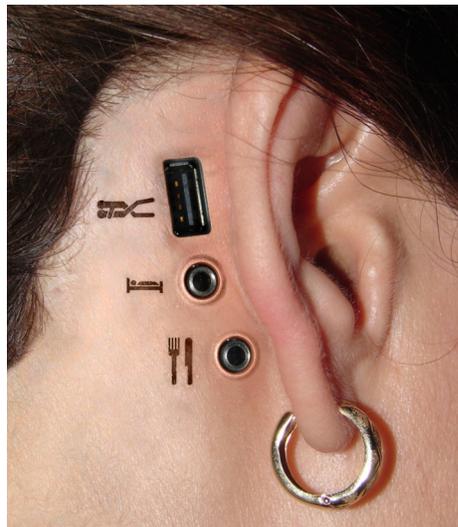
So what is love? If you define it as the ability to care about someone else more than you care about yourself then the standard boy-girl parameters become inadequate. Total devotion can exist in parent-child, brother-sister, or same-sex relationships. Where this devotion, attraction and capacity for compassion come from is a phenomenon that has rarely occurred through the billions of life forms that have graced the Earth. This seems to occur primarily in mammals, and since all mammals have the same bodies-just different package styles, one could conclude that this is merely a by-product of the biochemical emotional process of the mammalian brain. But this does not explain why a cat will starve itself or fight to the death to protect her young, and then kill a poor little mouse with no remorse whatsoever. Nor does it explain why these emotional attributes are so deeply integrated into our psyche. Keep in mind that memory cannot even recall emotions. It can only recall sounds and images that at best trigger new but similar emotions. So why is it so important to feel some connection with each other? Maybe because it can only be felt in the MOMENT (there's that word again) and we know that when it's gone it's gone. Or maybe if it's true that we're all just fragments of a single entity, that subconsciously we sense a primordial "longing" that this entity has to be whole again. Or who knows maybe we just fear living alone. One thing for sure, most all of us fear *dying* alone, but I'm afraid in the end it's an experience that cannot be shared. We all hope that love is eternal though, and that when we pass on to whatever lies beyond all our loved ones will be there waiting. If love is purely emotional however, then it's reasonable to assume that this chemical process ends when the body dies. This is too depressing for me though,

so I'm forced to believe that whatever 'entity' we are pieces of has the ability and motivation to remember us the way we were and will allow us to exist after death as individuals at least long enough to see the big picture and re-live our personal memories before re-joining the "Great Link"

(oh my God I'm making DS9 references now. Let's move on before I hurt myself).

Another depressing possibility is that love evolved as something that could give us a purpose for being here. In the past, survival and procreation were the only purpose life on this earth needed. We take this for granted now, and without any love for one another we would live as zombies or selfishly take from one another until there was nothing left. In fact, as I say this it occurs to me that through recorded history we have behaved in just this way on many occasions, even now. As I said, it's depressing to minimize it like this, I would rather think of love as a higher brain function that we are just beginning to tap into and the next step in our evolution towards Godliness, but it may very well be just a fail-safe in this step and the only thing saving us from self-extermination. However, there's a selfish aspect to this in that life only seems to matter to us when we're happy, and of all the things that make us happy, caring for someone is the one thing that lasts. The love of a spouse, child, friend, even a pet can outlast any other pleasures we might have throughout our lives.

So, like BTO said, "any lovin's good lovin", and I suppose it doesn't really matter why we need to feel that connection so long as we do it without resolve or reservation and hopefully not to fill a void of loneliness in our lives, but to create a working partnership with a soulmate who like yourself, is merely separated temporarily by life.



**PART 10 :** It's been well over a year since America was attacked by radical Muslims on September 11th, 2001. I understand it less now than I did even then, and I find myself concerned about the effectiveness of policies prompted by this attack and by ulterior motives that may be hidden in these policies. Obviously oil factors into this, but there's a lot of talk that certain directives of our new "homeland security" will be used to further diminish our civil rights as Americans. I honestly don't know what those rights are. If you look at the Bill of Rights it says we have freedom of speech. This is true so long as you don't speak too loudly. These days it might be wise to keep any anti-government opinions to yourself. In actuality, we ourselves have damaged our freedom of speech by our own thin-skinned political correctness, diminishing the scope of our arguments to where the outcome is luke-warm at best. Freedom of the press is part of this, and however biased and sensationalistic they may be, they still have a powerful voice in reporting the news and drawing attention to our internal corruptions. Some believe all of the news media is already controlled by the government, and yeah I'm sure there's certain things that are collectively agreed upon in the industry as being "off limits", but it's really more of a competitive market driven by ratings and consequently ad revenues. If you can put up with all the partisan bias, and/or celebrity-of-the-week, and/or 15-minutes-of-fame stories, you do get a fairly accurate assessment of the global big picture, at least compared to countries where the media is an actual branch of the government. Most of our other "rights" in the Bill of Rights has to do with the legal system. Much of it I don't understand, but it's probably safe to say that all of it is manipulated by the attorneys anyway so it's only relevant if you can afford that manipulation. The real paranoid concern here is with the right to bear arms (not arm bears). The popular opinion is that eventually guns will be outlawed, and consequently only outlaws will have guns. I'm not in favor of taking away all registered firearms from the American public, but in the event of Martial Law what good would they do anyway? Are you going to shoot the Police when they arrest you for curfew violation? I'm afraid there's not much anyone can do to stop whatever will or will not happen in the future, guns or no guns. Personally I refuse to believe that the "New World Order" is upon us and has been accelerated in it's implementation by the events of September 11th. It would be ironic though, that these terrorists would help to create the very thing they thought they were attacking. The whole thing was ironic for them anyway. Everything they built up all those years was destroyed as a result of their own actions. What did they think was going to happen? How could they not foresee our response to this attack? They not only killed a bunch of innocent people who had nothing to do with anything, but they themselves were wiped out as well, their beliefs lost any credibility they may have once had, and they actually strengthened that which they intended to hurt. And now the remaining few of these terrorists seek "revenge". Unbelievable. Sad part is, even though for many of these terrorists the whole religious conviction thing is just a convenient platform to justify their political motivations, there are just as many (if not most) that have been programmed from childhood to believe that God will actually reward them for the slaughter of innocent men, women and children, and if you commit suicide in the process you get extra points. How handy is this? With that kind of Kamikaze mentality you don't have to be the brightest bulb on the Christmas tree to be a good little soldier. The universe is an overwhelming demonstration in resourcefulness to be sure, how a few dozen atoms can be used to create everything, including life in all it's intricacies and seemingly infinite variations. Our perception of whatever or whoever came up with this phenomenon is probably no more insightful than a dog's perception of his beloved master. They see their master as God the creator of all things, but I doubt that even dogs have the grandiose delusion that when they die their master will be waiting for them in doggie-heaven with porterhouse steaks and a line of eager poodles in heat. I guess the trick is to get 'em when they're young. As mentioned before, we can make kids believe *anything*, even that a giant invisible rabbit breaks into your house once a year to hide brightly painted chicken eggs. Perhaps it would be better instead to brainwash our children into believing that God will reward us for respecting one another in spite of our differences and that hard work and knowledge will get us extra points. Unfortunately, the terrorist mind sees no value in this attitude for fulfilling whatever cause or destiny, profit or

prophecy they seek. And now it looks like the results of that short-sightedness will haunt the entire human race for quite some time to come. And if it does mean a "New World Order" I doubt it will be in the military form that Al Queda (and some of our own American militia groups) believe it will be. True power comes from economic domination. If and when the United States gains full control of the planet's oil supply, military prowess will only be as effective as it's ability to fuel itself. A thousand tanks or fighter jets are of no use if they are all out of gas. And of course the domestic impact is even greater since without trains, planes, trucks and automobiles civilization would grind to halt. Another important factor is control of the planet's human resources as well. Most of the products we use are made elsewhere by people who could not afford to buy what they manufacture, and if these products were manufactured here in America no one could afford to buy them, even us Americans. These days you don't need to win a war to exploit global human resources (like Japan after World War 2). It can be done through investments in the development of economically depressed areas of the world. Starving workers will work cheap. The only other factor in this simple formula for world domination is to unite all of the "exploiting" nations into an alliance governed by a universal set of guidelines, and of course we already have such a system in place.

Back to our basic "civil rights", how far these are diminished depends on how necessary it becomes to control the actions of those who refuse to participate in this grand plan. You have your militia and Klansmen who aren't really a threat except to minority groups (as long as they get to keep their guns), and you have your survivalists who just want to be left alone (if I could grow my own food and generate my own electricity, I would), and you have your mobsters (who already participate in this grand plan more than we care to admit), and you have your deadbeats and hoodlums (who are nothing more than cultural excess baggage along with our senior citizens and handicapped), and then you have terrorists. Once you start blowing things up and go flying planes into buildings, the powers that be are going to crack down and crack down HARD. And as mentioned, this only makes these powers stronger by giving them the necessary justification needed to more effectively and forcefully police the world we live in. Again and again prophecy manifests itself into being by the collective belief in that prophecy. Such a shame since the future is fluid with an infinite number of possibilities, that we don't try to steer it in a more constructive direction. Most likely in 30 years we will all be speaking Chinese anyway. So to the Bin Ladens and McVeighs of the world I can only offer one piece of advice :

*Never poke a bear with a stick unless you're sure it's dead.*

**9/3/11 :** Well, here we are a decade later, and everything pretty much played out as expected. The 9/11 attack successfully created an economically devastating trillion dollar military-industrial infrastructure that continues to this day, seemingly accomplishing nothing, with no clear goal, and no end in sight. I guess we didn't learn anything from what collapsed the Soviet economy just a couple decades earlier. And, after all this, the threat of another terrorist attack is just as real, if not more so, than it was in 2001. The most likely reason for this continued threat is because we're STILL THERE. New recruits join these terrorist groups faster than we can kill them, not just because they are uneducated, live in poverty, and are brainwashed at a very early age, but because there's always an increasing number of people in these countries who have lost someone close to them due to American fire, friendly or otherwise. They don't hate us because we're rich, good looking, or make really cool movies. They hate us because we WON'T LEAVE.

What if China determined that, out of the hundreds of millions of people living in the United States, there was a very, very small group of Canadians here somewhere that hated the Chinese, and were planning some pathetic isolated random act of violence against them in their homeland,

and arbitrarily decided to start dropping bombs on us and set up a 20 year+ military presence here? Would we be glad they were here to flush out these radicals, and believe that a military occupation, destruction of our cities, and accidental (or intentional) deaths of our loved ones are justified because, God forbid, we wouldn't want anything bad to happen to our Chinese allies? Of course not. Their presence would have the OPPOSITE effect, causing anti-Chinese groups to grow year after year after year. In the case of Iraq, we can say we freed them from a ruthless dictator, but the Chinese could say they freed us from a ruthless Liberal, but a decade after the boogie-man had been slain, we would want them to simply GO AWAY.

Unfortunately, no one is able to offer a viable alternative to military occupation (I mean "liberation"), other than to open dialogs with all involved parties. A great start to be sure, but in the end if we don't stop terrorism OVER THERE, we will eventually have to stop it OVER HERE. This may be better left to covert groups like the CIA, Navy Seals, or some other "Special-Ops" organization, but like most people, I do not trust, and even fear the CIA, and have a tough time giving them that much power because they don't have to play by the rules. However, the bad guys don't play by the rules either, so what do you do? Obviously, using our military as a posse roaming the world lookin' for rustlers instead of protecting our own borders doesn't work. Maybe it never did. It's quite possible that every American military action since Korea has been primarily for the benefit of those who are best poised to profit from it. A society that lives in fear of their enemies, real, imagined, or manufactured, will much more easily support such interventions, and after 9/11 we have all surrendered to these fears, giving our corporate, political and military leaders more power over the world than at any other time in history. Almost seems too convenient to be a coincidence, doesn't it? (uh-oh, better stop now before the conspiracy theories start spewing...and...I'm pretty sure my phone's tapped).

11/6/12 Another year has passed since 9/11, and here it is Election Day. No I'm not voting. Illinois' 21 electors are carved in stone, so for us here the presidential election is already over, and has been over for quite some time. There was never any real possibility it would go "red". And since electoral votes cannot be split, all Romney votes will be discarded. Maybe we'll get to play next time, and at least those wasted votes make a silent statement that people are so fed up they will support pretty much anyone, qualified or not, in the hope of affecting change. And I think it's great when people stand behind a cause, real or imagined. Without a cause, there can be no hope. However, to me this election is just a media extravaganza like the Superbowl. Only difference, you already know what teams are playing before the season even starts. And worse, they're the same team. We like to think there is a huge divide in political idealisms between parties, but at best they all might engage in some lively banter over drinks about abortion or gay rights, but not before they all pat each other on the backs for a job well done. They all play in the same sandbox, and any perceived differences are just a convenient illusion of contrast. The status quo will not be shaken or even stirred regardless of today's outcome. Perhaps we should be voting out our lobbyists instead of the politicians they solicit and simply put all legislative votes on ebay. I hate to be cynical (love it actually), but at my age it no longer makes sense to try and take back our country by supporting either of the two parties that took it away from us.

2/4/13 I made the statement earlier that most likely in 30 years we'll all be speaking Chinese anyway. That was 12 years ago. And so far there's no indication they have an interest in us, right? As long as every Christmas we can prove we are still viable consumers there's no need to be assimilated, right? Even though we continually intervene and occupy other countries expecting them to see us as "saviors", we would NEVER allow a foreign occupation here, right? Well, although I've stayed clear of the big media-fueled gun control debate, the more I read on both sides the more I see everyone ignoring the elephant in the room. Here is my opinion on why both left & right may be missing the bigger issue: First, I admit that if forced to choose a side, I will always agree that the Federal Government needs to BUTT OUT of our personal lives. Stick with your Constitutional mandates and

quit meddling in state & local affairs, because you suck at it. As for the subject at hand, the 2nd Amendment calls for the "Right to bear arms", so end of discussion, right? Problem being, at least with Liberals, is the broader definition of "arms". Does this include UZIs? How about grenade launchers? Infrasonic cannons? Laser weapons? Do we need to add an amendment that says you actually have to have common sense and not be a jackass to participate in all previous amendments? It's a valid point that there are too many people who abuse this basic right for malicious intent, but no one wants to take that 1st step on the slippery slope because we are simply not capable of doing anything in moderation. Once it starts, it snowballs. Opposing this bandwagon mentality, conservatives are warning of a hostile government takeover ending in a tyrannical slave nation, which is more bandwagon mentality that becomes so kooky that any truth regarding such a possibility is lost under layers of paranoid conspiracy mongering. On the other side, it's all about "saving the children", which for the most part is a sincere and genuine motivation, but lost under layers of self-righteous nanny-state protectionism doomed to a legislative domino effect. My opinion is that there is an underlying "windfall" in all this that neither side or the media have speculated on, hence the aforementioned "elephant in the room". Currently, China owns about 21% of our \$16 trillion debt, or about \$11,000 for every household in the entire United States. Japan comes in a close 2nd, but I suspect we have no intention of paying them back any more than they intend on paying us back for similar debts accrued since WW2. China, however, wants a return on their investment, and the grand plan over the next decade or so, according to "insiders", is to exchange dormant federally owned properties nationwide to offset this debt. China could use these properties for anything from manufacturing to research facilities, farming, drilling & oil processing, etc., which seems like a win-win for all concerned. China's problem with this arrangement is sending its civilians and soldiers here (their military is involved in EVERYTHING), because they see us as a wild-west anarchist society of homicidal barbarians. And why wouldn't they? We proudly broadcast our sociopathic behaviors to the rest of the world in all manner of media, and until we can at least get a small measure of control on our own population, they are reluctant to put droves of civilian and military personnel in harms way. However, although this seems to be the perfect equitable solution to our inevitable generational bankruptcy, many people (myself included) DO NOT WANT THEM HERE, period. Talk about your slippery slope. As they employ more & more Americans right here on American soil along with their own associates, how long will it be before they are fully integrated into our economic and political systems? Maybe I'm the one being all paranoid now, but I'm not alone in the fear that our grandkids may one day be assimilated into their military-industrial collective, and paranoid or not, that's NOT what our forefathers suffered, fought and died for. Adding the "windfall" of civilian disarmament would certainly civilize this process, and I can't help but think that this whole left-right "2nd Amendment" vs. "Save the Children" media storm has been nurtured and perpetuated by the mainstream to distract us all from what will surely be a very unpopular economic occupation until, if ever, it is quietly implemented. I cite no references to the scope, intent, or progress of these debt negotiations, but it's reasonable to assume that these negotiations exist, and their absence from the mainstream is the primary basis of my suspicions. What we don't talk about scares me a lot more than what we can't stop talking about, and if the "selling out" of America has anything at all to do with the disarming of its citizens, we have much bigger issues than simply Bubba Ray keeping his guns or a fly by night messianic president and his socialist cronies who will soon be nothing more than names in a history book. Not saying I'm always right, just saying it would be really nice if everyone thought I was.



Much to their surprise, the Virgins awaiting Muslims in Heaven were not quite what they expected..

**PART 11 :** How many astronomers does it take to change a light bulb?  $10^{(10)^{100}}$ , because they love really big numbers.

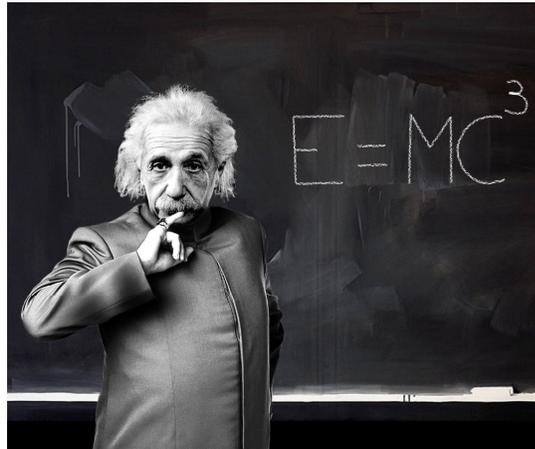
As mentioned, as the universe slows (or accelerates) in its expansion, relative time increases (or decreases). Without an outside reference point this is not perceivable because everything is affected equally, except maybe on a subconscious level that I called "accelerated time syndrome" where it seems every year gets shorter. But what if the universe is expanding not only in the sense that everything is getting farther away from everything else, but expanding in *size* as well? Every particle making up every atom actually getting LARGER all the time. And what if this enlargement is happening *so fast* that the mysterious and undefinable force we call GRAVITY is actually just INERTIA, where everything is pressing against everything else as objects at rest tend to stay at rest? And how big does everything have to get before the universe doesn't *fit* anymore?

OK dumb idea.....never mind. Let's stick with some cold hard mathematical facts for a while before I sprain my prefrontal cortex.

I recently had a discussion with the ever-elusive "Dr. Betts" as to the immensity of the known Universe and came to the conclusion (again) that it simply is not conceivable by the human mind. The most tangible description I've seen is probably the intro to the Avatar papers, from which I will be stealing a few references. However, just for grins and lack of anything else better to write about, I will attempt to describe this immensity in a way that makes sense and thereby put our own existence into some perspective.

One giant leap for astronomers over the last century was the development of methodologies for determining the speed and distance of objects in space. The Doppler Effect is when a moving object emits sound, light or any other wave, the length of that wave is stretched as the object moves away from the emission or compressed as the object moves toward or tries to "follow" the emission. In sound this is manifested in pitch, the way a train whistle drops in tone as it passes. In light it is measured by spectral shift, and this shift can be used to calculate the velocity of an object. As we know, what we call the Sun is actually our closest star, one of thousands we see in the night sky and one of millions in our little corner of the galaxy. If we had a spacecraft capable of moving at 10,000 miles per hour it would take about a year to get to the Sun from here. That it would be such an overwhelming object in our sky at such a distance says something of it's size and brightness to be sure. In this same craft at 10,000 mph the travel time to our next closest star would be 297,000 years. In this same craft from that point it would take an additional 11 million years to reach our closest neighboring gaseous star cluster, and 133 billion years to reach the closest sister spiral galaxy. From this point, galaxies and nebulae are similarly spaced out within this particular galaxy cluster. After 9 trillion years you would leave this so-called "island universe", and from there in this same craft at 10,000 miles per hour, the next closest island universe would take an additional 7000 trillion years to travel to. This is a single straight line 300,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 miles long (I have no idea how to pronounce this number). Keep in mind that we are still in an isolated corner of the "known" universe, and more importantly, that this straight-line distance actually extends out in *every direction*. To create a number in *square miles* would be an exercise in futility since the number would be meaningless. It would seem real space travel is not possible, and suffice it to say there's lots of empty space left over even with galaxy clusters containing a few dozen to a few hundred galaxies, each galaxy containing a few billion to a half trillion stars each quite similar to our own slightly smaller than average Sun. I had always wondered why they gave galaxies number designations instead of names, but with the telescopes we have today new ones are discovered every day and we've already identified more of them than there are words to apply to them.

To keep from being *too* overwhelmed let's just stay in our own galaxy for a moment. The Milky Way galaxy is a spiral galaxy of at least two hundred billion stars. Our Sun is buried deep within the Orion Arm about 26,000 light years from the center. If we were to pessimistically assume that only 1 per cent of all these stars have planetary systems that leaves 2 billion solar systems that are similar if not identical to our own. If we assume that out of all these systems only 1 per cent contain a planet capable of sustaining life that leaves 20 million planets similar if not identical to our Earth. If we assume that out of all these planets only 1 per cent have evolved life to our level or beyond that leaves 200,000 worlds with species similar if not identical to the human race. This is a yield of 1 ten-thousandth of 1 per cent of the stars in just our galaxy alone. Now assume that out of these 200,000 worlds that 1 per cent evolved races capable of space travel, either via wormhole, warp drive or some other violation of Einsteinian Law. That leaves 2000 alien races roaming the galaxy in search of intelligent life. Now are any of these races visiting Earth? Well, if they are searching for *intelligent* life then we are probably not that interesting to them. And, as demonstrated by this statistical numbers exercise, the odds of them even *finding* us are astronomical (no pun intended). But we can always imagine, and take cold comfort in knowing that however isolated, we are not alone in the Universe.



**PART 12 : An atheist was walking through the woods:**

As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder & saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again, & the bear was even closer. He tripped & fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw that the bear was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw & raising his right paw to strike him.

At that instant the Atheist cried out, "Oh my God!"

Time Stopped.  
The bear froze.  
The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky:

"YOU DENY MY EXISTENCE FOR ALL THESE YEARS, TEACH OTHERS I DON'T EXIST AND EVEN CREDIT CREATION TO COSMIC ACCIDENT...DO YOU EXPECT ME TO HELP YOU OUT OF THIS PREDICAMENT? AM I TO COUNT YOU AS A BELIEVER?"

The atheist looked directly into the light and said, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask You to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps You could make the BEAR a Christian?"

"VERY WELL," said the voice.

The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head & spoke:

"Lord bless this food, which I am about to receive from thy bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen."

Okay, not quite relevant but funny nonetheless. Like everyone else, I ponder from time to time about why we are alive and what happens when we die. All creatures on Earth, however mentally disturbed or brainwashed, have the instinct to survive. Even plants can evolve ways to protect themselves, if for no other reason to ensure propagation of the species. For us primates it's not so much propagation as it is not knowing the answer to that simple but impossible question of what happens when we die. It has been the driving force behind every culture in history. It has been an elusive question for so long that it's become stigmatic, seeming as though the answer was not meant to be known, EVER, and that it would somehow be a sin to have that information. But like all scientific knowledge, we will probably someday figure out what really does happen when we die, and that knowledge will change the human race, eventually to become just another school book chapter somewhere in between "What causes a Lunar eclipse" and "How does Electricity work", which up until just the last few seconds of mankind's long day on Earth, were subjects that seemed to pose unanswerable questions as well. If you can't see it, it doesn't exist. And for now we're just making up stuff the same way people made up stuff about the Sun and stars and our place in this vast yet microscopic Universe.

The logical assumption would be that when we're gone, we're gone. However, we need something more to give us a reason for being, to keep order in the human race. The concept of Heaven and Hell helps us to create guidelines that further our evolution through purpose of morality. This concept remains to this day just that, a concept, since no one has ever returned from the dead with proof positive of an afterlife. Near-death experiences and out-of-the-body phenomenons offer little reassurance except to the person who goes through it, and religions rely solely on doctrinistic faith. Wouldn't it be ironic if whatever we believe will happen to us in the next life actually DOES happen? When we dream we create people, places and events. Perhaps when we're awake we do the same thing. You imagine other people exist and they imagine you exist, but if no one exists in reality, why is there reality in the first place?

This paradox is a kicker, but the real kicker is that this means that every religious fanatic and kook that has ever walked the earth were CORRECT in what they believed. If one believed they went to hell when they died, they went to hell. If they believed they went to see Allah, they went to see Allah, if they believed in reincarnation, they reincarnated. I can't believe in this myself because it undermines my belief in a systematic collective that defines the behavior of the universe in a much more precise math.

But wouldn't it be cool? Talk about the ultimate paradox. It would mean that all the things that have ever happened to us we created ourselves simply by believing they would happen. This idea will give you a headache for sure, but since neither myself or anyone else can say for sure what awaits us at the end of our life here in the physical realm, I would rather believe in that which makes the most sense to me and what best serves evolution in our collective quest to be more God-like.

To believe in heaven *and* reincarnation would seem a blasphemous contradiction of opposite ideas, but since all of reality is based on polarity (which as mentioned is more like an infinite number of opposing points on a sphere), maybe it's not so far-fetched to see a connection. The hidden laws that govern the processes which cause reality cannot be changed. At the top of the list of things that cannot be changed is *change itself*. It's easy for me to believe in a state of being after death where we remember *everything* and understand the consequences of all our actions in a moment of crystal clarity. However,

I do not believe that this lasts "forever", and that Heaven is more accurately a transitional state between death and re-birth. The paradox here is that if, while in this state, we remember every moment with the same vividness as any moment experienced in the "now", then time has no meaning since all moments exist for us simultaneously with equal clarity, and in this way is "eternal" because the biological perceptions of linear time do not apply outside our biological existence. And since all of reality is based on polar opposites and duality, our death might be just birth in reverse, following the same exponential 2-makes-4-makes-16 mathematics that everything uses. We are born half body, half "mind" (or spirit, or life-force or whatever it is that brings our bone-bags to life). These "bone-bags" are genetically created from half mother, half father, as they were, and so on backwards through our ancestry. So where is the other "half" of the "spirit"? It's possible that as part of this energy is returned to the physical realm to perpetuate life, an equal part is re-absorbed by "God" to perpetuate the Universe. So, young Simba, it's all part of the "Great Circle of Life", although this idea doesn't exactly put us at the top of the food chain. Perhaps the creator of the Universe as we know it is just an integral component of some grander purpose that exists beyond *ITS* perceptions. In one way it's depressing to think we're doomed to participate in this cycle over and over again, but I do take comfort in knowing that we move it along one step closer to completion (which may merely be "full circle"), and I take comfort in believing that there is a sort of "temporal nexus" where we can experience our individuality one last time before finding closure on this chapter and starting another.

So, put simply, Heaven is indeed eternal, but only for a little while.



**PART 13 :** Remember when surfing was strictly a water sport, memory was something you lost with age, an application was for employment, a program was a tv show, a cursor was someone who used profanity, a keyboard was a piano, a web was a spider's home, a virus was the flu, a cd was a bank account, a hard drive was taking the family on vacation, a mouse was what cats chased, and if you had a 3 inch floppy -  
you hoped nobody noticed?

Although many of us do remember the days before digital, consider that the "kids" who've never known a life WITHOUT computers, vcrs, dvds and the like are now in COLLEGE. And even though it's hard to believe that so much time has passed, consider that this explosion of technology has taken place in a mere 20 years. It is impossible to imagine how far integrated we will be with these technologies in 20 more years. But just for fun, let's assume the worst (that's me - Mr. Cheerful)...

In the late 80s, Gene Roddenberry's TNG crew introduced us to the "Borg", at that time the coolest new villain ever. What made them so scary was that they wiped out entire worlds not out of hatred, or for military, religious or political gain, or territory or any other agenda. They were simply following a set of computer subroutines that mandated the evolution of their race by assimilating technology and entire cultures, and were relentless in executing these instructions. You could not reason with them, bargain with them or negotiate with them in any way, and they were unstoppable. Star Trek got a lot of mileage out of that arc and it always made for delightfully disturbing sci-fi story telling.

However, a couple years ago me and the family were on a long overdue vacation in Las Vegas, having lunch at a very swanky restaurant and there was this guy who appeared to be talking to himself, till I noticed he had one of those "phone implant" deals stuck in his ear. The whole time he had his lunch he worked feverishly on his wireless laptop and talked to whoever on his earphone. It occurred to me that maybe what really made the Borg so scary is that we ARE the Borg. In this wireless world we certainly are more connected to the "collective" than at any other time in history. And recently I watched a piece about some British techie-guy who has successfully implanted a wireless device that he could use to work a mechanical hand with his thoughts, and was in the process of developing a brain implant that would allow him to access wireless internet in his head and be able to transmit keyboard commands just by thinking about it. I don't believe this can be done, but then there's a lot of things I didn't think could be done that we take for granted even now, let alone 30 or 40 years from now.

The pace of everyday life continues to accelerate and sometimes it seems like the human race is adopting an "insect mentality" as we relentlessly, almost mechanically, do our part to maintain the hive in the hope for a little honey at the end of the day. Another sci-fi reference that goes WAY back is George Lucas' first film THX1138, which did not necessarily touch upon the inter-connectivity of mankind, since the story was written way before digital or wireless anything, but was an ominous look at the "hive mind" that resulted from finally achieving a Utopian society. If and when we become a global Utopian civilization, it's anybody's guess as to how contingent this social structure will be on our integration with the advanced technologies that are created from it.

Now so far this hasn't been an issue, in fact it's been great. Not only can we be in touch with our families and friends 24 hours a day, but we have access to information we never had before, and can see things we would never see in real life. But there have been subtle changes in how the family unit interacts. We may be connected, but we actually SEE each other less now than before because all our schedules are fuller and more demanding. Many family members work conflicting hours, have considerable drive times to deal with every day, and have busier social lives than before. And when you do have that rare occasion where everyone is home at the same time, everyone ends up engaged in their own personal activity or we all just watch a movie or something. Can you remember the last time the whole family sat down at the kitchen table for supper? It was probably Christmas or Thanksgiving. I suppose it's a small sacrifice in exchange for the incredible opportunities we have in our daily lives, and our technologies are largely responsible for these opportunities.

But as personal contact decreases and we become more and more reliant on our smartphones and laptops and tablets to stay connected with the rest of the human race, I can see a time in the future where biological wireless satellite implants, like the one the British techie-guy is working on, might actually be commonplace. Brainwave recognition may not be that much different than voice recognition. And the infrastructure for such devices already exists now, not just in the wireless internet arena but in satellite GPS and business transaction technologies. At the risk of sounding all psycho-biblical, it's easy to foresee a time when cash is completely obsolete, and our accounts are credited or debited electronically, verifiable by our identity which is instantly confirmed by GPS chip location. Identity theft would be nearly impossible since you can't be in 2 places at the same time, let alone a whole host of other identifiers such as fingerprints, retinal scans or even DNA recognition. Acts of violence would be difficult to commit as well. For example, if someone is murdered, his GPS locator would have recorded the time and location, or at least a forensic analysis would establish time-of-death, and a simple cross reference would match that time and location to a specific person or persons. War itself could even become obsolete.

No money, no crime and no war? Sounds great, doesn't it? Actually, it sends chills down my spine and makes my blood run cold. This is slavery in it's most sinister form, whether it's to the chosen few who govern the necessary parameters of this technological integration, to the technology itself, or to the artificial intelligence that makes it work and that has, at some point we missed, become self-aware and modified it's subroutines to accommodate it's own purpose. It is a very real possibility that the role of man and machine could be reversed without us even noticing. It would have been a cool Star Trek episode to have the crew go back in time thousands of years before the Borg crossed that blurry line between being a brilliant high tech race and being little more than cyber-slaves.

Now as wildly entertaining as this all is, my personal vision of the future is somewhat different. I see more of a *Blade Runner* or *Minority Report* scenario where although we are fully immersed in our technologies, as human beings we are still as screwed up as ever. And at some point even farther into the future I see the likelihood of the human race being forced to take a giant step backwards, allowing our genetic evolution to catch up with our technological evolution. Mother Nature always finds a way to balance things out, but it aint always pretty. Perhaps the best vision of the future we could embrace is the one Mr. Roddenberry had when he came up with the whole Star Trek thing in the first place. That man, machine and nature would work together inspired by the discovery that we are not alone in the universe, unified to find our place on Earth so we may find our place among the stars. It may very well be that our greatest fear is not that our machines might learn to think, feel and be self-aware, but that someday we ourselves might forget how to do so.



*to be continued...*