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*Best of Psychology Series 4-8 by Ben Huot*

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# Best of Psychology Series 4-8

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by Ben Huot

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# First Things

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## For More Information

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For more books and information, visit me on the web at

<http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com>

I even enjoy constructive criticism

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# From Psychology 4

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# **As It Is or As It Should Be, An Epic Poem**

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## Walking Forward

So cold and so dark  
An empty calm  
A simple choice  
A dedication to a plan  
A complete course of action  
Across the vast expanse  
Lonely and windy  
Small lights far away  
Step by slow step  
A great weight to carry  
My destination years away  
How far can one's mind imagine  
In each one of my thoughts  
I pass a sign  
I only know what to do  
When I get there  
The journey is all only within my own mind

Tracing circles with feet and hands  
The process is the outcome  
A relaxed walking stride  
An empty but serious expression  
The land is flat  
With hills and valleys  
My walk is straightforward  
But my thinking never is

## Varieties of Loyalty

Is it crazier to think God doesn't exist  
Or that I do not exist  
Is it crazier to not follow My Creator  
Or not to follow my own way  
We fail to ask the right questions  
We are too much in a hurry  
To even stop talking and fighting  
There are greater things to fight for  
Then just political processes  
There are loyalties that stretch  
Far beyond our own place and time  
We think that the most important lines  
Are the ones people make on paper  
We divide our spoils across  
Mountains, rivers, and straight lines  
We fear that another group  
Just like our own

Will tell us what to do  
Is it ever worth it  
To suffer for other people  
To merely serve under another name  
We think we can find a solution  
But the situation will need to resolve itself  
Many will survive the process  
But few people will be alive afterwards

## Internal Struggle

Why does my heart hurt so much  
Why does the pain have no cause  
Can you hurt for lack of something  
Can you succeed by letting go  
Is not the greatest obstacle  
Our own lack of self control  
How do you fight the enemy  
When it lives within you  
Weapons made by people  
Are only effective against other people  
But what do you do  
When your feud is between your heart and  
mind  
It is often for those who learn to be strong  
To hold their heart in captivity to their mind  
But how do we define success in self-mastery  
When we cannot even define what it means to

be rational

What if the crazy is in your heart and not your  
mind

What if your mind is not strong enough

To hold your heart within its grasp

How can you win

When you cannot even imagine what that  
would mean



## Fear of What

What is your greatest fear  
Is it your country or yourself  
We think that the way forward  
Is through mastery of technology  
But our technology will only enslave us  
Because it is what we created  
By our own hands to we sink or swim  
We may seek swords or mobs of police  
To make us feel safe  
But it is by our own minds that we will suffer  
most  
You think that a police state is the worst  
possible outcome  
The worst situation is to be captive to your  
own rotten heart  
We think that as we climb higher on the social  
ladder

The freer we become  
But freedom comes from a clear mind and a  
disciplined heart  
The greatest fear for most is pain  
The greatest pain for some is fear  
Is not the key to wisdom the pursuit of  
balance  
What is more important to control  
Your inner or outer life  
But who should rule within  
Should the mind dominate the heart  
Or the heart control the mind

## Everlasting Life

We think within our own page of history  
But even this book holds only so many pages  
Let us try to think beyond this earth, this  
galaxy, or this universe  
Look beyond what we can see with our eyes or  
even our minds  
Beyond the limits of linear time  
Into things not driven by cause and effect  
How can we really resolve to live in peace  
If we can still have make choices and there are  
still consequences of our actions  
We have lived long enough to become better  
people  
But we have not and so we never will  
How can people live for eternity without war  
or any conflict  
How can we accept our differences are not

enough to suffer or make others suffer  
We just cannot get beyond human nature  
It is not because we cannot but that we choose  
not to  
What would morality look like if time did not  
exist?

## Society of Facts

Pile upon pile of paper  
Digital file upon digital folder  
Our records are in constant flux  
We have ceased to be able to distinguish fact  
from fiction  
One minute all this exists  
The other minute money no longer exists  
One minute a country has a history  
The next minute it is forgotten  
The meaning of our words  
And even the very words we speak and write  
with  
Are no longer within our control  
How can you believe in absolutes about laws  
and countries  
When they have become nothing more than  
Bullet points in a presentation or cells in a

spreadsheet

When people no longer bother to learn

What happens when the truth shifts or simply  
disappears

How can we live life as we know it

When we do not know who did what

When we know nothing for certain

A society based on facts only works

When you can agree on what those are

If there is no source of truth

How do you know what is real and what is not

## Forever War

What is a person to do today  
Who believes in something  
Who has unique ideas  
Or who has a different perspective  
It is hard to consider all possibilities  
When only two views are represented  
It is hard to find truth  
When the only truth people know  
Is what they want to hear  
When your mind is shut  
You can no longer learn anything  
But it is hard to hear what someone is saying  
When they scream and curse at the top of  
their lungs  
It is only in a quiet space  
With time and room to think  
That we can start to form ideas

That are not just the same  
Or the exact opposite of what we are told  
When there are only two points of view  
allowed  
And they each have the same amount of  
sensibility  
And an evenly divided population of followers  
This is the recipe for a war the will only end  
When one side no longer lives



## Society for the Mentally Ill

What would it be like

To be in a society designed for the mentally ill

A society where people never knew what was real

A society where you could not trust what is right in front of you

A society where you would depend upon others to look after you and tell you how to live

A society where you would be accepted as normal no matter how paranoid you were

A society where you see someone with symptoms of mentally illness as a capable leader

A society where fear is valued and respected

A society that would rather run from a fight than suffer for no reason

A society where you would not accept what you hear at face value

A society where you cannot own a weapon for any reason

A society where you never know what would happen next

A society who knew true fear enough that would not pay for horror stories

A society where no one would be fit for military service

A society that would have to accept that some people are not going to sacrifice themselves for the greater good of everyone else

A society where people would be afraid to speak up for what is right out of fear if society's reaction

## **Building Momentum**

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True fear

Is when you cannot trust

Your own mind

Or the voices therein

True cynicism

Only comes from experience

True doubt

Comes from your own failures

How do we start

Climbing upwards

From where we are

As a society

To where we want to be

As individuals

Looking inwards is difficult

And making better choices

Is near impossible  
Are we really so bad  
Or is our society just too tempting  
How do you remain above water  
When the waves of desire  
Nearly pull you under  
With the persistence of a spider  
Trying to climb out of porcelain  
With the intensity of a political argument  
In the spirit of a tai chi master  
With the subtle movement of a plant growing  
With the gentleness of a hug by a stuffed toy  
In the hand of God Himself  
With nothing on our minds but our Savior  
It is not in fighting  
That you achieve the best victory  
The better victory  
Is in never having to hurt or sacrifice anyone  
While we emphasize the power of evil

The biggest determining factor is our own will  
Is it enough to just never give up  
Or is there a special strength that can be  
tapped into  
The only weapon a Christian has is his Bible  
The only one we really trust is the Lord  
With each step  
It is more painful  
And each setback more discouraging  
Is it in failure that we try learn  
Is there anyway to stand united  
Within our own hearts, minds, and wills  
If we cannot decide definitely the goal of the  
endeavor  
How can be begin a major journey  
How do we know what to learn  
If we don't know what we are working  
towards  
It is only in amount of clarity

That we can see past our own desires  
It is only in a series of greater and greater  
changes

That we can start to build momentum  
It is only possible to go towards where we  
decided

When we see no other way  
It is a delicate balance of God and us  
A tightly created choreography

## **Fear and Society**

---

Few people understand fear  
Few people experience fear  
Outside the occasional dream  
Or Halloween season movie  
Fear gives you energy at first  
But over time it tires you to the core  
The medicine is very tiring  
But adrenaline can be too  
What prepared me best for Schizophrenia  
Was my military experience  
I was constantly tired  
And I never got enough sleep  
I was constantly terrified  
And I felt close to God  
The military is a hard life  
So much is expected out of you

And the penalties are so enormous  
But the people are the best  
An army base is the most depressing  
Place in the world to live  
But they are filled with churches  
Schizophrenia's symptoms are much like an  
addiction  
Schizophrenia often shares a person with other  
disorders  
The same people often suffer from depression,  
anxiety,  
obsessive compulsive disorder, trouble  
sleeping, and tremors  
Fixation is one big part of Schizophrenia  
Like a person with autism  
One of the common fixations is religion  
Religion should be important to us all  
But there is a kind of special connection we  
have to God



All jumbled up and confused but still very real  
God always seems closer when you need Him  
most

And social thinking often makes God less real  
to many people

With each year, I feel more awake

The disease has progressed little in 20 years  
for me

I think I understand better all the time

Why people react the way they do

When you do different things

It is like being a hunter gatherer

Meeting modern society

I understand feelings and spiritual things

But some of the subtlety to how people talk

Is hard for me to pick up on quick or naturally

And I learn all the time

How to be more gentle, careful, and  
responsible

Ironically, I may be specially suited to life after  
The End of The World As We Know It  
No one trusts anyone anymore  
Everybody is starting to believe in conspiracy  
theories  
They do not know how to be sure of anything  
They realize that life is not rational  
They are getting ready for surviving scams and  
disasters  
They are becoming closer to those they share  
view with  
They are forming networks and using non-  
traditional communications  
They are saying less and becoming more  
reserved  
They are becoming more sarcastic and cynical  
This is the best time in history to be mentally  
ill  
Maybe we will even be some sort of trusted

advisors

## **The Collapse (Being Exhausted as a Person with Schizophrenia)**

---

What does it mean to be as tired as a person  
with Schizophrenia

Like a marathon runner who cannot drink any  
water

While he thirsts beyond measure

Like a soldier crawling through the sand and  
mud

On his belly everyday without kneepads

Like a wrestler starving and dehydrating  
himself

For the next competition

Like an addict on his last binge

Like when you drink too much

And only make it back to the bathroom just in  
time

Like a fan waiting days in life for  
Tickets to his favorite band in his town  
Like a boy scout after spending all day putting  
up tents  
Finally able to sit down after dark

When you can sleep all day  
And still be tired  
A kind of weariness that goes down to the  
bone  
When you have to pry your eyes open  
To stay awake  
When you can barely accomplish  
Just one thing a day

When you cannot keep from running into  
things  
And your hand shaking uncontrollably  
When you have a hard time getting up in time

To go to the bathroom when you are asleep  
When you cannot trust your attention  
Long enough to heat your dinner  
When you are so tired you cannot unwind  
enough to get to sleep  
Like when you have been fasting or staying  
awake for 3 days straight

When it is stressful just to listen  
To the words of a song  
When waiting an hour for a movie is painful  
When you cannot sit through a class you enjoy  
When you cannot stay awake long enough  
To finish watching your favorite show  
When you cannot stay alert long enough to  
play a board game  
When you are too tired to complete a paper  
craft

Like after taking long walks in the rain  
And having to wear the same clothes that  
whole day  
Like when going on a diet where all you can  
eat is salad  
When you do not have enough patience to  
take care of a plant  
When you realize it is the medicine that makes  
you too tired  
To remember to take the medicine

## What is and What is Not

---

Some roads are not worth going down

Some things are better left unsaid

Some things are not even speakable

Some things you cannot even imagine

Some people are not worth talking to

Some people you should never anger

Some people you should never challenge

Some situations are not worth experiencing

Some things are better left for others

Some things will save you that you do not understand

You cannot always believe what you plainly see

Some times it is better not to understand why

Some times it will be fear that saves you

There is a reason for everything

Everything has already been planned



We are all actors following a script  
Speaking words that are not our own  
And doing things we do not want to  
There are many levels to understand  
There are many levels to some secrets  
Some dreams you are not meant to pursue  
Some goals are not worth achieving  
Some things are so clear that you can see  
nothing else  
Some things are so obvious that you cannot  
stop tripping over them  
We worry so much about the things we cannot  
change  
And fail to doubt what we think appears  
before us  
God can make things very clear  
He can also make doors that cannot be  
opened by anyone  
We all doubt His very existence at times

But some things can only be explained by His  
presence

He is not just present in everything

He is invulnerable to any trick or power

He created those things that think they can  
deceive Him

Those that plan against Him are truly foolish

Everyone serves His purposes

Some just delude themselves

Others worship Him as the One True Thing

Everything else doesn't really exist

We count God's power and reality

But maybe it would make better sense to  
doubt our own

We teach children to be creative and know no  
limitations

But there are many situations you can get  
trapped in

And many doors you cannot close

Once your brain has sustained certain kinds of  
damage

There is only so much you can do to  
compensate

We are not dolls or action heroes

And fixing us is not as easy as using glue or  
thread

You can be broken in only a way your Creator  
can fix

Sometimes there are deeper reason for things

And something worse would happen if you  
were healed

Much as fear can save your life

Sometimes our illnesses and pain keep worse  
things from happening

It is important to understand that things can  
always get worse

And you can resolve one problem only to find  
yourself in greater one

We believe whatever we think we see in front  
of us

And doubt our beliefs and values

Who is more real

You or God

That is one of the few questions worth asking

If you can answer that question and live your  
life by it

You may have found the meaning of life

But you get no special insights in return

Nothing more than those who could never  
understand

You think you can avoid choosing between

God and you

You are already standing before Him

You are not going anywhere

Because you are already there

Blind us to this world

That we may see nothing but your face

Give us the strength to merely survive until  
Your return

Give us the will to resist until the day we die  
Sometimes it is better to forget  
Then to know to avoid something  
From some injuries you will not recover

## Will it Ever Get Easier?

---

In the instant  
It takes to strike a match  
To light a candle  
So the answers  
Come in the utter darkness of my soul  
In the depths of a winter night  
In an empty feel of grass  
A bit of trash shines brilliantly  
Pointing towards a better tomorrow  
It is like living your life again  
Starting as a child  
With the smells of crayons and peanut butter  
The sound of a ball hitting the ground  
Learning again what it means  
To discover something for the first time  
Sometimes we glorify a return to humble

beginnings

It is a romantic notion to think we can recover  
our direction

While keeping our freedom as can adult  
Freedom and direction swirling together like  
orange and vanilla

It is like when I first left for basic training

When there was still hope in the world

Where we still thought it possible

To solve our problems through human means

The late 90s before the official start of the war

Between the US and the south central part of  
the world

When global warming could have conceivably  
been avoided

When we still thought our government cared

And that people still treated each other with  
respect

Where there were still limits to what we did

and didn't say

A short time of peace for my country

Where we had won the last great war

It is a kind of timeless mythical era of peace

Soldiers are often considered brave and strong

But winning modern wars does not allow for

this

The modern army wants conformity and no

critical thinking

They want you to be gullible and lack the

desire to ask questions

It does not matter what we want in the

modern world

Things are decided beforehand

And then the public makes a symbolic vote

That even in its irrelevance reaffirms that

What is easy is what is considered right

The young and uneducated want the easy

route



In an effort to not offend anyone and get buy  
in from the people  
To send their children to suffer in and because  
of war  
We manufacture this ridiculous link between  
God and country  
If we want to change history we need to study  
more than the last 2 centuries  
To study only ancient and modern history  
Is like not reading the middle 90% of a novel  
If we truly want to serve God, we have to  
think beyond politics  
You cannot have 2 masters — choose Christ or  
people

## Perfectly Balanced Life

---

My life is perfectly calm  
Even my dreams are entirely peaceful  
People expect the mentally ill  
To not act like they are mentally ill  
I know how to follow orders  
I always try to blend in  
I am always completely balanced  
I always draw only rainbows and hearts  
Even in my dreams I am always upbeat  
I express myself in controlled words  
Even my thoughts are always steady  
I am always stable and ok  
Even in my strongest emotions  
I never break a blank look on my face  
I feel only mild happiness  
I never encounter difficult feelings or

situations

I am never in need of help

I would never accidentally step on a weed

I would never raise an eyebrow

I will never mispronounce a word

I will never be angry or afraid

After all, I would never be someone

You need to deal differently with

I would never overreact or overstate things

I would never be sarcastic

Under any conditions

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# From Psychology 5

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# I Am Getting Older

---

We fight time  
But maybe it would be better  
To embrace it instead  
Like a pool of water  
With another world at the bottom  
We can only imagine  
How close we are  
To waking from this life dream  
Like reaching out at arms length  
Maybe Heaven is right before us

What we do know is death  
Is not our ending  
Life is only the preface  
To the books of our lives

Like the trailer for a movie  
Gives a poor indication  
Of what happens in the movie  
Like the movie reviewers  
Give unreliable and inconsistent reviews  
So we cannot rely on  
The advice of so called experts  
Like vampires or werewolves  
Don't spend this life chasing for  
Great experiences or even great peace

Like looking at the shiny wrapper of candy  
And then tasting it for the first time  
Like learning how to add and subtract  
And then you have to solve calculus word  
problems  
Like listening to music in your own room  
And then seeing a live concert  
Like not being able to speak clearly

And then win a national essay contest  
Like being a generally disciplined person  
And then learning to meditate properly

Like studying psychology  
And then having to deal with your own  
depression  
Like a young kid being raised to make good  
decisions  
And then seeing the Internet for the first time  
Like being in church listening to a sermon  
And then having your first mystical experience  
Like imaging the military from fiction  
And then experiencing it first hand

Like being afraid of bad people  
And then knowing you should fear yourself  
Like trying to understand complex theology  
And then realizing God saves you from death

not pain

Like having a good time in Scouting

And then entering the gas chamber in military training

What do we do in life

If not strive to do be better and do better

The best thing to accomplish in life

Is to fight to the very end

To keep the faith

And avoid the most foolish mistakes

We think of becoming famous

Or solving some great problem

Will make our lives worth more

The only reason why we are still worth anything

Is that was God's decision for that to be

Throughout most of the earth



And throughout most of history  
Most people just withstand life  
Winning in life gets you no metals  
And only adds to your responsibility

Do not seek anything you cannot carry with  
you  
Seek the Lord your God  
And this relationship will be the one thing  
That will pass with you  
Death makes us all truly equal  
As we exit without any resume

## Dark Things

---

Things unwritten  
Things un hoped for  
Things fought within  
Things to never speak  
Things that bring no joy  
Things that are lost  
Things that have never been  
Things undreamed of  
Things without direction  
Things implying no belief  
Things withdrawn from society  
Things never attempted  
Things never imagined  
Things costless and costly  
Things without meaning

Things ungenerously felt  
Things without names or descriptions  
Things that don't exist  
Things less than zero  
Things of no value  
Things to never trust  
Things I cannot remember  
Things I cannot buy  
Things I can live without  
Things without form  
Things transparent  
Things small and insignificant  
Things colder than death  
Things I don't want to share  
Things hidden beneath  
Things lost in the dark  
Things that cannot be defined  
Things that are less than more  
Things that are not there

Things that never change  
Things that oppose everything  
Things that dwell within  
Things that endlessly spin  
Things I cannot see  
Things without possibilities  
Things we cannot escape  
Things we are lost without  
Things we cannot make up  
Things we cannot accept  
Things we pass on to others  
Things no one would understand  
Things with no place  
Things that require patience  
Things that accept nothing  
Things that wrestle us  
Things that require more than we have  
Things that never die  
Things that are part of us

Things that never slow down  
Things that make us sad  
Things that frustrate us  
Things we do not belong with  
Things we cannot reconcile  
Things we know are not true  
Things we keep in our minds alone  
Things we keep running into  
Things we struggle without  
Things we cannot stand  
Things never compromised  
Things never said  
Things lost in history  
Things we like to forget  
Things without relevance  
Things we cannot pass on  
Things we side step  
Things we cannot reach  
Things that will never heal

Things we do without focus  
Things we do without commitment  
Things that have no description  
Things that disappear after seeing  
Things we cannot destroy  
Things we never lose sight of  
Things to fear and run from  
Things unlike anything else  
Things unnatural and artificial  
Things that are never special  
Things that resist understanding  
Things we never conquer  
Things we don't ever encounter  
Things that don't ever happen

## Disruptions in Thinking

---

A voice says its God  
It starts out quiet  
And gradually increases  
In quantity and volume  
How do you know  
If God is really talking

Is it okay  
To drown out the noise  
Useful suggestions  
Warnings from danger  
Is this really God

I call on the name of God  
Like a lightening bolt

I break through layers  
And layers of dreams

I hear a knock at the door  
Waking me up  
From a deep dream  
Who would be knocking  
On my little door

A sharp pop and a creak  
I come out of sleep  
Like it is  
When the heart burn  
Rush up my throat  
What now?

When I hear a buzzing around  
Constantly in the background  
I wonder who to attribute



This annoying repetition  
Does this have significance  
What does this mean

I see a strange symbol  
On my bedroom ceiling  
Is it a shadow  
Is it painted over  
Stain from some accident  
What qualifies as important

My dream is terrifying  
A short while after  
Finishing a major project  
Is it just stress delayed  
Or is it more sinister

When I get a thought  
When should I pursue

Writing an entire poem  
Should I plan ahead  
If it stresses me  
Should I be entirely spontaneous  
But where do I draw the line

What is significant in life  
What is not  
When should I push ahead  
When should I push back  
When do I cooperate  
When do I resist

When should I doubt myself  
When should I be confident  
When should I believe others  
When should I believe myself

When should I be afraid

When should I ignore it

## **We Have a Hard Time**

---

We have a hard time  
Understanding the spiritual world  
Because we assume too much  
We have so little imagination

We have such a poor understanding  
Of cultures who understand spiritual things  
We assume everything is visual  
We assume there is a fixed line  
Between physical, mental, and spiritual things  
We also doubt the reality of things  
That simple math cannot measure  
We feel a need to be objective  
And are unwilling to accept any mystery  
We want everything explained

In terms of our personal experiences

We want things to happen that confirm  
Our religious beliefs and other ideologies  
We have too much pride  
And too little knowledge or experience  
With anything outside our neighborhoods  
Few of us have had mystical experiences  
Few of us can accept limitations  
We have little appreciation for sacrifice  
We fail to see a connection  
Between the supernatural and the ethical  
We have a hard time accepting  
The reality and seriousness of sin and evil

We see no connections between religions  
Philosophies and mythology  
From different cultures and times  
We have a very limited

Understanding of time and history  
We even have a hard time  
Making connections between cause and effect  
We think that all religions are equal  
We think we can believe anything we want  
And that either makes it true  
Or it doesn't really matter

We see Christianity and math as western  
We see Christianity through western eyes  
We do not study the premodern era  
We have few records of deep history  
And they are not very reliable or accurate  
We fail to see connections  
Between religion and science  
And understand what can be explained  
By math and what cannot  
We are unwilling to consider  
And look down on conspiracy theories

We are too concerned with what other people  
In our lives think

We have poor self knowledge  
We don't know our place in reality  
And what forms our identity  
In modern day America  
Few people have anything permanent  
About their personality or beliefs  
Many fear death  
Because they think they have no souls  
We want everything documented in simple  
words  
We assume we have words for everything

We expect so much of others  
And so little of ourselves  
We are impatient  
And have short attention spans

We do not want to be alone  
We don't ever want to think or read  
And we don't want to follow rules  
Or accept the need for them

We know very little  
But think we know everything



## What It Means to Rest

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How do we truly rest  
How can we achieve  
And reach our goals  
How do we finish everything  
But not have everything end  
We need to look beyond  
Our understanding of time  
We need to be mindful  
Of what we are doing now  
Instead of living  
For the past or the future  
We need to live in the now  
We give our cares and worries to God  
We win when we stop the fight  
We are good enough as we are

Of course we can and will improve  
But we find contentment in  
In where we are now  
We need to come to a peace  
That we have done all we can  
And just accept our limitations  
We need to look beyond what we do  
And to who we are

Sometimes it is the simplest things  
That are the hardest to accept  
Sometimes the greatest things  
Take up the smallest amount of space  
Sometimes the things that are free  
Are worth the most  
Some things everyone can do  
Are the most special  
We can easily fall into a trap  
Where we are so frustrated

With the way things are  
That we cannot accept  
That we cannot end them  
It is not a defeat  
To understand that we all have limitations  
We live in a world  
Where good people do bad things  
And bad people do good things  
There is no system  
That will ever explain things  
There is definitely no system  
That will solve our problems  
This world is full of sorrow  
But God is greater than the world  
We need to not hold ourselves responsible  
For things we have no control over

In addition they talk of the serenity prayer  
Something like

Grant me the strength to accept the things  
I cannot change  
And change the things I can  
And have the grace to know the difference  
In Heaven as in life  
It is not the sum of our accomplishments  
But a journey that never ends  
If you can imagine  
Doing nothing and being happy  
And find that peace on earth  
You can start to imagine  
That God is creative enough  
To keep us busy forever  
And knows us well enough  
To know when we need to rest  
Life is not the mere accumulation of memories  
But about learning from our mistakes  
And being content with what we are  
Heaven is not the end but the beginning

## Spontaneous Faith

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Another voice in my head  
This one out of place  
Simple clear words  
Ageless male voice  
Timely, relevant and useful information  
Why does God communicate so clearly  
In the most tragic and shocking situations  
Why does God only shout  
When we are in pain  
Why does breakthrough  
Only seem to happen  
In spontaneous bursts  
Years and years of struggle  
Then understanding comes instantly

Is the Gospel of John  
So much better  
Than the other Gospels  
Do I understand best in poetry  
Or do I just like a challenge  
Why must simple things  
Be so complicated for so long  
And then not at all  
At one time faith was straightforward  
Then it became difficult over time  
And the answers were few and far between  
Then faith became simpler  
All of a sudden

Sometimes it is easier  
To see in the dark  
Sometimes the light  
Is just too bright elsewhere  
We get so many competing thoughts

We get pulled in so many different directions  
Sometimes things are so unclear  
And there are so few options  
Sometimes the choices are so bad  
We think the best choice  
Is the least bad option

Like the clarity of handwriting  
Varies so much according to the person  
But on the computer each font renders  
consistently  
According to its exact specification  
Sometimes the answer for that situation  
Only becomes clear in an instant  
Many years later  
Sometimes it take us a long time  
To work through things emotionally  
Even when these questions  
Have obvious answers

The Bible talks of having  
Only one of two masters  
You can only serve one  
And hate the other

This comes as hard to understand  
In a culture that prides itself  
On guaranteed freedoms  
We are really less individuals  
Than we like to think  
And our idea of what freedom means  
Is really warped  
Spiritual freedom does not  
Make us free from  
Responsibility, suffering, or morality  
It does not even make us free  
From being under authority  
When we say freedom  
We usually mean belonging



As in being part of something  
Greater than ourselves  
Only in abusive situations  
Is this another individual person

We like the idea of choosing  
Every little detail about our lives  
When we are young and understand little  
We choose to be free of authority  
As much as we can at first  
We end up choosing something  
Or someone else to follow  
Some people join the military  
Some people join a cult  
Some just try to fit in with friends  
Some people try to be different  
To stand out  
But usually this is only done superficially

So what does freedom in Christ mean  
It means being part of  
The family of God and His Church  
The real true dignity  
We have been given  
Is in the title of child of God  
As the exercise of God's free will  
He has chosen to bear  
Almost all the sacrifice needed  
To reconcile His perfectly good character  
With our bad behavior  
Then we have the freedom  
To accept God's offer or not

The sad part is  
That many are unwilling  
To submit to His rule  
In their lives  
And so risk suffering for eternity

For nothing but their pride  
In the end in their path  
They will have even less freedom  
In any sense  
Than if they would have  
Just followed God  
And often then  
it will be too late  
To accept God's offer

Spiritual faith by definition is spontaneous  
But living your faith  
Takes your entire life

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*Best of Psychology Series 4-8 by Ben Huot*

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# From Psychology 6-8

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## King and Queen

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King of Hearts

Queen of Spades

If you lose yourself

To find yourself

If life only matters

In royal service

Who do you fight

And who do you trust

If choosing one

Means offending the other

You cannot please both

But if the choice

Is between joy and misery

Don't you already have the answer  
One will dig your grave  
The other will be the love of your life

On the board of chess  
The King can only move one space  
And the Queen anywhere  
But only the King matters in the end  
Victory goes to the King always

We are only pawns or peons  
We struggle with the knights and bishops  
In our daily lives

But what if the King shared his moves  
With all the peons  
What if they could all become knights  
And live on after crossing the board

Maybe the Queen is the problem  
Maybe she is only a bishop  
And just has delusions of grandeur

Each move goes towards one set of events  
One act leads to others  
And a course is set  
There are only so many moves left  
You can find yourself cornered  
Before you know it

If only we knew all the possibilities  
Would we make all the same choices  
But if we knew the ending  
Would we try the same gameplay  
And would we find success

The possibilities are limitless  
But in the end all that matters

Is the heart of the King  
And how you make it  
To the other side of the board

Each step builds the other  
And determines who you are  
But the ending is decided in a moment  
And you can reflect so long you lose your turn

Each will be forced to make a move in the end  
Sometimes in the very first move  
The game pace and strategy is set

Other times the entire board shifts  
And the game itself is transformed  
Then you are no longer playing chess

And then not even a game  
Then you are all alone



And it is just you, the King, and the Queen

## Virtues of Doubt

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How can a person of faith  
Be full of doubts

Doubt is the beginning of faith  
For faith must start with honesty  
And we are not born with faith  
Because faith is a choice

We must always doubt ourselves  
Because to have faith in oneself  
Is a sure route to failure and heartbreak

Having self doubt is a strength  
Everyone except God will fail you  
At times you will fail yourself

How sad what it be to believe only in yourself  
But faith is a process not an outcome  
Faith is the process of getting to know God

In this world we require proof  
For the basis of our civilization  
In every one of our interactions  
The modern world is based on controlled  
doubt

But doubt is useful in building faith too  
For doubt is humility in intellectual matters  
To say you do not doubt in your beliefs  
Is to say you equal God in wisdom

Be careful on what you claim to know  
For you will quickly find  
You can be sure of very little in life

Overextending our faith into human ideologies  
Happens when you tie faith too closely to  
politics

What happens when your faith is shattered  
In your human leaders as they always fail

Doubt can literally save your life  
It saved my mind because I doubted reality  
itself

And this allowed me to seek and accept  
treatment

To be too sure of yourself is a form of pride  
The surest way to prevent pride  
Is to understand how little you know  
Which is also a sign you have a love of  
learning

Doubt protects from more than just pride

It allows you to see faith from another point of view

And to only believe in what is essential

We need faith on God

Not because we do not understand

Nor do we need more proof of His existence

Faith is choosing to obey God

In obeying God, we follow human laws too

But we are still to doubt the human doctrines of the world

God is thinking on another level

To say you understand even the Bible fully

Is to say you are equal to God

In existentialism we are never fully sure of ourselves

As it is in other schools of philosophy

This doubt allows us to critically think  
About why we make the decisions we do  
And take full responsibility for our choices

Existentialism is falsely accused of allowing  
people

To invent their own ethics that change with  
their moods

In Existentialism, every decision you make is  
universal

It forces you to admit that you are making  
choices

Even when you follow a code of ethics

Existentialism teaches that we create our own  
futures

By the choices we make

A person is not a rock

A person isn't fully created until they die

Whether we want to admit to or not  
All of us know what is right and wrong  
No matter if it is written down anywhere or  
not  
To doubt the doctrine of your church  
Is not the same as doubting the resurrection of  
Christ

In any study of theology  
We have to ruthlessly stop our pride  
From allowing us to be blind to our limitations  
That is the problem with any theology  
Or tradition or decision of church authorities  
That claims to be on par with the Bible

To the extent that we can not question it  
Theology is a necessary evil  
Because Scripture speaks for itself

And the point of all life and Christianity  
specifically  
Is the glorification of God  
And the redemption of the entire human race  
One person at a time as individuals  
Of all who are willing to follow God  
Theology is not what we worship  
But a living God

Ultimately what God calls us to do  
We will do whether we like it or not  
Believers and unbelievers alike

Think about how the Apostle Paul  
Was forced to lead the Church  
Even as he was one its greatest enemies  
At the time of his salvation

So even when you church leaders fail you



Or you come to see another church  
As being more faithful to Scripture  
Make sure your faith is in God  
And not His servants  
One will fail you and the other will not

Allow there to be a distinction  
Between what one believer says  
And what God says in the Bible  
This will save your heart  
As well as your soul

Doubt people and doubt yourself  
Have faith in God regardless  
As He never loses faith in you

(When you doubt God pray for faith  
And continue reading the Bible  
And meet with other Christians

Your faith will return)

## Making a Life Plan

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What is the key to success  
In any endeavor  
Stubbornness

Every negative-sounding quality  
Has a positive aspect to it  
And the reverse is also true

People tend to be negative on stubbornness  
Because it keeps people from doing  
What they want others to do

Why am I still not giving up  
On this project I started  
Over 2 decades ago now

Stubbornness is the most accurate reason

It is not a pretty trait

Many traits are useful

And the key is to controlling them

And not letting them control you

The biggest problem of why thing aren't done

Is because people fail to commit to and  
complete them

It is kind like will power and a kind of  
discipline

There are many times you should listen to  
others

But there are some times you should not

How do you know the difference

Consulting the Bible and praying are a good  
start

That you have already worked on something  
for a while  
Is also a good sign that it is worth completing  
You have to know when to cut your loses as  
well

The difference is that life will make it possible  
Or you will be kept from doing it by  
everything  
God does not leave these things to chance  
Jonah tried to evade God  
So God forced him using a miracle

The best way to start is to find something that  
you find compelling  
That is not a vice and does not hurt you or  
anyone else  
If it also alleviates your or someone else's pain  
You are to a good start

Not everyone  
Actually very few  
Have time to do more than work and raise  
their kids  
This is a very important one  
But not everyone has that option either

I think picking one thing you can do  
And keeping to it  
As long as no one is getting hurt in the process  
Is where to start

Ultimately the goal of everyone should be to  
glorify God  
The second thing is we have a big time issue  
We have eternity at one end and a very short  
time period on the other  
We have to weigh in the eternal things as a

bigger focus

Your life really does not start until after you die

So in light of eternity and factoring in what you can do

Decide what to do over time

But do not worry too much about it

Because God is always primarily in control

Not us

And He leaves little to chance or human decision

If it is something that has to be done one way

The other thing to consider is that there are very few things

That have to be done one way

God is creative and combining this with

service for God

By helping others out of unnecessary pain  
Is a noble type of life focus

As we understand God and spiritual things  
best through faith

You have to realize you may see no effect in  
your lifetime

But God can and does use even poorly  
designed things to great effect

It is ironic that God can always do a better job  
than us at anything

God even makes a more believable person  
than us as well

But He still chooses to use people especially  
ones without the proper skills

All in all focus on your eternal life not this one



Save people in both lives and from suffering in each

But realize whatever you create can fall apart

You have to do your best to preserve your efforts

But ultimately it is God's choice alone as to how long

Or in what ways what you create is used

In my project that I have been working on for over 20 years

I started writing and working on my website

As I needed to stay away from (toxic) chemicals

As I had a sensitivity from the military

I had done poorly in school

After coming back from the military

But had not yet been diagnosed with  
Schizophrenia yet

I was trying to find another type of career  
As I hated Business Management so much at  
that time

Although I think running a business is one of  
the greatest challenges

And I would find it much more interesting to  
study today

So I switched to another good career choice  
Writing in the form of Journalism

Which is a very poor career now

It is on the verge of being entirely done by  
software

But shortly after this I was diagnosed with a  
mental illness

I have tried many times to learn programming  
But never succeed because it stresses me out  
too much  
And one of the keys to getting the medicine  
working  
Is to also have a low stress lifestyle  
Otherwise the medicine is cancelled out by the  
stress

But I continue to get ideas to write about to  
this day  
That is the key to writing well is to writing  
when inspired  
Especially when you want to keep your stress  
low

Writing as a way of communicating is on the  
way out as well  
Everything has been going to video online for

years

The only thing that slowed it down was how slow the pipes were

Just like TV overtaking reading when I was a kid

Video has overtaken written content online a long time ago

Even tiny devices do not discourage video consumption

I have also considered using video and multimedia as a way to communicate

I have found that mixed media is a lot of work and not ideal for anyone

Video experimentation online for me has been limited by the fees involved

I have also got interested in making things efficient

And reaching as many people as possible  
Who don't have the most expensive devices

In areas with really poorly built infrastructure  
In far away places like rural America  
And downtown in major American cities

# What I Learned from the Army

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## Life Lessons

Pain can be limitless

In duration and intensity

God will not always save you from it

You cannot trust that your experts

Will actually succeed in lowering your pain

Even if they do understand your condition

Relaxing always helps when in pain

It is almost impossible for me to relax

I do poorly even under moderate pressure

If my life depending on me doing something I  
would die

Nothing is foolproof

Things can always get worse

Sometimes you can be forced  
To do what you find scary  
You will fail yourself sometimes  
And others will fail you at the worst time

You only have a short time  
With those who are important to you  
You may never see them again  
And never even hear when they leave

The church can and often will give faulty  
advice  
Or steer you in the wrong direction  
If you need psychological help  
And you are unique or intellectual  
You will need to study philosophy  
And write your own self help book

You are often your own worst enemy

And you can get yourself into more trouble  
Than those plotting against you

Some things are funny and some are not  
If you cannot distinguish easily between the  
two

Never try to be funny in any situation

Do not be too important or essential  
Boring is ok and often preferred

Time can go very fast or very slow  
Short periods of time appear very long when you  
are in pain

When the stress gets too great  
Everyone screws things up

It is very easy to control another person



And there are endless ways to cause pain

Sometimes you cannot escape fate

Sometimes life makes little sense

## Caveats

Everything I write about the army only applies to enlisted soldiers

Officers have an entirely different world they operate in

And it is truly a night and day difference

Many things I talk about the military philosophy sometimes precede the birth of the US and are common in other militaries of the world both historically and internationally

I was in the military in the mid 1990s so things have changed a lot since then

Although much has likely not changed

The Army is the main focus although I know to an extent about the other services as well

## How the Army is Different

You hear about the Marines all the time  
Because they are sent in first before a war is  
declared except for the Army and other special  
forces because of legal reasons

And because it is often more convenient for  
the US to launch amphibious attacks because  
of logistical and geographic reasons

The Army is basically the common man  
service and there is no glory in serving in it

The Army does the really hard work of  
holding land and routing out terrorists as well  
as spearheading invasions

The Army special forces have one of the  
hardest and least advertised job in the military

They go in before any regular troops and find,  
train, and lead average people in allied groups  
in the area and make them into a real army

What the Army thinks of themselves as doing best is training

The Drill Sergeant is actually an important position in the Army and it is competitive and difficult to become one

Many of our Drill Sergeants were special forces trained

The Army is the one service that does not get an air force besides small drones and helicopters

Army equipment, even tanks and helicopters are much less expensive than Navy or Air Force equipment

The Navy even not including the Marines was probably bigger than the Army at the time I was in

The big task the US Navy does is patrol every ocean and sea in the entire world all the time  
Many army bases allow anyone to come on

base as they have nothing bigger than jeeps  
And all the rifles and small artillery are locked  
down

The army is basically all foot soldiers on the  
front line for any job

## Army Philosophy

The Army does not want you to be smart, self-motivated, or even think at all and does not even promote heroism unless it is specifically necessary for the mission

Our and European countries have fought and won wars by installing a mental mindset called discipline

Discipline is partially about following orders and being a team player but it also extends to your emotional perspective

The Army has its own culture and the reason for that is because people come to the military from a wide variety of backgrounds

So when you got to an unfamiliar, hostile, and frightening location far from home you can depend on the military doing things the same way

If you never adjust to this culture emotionally even if you follow orders and work very hard you will have internal emotional struggles your entire time in the service

That is essentially what happened to me and the stress triggered a genetic predisposition I had to Schizophrenia

Most of your time in the Army you are either at the rifle range, cleaning something, or moving something

## Training

The military waves a certain percent of their members on any particular qualification needed to do anything in the military

If you cannot hit a target if your life depended on it even under no stress

This does not disqualify you from the military

You can't really fail out of most military (infantry type) trainings (except special forces)

You usually just repeat it over and over again

The military doesn't really go under the assumption that anybody actually want to be there as they have to work people who are drafted (historically)

The military still want enlisted soldier to get as much college credit as possible and that is key to advancing even for the enlisted, but it is very difficult to get the time to take the



courses, especially in the Army

If you cannot intellectually understand combat training you are below middle school

developmentally and academically

Military training is basically hard for one reason

You are under stress while doing it

The reason why they stress test you in training is because combat is hard because people are shooting back at you not that it is hard to blow things up

That is why terrorism is so cheap and easy

So every military training especially the infantry ones are mostly a stress test

One of the big problems the way our country does combat training is that we only allow them to do kind things in training

The only problem with that is that those who we fight wars with generally are not kind to us

at least

We often don't treat our enemies very well lately either

The military also doesn't believe in sleep or time off

In fact if you have a non combat role in the military you continue to still train for combat basically after you finish your job your entire enlistment

These are exactly the same things you learned first in basic training

And all Army go to the gas chamber at least once a year

It is filled with tear gas but it is still very painful

That is why they don't want anyone with any breathing problems enlisting

The reason the Army screws things up constantly is the mission is often the lowest

priority

As long as you give 150% and follow all orders you can screw up almost anything in the military constantly and do well in any military assignment

## Entering and Leaving the Army

If you don't like the idea of skydiving into live machine gun fire into a desert or jungle in the middle of the night or you aren't blessed with mechanical abilities

The Army is the wrong place for you

Most people in the military want out as soon as possible as they find these things out no matter where they are stationed or what job they have

Even if you are mentally ill, you need a US member of congress to get you out

Everyone really signs up for a 8 year term and although the extra part is inactive service you can and likely will be called back in this time frame again due to another war

If you want to re-enlist for another tour you usually get a lot of money in cash and get to be

a sergeant which is good on your resume  
The downside is that you are now responsible  
for 4-8 new soldiers doing whatever they are  
told to do for the next 4 or more years and you  
get paid about the same as before  
It takes weeks to get into the Army and  
months to get out If you are in for less than 6  
months it is as if you were never in  
There were about 4 plus types of discharges  
when I was in the military including,  
honorable, general, other than honorable,  
dishonorable and medical  
But unless you get the honorable discharge  
you qualify for no veterans or former military  
government programs  
To get most of the benefits and not have most  
of the downsides, join the Air Force instead  
If you are going as enlisted  
The only downside to the Air Force is that it is

hard to get promoted as enlisted because  
people stay in so long

## Wise Ones of the Soft World

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Leaning back on a soft pillow  
Day comes in a flash of light  
Night comes equally fast  
We rest on a wide expanse  
A tall rock stands above us

Sometimes we roll and tumble  
Due to the disruptions occurring in the dead  
of night  
Our world is smaller than others  
But it stands above and beyond our nearest  
neighbors  
We don't travel often or far  
Our days are empty of excitement

We all earned a place here

By virtue of our leadership roles  
If the clothes fit and we accept  
White, black, brown, red, green, and blue  
We are products of the rainbow of our creators  
imagination

The Chinese proverb says  
This is where we are mostly from  
Softness and warmth are better than hardness  
and strength  
We are soft to the touch  
But strong of mind  
Our hearts bleed for our friends

We have a white glow that comes from within  
We love being hugged and held  
We are not tall in stature  
Or strong and in shape  
Just like the water we try to avoid



We are subtle  
As a reflection of our furnace  
We emit warmth

We sit so still that we can pick up dust  
But our imaginations race far and wide  
Our adventures and growth are usually  
internal  
It is said that the sage never travelled but  
knew all things  
We who live in close quarters  
Try not to sit on sharp things

Bits of money sometimes rain down  
As well as receipts from new recruits  
We are all friends mostly  
But we have the occasional revolt  
There are only two faction though

We sometimes itch  
But there is often someone to scratch us  
We get cold in the winter  
And summer is equally cold  
But the furnace keeps things toasty  
Especially at night  
We do sometimes get moist with sweat

Our guardian angel is visible  
And we can directly ask Santa for presents  
We are of many different species  
But we all bleed white  
Our bodies seldom move  
But we have real souls

We have to leave our soft spot  
Every other week  
As the expanse shifts and changes color  
We accept our role in life

As many have learned to  
In your world as well

When we are sad  
Our faces show it  
So the others can cheer us up  
Even though smiles are sewn on our faces

In times of great change  
When our world turns upside down  
We hold on to each other  
There are times when  
Our world fundamentally changes

And sometimes things even  
Crawl on us in the night  
We fight the little invaders  
By setting out bad things for them to eat  
We don't need to eat

There is nothing those scary little guys can  
take

Most are very small

As the giant doors close tightly

It seems every few years

We are in a new location

They seem to be getting better all the time

Several times our world actually shrank

But none were left behind

But each new location was an opportunity

To find new ways to arrange our world

We like challenges

As they give us something to do

We enjoy the live concerts

The voices come from a little blue box

Sometimes the Bible reads itself to us

Other times it sings a wide variety of songs

It blinks blue at night  
To let us know it is all right

We watch our guardian closely  
More like an older brother  
To make sure he takes his medicines  
One time he talked of parachuting us  
We don't want to take any chances

He seems to sleep a lot  
He makes a lot of noise  
So we know he is still alive  
But many days can be gone half the day  
Recently he stays in more often because of a  
cold

He is not afraid of much  
He can even move quite fast  
And he can trap and release

The scary little things easily  
As he is many times their size  
He is bigger and stronger  
Than the biggest among us

Sometimes he gets hurt  
If he sleeps on the wrong side  
Or if he jumps up in the night with burning  
heart

We can watch his dreams  
Much as we watch his little screens  
These are magic boxes  
Where people talk  
And there are words and pictures  
And some even move

Our guardian seems to get up at random times  
And we don't see the real sun often  
As the window being closed makes us cooler

Recently important things  
Now have bright colors attached  
We often sit on his wallet and keys  
So he can't go out  
But he quickly finds them now  
Due to the bright colored markings

He also seems to write for quite a while  
After the music plays for a while  
Or he talks to his father  
There is this long list of processes  
To put things on a line  
He uses a bunch of little boxes  
And he goes outside our world  
Coming back with his writing  
Now written on paper more neatly

I am glad we don't have to eat  
I think he would forget to feed us

## No Slack

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A coal dropped into  
A pot of ice cold water  
The room fills with steam  
The steam clears  
And the water is boiling slow  
The pot overflows  
And the stove shorts out

When I think about the times  
When I had no choice  
The freedom I have now is often  
overwhelming  
When you are held down under the water  
While swimming in the ocean  
By an under current



It is like being in the military

When you effectively have no choice for months

You then get some fairly meaningless choices  
But you are separated from family and friends  
And you cannot go home for long periods  
You are never really finished with training  
Even in your relatively free time

You are not told why when you are expected to do anything

Without the privilege of deciding whether it is moral or good for me

There is no time for questions of any kind  
Freedom of expression is extremely limited  
There are no artistic vocations in the military  
The military does have its own culture  
But it is very stressful even learning about it

You are slowly told more and more  
And your training gets more and more difficult  
As you descend into the heart of the beast  
As if you are being mentally conditioned  
To be part of a religious cult  
It also gets more and more difficult to leave

The system must only appeal  
To people who never question things  
Surely philosophy is the direct opposite of  
military service  
It is not that I object  
To working hard or following orders  
But I never felt safe nor did I trust anyone  
I was constantly afraid

From early on in training  
I realized we could and would

Be forced to do even things that terrified us  
It would likely be for a good cause  
But your safety and well being is never  
considered

You can always screw things up  
And have few responsibilities  
But you do not potentially even have  
Power over your own body

People who have never served  
Have no conception of how dangerous and  
cruel

The outside world has become  
They see marches on TV in their downtowns  
And fear that  
But if they lived in the Middle East  
That would be a slow day

Nothing and no one is really safe today  
Even in the middle of America  
Our greatest protection is that we are  
unimportant enough  
That no one would risk the wrath of the US  
Just to pick on random people like us  
If we stay in the United States and are citizens  
And we don't have dark skin and speak  
another language

Believe it or not but there are entire people  
groups  
That have been so victimized  
By nameless people in our names  
Both officially and unofficially  
And through allies and in other countries  
That they see us as invading them first

Many of them believe in God too

They also believe that their God  
Is the only one true God  
But they do not embrace  
The forgiveness and compassion of  
Christianity

They do not believe it wrong  
To destroy their own countries  
And hurt their own people  
They would make us all slaves if they could  
They are not the kind of people  
Who accept the place they were born in

They believe they are God's chosen people  
They believe they should be  
Wealthy and powerful because of this  
They attribute their loss of wealth and power  
To their not being devout or radical enough

They have long memories stretching back  
A thousand or more years  
From their point of view  
They were the faithful followers of God  
And we are morally corrupt  
They believe they have the morally superior  
argument  
And they believe they have been  
Treated unjustly and persecuted

What do these two things have in common  
War and the training for war  
In order for us to fight this other culture  
Who are willing to fight us  
At any cost to themselves or us  
As any effective enemy does

We don't though do the same thing  
At least that is on official records

But this is purely for propaganda reasons  
War is a way of destroying things  
And is always very cruel  
This does not justify cruelty in war  
But it does mean the Army has to train for this

To make someone tough enough  
To survive the current types of combat  
situations  
You have to do some very cruel things in  
training  
To properly prepare people  
It also would be reasonable  
To organize this as the first training

Because if our military is going to be truly  
voluntary  
Recruits should have an opportunity  
To see what they really signed up for

Before having no way to get out  
Of course no one would sign up then

Our culture wants all the advantages  
But does not want to pay the price  
Of a civilization fundamentally built  
On technologies that wouldn't work  
Without our two wealthiest and most powerful  
rivals  
Being willing to continue to trade with us

Our country tries to play the victim  
And that we are the good guys  
Much as many empires throughout history  
have  
Saying the world is a little less cruel  
Because we control everything that happens in  
it  
They are obviously trying to persuade those



Who are citizens of the empire  
Because this is what they want to think  
And because no one else would believe them

So the moral of the story  
Is to not lie to your people  
Claiming you can win wars  
Without hurting people  
Or that they should be grateful  
That we merely spared their lives  
While destroying their homes  
And their entire infrastructure  
So their is no work left for them

Instead we should stop fighting  
So many wars in the first place  
If any other country  
Had their enemies an ocean away  
And had so few social problems

Because of their wealth and social conformity  
They would participate in many fewer wars

It is hard to imagine  
Given the strength of our military  
How we can keep losing wars  
But the big way we keep losing  
Is that we spend too much money on them  
No other country has fought  
A large inland war on the other side of the  
world  
And won it quick and easy

Not only are we spending ourselves into the  
grave  
We also are angering most other countries  
So if we ever need help of any other country  
We are going to be in a tough spot

One of these important international  
agreements

That we don't want to bother to honor  
anymore

Include provisions like not torturing  
And not using chemical weapons

Doing so is considered a war crime

There is nothing special about America

We are just in better shape

Demographically and geographically and  
economically

We could be a moral force in the world

But first we would have to give up

Basing our entire foreign policy

On nothing but economics

But greed is considered good here

You take the social out of the gospel

And no one will listen to you  
Social justice is as fundamental  
To Christianity as sexual morality  
No wonder the church is losing  
Rich white members in America