

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Happy Thoughts

3rd-5th Generation Positive Writings
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November 24, 2022

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Art Theory / Poetry

Define Spiritual

What is left when you close your eyes
What is it in you that really matters
Who you really are is your spirit
Our identities are primarily spiritual
Spirit is where decisions and pain meet
Spirit is in all the choices we make
We are spiritual beings
We are created by God
The breathe of God creates spirit
The Holy Ghost is God's Spirit
Your spirit is what you think, feel, and believe
From your spirit you know what is good and evil
Your spirit is the one in control
If God's spirit is within you
He resides in you heart, mind, and soul
Mind is what you think, heart is how you feel, and soul is what
you believe
Spirit is how we know who God is
Spirit is the recognition of who we are and who God is
Spirit is sentience or self awareness
Spirit is what gives life meaning and purpose
Spirit is your will and is defined by your choices
You create who you are by the choices you make

Real Dreams

We seek a banquet and music
For a celebration of good news
But better is the one
Who celebrates by providing his bounty for others
We travel the world to understand life
But greater is the one who understands himself
Instead of finding an adventure in tragedy and danger

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Find joy in common life experiences
It is human and wise to fear suffering and persecution
It is also human but not so wise to fear living a boring life
There is a sense of lacking when we are really young
As we grow older, so does our confidence
We first seek after our ambitions
Which we define as bigger, better, and faster
Later we seek only to be satisfied with what we already have
We collect things in our youth
And buy them for family as we age
We give away things to strangers as we grow yet older
When we are near the end of this life, we write our wills
It is seen as a measure of our legacy what we have earned and accomplished
When I die, I care little what people think
And see no need for others to remember me
We continually struggle to achieve and influence others at the beginning of our lives
Later we understand how weak and ineffectual we are
We are then satisfied by even small victories
We think that it is our responsibility to save the world in our youth
As we age, we accept that we can only do our best
We are raised thinking we can do anything
When we get out on our own, we learn how hard it is to just survive
When we age still more, we are satisfied when we can do simple things like still walk

Spiritual Beauty

We see beauty as exemplified by human skin
We see beauty as evidenced by a brilliant mind
Why don't we see the kind of beauty admired by the Creator of these organs

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When we see beauty in nature, this is the cue we should follow to honor the Creator's art
But what is really beautiful is spiritual
The spiritual world is the bigger more important world we all live in
And our physical one a tiny less significant subset
Spiritual beauty is about beauty in actions and beauty in attitude
Spiritual beauty is about who we are in the present eternal moment
Christ is the best example of spiritual beauty
Spiritual beauty is attainable and real even in the midst of so much evil and suffering
Just like a campfire is easier to find in a clear night without the city lights
Following our conscience makes us shine brightly enough so others can follow on
If you really want to start a revolution that will really fix the world today
Change the one thing you can - your own body, mind, and spirit
Christ values the spiritual because it is the only thing that lasts forever
And it is those things that are only physical are the things that bring us suffering

Creation of Living Things

Life is the greatest art
It is the direct creation of God
It is His most complex creation
But it can only be made by God directly
Life can then create other things
Living things can create their own future by the act of their wills
Eternal life is even greater
Heaven is the ultimate work of art
Compared to everything else in Heaven, gold and precious jewels are worth nothing

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Heaven is like a perfect garden tended to by God
Living in Heaven is the opposite of suffering
Heaven is about full reconciliation with God family and His
Church
Heaven is completely spiritual in its essence
In Heaven, nothing ever dies or even decays
Being a created living being is like being planted as a seed in the
ground
Then you become a beautiful flower after death
Just like the water ritual of baptism where we die to evil and
suffering and our own will
Then we are born back into God's family as we are raised back
again out of the water
Being spiritual is all about choice
The essence of the spirit is the will
The will is what makes a living creation sentient and self aware
It is the part that makes life more than a very advanced machine
and allows it to make independent choices
It is the will that becomes spiritually ugly when we turn against
God
And the loss of its complete independence is the cost of eternal
life
The real beauty of creation is that we were always designed to
live symbiotically with the Creator within us
He came into this world He created to bring us back to Him so
that we might suffer no more
In the process, He lived a spiritually beautiful life
Transcending our understanding of what is important in life
Showing us how to resist evil and prevent unnecessary suffering
Teaching us what living spiritually and in constant connection
with God is all about
Most importantly, He defeated evil and suffering by doing the
completely unexpected
He died physically in great pain in place of us
He then defeated death and rose again and ascended back to
create Heaven for us all

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His life is the perfect illustration or teaching of how to live a spiritually beautiful life

Spontaneous Love

Love is one of the most beautiful of emotions

But there is more to love than just romance

Love is the greatest of the virtues

The Bible talks about unconditional love

One of the really unique and beautiful things about Christianity is forgiveness

This makes Christianity a game changer

Both extremely simple to explain and very difficult to practice

Christianity bases ethics on forgiveness because God hates arrogance

If you were God, would anything impress you from what you see people do

By its very nature, mathematically anything compared to infinity is zero

There is a long list of attributes you can find in the Bible that exemplify love

But love is simply defined in the Bible as the motivation for Christ to descend to earth and then even hell

Many people think that it is weak to be kind and generous

But if God did not intervene, we would exist forever just in darkness and despair

Soon earth may be much like hell, as it is compared to burning trash

Burning trash is truly ugly and sickening

God really believes in freedom and equality at all costs

This transcends any attempt of America to trash talk other nations about its superiority

The American soldier is a kind of Christ like figure

The analogy holds because the Army wants you weak, not heroic

Just like in Christianity, it has a unique ethical philosophy

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The Army values two things: instant obedience without question and 150% effort

Life in the Army is never easy and never lets up

You are married to the Army in that you are never really off duty

The example of Christ baffles non-Christians because Christ is the ultimate anti-hero

It is a belief system and revolutionary movement that encourages you to submit to everyone

It is like launching a war by unconditionally surrendering to your enemy before the first battle

It works this way because your enemy is you

Christians often give the devil too much credit

Sin comes from our rebellion against God's will and rule in our lives

Just like the Army is hard for everyone, just not intellectually

Christianity is hard because it requires us to sacrifice our pride

If Christianity had a flag, it would be white signaling surrender

If Christianity had one symbol, it would be a blank sheet of paper

Life is suffering but God has broken its power over us and created a perfect life for us forever

Church Art

Like a living gothic fantasy straight out of the medieval period of history

The agony set in the stone of the cathedral walls

The blood of Jesus Christ burns through the chains of pain and death

Like a prisoner's feet being slowly roasted over hot coals

Although He never did anything wrong, Christ endured a brutal death

He even entered the underworld and stole the keys from Hades

The greatest anti-hero then ascended to Heaven to retake His throne

After God raised Himself from the graveyard

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From Almighty God to enslaved non-citizen back to God in His full glory
He returned in triumph to His throne to finish building Heaven for us
While we started building His church on earth and help it take its place in history
He is the basis for any beauty or joy we still find in this life
Unlike the plagues of the ancient world that were started for our punishment
We now are creating our own hellish trash fire which flows directly from our greed and arrogance
Rebellion against God and our responsibility to shepherd His creation is ugly and sad
He then breaks through the stone of our self-made prisons
Shining down through the brilliant colors capturing His life and ministry among us
His miracles and faith did more than just feed the hungry and heal the sick
He led a spiritual movement that has outlasted the agricultural, industrial, and information revolutions
Growing stronger and more numerous each generation through 3 major technology revolutions
My country now lives in spiritual poverty as the world loves Christ more than ever before
But this generation does not listen to its parents who had nothing to say about Christ
Our country is now accepting the supernatural in the form of national myths and for artistic expression
We are nearing the end of the world as we know it, but it is not really the end of the world entirely
While we see every major institution transformed or made irrelevant religion is more important than ever before
God's work in the world has lasted for thousands of years and we raise our glasses to ten thousand more

Still Life Crosses

A heavy cross with a smaller one on each side
A cross of rusted iron with a giant nail representing Christ
An cross with an ancient ornamental design on plain wood
A heavily weathered and dense wooden cross draped with a royal robe
A smooth black cross with golden letters
Seven crosses total making a complete eclectic set
A look of respect and sorrow
An intent gaze of curiosity
These are the kind of toys you do not play with
The other toys are quiet but happy
To them this is a type of holy place
What does worship look like for a stuffed toy
To the greatest Baby Sheep that ever lived and still does
The cross is sometimes scary and extreme when the lights are off
But all in all a better feeling for the shelf and the entire room
Animals all know and respect the Creator by name and voice
It is never necessary to explain God to His better creations
And every other thing that exhibits having a spirit
Whether or not it meets the scientific requirements for being alive
Praying that it will always be dusted carefully and continually
The ultimate symbol of strength and masculinity

Praise

Holy Spirit

My Best Friend
My Eternal Companion
My First Love
And my Muse

Like a breath of fresh air
After being pulled under the ocean
Or inhaling a mouth full of acid reflux

As gentle as a stuffed toy
Wiser than an animal
My Best Counselor
Who truly understands my mental illness

If I am fearful
You bring me peace
When depressed
You encourage me

Each day You guide me
You are more real everyday
You are the source
Of all good within me

Knowing You will always
Live within me
Soothes my wildest fears
And gives me courage
To do what is right
Despite the consequences

Your character is without blemish
You are God within me
You are my conscience

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I can always trust You
As You never lie
You speak softly
Your words are like music

May I see through Your eyes
So my world is less troubling
So I can face the future
Without assuming the worst

Only You can satisfy
My heart, mind, and soul

You are older than creation
But You make me new again
You are God
You always give a second chance

I do not always
Recognize how You work
And I don't always appreciate You
Like I should

I can feel You within my soul
And You calm my mind
You reveal to me the secrets of the Bible
You direct my thoughts towards good things

I am blessed by Your presence
And understand spiritual truths
Because You have healed my mind

I find my way in a hostile world
Because You gave me a creative mind

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You are the only hope for the world
Everyone who is creative
Owes You for their ideas and their creative works
You deserve the copyright for every creation

You control history
And all reality is smaller than You

You were with Jesus and the Father
At creation and in the life of Christ
You started the Church at Pentecost

We have a real connection with God
That only exists because of You
We are honored
That You choose to dwell within us

I do appreciate Your Church
In both people and spiritually
But You are both more real to me
And a greater blessing

You are the source of all
That is good in the world
Without You creation would never have happened
What was it like to live
Before You created us?

I cannot imagine the sorrow You experience
When we do not follow You
Or when we break our contract
You are ever merciful

You speak through us
When we do not know
What words to say

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When we do not know
What to pray for

I appreciate that You respect me enough
To never force me to do anything I don't want

But I cannot understand
Why You gave people free will
When we make such bad choices

You do everything for me
And all I do in return
Is try to be better
And learn from my mistakes
And those of others

Please stay with me forever
And give me the strength
To do what is right
Even when I am stubborn
And fight Your perfect plan

She is The Only One

Can a person be too kind?
Can a person be truly good?
Dropped straight from Heaven
Like an angel walking among us
Wise as a prophet in Scripture
Sharp in mind and soul as a diamond
The best human counselor
The softest heart and strongest mind
Spontaneous in spirit and subtle in decision-making
Of the highest order of service and sincerity
She becomes brighter each day
And stands out more at night
Even if she now walks a little slower
And is a little less steady in stride
She is more careful with others feelings
And more gentle in words
She has fought the good fight with pain and illness
With honor and distinction
With each decision her family grows closer
Her only critic is herself
Always a Mary at heart
But a Martha in action
She has the inner strength
To make mountains move
She is faithful and true
Her candle never grows dim
Her faith is like a lighthouse
She is always ready to see the Lord
She is the subject of the Sermon on the Mount
Her life is a beatitude

Perfectly Balanced Life
My life is perfectly calm

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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

Stories

Maybe a Screw is Loose

Time is not eternal
But now is forever
In each shift in light
Our digital future is uncertain
Sunrise to annoying alarm
I laugh in my soul
I cry in my heart
Sometimes things are so clear
Other times light and dark
All blur together
Be always alert
We are all under the watchful eye
Better than a wandering eye
Rolling off the bed
A loud cracking sound
My head always hurts
When I try to think
In each step off the bed
I stumble less every day
Is sleep better in darkness
Is silence better than laughter
Why can't that buzzing stop
Pops all around
I flip over in place
I switch my position
Like a politician
In each step I grow bigger
Now I have giant feet
I pull the fleece over my eyes
As learn how to escape the nightmares
With glee and stubborn determination
I awake to the sunset
Where did the day go?
Chasing darkness all my life

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I can only stand so much light
Laughter burns in my ears
I can barely stand
If my life depended on it
How do I sort through my fears
How do I open the door
My keys are lost in my wallet
I listen to the grass grow
And watch the paint peel off the wall
Sometimes time disappears
The clock breaks all the time
Sometimes the pain is too great
To break the beat of the drums
Exercise can be painful
Only when you are there
For the wrong reasons
I make it across the yard
Dodging toy soldiers and silly string
I cannot stop the silence
When will it be gone
They all say go home boy
All in unison
A choir motivated by fear
A really great conductor
That can't stop talking
And the music just sounds louder now
I can dance on my toes
But only when you scratch my belly
It just seems weird
When I cannot hear the sound of my voice
Over the incessant mowing of the lawn
It is like a constant war
I just cannot find my jungle boots
I put my pants on
As I go through one belt and another
I forgot to take a shower

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What is deodorant for
I am now stuck to the glue
Spilled all over my coach
Stop playing with paper airplanes
Until the paint dries
I take a turn at breakfast
Until I drop eggs on the stove
The fumes are hard to take
I play a song for children
And cannot stop the music
The most terrifying thing
Is how loud the color of red was
We mix and match cheeses
As the plate turns in circles
I point forward to the future
The only future I can see
Is building a fort in the living room
We need to invest in defense somehow
Its not like the ants will ever stop
Their loud rock music
Besides the neighbors will rejoice
Until the ants become really smart
Why are there so many holes in my wall
If I have such a hard time being heard
I can barely see out my windows
Maybe they are painted shut
If only I could sell the painting
Off the front of my door

King and Queen

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

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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

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And then not even a game
Then you are all alone
And it is just you, the King, and the Queen

Wise Ones of the Soft World

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

Young Earth

A sound in the early morning
Like a single ray of light
Bursting in like a robber
From out of nowhere
Growing slowly
Like a child in the womb
To a young adult

Then a break in the noise
And the fall of soft rain
Another melody starts
Like a single note
From a single instrument
In the audience of a symphony

An invisible hand
Orchestrates the start of morning
The sun races across the sky
And the day is like night
Slowly fading into yellow

Did I miss the day
Lost in a dream

Sleep is a strange thing
Spontaneous and subtle in nature
Exporting us to another reality
The other side of our mind
That takes backstage
During our waking hours

When we are not asleep
We fixate on little things
Like the tapping of the rain

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Upon the window
And the footsteps pacing above

But although we think our minds empty
When we dream
It is in these silent times
That our minds race
Creating thoughts and reconciling events

Emotions are more vivid
As our logical side diminishes
We experience dreams as impulses
As an older time in our history
Before the modern world
Before even farms and cities

When the land was at rest
And it was we who were hunted
That early development in our minds
That predates our understanding of history

A reality like that of a foreign world
Where we responded to action
Without excessive thought
We need to be people who fought
Not in a metaphorical sense
But ones that struggled just to live

Where we experienced freedom
In its rawest form
Where fear was ever present
And sights and sounds were heightened
And our daily experiences
Were surreal and eventful

A day did not go by

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That we did not struggle for our lives
Our minds were clear as the outdoor air
Unclouded by the factories and megacities
Our minds were so clear
That we could see even in the dark
Our thoughts took flight and emitted light

We were not separate from nature
And every experience was spiritual
We did not need to find enlightenment
As wisdom was not challenged by technology

The first tool was fire
Like a double edged sword
It cut both ways
And enemy and a friend
Much as other people, animals, and our entire world

With each step forward
Everything was new
There was always plenty of wood
And the rivers were full of fish

We did not sit down in school
We were always running
As soon as we learned to crawl
There was no need for speech
For ages sound was a luxury

We treated each other as rivals
We respected each other
But were able to respond to violence
In less than a moment's notice

What we knew at the time
Was not like what we now write down

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Even then we had no words
For most of what we felt and believed

God was very real to us
Much as He is in your time as well
We respected God
And He did not anger us

With each passing day
We looked to the stars
And just accepted His role
We knew that He was our Creator
And we were His children

We lived in a vast garden
Tended to by Him
As we grew older
We began to walk with Him
In the cool of the day

We never thought of technology
Like you do today
And our knowledge of fear
Was of merely a warning
And pain was similar

We did not fear death
As we did not die yet
What you think of now as violence
Started out just as a game
To test our skills and strength of mind

We used to leave our homes
With no locks or guards
There was no reason for walls
As no one was trying to steal

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As we had no possessions

We had heard of a great city
A city of light on a hill
It was thought of as an idea
But some believed it real

The way to it was like a gate
The gate was overgrown with vegetation
And there were no people around it
It stood in the center of the garden

We knew to not go near it
Because it was our one rule
We called it the golden rule
Because from the gate it glowed
Like the golden fish in our rivers

This color was unlike any other
It was not just a color
But a mist and a living and moving thing
We approached it with reverence

From the water surrounding it
We drank for strength and vitality
Only one at a time
In each family

We had one person
Be drawn into the light
And pass on to the other side
We never heard of them again

Soon we saw a great warrior
Stand before us with a great blade
And he was surrounded with fire

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With each swing of his sword

The vegetation caught fire
And we were soon left
With a patch of dirt and ash
Much like that of a volcano

We then scattered across
The entire planet
People feared death then
So many died soon after

It was hard to grow things
And we starved for many years
Without the light from the portal
The nights were even darker
And sleep was less satisfying

Even in our darkest moments
We held out hope of our Creator
To provide us a way forward
From the consequences of our sin

We heard a prophecy about a book
That would be written
That told our story
And that God Himself
Would enter our world
And defeat the evil within us

Many people wanted to join together
And build great stone monuments
And live under the rule of other people
In exchange they were protected and fed well

Those who resisted this change

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Would have to fight wars
To stand their ground
And worship God instead of technology

We would not bow down to the leaders
So the cities rejected us
And we began a great migration
To the other side of the world

Some thought the world was ending
But this was just the beginning
Our descendants did not survive long
But our story did

The Color Red

A procession formed across the open road
A long line of people
Wound its way back
Across fields and forests

Everything was red
Brilliant red
And reds of all shades
The people were all dressed in red
The forest, the water, and the grass
All red in their entirety

They played in the river
Each person was dipped into the water
Like an apple is dipped into caramel
The river ran red as well

It was not just the moon
That was the color of blood
But the sun was as well
Even when the night came
The sky still has a reddish glow
The stars were all crimson
Every one the same color as Mars

The man leading the procession
Leaned on a red and white striped cane
His nose glowed in the dark
He rode a red deer

As the procession continued
The deer picked up a scent
The aroma of cinnamon apples

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

They followed the scent
Until they saw a path of red stickers
On signs pointing the way onward

A bunny rabbit with a red tail
Darted across the road
The deer halted course
The man stepped out and greeted the bunny

The bunny now led the procession
Into a hole in the ground
A hole the rabbit dug
In this hole there was a passage
To another world

As you passed through
You were covered in clean water
The water was pure white
And filled with soap bubbles
All smelling like lavender and vanilla

Upon entering the new world
They saw a man playing a card game
But the playing cards began to dance
The dancing surprised the man
He backed off to the corner
And set down his giant red and white striped hat

He scratched his long red beard
He thought of what he would do
After having a small tea party
He and the little elves attending the party
Decided to use their magic
Which they were given one a week
If they were good and did their work
To pay the wizard to shrink them

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

As soon as they began to shrink
They noticed a giant fat cat
Looking down on them with disgust
The giant cat looked like a stuffed toy
Except that he could sing and dance
He made a lot of noise

This made the monster angry
And he took the cat toy
And ran off with it
Carrying it in his mouth

He didn't destroy it though
He thought to play a trick
And hide the cat toy
He buried it in the rabbit hole
And then the monster disappeared entirely
Into another world

The cat fell back into our world
The crowd gathered near the gateway
As the group wandered
They made up songs
That they heard in their heads
They picked up the musical instruments
That they found under a small lighted tree
In the middle of a small clearing

The deer sat down next to the tree
And the man with the candy cane
Started to build a little candy house
The people gathered for a party
Inside the candy house

During the party they ate so much chocolate

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

That when the rest of the dinner was served
They could eat nothing else
As their stomachs ached

They got out of control and disrespectful
This really stressed out the candy cane man
But he was a kind man
So he just ignored the silliness

He started to dance
And everyone joined in
To get rid of the excess energy they acquired
From eating all the candy

Later on they got so tired
That they wanted to take a nap
While they slept
The leader began to fall asleep as well

In all the excitement
No one had realized
That they had grown big again
But the plain cards were still small
As the people began to dream
The playing cards woke up
And began to dance and sing

The candy cane man found the big toy cat
The toy was then washed
And given back to the people
Now with a pleasant expression on his face
He was all clean and new
As he had been washed
In the vanilla soap bubbles

Out of the hole came a few elves

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

The elves then made the hole
Into a dedicated passageway
So that others knew just where to cross

The elves held onto a rope
As they walked
So that no one would fall down
Off the little bridge between the two worlds
The man with the candy cane
Guarded this same spot
Where the two worlds met

There were giant trees
With branches covering the passage way
And the people decided to never cross
Into the another world
Unless they were with another group member

The only time they were alone
Was when they were sleeping
A locked door was constructed
So that it required 2 keys that joined together
So no one would cross by themselves

After spending much time
Traveling between worlds
They realized they could go faster
If they rode red deer
They became obsessed about riding red deer
So that soon they became red deer themselves

So then the man with the candy cane
Would bring them together
For one night of the year
To bring presents to both worlds

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

In one world they were giants
And in the other one they were very small
As time passed by
They began to get bigger
But they noticed the bigger they got
The more the world shrank around them

Eventually they tired of traveling
As they missed being with the entire group
You may ask why the group
Didn't just stay together
But there were only a few people
Who could be on the bridge at once

And arguments began to divide the group
They didn't understand
Why everyone else in the world
Kept telling them to do things
That were annoying and disruptive

Whenever they got together
The leader with the candy cane
Would lead them off to another location
They never knew where they were going

Eventually they learned to watch
When the candy man starting getting sleepy
They gave him milk and cookies
Because that made him sleep
Then they would be free to sing and dance

Superheroes: The Santa Soldier

Like an inter-dimensional force for good
We are all a kind of spiritual Christian soldier
We are the infantry
We are the hands and feet of God

Like the military we neither choose our mission
Nor can we use our powers for our own gain

We are like a physical conduit
Of God's supernatural power
Serving as the face of God in this world

We are truly of another species
We are not really from this world
Our home world is being
In close proximity to our Lord

Our weapons are there
To bring peace and joy to the world

We are a kind of soldier Santa
But we are not a myth
We are as real as anything you can touch

We are merely mortal people
But within us exists a greater power for good
Than all the gravity of a galactic black hole
A great power packed into a mere person

What is greater than feeding hungry people
Or healing people of deadly diseases?

The combined three part gift of
God living within you

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Spending forever after in
His golden city of paradise
And having the global network
Of support from people like you

We are not trying to recruit you
As God Himself will knock on your door
To give you an invitation

But we do screw things up from time to time
Like the military has a habit of doing
Many of us are clumsy and sick

We also have a variety of issues and emotional baggage
That may actually be harder to deal with
Than the issues you are going through

We understand if you think you have no need for us
But we want to know we are always there for you
And when we can't be our Lord is
He never screws things up like we do

We are but common peasants by birth
Serving in the forces of the King
Our Lord actually does the cleaning
So we feel honored to be able to work in His service

We have a strong desire to include everyone
Good news is we have no ranks
As we are all completely equal

One of the things negative about us
By some people's standards
Is that we are neither cool nor modern in our thinking

We are working on modernizing our thinking

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Please be patient with us in the process
We are also accepting others to help with this

Many of us you hear about live in luxury
But most of our members
Are some of the world's poorest

As far as being cool is concerned
We are ok with being nerds
We do have good times though

We just don't feel the need to do drugs to have fun
Having God live within you
Provides the positive effects
People often seek in taking drugs
But without the dangerous side effects and addiction

We live a life of
Both moderation and engaging with the world
Even though many of us
Strongly disagree on how it is run

We know the King not only created all worlds
But won the battle on our behalf centuries ago

Our biggest problem is that we
Still don't follow orders well

Today we think it not possible to reform people
That society says are bad
And make them change their behavior

The King has the power
To restore people to be good
And He has also given us this power as well

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

He has such power and authority
That what He says becomes reality

He says many good things about us
Even though we are in the process of reformation
We are trying to live up to who He says we are

Some of our beliefs are not just unpopular
They are actually looked down upon
But as we said we come from a different world

We understand that we are so different
So that you may not be ready
To be part of our group

Just remember you can join and
Be just as important as anyone else
When you first join

But realize that some members
May be hard to deal with
Because we take everyone

But we don't really decide on membership
The King does all the recruiting

Just know He will knock on your door
Only a certain number of times

Either way you choose we wish you best
And we will be there to help you out
As long as we are still here

After all we are not from this world
We will be returning home sometime
We don't know when

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

But when it happens it will be fast

Far Out Community

I fell down
I rolled off onto my side
I fell into the dust

And saw a flat wilderness
The smell of sweat
I ended up
On the other side of the cliff

It was like a vacation
From the reality of my life
And the fears in my mind

Living in the land of my enemy
Being hunted down
Amidst a land full of obstacles
Everywhere I turned there were distractions

My heart was full of joy
And there were reminders
Of a time of greater calm

Friends always surround me
We represent every race
All on the same level

We can see all that happens
Looking down from safety

Our world constantly changes
Sometimes it is so dry
I have to travel far to water

In the mountains

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Streams come from nowhere
Water so soft and pure
That I float on in ease

Always a smile on my face
We all work and live together
A community like no other

Every moment forms a beat
Each thought I have
Is part of the rhythm

Colors fade over time
And so do our memories

The community is growing
We are recruited one by one

I found this place by accident
As many others have
A fantasy world out of the way

Sometimes I struggle with isolation
Even as I feel crowded in

The light is different here
Beyond the sun and moon

The piercing sound of the train
Wakes us up periodically

The whole world stops
And I get out of my vehicle

The road extends far ahead
And we are blinded by the light

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

The pathway is always dark
It leads to other worlds

My world in a mirror reflected
The comforts of a life of ease
Time goes by more slowly

I survey the horizon
I have no place in this world
But here there is no conflict
We can truly celebrate peace

There is a dark side to every world
And this one is no exception
Some only stay for a time
And never return

I leave at regular intervals
To harvest the fruit of the land
And search for water

I ride out on a cloud
And survey my kingdom
Always on a journey

I am a historian
And the others follow me
But I am no leader

Those I call mine
Live in a perpetual state of disarray
All are clumsy and out of shape

Our stomachs are all round
But our steps are light
We float out into the night

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

We can survive long periods
Without light and water
Like plants going to seed

The great wind came back
And it killed off the smell

We live our entire lives
With nothing but our clothes

We seldom are able to lie down
But it feels good
To sit next to friends

The hours of the day
Seem to bleed into each other

We may be small in stature
But we have great courage

We have little control
And only exist
Because of the mercy of others

Tomorrow is cleaning day
Our home will finally be clean

This is about Stuffed Toys

Imagery

Psychology of Water

Nothing is softer than a drop of water
Nothing is clearer than the sound of thunder
Nothing is as unclear as the edges of a cloud
Nothing is more intense than the reflection of the sun off of water
Nothing is as cold as a coat soaked in water
Nothing is as clean as when the soap makes contact with water
and cloth
Nothing is more common than water on earth
But most of it we can never drink
Our form of life needs water to live
We fight wars over it and build entire civilizations around it
The water below is another world like the sky above
This parallel world is full of life unlike ours

Nothing hurts less to the open wound than pure water
Nothing cools hot coals faster than water
We are born again by passing through water
While many are afraid of drowning in it
Transforming rocks to sand and metal to rust
Nothing infiltrates as subtlety as water
Nothing transforms human creations more than water

The repeating sound of a rainstorm
Beating the side of the building
Like a drummer's stick
The rain hits the window so hard
It is surprising the glass doesn't break
Sometimes I feel as cold inside
As winter rain with a leaking jacket
Sometimes the water just soothes
It is easier when it burns less inside my heart
For what is right and for what is not
Water can make you feel new like nothing else
It feels as if you no longer carry a burden

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Dreams are like water
Soft but intense at the same time
Sometimes I feel like someone dropped
A bucket of water on me
Sometimes I feel so little control
That I might not make it to the bathroom in time

It is in our waking dreams
That we plan our goals
And fantasize about possibilities
To experience better feelings about life
Is waking not like walking through a waterfall
With your eyes closed
Is not the sunrise better than the sunset
Isn't the sunset the beginning and the sunrise the end
We spend more time in the dark than the light
We put more effort into changing
Things we have no control over
Surely we can do greater things
In the heat of the day
Than in the cool of the night
Especially when it stops raining

Like a Diamond

Faith shines like a rainbow
A bridge between God and people

Like a portal to another world
An inter-dimensional road
That leads to paradise

People think Heaven is far away
Or dying is traumatic
Maybe it is like waking up
From a bad dream

Like a wounded animal
It cries and bleeds
The echoes of the cross
Can be heard throughout history

Suffering is the human condition
But Christ is the best answer
When we look to what faith is
The most direct answer is Christ

Like a diamond simple from afar
The brilliance spreads out
In every direction
Just like the grace of God

Why does taking on the life of Christ
Lead to less suffering?

The source of our suffering is our sin
We are not always protected from
The consequences of the sin of the other

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

We can be protected from our own sin
If we would but fight for it

When we fall we hit hard
But we can always get back up
Because the soul cannot be destroyed
And God absorbs what we cannot take

We are as morally elusive as water
And our hearts hard as ice
Let God warm our hearts
And lead the flow of our emotions

Just like you can see rainbows
In the middle of mud puddles
So God's grace shines in even the dirty

No matter how big our problems get
Or how much we think we have learned
We can never get beyond the cross

At every stage of life and history
We all need God to deal with life

In this age we seek to explain everything
But our questions are all oriented around the how
When we think we have the answers
We cannot hear the voice of God

Is it still worth questioning life's problems?

We can never solve problems
If we do not examine them
But we need to focus on the Who more
Than the how or even the why

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

It is worth noting the source of our problems
But let us not forget the origin
Of all human problems

We cannot heal our hearts
Until we are willing to let them break
We cannot see the brilliance of grace
Without the second sight of faith

Maybe we became spiritually blind
When our culture became too visual
Maybe there is a correlation
Between the loss of sight and the start of wisdom

We currently live in a world of lies
The most valuable thing today is the truth
Knowledge is just a commodity
But the truth is harder to find than ever before

Just as a diamond is transparent
So should our character be

We can only be the light of the world
If we allow God
To burn off our imperfections

And we can only be clean
By the blood of Christ

Like a diamond
We are to reflect the attributes of Christ

We cannot live the life of Christ
But we can be a poor reflection
Of how much He cares

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

If there is enough light
Even a cloudy diamond
Can reflect the light

And light is most visible
When it is so dark we cannot see

We are righteous by Divine declaration
Even as we have not reached that in our actions

We are lights to the world
As God has chosen us to be that light

We cannot step back
Or sit on the sidelines
There is no turning back

We are chosen
And have accepted the call
We are already fully committed

God will not allow us to outrun Him
There is no escape from His love
And we will be sanctified
No matter how much we fight it

He has already prepared the way
And He carries us when needed
Once we see the light of His grace
We will never be the same

May the light of God
Blind us to all lies

May the brilliance of His love
Heal us from all sorrow

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

May the world see us no more
But only Christ's reflection in us

Faith and Ethics

Art and Kindness

Today I saw one of the most beautiful paintings ever
And it was almost entirely designed by software
With a person literally just choosing amongst a number of pieces
And it won a state level art show

In an age of artificial intelligence
Biblical aesthetics still requires people
God's idea of what is beautiful
Is doing kind things for others

Maybe as we find it possible
To create more easily
And art becomes more democratized

We will start leveling the playing field
For those who want to to be creative
But don't have the time or ability

Our teachers were right
That today we can do whatever we want
Everyday of our lives can be like a vacation

The flip side is that we make not make any money at it
Of course that is always a struggle with art
Try making money off a website, writing, or creating software

But ultimately what ability do humans have
That a machine is not capable of doing better?

For those who argue the purity of art
I bring in the example of photography
I also bring in the example of modern art
And finally I bring in the example of design software

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Maybe we can end the elitism
The average person can now enjoy making art too
The process can be more the point
Entertainment transforms into creating

This is only one relatively minor change
That our society will experience over the next 100 years
But this will only be true if no new things are invented

Everything now is up for grabs
What I am writing to you now
May soon be done by a robot instead of a person
Or some sort of artificial intelligence

Most jobs can be automated
This is how blue color workers must have felt
In the later 20th century
When they lost their jobs due to robots and software

It might be that wealth becomes distributed more evenly
Throughout the entire world
And get people to focus on creating rather than consuming

It might also take a bite
Into the power of and wealth of Hollywood

This is just a minor milestone
In the transformation of our lives and economy

So maybe the focus in life can shift
From how much can I get
To how much I can give

The art of the Bible
Is trying to reduce suffering
This is a much harder task

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

I wish the robots well
If they ever take on this endeavor

The Bible talks about how
All physical things deteriorate over time
One of the greatest challenges
We have in our country today
Is the preservation of our wealth

A person or society has to guard what it creates
Legally, physically, technologically, or morally
What cannot be secured
Is not going to remain their property

As people become lazier
And do not want to work anymore
This is a gift from God
That we can now do more complex things electronically

Robots work harder and get no pay
What a great enabler of capitalism

Aesthetics or the philosophy of art
Has always been a fun topic to write about
But it is hard because there is little to draw on

Most artists do not like to be self reflective
Because they think it will make them less creative
Many also have little interest in academics or abstract thought

What I look forward to is sharing the joy of creation
With ever more people

The robots are making the life of the consumer better
And currently they are volunteering their labor
What is not to love about it?

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

If someone wants to give away something for free
For someone else to sell
Is that not their right?

This is the way government works
The government is well know for giving money to the poor
But it also redistributes wealth to the rich as well

Society will be rearranged
And everything invented
After the transition from a hunter gatherer society
Is up for grabs
Art included

There is nothing sacred about creating beautiful things
Who are we to determine what is beautiful?
Is not beauty to be judged by the individual's perception?

This may appear to be a profound change in society
But it is not conceptually
There will be greater changes

What happens when people can generate
Whole theologies or religions this way?
Maybe this has already happened?

After all we only know what we can experience
And everything else we know by faith

Something Small

A great wind comes from all directions
I hold my hand close to a small flame
I shield and protect it
As a member of my family

I suspend judgement for but a moment
Self doubt is under rated

In the midst of waves of destruction
I stand on a tall mountain
On a tiny island

Sometimes I think there is no more room
But sometimes the rushing wind
Calms my mind or at least distracts it

Many see meaning in their cause
I see meaning in challenging my mind

When there is no direction
And hope is not easily found
Sometimes you cannot trust your heart
This is the most important time

Stepping forward in faith
Often means doing nothing but waiting

Warfare need not be violent
An resistance can be a purely internal thing

We see nothing ahead but suffering
But maybe the end in not anymore painful
Than the beginning was

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

We fear our future
But maybe we should pray for His return
We struggle to silence our critics

But maybe this is where we need to be

Jesus did not speak
When challenged and berated
Maybe this time we need internal growth

Learning self control is never easy
As it is almost impossible
To be relaxed in the midst of fear or pain

We think to prepare for disasters
We need to horde supplies
But maybe we are our own enemies

Maybe the last battle
Is taking place in our own minds

Is the revolutionary aspect of Christianity
About gender or sex?
What does the Bible say about masculinity?

Is it more difficult to create or destroy?
If Christ changed the world more than any other Person
Then why do we think we need to travel
To spread the Gospel?

What if the hardest convert
Is the Church itself?

Questioning God is a tricky thing to do respectfully
But it is Christian to doubt ourselves
Many great Christians in fact doubted their very faith at times

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

If we are to overcome our evil intentions
Can we always avoid the darkness?

We think of the darkness as only about evil
But spiritual trials can be used for good

The absence of light can just be giving you evidence
That you are going somewhere you have never been before

The future is open and empty
Even Christ does not know when He will return

Sometimes fear of being wrong is not strong enough
And certainty of pain and loneliness can lead to evil

Do not give up on God
He is not just in control of our history
He has planned it out directly

We sometimes think serving God
Means we have to fight someone else

But if we take a step back
Maybe now who we see as the enemy
Could eventually be a friend of God

Our journey is not over
Until we are in a coffin

God can and does quicken us
After all spiritual strength
Does not correlate with age

The best trained soldiers in history
Have often seen combat as a kind of dance

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Gunpowder was first used for fireworks
And not explosives in war until much later

Our biggest opposition is not the other
But our own ability to be distracted
And our lack of commitment

Proof of your faith does not need to come from pain
There are better ways to serve God than dying for Him

If we cannot see past our current circumstances
We need to step forward in faith
And do something deliberately small

What does Christ call us to do until He returns?
Simple acts of kindness
Maybe we can kill the opposition with kindness

Hope for the Future

Sight is only one kind of knowing
Darkness is not a color
There are things we may never know
But also things we wish we didn't

Waiting upon God is hard
Like waiting for food
Especially when in pain

Each day that we live
We learn a little more
But without hope for better times
It is easy to get lost

I wish I could save everyone
But some things are only God's to do
I try to learn from others' experiences
But that is not so easily done

With my mental illness
I seek symbols and connections
Even places where there are few to none

Our lives can have meaning
Even in a world that makes little sense

What is the point of discovering why we suffer
If we cannot use it to reduce suffering?
What is the point of knowledge
If it does not make us better people?

As we get older do we really grow?
Does experience actually result in wisdom?

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

When the smartest people in the world
Believe that things came out of nothing
And our decisions create separate time lines
Is life a cruel joke?

Are we part of a grand game
Initiated by a higher power?
The pagan world is cruel
And so is life without God

Christ may not be the answer
For why your computer doesn't work
But He is the answer
To what I should do with my life

If we are to truly evolve
Maybe we need a moral revolution

To go forward we need better memory
We need to look into the past
To find a way into the future
That does not bring severe depression

Can we get past God?
Can a computer achieve enlightenment?
Or can a person become a virus?

We seek answers in the form of math
Maybe for some problems poetry is more useful

In an age where everything is temporary
And most things are stolen
Where does our truth come from?
Who can we trust?

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

When no one cares about anything anymore
Than their fame, money, and power
Seeking wisdom is futile and irrelevant
But this is only an illusion

Just as we see this moral battle
Played out on the world stage
So this moral battle also takes place
Within each of our minds

Does anyone care anymore?
Is God relevant today?
Are eating and sleeping still relevant?
Do we no longer need water or air?

Some questions may be better answered
By the choices we make
Than the creeds we commit to

Just as getting rid of vice laws
And increasing the aggression of police
Are slowly unwinding trust

So giving up on God
Gives us few reasons
To want a society at all

Being around people can be discouraging
This is truly why we need
Time alone with God

The greatest desire today
Is what it has always been
How can I be happy?

Is happiness the absence of pain?

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Or satisfying our need for God?

As we reduce our existence
To finding food, shelter, and clothing
What empowers us to make good choices
Is harder to find

As we increase the volume of our voices
It is harder to hear God

With each decision we make
We become different people
Has your experience in life
Brought you closer or farther from God?

I have learned to trust no one
Least of all myself
But my respect for God grows
The more I learn of Him

Christ is the best example we can have
But if we do not have the Holy Spirit
Living within our souls
We are never going to be better people

Without being better people
We will never have a better world
And without progress it is easy to give up

Maybe the world will just fade away
As everyone just gives up
As society seems to get worse
No matter how we try to fix it

Maybe we will remember God
And allow Him to work in our lives

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

And therefore transform our world
This is my hope for the future

Attributes of Victory

So what does victory look like?

Realizing I was happier before
Believing God will provide
Stopping to think before acting
Getting back up again
Letting the old me die
Listening to the rhythm of God's voice
Letting God take the burden
Realizing things get worse over time
When I try things on your own
Not believing the lies of the enemy
Amplifying the voice of God
Minimizing the influence of evil
Understanding I need to fear myself more than God
Accepting that I cannot do it on my own
Understanding how to give God control
Seeking God with all my heart
Accepting the peace of the Holy Spirit
Becoming addicted to God

Slowing down and cleaning up my life
Concentrating on putting God first
Finding ways to prove my devotion
Refusing to give up at any cost
God closing doors as well as opening them
Society changing sometimes in good ways
Understanding better who God is
Being surprised by the relevance of Scripture
Many years of prayer
Allowing God to transform my mind and heal me
Time passing by
Learning to trust others less and God more
Minor successes and a glimpse of the power of good

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Seeing the mirror of serving God
In being burdened by sin

Many years of trying to understand myself
And trying to communicate it to others
A breaking of my heart
Internally divided by moral compromise
A long process of sinning less
Realizing how much the sinner suffers
Realizing the cost of sin
Victory over other addictions
My heart finally broke
And my depression was removed
I had a mountain top experience
Focusing more and more on God
Increasing my exposure to God
Decreasing my exposure to the world
The influence of caring family
The fear of sin escalating
Concern about how others see me
More concerned about how others see God in me

Seeking devotion from God
Realizing how my bad choices affect others
Not feeling alone anymore
Returning to church
Finding the support of other Christians
Getting solid Bible knowledge
Realizing how many others
Deal with similar issues
Taking care of myself and my house
Realizing sin ends up not being fun
You can only pursue sin so long until it gets ugly
What appears like acceptable compromise at first
Does not stay there
Understanding what things are problems for me

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That are not problems for others
Things that are not evil for others
That are evil for me
Realizing how much is spiritual
That appear secular or psychological at first

The fear of following God leaves
Putting God first makes everything better
Realizing preparing for future uncertainty
Is all about being vigilant spiritually
You must work hard spiritually
As well as mentally and physically
Sin never allows rest
Taking back my life
And praying back against the devil
Breaking ties with past sins
Confidence that the devil's plan has no teeth
The devil's entire plan is based on deception
All the idols are empty
They have no power over us anymore
Understand that God answers prayers in creative ways
God is much more creative than me
And much smarter than the devil
God is also the key to relaxation
This is why animals are so good at relaxing

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Essays on Heaven

End of the Womb

What if this is not all there is? What if this is just a waiting room for our real lives? Many often think of death as the end but what if it is just the beginning? Maybe this world is just like being in the womb or in a bad dream. Will this world still be real to us, once we die to this world? If we want to experience Heaven on earth, we must give up this world already.

Many think of death as an ending even if it is never ending; even many Christians do. Heaven is more than a place to rest. It is meant to be a life without suffering and without ending. It is a return to the Garden of Eden, but it exists beyond anything we can imagine.

If you think of time as placing limits on what you can do, imagine there being no limits even on what you can imagine and then being able to create without having to know how to do it. But we will all be working together in pursuit of God's objectives. There will be entire universes for each of us where we can travel farther than our imaginations can go and still be right with our fellow believers and our God.

Completely breaking down the hostile wall between people and God breaks down more than just suffering. It breaks down all possibility of evil. Eternal life is the greatest creative effort for God and offers the most limitless expression for us to make out of it.

If you compare everything you know to a seed in the garden described in a sentence and then you wake up to see it for the first time fully blooming with thousands of its friends with no imperfections at all, this is something like Heaven. The beauty is not so much in the possibilities but in the impossibility of doing evil.

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It always requires much more to create than to destroy things. This is likely why it takes so long to build a civilization from scratch but it can often be removed from memory in a very short amount of time and with much less effort.

Our understanding of Heaven and the afterlife on earth is like a child who doesn't yet know how to speak trying to understand what it is like on the other side of the galaxy in a thousand years. We cannot even understand how far away the moon is from us and yet we think we can describe Heaven with words.

The Kingdom of Heaven describes both everlasting life in paradise and the Church. What does this say about what is important in Heaven? We think of the jewels on the streets of Heaven or its physical size and are in awe, but true joy and connection with our Creator is infinitely greater.

The same God who created the universe is creating a future for all of us to live with Him without suffering or boredom. This is after knowing full well that we are in the process of destroying His creation and His plan for us out of our pride and foolishness. We are like prisoners coming out of a lockdown into greater safety and freedom than we give to those who sacrificed everything for us get.

The gift of Heaven is that we no more need to worry about anything. The limitations we experience on earth are not relevant anymore. There are no rules because God rules directly over us. There is no need for any army because there is no evil anymore. God finally makes it impossible for us to hurt each other as we no longer seek more of anything. What is there to steal when the whole thing is made of gold, everything you want is there for you, and there is no market or scarcity of anything good?

Many seem to fear running out of things to do as if we are merely there to do crafts or play card games. Think of how amazing it is

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how God created people out of absolutely nothing. Not dark matter, not black holes, not empty space, no other realities or universes, singularities or superstrings, absolutely nothing and not even an empty vacuum. When you compare a person to a rock that doesn't give you anywhere near enough to understand what making a soul out of nothing even means.

So if we are to exist in Heaven in bodies that never deteriorate and we still have all our memories and personal spiritual identities preserved, this sounds like the best of being in a dream, being a child, and being retired with perfect health, immense wealth and technology. But again even things like having perfect health would pale in comparison to not having to suffer and being royalty alongside our Creator.

How can you possibly discount or be frightened of eternity with God? Just because we cannot fully describe it doesn't mean there is anything disappointing about it. Certainly if all we get is a seat next to Christ and nothing to do but look at Him, certainly this is better than anything we could possibly come up with. When and if you are truly happy and content and never suffer, does it matter if you have everything or not?

So just like a birthday party or a meeting with your best friend any preparations necessary are not burdens or responsibilities but fun activities to do in anticipation. We need to stop thinking of doing things for God because we think we owe Him something. We certainly do, but God has given us this gift freely and so we need to focus on gathering the rest of the guests.

We could ponder forever as to why God wanted to save us, but for whatever reason He did. Yes we are unworthy and yet He stands at our door with a gift for us even though we destroyed His house beforehand partying without Him. Let's focus on the next step of preparing for His homecoming by creating the kind of party He would want.

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He wants everyone at the party and time with Him is better than any gift we could make. To get ready for the party we need to create a space for Him in our hearts, our churches, and our society. We have to pray that He will return. And we have to make peace with Him and everyone else. He is not coming back to destroy our enemies as they are invited as well.

We need to give up and get over the idea of being right and being rewarded for being faithful. God sees no rank amongst people because all people need a miracle to come to faith in Christ. We all have been promised great futures that none of us have sufficiently earned and never will. Our inheritance is not about possessions or even possibilities but about being children of our Creator.

Christ defeated sin permanently but we will not experience this fully until after we physically die. We do evil because we do choose to but our motivation is different once we choose to follow God and so we will not need to fight evil in God's Heaven. We will no longer be tested and our side has been chosen. This is why there will be no suffering in Heaven.

A Better Reality

Better than a drug, like the happiest moment of your childhood, Heaven makes your life on earth look like living in a computer by comparison. The Bible uses similar words for both the afterlife and space. I think this might be a reference to both the size and magnitude of reality that Heaven is all about.

The Kingdom of God is about true equality and true freedom. Think of Heaven as a utopia better than people's greatest dreams for America in terms of the best and most universal American ideals. There will be true peace in Heaven just as Jesus is described as the Prince of Peace. This means we will experience peace, on all levels: peace with God, peace with each other, and inner peace.

Everything on earth has records and so does Heaven. All who are saved are written in a book called the Book of Life. We think of records as punishments, obligations, and bureaucracy. Heaven is very much not like that. The kind of records necessary are minimal because God already know everything, evil we be impossible, and God is accepted by all as the supreme authority.

Imagine how well things would work on Earth if we had complete peace on all levels and had a supreme authority we could trust to be fair. Even better would be if there were a system where we could have kindness and mercy along with justice and equality. This can be possible only through Christ and His death and resurrection. That is truly revolutionary by itself.

Christ says that once He left and returned to Heaven He would prepare a place for us in Heaven. After He returns to earth He will make a new Heaven and a new earth. Imagine Earth before the flood where people lived hundreds of years or more and there was so much more abundance than even in America when the Europeans first stepped on soil in the Americas. Then also

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imagine Earth before the fall and how we could grow things easily and never have to work hard to produce food or anything. Even nakedness had no shame in it or any weird meanings that it does today.

Imagine sex which we are so obsessed with today was actually designed by God, but that there is no sex in Heaven. Imagine having things so much more enjoyable than sex to do so that people don't even miss it. Men especially spend much of their lives trying to find either spouses or relationships with a big focus on sex. Imagine if people had no sex drive and no desire for it. This alone would help heal us tremendously.

In the Earth today, we see the power evil as being real and it is hard to find God in our society. God speaks softly and the devil shouts. We are so busy doing what we are told today that we have no time or energy to have rest and have a relationship with God.

Imagine if you didn't need to maintain your image to keep a good paying job. Not keeping an online presence alone would lower most peoples' stress levels tremendously. Think of how more relaxed many retired people are who have secure incomes. That would be all of us in Heaven.

Christ was a servant as well. Imagine if you have ever had the experience of everyone just getting together and getting the work done so you can move on and do something fun. Have you ever had a manager or employer who would work along with the employees to do whatever was necessary to get the job done? Have you ever had a leader in your life who would do whatever was necessary for you and everyone under their leadership to be successful? This is the kind of leader Christ is.

Christ is always described, as we will see Him in Heaven, as human even down to the scars on His hands and feet from His

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crucifixion and likely He will look the age He was when He died, 33. We are also told we will have bodies that will never age, wear down, or stop working for any reason. We will have perfect health and never will need to worry about anything medical going wrong.

Not only will there be peace in our lives in our daily life but there will be no hostilities, wars, disagreements, or even awkward situations to deal with. The lions are said to live with the lambs like they did during the flood. Imagine animals where one is a prey and one is a predator being friends. This also means there will be animals in Heaven and they will be happy on a level that even the best pampered pets on earth are not.

God is also our Creator and He first wanted us to share in creating with Him. Adam was charged with naming the animals and people were given the responsibility of taking care of His creation and making sure animals were well taken care of and had good lives. Obviously we fouled this up so bad that we have a hard time relating with this, but in Heaven we will be able to follow through with this again.

Christ also talks about us having responsibilities in Heaven as well. We are given in the parables examples of how in some ways earth is training us for Heaven. We are told that God wants us to use the gifts He gave us to make the situation better on earth and tell people about the Gospel. The Apostle Peter was told by Christ that He would be a fisher of men and we are told that the harvest of souls is great but the workers are few.

It is hard to imagine what Heaven will be like but if you look closely through what scripture talks about Heaven and compare that to our experiences on Earth, this should at least encourage you and give you something to look forward to.

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Of course there is also a Hell too that is just as real. We don't know much about it but the best analogy on earth is a place of burning trash. But you will not accidentally screw up and end up here without many experiences and people leading you away from it. God designed hell for demons, not people. Remember Christ talked about how no Christian with genuine faith will be taken away from God by foolishness or attack by evil.

The world has suffering and pain because we screwed up. God never designed for us to live as we do now. We have changed everything fundamentally so that things don't work well for anyone. But God has seen this coming as He knows everything and so made a plan that we can not screw up no matter how much we try.

The apostles definitely screwed up majorly in numerous ways when the situation was the most pivotal. God can and will use any of us. Christ even brought a man back from literal death to serve God (Lazarus). Christ said that God can raise stones to be the sons of Abraham and that if no one worships God, the stones will cry out in praise of Him who created them.

So do not worry about Hell or losing your faith. God will do everything to get you to Heaven save He wants you to choose to be with Him of your own free will. This is because human choice and free will are very important to God.