

Academic Poetry Mix 2

by Ben Huot

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First Things

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I even enjoy constructive criticism

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Philosophy

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Where We are Headed

When we think of the modern world, we think things are better now than they have ever been and will always get better.

Christianity is often considered part of the modern world because of the strong connection between wealthy northern European and American Protestants.

The modern world really didn't begin until after the French Enlightenment. Napoleon was the first real atheist leader and it wasn't until about that time that people would be considered sane even if they didn't believe in God.

The modern world has more advanced technology than it did in Medieval Europe, but there has been more destruction and suffering in the last few centuries than ever before. This is the only time (and only in Europe and parts of America) that atheism has been socially acceptable and widespread. Most of the world today as in the past consists of poor religious people.

The white Christian is becoming extinct, but Christianity has grown more in the last 100 years than ever before both geographically and numerically. It is not surprising because during much of the medieval period, the Middle East had the biggest population of Christians and Europe did not convert entirely to Christianity until the Renaissance.

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The center of Christianity is now in Africa, where both Judaism and Christianity are traditionally African. The Ethiopians (who are definitely sub-Saharan Black Africans) practiced Judaism and then Christianity from the time of King Solomon. Throughout much of the world today it is common to see poor Christians being persecuted by rich Muslims.

America is not special except for population density, geographic isolation, and abundance of natural resources like fresh water. Much of the wealth of America comes from the Native Americans taking cut good care of the environment. Most of the founding fathers were deists or likely closet atheists and most the ideas talked about in the constitution are pagan in origin. The philosophy behind it is also from atheist philosophy.

Our current environmental charities have been extremely disappointing in their actual impact. The sad thing is even though most people say they care about the environment today, there is actually much more pollution now than when people didn't care about the environment. Since no one seems to even care about their grand kids generation or any of nature of animals (God's creation), the motivation for environmental responsibility needs to be tied directly to its financial cost to this generation.

The real underlying problem is that even Christians try to solve our problems through war, violence, surveillance, intelligence, prison, and other criminal type behavior on the part of

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governments. We need to see the world as primarily spiritual and the source of our problems is our own personal decisions and behavior in our public and private lives. Prayer, taking care of those in need, and overcoming immorality is actually a better and more effective way to solve all our problems than violence.

What do communism, democracy, capitalism, imperialism, and fascism have in common? They are all human solutions. Instead of building fancier military equipment, spending more on surveillance, making the police more violent, giving corporations government money, and outsourcing the entire government, we should follow the example of Christ.

Jesus Christ would likely put in a detention center or not allowed in the country today. Christ was effectively homeless, He was from the Middle East, His ideas might sound New Age to many Christians, He was a challenge to the religious establishment, He was not powerful or rich, He was not violent, and He did not promote many conservative values.

Today we look for a hero to challenge the power that be to free us from a very bad future. The reality is that we are creating that future by making bad choices as individuals, the powers that be are actually not a significant as they or we think they are or should be, and the real way to save us is to get forgiveness for our own evil doing.

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Many Christians would be shocked to know that America is not mentioned in the Bible except maybe the evil world government or a place to hide out away from the evil world government. When things get really bad for us in the world and even in America, this does not mean God is coming back.

God never promised America anything, especially not modern plumbing, electricity, oil or the world system all these things are the foundation of. If the world system both police state and world economy breaks, there is no fallback, we go back to the stone age for the next thousand years or more.

The reality is that at this point most of the world population outside North America will die off in the next 50-100 years. The rest of humanity will form in Canada and Alaska and maybe Scandinavia or Siberia will be inhabitable but much warmer after enough people die off.

The thing that will break the whole system is the economic cost of global warming. Hurricanes hitting New York every year, El Nino every year, expansion of tropical insects and diseases into the United States, drying up of rivers, cults and criminals will run the "government" and many other seen and unforeseen ramifications of living in this modern world.

For good news, it will all come via prayer and be in the form spiritual things. Christianity will come back to America, we will find unity again, we will survive, and people will be just as happy

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or more as they are now. You will just need to use an outhouse
and there will be no Internet.

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Just How Cynical?

As far back as my childhood memories
The uncertainty only snowballs
I live in a city next to another city
Do the ones outside this county even exist

Our country's leaders are at each others throats
They try to convince us it has to be their way
They might be able to trade favors
But the little people want blood

Too many years and too many lies
I love America but our leaders don't
My generation is mad at what our parents did
The sad part is we are only making it worse

Why are those at the frontlines of our wars
The soldiers, the poor, and the animals
Constantly the victims and have no voice
It is not right that the few must suffer for the many

Torture, pollution, and animal testing
Are as wrong as murder, stealing, and sexual immorality
Why can we so easily decide we want a war
But cannot agree that stealing personal information is bad

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You can steal someone's wallet and serve time in prison
But gamble away a million people's savings
And get elected to congress
If you lie to the FBI, you go serve time
If the FBI lies to you, they don't even apologize

When congress shuts down the government
Why don't they cut the government leaders salaries
When they cut social programs
They should also cut war budgets

When we have money to pay corporations charity
We have enough money to provide for the poor
We think our young people are entitled
But most the money goes to tanks and old people

If every other country in the world hates you
Maybe you are doing something wrong
When you vote in a one world government
Maybe you need to live in the third world

When everyone can argue any point they want
And find good reasons for conspiracy theories
How can you be so sure of your opinions
How can you know you are on the right side

When the rich and powerful feel persecuted

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Maybe we have found something that works
If no one has the money to buy your products
Even the rich and powerful become poor

The poor are addicted to gambling
The rich are addicted to the stock market
The poor shop at convenience stores
The rich shop at real estate auctions

When you cannot decide what to cut
You cut everything equally
When you are in congress
You cut out the stuff for the poor

The only thing we can agree on
Is to make life more difficult for the mentally ill
The only thing we know for certain
Is our leaders are not the smart or moral ones

When the poor and sick call out to God
Does He make them fill out forms and wait
When the government helps someone
A corporation wants even more money

When there are bands of roaming poor
Do you lock them up in prison
When there are poor in your community
Do you just ship them off to other cities

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What is it worth to live morally

Would you spend 10% more

To provide jobs for the third world

Or 50% more to provide a job for yourself

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Fixing this Country

Explanation:

Tongue in cheek play on words with political imagery making fun of the absurdity of contemporary politicians and ideology in America.

When the popular narrative is nonsense, make nonsense of nonsense and it starts to make sense.

It is politics as usual with all the lack of brain, heart, or soul (on both sides).

Unwillingness or Inability to Learn / No Brain

irrationality, recklessness, stubbornness, foolishness, incompetence, unbelievability, lack of relevant experience or any qualifications, lacking any policy opinions, unwillingness to plan ahead, inability to get along with others, ignorance, lack of common sense, short sightedness, knee jerk reactions,

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oversimplification, poor understanding of human nature, fairytale driven worldview, fail to grasp cause and effect

Narcissism / No Heart

easily angered, full of personal attacks, unapologetic, insulting peoples intelligence, loud and obnoxious demeanor, expensive lifestyles, lack of class and manners, hostility to reason and education, manipulative / additive / sociopathic personality traits, propaganda, mind games

Moral Compromise / No Soul

illegal behavior, fascism, imperialism, elitism, dishonesty, deception, immorality, hedonism, greed, lust, cruelty, deviance, arrogance, bullying, fraud, hypocrisy, lack of shame, persecution complex

Specifically

moral and national security compromise, improvisation of facts, anti human rights, globally unstable policies, lack of respect for God and His creation

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If I were in charged
I would be an adult
If I cannot have a career
I would have to find a purpose

When your goal is small
And your talent great
Forget about intelligence
You don't need to learn anything

When preparing for a speech
I often whistle or chant
Before meeting new people
I jump on a trampoline

If you want to make a difference
Start by making a buck
If you want to be memorable
Do something stupid

When no one is qualified
Everyone is qualified
Spending time networking
Is more fun than going to strip clubs

If you do not know the answer
Answer in the form of a question
When you make a flat statement

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Be sure your bank can cash it

I found the solution to the Internet
Why is everyone laughing
Is the name of a country funny
Or do I need to get elected first

If I can dodge all your answers
Will you leave me with a question
If I am a nice suitor
Will you introduce me to your sponsor

If we cannot stop fighting
Lets all join hands
If we cannot find the words
Lets not get lost in the Middle East

Who wants to find a ballot box
They camoflauged them for a reason
I wish I could be president
But then I would have to grow up

As the famous saying disappears
Whom was I speaking to
When I subtract all the clues
All I get is numbers

There is nothing wrong with somethings

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A purpose has an ending
When I lose my place
I end up being 2nd in line

Does it really matter
If the speech is long enough
I just don't want to fall asleep
Until they check under my bed

Why remember names
When you can Photoshop your email
Why learn new things
When you can Google yourself

Step into the secret stadium
And close your eyes to the anthem
Look longingly at the football
Then pretend it doesn't exist

Why do I need to know my age
When I can set up a sun dial
Why do people ask for my sign
I just advertised yesterday

For purple questions
Undercut 5%
When you want to increase
Spend your only budget

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How do you spell America
Is is the same
What am I called
Have you learned your lesson

Fear is smelling like leather
Tan is an alarming color
Why do chairs have to be comfortable
How are you sitting so close

When there is too much oxygen
Egos can't stop echoing
Trust is so hard to lose
Why bother chasing it away

If I sound like I am repeating
Escort me to the bathroom
If I cannot end a sentence
Put in an air freshner

I am not my brotherhood
We all grew like trees
Thorns are cool
Roses smell

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Calm Down Now

Explanation:

- *Changing views of violence and the violence of the one world police state*
- *Nature of what is real and how we determine what is true (epistemology in philosophy)*
- *Uncertainty in modern world (like Camus and Chuang Tzu),*
- *the idea that democracy/imperialism is as unimplementable and unworkable as communism/socialism and is in the process of unwinding*
- *Description of how a police state works*
- *The real exceptionalism like ideas that make America more friendly to critics*
- *Argument that the traditional apologetics (defense of the Gospel) is unnecessary and the best apologetics is believers following the Gospel*
- *Biggest obstacle to evangelism (converting people to your religion) is internal to the Church and solveable*

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- *The Bible is read now in Spanish because the future of the Evangelical church in America is Spanish speaking due to current and projected demographic trends*

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As a kid, we played with toy soldiers
When we were young, we collected pocket knives
Today those are considered weapons
Now some are afraid of all boys and men

Violence obviously doesn't solve things
Stalking and bullying doesn't either
But some people still think wars do
Some people also think prisons work

Maybe we just need a break from reality
The day to day living that wears us out
Maybe a vacation in our own homes
A vacation from all our electronic devices

Reality is what you make of it
Reality is what you want it to be
No it is really just what the powers that be say
You can find it on any website

Truth may be stranger than fiction
But often truth is a matter of perspective
And fiction sometimes more true than fact
If only someone was honest and cared

A philosopher seeks truth
A religion provides truth
A prophet fights for truth

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The critic knows no truth

We are so ready to fight and die
Maybe because life is so hard
If we were more critical of ourselves
We could admit we are sometimes wrong

Maybe admission of fallibility
Is what religion and society need most
We need to be willing to take it back
When others get offended

We need to be humble enough to be kind
We need to apologize when we are wrong
And restore things we destroy
It is easy to create problems and harder to solve them

How is it that our perspective
Is the only one we believe
How can truth be universal
When no one can agree on anything

How can we stop fighting
And find common ground
If we cannot be quiet enough
To hear the other person's speech

We are so trained in debate techniques

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And so sure of ourselves
There is no room for growth
And no ability to learn new things

It is hard to teach someone
Who already know everything
The more you learn
The more you realize how little you know

But when you do know something is true
Live like your life depended on it
When you know you heard God
You need to act on it right away

People spend so much effort
Trying to convince someone of their way

Who is going to say
You shown me to be a fool
So I will believe anything you say
And then believe the same for over a day

Everyone wants to convince you of something
Usually parting with your money
But people are creative with scams
Some people make money off of free things

The real scam is that nothing costs anything

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The real scam is not stealing your identity
The real scam is stealing your soul

Do you ever wonder why only Americans
Get the freedom to express themselves
It is because they never do
And if they did, no one would care

The world is just on giant business
The world is just one big computer
One day we will realize that we are not in control
We serve our technology and those that make it

Do you really understand how computers work
If you did you would know true fear
People talk about companies being compromised
But everything is already hacked into, monitored, seen

But the bigger security threat is not computer crime
It is not even that the criminals and the police share information
Or have the same techniques and goals
It is that we are so compromised, we no longer care

It isn't that we weren't aware of this all along
And we could have made it harder for them
But we just are too busy to care
We are too focused on ourselves

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If God made a convincing sign for us
That no one could dispute
Who would believe even Him
And who would claim to follow Him

You cannot charge for propaganda
You cannot win hearts and minds
When people know you are lying
Even if you can prove it

If there ever was some way to be sure of anything
There no longer is
This is why I believe in the Christian God alone
The Bible is probably the one thing not compromised

The reason the Bible is not compromised is
Because no one reads anymore
And know one know the Bible well enough
To notice the difference

There have been many translations of the Bible in the last 10 years
But so few people know and many only trust the King James
This was written in the time of Shakespeare and is alike in
readability
And most Christians are probably reading Spanish translations by
now anyway

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Psychology

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A Weak Heart

At the speed of the worlds fastest sprinter
In the twinkle of a distant star
Up and down like the feet of a cross country runner
Like the jostle of packages in an old delivery van

With the attention span of newborn puppy
Like the heart beat of a dying man
We feel nothing more than a child does
And our words rarely go beyond mad, sad, and happy

How can we describe what we cannot pin down
How can we hope to treat what we cannot prove
Each sentence an essayist writes
Can only capture what can be put into words

If we cannot speak or comprehend
The voices in another's mind
How can we hope to lessen another's pain
Or share in their boundless joy

Like a stuffed toy listening and pondering in silence
We need to have the patience of a monk
And the strength of will necessary for proper meditation

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Like the burst of the big bang
We feel wave after wave of fear
Like a giant whirlpool
Our joy runs down the drain

When we hurt, sometimes it just doesn't stop
Even when we cry out to God
We can spend countless hours in counseling
Even every day

Sometimes the joy just rushes out of us
Like a firefighter rushing away to a fire
Sometimes we hurt so much
All we can do is cry

When you are both terrified and hopeless
There is a little a therapist can do
As that is not the way the medicines work

They can put you down in an instant
But resolving loneliness and emptiness
Is a lifetime struggle

Sometimes the self help books
Are at once too much and too little
Sometimes our problems just don't fit into any system

Some philosophers have thought of this situation

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And that is why I read philosophy
Sometimes the patient must heal himself

When you don't know what to pray
And you are really stuck in shifting sands
Do the seeming unexpected
Thank God for His help

We plan ahead way too much
For all the wrong things
We need to let things be
After we have done all we can

Time may heal all wounds
But when it hurts so much
How do you have patience
Sometimes you have no choice

Being stuck in pain and fear
And knowing it will continue
And there is no way out of it
That is the definition of true terror

There are some choices
You cannot come back from
Sometimes being too aware
Can paralyze you

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Sometimes in one split second
Eternity can pass multiple times
When you have no power or choice
You know you have joined the military

When you see no joy in your future
Maybe you can provide joy for others

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Wonder Psychology

Explanation:

- *One of the titles or names of the Christian God is “Wonderful Counselor”.*
- *I believe that Paul is the first existentialist and the inspiration for modern psychology originally comes from the Bible.*

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Who is this Counselor
Who has a perfect blend of emotions
Who has no personal issues
That carries no baggage

Who can guarantee His integrity
And is recommended by His greatest critics
His practice is older than mankind
The most stable Mind
And the biggest Heart

But Who has the greatest case of emotional trauma
Yet the most kind and forgiving

Your information is protected better than with properly prepared
encryption
His voice is His password
Which no one knows or can generate

Who helps me fall asleep
Without medication or meditation
Who knows what bad and good I have done

Who you can always call at any time
He has no waiting room
No waiting for appointments or in line
You are always His most urgent case

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No need for computer or phone
Without chat or teleconferencing
You will always get a Real Person in Person
Even in the middle of combat or on Mars

You can have a six hour session
In the blink of an eye
No need to explain anything

Qualified for diagnosing and treating anything
Perfect knowledge of all brain activity
He always knew the brain constantly evolves
Who can alter your brain chemistry
As precisely as a brain surgeon
No side effects or conflicts in medications ever
No medications to remember to take

His diagnosis is always correct
He is not limited by any laws
But created the laws in the first place
He is always honest, direct, and polite
It is impossible for Him to ever lie to you

He can articulate better than a speech therapist
He can understand even speech from fantasy novels
With the most difficult to understand speech impediment
He will never ask you to repeat anything
He can understand any language

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He can interpret any dream instantly
He can treat you when you do not know what to ask for
When you cannot even describe the pain
Anywhere the pain comes from for any reason

He is also the best surgeon and specialist in every field
You need not communicate with Him at all
And He already knows your feedback
And had already implemented all your suggestions
Before you even met Him

He is on every corner
And always at your door
All you have to do is whisper
One of His known names
Your fees have already been paid

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Northwest Steam Punk

Explanation:

- *Steampunk is a contemporary kind of science fiction.*
- *It is often dark, violent, and apocalyptic as well as being futuristic merged with classical (19th century) elements and very stylized and highly detailed props, costume, and location.*
- *I am substituting elements of the props, costume, and location to make it less violent and dark and end up with a contemporary stereotypical hiker in the Pacific Northwest.*

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The spontaneity of perfectly executed Kungfu
The romantic beauty of the American south
Fields of opium as far as how eye can see
To the rhythm of the spinning wheels of a classic car

With mask over mask, gas and ballroom
Sporting the highest quality suit made of silk
Boots meticulously polished all night
Blood dripping from the finest sword

What is it that makes something romantic
How is tragedy something to sing about
When the lyrics are so sad
It doesn't matter whose voice carries the tune

Why is it always rainy nights
And while the fog is low and dense
Mystery and magic appear uninvited
The best backdrop for bright light is darkness

Fantasies full of pain and sorrow
Stealing, murder, and sexual morality
Who writes these things
Is depressing supposed to be trending

What if we could substitute martial arts for dance
And a drum stick for a sword
Isn't a temperate forest in Canada a more pleasant location

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And growing timber a kinder way to make money

Wouldn't running shoes be more comfortable than boots
Wouldn't it be healthier to walk instead of driving
A waterproof jacket would keep you warmer than a suit
Instead of a metal mask, growing a beard would be softer

The plot is mixed up
And the theme thickens
As we spin up a new cast
And bake in happier endings

When writing a book makes you hungry
Maybe you really want to be a chef
When watching a movie makes you want to cry
Maybe you prefer to participate in a charity

Not every movie is fun to watch
And not every book worth the price you paid
But eventually people stop buying
When you no longer provide entertainment

A convincing story is all in the details
An adventure rests on its believability
If you cannot stick to the facts
Stop illustrating comics

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Religion

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No Worries

Explanation:

- *We are fighting a spiritual war between ourselves and God (or between our spiritual and physical bodies), not between God and the devil.*
- *Your mind is the battleground and you are your own enemy.*
- *The Apostle (St.) Paul says that he does what he does not want to do and this is the definition of sin and also the modern definition of addiction.*
- *The poem also uses Chinese war strategies concepts to explain how to fight an unconventional enemy, in this case - yourself.*
- *The solution is to surrender your heart, mind, and soul unconditionally to God.*
- *This is the solution because the one thing people did “create” was suffering.*

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I only have one life to live
But I also know I will live forever
My time on earth is a small portion
Of my everlasting lifetime
I bet everything on this truth
That Jesus Christ is God
I do not doubt because faith is a choice
It is not something to prove
But Someone to follow

The hard part of faith
Is not the existence of God
But continuing to run the race before us
While all creatures watch
The war is won by God already
But that does not make the battles
Any easier to fight
We struggle against more than evil
We struggle against our own black hearts
Evil forces have been completely defeated
But not the evil within us

Our minds and our hearts are battlefields
Just like a special forces soldier
We need to understand the enemy
And not underestimate him
We need to use his power against him
Like in martial arts

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And launch attacks by surprise
And aided by deception
Do the opposite of what comes natural

You cannot fully deceive your own mind
Without the help of the Christian God
You must make the choices yourself
But God will have your back
The best way to fight your evil side
Is to surrender to a bigger Ally

Joining forces with God
Is like an ant asking a Whale for help
He is beyond our world
But He is also very close
He is really big and strong
But He is not a threat to us
Even though we are weak and tiny

Life is the process of faith
Not its outcome
We live in empty vessels of clay
But we live in a larger fish bowl
There is more to life than anyone can see
The secret is out
Truth is stranger than fiction

Intention is everything spiritually

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Pain is everything physically
When our world shakes to its core
We know He is beside us
This is not merely an abstract idea
This is not just symbolic or cliché

Faith means nothing without a living God
Faith is real because God intervenes constantly
He breathes in hope, faith, and love
Into our hearts, minds, and souls
When you kneel before God
You surrender everything unconditionally

But God is never our enemy
Even when we fight against Him and His people
Humble yourself before God
And He will strengthen and empower you
God wants you to surrender to Him
Because He will not compel you to do anything
He wants you to choose Him as your leader
Because people destroy everything they touch

Life is too painful to live
Without knowing that suffering will end
Within a relatively short period of time
Faith gives us hope of a better existence
When we cannot hurt each other anymore
Where peace is the language

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And the goal is being truly happy
Do not rest in peace
Fight on and then live forever in joy
By the power of the One Real God

No one sends you to Hell
It is just the default option
Hell is the same as the underworld
It is very real
It is described as a pile of burning trash
Maybe it is just the earth a few hundred years later

There is no purpose to life without Christ
There is nothing worth pursuing besides salvation
There are many mysteries to life but
The only real question in life is why does God forgive
The one task we have to do in this life is to
Work out our faith with fear and trembling

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A Paper Cut

Explanation:

- *Books are the source of truth for us and for countries as well.*
- *The Bible is described as a two edged sword that can symbolically cut through our lies to reveal the truth*
- *We are followers, not leaders. You either serve God or money. There is no in between or non-committed option.*
- *People use suffering as an excuse not to believe in God. I say that this argument gets you no where like turning down pain medicine so you can file a lawsuit on the doctor.*
- *God gives his example of how a person would live by actually living as a person on earth while still being God. This “physical” aspect of God is often referred to a Jesus Christ.*
- *The Ten Commandments were chiseled into stones but God will symbolically “write them on our hearts”, which is a good metaphor for an intuitive understanding of right and wrong that comes from a conscience.*
- *There is a Christian version everything and even “Christian businesses” but what is really Christian is following the example of Christ, who was close to what we now would call*

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homeless. His main message was to ask forgiveness of God for our immorality so that we may live forever. He was not popular with the religious establishment of His time and in no way did He pursue any kind of leadership or really any organization at all.

- *I have in here the idea that Earth is like a trial period we experience as a way of a comparison so that Heaven is more appreciated. It is like an initiation, probational period, or internship where you work in a more humble fashion and when you compare that to later on, you appreciate the privileges of your future position much more. You always train beyond and make the test harder than what you actually need so the training you actually need becomes second nature. Advanced training should always reinforce the fundamentals of your field of study. If you can make it on Earth, Heaven will be really easy.*

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Sometimes evil appears good
And good appears evil
That is good enough reason to pray for wisdom
That is the goal of a lifetime of learning

Why is civilization contained in words
Why are all the classics contained in books
Why is it that Christians don't use magic
And why does the devil quote scripture

Can someone die from a paper cut
Can words be more powerful than the supernatural
Why is the Bible so powerful
Why don't Quakers put crosses on their churches

Why does the army want no heroes
Why was God a servant and not a leader
Why does an atheist have more to prove
Than a believer in the one God

Leadership is not a reward
And serving can bring real joy
Winning the wars on earth
Distracts us from the wars in the heavens

We think we understand how to fight the war
When we do not even know what the war is about
Can you continue to fight important battles

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After the enemy has unconditionally surrendered

The war is one by surrender
And the battles fought for your own mind
When the adversary is your own will
And the source of evil is you

Just like you can hear better without distractions
So you can see light better in the dark
You can understand God better
When you are alone and open to His ideas

The clearer you hear His voice
The quieter the other voices will be
The more you focus on Him
The less the world can hurt you
The more you follow His instructions
The less you will cause yourself pain

There is a way to everything
There is a time for everything
Every verse connects to some other verse
And the mind is part of a greater system
You were designed to exist in God
Separation from God is to not exist

You think living with God is painful
You don't want to try it without Him

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Just because you are mad at God
You will not suffer any less

You cannot understand God
Through human systems of thinking
And you cannot use human methods
To do God's will on earth

Just because the word Christian
Is plastered all over your work
Does not make it any more Christian
Than putting a cross in a mosque

We need to stop trying to be compatible with the Bible
And try to be a mystery to the world
We need to stop trying to have our own way in the world
And choose God in the quiet places of our minds

We chase our tails in Church reformation
But we ignore the fundamentals of our faith
The fundamentals of Christianity are faith, hope, and love
They are the only things still relevant in Heaven
Anything else you cultivate will die with this world
There is nothing else worth living for

In any belief system there is a code of morality
Written down by a wise person
In Christianity, the belief system is written down within us

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And the code of morality is the life of Christ on earth

If you cannot see how what you are doing is like Christ
Or you are popular on earth
Maybe you need to search for what Christ did
And flee from the disease of pride

If you cannot understand the Gospels
Then read the Letters of Paul
If you cannot understand the Old Testament
Read the Prophets and the Psalms

If you are trying to create something with money
Or convince people to build something great
Was anyone in the New Testament rich
And was anyone in the New Testament popular

We think it is hard to follow Christ in America
Imagine how it must be in the Middle East
We think life is depressing in the US
Maybe we should visit Africa

If we didn't have earth to compare it to
We probably wouldn't appreciate Heaven
If we don't battle evil in our own minds
We won't be very popular in Heaven

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Seeing Red

Explanation:

- *This poem is highly symbolic with the ideas of fire, blood, the color red, and writing/the Bible as repeated symbols. These are all symbols of Christianity.*
- *The Bible is a “two edged sword”.*
- *Christians are “tried by fire” and tested morally.*
- *The words of Christ in some Bibles are in red letters.*
- *God speaks from a “burning bush” and a bright cloud.*
- *Christmas metaphors and link to Easter. Christ is born on Christmas and rises from the dead on Easter Sunday. The color red stands for suffering and for the forgiveness of our sins. We are figuratively “washed in his blood”.*
- *And Christ is further compared to a perfect baby sheep that is both a follower like people and real sheep, is perfectly innocent (unlike people), and comes from the Jewish Passover where the Ancient Israelites put the blood on their doors for the angel of death to pass over them or spare them when the Ancient Egyptians were receiving curses for holding God’s people.*

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Easter is the fulfillment of Passover for Christians and Christ's death on the cross is like the lambs blood put over the door.

- *The sky is God's "paint set" as the sky as "Heaven" is associated with God and various birds are associated with the Holy Spirit, recent death, and the eagle specifically for America.*

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The ink is blood red
The ink is on fire
As the pen turns, the blood spurts
As the pen bleeds, the pages burn

Dance pen, dance
Why do you bleed all over
Spin pages, spin
Why do you smell of soot

Like a slithering snake
The blood ink dribbles down
Like a mouth watering
At the smell of fresh cut pine

Burning as bright as an old Christmas tree
The dangling shiny balls
With those little people trapped inside
All caged in broken gold glass

The Christmas story is as bloody
As the turkey without a head
We eat ham at both Christmas and Easter
Christians use the color red for a reason

The winter sunset glows light red
And the clouds dance across the sky
Making signs with our imaginations

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How the sky reflects our minds

Pitch black inky skies
Are smeared across the heavens
A sunset colored rainbow
Pink to orange to red to purple to blue to black

Each color mixing day and night
Bleeding across the atmosphere
Satellites catch the light
Beaming back ones and zeroes

The moon is cut in half
Does it hurt
Where is the blood
In the sunset

A sharp nose dive
The bald eagle races downward
Increasing at an increasing rate
A near miss with the ground

The funeral is composed
With a feather pen
Made from the eagle's wings
If only the death would end the bleeding

Red letters roll off the tongue

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Red memories of God
He who speaks from the fire
Whose blood speaks louder than a rock concert

Iron sharpens iron
The Bible speaks for itself
Just don't be afraid to get cut
And bleed over its pages

The Bible is a sword, so to speak
But there is no handle
To protect your hands from the blade
Or your heart from judgement

Let Gods words burn in your heart
Like a living flame burning a tattoo
Words not symbols
And of blood, not ink

To avoid smearing the words on the paper
Be sure to wash the blood off first
The lambskin will work great
Just don't touch your eyes when your tears fall

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Don't Stop

Explanation:

- *Most people live at home playing games and listening to music on the Internet and never go out.*
- *When they do go out, they smoke marijuana and listen to music.*
- *This is part of our culture in America.*
- *People need to get up and work to solve their problems.*

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Don't let the beat stop
Don't let the music fade
Let me hear nothing
But the sirens voice

The outside world is no more
The words are so sad
The streets are empty
Everyone is inside their own house

This life lies in the rhythm
Of these sheltered worlds
The wealth of the world
In one tiny little box

Music reaches its web outward
The confidence of this generation
The heart of the biggest corporation
The closest any of us has to a soul

Emptiness, emptiness, emptiness
A cold hard world
With only one heart beating
Even our blood runs cold

From the kindest Christians
To the most ruthless task masters
These angelic voices conquer entire worlds

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These are the prophets of our time

To a society who has rejected God
And is afraid to fall asleep at night
Who won't even talk about religion
And rushes to the nearest green cross

How is it that alcohol has a competitor
You see one on every corner
And the stench is powerful on the streets
The aroma of dog with bad gas

Everyone stumbling around
Out of their minds
Blank stares and empty souls
Shouting obscenities and laughing randomly

Full grown adults
Bragging of serving time
Trying to get children back
And scheduling court dates

Where are all the real men
In their man caves
Their parent's basement
Gaming for a living

A society dominated by pastimes

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What are we killing time for
Do we expect God
To drop solutions from the sky

Jobs don't grow on trees
And money does not appear out of nowhere
Upon what name do you call
When you really need help

When have medicine and drugs
Become the same thing
When have advertising and fraud
Become the same thing

Stumble out of your beds
And stand on the street corners
You have not paid your bills
And you are no longer welcome

Why don't we ever learn
Addiction is not the solution
It just makes the problems worse
And makes it harder to live cheap

When you are your own worst enemy
How can you expect outside help will come

If you cannot sleep or feel anything

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Without the aid of intoxicants
The fix is going to be real sudden and painful
Let our kids remember the pain

To expect to live in constant happiness
Is the promise of fraudsters and false religions
You think you save money by fraud
Everyone else already beat you to it

Maybe you need to develop more productive habits
Maybe you need to trade your bad habits
For motivation to work and learn
The only way out of the debt pit

Just put in your headphones
And ignore the warning signs
Maybe it is already too late
But you can't just drop out of life