

Academic Poetry Mix - by Ben Huot

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First Things

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For More Information

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

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

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at

<mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com>

I even enjoy constructive criticism

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Introductory Essays

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Fixing Problems

I need to remind myself daily that I am not responsible for fixing the world's problems. I have a profound motivation to do so because of some of the influences both at school and from extended family.

I guess a lot of people think that Americans who are intelligent and capable hold some special responsibility for fixing the world's problems. Maybe that is why so much of the world doesn't like Americans.

Maybe I just need to accept emotionally that I am not responsible for anyone else's happiness or solving anyone else's problems. There are plenty of my own problems that I need God's and other's help with like my mental illness.

I just wish to contribute something of value to the world (beyond just ideas about mental illness) and this makes me feel better about my place in this world and gives me peace that I have done what I can. We are all somewhat responsible for the mess we are in.

It is looking like any way the world goes now that it will be increasingly difficult and dangerous to write about what we believe even in America. I think we are beginning to see American powers that be getting nervous about the level of dissent and division in America.

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We are close to a tipping point where speaking about almost anything could be a threat to someone. It can come from the unlikeliest places. The Department of Defense has now officially admitted that Internet crime is a bigger threat to national security than terrorism.

It seems a world run by peasants isn't such a good idea after all. Public hangings were always very popular. Ironically, it is only in the modern and civilized world that people do not want to be famous. Jealousy can be very ugly.

I am so glad I am so unimportant. We are all susceptible to basic problems like illness, misfortune, and poor decisions making. Being too important just increases the number of threats to your well being. Boring times in our lives are often some of the happiest.

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Some Technical History

My first attempt at poetry post high school was while in the military, where I ended up writing some romantic poetry for a girl I liked while in high school. I ended up burning it during my paranoid episode (along with my plan for a Christian nation in modern Lebanon to protect Christians during the End of Times), because I believed that possible future romantic relationships (girlfriend or wife) would prefer that I not keep them. I had my paranoid episode and diagnosis of Paranoid Schizophrenia in December of 1999.

I kind of regretted this later on (both those creations I destroyed) and it was a big reason for my push to create and distribute my last 20 years of writings. I ended up writing a set of poetry between between when I came back from the military in August 1997 and the summer before 9/11 and put it together and decided to move on into programming. I changed my mind after 9/11 and realized I had more to say. I realized over time that programming was not as essential for the Internet/ future society as original content, especially free content.

At the end of my time at college, I ended up taking some electives that really stuck with me. I just took them at the time as I failed, got no passes, or withdrawals for a number of classes at the time. These included several classes in Chinese Literature, Existentialism, Ecofeminism, and the famous feminist Beauvoir. All these as studied in this classes were primarily or largely philosophy based. These were some of the few As and Bs I got at the time.

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I felt like I had failed at this time in both the military and in college as I never completed with one, until I became mentally ill. I tried a number of times to go back to college or take courses at the local community college, Bible college, and public university. By around the years 2006-2007, I had accumulated enough writing for my first series of books. I published these after learning LaTeX and used print on demand technology where another company actually printed the books I designed.

These were harder than just printing them out at the local store because they were professionally bound and the entire printing process was automated and so the PDFs had to be well structured and of a higher grade than you get from desktop publishing programs. I could order them in quantities as little as 1 copy and they cost about double the cost of an average book or the same cost as I sold them at cost.

I quickly learned that people preferred them printed out if I met them in person and digitally if they found my website online and never met me. At one time I converted each e-book into as many as 20 different file formats. I finally consolidated it to the 4 different file formats I have them in today. I distributed these with my website which I could not find a permanent name for, so ended up titling it the same as my name - first and middle as no one could spell my last name correct.

Over these last 20 years, I tried many different ways of making a website but never ended up using Javascript or third party designs very often after I was able to design my own things. I

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spent a lot of time supporting as many browsers as possible because early on I saw the importance of security and did not want to run a computer with Windows and so could not test on any version of Internet Explorer. I feel the same way about Google Chrome today.

Internet Explorer and its incompatibilities are a thing of the past because of a combination of open source software like Firefox (Mozilla), Wordpress, and LibreOffice, and companies like Apple, Google and Amazon. Very few people now use Internet Explorer especially in China and Microsoft is now officially basing its new browser on Google Chrome or some variation on that.

Today, the dominant computing platform is no longer PCs - it is smartphones. People of younger generations have known this for some time. What many people don't realize is the scale of this. There are 10 times as many Android phones as there are Windows PCs and most of the world got online on their own device first on smartphones.

We are currently half way through another transition of devices which are 10 times the scale of smartphones. This is what we in tech call Internet of Things and this includes smart devices like Apple watches, Amazon smart speakers, voice assistants, wireless routers, and the like.

If you are making a website today, it is only a matter of time before you will need to support the Internet of Things as the primary platform your users will be using. Javascript is likely to be on the way out because of its complexity, unreliability, security

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problems, poor performance, rate of change, and the killer is its not necessary for many projects. This may be unwise, but current projects plan to merge Javascript and CSS.

I still do not know why people still develop mobile apps. The one beauty of the web is my website I started back in 1998 would still work even on an iPhone or even low end Android today and probably be much better for users than how most websites are designed now. My sister proudly doesn't use any mobile apps. Without just one big player in social networking anymore, this area will become less important over time.

No one develops new projects for Windows anymore and almost anything you needed Windows to run runs on Linux and Linux is being merged with Windows at Microsoft. There will no longer be any new versions or users of Internet Explorer and even SQL Server is running on Linux as well. If you don't ask for something specific for your website, for any hosting company, it will run-on Linux.

Microsoft is where IBM was in the 1990s. We will be using Microsoft software until the end of time, but Microsoft may not be around or if so recognizable 20 years from now. Microsoft lost because they fought smartphones and internet of things for decades and then could not and did not want to move into that area. Fighting the future rarely works and the Internet and open source changed everything.

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Mission / Philosophy

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Why This Life is Hard

In this world we live
Life has always been difficult
We think we have it made in America
But how many Americans are happy
What does it take to satisfy us
When will we have enough
Immorality destroys life
Sin results in complete death
How do we stop chasing our tails
How do Christians take a stand
Start with a look in the mirror
Maybe it is more important
What takes place in the Church
Than in society
May the Lord make us blind
That we may truly see
The consequences of apathy
And why unbelievers are so cynical
Sometimes the world is so cold
And our hearts are even colder
We fight against institutional evil
But the source is within us
Sometimes we give the devil
Too much credit
Where does evil come from
It is the one thing people created
It is a living entity
Much like cancer or a virus

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It is a parasite and an enemy
It resides within our will
We need not caste out evil
From the world
We need to caste it out from
The bottom of our hearts
Why do good people do bad things
Why do we never defeat evil
Do we not care enough
Does the world not punish us enough
The human heart deceives even itself
The soul turn dark
And the mind loses focus
How can you be strong enough
To break free
When you know you cannot do it alone
It is this paradox that traps us
In what modern medicine calls addiction
We are so critical of everyone else
We need to more careful with our minds
We need to walk hand and hand with God
When you step forward
You need to do so in faith
When you fight
You must use all your resources
You need to have a broken heart
And breathe in the Holy Spirit
Addiction is driven by desire
We need to stop the beast within
From taking over our lives

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We need to make a line in the sand
And not let anything cross
But to do so we need to do the work
We need to fight every battle together
We must be convinced it will stop
When we fall down
We need to get right up again
We need to realize
Our fight will never truly end
Until the Lord returns
Or our hearts fail us
Let God's Kingdom come now
Let things happen according to His will
Pray that Christ comes back now
That He will reign uncontested
In the desire of our hearts
Fight on
Fight the good fight
Onward Christian soldiers
We have bigger battles
Not for our country or our planet
But for eternity

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Different Frontiers

The European obsession with logic and debate
The American obsession with forced smiles and empty confidence
In the tradition of the great entrepreneurs, the Dutch
And co-opted by the British and passed to the Americans

The modern world with international trade
With cheap labor and materials from poor countries
And European based industry and manufacturing
The money only went one way

A time where all were literally dirty
In a country filled with fish and forest
Eerily empty of those who tended its flora and fauna
Once tended by those we wiped out with our armies
Then wiped out the wealth of the land with our big machines

An empire from one ocean to another ocean
An entire continent for one people
A nation of immigrants from every other nation
To a land freed up by genocide
And a country started to avoid paying taxes
By wealthy people belonging to a secret society

Founded on work so hard it beat you down
A time when most people were still farmers
Your insurance was free land you could farm and game
In exchange you and your shotgun were the police

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People lined up by the thousand
Everyone from several counties
Under a giant tent crammed full
One sermon and a thousand saved

Then almost 3 world wars later
And a great transfer of power
The factories are destroyed
And the poor people rebel
A new world system is created

Now we need not remember anything
Nothing but our phones
We ask our oracle idol Google
To pray for anything we need
We are moving more and more
To this world of magic
That no one really understands
Everything is free
The only thing businessmen want
Is every little private detail about us
We get millions of songs
For the price of one meal a month
When we need to buy something
We type words and hit a button
These phones are made from parts
Sourced throughout the entire world
Our greatest trading partners are our rival empires
One in a great desert
In which springs up from the sands

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The power that runs our society
The other manufacturers tens of millions of phones
As they have billions of people more than us
All on the other side of the world
We are still the ones that do the harder work
And make most of the money off of the trade
We have a giant mercenary army and navy
That enforces this
But this is bankrupting us

A world run by magic energy
A world economy trading magic portals
A world entertained by stories about magic

Maybe an all-powerful God doesn't sound strange enough
Except that He pulled off the greatest trick
He became one of us and defeated death

We live in a society in which we
Elected in both a world economy and world police state
By our own free will
We trade private information for free trinkets
We do anything we can to make money
Participating in fraud and the sex industry
We will do anything to stand out
We are drowning in our own trash
We want to do nothing but play games and be entertained

We never ask questions as to how things happen
We are weirdly concerned that the rich and powerful

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To have an extra easy time redistributing our money to them

Who again is the more rational: Society or God?

What is the more advanced society?

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No Silver Bullet

Not all problems have a simple solution
Sometimes technology causes more problems than it solves
It is hard to change the world
If we will not really change ourselves
How can we expect our children to be responsible
If we cannot reign in our own desires to match our beliefs
What is the value of peace
Is it worth holding our tongues
Why do we have to agree on everything before we move forward
Why do we feel the need to understand all the mysteries of life
before we do what we already know is right
What will it take for us to accept that we are all part of the
problem
What are we willing to sacrifice to solve our problems
When will we both as individuals and as a group that at least
some our ideologies are the source of the problem
When will we accept that doing what is right is generally not very
popular or easy
It may seem politically incorrect to say, but our problems are not
al surprising for a society run by peasants who want to live like
kings
How do we think our leaders will solve these problems when we
know many are criminals
And most of us vote the lesser of two evils
I'm scare for the future of our country because either direction we
go in, I am not going to be welcome here

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At least I did serve in the military and there still is a lot of guilt people feel because of their cowardice to vote for candidates that voted for the war and were too much of a coward to enlist themselves in the military

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What is the Point? (in Studying Philosophy)

Philosophy can be the basis for an entire civilization. Along with literature, art, music, theatre, religion, history and related studies these make up what is called the humanities. This is the basis of high culture across most civilizations, especially traditional and Asian ones.

In philosophy, nothing is a given; every point must be fought for. There is no set definition for philosophy either. Philosophy does not have teams. No one has your back. You must crawl on your stomach, to avoid getting hit by the fallout of unintended consequences.

You don't memorize philosophy or learn how it works. Before you can even have comprehension level understanding you are forced to think and in different ways than you are used to. Most education is a ritual or propaganda. Philosophy gives you the tools to create your own branches of knowledge.

No philosophy is original - Platonism, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism are all unoriginal. If philosophy had a beginning, it started at least in 900 BC or before. The good part is if you are considered unimportant in your lifetime, you have a better chance of being significant later on. If you are important after your death, people will care for you many thousands of years later.

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Philosophers also have the greatest responsibility of all academics. They don't just follow ethics; they create both ethics and the metaphysics it is based on. Science came out of Aristotle and Enlightenment philosophies and both theology and psychology are a subset of philosophy.

The world only needs a handful of philosophers, at any given time. Philosophy is bad if: you care what other people think of you, you are trying to make money off of it, you are trying to become famous, you need outside motivation to work on a project for years, or you are unwilling to spend many years or even decades on it. You need to be ok with having much more uncertainty in your life.

If you are religious and want to keep your religion, be careful what you study. I would recommended those who want to avoid studying things unacceptable for Christians stay away from study of things that are outside the major world religions and philosophies. I also recommend staying away from paganism, animism, and shamanism. I also would stay away from anything that is done in secret or seems scary. Fear can save you from many bad situations.

Answering your own questions
Is worth a lifetime of study
Digging deeper than a criminal profiler
Stretching farther back then recorded history
Spanning beyond this universe
Smaller than a sub-atomic particle
More life changing than a life lived in the third world

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Worth more than the fortune of a billionaire
More dangerous than all religions combined
More powerful than a supermassive black hole
As subtle as the difference between colors to a designer
As flexible as a Shaolin Kung Fu master
As intelligent as a sage
As active as a soldier in war
As brilliant as a perfect diamond

I can only do so much
In one lifetime
If I write about technology
It will be useful for a few years
If I write about philosophy
It will be useful ten thousand years later

Philosophy is worth studying
Because it gives you a life worth living
Because you only have a one life
Even though you will live forever

We do not need more solutions
We do need to ask different questions
We do not need new answers
We need to change the way we think
This will change who we are

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The Source of All Knowledge

Everything is but a branch of knowledge
From the Tree of Life

The foundation of this world
And the world to come
Is the Lord my God

With each step we take
As a people and as a person
It gets more obvious
God never goes further
Than the door to our heart
We cannot transcend our own minds
We cannot travel beyond our Savior

He doesn't just provide a net to catch us
The world rests in His hands
Whether the earth is flat or hollow
Hell cannot defeat us

God is more powerful than any problem
God is not limited by any obstacle we face
He pulled off the greatest magic
He came to earth to live like us
He stole the keys to hell
And forever broke the hold
The devil had on our hearts

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We have a debt we cannot pay
But God only wants love in return
The powers of evil want to destroy
God wants you to live forever in hope

Destroy every thought of despair
With the living entity and weapon
We simply call the Bible
This sword penetrates our souls
And breaks through confusion
And leaves nothing but wisdom
It transforms the coal into diamonds

If we can stand in the hurricane
That is our future
We need a rock that cannot be turned
We need a fire that cannot be quenched
Pray that your heart will never go cold
That the flame will emit a brilliant light
That comes from the Light of the World
Reflected within who we are
And what we do

We start our journey in the cold of night
Where everything is above our head
Let us break through to the summit
So we can rest a little on the high plateau
That we can again seek the knowledge of the Lord
And give out our last shiny trinkets
That others might merely live

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And that we might live forever

Christ is not just a branch
He is the entire tree
He is the cure to the venom
We consume each day
When we do not walk under His will
When we get lost in the dark

Like a flare out of a lonely boat
We launch a prayer for salvation
That we may be brought forth
From a single island
In a sea as big as the universe

He knows our exact coordinates
He know how to get to the root
Of what really causes our problems
There is nothing you can do
That will surprise Him any bit

You may run forever from His Love
Which is true futility
Our entire universe
Is to God a hamster cage
And our attempts to escape without Him
Are like running really fast on the wheel

If God can create something from nothing
And then dive in to save us

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What greater saving power
Can He make alive with His words
He can truly heal your heart
Just as His broke
As He died on the cross
Defeating not just Hell but suffering as well

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Prince of Peace

I kneel down to pray
I pray for a sign
Expecting a bolt of lightening
I am surprised I see nothing

Meanwhile a storm builds
From the other side of the globe
A desert receives much needed rain

I then see flower after flower appear
Butterflies and lady bugs come out of nowhere

I pray then for rain
God appears to do nothing

Meanwhile we have a record harvest
Because none of the produce spoils this year

I pray that I may receive healing
I am not healed

A cure for cancer appears out of nowhere
Cancer is stamped out forever

I pray that I may simply survive the war
The violence continues

A priest in the middle of a jungle

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Gets the entire village to pray for God's return

The decades long war ends
And the peace holds for decades more

We think artists are creative
We think soldiers are strong
But the power of faith
Combined with the reality of God
Breaks all curses
Destroys all binds
The chains break
The cuffs rust away

People are impressed with acts of power
People are impressed by special effects
God wins our hearts one at a time
By making us blind
And making food come out of nowhere

God is subtle and God is patient
Because He is strong and we are weak
We need to accept a solution
That will solve more than just our problem
We need to think bigger in what we ask for

We want to win a war
God wants to make it impossible to wage war
We want to not be in pain
God wants us to overcome the causes of suffering

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It is easy to blow things up
It is hard to build new things
It is easy to write a drama
It is hard to write a comedy

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God is Real

Some people believe in God
Because they find Him in the Bible
I find God in the Bible
Because I believe in God

In some circles
People debate endlessly
About which god is real

To me, the answer is simple
The Lord is the real name for God
I know this more surely
Than I know my own name

It is not that I just sometimes
Feel close to God
I have doubted many things
And will continue
Until this world ends for me
But about God being the Christian God
Or the Bible being God's instructions
This is not something I stay awake
Or wake up early wondering about

As surely as I breathe in
I can almost see God's face
Before I ever was slightly mentally ill
And even when people doubt I am mentally ill

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There is a sense to the universe
That leads many to God
But for me God was always there
I did not need to find God
God was always in me
I can literally feel the Holy Spirit
In my very soul

I have read the original texts
Of all the great world religions
All the most talked about philosophies
I considered them on their own terms
I was open to the possibility
That I may find different words to describe God
But I never thought any other religious text
Was written by God

Sometimes to truly understand someone's point of view
You need to suspend belief in that subject
But my faith in Christ goes deeper than belief
I cannot deny God exists
As it makes no more sense
Than to say I do not exist
I have less assurance in my own thoughts
And in my own feelings
Than I am in the reality of the Christian God

I have a hard time understanding
Why some people have more faith

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In themselves than they do in God
I have failed myself and God many times
But He is always there
At times I have been angry at God
Or feel He would never intervene
No matter how hard things were

But there are things in my life
That cannot be rationally explained
Without factoring in divine intervention
None of this was necessary for me to believe
Because we live in a life that seldom makes sense
If you want to be an optimist

Two things are obvious to me now
People are stupid, evil, and have poor impulse control
The only thing that explains why we are still here
Is direct divine intervention

And I still cannot understand how people think
That it makes more sense or is easier
To believe that something comes out of nothing
Than to believe that God created us
We know evil is very real
And we know that most our problems lead back to us
Why do we still believe God is responsible for suffering

What is there to have pride in from what we do
God is the only one truly creative and original
God created me, therefore I am

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If we are going to debate God's existence
Doesn't it make more sense to doubt ourselves
I believe in God because I am alive

Everything has a beginning and an end
What comes before and after?
Life is never easy and we will continue to suffer
But a perfectly good God still exists

Look within yourself for blame
This is where I am now

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Imagery & Symbolism / Psychology

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A Single Door, No More - Part 1

A door to nowhere
A light shining through
The corners and gaps
A very deliberate knock
Steady and full of commitment
A knock with no answer
A journey that never takes place
An option that is not available
A noise that is not annoying
A presence that is not there
Is it worth the cost of losing control
To let the knocking continue
And accept that I may never know
Why this door appears out of nowhere
Or why the knocking stops as soon as it begins
How do I know to answer
If I do not know who knocks
Where will this option lead
And why can I not accept the uncertainty of the journey
Or choose just not to respond for now
Sometimes it seems the door will open on its own
And this is really my one fear

We constantly fight for control
And will accept nothing less
How can we really be the ones choosing our future
When we do not even know what we really want

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It is easy to spend all your money
When you go to the mall
And get inspired when you see a movie
But it is when you are really all alone
That you can be sure of anything
Or make any important decision

The thing to remember is that we are never really alone
Everything we do matters and everyone already knows
You cannot lie to yourself
And expect to sleep well at night
You cannot claim credit for what you create
When you know the only true muse is the Holy Spirit

We think as Christians that it does not matter whether there are
aliens out there
But we are really the aliens of this world

We cannot accept the popular ideologies
And still call ourselves separate from the world
We cannot still count on our money and our wits
And still call ourselves people of faith

If we pay more attention to how we talk about others
Than we do about who we vote for
Maybe we could hang our heads a little higher
When we meet Jesus face to face

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A Single Door, No More - Part 2

What is a door to nowhere
Appearing out of nowhere
A portal to another world
The great outdoors

Don't leave the door open
To those you don't know
A door that is unopened
A chance encounter
Ears burning to others conversation

A Christian cannot compromise
On the ten commandments
The images we seek
Are our modern idolatry
Each time we accept a compromise
With how the world works
Just to make things easier
Or even to spread the gospel
We mix hot and cold water
And end up with something
No one wants or can accept

There is a certain poetry
To even the ten commandments
There is a subtle repetition
To the Apostle's letters

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There is hope in prophecy
Even within the judgement
Of our own world empire

There is a sense of imagery
That awakens our senses
And softens the brutal honesty

How can you memorize
What you can barely put into words
What is it like to never die
And how long is forever

As evil seems more real each day
God still softly speaks in our minds
And hope takes unforeseeable forms

Sometimes Scripture even condemns
And even this can bring hope
We need to read again and again
If we are to find God in our world

He never leaves it
But often we answer the wrong knock
On the wrong door

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More Doors

A million doors in a row
Each like a bathroom stall
But well ventilated
And perfumed sufficiently
Dancing under the door frames
Looking through each one
Like a portrait of a window
When does a door become a window
When does a way of life
Become an answer to a question
But when I close my eyes
I never see the doors
The direction of the doors
Continue to rotate counterclockwise
As I ponder each choice I have made
I may consider bowing this one out
A temporary exemption from decisions
But this is not life
There are no insignificant actions
Or inconsequential thoughts
Thought is transformed into action
As quickly as we open our front door
Each morning we head out
When does our purpose
Determine our ethical choices
When does God become the Lord of our life
We submit to our fears and the laws

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But when do submit to the will of God
We constantly listen to music
And it is very real to us
Why do we have such a hard time
Believing in God
Or following the whispers of the Holy Spirit
You would think that evil would scare us
And doing the wrong thing
A painful consequence in and of itself
It is not that God is being let down
When we make poor choices
it is just that we add unnecessary pain
When we do what we do not want to do
Do we ever consider the sources of our problems
Tends to be our own black hearts
How can you speak good
While listening to darkness
When we get old we remember how to read
And we learn a few things from this
As each decade passes
But do we ever learn wisdom
From any book alone
If only the crystal clear sound of modern music
Would echo in our mind
With the pulsating rhythm of our Creator
And that being part of his family
Would be sufficient to make us happy

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Secret Words

Locks can break
Doors have seams
Deadbolts are no failsafe
Nothing is entirely secure
Things are often secured
By putting smaller things in bigger things
For every self defense move
There is a counter move
An arms race is by definition two sided
There is never a permanent solution
When fixing problems is too hard
And doing bad things is too easy
Maybe it is time to redo the entire system
At some point you have to replace a machine
No matter how well you maintain it
Everything has limits
Societies do not last forever
Even the Earth and our entire universe will end
Sometimes bad decisions hurt other people
Some things are entirely out of our control

Do not be famous
And you can avoid the worst possibilities
The best protection is having nothing worth protecting
The best way to protect secrets is to not have any secrets
One level of protection might be enough
But three or four is much better
Expect everything to fail all at once

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If it can break, plan on it happening
At the worst possible time
The best way to adapt is to constantly learn
If you practice daily
You will get better as the criminals get better
Pray to God continually
And always realize there is always someone smarter, faster, richer,
and the like than you
You will only be perfectly safe in Heaven
Never depend on someone else to solve your problems
Businesses are too cheap to do their jobs properly

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Eyes Everywhere

Some people only feel safe in a police station
To some fear is a kind of drug
I try to avoid being paranoid
As this is a painful system of my mental illness
I remember constantly being afraid in the army
It was very tiring and painful
Everyday I awake
I learn of more people watching each other
Everyone wants to know what their neighbor does
Why do you think consumers buy drones
Most companies don't care if you buy something
Or even if you see their ads
What they really want to know is
What are your bathroom habits
And what is in your bedroom drawers
They want to know everything you do
Even where you are in your house
They follow you around the neighborhood
And keep track of everything you buy anywhere
They want your face, voice, and fingerprints
What is so valuable about this information
For legitimate purposes
Ads and crime are merging more and more
As government and business already have
What will happen when companies
Have to administrate punishments
Why is everyone watching everyone
Nobody trust anyone anymore

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It is just easier to make money through fraud
Then through honest means
Just like it is easier to fight a war
When you don't have to serve on the front lines

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Winter Sunrise

I open the door
And the night is still upon us
The stars are especially bright
And the sky is black as oil
The entire moon is fully visible
And hangs too low in the sky
The sky is turning navy blue
Fading in color to the best shade of blue
The air has a bite to it
And the cold works its way into my bones
Some of my best memories
Are in the cold and dark

Walking through bushes at scout summer camp
To get to the bathrooms
Getting on the bus to go to a speech tournament
And listening to Depeche Mode
Staying up all night at a Model UN conference
My first time with no sleep for 72 hours
A field trip to Portland
For a political club I started
A cheerleading Christmas party
I was the secret Santa for the one I later asked out
The night of my high school graduation
Not walking home until the next morning

The long walk home with rifle ready
From basic training field training exercises

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My one time at a strip club
With friends while in Army training
The Valentine's Day (Night) I arrived in Hawaii for my assigned
unit
We went to a Navy beach the next day
The biggest church on Honolulu
We went out for a kind of young adults group date

I walked across town
Because I thought I had missed the last bus
Walking home from Linux club meeting
A few months before my diagnosis
And walking back from a music concert
I volunteered at in town, in the rain
Many times walking home from movies
Like at the local avant grade theater

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When I am weak, You are strong

Dribbles of chocolate
Many drops of honey
The tongue has a mind of its own
Our tastes are too much for us
Sometimes extreme is too much
And vanilla ice cream taste much better
How do I find my way back
When I am lost in countless tunnels
I cannot escape the incense
The siren calls like a drill sergeant
That which seems good and true
Can be nothing but a soul trap
Why do our minds wander
Even when we read scripture
Each step gets harder
Two step forward and one back
It is like a difficult dance move
And I cannot even count to 8
It is hard to do a counter move
When you have no rhythm
Each move of the game
Is driven too often by dice
If you cannot understand no
And overextend yourself
Your back gets sore
And your muscles cramp
How do we move forward
When we are paralyzed with fear

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The fear that captivates our imagination
The fear that completes the sentence
Weak words and profound actions
How do I get back
To a new page and blank stare
Where chanting breaks into melody
And the beat breaks its own rhythm
What is the key to salvation
When we are deep in dreaming
Break dancing seems out of place
For a kind of martial art
But stranger things make sense
When you can never really relax
How can you feel safe alone
When you cannot trust your own mind
Unsuccessfully killing time is dangerous
When you cannot stop counting cards
But so is losing control in your dreams
And waking without inspiration
Everything is worth pursuing
Until these things start pursuing you
Strength is usually relative
And the right way is often covered in fog
Each step of writing is worth repeating
Only when there is no other way
Emotions are always tricky
When you are out of your mind

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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

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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
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

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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
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

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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

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Bible and God / Religion

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One and Many

My weapon is singular
My defenses many
I only wish to defeat my own desires
The best weapon is the Bible
I seek defenses from everything
Threats are everywhere
Misfortune, decisions, other people
Sartre says Hell is other people
Camus says futility is Heaven
As the world becomes increasingly absurd
Sometimes your best move
Is to be more creative in your responses
If only hand grenades were really just pineapples
And knives were only used for preparing food
It seems that fear now takes many forms
It seems peace only comes from One Source
We suffer from many bad decisions
Ours and others
But we can be delivered
With just one decision
We make not only one time
But also throughout our one lifetime
We can gain perspective
Through reading, reflecting, and experiences
But perspective does not make it hurt less
The ends never justify the means
But also it is not enough to mean well
Every decision has spiritual consequences

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Our bad choices hurt others
Putting your self first is an illusion
We are creations, not creators
We serve either God or money
We are not the ones in control
We are only pawns for the devil
But God wants to crown us
With eternal life
There are no other lives for us
But the life after death never ends
All will receive judgment
Luckily mercy over rules justice
Unlike in human society
God is not here to judge us
He is here to liberate us
God understands us
Because God is also Mind, Body, and Soul
Except He is greater than any problems

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On Deciding

What do you really want
A life of extremes
An all or nothing existence
Where there is no happy middle
What do you really want
Do you want a life free from pain
Be unimportant and boring
Do you want to not have to fight
Just to survive life

Moderation in everything
This is the key
Pace yourself as in a run
Take each day as it comes
This is not a present day moderation
Where moderation is only one addiction
This is a moderation in style of the mystics
Avoiding both pain and luxury
Which would today
Make you appear as a monk
Buddhism looks severe
But it is called the middle path
Because it is a life of moderation

Serve God or serve your addiction
If you are going to serve anyway
Serve in a way that is productive
Serve in a way that is you

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Serve like it is your only job
Live your life like it is your only one
Even though you will live forever
It does not matter what the world thinks of you
It really matters what God thinks of you
It is not that we will ever earn eternity
The point is to accept reality
That we always need help
We need to be humble enough
To not live our life only for ourselves
Or only on our own

If you are going to suffer anyway
Why not accept God's help
We do not get points for what we do
We are here to improve who we are
God does not promise no pain in this life
God does promise eternity without pain
He created us and so knows us
Unlike anyone else
God has lived a life full of suffering
As one of us among us

There is no instruction manual to life
But we have access to our Creator
Why try to reverse engineer life
Why try to make sense of existence
With improper documentation
We cannot even give good instructions
To the simple things we make

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How can we claim to fix the human mind
When we cannot even control ours

Even human solutions have rules
You will never avoid the ten commandments
We must have at least thousands of laws
Even Buddhism has hundreds
You will never get past serving others
Even the world police state
Does not have absolute control
Nether does the world economy
Control all that is bought and sold

Every creation from the smallest to the largest
From within an atom to the biggest galaxies
Even black holes and quantum mechanics
Have predictability and constant behavior
Only the human creation find it demeaning
To follow even the kindest of leaders
Or even how God lived when on earth

Our lives were never our own
We get to choose everything now
But we never get to be happy
Just by paying someone or earning something
Happiness only comes from changing who we are
And we only change who we are
By changing what we do
We cannot say one thing and do another
We cannot really believe if we fail to act

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Is there enough evidence to convict you
Of following the laws of God
You do not really believe
If you do not change who you are

Consider every decision in your life
As always important spiritually
How you live your life is important
Because you will never really die
You are important
Because God fights for you
Accept His help
And you never need to live alone

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Time and Morality

Continuity across time
Stretching back thousands of years
Maybe a million before
Advanced in different ways
Or like our current science fiction
Great thinkers argue with history
Prophets predict history creatively
We only had the Bible for a few thousand years
But our God has never not existed
Most of history people did not deny God
To most people the spiritual world is real
In each generation we have different problems
But most these involve sex and money
We live in a time of great evil
Most great traditions are in agreement
Can we do more than chant God's name
As the Eastern Orthodox church does
Or do something as great as pray
Which every Christian should
We need to see past our own lives
To see what is really going on
We want to watch every detail of what happens
What do we think of being watched by others
We think we have free reign over the world
Do we even have free reign over our own minds
We only see our problems skin deep
The solution is not in our minds but Gods
All it takes is steady faith in what we ask for

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All it takes is to ask for something legitimate
We are busy traversing the entirety of the planet
And ask everything to our idols in silicon valley
We learn about everything under the sun
But only get useful answers to insignificant things
Even when we think of doing something of value
We miss the point of life
We think we can get beyond cause and effect
Or redesign our own minds
We will never get greater technology
Without greater cost
Why is it that we dive ahead with science
Without question or disagreement
But cannot decide if ethics are even important
We seem to think the only things that matter
Can be done with computers better than we can do
Maybe we will just outsource our own lives
If everyone writes poetry but we cannot read
Who is going to read it
The only things we can agree on
Is we want freedom to follow our idols
In Hollywood and the race tracks
How about freedom to do what is right
We think we can transcend our lifetimes
Through science and technology
Except that we poorly understand even these
Science is like magic in many ways
We have little understanding of either
It is ironic that God made people blind
So that they can see better

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And healed people while doing something even greater
Because only God can forgive immorality
Even the greatest sage could not earn eternity
Even the smartest person cannot learn how to live forever
Generations grow and fade away
And this may go on for a million more years
Maybe when we are poor enough
We won't be able to afford more wars
Why are we so creative legally
And so stupid and limited in problem-solving
We can argue why we should get our way
But cannot find a way to stop the wars
It is hard to trust God when we cannot trust others
Except that He has both earned and deserves our trust

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Thank God for Christianity

I wish I never stopped running
I wish I never stopped reading the Bible
I wish I would have prayed before every decision
I wish I never would have sinned
I am thankful God will never leave me
I am thankful He always watches over me
i am thankful He holds the world in His hands
I am thankful He prevents so much suffering

Buddhism says that suffering comes from desire
And the path to fix this involves following hundreds of rules
I am glad that for God mercy takes precedence over justice
I am glad that the path to salvation is only one step
It is not that Christianity is ever easy
But no religion or lifetime has before or will ever
The words of God provide answers and support
To help get us through life's tragedies and boredom

It seems as if the world is crashing down
Or nothing is happening
But as we build patience and faith
Through our life experiences
Life spins like a top
But when it stops what do you do

There is no instruction book to being human
There is no set of steps to follow to make your life easy
You will be stabbed in the back

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After giving years of good service
You will be given the greatest gift
Just when you never thought it would happen
You will work hard every day of your life
And fight the good fight faithfully
You will get sick and walk slower
You will want to give up time and time again
Sometimes God will literally carry you
When you would have to walk over coals without Him

There is a Russian proverb that says
Anything that does not kill you makes you stronger
Christianity is not about being strong
It is about admitting you are weak
The victory has already been one
Long before we were even born
But there sure are many more battles to fight
Each day of our lives

Sometimes we battle things we cannot see
Sometimes we battle things that only we can see
Sometimes we battle against reason
Sometimes we battle against our feelings
We just need to remember to ask God to fight in our defense
The only weapon we have to use is the word of God
Spending time with God is spiritual warfare

It is not through subduing our passions
That we will achieve victory
But through humbling our spirits

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And submitting our body and life
To He who created all that exists, could exist, or He can imagine

We are not promised that we will be free from persecution
But we are promised paradise forever after we die
It is worth it to make it to a city
Where gems and gold are used for street stones
And there is never any pain, thirst, disease, or hunger
Where everyone will get along
Even the wolves and the sheep will see each other as a family

Where we will never cry again except for joy
Ten thousand years will be a day
Nothing ever born will ever really die
You cannot escape death
But you can escape eternal spiritual death

Sometimes it is enough
To simply praise God and thank Him
Even when we do not know what to pray

The answer to suffering is not a simple sentence
All creation, the Bible, Christ, and eternal life are all much better
answers
We look to the Bible for rules
And it gives us history of God's people
We look to the Bible for punishments
And get stories of real people
We look to the Bible for a deal with God
And we are given God on earth

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Aim higher than the greatest philosophers
Look to that which cannot be contained by the entire universe
But still looks like us and lived in the way we do
We live as if on a stage
In full view of all creation
So let us look past the limits of the modern world
And into the eyes of Jesus Christ

Life may signify nothing
But through God all things are possible
He can even defeat your ego
If you really want Him too
We all give up sometimes
God never does and never will

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A Kind of Understanding

I can easily wrap my mind around
The hard things about religion
I can understand why we have to follow laws
I can understand why we suffer
It is no wonder that fame and fortune are fleeting
That morality is more important than wealth
That we struggle in vain for so much
Which we cannot bring with us after death
The struggle to do what is right
The temptation to follow half measures
Religion as created by people has wisdom in it
But this kind of religion also brings division
This kind of religion is the source of many wars
It is not hard to accept that we will be judged
It is not hard to accept that we deserve punishment
We can see clearly the results of our own immorality
We can see clearly that the spiritual world is real
That intention is what matters spiritually
Whereas in the physical world action matters
We can explain the world through cause and effect
We can trace all suffering to our selfishness
Not all people know the literal definition of sin
But all really understand why it is so bad
The evil of the world is very real
And the utter corruption of our own hearts
Requires no imagination to accept
Reality is brutal in the natural world
But it is many times worse in the world of humanity

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We can see the innocence of animals
And that God is not responsible for anything bad
The hard things to understand
Is what is worth saving in our souls
God is completely rational in all His actions
With a perfectly balanced blend of emotions
So why does He decide to be so merciful
Why does He truly care
Can you give any good reason for Him to suffer
For Him to bail us out and take our place
The one good source of news today is prophecy
Only the Bible really gives encouraging news today
With each step as a person
He struggled from birth into a cold, heartless world
He followed every law and made no mistakes
He had no lapse in judgement
He then preached a message so revolutionary
That no one can go beyond Him in message
We just cannot accept how bad things became
We cannot accept we are really in over our heads
We are literally creating Hell on earth
We willingly and enthusiastically enslave ourselves
In creating a brutal New World Order
Where business and police are one and the same
But God broke the power of death and evil
We see war after war in every dimension of life
But the real war has already been one
The End Times only has one battle
Who is this God who created us knowing what we would do
Then submit Himself infinitely below His existence

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Just to suffer for eternity for our sake
To be mocked for centuries and be misunderstood
By most of His followers and enemies alike
We are just too stupid to see the truth
We see all the pieces but cannot put the puzzle together
We need to fundamentally change the way we think
The most important thing in life is God
The biggest goal we can have
Is to love God and His creations
We think that we run the world
Or give that credit to the devil
Hollywood understands Scripture
In a way the Church does not
We hear song after song and see movie after movie
Where romantic love is what brings purpose to life
The only problem with this is this is the wrong kind of love
And it is the wrong individual and relationship
Every love song is written for God
All our good creations are authored by God
If only God can make us blind to the world
And only able to see His face
He is perfectly recognizable to us
As we were designed to be like Him
Body, Mind, and Soul
Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit
He is already in many of our hearts
Why can we still see anything else

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God and People

From ever to ever
God stretches out through time
Like we stretch out in the morning
He fills the universe
Like we fill an exploding soda bottle
God is not just all powerful and all good
He is an artist and a poet

We blow our minds trying to link together Scripture
That God radically simplified to put in our languages
We fight war after war to enjoy a palace for half our lives
God created a perfect city that we can live in forever for free
We try to understand prophecy to predict the future
God spoke that to give us hope for the future
We see Scripture as a set of beloved quotations
But the word of God is a spiritual entity
More powerful than the greatest powers in every reality
We draw pictures of animals and landscapes
God created the animals and landscape out of clay
We dance and eat when we celebrate
God's celebration is the creation of an entire universe
Each day we face the same challenges
God suffers forever for the defeat of our egos
We can barely make it through each day
God sees past ten thousand years in the blink of an eye
We struggle to remember the names of our coworkers
God knows exactly how many atoms make up each person

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When we fight, we use a heavy metal equipment weighing
thousands of pounds
God whispers and His enemies shake in fear
We think we our powerful because we have nuclear weapons
God perfectly balanced the laws of physics so gravity works
Fire and flight are only possible on a few planets
But Christ is worshipped across the entire universe
We think God needs us for company
But He is perfectly complete in His at least tri-part nature
We think we are smart because we can travel to the moon
God has no need to go anywhere as He is bigger than every
reality
We think we are humble if we fast for thirty days
God coming to earth was a bigger drop than for us to live as
micro-organisms
We can barely control ourselves enough to run a society
God has an intellect that is perfectly in harmony with His
emotions
We barely take care of our families
God has created us, bails us out, suffers forever for stupid things
we do, and made paradise for us
Our greatest civilizations can be reduced down to a list of rules
The Bible has never been even barely understood by the brightest
minds even though it uses much simpler language
Our greatest minds invented computers and the Internet
God created the laws of the universe we use, all the materials we
use, gave us all the mental capacity to do so, and the wisdom to
solve the problems we created with it
When we want to fix something, we take years to make complex
laws

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God fixes things by telling creation to do something
We have the responsibility and authority over all animals
Only because God gave this to us
We hold God responsible for evil
The one thing we created by ourselves is evil
We may be afraid when reading Revelations in America
In Africa, Revelations is the best and most hopeful book (of the
Bible)

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More Poetry

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www.benjamin-newton.com

Seeing and Doing

Selfish is the mirror
When we cannot see past it
Selfish are the legs
When we cannot move past what we see
When the obstacles are many
And the options few
Everyday we become more blind
And there is less to write
There is less to see
As more and more dies
There is an end to our story
But can it be a happy one
The day has come
For us to rejoice in boredom
And focus on what we are doing
Having enough to eat
Is like finding a good paying job
Having time for fun is only necessary for the laborer
For those with means
Or ample funding
Creation is its own reward
As joy appears at the beginning of each page
A job is essential to eat
A purpose is a way of life

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Why I Don't Watch Science Fiction Anymore

Political refugees fight evil doctors who gave girl Schizophrenia
While transporting things for for evil people and barely escaping
with their lives

The original vampires constantly torturing members of their own
family

And compelling people and other vampires to do their bidding

Earth taken over by giant cockroaches
That tried to turn the kids into ones as well

A world where electricity is all gone
Cruel dictator after cruel dictator commit increasingly evil
genocides against the populations

A future world where we colonize asteroid belt and mars
And first alien life used to turn kids into monsters

A future paradise for the rich run by corporations that lets regular
people fend for themselves
Poor women sell themselves as consorts who managers can do
anything to relieve stress

Kids sent to back to earth to see if it is inhabitable
People constantly in pain fighting for the last patch of green

A alien race conquering earth
The representative looks like a stereotypical devil

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People constantly try to stop apocalypse but never succeed
Realize that evil person who unleashed this plague is their son

A modern day pagan version of CS Lewis's Narnia
Where they start to have interesting adventures until another
horrible tragedy sets them back

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