

I, ETERNAL

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POETRY AND ESSAY FROM THE STRUGGLE OF EXISTENCE

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Published by Redemption Press, PO Box 427, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

ISBN 13: 978-1-63232-445-0

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 2007900027

Dedicated to the abused and neglected children of the world
past, present, and future.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

—Isaiah 53:6

With the exception of young children, every individual who fails to accept Jesus Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior will enter hell upon his or her physical death, and subsequently burn in the lake of fire for all of eternity. Jesus Christ is the only hope of salvation humanity will ever know. Race, religion, wealth, nationality, intellect, works, sex, politics, popularity, poverty, and reputation are ultimately irrelevant, as only one thing will matter on judgment day; which is your acceptance or rejection of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

You will never stop living despite your body dying. You will live eternally: either in bliss, joy, fulfillment, and peace in heaven with God, or in longing, torment, pain, regret, and sorrow in hell.

Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you go to heaven you will be a success, even if you are labeled a failure on this earth. "Dear Heavenly Father, I accept your Son Jesus Christ as my Personal Lord and Savior, forgive me of my sins, and I thank you for changing my life and coming to live in my heart" It's as simple as sincerely praying that prayer. There is nothing more important you will ever do in this mortality.

Significant meaning in life through Christ Jesus. You may help others do the same by simply praying for them.

“Oh yeah life goes on
Long after the thrill of living is gone”

—Jack & Diane 1982
John Cougar

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...”

—Proverbs 1:7

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MALLEABLE



God is eternal. God is forever and forever. Because he is eternal, we are eternal. We are forever and ever. We are temporary mortals. We are eternal bliss, pleasure, and love or eternal pain, suffering, and longing. We are free will. We are choice. We are, because God created us. God created us to live forever, to die physically, to experience pleasure and pain, to have free will, and to have choice. Accept Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior. Vanity of vanities. Do not live your life in vain.

SUNSET LOVE



I

What words may any of us write that have not been written before? What words may any of us speak that have not been spoken before? There is only a finite number of ways all the words of every human language may be arranged. I find special meaning in the way certain individuals have both arranged and conveyed their words. I find certain writings to be unique and special. The Bible embodies the most inspirational and meaningful words I have ever read, for in them are the keys to eternal salvation, true peace, and the most significant meaning. The Bible holds clear answers to the past, present, and future both for humanity as a whole and for the individual. By far the Bible is the most inspirational book I've ever read, because it offers the only true hope humanity will ever know.

Aside from the Holy Scriptures, writers Dorothy Parker and Soren Kierkegaard expressed in writing emotions, thoughts, and ideas which I find to be unique and meaningful. I identify with the struggles Dorothy Parker and Soren Kierkegaard expressed in their writings. Despite having some commonalities with both individuals in terms of being human, I have more in common with them in terms of being an eternal spirit wrapped in flesh, attempting to navigate through a material world, which is oftentimes chaotic and wrought with evil and atrocity. These two individuals died physically, yet their writings inspire me today. Writing shares mortality, immortality, and struggle. How are we making it through this

world? What keys to success or failure have we found? What sense do we make of our existence?

My meaning in life begins and ends with Jesus Christ, as I rely upon him to guide me through this mortality and through immortality. Jesus Christ is my eternal salvation; he is also my reason for not descending into various forms of madness and self destruction, which is ultimately what many choose to do, without a true relationship with him. Jesus Christ is the significant meaning I have created out of my life, with the free will he allows.

There was a time when I believed I was dying physically. I was on a desert road in 120 degree heat, I had been up for nearly 48 hours without sleep, and I was dehydrated. I was about 12 miles from any shelter or reprieve from the heat. In those desperate moments I was pretty sure I would enter heaven if I died, as I was a Christian; I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior as a child. I remember being extremely sad. I experienced an anguish and sorrow I'd never felt before; I felt a sense of isolation and alienation. I had friends, family, a girlfriend, and I was attending college and working as a mental health counselor; however, I did not really know another human being intimately. Intimately in terms of knowing another human being's thoughts and feelings regarding life, eventual death, meaning, God, pleasure, pain, sadness, joy, love, and other aspects of life. I remember thinking no one except God knew my thoughts and feelings regarding these aspects of life. Why in those moments, when I thought I was dying, did I crave human connectedness and shared experiences? I remember asking the first person I saw before the paramedics arrived, "What have you liked most about this life so far?" Their answer was very important to me. Just having that small piece of knowledge about another human being provided me a sense of connectedness and comfort.

We share a time, a space, an earth; we are here together now, and it will not always be that way, eventually separation and distance will come between us. Instead of killing each other, being defensive and game playing while our mortality expires, why not share each other's experience of mortality and become closer?

What would your last thoughts be as you lay on your deathbed? I would like to know them. I would like you to know mine. What do you think of planet earth? What has gone right with your life? How has this mortality been for you so far? I would like to know. What has been your

favorite experience in life so far? What has been your least favorite experience? How do you relate to pain and suffering, and to joy and pleasure? I would like to know. We share humanness now. In heaven we will no longer be human; so this is a unique opportunity, while we are human, to tear down the barriers which divide, and relate in an honest manner with each other. It is an opportunity for us to share our struggle to know God, to know ourselves, to know each other, and to create significant meaning out of our lives. In heaven we will not struggle, because everything will be perfect. In hell the struggle will be in vain, because no matter what one does, once in hell there will be no escape. On Terra Firma, our struggle means something of significance. During that time and space on the desert road where I almost died, the Lord saw fit to spare my life, and I am very grateful to him.

A very strange dynamic exists. I am not going to attempt to define it. I will just attempt to describe it. There is an inhibition in this world (We Live In) (We Breathe In) (We Suffer In) (We Run In) (We Love In) (We Laugh In) (We Talk In) (We Sin In) (We Repent In) (We Pray In) (We Die In) against truly knowing each other and sharing our experience of life with each other. I feel close to Dorothy Parker even though I have never met her. I feel closer to her than some individuals I have been acquainted with my entire life because of this dynamic. In Dorothy Parker's poems and stories she expresses her experiences of struggle to know herself, others, and God. She expresses her experiences of sorrow, resolution, resentment, joy, pain, life, and eventual death. Dorothy Parker had a need to share her experience of life with others. It is a reaching out for true intimacy beyond the flesh. Who are you? Do you know yourself? God knows you better than you know yourself. God knows me. I have found comfort in knowing that God knows me.

II

What has gone wrong with our world? Sin entered into it when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit. What material on earth is equal to human life—gold, money, automobiles, houses? No. All material elements are temporal and will soon be destroyed. Human spirits are eternal. Human bodies are temporal. Do not kill. Do not value material possessions over human life. Did not the first family on earth set the stage for the violence and chaos which has reigned throughout human history? One brother

killed the other; Cain killed Abel. What hope is there for us to live in peace? There is no hope outside of Jesus Christ. It is a simple answer that works. Love your enemies. Thou shall not kill. Be merciful and forgiving. These are not new ideas, yet they are always new. How many years have human's occupied earth? Bloodletting and violence to this very day, continues to define humanity's presence on earth. What is it? We have free will. We may choose not to kill. We may choose not to be self-destructive. What is it? I know what it is. There is no peace without Jesus Christ. Humans cannot win a war against God. Provided the Lord delays his coming, the death clock is tick, tick, ticking away for each of us. Once we are born, forget about it; all bets are off, you will live forever either in heaven or hell. We all experience mortality. We are all in the same proverbial boat, yet so many fail to see it. Should one choose to accept Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, he or she will go to heaven upon his or her death. Should one choose not to accept Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, he or she will burn in hell, and eventually in the lake of fire, after his or her physical death. There is an exception for children. All children who die go to heaven. For the purposes of salvation, humans are children until they reach an age of accountability, which I believe God determines for each individual.

III

One may accept Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior by praying the following prayer:

“Heavenly Father I come before you in the name of Jesus. I’m asking you to forgive me of my sins and to cleanse me in the blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed for the remission of my sins; I accept Jesus Christ now and forever as my Personal Lord and Savior. Father, I thank you for saving me, and sending your only begotten son; Jesus to die for my sins. Amen.”

It’s as simple as that. Jesus Christ changed my life. He has allowed me to let go and to let God. Jesus Christ, I know him, because he dwells within me. He dwells in my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as well. This connection with Jesus Christ satisfies my need for true intimacy. I still yearn to share experiences with others; however, knowing that God himself loves me and knows everything about me is a great comfort. I believe if I knew the experience of every other human upon the earth, in the absence of a relationship with Jesus Christ, I would be sorely unfulfilled, desperate

and empty, and I would no longer want my existence to continue. Jesus Christ is the only piece to the human puzzle.

IV

I'm not sufficient to fight my battles—no human is sufficient to fight his or her own battles, because we are fighting an immortal enemy in the devil.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayers and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance supplication for all saints.”

—Ephesians 6:12-18

Jesus Christ reigns supreme! How do you enslave and kill off a population? Within the population you breed mistrust, discord, competition, and hatred (old vs. young, male vs. female, race vs. race, light skin vs. dark skin, blonde vs. brunette, left vs. right, rich vs. poor, nation vs. nation, religion vs. religion). You breed lust, self hatred, and idolatry into the fabric of the population. You entice the population with drugs and sex to enslave them to their own physical sensations. You divide them based on skin color, socioeconomic classes, race, political ideologies, religion, nationality, beauty, physical characteristics, and you sow the following idea: the way the individual exists in the here and now is insufficient without additional material things, which they must strive to get, and you deny the truth of Jesus Christ until it becomes a free for all, like a pack of wolves, wild eyed with bloody fangs bared going after a piece of raw meat. The devil has done the aforementioned in our world. He is truly our enemy. He is truly humanity's enemy. He works against the truth. He is a blasphemer and a liar. Humanity has only one enemy, and it is the devil. His goal is simply to get as many human spirits as possible in hell. Our only defense

against him is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has defeated the devil. The devil has been condemned to hell and the lake of fire for all of eternity by God, and it's only a matter of time before he starts serving his sentence. Don't be lassoed in by the devil's deception and schemes. Many humans are tools of evil used by the devil, and they are living dangerously as a result; however, Christ is a forgiver and redeemer. Jesus Christ saves and delivers. No one is beyond his reach, they just have to accept his love and receive his gift of salvation.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

—Revelation 3:20

If we trust and have faith in Jesus Christ, with his help we will defeat the devil and his schemes.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

—Philippians 4:13

I owe Jesus everything. Life with no significant meaning is a vile existence. Meaning must be taken and created into something significant for each individual, and for me, my meaning in life is Jesus Christ. His love for me has taught me to love him, others, and myself. I have found meaning in recognizing that we are born longing, desperate, and in some form of pain. Only Jesus Christ can make these ailments whole. Man tries many things to cure said ailments—violence, revenge, drugs, intellectualization, sex, sports, work, partying, and on and on. In the end the only cure humanity will ever know is Jesus Christ. No other human knows what it is like to be me. No other human knows what it is like to be you. God knows what it is like to be me. God knows what it is like to be you. We fully share our consciousness with him. Jesus knows and he cares, which makes all the difference in my life.

Isolation, uncertainty, and meaning are aspects of human existence. We are spirit beings encased in flesh. We will enter heaven upon our physical deaths, provided we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Knowing that mortality is temporary is both a source of relief and sadness for me; a source of relief, in the sense that this mortal struggle and difficulty will end one day; a source of sadness in two ways: the first being

that every human I know, my relationships with them will come to an end one day; the second being, I miss the struggle of being human now. We are only human for so long. We all have this struggle of being human. We are mortal, we hurt, we strive, and we struggle to know God, others, and ourselves. Once we enter heaven, the struggle is over; there are no more choices to make; you may relax and enjoy eternity. Being human is such a trick if you will, we struggle to try to know ourselves, to try to know and understand others, to try and have a few meaningful relationships in our lives, to know God, and to create significant meaning in our lives. This mortality is a struggle. I believe I am presently missing the struggle of mortality for the future, in the sense that when I enter heaven I will be in bliss, and everything will be perfect; therefore, I will not miss being mortal. I know this going in; therefore, I miss it while I still have it. Missing mortality while possessing it helps somehow to make my life more meaningful, and subsequently I feel a greater connection with humanity, which helps me to love others as Christ would have me do.

Jesus Christ is our ultimate example. I depend on Jesus Christ, because he will never die or leave me—for he is Lord God Almighty, who is strong and mighty in battle; who was, and is, and is to come; Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty. On this earth the only aspect of life that is certain and secure is our relationship with God, because he transcends all dimensions including time, space, death, and life. My relationship with Jesus Christ will never end. It is permanent. This is the only relationship I have which I may for a certainty make that statement about. As long as I continue in his will, he will never leave me or forsake me. As long as you continue in his will, he will never leave or forsake you.

“...and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Matthew 28:20

It is good to serve a God who knows what it is like to be human, as Jesus does. He knows what it's like to be human more than we do.

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

—Hebrews 4:15

The brutal death Jesus suffered for the remission of our sins was an act of love; an act of love unparalleled. The nobleness of his sacrifice is beyond my description. Jesus knows what it's like to hurt, to suffer, be bored, be tempted to do evil, and to be betrayed. Some may say that Jesus was never bored; however, to claim that he does not know what it's like to be bored, would mean that he does not know what its like to experience a common human state, which would be untrue. He knows what it's like to be bored and to lose friends and loved ones. He was human too.

V

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

—Psalm 23

Be a lamb or a sheep, and take comfort in the fact that the Lord is your Shepherd, and watches over you. No matter what happens, you will be alright, as long as you trust in him.

VI

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

—Colossians 3:2

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

—Hebrews 11:6

Whoever believes in Jesus Christ automatically has faith, because it takes faith to believe in him.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

—John 3:16

By believing in Jesus Christ, you are pleasing the Father (God) by exemplifying faith.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

—Ephesians 2:8-9

We are not saved by being good, doing good deeds, or giving money, because we could never pay the price for our salvation. We are only saved by accepting the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. There are some who perpetuate a doctrine of materialism in intimating that one may purchase his or her way into heaven by giving money to them, as if giving money to them is giving money to God. God does not require money. He created this world, the gold, the silver, and the precious stones. Many people want money, and unfortunately many will do anything to get it—including twisting the Holy Scriptures to deceive congregations. We should help our fellow man. If someone is in need of something, we should help him or her. When we help those in need, we are pleasing God. There are a lot of single mothers, abused and neglected children, drug addicts, victims of illnesses, and seniors who require help. The help does not always have to be financial; sometimes the best help is the giving of one’s self in love and care for another.

“How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah. Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.”

—Psalms 82:2-4

VII

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore...”

—Ephesians 6:12-14

Many wars and much violence may be averted if more humans would choose to acknowledge the truth in the aforementioned verse. We should

condemn sin in our own lives and in our society, while loving the sinner, whether that sinner is us or another. Sometimes the truth hurts, but as Christ stated:

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

—John 8:32

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

—John 3:16-19

In the end, the truth that is Jesus Christ will prevail. Those who choose not to follow the truth will enter into eternal damnation. All rationalizations and excuses for not following the truth will simply be annihilated into ashes. Those who choose to believe and follow the truth will spend eternity in heaven with the one and only true God who created them. I hope you accept God’s blessings into your life, the most important blessing being eternal salvation through Jesus Christ.

GRATEFUL

MANY BLESSINGS



Heavenly Father thank you for your many blessings toward us
None small, but all great
May you help rid us of hate
May you feed those with an empty plate
May you heal humanity's self-imposed state
May you provide us grace to patiently wait
May we enter through your Heavenly Gate
May you help us to walk the narrow and straight
May you deliver those who abominate
May we forgive at a generous rate
May we never swallow temptations bait
May many choose you before its too late
May our love for you propagate

WHO WE ARE



Despite my perception of you
Despite my assumptions of you
Despite the life I think you have
Despite the status on various levels you may have
 Despite where you live
 Despite who you are
Despite race, creed, color
 Despite what you have
 Despite what you lack
 As a human
My values override all the aforementioned
 To treat you with respect
 To love you
 To do unto you
As I would have you do unto me
 Not about you
 Not about circumstances
 About values
About commitment to them
 About following Jesus
 Love thy God
Love thy neighbor as thyself
 Follow Jesus