

Living In The Now [Notice, Observe, Wonder]

NOTICE:

Introduction:

I am sure that you have noticed, at one time or another, these initials: NB. Here is the formal definition: "(US English); "NB", "Nb" or "nb" (UK English) **nota bene** comes from the Latin roots notāre ("to note") and bene ("well"). It is in the singular imperative mood, instructing one individual to note well the matter at hand."

This paper is written to help and encourage everyone to take careful "notice" in every moment for living well in the now. Notice is the foremost cognitive attentive observation that precedes proper awareness to doing well in almost any area of life. Most areas of living are not very complicated unless we have moved forward without giving due notice to what may be happening.

As the title points out, "Living In The Now - [Notice, Observe, Wonder]," there are three major areas of consideration for living well in facilitating a regular alertness that might be helpful. The underlined title headings point out some important aspects of life to which we may need to give special thought.

Since this is only a paper and not a book, I will try to include "links" for information to my sources guiding you to further thoughts of your own for a broader understanding of notice, observation, and wonder which is important to living in the now.

Beginnings:

In most of my writings I point out the importance of the references of "three" in much of our lives. In this paper we will focus on three important aspects of living: notice, observe and wonder — why I call this living in the NOW! Our lives offer 365 days throughout each year but we can only live one of those days at a time - the present. Yesterday is past and we cannot do anything today to change the past. Tomorrow is another day that has not yet arrived so, until it arrives, we can only contemplate or give thought about what we might actually do when tomorrow comes. We must remember and note well that we can only live one day at a time!

This gives us due notice how important each day is toward enabling us to live well! With this simple truth, one day at a time, we should become very cognizant of the fact that we have little control in life! We are clearly limited to controlling or effecting only one day at a time so that our control, "limiting or regulating something", can only be accomplished in a succession of single days. The imperative is, in controlling any succession of days, they become coordinated toward an overall purpose or plan. Perhaps this is best demonstrated by any number of our human stories about creation. One particular story, the one that many know, is in the first three chapters of the book of Genesis when God is said to have created the universe in six "days" (generally interpreted as a period of time) as noted in:

Psalm 90:4 (GW), "Indeed, in your sight a thousand years are like a single day, like yesterday—already past— like an hour in the night," and:

2 Peter 3:8 (GW), "Dear friends, don't ignore this fact: One day with the Lord is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day."

It is in science where we begin to understand the verifiable facts of how our universe came to be, over long periods of time according to the Big Bang Theory. Science uses three core values, observation and hypothesis that are developed into theories, which are continuously updated according to daily studies over time; one day at a time. Here are some written continuation of those studies:

"The Big Bang theory is the prevailing cosmological model for the universe from the earliest known periods through its subsequent large-scale evolution.[1][2][3] The model describes how the universe expanded from a very high density and high temperature state,[4][5] and offers a comprehensive explanation for a broad range of phenomena, including the abundance of light elements, the cosmic microwave background, large scale structure and Hubble's Law.[6] If the known laws of physics are extrapolated to the highest density regime, the result is a singularity which is typically associated with the Big Bang. Detailed measurements of the expansion rate of the universe place this moment at approximately 13.8 billion years ago, which is thus considered the age of the universe.[7] After the initial expansion, the universe cooled sufficiently to allow the formation of subatomic particles, and later simple atoms. Giant clouds of these primordial elements later coalesced through gravity in halos of dark matter, eventually forming the stars and galaxies visible today.

Notations:

1. Joseph Silk (2009). Horizons of Cosmology. Templeton Press. p. 208.
2. Simon Singh (2005). Big Bang: The Origin of the Universe. Harper Perennial. p. 560.
3. Wollack, E. J. (10 December 2010). "Cosmology: The Study of the Universe". Universe 101: Big Bang Theory. NASA. Archived from the original on 14 May 2011. Retrieved 27 April 2011. The second section discusses the classic tests of the Big Bang theory that make it so compelling as the likely valid description of our universe.
6. a b Wright, E. L. (9 May 2009). "What is the evidence for the Big Bang?". Frequently Asked Questions in Cosmology. UCLA, Division of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Retrieved 16 October 2009.
7. "Planck reveals an almost perfect universe". Planck. ESA. 2013-03-21. Retrieved 2013-03-21."

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Bang]

Our Birthday is perhaps one of the most important beginnings that many celebrate annually. Our first day, of all future days, of living here on earth as we grow, develop and plan every successive day. We become part of a family that normally begins with parents along with other siblings. Our birthday automatically frames us into our particular family tree, our human history over which we have no control. Like all history, it is what it daily becomes and cannot be changed, becoming our heritage. This heritage will define our place on this earth, our ethnic and cultural roots that energize many of our customs regarding economics, education and faith. Within a space of many years this will be the cradle in which we are formed, influenced, and fashioned into our adulthood when we then take on the birthing of more future generations.

The next most important beginning for each of us individually may be referred to as our maturation into adulthood, "a person who is fully grown as an adult." During this period of time of many days, months and years that included many pasts, presents and futures, we hopefully have come to realize the truth of living "one day at a time." We have had a lot of "pasts" to learn from in order to correct mistakes as we enter another day and contemplate how we might progress into the future. If one has lived for 70 years that means that they have had 25,550 days in which to make decisions to bring positive influence into their lives. This is the intermittent and yet regular control we have for living well.

This basic summary of "beginnings" in living is only the beginning of our thoughts to "living in the now." Noticing is certainly an important key for learning and realizing the wonderful gifts we share together daily, one day at a time, as we progress in learning, knowledge and understanding for ourselves in this world. It shows us how important each day can be in our moving forward from our past toward a new and expansive future.

Beginnings of Our Humanity:

"Pre-History:

is a period that begins with the earliest appearance of humans, about 5 million years ago, and finishes with the invention of writing about 6,000 years ago. It was a long period that is divided into 3 stages:

1. Palaeolithic Age: began with our first ancestors and finished about 10,000 years ago. During that period human beings used tools made of stone and lived on hunting and gathering.
2. The Neolithic Age which began about 10,000 years ago when human beings lived in villages and cultivated land and raised cattle giving risers a productive economy.
3. The Metal age that began about 7,000 years ago when human beings started to make objects out of metals.

Prior to the above was a period called Hominization:

Here is the order of their evolutionary process that led to present human beings.

1. Australopithecus: about 5 million years ago.
2. Homo habilis: about 2 millions years ago (stone tools, hunting & gathering).
3. Homo erects: about 1.5 millions years ago. More technological, used fire, and were found in Africa, Europe and Asia.
4. Homo antecessor: about 800,000 years ago and probably the oldest European, the ancestor of Homo neanderthalensis and Homo sapiens.
5. Homo sapiens: about 100,000 years ago with two subtypes: Homo Sapiens Neanderthalensis and Homo sapiens sapiens which is the species we belong to whose remains were found by Archaeologists in America and Australia."

[<http://www.historiasiglo20.org/prehistory/>]

Beginning of Recorded History:

"The span of recorded history is roughly 5,000 years, beginning with Sumerian Cuneiform script, the oldest discovered form of coherent writing from the Protoliterate Period around the 30th century BC. The earliest

chronologies date back to the two earliest civilizations: the ancient Sumerians of Mesopotamia and the Early Dynastic Period of Egypt[3] which emerged independently of each other from roughly 3500 B.C.[4] Earliest recorded history, which varies greatly in quality and reliability, deals with Pharaohs and their reigns, made by ancient Egyptians.[5] Much of the earliest recorded history was re-discovered relatively recently due to archaeological dig sites findings.[6] Since these initial accounts, a number of different traditions have developed in different parts of the world in how to handle the writing and production of historical accounts.

Notations:

[3] "The Cuneiform Writing System in Ancient Mesopotamia: Emergence and Evolution". EDSITEMent. Retrieved 16 December 2013.

[4] Kott, Ruth E. "The origins of writing". The University of Chicago Magazine. Retrieved 16 December 2013.

[5] Adès, Harry (2007). A Traveller's History of Egypt. Interlink Publishing. p. 28. ISBN 978-1566566544.

[6] Greer, Thomas H. (2004). A Brief History of the Western World. Cengage Learning. p. 16. ISBN 978-0534642365."

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recorded_history]

With the growing awareness of scientific studies, especially in archaeology and forensics, we are blessed with discoveries in our past that are still coming into vogue and are being verified as new facts being discovered and revealed. As noted in the brief paragraph on early history, much of earlier recorded history was re-discovered relatively recently due to archaeological digs, especially regarding Judaic / Christian studies. Recent scholarship, especially about the basic historical ministry of Jesus with these latest archaeological findings in the 20th century, have given new perspectives to his work and life.

One of the fundamental problems with many early religions is that their beliefs and customs come from a period of time that has been completely revolutionized by our modern understanding of the universe, beginning with the early development of science in the Middle Ages. The earlier world under Astrology conceived the concept of a flat earth with the heavens above and an underworld of mystery beneath the earth. As languages developed their lexicons and languages were filled with words that, in today's world, convey a very different meaning and concept.

The words and concepts used that are the framework of the earlier writings are what some still believe now and demonstrate conflicts between earlier Astrology and the science of Astronomy today.

- Astrology: "the study of how the positions of the stars and movements of the planets have a supposed influence on events and on the lives and behavior of people." (Miriam-Webster Dictionary)
- Astronomy: "the scientific study of stars, planets, and other objects in outer space." (Miriam-Webster)

Historic Dispute: Is Earth the center of the universe? From this article online we have the following summary of information about these questions that some still hold today.

[<http://www.scienceclarified.com/dispute/Vol-2/Historic-Dispute-Is-Earth-the-center-of-the-universe.html>]

"The Geocentric Theory

For an untold number of years, man had watched the Sun "rise" in the east every morning, move across the sky through the day, and "set" in the west. This simple motion repeated itself the next day, and the next, and the next, ad infinitum. Man had no reason to suspect that this daily motion was anything other than what it seemed, or that it had ever been different, or would ever change. Some explanations for this phenomenon were based on myths. For instance, one such myth envisioned the Sun dying every day only to be reborn the next day. However, the obvious logical explanation for the Sun's movement was that Earth is a stationary object, and the Sun revolved about it every day. It is comparable to looking out a window at a scene as it passes by one's field of vision. You may be moving past the stationary scenery, or you might be stationary while the scenery moves past your window. If you experienced no sensation of movement, the obvious conclusion would be the latter. Man experienced no sensation of movement on Earth; therefore, the conclusion was that the Sun moves while Earth remains stationary. Because similar observations were made of the motion of the Moon and the planets (although their motion was a bit more complicated), it was thought that Earth must be at the center of the universe. Then the heavenly bodies revolved about Earth. There was very little reason to suspect otherwise."

From our human beginning we looked to the heavens and noticed many splendid and rather inexplicable things and, along with our imagination over many centuries, opinions and stories of these became the accepted views of heaven and earth that are summarized in this paper:

"The Ptolemaic Model - The work of the second-century Greek astronomer Ptolemy represents the apex of the geocentric theory.

Aristotelian Physics - In addition to everyday observations, another argument for the centrality of Earth evolved from the physical theories of Greek philosophers, especially Aristotle.

The Heliocentric Theory - Although the geocentric model of the universe dominated thought from ancient time through the seventeenth century, there were those who proposed the possibility of a Sun-centered, or heliocentric model.

The Revolutionary Ideas of Copernicus - Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543) developed a heliocentric model of the universe and in the process initiated the Scientific Revolution.

The Advances of Brahe and Kepler - Kepler's contribution to the mounting evidence pointing toward the truth of Copernicus' theory came in the form of his three laws of planetary motion.

The Discoveries of Galileo - In one of the most important series of events in the Scientific Revolution, the Italian scientist Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) turned his newly acquired telescope toward the sky and discovered many wonders that would cause man to rethink his previous conceptions of the cosmos."

Read more of the whole article: <http://www.scienceclarified.com/dispute/Vol-2/Historic-Dispute-Is-Earth-the-center-of-the-universe.html#>]

The Beginning of Our World View Today:

Now we take notice of the dramatic and substantial changes that began their progression during the Middle Ages and developed to their maturity as the Age of Enlightenment began. This is also known as the Age of Reason, an intellectual movement that dominated ideas in the European world in the 18th century. After 1700

years of the Common Era our ideas began to be centered on reason as the primary source of authority and a legitimacy bringing about the advance of ideals like liberty, progress, tolerance, fraternity, constitutional government, and separation of church and state. The Enlightenment was marked by an emphasis on the scientific method and reductionism along with an increased questioning of religious orthodoxy. The ideas of the Enlightenment undermined the authority of the monarchy and the Church, paving the way for the political revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries.

In years before the common era (BCE) and for over 1500 years after the beginning of the common era (CE), ideas were being formed by observation and thoughts solidified by philosophical and religious orthodoxy, "a belief or a way of thinking that is accepted as true or correct." This included the earlier scientific views, like Astrology and the philosophy of Plato and Socrates. Reason, "a statement or fact that explains why something is the way it is, why someone does, thinks, or says something, or why someone behaves a certain way," was perfected when experiments and tools, like the telescope and microscope were invented, to give visualization and factual evidence for thought. Alchemy, "a science that was used in the Middle Ages with the goal of changing ordinary metals into gold," and Astrology, "the divination of the supposed influences of the stars and planets on human affairs and terrestrial events by their positions and aspects," were the quasi "apparently, but not really" facts, "the quality of being actual" in earlier times. Therefore, in BCE and in the first 1500 years of CE, the verification of facts did not exist.

The beginning of science, as we know it today, began with the establishment of verifiable facts by using three basic methods of study: observation, "an act or instance of observing a custom, rule, or law"; hypothesis, "an assumption or concession made for the sake of argument"; and theory, "the analysis of a set of facts in their relation to one another." The marvel of the honesty in science today is their use and respect for theory. A theory in science only remains a theory if its analysis of verifiable facts remains consistent. If a theory doesn't maintain its truth, its consistency, it is diminished or removed altogether.

In contrast, philosophy, "the study of ideas about knowledge, truth, the nature and meaning of life, etc.," and religion, "an organized system of beliefs, ceremonies, and rules used to worship a god or a group of gods," came into question during the Enlightenment because of their lacking an ongoing consistency in the nature of their truths and beliefs. Now that we are in the 21st century, new information and data changes about every 13 months, and there is some speculation that it may soon become every 12 hours. We recognize that there are many philosophies that need revisions and equally so with long held beliefs of religion. When dogmas and doctrines were established by the Christian church in the 4th century, within an earth centric vision of the world, they could no longer be taken seriously given our view of the universe of today. We must keep in mind that all the Holy Books were written with concepts and words from this earlier era and require substantial revision, interpretation, and translation to become relevant in the universal understanding of today's 21st century.

Perhaps this is why so many divisions have developed over time, like that of a major split of the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Christian Church around 1000 CE and continuing to the Age of Enlightenment and beyond. As the years past more divisions increased because we neglected to recognize and utilize the three universal core values known and used today: change, diversity, and equality. Change is the basic mechanism of life itself and diversity is perhaps the "artistic catalyst" that provides the resources that are balanced by their

equality, a necessity for existence itself. Without being continually engaged in this universe we can easily become static, ("lacking in movement, action and change") that keeps us involved in moving forward for living well.

OBSERVE:

Observation is the next step in any scientific process of discovery. To observe is "to watch and sometimes also listen to (someone or something) carefully." To notice is the "attention that people give to someone or something," which is the first step that gets our attention. It is when we notice and then actively engage observation attentively that we truly begin to engage in LIFE [Living Into Future Existence]. Without due notice and observation we lose out in our ability to live well - "Living In The Now," the focus of this paper.

Looking, watching and listening carefully in this process is how we come to understand what we are observing. Science teaches us this is the first step preparing us to follow up with hypothesis, further study, discussion and experimentation to gain learning, knowledge and understanding. Like the popular phrase, "seeing is believing," but if all we do is observe we miss the vital information that is necessary and give content to what we believe with verifiable facts. We humans can misjudge when we have simply looked at someone or something and leave hastily with only a belief. Snap judgements are only a simple "snap shot" of a total series of pictures we should be considering.

When ever Archeology creates a "dig" to begin to observe they do careful planning to make certain that they uncover and log all the artifacts and evidence that is present. Observation often means hard work and preparation to expose all pertinent evidence that needs to be considered to properly prepare for the Forensic, "an argumentative exercise," that will lead to conclusive understanding based upon what has been observed, collected, and reasoned. It is because of Archeology and Forensic science that we are enabled today to look back to our past with an informed awareness of what life was like in our past history. Before this scientific capability developed toward the end of the Middle Ages, we lacked the verification of what the stories of our former history told us. History, "the study of past events," did not exist before these times but were only basically stories, "an account of incidents or events."

Our world changed dramatically after the Enlightenment! Four centuries later in this 21st century we are beginning to enter maturity, "the quality or state of being mature," and adulthood, "mature and sensible : not childish," unlike any former centuries. Earlier human observations were lacking because our ability to observe was not grounded in verifiable facts that today's science is able to provide. In earlier times, much before the 15th century, when we looked into the heavens without the telescope we had little or no help to identify and describe what were seeing. Our observations of things near and small were incomplete until the invention of the microscope that gave us eyes to see with definition, detail and greater clarity. These tools not only have greatly improved our understanding but have become profoundly useful with the development of today's modern electronics that we use personally, in education and in almost every aspect throughout the world.

Change today increases much more rapidly and will continue to speed up over the coming years. At the beginning of the 20th century many new ideas came into being along with continuing new discoveries and inventions. This pace of change and advancement continues to excel and may never stop or slow down.

THE EARLY ENLIGHTENMENT: 1685-1730

THE HIGH ENLIGHTENMENT: 1730-1780:

Centered on the dialogues and publications of the French “philosophes” (Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Buffon and Diderot), the High Enlightenment might best be summed up by one historian’s summary of Voltaire’s “Philosophical Dictionary”: “a chaos of clear ideas.” Foremost among these was the notion that everything in the universe could be rationally demystified and cataloged. The signature publication of the period was Diderot’s “Encyclopédie” (1751-77), which brought together leading authors to produce an ambitious compilation of human knowledge.

It was an age of enlightened despots like Frederick the Great, who unified, rationalized and modernized Prussia in between brutal multi-year wars with Austria, and of enlightened would-be revolutionaries like Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson, whose “Declaration of Independence” (1776) framed the American Revolution in terms taken from of Locke’s essays.

It was also a time of religious (and anti-religious) innovation, as Christians sought to reposition their faith along rational lines and deists and materialists argued that the universe seemed to determine its own course without God’s intervention. Secret societies—the Freemasons, the Bavarian Illuminati, the Rosicrucians—flourished, offering European men (and a few women) new modes of fellowship, esoteric ritual and mutual assistance. Coffeehouses, newspapers and literary salons emerged as new venues for ideas to circulate.

THE LATE ENLIGHTENMENT AND BEYOND: 1780-1815:

Enlightened rationality gave way to the wildness of Romanticism, but 19th-century Liberalism and Classicism—not to mention 20th-century Modernism—all owe a heavy debt to the thinkers of the Enlightenment.

[<http://www.history.com/topics/enlightenment>]

Observing the Economy of the Universe:

Economy, "the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country or region." How, you may ask, does this apply to the universe? I will start by looking at "the process or system" that is the beginning of any economy, especially the productivity of the core values of the universe: change, diversity, and equality. Without a foundational process and system there is nothing on which an economy can be built. From both a religious / philosophical and scientific tradition we have solid grounds for the evidence of an ongoing and productive interaction for life and growth. The dramatic evidence at the beginning of our universe is awesome and inspiring as documented and noted in its beginning.

There are many fascinating stories of our beginnings regarding matter and life from a variety of cultures that fill our libraries. Almost every culture has its own view of how they each came to be along with ample descriptions of how they continued, even the ones who have diminished or faded away. Having a background with Judaic Christian heritage, I am most familiar with the Biblical stories of creation in the first chapters of Genesis. As an American citizen I was schooled in public education with higher education and graduate studies including science. It was the awareness in studies of Quantum Physics wherein I became overwhelmed with a fascination for the amazing resources impossible to see with the naked eye.

We also have to take into account that religion, philosophy and science has made many significant changes from the time of the Middle Ages until our present in this 21st century. Our understanding of the universe is greatly magnified as we are able to view outer space more precisely and actually notice that our earth is part of a large galaxy. Our galaxy is one of millions of galaxies with each having many stars and planets orbiting their own suns like our earth. Our heavenly instruments have enabled us to look back to the beginning, The Big Bang, so as to calculate that our universe is about 13.8 billion years old. We are fortunate to have the Westar Institute, an advocate for literacy in Bible and religion, located in Farmington, MN whose scholars maintain yearly studies to keep us engaged in coordinating on-going research. Here is a brief summary of meetings this past Fall in November 2016 in San Antonio, CA.

"When we accept the task to redefine the human (in any age), we must redefine the concept of God. Otherwise we are staking our life on propositions from the past. This challenge is exactly what the ancient Hebrews faced when they came out of exile: based on what they discovered about the cosmos while captive in Babylon, they reconceptualized God. As a result we have Genesis 1, etc. But theirs was still a three-tiered universe. That cosmology no longer holds true in the twenty-first century, and we, like them and others through history, must develop our theology to be consistent with our cosmology. To do this, we draw on the best options available in philosophy and science, and we must do it with language that fits our age. This is not an easy task, and making our concepts understandable to the churches (and the public) is even more difficult. But we must not shrink from the task. This doesn't happen all at once, and it seldom depends on one individual. But it is our responsibility nevertheless, those responsible enough to come to the table. As Robbins reminded us at San Antonio, "Who's here matters."

[The Seminar on God and the Human Future - A report on the 2016 Fall meeting by E. Maynard Moore]

Observing Where We Are Now:

To me this 21st century is a very important pivotal time in our world today. I liken it to the beginning of our "adulthood" when we bring together all the learning experiences, the emotional developments and how we continue to function as citizens in this universe. Not only are we able to look back about 13.8 billion years but we are gaining the scientific prowess to literally move out beyond our earth and venture to the moon and planets beyond. We have clearly outgrown our philosophical roots using imagination, inspiration, and

revelation which we have solely relied upon for centuries up to now. Because of the scientific universal additions of change, diversity, and equality we can build our beliefs on solid verifiable facts.

We have invented substantial tools that enable us to actually bring about change, encourage diversity and identify an equality, "the quality or state of being equal," in all that we do and develop. We are now living in a time of interdependence with the whole of the universe, the earth, and all life. Our individual behavior effects everything around us, causing possibilities or problems to all that surrounds us. The poem by John Donne has become the forte of everyone's jurisdiction:

'No Man is an Island'

No man is an island entire of itself; every man
is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;
if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe
is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as
well as any manner of thy friends or of thine
own were; any man's death diminishes me,
because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom
the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

We can no longer "do" as we please because it may not be pleasant or palpable to the whole! We have reached the pinnacle of all our todays and the probabilities of all our tomorrows. We need to be ready to "grow up" and face up to our mutual "adult" responsibilities of interdependence because we have become self reliant to ourselves and to one another. We realize that we cannot control another person but we can make good and healthy for ourselves. Control, "to direct the behavior of another," is not a realistic possibility except for one's self, and even self-control is difficult.

WONDER:

Wonder, "a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar or inexplicable," giving us the fuel and energy to continue living well. When you notice and take in all that is available about the universe and the world in which we live, and really observe the vast change, diversity and equality of all that we can notice and observe, how can we help but have wonder and enjoyment? From the early history of humanity on this earth many people have experienced wonder and awe as they noticed and observed their surroundings. Given all the advances in our ability with continuing enhancements for all our senses it only grows more beautiful, unexpected, and inexplicable.

With our gifts of Religion and Philosophy and our inherent abilities of imagination, inspiration, and revelation, we have continuing abilities to expand our breadth and capabilities to develop more and more outstanding and creative implementation. Then, after a rather long period of human history, we were gifted with science and all the verifiable facts gathered in observation, hypothesis and theory; we have wonderful abilities to participate in

the creative wonders that lead us to new and spectacular advances. With the gifts of philosophy and science we have developed the abilities of learning, knowledge and understanding, enhancing our understanding of the past, our present and our future.

When it comes down to it wonder may be one of our greater gifts in life. The feeling of surprise and the presence of mystery of something unexpected, unfamiliar and new that may be similar to a child waiting for Santa Clause on Christmas Day. Could it be that we have allowed religion and philosophy to become lesser parts of who we are because of the sense of certainty we have with verifiable facts? Should we not be reminded of the "wonder" that happens inside each of our bodies is rather central to who we are than that which we can readily see when we observe our outward appearances? Surely there is an identifiable certainty as to who we are when we appear bodily to one another but, can we not appreciate how much more there is to be "known" as we become better acquainted with our inward and invisible grace.

Wonder may, in fact, be the the greatest facet of our lives! It begins with the wonder of finding a life partner with whom we may venture toward having a family, extending the family from which we have come. Whether by the natural process of childbirth, adoption, or other means, the anxiety, planing and expectations are similarly present. Parenting, that has never been an easy task, is now more difficult with differing experiences with each child having a variety of needs and expectations.

Wonder, Love, and Grace:

Wonder Of It All George Beverly Shea Lyrics

There's the **wonder** of sunset at evening,
The wonder as sunrise I see;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that God loves me.

Refrain

O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.
O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.

Verse 2

There's the wonder of springtime and harvest,
The sky, the stars, the sun;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is a wonder that's only begun.

1 Corinthians 13:11-13, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become a man, I have put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, even as I was also fully known. But now faith, hope, and love remain—these three. The greatest of these is love."

All of this seems to have come from a universal **love** that humankind has sensed from their earliest beginning and noted as religions and philosophies developed from our imagination, inspiration, and revelation. As noted in the scripture from 1 Corinthians 13 above, faith, hope, and love remain even to and in these modern times after the Enlightenment. I have developed these acronyms to embellish their value:

FAITH [Finding Authenticity In Today's Happenings]

HOPE [Habitually Open to Progressive Exploration]

LOVE [Limitless Offerings Veraciously Expended]

I believe that it continues through the **Grace** that was part of the Singularity and The Big Bang from the beginning of the universe. Recently, in the 20th century, science developed the Theory of Relativity as promoted by Albert Einstein: $E = mc^2$ (Energy is equal to matter by the speed of light (c) in a vacuum) that cannot be created nor destroyed). Science utilizes observation, hypothesis, and theory through which we determine verifiable facts that remain a theory until any continuing observations and hypothesis' weaken a theory or prove it wrong. I use this acronym to suggest this creativity of grace:

GRACE: [God's Recreative Activity Causing Excellence]

I realize that many people do not believe in "God," perhaps because of the many attributes and statement that have developed to define God, almost to a point of confusion. As a Judaic / Christian, when I speak of God, I go back to the story of Moses in the "burning bush" wherein Moses was called to lead an exodus for his people from bondage in Egypt. In that story, when Moses asked the voice, whom he heard speaking out of the bush, whom shall I say sent me, he was told, Exodus 3:14 (GW), God answered Moses, "**I Am Who I Am**. This is what you must say to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Perhaps then, God is actually THE VERB 'TO BE' - I AM. Perhaps God then is like light in the theory of Relativity - (it is the speed of that light in a vacuum that causes energy and matter to be equal) which can never be destroyed. So then, in the simplest of terms: **God IS - We ARE!**

Concluding The Progressive Understanding of Wonder:

God then, for me, is no longer a "being" as we are beings but much more as a "spirit" or "source" in whose "image" we have been created? Could this be why, in the 10 Commandments, we are told;

Exodus 20:2-5, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt. Never have any other god. Never make your own carved idols or statues that represent any creature in the sky, on the earth, or in the water. Never worship them or serve them, because I, the Lord your God, am a God who does not tolerate rivals."

Like many in science, I no longer try to "define" God, but only acknowledge a creative presence in my body, mind, and spirit that I personally experience which enables me to be intrinsically and conscientiously involved in caring for our earth. We recently watched a film about the discovery of the Higgs boson. In the article following, the author Brian Greene, in the Smithsonian Magazine said, "Before the elusive particle could be discovered—a smashing success—it had to be imagined." On October 8, 2013, Peter Higgs and François Englert won the Nobel Prize in Physics for their work on the Higgs boson.

Science in general, and physics in particular, seek patterns. By carefully observing patterns, researchers uncover physical laws that can be expressed in the language of mathematical equations. A clear pattern is also evident in the case of a compass: Move it and the needle points north again. The example is simple but the lesson profound. Nature's patterns sometimes reflect two intertwined features: fundamental physical laws and environmental influences. It's nature's version of nature versus nurture.

Does the parable cut closer to home than we might have thought? Might there be other, subtle yet pervasive features of the environment that, so far, we've failed to properly fold into our understanding? The discovery of the Higgs particle by the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva has convinced physicists that the answer is a resounding yes.

Nearly a half-century ago, Peter Higgs and a handful of other physicists were trying to understand the origin of a basic physical feature: mass. You can think of mass as an object's heft or, a little more precisely, as the resistance it offers to having its motion changed. Push on a freight train (or a feather) to increase its speed, and the resistance you feel reflects its mass. At a microscopic level, the freight train's mass comes from its constituent molecules and atoms, which are themselves built from fundamental particles, electrons and quarks. But where do the masses of these and other fundamental particles come from?

Imagine that all of space is uniformly filled with an invisible substance—now called the Higgs field—that exerts a drag force on particles when they accelerate through it. Push on a fundamental particle in an effort to increase its speed and, according to Higgs, you would feel this drag force as a resistance. In 1964, Higgs submitted a paper to a prominent physics journal in which he formulated this idea mathematically.

But it's only with data that a link to reality can be forged. How can we test for the Higgs field? This is where the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) comes in. Winding its way hundreds of yards under Geneva, Switzerland, crossing the French border and back again, the LHC is a nearly 17-mile-long circular tunnel that serves as a racetrack for smashing together particles of matter. The LHC is surrounded by about 9,000 superconducting magnets, and is home to streaming hordes of protons, cycling around the tunnel in both directions, which the magnets accelerate to just shy of the speed of light. At such speeds, the protons whip around the tunnel about 11,000 times each second, and when directed by the magnets, engage in millions of collisions in the blink of an eye. The collisions, in turn, produce fireworks-like sprays of particles, which mammoth detectors capture and record.

And as the world came to quickly learn, the evidence that the Higgs particle had been detected was strong enough to cross the threshold of discovery. With the Higgs particle now officially found, the audience in Geneva broke out into wild applause, as did our little group in Aspen, and no doubt dozens of similar gatherings around the globe. Peter Higgs wiped away a tear.

the Higgs particle represents a new form of matter, which had been widely anticipated for decades but had never been seen. Electrons and quarks all have the same spin value, while the spin of photons—particles of light—is twice that of electrons and quarks. The equations describing the Higgs particle showed that—unlike any other fundamental particle species—it should have no spin at all. Data from the Large Hadron Collider have now confirmed this. (Condensed from a long article)

[\[http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-the-higgs-boson-was-found-4723520/#CCoKhq3aFAcbRjw4.99\]](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-the-higgs-boson-was-found-4723520/#CCoKhq3aFAcbRjw4.99)

As noted at the beginning of this fantastic advance in science, Brian Greene pointed out, "Before the elusive particle could be discovered—a smashing success—it had to be imagined." The forerunners of any of our knowledge and understanding has included imagination, inspiration, and revelation. Our consciousness and imagination seems to always guide us to some kind of notation alerting us to make observations that lead to new wonders providing our growing awareness within our universe. Throughout our Judaic / Christian scriptures we can read about this progressive awareness in the following examples:

[Note: The Higgs particle has been equated with "**Dark Matter**" that fills the larger part of the universe and has also been referred to as "**the God Particle**."]]

Psalms 139:6-14:

Such knowledge is beyond my grasp.
It is so high I cannot reach it.
Where can I go to get away from your Spirit?
Where can I run to get away from you?
If I go up to heaven, you are there.
If I make my bed in hell, you are there.
If I climb upward on the rays of the morning sun
or land on the most distant shore of the sea where the sun sets,
even there your hand would guide me
and your right hand would hold on to me.
If I say, "Let the darkness hide me
and let the light around me turn into night,"
even the darkness is not too dark for you.
Night is as bright as day.
Darkness and light are the same to you.
You alone created my inner being.
You knitted me together inside my mother.
I will give thanks to you
because I have been so amazingly and miraculously made.

Colossians 1:16-17, "He created all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. Whether they are kings or lords, rulers or powers—everything has been created through him and for him. He (**God**) existed before everything and holds everything together."

Living in the now is exciting when we notice our history in the past and more so when we are alert in noticing the present. Each moment of every day is constantly changing while we take in all the diversity around us and gain awareness of how it is all equally important to our who, what, where, why, how and when in perceiving all of life. Adding to all that our senses enable us to take in, we are further blessed when we take time to observe by mulling over, especially what impresses us most, to fully learn, grow in knowledge and come to a more perfect understanding of our own lives and of all that surrounds us. The icing on the cake, as it were, is the

extra taste of wonder that extends a kind of desert to give us full pleasure in being here to enjoy the beautiful and completeness of being fully alive.

When "Living In The Now" we participate in all fullness of life that brings us to extol and give praise to the "creator" that made it all possible.

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