

# **RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN**

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**What's in the Future? 2**

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The day of Judgment will separate those who will go to Hell from those who will not.

The problem is that the only way to avoid Hell is to be Pure, Holy and Undefined. If those are the conditions, what hope is there for me? I don't know where to go except to the God of the Bible. Only he assures me of a free passage out of Hell. He also says that he will give me eternal life with him. What? Eternal life with him? Let me have it. I don't want to hear anything but that Christ is the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world, the lamb slain to give the covering to Adam and Eve, the lamb appointed from the foundation of the world to pay for my sins. All my weight is leaning on the Bible. There, only, is a substitute for me that makes me Pure, Holy and Undefined in front of God. There, only, is a way to eternal life. Everything else is nonsense. What gift could Jesus give unto man? The end of man is death. Everything pales in front of death. Eternal life, and sure escape from Hell, that is the enormous, stupendous, incomprehensible gift of God unto man. As for me, I'm not taking any chances. I am putting my greedy little paws on Leviticus 17:11 that says, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." A life for a life, that's my Jesus, and I so love him.

Why should I think about these things? Que sera, sera, right? What difference does it make? Anybody can believe what they want. Believing one way or another doesn't make it so. Why not reincarnation, as Hindus and Buddhists affirm? The Samsara, the wheel of life, you continue to go on through many lives always ascending, until you reach that point of purity that will allow you to be in the presence of the deity, or whatever it is that is out there. Again, why not? You believe this, I believe that. Who is right? You pays your money, you takes your choice. Of course, there is no guarantee that this is so and there is no guarantee you will not go to a Hell. Perhaps temporarily (maybe only a few thousand years) to do some kind of purifying before you go on. You could have it bad for a while but you'll be O.K. eventually. And if your karma is fairly well balanced or you

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have more good deeds than bad deeds you will just go on, onwards and upwards towards that purity. But the way one as cynical and calculating as I would put it, is, I can't go wrong with Christ. If reincarnation is really what's going to happen there is no loss. As a Christian one does good deeds, whether out of guilt or not, and perhaps those will count towards karma-fixing. But the other way around is not so benign. If Christianity is true then it means that all our works are filthy rags, filthy rags, and, therefore, completely unacceptable to God as payment for our sins. Our impurity remains on us no matter what the effort. It looks to me like the not going for the sure thing that is Christ, could be pretty bad, resplendently bad, astonishingly bad, beyond description bad.

Does Hell exist? That is the question. If Hell exists, all efforts must be made to avoid it. Nobody can afford to go to Hell. Hell is an horrible place, a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth, unending desperation, cut off for ever from God.

Let's take the God of the Bible out of the picture for a moment. There is no explanation for the world as it exists today. How did it get here? The Big Bang? Everything started from a singularity, from an infinitesimally dense, small point? Sure, why not? A quantum leap in the fabric of space and time. A new universe that comes out of the small end of a black hole after the old universe is sucked into the big end of it. A something that occurs every few eons of time stretching back out into infinity. Well, why not? There is, however, a small technical point: Truth, by definition, can only be one. A cat is a cat and a dog is a dog. So, I'll tell you what I'm gonna do. I am going to hang on to the God of the Bible. I'm going to take my chances and go with him. Contrary to good advice, I'm not going to hedge my bets. I am putting all my eggs in one basket. I am hanging all my hopes in that the death, the blood, the sacrifice of Jesus the Christ is the payment for all my sins and that his resurrection is proof that these hopes are not in vain. Hell does not await me, but eternal life with God. I'm sorry, I'm looking out for myself. I want to be saved. Do you know how wicked I am? I am living proof that God saves to the uttermost. Those who are way out on the fringes, lost beyond any possibility of finding their way, those, precisely, he goes out of his way to save. How merciful is that? We are nothing but cheap harlots, even harlots who don't charge but give it away for free, adulterous wives who go out to strangers and not to their own husbands. That's what we are, worse than worthless.

Yet, inexplicably so, how can one understand this?, God loves us. He bids

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us to return to him, adulterous and filthy as we are, he loves us.