

[This, I Believe](#)

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 1:43pm

Occasionally, I'll read a statement a very intelligent person will make, only to see that it is in agreement with something I came up with on my own. It's been happening with more frequency, too. This morning it was Admiral William Fallon's words that struck me (He just stepped down as the Middle East Central Commander yesterday, over Bush's Iran strategy). He said in an [interview with Al-Jazeera](#):

"It's been my experience throughout the world that people throughout, no matter where they are from, whatever region, despite their skin colour and religion, the vast majority of people want the same thing. They want stability and security ... they want a better life for themselves They want to be able to raise their children to have things that maybe they don't have."

It has been my belief that people just want to be secure, be happy, live out their lives. It's nice to see that I'm not alone.

I believe all matters of faith and religion thought up by man is nothing but wishful thinking from ignorant creatures desperate to escape the uncertain fate of death. I think anybody who believes in God do so only because they are ignorant of what's around them, because it is not in their immediate comfort zone. They actually think they're right because they want to. Just because we cannot explain something, it would be foolish to just fill the gap with God. I am not saying it is impossible for some creative force to have made the universe, but to give it human characteristics like judgment, love, an image...is much too specific. People who dare say they know how the universe is made, when they have no clue what the universe is in the first place, are extremely naïve. How dare we think we can come up with that answer to how our extremely awesome universe was made up? From a book with so many fallacies and circular reasoning? Creationists today are no different from clergy in the past who beheaded people who first said that the world was either not flat nor that the earth rotated around the sun and not vice-versa. I can elaborate on any of my points or give new ones if someone should want it.

I believe that all creatures have feelings, a form of conscience and personality. I think we fail to see this because of our poor perspective. It is not uncommon in the animal kingdom for animals to have sex for fun, for homosexuality, for recognizing individuals (wolf packs will recognize who is howling several kilometers away, elephants recognize who is stomping around several kilometers away). Cats who know when a person will die, dolphins who communicate in different dialects...all these things we take as exclusively human and shouldn't. I'm pretty zen nowadays about killing bugs for no reason. Having said that I don't think our feelings or conscience are anything more than chemical compounds and reactions. I think those who object are probably religious, so I'll just say that they don't believe me simply because they don't want to and that it's not comfortable for them, and they'll leave this idea improperly challenged.

I believe in other life in the universe. Hell, if we're here, then there **must** be stuff elsewhere. I think our race will die off before we come into contact with anything else though. Which brings me back to intelligence: I think that this life outside earth may (probably) be smarter than us. You cannot teach a dog statistical thermodynamics, right? Well, maybe something much more intelligent than us just can't teach us interdimensional travel for instance.

I believe the two major problems impeding the advancement of our civilization are Greed and Ignorance. Greed being a smaller, core, insurmountable problem while ignorance is currently having a devastating effect on society. However, ignorance can be countered with learning, whereas the greed that spawns it cannot.

I believe we don't live long enough to learn and appreciate our past. Everyone who is alive today had not been through the Crusades or the US war of independence. We take our immediate surroundings for granted. We think cars run on magic - we don't realize that it's just benign material with chemical properties that are attached together and move each other in a way that humans intended. We think all government services should exist, while not realizing that money and people work to set everything up. I believe we are bound to repeat the history we choose not to learn because we humans are so very predictable. I think it is possible to reach a plateau of knowledge, making progress very difficult, since we'll need specialists with perspectives in so many other specialties to advance, which is not so easy, again because of short life spans.

I believe being alive is the absolute greatest chance that I could ever have won. The odds of my existence are so extremely low that I could not even imagine it (although maybe a creature from Andromeda could). I believe life should be experienced, and these experiences shared with others: Love, sadness, adrenaline, fear, joy...and these should be passed on to future generations to experience.

I think patriotism, or thinking you're a better person because you were born in one place or another should not apply. However it is okay to be proud of something you have contributed to.

I think stereotypes are both justifiable and linked to mental illness: We are so saturated with information nowadays that we **need** to put up filters to sort through the crap. "Stereotypes are a real time saver" an Onion.com t-shirt so eloquently put it. We hear so much from the news, politicians, commercials, the internet that we don't know how to prioritize anymore. We worry about plane crashes more than about cardiovascular health. I challenge you to look at the comparison of the numbers of deaths per year. We're so inundated with information that we become apathetic to real issues. I also think this inundation of information is the root cause of depression and many other mental illnesses. I think we should focus more on providing good, affordable mental health care.

I believe in capitalism and free trade. It's the modern-day version of *survival of the fittest*.

I think that if governments actually gave a damn about people we'd have been in Darfur a

long time ago.

I want to live my life on the short term, because I have to, I'll only live another 50-80 years, which is very short term indeed. I choose to direct my life towards showing people how to gain perspective in general. I'll probably find things to add here over the next few days. Again, everything I've said here is subject to change given new thoughts, information or realizations. But this is how I currently stand.

"Those who preach God, need God." - Charles Bukowski



[Valerie Arseneau](#) at 7:03pm March 12
urg too long... I'll read this tomorrow... haha.

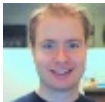


[Andrew Manderson](#) at 7:06pm March 12
lol - Sorry Val. I even cut out a lot. This rant could just go on and on..



[Jason Babineau](#) at 10:59pm March 12
i thought this was too long as well, so then i skimmed to the end and find a quote by Bukowski, and i thought: "oh, cool!".

anyhoo, so, although i do agree with most of what you say, i do however have to put in a few words about the Good Book, and it how sheds light on creationism, and covers all the aspects that science cannot. i am sorry for you that you fail to see the true meaning of Life, the Universe and Everything, while I have found peace and Solace in the Good Book. and how could i not? it has the words "Don't Panic" writtne in big, bold letter on the cover.



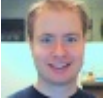
[Shawn Kivimaa](#) at 12:57am March 13
Comment about Darfur... Nations have been trying to do something, but the Sudanese government won't let them... See link:
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUKL24543371.CH.242020080224>
So if the Sudanese don't want us there, what should we do? Invade?



[Andrew Manderson](#) at 9:44am March 13

I know the Sudanese have only recently (2-3 months ago?) accepted UN aid.

We invaded Kosovo without Milosevic's blessing, didn't we?



[Shawn Kivimaa](#) at 8:30pm March 13

We invaded Iraq without Saddam's blessing, didn't we?



[Andrew Manderson](#) at 2:37am March 14

I thought of that earlier today, actually. =) I think that should solidify my point that we're not in it to help people as much as we'd think.



[Mélanie Thibeault](#) at 10:20pm March 22

"We worry about plane crashes more than about cardiovascular health. I challenge you to look at the comparison of the numbers of deaths per year."

Reminds me of a "Time" article I showed you. Remember the pyramid?