THE MYSTERY OF GOD

Consciousness, Creation, Eternity and the Eternal Source of Love

By Paul Zerubbabel

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being." — Acts 17:28 (KJV)

1. A Stranger on a Train — The Mystery of Consciousness

I recently met an interesting gentleman while travelling on a train. He had spent much of his life captaining luxury vessels in Italy for the extraordinarily wealthy. We soon discovered that in our younger years we had frequented some of the same nightclubs, experimented with some of the same things, and shared a few of life's more colourful adventures.

Two ageing adventurers, strangers until that moment, sharing memories of their mortal journey.

But there was something much more serious happening in this man's life. Only a week earlier he had discovered he had blood cancer. Following an argument with his partner, he had taken the tram and train, and there we were, two mortals discussing life while one was suddenly confronted with the possibility of his own approaching death.

I don't preach at strangers. Often the messages on my T-shirts say enough. I prefer to talk, listen, and allow a conversation to develop naturally.

During our discussion, he mentioned having been clinically dead for approximately two minutes. His description was remarkable in its simplicity.

No light. No tunnel. No awareness. Just a blank.

I immediately understood what he meant.

During an operation, I had experienced approximately twenty minutes of complete unconsciousness. When I awoke in recovery, I sat upright and immediately asked a male nurse something like, "And what do I do next?"

For that brief instant, I was continuing a conscious sequence of thought. Then I recognised where I was.

Twenty minutes had passed, yet to me they had never existed.

There was no experience of waiting. No awareness of time. No conscious transition from one moment to the next.

Anaesthesia interrupts the brain's ordinary processes of awareness and memory. But my thoughts went beyond the medical explanation.

What is consciousness, and who ultimately governs its existence?

What if consciousness can be separated from our experience of time? What if an individual can be removed from the conscious sequence of events while the physical world continues uninterrupted?

Our mortal experience of time may be only one small part of a far greater reality.

And this brings us directly to the mystery of God.

2. The Veil — Why God Remains a Mystery

I see an eternity populated by intelligence's beyond anything the mortal mind could presently

comprehend.

Beings who have existed for ages beyond our understanding, participating in the creation of habitable worlds, the development of life, and the growth of immortal consciousness.

Their intelligence, maturity, and responsibilities would be extraordinary.

Yet these beings do not casually interfere with the integrity of creation. Life is far too important. The records of our existence, the books of life, and the consequences of our decisions are not playthings.

The eternal kingdom cannot be governed by irresponsible beings who manipulate reality for their own amusement.

Consider what would happen if every mortal undergoing an operation could look directly into the next world, converse with immortals, and return with complete knowledge of eternity.

What would become of the mystery?

What would become of faith, the discovery of truth, and the development of character through the decisions we make without seeing the entire picture?

Paul wrote:

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." — 1 Corinthians 13:12 (KJV)

And Proverbs declares:

"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter." — Proverbs 25:2 (KJV)

God's mystery has a purpose.

We are not abandoned in ignorance. We are invited to search, discover, believe, grow, and become something greater through the journey.

The extraordinary intelligence's of eternity understand the importance of that process.

I believe they delight in complexity, not for confusion's sake, but because bringing order, harmony, and simplicity out of extraordinary complexity is itself an expression of divine intelligence.

Creation is not a cheap magic trick.

It is the continuing development of life, freedom, responsibility, and love.

3. The Substance of Immortality

Consider the mortal human body.

Trillions of cells, extraordinary chemical systems, countless atoms organised into one living individual. The brain, the heart, the nervous system, the senses — all operating together with astonishing precision.

And within this remarkable structure is consciousness.

The awareness of being alive.

The ability to remember, imagine, love, choose, create, and wonder about eternity.

If this is the magnificence of a mortal body, what might be possible in an immortal one?

I have considered the existence of two universes: the familiar universe of matter and another realm associated with antimatter, the deep, the unseen world beyond our ordinary physical experience.

Antimatter, as understood by physics, is not itself proof of a spiritual universe. Yet the existence of

physical realities so different from our everyday experience opens our imagination to how much more creation may contain.

Imagine an immortal consciousness expressing itself through a body composed of substance appropriate to another realm.

A body not dependent upon the fragile biological processes that presently sustain us.

A body whose substance is organised and maintained through divine power.

Every atom held in its proper relationship. Every part of the body sustained as an expression of the immortal person.

The question then becomes: **Who controls the substance?**

God does.

God is the ultimate power behind creation. Every atom exists because the source of existence sustains the reality in which atoms are possible.

As immortals grow through eternity, they will participate more deeply in that creative power.

They will learn to organise, develop, sustain, and govern increasingly magnificent creations, not independently of God, but through Him.

And who will teach us?

Yeshua.

Our eternal husband, soulmate, shepherd, and teacher.

No matter how great we become, no matter how much power or understanding we acquire, Yeshua will always remain ahead, leading us into new discoveries.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches ... for without me ye can do nothing." — John 15:5 (KJV)

The branches grow, but they never outgrow the vine.

We are not merely living forever. We are building forever.

4. The Responsibility of Eternal Beings

Yeshua's return is not the end of the story.

It is the beginning.

The beginning of an extraordinary future of immortal development, new worlds, new generations, and endless discoveries.

But with eternal existence comes eternal responsibility.

Consider the rebellion of Lucifer and the spiritual powers that have sought domination rather than love.

Their tragedy is not simply that they opposed authority. It is that they chose selfish ambition, control, and domination over the joy of fellowship and creation.

Isaiah gives us a remarkable picture:

"They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;" — Isaiah 14:16 (KJV)

The passage speaks directly of Babylon's fallen ruler and has also long been understood in Christian tradition as portraying Lucifer's downfall.

What an astonishing reversal!

The one who once shook nations, terrified multitudes, and sought to exalt himself above others becomes an object of amazement.

Is this the one?

Is this the mighty rebel who once threatened kingdoms?

Imagine millions of years passing, with the reputation of such beings still following them.

Among mortals, reputations eventually disappear as generations pass away. But among immortals, memory and history may endure.

A being who betrayed the trust of eternity could find that nobody would ever again entrust him with serious responsibility.

Perhaps someone might sit down and have a beer with him, but nobody would hand him the keys to the kingdom!

There is humour in that picture, but also a serious truth.

Power does not create trust. Character creates trust.

And immortality does not automatically produce wisdom.

An eternal being can possess extraordinary intelligence while remaining selfish, proud, and destructive.

This is why love must remain at the head of creation.

5. Suffering, Correction and the Development of Character

I have often said that God must sometimes permit what appears cruel in order to bring about a greater kindness.

Not because cruelty is His delight, but because an eternity governed by irresponsible intelligence's would eventually become unbearable.

Freedom has consequences.

Character must develop.

And some lessons cannot be learned merely by possessing knowledge.

I have wondered what might happen if a rebellious immortal were required to experience thousands of years living as lesser creatures, perhaps experiencing the vulnerability of animal existence, the struggle to survive, the fear of predators, hunger, suffering, and death.

Imagine an immensely proud being who once commanded others discovering what it means to be helpless.

After such experiences, perhaps that being would have a very different understanding of compassion, responsibility, and the value of life.

Scripture contains a remarkable statement concerning Yeshua Himself:

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;" — Hebrews 5:8 (KJV)

And the following verse declares:

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;" — Hebrews 5:9 (KJV)

Yeshua learned obedience through suffering and was brought to completion through the experience of His mortal mission.

He is perfect today. Amen.

There is an extraordinary lesson here.

Suffering can accomplish something that power alone cannot.

It can produce understanding.

It can reveal the consequences of our decisions.

It can teach compassion to those who have never experienced weakness.

It can develop qualities that will remain valuable throughout eternity.

Yet suffering alone does not guarantee goodness. The heart must respond to the lesson.

A being can emerge from hardship more compassionate or more bitter.

The great achievement is not merely surviving suffering.

It is learning to love.

6. Who Is God? — THE ENTITY

And now we arrive at the greatest question.

Not simply WHO is God?

But **WHAT IS GOD?**

If God is the power behind every atom, the source of every conscious life, the sustaining reality behind everything that exists, then what kind of entity are we describing?

I see God as the eternal source of existence itself.

Not merely a powerful individual occupying some distant throne.

Not simply a form of physical energy.

Not merely a consciousness existing within the universe.

But the reality from which all energy, matter, consciousness, intelligence, and life proceed.

THE ETERNAL CONSCIOUS SOURCE.

The source that does not require another source.

The existence that does not need to be created.

The reality that simply IS.

"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM." — Exodus 3:14 (KJV)

Those words are extraordinary.

I AM.

God does not need to explain His existence by pointing to something greater.

He simply IS.

And everything else exists within the reality sustained by Him.

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being." — Acts 17:28 (KJV)

When I say everything is God, in a sense, I am speaking of the divine source permeating and sustaining existence.

Nothing lives independently of that source.

The atom, the star, the mortal body, the immortal spirit, and the consciousness experiencing them all exist through the sustaining power of God.

Yet God is greater than the sum of His creation.

He is the eternal reality from which creation continually proceeds.

And within this extraordinary existence, God expresses Himself personally.

Through the Father, through Yeshua, through the divine relationships and intelligences of eternity, the infinite becomes known through love, wisdom, personality, and fellowship.

The greatest power imaginable is not simply a force.

It is the source of LIFE.

7. Why God Chooses Love

Now we come to something wonderfully simple.

Why does God choose love?

Because love is wonderful!

Love is enjoyable.

Love creates relationships, friendships, companionship, families, trust, cooperation, and endless possibilities.

God loves LIFE.

He loves excitement, adventure, discovery, creativity, and the extraordinary possibilities of existence.

I do not imagine God as a lifeless mathematical principle mechanically sustaining a universe.

I see the eternal source delighting in creation.

Consider the excitement of forming worlds, developing living creatures, watching consciousness grow, and seeing intelligent beings discover things for themselves.

Creation is alive with possibilities.

Even conflict and evil present questions, consequences, and challenges that must be resolved.

Isaiah 41:23 contains the striking challenge:

"Yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together."

In its setting, God is challenging the powerless idols. Yet the words bring to mind the tremendous contrast between good and evil.

God loves love and hates hatred.

He understands both.

Good and evil are intertwined in the experience of mortal history, but they are not equal destinations.

Evil and chaos destroy trust, fellowship, and the very relationships that make existence joyful.

Love builds them.

That is why love must lead.

Not because God lacks power to do otherwise, but because love produces the kind of eternity worth living.

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” — 1 John 4:8 (KJV)

The highest expression of power is not domination.

It is the ability to create, sustain, and nurture life in love.

8. God Living Through His Creation

There is another extraordinary aspect of God's existence.

I believe God experiences life through His creation.

We are not simply objects He has manufactured and placed inside a universe.

Our lives are part of His continuing creative adven