

• Towards a unified understanding of philosophy, science, religion, and the arts •

Summa Sophia, GdE
(Group dynamics Edition)
Volume 10, Number 10

*All things arise and cease due to
interdependent causes and conditions*

- True Faith
- Real Forgiveness
- All My Children
- Back to Hell Heavenward
- The Rebirth of Reincarnation
- The Challenge of Truth
- The God of the Mind
- Thinking Beyond Believing
- The Quality of Ideal Education

~ Δ ~

Dialogues For Discovery

by

Bing Escudero

October © 2003 v1.0

*To receive your next Free Copy, send a
self-addressed stamped long envelope*

Summa Sophia

1175 Harrington Place NE #212
Renton WA 98056
U.S.A.

Phone (425) 227-6979

*Available only for private or group study
Non-profit and not for sale in any form*

Summa Sophia is a desktop publication in a folded single-sheet format, focusing on significant spirituality subjects for study, meditation, and investigative application, as well as for enlightening discussions in small group meetings.

Dialogues for Discovery

By Bing Escudero © 2003 v1.0

True Faith

Q. If I have faith will I be saved or liberated?

A. Yes, if your devotion resolves blind faith into enlightened faith.

Q. Then what is enlightend faith?

A. The humble confidence illumined by the brilliance of selfless wisdom.

Real Forgiveness

Q. What is sin?

A. The only sin is ignorance.

Q. Is this forgivable?

A. Not until wisdom is the forgiver?

Q. What does this mean?

A. Ignorance is for zero tolerance. We merit forgiveness, not by beliefs, but by awakening into wisdom.

All My Children

Q. Don't you know? To be saved, you gotta believe in J.C. as the *Only Begotten Son of God*.

A. You mean the rest of us are plain misbegotten bastards? Apologies. How about the *Our Father*?

Q. Hmmm...then we are all as Divine!

A. Also, the words, *Our Father*, are, correctly, the *Eternal Parent*. And, therefore, not chauvinistic.

Back to Hell Heavenward

Q. Where is hell?

A. Would you say that hell is the lowest and most illusory part of the universe for humans to inhabit?

Q. Of course, of course ... Hell is absolutely terrible.

A. Well then, can you point out to a place as densely gross or lower than our physical plane?

Q. To be honest, this physical state must be the lowest of all, as the more subtle planes above are the emotional, mental and spiritual or heaven worlds which are definitely non-physical.

A. Watch out. If hell is the lowest part of the universe, and, no manifestation could be lower than the physical, then you and I, and the rest of humanity, are already in hell. Devil or no devil.

Q. Omigod! Why the hell are we so fearful of going to hell when we all are already in it and in this helluva place?

A. In leaving this physical world, we can only get closer to heaven, unless our karmic debts in this hell remain unpaid for.

Q. Then how do we pay off any of our bad karma in hell?

A. Don't worry, heaven allows you to return, to do just that, until wisdom awakens. Then you are free to enter heaven, without having to return, unless you wish to help those you love.

Q. By the way, what is good karma?

A. The opportunity to render selfless service to those who are less fortunate than we are.

Q. We sure have a lot of good karma.

A. Only if we act on it.

The Rebirth of Reincarnation

- Q. Reincarnation can't be true, I don't remember any past lives.
A. That's okay, until you can cope with the remembrance.
- Q. Well, it's hard enough to cope with this present life, so why add more to it. But what if I'm ready to face the truth?
A. That's okay, you won't be ready until you can dump all your accumulated beliefs.
- Q. Well, what if I believe in truth?
A. That's a good beginning. But do you clearly know the truth?
- Q. At least, I know a lot of bookish quotations about the truth.
A. That's not bad. But have you realized what you think you know?
- Q. Belief? Knowledge? Realization? What about revelation?
A. Good questions. Revelation first elicits belief or disbelief. Then reasoning makes us think we have knowledge. Finally, any knowledge is verified by investigation leading to realization.
- Q. What kind of realization is this?
A. Self-realization.

The Challenge of Truth

- Q. Would there be religious churches or cults without the fear of hell or of reaping bad karma?
A. If you remove the collection basket, churches will disappear.
Q. Well, that's just like removing the funding from terrorists.
A. Are you equating the fear of hell to the fear of suicide bombers?
- Q. My original question is really about the fear of the unknown.
A. Some people fear the unknown, others are challenged by it.
Q. Challenged for what?
A. The discovery of truth.

The God of the Mind

- Q. Why is it that when the mind runs out of reasoning, it resorts to insisting that *God said this and God said that*?
A. Because the mind tends to simply repeat the same beliefs from sources that mistake belief for knowledge.
- Q. But why do we stick to the same beliefs, over and over again?
A. That's when the search for truth is dead, if not moribund.
- Q. So, who was present when *God said* what we are made to believe?
A. Of course, no one. We somehow forget to do our own thinking or to reflect more deeply.
- Q. Do we forget or is it the fear to go any deeper?
A. Either way, to just believe blindly is much easier than to raise controversial questions in the search for truth.
- Q. Is this why dogmatic or fanatical beliefs are so widespread?
A. If it's easy, quick, and cheap, the mind is a convenient believer.

Thinking Beyond Believing

Q. Why do people want to be saved?

A. Because first comes the belief in hell and the devil, especially the belief in eternal punishment that hangs like a Democlean sword unto death.

Q. For what are these scare tactics?

A. Don't you see? Now you need to believe in a savior.

Q. How did this all get started?

A. From the Good Book.

Q. What? Punishment? Death? Hell? The Devil? And I heard there are also fornication stories. Now you call this the Good Book?

A. Well, there's a savior in it too.

Q. What does this savior do anyway?

A. He brings you off to heaven, saving you from the devil.

Q. How do these beliefs get propagated?

A. Can't you see all these churches that dot our landscape?

Q. Can these churches of the world survive without the devil?

A. Well, the churches have to help the devil to help them.

Q. Help the devil? I thought the churches are against the devil!

A. If the fearful belief in the devil is not advocated, churches would be jobless. Without the badly needed devil, there's no frightful excuse to fuel fast and fervent frequent fund drives.

Q. Are you saying that heaven can be bought?

A. Why would anyone buy heaven when the fear of hell sells like hell?

Q. Omigosh! Where's this leading up to?

A. From believing, to doing our own thinking, then, ... into wisdom.

The Quality of Ideal Education

Q. More than money, what can be done to cope with the key problems of education?

A. Two things: 1 • Emphasize the education for ideals, and,
2 • Draw forth the respect for teachers.

Q. Why the *Education for ideals*?

A. Graduates who are educated for ideas devoid of the ideals become dangerous citizens. Ideals impart quality to ideas.

Q. And how does *Respect for teachers* educate?

A. Learning is accelerated when we respect those who teach us.

Moreover, ideal teaching is the highest profession. It ought to be given the respect and support it highly deserves.

The quality of our individual and social condition is a result of quality education. Quality time begins with quality education.