

METAMORPHOSIS OF AN ATHEIST

A LIFE JOURNEY TO THE TRUTH

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Metamorphosis of an Atheist
A Life Journey in Search of the Truth

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Most of the Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of Bible.

A few quotations taken from the NIV version.

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Dedicated to the Truth

Contents

	Preface	9
	Acknowledgments	11
	Foreword	13
Chapter 1	Intelligent, Wise, and Smart	15
Chapter 2	Anywhere and Everywhere	21
Chapter 3	Manna is Still Falling	25
Chapter 4	Divine Communication	31
Chapter 5	Hallowed be Thy Name	41
Chapter 6	Blessed Memories	49
Chapter 7	Cause and Effect	53
Chapter 8	Science or Magic	57
Chapter 9	The Invisible Hand	61
Chapter 10	Boomerang	65
Chapter 11	A Veil of Spirituality	69

Chapter 12	Who wants to be More than a Millionaire?	77
Chapter 13	Metamorphosis of a Prophet and Writer	83
Chapter 14	Prophets, Kings, and Priests	87
Chapter 15	Stepping Stones	95
Chapter 16	The Beginning of Wisdom	113
Chapter 17	The Way, Truth and the Life	129
Chapter 18	The Purpose Unveiled	139
Chapter 19	Sin of Omission and Commission	147
Chapter 20	Metamorphosis	153
	Glossary	159
	Bibliography	169
	Index	171

Preface

Historically, prophets and writers have proved mightier than swords, conquering nations and continents with their ideas. Prophets of different religions conquered nations for the religions they introduced, and they revealed threads of truth through them. Full knowledge of the truth came to the world in the fullness of time.

The teachings of these messengers of God and the wisdom it revealed are centered on certain divine themes. The scriptures, though given by different prophets at different time periods, and they addressed different cultures, a discerning mind can trace this common divine theme and, the invisible hand behind it.

Wisdom is the central theme of Metamorphosis of an Atheist. Wisdom is the ability to foresee the future—both this life and the life beyond or eternity. All religions of the world are presented as stepping stones in the realization of the ultimate reality or truth.

Secular Philosophers and Gurus have tried to find answers to most of the issues we face in day-to-day life, and the truth about life, without much success. In spite of this, each one of us has reached the stage being today by arguing with oneself, in the light of new knowledge and life experiences.

10 *Metamorphosis of an Atheist*

Life experiences can be a training school leading a person to the truth. If this book—the life experiences of this writer analyzed under the illuminating light of acquired knowledge and revelations, leads the reader one step closer to the truth, this author is satisfied with the effort behind it.

Houston
June, 2010

Ninan Mathullah

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Foreword

Metamorphosis of an Atheist: a life journey to the truth, by Ninan Mathullah is a work based on logic and reason from his scientific background, and sprinkled with unique personal experiences, stories and illustrations. It is my pleasure to write a foreword to a valuable book like this.

A book like this was long overdue, that caters to the logic and scientific way of reasoning of the educated community. As the author states in the preface, ‘wisdom’ is the theme of the book.

With a double under-graduate degree and a Masters degree in Science, and deep insight into history and religion, author shows his profound knowledge of a wide range of topics vividly in this book. The term, ‘metamorphosis’ denotes that it is a biological phenomenon by which an animal physically develops into an adult stage. The author has used this allegory to describe the life journey to the knowledge of the ultimate truth.

Writing with a scientific bend of mind, what is impressive in this book is the description of the different world religions and their role in leading a person to the perfect knowledge. While many writers are

short-sighted in their outlook of other religions, this book fits nicely all major religions in the deep puzzle. It is also a balanced report on the varied views of religious beliefs which, while not partisan is nevertheless committed. Though it does not cover every aspect of different religious faiths, it covers most of the relevant issues here.

He has provided several personal incidents, illustrations and stories to make the readers to easily understand the concepts and arguments in the book. His dramatic presentation of some of his life experiences and stories as illustrations inspires the readers to finish the reading of this book in one sitting.

This thought-provoking and rewarding work provides deep insight into traditions, history, religion, logic and reason, economics, politics, evolution and creation mysteries. The author writes like a born philosopher when he illustrates the change in perception, as knowledge and understanding changes. Some of the arguments in the book related to Christ, Krishna and Hindus may not be acceptable to some on initial reading.

The author has succeeded remarkably well in his attempt to elucidate the ultimate truth to the readers. I sincerely hope that the views presented here satisfy the reader's needs, and that the overall impact will initiate a re-evaluation of the basic questions, to keep alive a continued searching process. This will assure the life, vitality and success of a branch as demanding and rewarding as religion. If my foreword helps the readers to consider this valuable and illuminating work, in their search for the truth, I am satisfied.

Houston
July 1, 2010

Dr. Mathew Vairamon,
B.A. LL.M (LAW), M.S, M.Div, Th.D

CHAPTER 1

Intelligent, Wise and Smart



Have you ever considered one of your friends or relatives as smarter, wiser or more intelligent than yourself? Usually all these terms are used interchangeably. Dictionary (Random House Webster's Unabridged) defines intelligence as, "ability to understand relationships." This

may be a hard concept to understand. Let us take a few minutes to see what it really means.

The word "Intelligence" reminds us of IQ Tests designed by scientists to compare different levels of it. There was a time when only two factors were considered in designing IQ Tests—mathematical ability and verbal ability. Now scientists have discovered eighteen different factors in the making of it, and the list is still growing.

Playing a piano was once considered as something that has

nothing to do with IQ. No tests can take into consideration all the elements involved in it. Even if you are stamped as low in IQ, that doesn't always mean that you are so. The test you took was not designed to measure your area of excellence.

Thus we all have areas of intelligence in us. Even if nobody can appreciate that, at least you must. The public has considered some of the most intelligent people as crazy, because the majority couldn't foresee what these people could. They live ahead of their time. Galileo is a good example.

Galileo could figure out that the earth revolves around the sun and that the earth is not the center of the universe; a concept that contradicted the commonly accepted belief in those days. The Catholic Church, the center of knowledge those days, couldn't understand or visualize Galileo's idea. (This writer has only respect for the contribution the Catholic Church has made to European civilization and the larger humanity.) Galileo was put on trial and sentenced to house arrest, for the remainder of his life. A few years ago, the Houston Chronicle reported that the pope officially acknowledged what the church had done to Galileo was wrong—after 350 years!

When we say, "Intelligence is the ability to understand relationship," that is assumed to be at different levels. Knowing that, $4+4=8$, and $4-4=0$, or knowing the relationship between four and four means that you are intelligent at that level. If you know that to punch somebody on the nose is inviting trouble, or if you know the relationship between the action and the consequence that follow, you are intelligent at that level. If you can foresee the relationship between working hard now or studying well at school and, a resultant better standard of living tomorrow or several years down the road, then you are considered intelligent at that level.

Let me tell you a story to clarify this concept. This is the story

of 'The Wise Rajendran,' a very rich man who lived long ago in a village in central Asia. His wife had died several years ago, leaving him with a four year old boy. He had no other close relatives. He was a fine, well-respected man in the society and was of great service to his community.

Slowly, this worrying thought crept into his mind that if he would die soon, he has nobody reliable with whom to entrust the boy and the vast estate. As he had nobody to take care of the child, educate him, and hand over the wealth to, at the age of twenty-one, he couldn't sleep well. Brooding over the fate of his son in case of his imminent death, he spent days and nights. At last he had a brilliant idea.

He approached a well-known miser in the village, a merchant who squeezed money from needy people by charging them very high interest. So, nobody liked him in the village. Rajendran explained his problem to him, and expressed his confidence in the merchant and requested him to take care of the boy after his death. He asked the merchant to give the boy what the merchant liked, when the son turned twenty-one years. The merchant was very happy, although he didn't reveal it. He could foresee a day when all the wealth would be his alone.

A legal document was prepared to this effect. Soon afterwards, Rajendran died, leaving the estate and the boy to the safe custody of the merchant. His son grew up and received an average education. Gradually, by listening to stories spread in the village, the young boy discovered that the vast wealth his guardian was holding actually belonged to his father.

When the youth was twenty-one-years-old, the merchant divided the wealth between the two. He kept 90 percent of the wealth for himself and gave ten percent to the youth. The youth thought, it was not fair and that he should have gotten at least fifty



percent of the wealth. Deeply hurt, he left the village.

He approached several lawyers for help. They all looked at the legal document and declined to help, as the paper clearly directs the merchant to give the son

what the merchant likes.

At last, he approached a smart young lawyer. He took the legal document and studied it carefully. He was wondering, why in the world, a father would do such a thing to his son. Suddenly the ingenious idea that Rajendran had incorporated into the legal document was revealed to the young lawyer. He decided to argue the case.

A large crowd gathered to listen to the arguments at the court. The young lawyer successfully argued that when Rajendran said, “what the merchant likes,” it actually referred to the 90 percent of the wealth the merchant was holding for himself, because that is what the merchant liked. That portion really belonged to the son. The merchant’s share was actually the ten percent that the merchant never wanted and had given to the son. The judge readily agreed to this argument and the whole court rejoiced at the way the case had turned around. Everybody praised the wisdom of late Rajendran.

Rajendran had understood the relationship between his action and its effect. He could foresee several years into the future. In other words, intelligence is the ability to foresee the effects of our words, actions, or beliefs into a future time.

Have you heard the story of two brothers who were farmers? One decided to plant tomatoes. It gave fruit soon, and there was party and celebration in his house. The other brother decided to plant coconut

trees. He had some initial difficulties, as it takes a few years for the coconut tree to bear fruit. Once the coconut tree began to yield fruit, it continued for generations. Even while he was sleeping, the tree was giving forth fruit, in season and out of season. The tree was a source of comfort for him as well as for the several generations to come. His brother was still working hard with his vegetables that were not a dependable source of income. He had no comfort.

Though we are intelligent, occasionally we do some foolish mistakes. If wisdom is the ability to foresee, how far can we foresee the future? Can we see into tomorrow, one year, five years, ten years, fifty years, hundred years, ten generations from now, or to the life beyond—your eternity?

What will happen if you die today? Is this life the end of it? Whether you believe so or not, there is only one truth. If you can see beyond this mortal life, you are more intelligent than the majority. These mysteries are hidden to the so-called wise and learned and are revealed to the children and infants. If you have time to seek the ways of God Almighty, He will reveal the truth to you.

Our knowledge of God is limited to what is revealed to us by God. This revelation comes to only those who seek God earnestly with a humble spirit. Are you wise enough to develop a humble spirit and seek this supreme source of energy without any pre-concepts? Manifestations of His glory are present anywhere and everywhere if you open your eyes and look.

