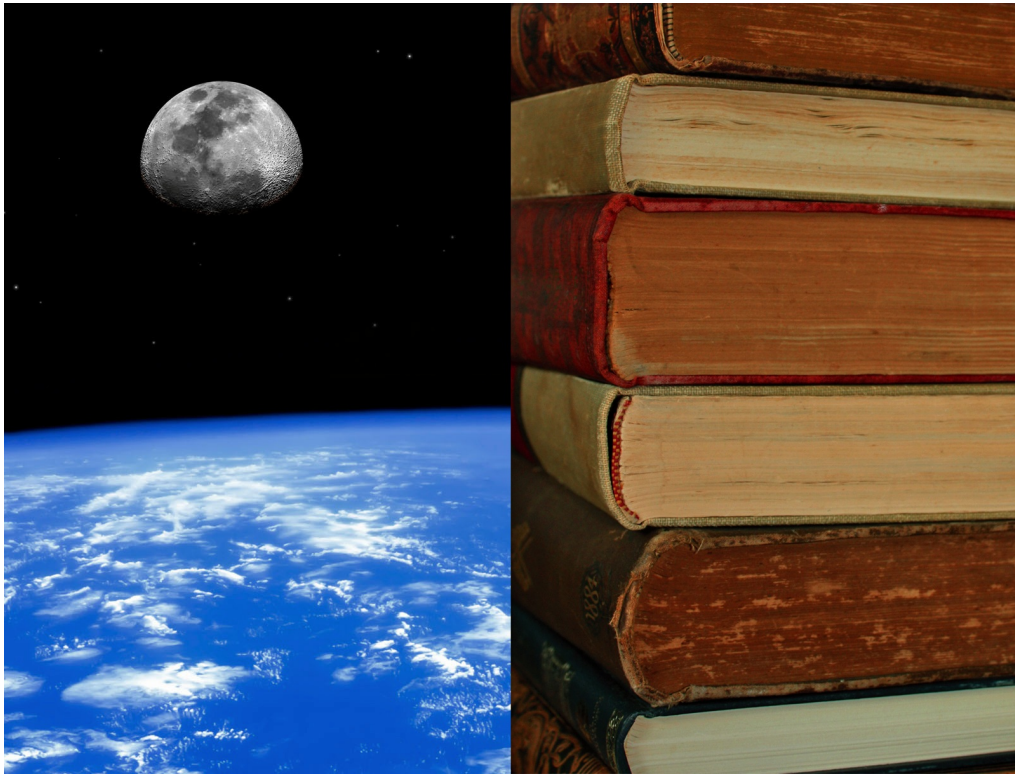


BEYOND THE WORD

An Awakening



ELIZABETH HUGATE HUDGINS

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1. Fig. 1. The cover photo is a compounded image: “Earth_from_space.jpg.”(Courtesy of Felix at www.coolhdwallpapers.com) and “Stack of books.jpg” by me.

2. All photo-editing has been done with one or the other of the two following software programs:
 - a) *Micrografx Picture Publisher 10*, CD-ROM (Dallas, TX: Micrografx, Inc., 2001). MPP10.

 - b) *Adobe Photoshop Elements 7.0¹*, CD-ROM. (San Jose, CA: Adobe Systems Incorporated, 2001-2008). APE7.

3. All scanning has been done with *Epson Perfection 1650 Photo* color image scanner. Long Beach, CA: Epson America, Inc., 2001. EP1650.

4. All OCR (Optical Character Recognition) inclusions were done with *TextBridge Pro 11*, CD-ROM (Peabody, MA: ScanSoft, Inc., 2002). TBP11.

5. The word processing program used for doing the final draft of this writing was *WordPerfect Office 4*, CD-ROM. (Ottawa, ON, Canada: Corel Corporation, 2004). WP4.

¹ &/ or previous versions of (3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0).

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DEDICATION



To My Sons and Daughters ²

² Fig. 2. A 1967 photo of James, David, Lisa, Anne--and in memory of deceased infant daughter Donna (11/1957 - 01/1958).

Birth is a Beginning

By Alvin I. Fine

*Birth is a beginning,
And death a destination;
But life is a journey,
A going--a growing
From stage to stage.*

*From childhood to maturity
And youth to age.
From innocence to awareness
And ignorance to knowing;
From foolishness to discretion
And then perhaps to wisdom.*

*From weakness to strength
Or strength to weakness--
And, often, back again.
From health to sickness
And back, we pray,
to health again.*

*From offense to forgiveness,
From loneliness to love,
From joy to gratitude,
From pain to compassion,
And grief to understanding--
From fear to faith.*

*From defeat to defeat to defeat--
Until, looking backward or ahead,
We see that victory lies
Not at some high place along the way,
But in having made the journey,
Stage by stage--
A sacred pilgrimage.*

*Birth is a beginning,
And death a destination;
But life is a journey,
A sacred pilgrimage
Made stage by stage--
From birth to death
To life everlasting.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

How do you say thanks to a person you've never met, but whose work you greatly appreciate? One way is to use it.

Alvin Fine's poem is the most beautiful and soothing memorial prose I have ever heard. There is no portion of it that makes me feel morbid or gloomy. Because of both the eloquence and relevancy of the work, I am using some of Alvin's verses as titles for my entries. For instance, the entry for January 14, 1969, on page 61 is entitled '*From Fear to Faith.*'

Inspiration for attempting this project has come from many persons. Some of them are living. Some of them, like Alvin Fine, are deceased. Other documented--but now deceased--persons whose shared thoughts have encouraged me to acknowledge my own views include: Socrates/ Plato, William Shakespeare, Rene` Descartes, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Clarence S. Darrow, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. The following four ideas are of constant inspiration to me:

“This above all--to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any. . . .” William Shakespeare³

“In order to seek truth, it is necessary once in the course of our life, to doubt, as far as possible, of all things.” Rene` Descartes⁴

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all ~~men~~ [people] are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Thomas Jefferson⁵

“So first of all let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself: nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.” Franklin Delano Roosevelt⁶

³ From *Hamlet*: Act. I., Scene III. (Between late 1500's and/or abt 1601).

⁴ From *Principles of Philosophy* (1644).

⁵ From *The Declaration of Independence* (July 4, 1776).

⁶ From his first Inaugural Address (March 4, 1933).

Part I -The Introduction

About This Treatise

Around ten o'clock on the morning of January 14, 1969, I began to experience a set of physiological conditions unlike anything I had ever experienced before. And as it happened, the response I chose to make resulted in my instantly beginning to experience a series of varying types of visions.

While it was a gradual rather than instantaneous enlightenment process, the changes wrought upon my mind-set because of the spirituality-related event and my efforts combined may be likened to going from partial conceptual blindness to comparatively 20-20 *I-sight*.



Fig. 3. From a 1996 photo. Credit: F. Scott Sadler.

To start with, questions arose regarding the authenticity of the biblical writings. In particular, there were my doubts about the *literal accuracy* of the account about Moses' revelation experience. For inasmuch as none of the visions I experienced included speeches, it was relatively impossible for me to take the Exodus account of Moses' spiritual experience as a non-fictionalized one. It would, however, take me until early spring of 1996 to acquire the additional information, the good physiological health level, and the confidence needed for tackling the issue of the literary exactness in the biblical and other literary documents about natural phenomena. Even then, I

thought it would be sufficient to tell my children and a few other persons with whom I had an ongoing relationship about the amazing spiritual-related happening I had undergone. But after envisioning myself as a bystander who had never experienced such a wondrous event, I decided that the general public should also be given the opportunity to view a non-fictionalized account of what a transcendent⁷ level spiritual revelation experience is like. See Part II - The Awakening for a detailed recount of the one I underwent, and associated commentary.

My interpretations and other commentary are oftentimes inserted in the form of footnotes, endnotes, and/or epilogues. So, *please, please* pause to read this collateral material as you go along. In some instances, the entry may also include a prologue. It all depends upon the specific theme or condition the observed vision or other natural wonder evoked.

Whenever possible, I have also included one or more supportive photographs or illustrations with my entries; for anytime we are left to develop our own mental images of the people, places, and other tangible things recounted of by words alone, there is more cause for doubt about the authenticity of the author's account. I know that upon meeting someone I have heard about or *even* spoken with by phone, the person's physical appearance is always markedly different from what I had visualized it to be.

Throughout this treatise, I shall be using my own personal experiences as a base from which to expound upon my revised ideological views about (a) the Almighty Thou and (b) involuntary natural phenomena. But please keep in mind that pleading a case is not the same as "fussing n' fighting." It is not my intention to humiliate or belittle, and thus avoid or stifle serious debate. To the contrary, serious debate is needed. For whether it is in a bible, a philosophical treatise, or a science textbook, no person's "word" should be accepted on blind faith that it is error-free.

Since much of what I have to say involves the question of Absolute cause and associated involuntary natural things, my arguments will necessarily implicate what other persons have said on these subjects. To my present knowledge, the Torah (Pentateuch) was the first publication to

⁷ While transcendent level spiritual revelation experiences are beyond the more common everyday spiritual revelation emissions, they are still within the laws of nature governing the *involuntary* subconscious part of the human psyche.

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