

***A Spiritual Bill of Rights for Humanity  
Proclaim Liberty to Spiritual Captives!***

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## **Part One**

### ***The Seven Spiritual Rights of Humanity***

What they are. Why they're important.

There is nothing more life-giving for individuals than to discover and build a direct relationship with their Creator. Tragically, this fundamental connection has been crippled by negative forces that threaten to snatch this life-giving relationship from so many in these critical times for humanity. All of the spiritual rights identified herein are a direct corollary to the Creator's gift of individual free will that has been and always will be an identifying spiritual mark of the human person. The purpose of this document is to declare unequivocally the spiritual rights that each individual person has been endowed with by the Creator. These rights should never be violated by any person or institution.

***1) The right of individuals to connect directly with the Creator in their own unique way is fundamental to human spirituality and should be forever protected, honored and cherished.***

No religious or spiritual institution, ideological or philosophical group, whether spiritual or secular, or any individual representing these institutions or groups, or any individual acting alone should in any way act as an intermediary between individual persons and the Creator. Each person's relationship with the Creator is unique, primary and sovereign in all matters relating to the spiritual life of the human individual.

The Creator-human relationship is the primary living source of spiritual growth. Because of its unique and intimate nature, it must never be committed to the custody of those presuming to act as spiritual intermediaries. Rather than religions demanding that people serve them and their representatives, *religions are meant to serve people* in their search for the Creator. Religions should always take a subordinate and supportive role in humanity's spiritual search. When they dictate beliefs and behaviors, they disrupt the sacred relationship between individuals and their Creator. Religious leaders appropriately serve humanity by leading group worship, teaching spiritual concepts and facilitating group sharing of spiritual insights; but their role should *always* be considered *ancillary* and *nonessential* to the Creator-human relationship.

***2) Individual persons have a right to affirm their inherent goodness as beloved children of the Creator.***

This basic right should not be undermined by false teachings claiming that human nature is intrinsically sinful and unworthy of the Creator's love. All such teachings are injurious to the human psyche and spirit. They have caused centuries of needless shame and guilt to humanity and must be abolished in all religious, philosophical and

ideological systems for individuals to regain their proper self-respect, discover their purpose and unleash full human potential to solve the many serious problems facing humanity. Contrary to the sinful human nature taught by many authoritarian religions, the human spirit, when awakened and enlivened by a direct relationship with the Creator, naturally yields abundant fruits of loving service, unselfish devotion, courageous loyalty, sincere fairness, enlightened honesty, undying hope, confiding trust, merciful ministry, unfailing goodness, forgiving tolerance and enduring peace.

**3) *Individual persons have the right to freedom from fear, especially fear of false divine punishments.***

The age-old religious concept of eternal conscious torment—or “hell”—as well as all other concepts of divine punishment, retribution or chastisement are blatantly false. All such teachings are an affront to the loving nature of the Creator. Likewise, all teachings that portray the Creator as wrathful, angry and vengeful are in direct opposition to the Creator’s nature. No person, even one who has done great violence, ever has anything to fear from the Creator. It is the Creator’s eternal nature to lift up and show vast mercy to individuals. These supposed divine punishments are the distorted misconceptions of primitive religions and must be abolished in favor of more enlightened understandings of the Creator. Further, the wielding of such fear-based teachings over faithful believers is a barbaric practice and has thwarted the spiritual growth of the entire planet for ages.

The fact that the Creator’s love coexists alongside the Creator’s justice does in fact cause many to feel that divine punishment is the only reasonable solution to this seeming paradox. But the limited vision of humans who can see and judge only the outer actions of another can never be compared to the far-seeing eye of an infinite Creator who knows all the colors and shadows of each human soul. Mercy and love are the dominating attitudes of the Creator. The bad actions of any individual, even though they may be grievous in human terms, will always be met with vast understanding and patience from the Creator.

However, the fact of free will choice always makes it possible for any individual to finally and ultimately reject the Creator’s every display of mercy. But to believe that an *eternity of torture* awaits such persons is a figment of the limited human imagination that clamors for punishment of the *misunderstood other*.

The final decision to live or not to live in relationship with the Creator rests with each one of us. If there is repeated, lasting and final rejection of this relationship, also manifested as a lack of spiritual fruit, then instead of inflicting a fictional eternal punishment, the Creator by nature respects the person’s sovereign decision and withdraws permanently from such an unfortunate individual.

Therefore, if one believes that the human soul is the eternal aspect of the human person and acknowledges the Creator as the source of all material and spiritual life, a more rational conclusion may instead point to the complete cessation of existence for any person wholly rejecting a relationship with the Creator. In other words, the soul cannot by definition exist apart from the Creator who is the source of all life and in choosing to reject any connection to the Creator, the soul chooses not to continue living and simply ceases to exist after the body expires.

***4) Individual persons have the right to embark on their own search for truth.***

Since each human person is endowed with a unique identity from the Creator, spiritual insights and experiences will vary widely from person to person. The most sublime of human adventures is that of discovering the Creator for oneself. The diversity of spiritual viewpoints in the human family is a great strength that points to the beauty of the Creator, but in no way dilutes the truth of humanity's unity as children of the Creator. Religions and spiritual groups should not interfere with any individual's sincere efforts to comprehend and experience truth. On the contrary, they should support individuals by providing more enlightened teachings on the nature of the Creator and the great purpose and destiny of humanity.

***5) Individual persons have the right to freedom from religious obligations.***

These obligations include but are not limited to: profession of creeds, tenets or beliefs; adherence to religious laws, codes, precepts, covenants or tithes; performance of or attendance at services, masses, rituals, ceremonies, meditations, prayers, sacraments, liturgies, ascetic practices, pilgrimages, missions, evangelization or study of sacred texts.

Participation in religious activities must be strictly voluntary. Religions become tyrannical when they dictate the beliefs and behaviors of people. Since the Creator's primary attribute is unconditional love, the Creator has not, does not and will not at any time past, present or future impose obligations on individuals; so religions, insofar as they wish to imitate the Creator, should never do so.

For any religion to falsely claim divine penalties for not fulfilling obligations is both a violation of individual spiritual liberty and a terrible abuse of well-intentioned believers. This has caused and continues to cause much shame and guilt for humanity.

It must be stated clearly that while the best religious traditions and rituals do succeed at

demonstrating spiritual truth, they are nevertheless *human-fabricated concepts, symbols and activities* that can never be replete with eternal truths in and of themselves. At worst, they become meaningless, repetitive and often dark recitals from primitive eras and are not worthy of the hard-won wisdom and spiritual progress of humanity in this dawning era of light. The garbled spiritual concepts found in some religious traditions desperately need to be updated by Creator-connected individuals called to reveal new spiritual truths through these potentially meaningful manifestations of religion. But even in recreated form, they must *never be used as a substitute for the fundamental Creator-human relationship.*

Notwithstanding the efficacy of these practices, believers must *never* have their traditions or rituals taken away if they find them to be spiritually nourishing. Rather, the process of discovering a personal relationship with the Creator needs to be prioritized for those well-intentioned followers who perhaps for cultural or sentimental reasons are so attached to these outward practices that they overlook discovering their own inner connection to the Creator. The spiritual awakening of the sleeping masses who are still caught up in traditional, ritual, cultural and the largely *physical* trappings of established religions could result in a tremendous spiritual illumination that would finally gather most people under the twin unifying concepts of the divine Creator Parent and the family of humanity.

**6) *Individual persons have the right to access all spiritual leadership roles regardless of identity.***

How does it honor the Creator to exclude entire groups from spiritual leadership, whether by gender, race, ethnicity, orientation or other identity, thereby *preventing* their precious Creator-bestowed gifts from uplifting humanity? Doesn't it instead *weaken* humanity to do so? When people from all groups are empowered to answer the call to spiritual leadership then the Creator will truly be honored.

The unjust exclusion of women from spiritual leadership throughout the centuries has been particularly harmful and has prevented their harmonizing influence toward peace and prosperity for all. Instead, the controlling tactics of authoritarianism, particularly entrenched in religions, has led directly to constant wars, oppression and poverty.

All human attitudes of superiority and inferiority demonstrate spiritual ignorance of the Creator's love toward all. The gifts of ***all*** people must be embraced to allow humanity's full potential to emerge and heal the severe multiple threats to worldwide peace and prosperity. A fertile environment of egalitarian collaboration is the healing salve that can turn the world from the brink of hopelessness into a new era of light and life.

**7) *Individual persons have the right to determine their own loving and committed human partnerships.***

Aside from a person's direct relationship with the Creator, loving and loyal human partnerships are the most beautiful testaments to the Creator's loving presence with humanity. As partners commit to each other's well-being, face life's challenges and share physical, emotional and spiritual intimacy, they create a nurturing home for the growth of their souls. These partnerships should not be denied to those who sincerely wish to undertake this noble endeavor together. Unselfish and spiritually fragrant human partnerships, whether they produce biological children or blend new families together, form the basis for the flourishing of societies and should be blessed and supported by all people, especially religious and spiritual groups claiming to love the Creator.

**Part Two**

***Putting the Spiritual Rights into Practice***

Important Issues in Global Spiritual Renewal

***Proclaim Liberty to Spiritual Captives!***

That is the urgent message of this new bill of rights for our time that can liberate humanity from a long and heavy bondage of spirit. Readers who resonate deeply with this message should take care not to enshrine and crystallize it, but to *act upon it* and spread these living concepts to help unchain all our human family.

***Fear, liberty and spiritual freedom***

The essence of bondage is fear and worthlessness. No human person can grow when living in an environment permeated by fear. Fear is antithetical to spiritual growth and to the unconditional love of the Creator. It is the ultimate isolator and separator. But the essence of true liberty is first and foremost *liberty from fear*—fear of judgment, punishment, rejection, abandonment, hopelessness and meaninglessness, whether that fear be of other people or the Creator.

Liberation from existential fear is a powerful antidote to the current worldwide spiritual crisis. When people are freed from fear, they will discover their own unique connection to the Creator in their own way. Then the nobility of the true Creator-connected human spirit can come shining forth to seek out the highest values, meanings and human potential. This will create a force like no other to uplift humanity.

The spiritual life should be free, fluid and creative; not controlled, domineered or put in a

box. Spiritual freedom leads to spiritual inspiration which leads to joy in sharing that inspiration and ultimately to loving service of others. A free spiritual life is the master key that opens not only direct connection to the Creator, but flows that living, healing connection to others.

### ***Healing the wounded human spirit***

Jesus of Nazareth and many other spiritual luminaries throughout history fearlessly proclaimed over and over again true liberty for *spiritual captives*. Jesus himself died not because a supposed angry Creator demanded the blood sacrifice of an innocent victim for human offenses, but to *free all peoples* from authoritarian religions who refuse to lay down their power over many who are bludgeoned by tradition and spiritually enslaved.

When today's spiritual slaves are freed, they will be able to tap into the very source of healing, wisdom and power—our Creator. Then will individuals band together to create *real and lasting solutions* to the world's problems. Secular solutions can only be temporarily effective because the source of all worldly strife—the *wounded human spirit itself*—will still be just as wounded and gasping for love, acceptance and healing. But uplifted through a living relationship with the Creator, the human spirit is indomitable and will swiftly act to bring the light of love to all problems, all peoples, all creatures and our entire planet home.

True human potential is vast but has been languishing for millenia under the pernicious lie of its supposed inborn evil rather than thriving in the truth of its innate goodness. The truth is that each of us are like seeds of pure potential that will grow, blossom and bear inestimable fruit under the right spiritual conditions. This statement of rights outlines essential principles to revivify planetary spiritual potency and fertilize the soil of humanity's soul.

### ***Rooting out toxic spiritual concepts***

Detangling and destroying the deceitful tangle of toxic spiritual concepts that has wrapped its venomous tentacles around the collective mind of humanity for millenia will of necessity be laborious. The most notable of these include the notorious triunity of divine eternal punishment, sinful human nature and blood sacrifice demanded by a vengeance-thirsty Creator, also known as atonement.

Important distinctions should be made in this worldwide healing process to protect innocent souls that are no more conscious of these threats to spiritual well-being than are developing babes in a mother's womb. The unwitting vast majority of people, both inside and outside of religion, all the way up to top institutional levels, have been slowly

poisoned with the same spoiled spiritual food generation after generation.

The heartbreaking fact of humanity's spiritual journey is that these toxic concepts, *along with many carefully preserved light-containing truths*, have been marinating in the sour soup of the world's religious consciousness for ages and have **tragically and actually become the "sacred truths" that much religion is based upon!**

The planetary-wide endeavor of extricating truth from error will require great delicacy and boldness. Three critical guideposts should be followed in this process:

- **People** are always to be treated with ***love and compassion*** while gently being guided out of error.
- **Religions**, society's megalithic ships, must be steered with ***care and patience***.
- **Toxic concepts** should be ***persistently rooted out***, taking care not to harm people or needlessly destabilize institutions.

### ***Steering the ships of religions to safety***

Although this operation of extracting toxic concepts from world religions has been underway for some time, progress is limited. Many titanic religious institutions were unmoored for better or worse by huge societal changes decades ago and are tossing aimlessly in the polluted harbors of toxic concepts. A brave few souls have led and continue to lead the mutiny against these deceptions but have been consistently quashed by the largely ignorant captains of religion. What is desperately needed now is an organized crew of courageous mariners willing to brave the repression, callous ecclesiasticism and mental, spiritual and sexual abuse that have long festered in these otherwise noble-intentioned ships and steer them to safety in the calm waters of spiritual truth.

Because they have fallen victim to toxic concepts, some religions have lost much of their ability to spiritually nourish and empower their followers. They have become more like sprawling shantytowns for starving truthseekers dotted along a secular landscape poisoned by materialism and atheism, instead of fulfilling their true potential as living communities of truth that vitalize and inspire spiritual travelers. The long process of their rehabilitation is indeed beyond the scope of this document. However, consideration of the following key issues—false religious superiority, harmful evangelization tactics, religions' obsession with the past and the role of religions in worldwide spiritual renewal—may prove to be a helpful beginning to this process.

### ***False religious superiority***



The false notions that any religion is superior to others and that any religious group are the chosen people have been the cause of endless violence over the centuries. While most religious wars have thankfully de-escalated into theological battles, some are tragically still waging. The concept of the “one true religion” remains one of the chief obstacles to spiritual unity and casts a heavy shadow on newly formed bonds in the interfaith movement and organizations such as the Parliament of World Religions.

The new openness to spiritual perspectives in many world traditions is a reason for much hope as humanity’s spiritual evolution progresses. Independent spiritual people who are “multilingual” in various religious traditions will be particularly valuable in the larger process of bridging understanding between traditions, volumizing the spiritual concepts found in each and voicing unifying perspectives that uplift all traditions. Here again, it bears repeating that all superior and inferior attitudes are damaging to this delicate process.

Just as the world’s religions are being exposed to new perspectives from other traditions, so should the followers *within* each religion be encouraged to have friendly round-table discussions sharing their unique perspectives of personal faith. This collaborative approach contrasts to traditional top-down methods where only the ordained are allowed to teach. Open sharing is key to building fresh perspectives and allowing more robust spiritual fruits to blossom from the grass-roots up.

The Creator forever stands at the head of all religions, past, present and future; not mere human ministers whose inflated historical roles have exerted absurd claims of divine favor and infallibility, which like the divine right of monarchs, should be buried as relics of the past. As the great icebergs of authoritarian religion begin their slow melt, their ecclesiastical leaders also need to be deftly educated and inspired by enlightened agents from within to freely surrender their attachment to religious sovereignty in favor of affirming the one true spiritual sovereign, our divine Creator.

### ***Evangelization by invitation, not by threat***

There will always be multitudinous spiritual approaches that reflect the diversity and beauty of the Creator. But evangelization into any tradition, old or new, is a reciprocal process requiring open invitation and voluntary acceptance. Teachings become very harmful to sensitive souls if they are falsely couched as a compulsory threat. Such threats become even more traumatizing when they are wrongfully attached to false claims of divine punishment and lobbed at followers or the proselytized. All strong-arm methods of evangelization, especially when they include false claims of a sinful human nature or divine punishment, should be *wholly repudiated* by religious leaders and lay people alike. When religions oppress people inside or outside of their walls, they directly

oppose the loving nature of the Creator which gives good cause for them to be theologically, philosophically and ideologically restrained from doing even more harm.

Irrespective of the evangelization tactics inherent in some authoritarian religions, this spiritual bill of rights is meant to protect the freedoms of all individuals, including both those who feel compelled to evangelize and those who decline to be evangelized.

### ***Religions serve humanity best when they point the way forward***

In order to effectively serve their followers, religions need to look back as well as forward. But many of them have become so obsessed with the past that they have completely forgotten—or maybe they never understood to begin with—that spiritual wisdom is meant to *evolve*. Sacred stories from ages past, while they may also contain spiritual lessons for present-day followers, were specifically meant to teach *past generations* who may have been only able to comprehend archaic concepts. Ancient stories are not meant to be the only tools to teach modern generations.

Humanity's depth and breadth in understanding the universe and the inner landscape of the human person has increased immeasurably over the centuries with scientific, intellectual and philosophical progress. Religions can choose to come along with this process and do their part to boost human evolution by allowing mythical stories from the past to be seen through a mature metaphoric lens and by encouraging inspired new stories and perspectives from human sources.

Many of the sacred texts of old, although bestowed by divine inspiration that comes through the Creator-human relationship, were nevertheless written through the *lens of human minds*. Present-day inspired human wisdom could do so much good if it was taken seriously by religions! Regardless of where spiritual truth emerges, it is a sad oversight to disregard it just because it comes from human minds.

Worship services and rituals as well could benefit greatly from fresh creative ideas and symbolism. Religions as a whole tend toward overly-reverential and uptight styles that desperately need a breath of fresh air. If each succeeding generation were invited to create and adapt religious languages and customs that speak to them, it could inspire a new joyful connection to the Creator and to each other, rather than clinging to centuries-old approaches. This is never to say that past forms of worship, particularly those reflecting the beauty of music and the arts, should not be preserved and practiced *by those who wish to practice them*. But, as mentioned earlier, these old forms of worship become not only cumbersome but oppressive when they are foisted on followers.

Conversely, some modern churches are embracing a laudable updated and technology-friendly approach to worship, including energetic music and dynamic preaching meant specifically to appeal to youth. Yet sadly, underneath their best efforts at spiritual renewal, their doctrines remain as replete with toxic concepts as ever, which continues to hinder the spiritual growth and potential of coming generations.

Religions will begin to flourish when they balance the past with the present by cherishing the golden threads of truth from the past while weaving new spiritual fabric to clothe each succeeding generation in increasingly light-filled spiritual truths.

### ***Role of religions in spiritual renewal***

Despite their flaws, religious institutions are tasked with playing a major role in global spiritual renewal. They have and continue to be a major force for good in the world, notwithstanding the authoritarian nature of many. Their real spiritual sustenance makes a positive difference for a huge swath of humanity. But as mentioned previously, the toxic concepts stubbornly lodged within their layers of man-made theological, philosophical and ritualistic structures have been wreaking havoc on the development of human potential.

Rooting out these concepts will require careful effort because the sudden wresting of pious people from their long-cherished beliefs without gradually introducing them to new and better concepts could be destabilizing to society. Therefore, the process of uplifting these followers who are braced by the scaffolding of authoritarian religions necessitates a wise and patient approach that concomitantly *preserves and expands* on the truths that they already have. Most importantly, the spiritual liberties of these beloved children of the Creator who take their spiritual nourishment from authoritarian religions *must never be abrogated*.

As global spiritual renewal grows, many enlightened people inside and outside of religion will find exciting new avenues of service in supporting the frequently under-served followers of ailing authoritarian religions as they discover their true connection to the Creator.

### ***Breaking down all barriers to spiritual freedom is necessary***

Worldwide spiritual renewal for all religions and all peoples is the only lasting solution to the heart-rending problems of humanity. It has always been so throughout the ages and is even truer now in our rapidly-paced technological age. Humanity has held the power to destroy all life on the planet for decades and desperately needs the wisdom to turn away from its continuing barbaric choices. As stated, this critical renewal ***cannot*** take

place without *first* breaking down the walls of fear, feelings of worthlessness, authoritarian forces both inside and outside of religion and all other barriers to free spiritual expression.

### ***Many spiritual dangers to this generation***

Spiritual leaders everywhere that have eyes to see this emergency must sound the alarm. Yes, progress is being made on all fronts. Yet no other generation has been threatened by so many spiritual dangers as the present one—rampant materialism, feelings of worthlessness, utter lack of noble purpose and atheism, which some are tragically driven to after being traumatized by authoritarian religion. All of these perils, coupled with centuries of suppressing our Creator-bestowed spiritual freedoms have pushed many to the brink of meaninglessness and are crippling our human potential.

### ***Spiritual freedom brings spiritual unity***

Freedom of spiritual expression for all, although it may initially conjure images of philosophical and religious chaos, will actually catalyze a coherent force that can lead humanity out of the countless impediments to spiritual unity—including sectarian strife and never-ending childish battles over who has the “one true religion.” These and many other barriers to *unity* will be progressively expunged from worldwide consciousness when liberty is proclaimed and all are free to discover and develop their primary human-Creator relationship. Then all of humanity can begin to advance as a living organism, empowered directly by the Creator, toward the threshold of a powerful spiritual renaissance.

The essence of this new spiritual unity will not be *uniformity* where people are pressured to espouse formula creeds and practices that may undermine their freedom. Humanity’s true *unity* is to be found in our deeply held values, meanings and goals, as well as our shared supernal destiny. But the greatest unifying truth of all is that we are one human family infinitely loved by our divine Creator Parent.

### ***The “Religion of Personal Experience”***

The mass discovery of the human-Creator relationship by a great number of people can bring about a new spiritual way of life based solely on the unique life experience of each person. The “religion of personal experience” (ROPE) naturally embraces the twin concepts of the divine Creator Parent and the family of humanity while also being able to coexist in friendliness with any religion that affirms this spiritual bill of rights. In fact,

the beauty of the ROPE is its diversity and flexibility in being able to try on many spiritual perspectives without losing its unifying relationship with the Creator and the human family.

When done voluntarily, the addition of religious beliefs and practices to the ROPE can enhance a person's spiritual development. Beliefs and practices can vary widely as a person's ROPE progresses. The ROPE is the perfect vehicle for individual spiritual expression and will become the choice of more and more people as the world slowly moves away from traditional religions. Its influence is already visible in the burgeoning numbers of people identifying as "spiritual but not religious" or "nones" and it will undoubtedly spread with the rising tides of global spiritual renewal.

***The time is now!***

The time is now and the harvest is ripe for spiritual leaders from every tradition to urgently heed this call and resoundingly affirm the fundamental sacred rights of this new declaration of spiritual independence, this emancipation proclamation of the spirit, and ring the truth bells of liberty for the suffering masses who are straining mightily to break free from their spiritual shackles. Then, and only then, will people everywhere be lifted up to fulfill their shining potential and lead our suffering world into the dawning age of light and life!