

The Backstory

**What went on behind the scenes,
before anything existed.**

- By Mindy Vance Bouman

Before the Universe existed, there was nothing.

Nothing but God.

God was alone.



Talking to himself, God said, "I'm so bored! I think I'll create stuff."

God thought, and began to create the Universe. He created three planes of existence in the Universe: the spiritual plane, the mental plane and the physical plane. Then God kind of divided Himself up so that a part of Him was on each plane, **so that He could be everywhere, so He could enjoy it all at once. God can do that sort of thing.**

So the chunk of God that went to live on the spiritual plane came to be known as “God the Father,” because the spiritual plane was the “highest” and the word “father” sounds high and important. This spiritual plane is the hardest to imagine because, well, it’s spiritual, so it doesn’t seem real to us; at least not yet. We really can’t interact on this level. It’s weird. So we are very limited in our ability to grasp this Father-God who is all spiritual and strange to us.



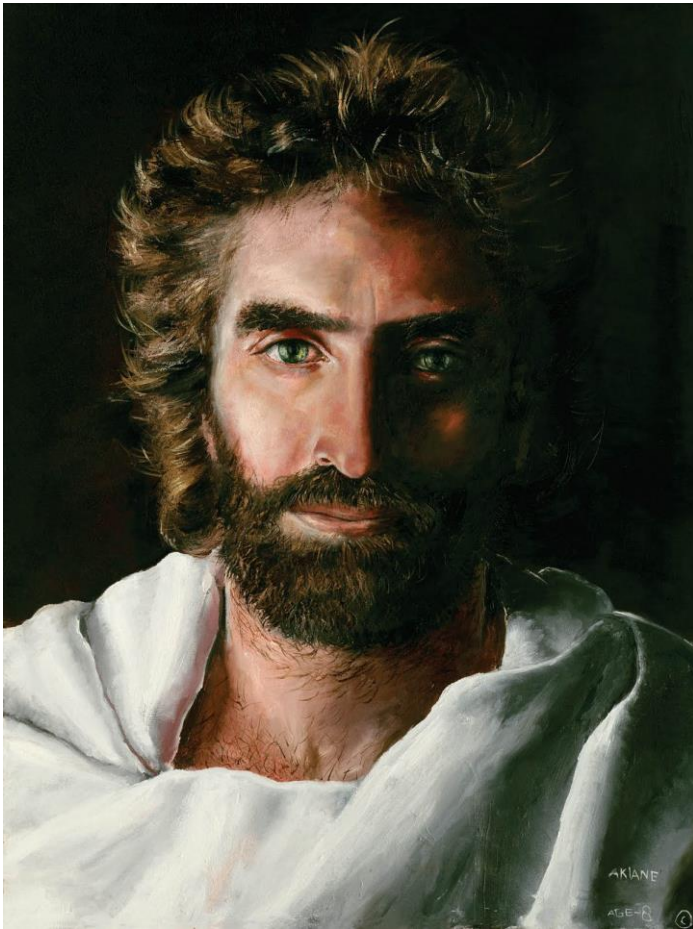
Father-God

The portion of God that went to live on the mental plane came to be known as the “**Holy Spirit**” or the “**Holy Ghost**” or sometimes “**Grandma Spirit**” as in Native American traditions. This part of God is a little bit easier to understand, because we possess both logical thinking and emotions. When we think something through logically, or when we feel love, or when we feel rightfully angry at an injustice, or when we wish we could just climb up into someone’s lap and be comforted, that is the plane that Grandma-God is on. (This mothering type of God was sometimes personified as Mother Nature, or Mother Earth, but this is not accurate, because God is not the *creation* but rather the *Creator*.) It is very comforting to know that Grandma-God is there.



Grandma-God

The part of God that became physical is Jesus. This is the one we can understand the best, because He found out what it was like to live on Earth as a human when he eventually showed up, and boy did he find out how hard it could be! The guy was beat within an inch of his life and then killed in a very slow, painful way.



Jesus

But I'm getting way ahead of the story, so let me back up...

So God said to Himself (to the three parts of Himself), “I’ve created this Universe, and it’s all pretty cool. I like hanging out in all of the galaxies, and planet Earth especially is pleasant, with the sky and oceans and plants and all, but We are still alone. Breaking up into three parts didn’t really solve anything. I think we should create other living stuff besides plants, so we can have some real interaction.”

So God created animals. And He found that He enjoyed them, because animals are all pretty cool. Especially dogs.

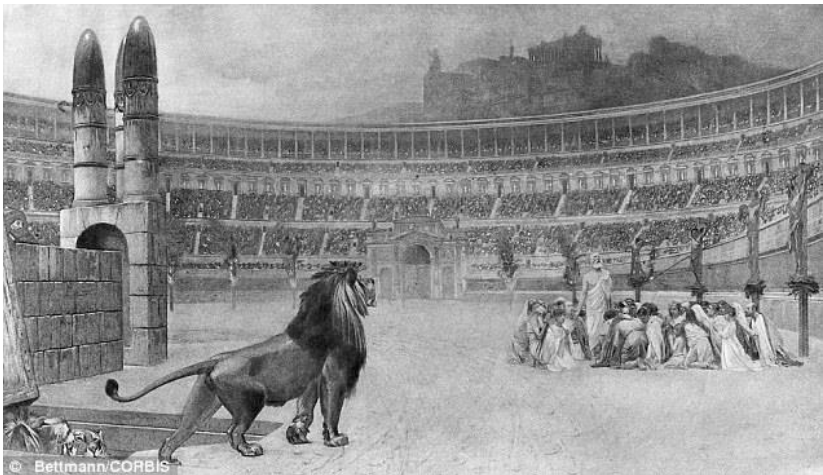


But then Father God was like, “As much as I love dogs and dolphins and all the other animals, they just don’t quite hit the mark, you know? I want something capable of more depth of emotion. Something that can be creative, like We are. I know! Let’s create humans in our own image! That will really be meaningful to us – people who would be creative and smart and loving!”



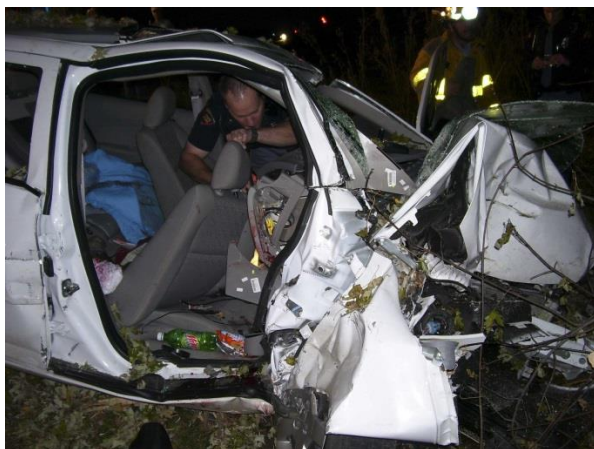
And that is when Grandma Spirit and Father God got into a debate...

“Uh, hold on,” said Grandma Spirit, “it sounds like You are talking about something that has a free will. Are we sure we want to do that? If they are capable of true love, then we want to do that? If they are capable of true love, then they are capable of hate. If they can be nurturing and affectionate, they can be evil and dangerous.”



Father God: “I don’t think we want robots that are not capable of their own decisions. How meaningful would that be? We might as well just make remote control toys and program them to do what we want. No, I think we should make humans. Then later on, if they want robots and computers that only do what they are told, they can make robots and computers themselves.”

Grandma: “But if we create humans and they do bad things, then the whole world is going to go down the toilet. Not only will there be both good and bad, but there will be both health and sickness. There will be both incredible joy and deep despair. People will have accidents. People will die. ***This has the potential to get really bad.*** You are talking about a world that not only has good things (*flowers, perfect health for everyone, and no chance of getting hurt*) but also bad things (*poison ivy, fleas, diseases and car accidents*). Should we really do this?”



Father God: “Do we want to stay alone in this Universe? Do we want a world where there are no dangers or risks at all, so that there are no meaningful actions and therefore no depth of emotion? Or do we want love? I want to feel the joy in a boy’s heart when he sees his father arrive home from a tour of duty in a foreign war. I want to feel the thrill of a first crush in the hearts of young people. I want to feel the unspeakable bliss when a young mother holds her newborn child for the first time. I want to feel the compassion and fear and bravery all at once in a man’s heart when he risks his life to save someone from a burning building. ***That is what will give this Universe meaning.***”



Grandma: “Do you realize that sometimes the fireman won’t be successful, and people will die in the fire? Or the fireman himself may be killed when the building collapses? Do you realize that sometimes the boy’s father will be killed in action? Do you realize that when the young people who are in love get married, one of them may cheat on the other? Do you realize that sometimes a mother may die in childbirth, or a baby may not live to grow up? Furthermore, do you realize that when all of these bad things happen, we will get blamed? I mean, if we create this incredibly complicated world where people fight, wage wars, cheat on each other, steal, etc. and where bad stuff can happen like people getting into car accidents or getting cancer, it will all be on us. We won’t be able to step in every time something bad happens and fix it. ***People will get really upset and some people will hate us for it when their hearts are broken.***”



Father God: “Maybe we can step in and fix problems for them as they arise. We can send help whenever it’s needed.”



Grandma: “No, that won’t work. Maybe once in a blue moon we could do something like that, but if we never let anything bad happen, then we are back to a fake world without meaning. Plus, people would never know what to expect, and it would be confusing to say the least. We cannot continuously meddle. If we are going to do this, it has to be all the way. ***Either we are going to create laws of physics that govern the Universe and stick to them, and let the chips fall where they may, or we are not going to create people at all.*** We can’t make a habit of stepping in and, for instance, suspending the law of gravity if a kid falls out of a 12-story window. We created gravity, so if we don’t want utter chaos, we are going to have to stand by the law of gravity. That is going to stink. Should we really do this?”

Father God: “I want love! I want love in this Universe! Without love, it’s all meaningless. And without the potential for bad things and evil and death, there is no real love. And besides, when one of them dies, there is always Heaven. The kid who falls out of the 12-story window will come here to be with us. The kid won’t mind because he will be happy, and will get to grow up in Heaven.”



Grandma: “But his family will be devastated.”



Father God: “That is true. That’s the hard part. We need to work on a plan for that.”

Grandma: “Yes, that is the hard part. When they are separated, they won’t understand that it’s only for a short period of time in the grand scheme of things. All they will know is life on Earth. ***Years seem like only days to us, but not to them.*** So we have this problem: We created the Universe, and We have to follow Our own rules for the Universe. That is going to be a very hard thing to do when something sad happens. How are we going to handle it when people blame us? ***How will they know that We created them because We wanted to experience love through watching their relationships? They will think just the opposite... They will think that We are cruel!*** Since we have to honor the rules of the Universe, we can’t just pop in and tell them how much We love them. Because I’m on the mental plane, I’m invisible; and since You, Father-God, are on the spiritual plane, their fragile bodies couldn’t handle seeing You, and they would die... How would you communicate without accidentally killing them?”



Then Jesus, who had been quietly taking in the conversation, spoke up. “I’ll go. I’ll show them love like they’ve never seen! I’ll let them know that We are kind and loving. I’ll let them know that when sad things happen, We are sad, too. I’ll let them know that when people die, it’s not really the end, because they can go to Heaven!”



Father God: “How are you going to do that? How are you going to tell them?”

Jesus: “I will live with them and experience all of the joy and grief and stress that they experience, so that they know that I understand. I will be so loving and kind! I will heal the sick; I will raise people from the dead; I will even let them kill me! Then, I will come back to life and forgive them for killing me, and tell them that We love them so much!”



Grandma: “Some of them won’t believe you.”

Jesus: “Well, that’s up to them. It’s true that with a free will, some will and some won’t believe that we love them. But, I am all for this idea of creating humans. As a matter of fact, I want it so badly that I’m willing to BE one of them – *forever!*”



There was silence in Heaven. It was bad enough to think about being beaten and killed. That would only last for a day. It was another thing entirely for a part of God to sacrifice Himself in such a way as to become like one of His creations forever. That would be like a human becoming a dog to save all dogs.

“Are you sure?” said Grandma.

“Yes,” Jesus said, with resolve in his voice.

“Ok. Let’s do it. Let’s make humans,” said Father God, and He reached down and scooped up a handful of dirt.

So God created people, knowing that there would be both joy and sorrow. Allowing both good and bad was the only way to achieve a human race that truly had a free will – the ability to decide whether to be loving or not. **God wanted love so badly, that He did it.** But God did not just chalk up the bad things; He made it so that one day, it will all be right. Life on Earth, with all of its heartache will give way to eternity and joy! Jesus will come back one day soon, and fix everything, and He will have accomplished what He set out to do: Create a people to love, that truly have the ability to choose to love Him in return.

It goes both ways:

God loves you ***no matter what you do.***

The desire of His heart is for you to love Him, ***no matter what happens;*** for our sorrow is only for a short period of time.

Jesus became human and still is human, so He understands.
When you are sad, Jesus is sad.



But the BEST news is that He is coming back! And very soon, everything is going to be Ok. No more sorrow. No more death. No more *how-will-I-make-my-car-payment-and-still-afford-groceries* stress! Jesus said so.

The world is in a horrible mess: Corruption is rampant, terrorists are brutal, international banks are greedy, and the Earth is polluted. ***Things are to the point where modern society, even in America, is about to collapse.*** The prophecies are coming true, so we know that this age is almost over! This isn't the 1800's or even the 1900's... It's too far gone... Only Jesus can straighten it out now.

But He promised to! He came the first time to die. The next time He comes, it will be to stay! And finally, all will be right in the world.



Is it time to make peace with Jesus? Time to tell Him that you don't blame Him for the bad things that happen in the world? To ask Him to forgive you of the times when you've been a jerk to Him, or to others? He understands. He will forgive you. He loves you so much that He died for you, and **He is hoping so hard that He will hear from you.**



“Jesus, all this time, I kinda had the wrong idea. I thought that when my heart was broken, you didn't care, because you didn't stop it from happening. But I get it now... You were sad, too. You cried right along with me, and you still do, because I'm still going through a bunch of crap, and sometimes I feel overwhelmed. This world is such a tough place to live anymore! It's so hard! Forgive me for being a jerk and blaming you. Thanks for coming to Earth over 2,000 years ago to show us that you loves us. I can hardly wait for you to come back, because the world is falling apart, and we need you really bad. I feel so much better now, knowing that you care, and that you are coming. It will be really cool to see you! Wow. Amen.”

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