

Chapter 2

The Bible Study

The entire premise of *The Offer* is a passage from the Old Testament of the Bible, the source text of my personal belief system, Christianity. When I refer to my “source text” in this book, I am talking about the Bible. I suspect that you have heard of this text before and probably even have seen one in the drawer by your hotel bed.

The Old Testament of the Bible includes five books of poetry: Psalms; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Job; and Song of Solomon. I have spent a great deal of time with these books of the Bible in other creative endeavors through my “T. H. Chalm” poetry. My publishing company, QuetzalHiloco, has self-published these books through Amazon and KDP. Please note, total sales of these works are extremely low, but I want to sell many more copies of *The Offer*!

The Chalm poetry for *The Offer* directly came from Ecclesiastes, in the 19th verse of its fifth chapter. Chalm wrote a rhyming version of the entire book of Ecclesiastes in iambic pentameter, and his “rendition” of this specific verse follows:

To all whom God gives both possessions, wealth,
and likewise, whom he has enabled well
to find enjoyment, to accept their lot
in all their toils, this is the gift of God.

What these verses assert is that the universe controls who is wealthy and who is not. Alternatively, you could say at least that there is not a direct correlation between hard work and all the attributes that tend to be predictors of high earning potential and actual wealth since we all know stories of brilliant, industrious people who struggle financially, and we all know or are aware of lazy idiots that somehow are fabulously wealthy.

We also know about people who are rich and miserable, and we know people (maybe) who are poor but happy.

I am using the word “Bible” specifically to trigger readers. It triggers people on both sides, in the sense that Christians gravitate toward the word since the Bible is their (our) holy book. People who have a negative perception of Christians (because of the evils done in the name of Jesus) see the word “Bible” and maybe roll their eyes or even stick out their tongues in disgust when they read the word or hear it spoken. That’s OK! As a for-profit enterprise seeking to help all of humanity, we

believe that Real Advisers can work with people of different faiths, including people that have extremely negative perceptions of Christians and Christianity. All that is required for The Offer is for you to at least *somewhat* identify with our ecumenical, non-denominational, irreligious “Bible Study”, and recognize quickly the qualifier that belief in God is not necessary. You can just believe in the universe instead, or pick your own goddess or god.

Here is “The Bible Study”:

- The universe decides who is rich and who is poor. We all know poor, hardworking geniuses and lazy dolts who somehow are wealthy. We have to admit that there is an element of unpredictability as to who is wealthy and who isn't, and most wealthy people (measured by dollars) will admit that they became wealthy only because they happened to be at the right place at the right time.
- Wealth is either a blessing or a curse, but it isn't necessarily one or the other. We all know happy and engaged people who don't have a lot of money, and at least have heard

stories about rich people who are miserable and isolated (even if you don't actually know such a person). Which one would you rather be?

- Wealth is a blessing only if you both possess it and know how to enjoy it.

Can you disagree?

I note that a small percentage of the people reading this will get hung up on some of the specific language. The Bible Study requires you to engage in a high-level thought exercise where you may need to suspend temporarily some of your normal ways of thinking.

I note too that some people get hung up on the notion that their free will might be excluded, or that because the universe controls all things, I no longer am responsible for directing my will. I am not saying that we do not have absolute agency (free will), or that we are not responsible for our actions. At the same time, I do not know that anyone can disagree with the notion that if the universe either intends something to happen or not, nothing happens outside of its intention. So, I can have my free will but there is another force at work.

This "other force" at work does not necessarily

give me apprehension. My belief system and my experiences with psilocybin and Ayahuasca strongly reinforced the notion that the force of the universe is a benevolent one and it has specific knowledge of me. I perceive now in a way I wasn't able to before that somehow I am part of the infinitesimally intricate design of the universe. I discuss psychedelics and their relevance to The Offer beginning in Chapter 5 (entitled "Who Am I?") and elsewhere in this book.

If you get hung up on the term, "the universe", then replace that with "God", or vice versa. As an alternative to both, you could say that there is no direct scientific correlation that works in every instance where you can measure by personality characteristics and opportunity whether someone is going to be wealthy (and if so whether they will be able to enjoy their wealth). There is a "something else" that enables them to achieve wealth, first, and then to enjoy it, second.

I have identified a key tool, an ancient technology, practice, and method that you can employ to direct your thoughts and will. This is a practice you can learn in a few minutes, but that you can use for the rest of your life to your benefit. This tool is meditation. If this makes you nervous, don't worry. Meditation can be

learned very easily, and I can teach you how. In fact, we can meditate together in a few minutes.

I must be faithful to explain my belief system since I am invoking my ancient source text as a place of authority in these matters. Our text illustrates universal truths that apply to everyone no matter what their specific beliefs are.

My source text drives me to who I perceive as the supreme divine ruler and authority of the universe, and I frequently appeal to that authority to intervene on my behalf. A prayer taught to me by that supreme divine authority in the Gospel of Matthew includes my daily personal pledge of allegiance to my deity's will, consistent with the ancient hermetic maxim: AS ABOVE, SO BELOW. The prayer that Jesus instructs is "Not my will, but thine be done." This represents a fundamental opportunity for everyone reading this book.

I don't want to tell you that you must believe in Jesus to be saved. The reason I don't want to tell you that is because it's not up to me who goes to the Christian heaven. The reason I do not want to tell you that must believe in Jesus is not because I do not believe in Jesus or do not want you to. I do, but only in the sense that I want everyone to be connected to what I

perceive as the ultimate source of love in the universe. Nevertheless, I understand that it may be impossible for you to see this because you might believe differently than me. Telling people they better do what you say, or think what you think or else they're going to hell is psychotic and will never allow you to make friends with the people I want to be friends with.

So, I believe in Jesus and would encourage you to do the same. There are much better evangelists and apologists than me though. I would direct all skeptics to the works of C. S. Lewis as one of the greatest apologists of the 20th century, and particularly to his book, *Mere Christianity*. If you reject Christianity after reading what he wrote, I truly will respect your intelligence and would be curious about your reasoning. It certainly would influence my thinking.

If you have another belief system, please recommend to me those important texts that best illustrate its most crucial aspects.

I respect other people's beliefs. 99.9% of the people in the world can work together regardless of their beliefs to attempt to end the problems of hate, hunger, homelessness, and poverty. When those problems are completely solved, please spend as much of your time

and energy as you want arguing about religion.

Argument over fine points of theology, even if they reflect truths that you hold as irrevocable, inviolable, and universal, rarely accomplishes anything.

What is it that you really want? Do you want peace? Don't argue. If you want to be wealthy, you must have peace and rest. That is the case because industriousness is a strong predictor of long-term economic success. If you don't know how to rest, you cannot work hard.

What is it that you want? Do you really want wealth? What does heart-centered wealth mean to you? These questions are expressed in The Task. Before we get to The Task, however, I must first briefly describe "The Offer".