

The Clarion

Independence Day Issue, July 2020,

Normally we meet at 332 Harbour Way in Richmond, close to 880:
just 4 blocks from Bart. Parking in back. We look forward to
seeing you there when the pandemic is over.



We, the St. Raphael's parishioners and friends, are worried but hopeful. Fa. Mathias Van Thiel was, initially, hospitalized and in ICU but was able to return home where he was bedridden but slowly improving under the loving care of his wife, Corrie. However, a few days ago, our dear friend was re-admitted with a blood clot in his leg. We wish him all the best. The following is directed not only to him but to his family and friends in harmonious fellowship.

To Our Dear Fa. Mathias: You are in our hearts and in our prayers and all of us want you to know we send you best wishes for a speedy recovery. Here are a few thoughts meant to uplift your spirits as you heal.

We ask the Lord to bless you,
As we pray for you today,
To guide you and protect you,
As you heal more every day.
God's love is always with you;
God's promises are true.
Surrender all your cares to Him
For He will see you through.

From those who love you.



JULY CLASSES ON ZOOM.US:

Member ID: 397993561.

For the Secret Password, please call Peggy Heubel at (510) 926-2869

1st Sunday, July 5, 1:00-2:30 TS : The Secret Doctrine Dialogues, Ch 5 (facilitator Henry Rutgers)

2nd Sunday, July 12, 1:00-2:30 TS: Fundamental Theosophy (facilitator Peggy Heubel)

3rd Sunday, July 19, 4:00-5:15 LCC: Hidden Side of Christian Festivals, Ch XIV, The Festival of Angels; facilitator Deaconess Imelda Brown)

4th Sunday, July 26, 1:00-3:00 TS Hermeticism: The Golden Thread, CH 7, The Meddling God: Gnosis (facilitator Barbara Penninton)

-and-

6:00-7:30 PM TS: Evolution of Higher Consciousness, CH 5, Kama - The Animal Soul (facilitator Peggy Heubel)



Thoughts on the Most Holy Trinity

By The Most Reverend William S.H. Downey, Presiding Archbishop, LCC

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Christian liturgical calendar, and the Sunday of Pentecost in Eastern Christianity. Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. G K Chesterton once said “It is the saint who tries to get his head into the heavens, it is the atheist who tries to get the heavens into his head; and it is his head that splits.” That is a way of saying that our heads, our little brains are too small and feeble to accommodate the infinitude that is God.

One definition of Theology is the critical study of concepts of God and of the nature of religious ideas. It is the way we try to think about Deity and our relationship with It. Being finite beings it is a given that our best efforts to fully comprehend intellectually the nature of God will always fall short. But it is the nature of the evolving soul to constantly seek more Light and in our quest we must continue to strive.

Theology and the study of the most meaningful doctrines of the church is an attempt to help us “organize” our thoughts about God and the eternal verities of Life. When it comes to some of the most significant doctrines of the church we talk about certain Mysteries of the Faith and perhaps the greatest of all the mysteries is that of the Holy Trinity—the mystery that deals with the very nature of God. And since we are told that man is made in the image and likeness of God it speaks to us about our own nature as well.

A mystery is something we can never fully understand with this limited mind. The word itself means something hidden but in the Greek language it also implies something “yet to be revealed”. (It may be hidden but there is the hope, perhaps the promise, of that which is “yet to be revealed”!)

So the Mysteries of Christ are for the Christian a “jumping off point” a spring board to launch us further along the path of spiritual progress growth and development. These Mysteries serve as sign posts along the way in our search for more Light.

Classical philosophy tells us that number three, the Triad, is a sacred number symbolizing harmony, balance, completion and fulfillment. Three is the number of the triangle, and in mystical geometry and numerology both shape and number are used to represent the natural

cycle of life; that is the triplicity cycle:

- 1) The descent of the soul into the body at birth,
- 2) Life,
- 3) The return of the soul to its Parent at death.

Hence, number three is the number of completion, the 'whole', the beginning, middle and end of all things. All world religions are underpinned by this ancient belief; the Christian faith speaks of the Holy Trinity being the Father (universal parent from which we emerge), son (separate life as an individual) and Holy Ghost (universal soul to which we return).

Holy trinities are not peculiar to Christianity; they are part of a very widespread and ancient tradition that recognized the power of number three. The Babylonians, for example, were particularly fond of classifying their gods into triads - that of Anu, Enlil and Ea being their most notable. The Egyptian mythology offers Osiris, Isis, and Horus. Ancient Scandinavians spoke of Odin, Freya and Thor. The Prehistoric native peoples of the Americas had their trinities of gods. Even very strict monotheistic religions such as Judaism and Islam have similar reflections of Trinitarian aspects in their more mystical sects and parties.

Time and space does not permit a further detailed outline of the extent to which the idea of Trinity and Triplicity is shown and elucidated in all the World Religions, but the reader may with very little effort research the topic.

Many of our early Liberal Catholic members were influenced by Theosophy as put forth by H P Blavatsky who said in her book *The Theosophical Glossary* “Everywhere antiquity shows an unbounded reverence for the Triad and Triangle—the first geometrical figure”. In her *Magnum Opus the Secret Doctrine*, HPB points out that The Absolute (sometimes referred to as “Be-ness”) that which is beyond the range and reach of thought and devoid of all attribute, can be symbolized as having two aspects; Absolute abstract space and Absolute abstract motion. Together they are spoken of as the Great Breath and with “Be-ness”, form the metaphysical triad..the Root from which all manifestation proceeds.

In Freemasonry in some of the “Higher Degrees” the ineffable Word can only be communicated by benefit of that which symbolizes this idea of Trinity.



As I mentioned earlier this doctrine of the Most Holy Trinity is important to us as Christian Initiates because it may lead us to a fuller understanding of Deity and a fuller understanding of ourselves as reflections of God. We remember that God created man in His own image. CWL in his book "Hidden Life in Freemasonry" states:

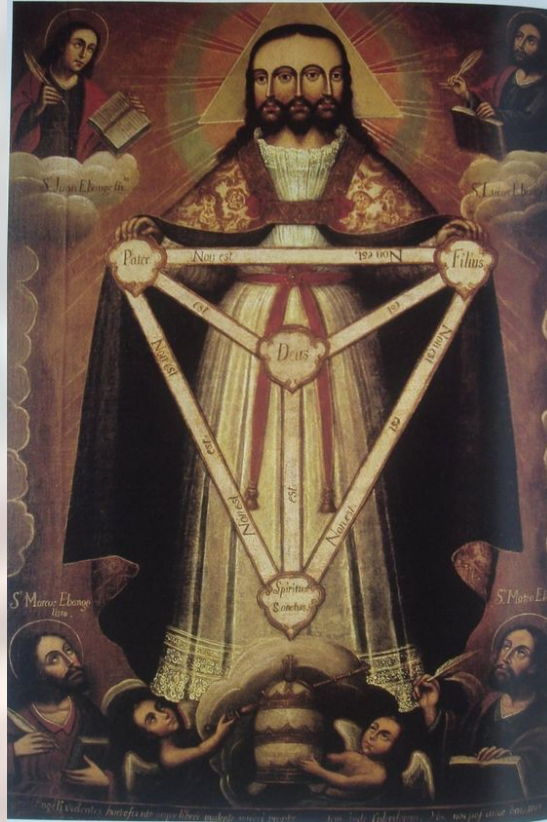
"Within the circle the triangle is placed, teaching us that God, though One in essence, manifests as a Trinity - Power, Wisdom and Love. The Divine Will is the Centre of the circle resting in Itself in eternal and unchanging peace; the Divine Wisdom is the process of radiation, the Holy Spirit who is the Source of Divine Activity, creating the manifoldness of things as it goes forth from the Centre; the Divine Love is shown forth in the circumference of the circle, uniting all separated creatures in the very bond of peace. This threefold nature of the Divine is present throughout all Creation, in every object and in every creature. In our own consciousness it is manifest in the Spiritual Will, the Intuitional Wisdom and the Creative Intelligence which are three aspects or modes of the Spirit of man, made in the image and likeness of his Creator. In the universe around us we see it as the three qualities of manifestation - inertia, mobility and rhythm, known in Hindu philosophy as the three gunas, and in Western philosophy as space or extension, time or change, and rhythm or qualities which give to each thing its distinct and essential nature."

Ultimately as with any mystery, we can only approach closest by an intuitive process not an intellectual ascent. Ultimately we must spiritually reach out and touch the hem of His garment by Faith and devotion. By developing a living experiential RELATIONSHIP.

After all the Trinity itself is about Relationship. It is about Love for St. John tells us the nature of God is Love. And for Love to be Love you must have a triplicity in action the Lover, the Beloved and the Relationship betwixt the two. The Fathers Love for the Son and the relationship or Love or Holy Spirit which according to our creed proceedeth from the Father and the Son.

The Wondrous Mystery that is the Most Holy Trinity must remain in Its fullness a hidden mystery. But we can approach the veiled Holy of Holies by a means a technique which transcends intellectualization. It is the way shown by our Lord and Master the Way of Love.

St. Thomas Aquinas said "The Fire of Love is the Source of Light, for by the burning of Love we arrive at a knowledge of the Truth".



Thomas Merton in his work Ascent to Truth says .."in the loving knowledge of God which is obscure and mystical contemplation, love penetrates the conceptual content of revelation in order to know God experientially in a higher and more perfect mode than is possible, as yet, to our intelligence.

We may not fully plumb the depths of the wonderful doctrine and dogma of the Most Holy Trinity as it would require a level of divine consciousness which we as yet, at our level of development have not have attained. Nevertheless the whole of the path which lies before us is the path of unfolding the divine potential which lies within us.

That Path of development , growth and progress is outlined in

Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians:

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known."

A Red, White and Blue Celebration of Religious Freedom

By Barbara Penninton



When the founders of the United States of America fought hard, actually against incredible odds, for independence and religious freedom, they set the stage for the next evolutionary leap in spiritual evolution. While glorious souls for thousands of years initiated mighty forces that would extend the golden thread of humanity's evolution, a significant piece was missing: a deep pragmatic, scientific understanding of human psyche and mind. It would take a young nation with bold pioneering spirit to have the temerity to charge into this unmapped territory.

In the religious freedom of a new nation, an extraordinary spirit of experimentation was born that declared dying dogmas defunct and hierarchical pronouncements offensive. In this radical openness, a realization of spiritual issues that hadn't been addressed became clear. Earlier attempts to dismiss ego, psychology and mind as irrelevant to spirituality resulted in a nearly level condition called "spiritual bypass." In spiritual bypass, the disharmonies, addictions, adolescent psychological patterns are ignored. They are just "maya," illusion. If you have enough willpower, the illusory psychological issues won't interfere with spiritual growth. Are we truly shocked when maya becomes reality and rudely sabotages our lives?

When transcendence of our personal history takes precedence over intimacy with personal history, spiritual bypassing is inevitable. Robert Augustus Masters

The founders of the United States of America were in brilliant synchronicity with the founders of the

Theosophical Society relative to the absolute necessity of religious freedom. Both had passionate, glorious visions of creating a new society, freed from rotting molds of religious rigidity, but trusting the remarkable capacity of the human potential in cooperation with the divine.

According to the Cornell Law School:

If there is any Fixed Star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official higher or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.

Speaking in the context of religious freedom, the Court said, that although the freedom to act on one's beliefs could be limited, the freedom to believe what one will "is absolute."

The Theosophical Society initiated by Madame Blavatsky in New York, 1985, had at its core a similar passionate regard for freedom of religion.

Colonel H. S. Olcott, the founder president, in his inaugural address in 1985, described the members of the Theosophical Society as simply investigators of earnest purpose and unbiased mind, who study all things, and hold fast to that which is good.





This theosophical focus on exploration of true goodness was a perfect ideological mandate for a Harvard scholar and theosophical member, William James. Although his primary education at Harvard University was in medicine, William James

Through a hundred-year exploration, we are able to conclude that the brain can be taught new patterns in support of a spiritual life, higher mind can realize extraordinary potential, and souls that appear sick can receive positive energy infusions.

Our normal waking consciousness, rational consciousness, is but a special type of consciousness, whilst all about it, parted from it by the filmiest of screens, there lie potential forms of consciousness entirely different. William James

In the great fertile field of religious freedom, there have been enormous achievements in realization of “healthy-minded” spirituality. We now recognize that the overall health of the brain and the mind are crucial for true “goodness.”

To attain true goodness, we may have to face our hidden fears, our deep anger, and our negative programming.

Because of the American-led exploration of the mind, we now have scientific proof that the brain can be retrained and the mind reconfigured to support our spiritual journey.

realized soon that his major interest was in human psychology. His pioneering work in the experimental lab at Harvard has given him recognition as the “Father of American Psychology.”

He was, like Plato, interested in the quality of mind and soul what made true “Goodness” possible. He explored a “religion of healthy-mindedness” that would align with a life of goodness. He noted that a divided self and a sick soul were not in accord with a harmonious, happy life. In a pragmatic way, he investigated what of human psychology would make “healthy mindedness” possible.

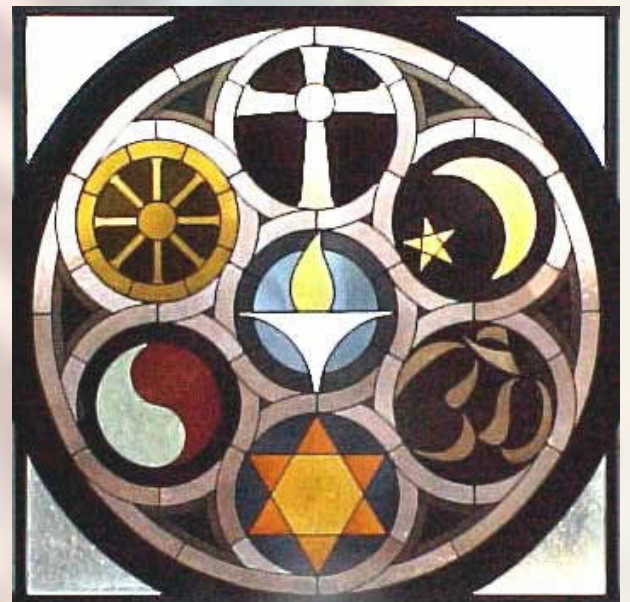


We’re entering into an extraordinary new world that will unleash the spectacular power of healthy higher minds, collaborating in inspired soul groups to populate the “truly good” kingdom of the divine human.

The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes. William James

His prolific, accessible work, including the book, “The Varieties of Human Experience,” inspired a new generation of psychologists and neuroscientists to search for ways to build “healthy-mindedness” as a support for the spiritual journey.

Our intelligence cannot wall itself up alone, like a pupa in a chrysalis. It must at any cost, keep on speaking terms with the universe that created it. William James



A Nation Divided Against Itself

By Peggy Heubel

On July 4th, the United States of America celebrates its 244th birthday: American Independence Day represents our birth as an independent nation when the *Declaration of Independence* was signed. The British Government did its best to dismiss it as a trivial document issued by disgruntled and riotous colonists. British officials commissioned propagandists to highlight the declaration's flaws and to rebut the colonists' complaints, but disorder and outright rebellion continued and King George III issued his *Proclamation of Rebellion*, officially titled *A Proclamation for Suppressing Rebellion and Sedition*. Thus, the *Declaration of Independence* became our "declaration of war." It should always be remembered that we, as a nation, were born through unrest, riotous uprising, and rebellion and that it *can happen again*.

But we did not spring fully formed as a united nation after the War—the *Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union* was the first constitution of the "league of states." The "Confederation Congress" could print money but it was worthless. Congress could borrow money, but couldn't pay it back. By 1786, we would default on our outstanding debts as their dates came due and, internationally, these "united states" had little ability to defend its sovereignty. In September 1786, during an inter-state convention to discuss and develop a consensus about reversing the protectionist trade barriers that each state had erected, James Madison "angrily questioned" whether the *Articles of Confederation* was a binding compact or even a viable government.

On February 21, 1787, the Confederation Congress called a convention of state delegates at Philadelphia to propose a plan of government. Unlike earlier attempts, this convention was not meant for new laws or piecemeal alterations, but was intended to "render the federal constitution adequate to the exigencies of government and the preservation of the Union;" thus, the Federal (later to be called the "Constitutional") Convention met (by quorum) on May 25, the new constitutional document signed on September 17, 1787, and was ratified on June 21, 1788. To this day, the *Constitution of the United States* is the "Law of the Land."

We can debate any aspect of the Constitution; we can, by consensus, add, amend, or repeal any of its original ratified tenets...**except the first ten amendments to the original document**—the *Bill of Rights*. A bill of

rights, sometimes called a declaration of rights or a charter of rights, is a list of the most important rights of the citizenry, the purpose of which is to protect those rights against infringement from public officials and private citizens. Here is a link of the full text of our Bill of Rights:

<https://billofrightsinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Branded-Bill-Of-Rights.pdf>



If the UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION is the LAW OF THE LAND and if any of the first ten amendments CANNOT be repealed, how dare anyone attempt to suborn* them—especially any of our public officials and the lobbying efforts of corporations? Do private citizens ignore them? Yes. Do our states ignore (or not enforce) them? Yes. Do our counties, our cities and towns ignore them? Yes. And, of course (through local and state governments) do our law enforcement agencies, our public welfare organizations, social services systems, educational establishments of all kinds, health care institutions, etc., turn a blind eye against our civil rights as established by our Bill of Rights

and various subsidiary laws and statutes? YES, OF COURSE! This is systemic racism; systemic social injustice (on every level we can imagine) that has been part of our history...and the world's. No wonder there is civil unrest and disorder, no wonder there are riots and looting, no wonder there is rebellion in the streets... . The world is participating in our discomfort. The world recognizes not only our own inequality but the inequality that exists in their own countries.

Can there be local, state, national, AND global change or are we on the verge of a systemic and universal revolution? Is there hope? Let's nod our heads and watch and see—just as we have done throughout our four-hundred-year history on this continent. We, the silent majority, are supporting these inequities and injustices (including murder). Shall it continue?

On this, our special day of declared independence and supposed freedom, let us stand together as peaceful but vocal protesters, if we can. Let our voices be heard loud and clear. Let freedom ring!

VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE AS NEVER BEFORE, IN THE NAME OF BROTHERHOOD

How July Got Its Name

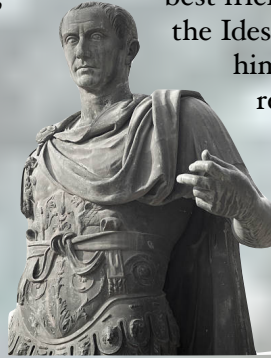
by Odette Lardé

During his 56 years of life, and two years reigning, such was his political acumen and military strategy that Julius Caesar was able to change the course of history and helped change Rome into a great international power which profoundly influenced the world. Many lands and people came under the influence of Rome. He changed federal Rome into a monarchical dictatorship and founded a whole dynasty of Roman emperors. He conquered Gaul, invaded Britain twice, and forced Germanic tribes back. He was a great orator and an author.

Julius Caesar made many populist and other reforms, such as, he reformed the tax codes; he granted Roman citizenship to far-flung territories; he regulated and distributed grain to the masses; he reduced government debt; he increased the size of the senate to include more people; he supported military veterans; and he reformed the old 10-month Roman lunar calendar and replaced it by the 12-month solar calendar which was named the Julian calendar. This calendar was reformed again in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII to account for leap year irregularities, since Caesar's calendar had added eleven minutes to the solar year.

However Caesar was so arrogant about his abilities that one time when he was captured in the Aegean Sea by Sicilian pirates who were taking him to Rome to be ransomed for twenty talents, 25-year-old Caesar laughed and bragged that they did not know whom they had captured, and that they should not ask for a mere twenty talents, for he was worth much more, and that they should ask for at least fifty talents. He was so arrogant that he ordered his captors around as if he were the captor and they the captives. He then sent his entourage out to get the ransom with which he bought his own freedom. The pirates laughed when young Caesar said he would return and capture them all and have them crucified. But true to his word, Caesar returned, captured the pirates and had them all crucified.

He was so ambitious that he acquired and discarded wives as he climbed up the ladder. He broke off his engagement to a poor girl to marry the wealthy Cornelia, who was then followed by the well-connected Pompeia, and later by Calpurnia. Although it is well-known that "Caesar's wife must be above suspicion," he divorced Pompeia for a possible affair, while his charm and wealth allowed him numerous amorous trysts. One long-running romantic affair was with the teen-ager Cleopatra VII, Queen of Egypt, with whom he fathered an illegitimate child, Caesarion. Combing his hair over his bald spot, and decorating it all with a wreath of laurel leaves, he presented himself as the epitome of eligibility.



Despite his many accomplishments, his arrogant, ambitious lust for power earned him many enemies, especially in the senate. After all, he had changed the government of federal Rome into a monarchical dictatorship, thus eroding the power of the senators. They were so angry with his corrupt ambitious and arrogant style and they were so jealous at his lightning ascent, political acumen and populist leanings, that his best friends plotted to murder him in the senate. On the Ides of March his third wife, Calpurnia, implored him not to go to the senate because she had received premonitions and omens foretelling that all was not well. She had had a dream that she was holding Caesar's dead body. But his frenemies, Cassius and Brutus, convinced him that he would be regaled for his many accomplishments. When they got to the Senate, his best friends Gaius Cassius Longinus and Marcus Junius Brutus among many others frenemies knifed him to death, with 23 stabbings.

As he had legally arranged beforehand, his grand-nephew, Octavian, who was Caesar's adoptive son, eventually became the next dictator. After a period of chaos and instability Octavian eventually defeated his rivals, Mark Antony and Marcys Aemilius Lepidus and became the next dictator. He took the name Augustus Caesar and brought two centuries of peace and prosperity called the "pax Romana" to what had become the Roman Empire.

To honor Julius Caesar who was born on July 12th, and finally appreciating his many accomplishments, and to assuage their guilt for having murdered him, the senate voted to change the name of what had in the Roman calendar been the fifth month, Quintiles, to Iulius, or as we call it, *July*. This name has lasted through the Gregorian calendar to modern times. Recognizing that he had been a great and formidable man, his adopted son and successor proclaimed himself a god, and the son of a god.

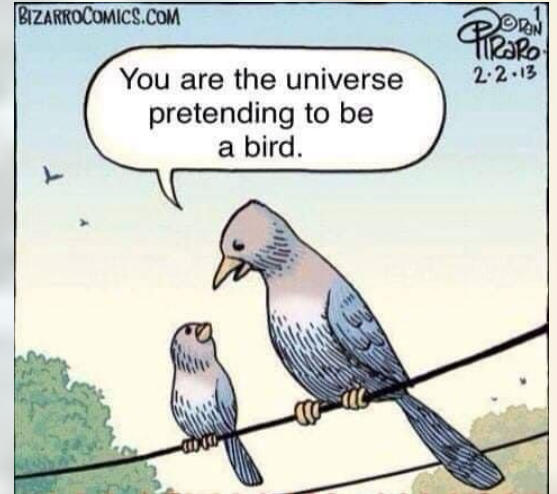
In the United States, Independence Day falls on July 4. Traditionally this month is celebrated family style, with fireworks, barbecues, carnivals and small town parades. In its past, it has never been a political holiday.

This year, however, due to the global pandemic, most celebrations have been cancelled. To avoid spikes in the coronavirus we are to shelter in place, wear masks when we go out, and wash our hands frequently. There will be no fireworks at least not in Berkeley, and people are going stir-crazy. But in Washington there will be fireworks and a big military parade costing \$5.4 million (while the economy is reeling, people are starving and cannot pay rent), while the president, surrounded by his friends and family, will survey his saluting cohorts marching by.

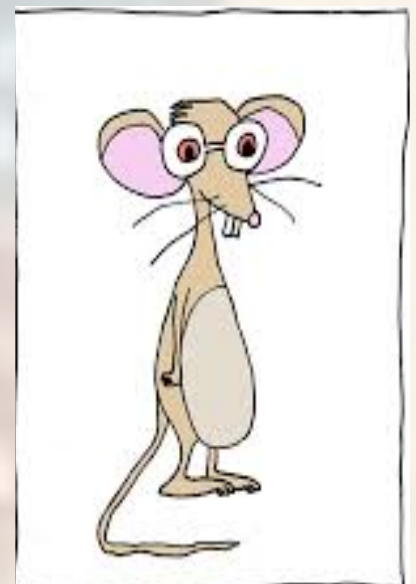
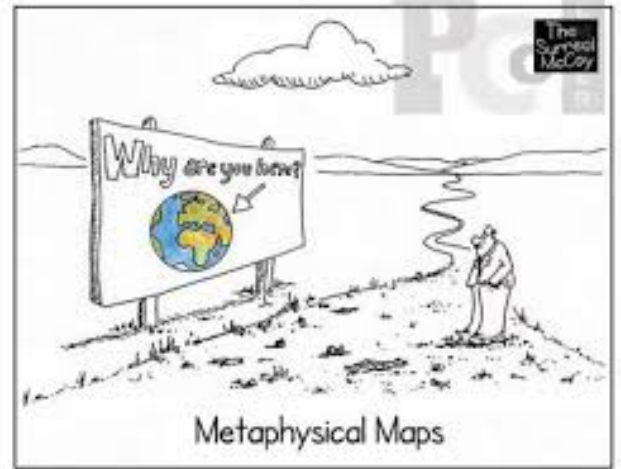
In Thoughtful Jest

Chosen and Arranged by Odette Lardé

History of Philosophy



Why, not where, is the question



For help visit a metaphysical optamologist

What Revelations doesn't say is that the Anticrist is a small short-sighted mouse named Reginald.