

## Christ's Second Coming — A Spiritual Rationalist's Perception by Dr. Dalip Kumar Khetarpal

*Lord Jesus was sent to this earth  
To reveal the real character of God,  
To show His great love for humans,  
By dying on the Cross,  
And to eradicate sin.*

As ordained in The Holy Bible,  
I've been restlessly waiting  
For the return of Christ,  
"For the Lord Himself will descend  
From heaven with a shout,  
With the voice of an archangel,  
And with the trumpet of God,  
And the dead in Christ will rise first." Thessalonians: 4: 16.  
I could but neither see  
Nor even visualize His arrival  
In any tangible form  
At any point of time,  
Despite strenuous efforts.

Though 2000 years have elapsed,  
The sinners are still galore, sinning,  
Rather with greater intensity.  
But Jesus, an ocean of forgiveness,  
Would leave us not  
In our wretchedness sinful  
For, His erring children  
And even His evil angels who "don't die"  
Will be renewed, He says,  
"Behold, I make things **ALL NEW!**" Revelation: 21:5  
"I came not to destroy men's lives  
But to **SAVE** them" Luke: 9:56  
"And, if I be lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw all **peoples** to Myself" John: 12:32.  
Does '**All**' include sinners also?  
No, the incorrigible sinners,  
Will live in hell eternally  
With Satan, an eternal evil incarnate,

Thrown “...into the everlasting fire  
 Prepared for the devil and his angels.” Matthew: 25:41,  
 But being immortal they would also,  
 In some form, perpetuate sin eternally  
 On this planet, susceptible to all evils,  
 Eternalizing sin and evil simultaneously  
 .....as it were.

Sin, in fact, started with the evil angels,  
 But humans, God’s latter new order of creation  
 Are also shockingly, born with sin —  
 —being an off-spring of Adam,  
 ‘Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity  
 And in my sin my mother conceived me’ Psalm: 51:5.  
 So, even without sinning virtually  
 "ALL have sinned. . ." Romans: 3:23.  
 Now, to deem a love- begotten- infant a sinner  
 Or to deem the proliferating of sin  
 Through bringing forth  
 More and more children on earth  
 Already contaminated with sin,  
 Seems rather absurd and unimaginable  
 Unless one’s faith in God as elucidated  
 In The Holy Bible  
 Is unswerving and unquestioning.  
 But does not the whole baseless idea  
 Of atonement for sins  
 Explicated in the scriptures become invalid  
 For a questioning mind?

Further, it is man’s faith, his theism  
 That generates religion  
 Wherefrom also springs the concept of sin,  
 For, there is no religion, sin or even scriptural God  
 For an atheist, agnostic, nihilist or skeptic.  
 Now, even if presumed that  
 Religion really or delusively exists for believers  
 One naturally would still like to query  
 Why didn't God do away  
 With the pre-natal contentious,  
 Rather eternal irritant like sin  
 That first afflicted those one third of the angels  
 Who were the first sinners,

Whose sinful activities had been bothering Him  
 In the celestial realms for quite some time  
 Much before the creation of this earth?

God, with great love and care,  
 Created Adam and Eve perfectly,  
 But then placed Satan right near them,  
 To probably, get them tempted to eat  
 The forbidden fruit grown on the tree  
 Of Knowledge, of Good and Evil.  
 Things so, began with the stimulation  
 Of their God-gifted innate ruinous curiosity  
 Susceptible to Satan's temptation  
 And God's anger---- a negative emotion of humans  
 Which finally led to catastrophic condemnation  
 By His seemingly furious Self.....  
 .....all wrought for eating the forbidden fruit.....  
 .... severest test ever conceived  
 For obedience till date.  
 But viewed if objectively,  
 The spontaneous unconscious act of disobedience  
 Was akin, just to trivial kindergarten fault  
 Inadvertently committed by poor innocent novices  
 Ignorant of sin hitherto.  
 Really, how the magnitude of punishment  
 Should far exceed the quantum of love and solace  
 Initially displayed by God, is really, terribly painful!  
 Still, God seems to cherish and relish  
 His praise and glorification by His believers  
 "Whosoever offers praise glorifies Me," Psalm: 50:23,  
 Followed by the imploring look  
 Of His desperately eager believer  
 Beseeking Him to be helped in testifying his praise:  
 "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall  
 Show forth Your praise" Psalm: 51:15.  
 Was all this required when the Omniscient knows  
 What lies hid in human psyche?

Ironically, manifesting love, then creating sin,  
 Allowing it to grow and flourish,  
 And subsequently, condemning  
 And redeeming mankind from the sins  
 Through the sacrifice of Christ

Reveals God as one who alternate  
 Love with harsh and capricious punishment,  
 But finally, clearing the whole mess  
 With love and sacrifice in such a way  
 That the whole stuff becomes  
 A pattern strange with an air of mystery  
 Surrounding it.  
 Though this appears startling and confounding  
 To all thinking, probing, delving believers,  
 It surely appeals and convinces  
 His pious, but blind credulous believers  
 Who believe “The secret things belong  
 To the Lord our God, but those things  
 Which are revealed belong to us  
 And to our children forever, that we may  
 Do all the words of this law.” Deuteronomy: 29:29.

Despite all weird scriptural mysteries,  
 Unnatural twists and turns,  
 The harsh fact that perennially pinches most believers is,  
 Most unnecessarily, tragically and pitifully,  
 "The Lamb was slain from the foundation  
 Of the world," Revelation: 13:8.  
 But that was the Plan of Salvation  
 Which obviously was designed  
 Before the earth was created,  
 For, the sacrifice of innocent lamb-like Christ  
 Had to be made  
 To fulfill God's desire,  
 To remedy what had gone wrong  
 In the higher sphere  
 And also to provide salvation for sinners on earth  
 Who otherwise would have been lost or damned,  
 Though, as obvious, no sphere  
 Has obviously been cleansed  
 Of any sin or evil till date.  
 But, such was an elaborately intricate pattern  
 And uncanny Plan of Salvation  
 That, except ingenuous believers,  
 None can ever stomach,  
 Especially, devotees with lateral thinking,  
 Common sense and reason-----  
 .....God's own special gift to mankind.

We all know that darkness is nothing  
 But the absence of light.  
 In the beginning when “the earth was without form”,  
 When “darkness was on the face of the deep” Genesis: 1: 2.  
 God ordained, "Let there be light,  
 And there was light”, Genesis: 1:3.  
 It would have been more feasible  
 And infinitely beneficial  
 To all evil angels and mankind, both  
 If God had also ordained, “Let cosmos be sin-free,  
 And the entire cosmos was sin-free.”  
 The indescribably painful  
 Psycho-somatic odyssey  
 Gone through by Christ  
 And His ultimate crucifixion  
 Seemed completely redundant.  
 So, God’s plan, as The Holy Bible affirms,  
 Was not flawless..... if reason is not  
 A very poor substitute for blind faith.

Sinners die, Christ also died, but only physically,  
 For He was eternal  
 And so was later resurrected,  
 Though recognized as the “Son of God,”  
 He appeared in human guise  
 So that it could be possible for Him  
 To come and live with us  
 And finally give away His life most voluntarily,  
 Solely for purging the sins of the universe.  
 Humans, especially Christian believers  
 Are in pressing and dire need of God  
 As, as presumed, they are drenched with sin  
 And so have to make frantic attempts  
 To wash it off with the help of God and prayers.  
 But how far He helps them in granting absolution  
 Is still a moot point.

In conformity with God’s plan,  
 Christ displayed exemplary endurance,  
 Shed infinite blood,  
 Before and during His crucifixion  
 But salvaged nothing, but Himself,  
 Through resurrection.

Lazarus, John: 11 : 43,  
 A widow's son: Luke : 7: 14,  
 Jairus daughter: Matthew : 9: 25  
 Also resurrected,  
 And salvaged themselves,  
 For their faith in Christ was firm,  
 But faith-less modern sinners,  
 Must so be beyond redemption  
 And can hence, see no resurrection.  
 Christ then, must also stop bleeding eternally  
 For at least those beyond redemption.....  
 .....being the offspring of eternal Satan.  
 Parallel to this,

The virtuous also today  
 Salvage nothing, not even their own selves  
 Even after displaying  
 Remarkable sacrifice and endurance  
 To endure the pain, the suffering  
 That is even beyond endurance,  
 To further only endure the long-awaited, expected  
 And excruciatingly silent  
 Perceptible/imperceptible impending cataclysm  
 With bleeding hearts and dismal squeaks and groans.

Owing to various flaws  
 And inherent contradictions and dichotomies  
 In religion  
 That often suspends man  
 Between belief and disbelief....  
 .....an extremely painful state,  
 One is still unsure  
 Whether he is religious or irreligious  
 Or even should even be religious or not,  
 Whether he is rooted or even rootless.....  
 .....all creating a state of uncertainty,  
 Of terrible predicament, of doubt, of suspense....  
 .....often shattering his psyche.  
 The current bleak scenario also,  
 Perhaps, the bleakest in the history of mankind,  
 Left me smoldering within so much for years  
 That, though being a deist, I wanted to ask  
 The universally worshipped God

Through the mind of a theist  
Why demons have been given so much time  
To go on  
With their orgy of bloodshed, rape,  
Murder, plunder and evil deeds multifarious.  
When everything has gone topsy-turvy,  
Every ill, irremediable  
Every good, irreversible,  
Every damage, irreparable,  
Every love, fleeting and transient,  
Should I then  
With some credulity presume, especially  
After witnessing large scale  
Physical cataclysm and ecological disasters  
That cataclysm has struck  
'With a whimper'  
And not 'with a bang'  
And God has emerged triumphant  
In this God-Satan long silent war of attrition?  
But that is also still a moot point.

Despite all contradictions, setbacks and pitfalls  
In creation or God's plan  
As imagined, felt and thought by rationalist believers,  
And despite the dilution of living faith  
By a perceptive, thinking analytical mind,  
Created by God Himself,  
The scope, significance and impact

Of God have not waned,  
For, the believers with strong right brain  
Are always busy improvising special prayers  
And sometimes chanting  
Their stereotyped hymns,  
With seemingly greater enthusiasm  
And involvement,  
With the hope  
To be transported to heaven  
Or sneak into it  
To pilfer some nectar from there.  
But conversely, when atheists also along with theists  
Pursue religion—a common human theatrics,  
And when the Omniscient

And Omnipresent really perceives  
He should wryly grin  
At this farce.  
The farce deepens  
On witnessing those devotees  
Who pray most devotedly, passionately  
With mad enthusiasm---being the worst sinners.  
Their schizophrenic prayers  
Also emanate from their lowest  
Sinful activities.  
Further, when their prayers  
Are blended unconsciously/subconsciously  
With the worst immoral ideas,  
When they try  
To create an illusion  
About their devotion  
Before the Omniscient,  
He should feel disheartened, disillusioned  
And demoralized  
And should not go getting  
Delusions of grandeur  
On listening to  
Their theatrical prayers.

The Almighty  
Must have also realized that  
The human mind—His own creation  
That tends towards Him  
Also tends towards  
Temptations and worldly pleasures,  
Towards logic, reason and science.  
As such, He must surely feel penitent  
To see Himself evaluated and analyzed,  
Questioned and dissected by his own created beings.  
But will He be humble  
To repent and realize His fault?  
He must if he is alive and awake  
To all scurvy human affairs  
And to the glare  
Of topsy-turvy creation  
With its inherent clash  
Between flesh and spirit, vice and virtue,  
Religion and science, and faith and reason.

Now, even if all syllogism, ratiocination and rationality  
 Are to be set aside  
 And even if one immerses oneself wholly  
 In the Holy Bible  
 With **all requisite prayers and meditation**  
**That often gives peace and satisfaction,**  
 Nothing positive obviously will emerge  
 For both the fate of man  
 And the whole cosmic scenario is,  
 As it was, as it has been, and had been.

Though religion may not stand  
 The onslaught of logic or psycho- analysis  
 And though untenable theories and concepts  
 Or unanswered questions on religion  
 Breed fear, suspense, uncertainty  
 And even disbelief in no small measure,  
 One has still to bank on it  
 To be rooted in life,  
 To be properly protected  
 And sheltered from all problems and crises.....  
 .....though, perhaps, psychologically.  
 Further, one's own inner divine spark or intuition,  
 His own innate spiritual and moral consciousness,  
 Draw him quite naturally towards religion mystique  
 With rather astonishing velocity,  
 For, it is only religion that is replete with  
 Spiritual, moral, sublime and divine values, contents,  
 And essence already inherent in him  
 With varying degree;  
 It is also only the language of religion  
 That is couched in the vernacular  
 Of the human spirit  
 That drenches it  
 To the core, rejuvenates it  
 And finally kindles faith in it.  
 It is precisely because of this that  
 This planet is flooded with believers.

Religion, with its divine and benign influence  
 Has carved successfully  
 The image of Gods  
 On human psyche

That anchors him to life,  
 Works as hinges,  
 Moves him unhindered,  
 Facilitates his survival  
 And smoothens his existence  
 For, he is so weak, so dependable  
 So insufficient, so pitiable  
 So helpless and so hapless,  
 Pitted against fate  
 Every now and then  
 In this inscrutable world.  
 When help and succor  
 From nature and humans  
 Is not forthcoming  
 His logic, reason and rationalization  
 Capacities and skills  
 Are bound to give in,  
 For he finds nothing else to cling on  
 But only to God (be it delusive or imagined)  
 Only whom he can implore  
 To extricate him  
 Out of the mess.  
 God then becomes a Savior  
 A Reliever, Pacifier  
 Who acts as a strong  
 Psycho- spiritual base  
 For his existence  
 Confirming vicariously also His own existence.....  
 .....in some way.

Though abstract and mysterious,  
 God is truly man's most ideal concept,  
 Most compelling, fascinating illusion  
 And weirdest and sublime mystery  
 Man has ever created, visualized or imagined.  
 Man can never ever  
 Think, imagine and feel  
 Anything better, greater  
 And more sublime than God  
 For endless ages to come.

If this be really so,  
 Even illusion of God seemingly becomes

A delusion sweet, concrete and real  
That Borders on faith  
That emanates naturally from the spirit of man  
From perhaps, the divine spark  
That often sparks  
When scriptural verses seep into his spirit,  
When he sees God in imagination  
Or as a living reality,  
But pathetically sees his transient self  
As still an illusion, living amidst  
Countless transient persons and things  
Illusive.....incredibly followed by  
A weird demonic realization that  
Even God would dwindle into illusion  
When he dies,  
For God can live only as long as he is conscious  
Of His existence.

After many years of breakneck scrutiny and analysis  
From groping, pondering, meditating  
And brain storming exercises,  
To final doubting, confusion, predicament  
And fatal exhaustion,  
My flummoxed and ambivalent self  
Arrived nowhere  
As my faith had been flickering,  
Waxing and waning  
Throughout my psychic odyssey  
Amidst weirdly diversified  
Human drama.  
Besieged by  
Dark-narrow-blind alleys thus,  
I could go nowhere  
See no light.  
An unknown spark in me then  
Suddenly sparked one fine morn,  
Flooding my whole being  
With intense light.

Inspired and freely carried away  
By this light  
That seemed divine  
That ended my endless, uncertain

Labyrinthine spiritual journey  
That annihilated the darkness  
Of my ignorance, of the limitations  
Of my logic, my reasoning powers,  
I humbly kneel before  
Thy greatest Self  
In supplication today  
And pray to Thee.  
Being an illusion myself  
I yearn for fusion with Thy immortal self  
But the impact of this fusion  
Should be such  
That puts my transient self  
On the path of eternity,  
That strips  
My illusive hallucinatory existence  
Of its delusions,  
That rekindles and rejuvenates  
My the dying- living faith,  
That reduces  
Even the impact of nuclear fusion  
To a mere illusion,  
And saves my psyche  
From eternal maim.



**Dr. Dalip Kumar Khetarpal** has a long experience as a Lecturer with various colleges in Delhi and Haryana. Dr Dalip has also started a new genre in the field of poetry which he calls ‘psycho-psychic flints’. His poems are flints because they emit spark when they hit the readers’ mind. His criticism and poems are appear widely both in national and international magazines and journals.

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