

## **Pardon Me, but the World's a Mess.**

Pardon me for saying so, but the world's in a mess. We're still in the midst of a major recession, with millions of people out of work in this country alone. The amounts owed on one fourth of all home mortgages, I've read, exceed their property values. State budgets are busting, teachers are being laid off, companies are closing, social services are declining, and even increases in charitable giving in places like Bloomington cannot keep pace with growing needs. Every day's news tells of some gunman gone berserk, some presumptive terrorist attack, the latest massacre in Afghanistan, an earthquake in some place like Haiti or Chile, and now the distressing updates on the oil gusher in the Gulf of Mexico. Cable news networks are saturated with hyperbole and hysteria over the slightest misstep in public life, and seem to have no clue what is really going to matter in the long run.

These are times that try people's souls, and drive many to wonder, "Where is God in all this? Why isn't God doing something to fix the world and put it back in order?"

Boy, wouldn't we all like to set the rest of the world straight! Let me assure you: if I were God . . . . things would be a lot worse than they are even now.

You see, as far as we know, God is already doing the very best God can do. It would be presumptuous of us to think that God doesn't care, or is an underachiever who could be doing better. And it would be outrageous to think that any one of us could do better!

The problem isn't with God, it's with those of us who aren't cooperating with the "Force," the "Ground of Being," the "Master of the Universe," or the "Ultimate Who is Love." If I were God, I certainly wouldn't be able to get people to do a better job of listening to and following Yours Supremely. Nor would I necessarily always have the good of the whole world in mind, as God surely must.

The real miracle of our existence is that all life is still pretty special, and God hasn't yet let us destroy ourselves despite all our cruel, stupid, and vain attempts to run the show. Give God a break. If this world is ever going to be a better place, it's up to you and you and me.

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