Life Quest

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Petition for Waiver of Faculty Mentor Requirement

Dr. Broadhead, 5/3/01

As you know, I have worked this semester on a project that started with examining codes in the Bible and resulted in my writing a book. The following book, *Life Quest*, is my final result. I have worked hard all semester on this project, and it has literally changed my life.

I understand that you are busy, so you may not have time to read it. I would like for you to read it if you have time because I think it would explain why I could not have had a faculty mentor for this project. However, in a nutshell, I can only explain it like this: This book was more of an artistic/spiritual/scientific journey that could not really be guided with the help of anyone. The journey had to be made on my own. I honestly feel that a faculty mentor would have made a weaker product than the current product. This is not meant as a slight to any professors on campus. I simply feel that my journey was one that had to be taken alone, or with God, depending on your perspective. I think the result is a strong writing which is honest and from a 22-year old perspective without interference or steering from a mentor. That honesty is also what makes the book believable and the experience truly my own.

Therefore, I would like to be given permission not to have a faculty mentor. If this is not possible, I would like for you to be the faculty mentor. I can not think of any other professor who has been as open minded and flexible as you have been about allowing the student to determine the direction we take with our projects. Also, I feel that you have a better understanding of the process it took for me to write this book because I
made a few presentations as the process of this book neared completion. So if you would like to be the faculty mentor for this project, I would be very happy with that.

Please let me know about whether or not this is acceptable, and I will find an appropriate faculty mentor to sign off. You can contact me at:

brett@utk.edu or 595-8836 (through Friday May 11th, 2001).

Thank-you.

Brett Franks, Senior in Engineering Science
Life Quest

By Brett Franks
Chapter 1—DISCOVERING THE BIBLE CODE
I hate Oprah. Ok, not really, but if it weren’t for her show, I would be a totally different person. That’s such a cheesy sounding way to start, but bear with me because I have to start somewhere—and this is as good a place as any.

My sister, sometime in the mid-1990’s, was watching the Oprah Winfrey show. We were home from school, and I think it was just on more or less as background since Ricki Lake had just gone off. Anyway, something caught my attention on the show because there was a man on stage who thought that he had discovered a code in the Bible. I listened further because although I was young, the idea had crossed my mind as well.

The guest speaker was named Michael Drosnin. He was telling Oprah that he had worked with some mathematicians in Israel who had discovered that the original Torah, the first five books of the Bible according to Jewish tradition, had a special code that allowed for a strange predictability of events.

Well, not really a predictability, but he briefly discussed that the code was arranged like a crossword puzzle. By arranging the letters of the original Torah (in Hebrew), there were certain words that crossed each other in a grid type pattern. But the words were things like “Roosevelt”, “President”, and “He gave the order to strike on the day of the great defeat”—an obvious reference to World War I. Words like: “President Kennedy”, “to die”, and “Dallas”. This show intrigued me to no end. I wanted to know more. Drosnin had written a book called *The Bible Code* about the topic. The book went on to be a New York Times Bestseller. I thought maybe one day I would read that book.
A few years later, I was in college in Tennessee and had gotten an internship in Texas. I was 19. I moved in with another student living there who was also an intern and needed a roommate. I went one day to a bookstore because I was bored and found a paperback copy of *The Bible Code*. I was so excited. I bought it, no questions asked, and immediately starting reading. I told my family about it. I don’t think I told too many other people about it. I’m pretty sure a couple of my extended family members read it. Eventually, I accepted the whole thing as a neat coincidence—nothing to be taken seriously. I probably was too young to take it too seriously.

Yet a few more years later, I was back in Tennessee finishing my last semester in Spring of 2001. I knew graduation was coming up. I had a lot going on in my life. I had joined a rock band. I was the chair of the Teleproductions Board. I was working in a restaurant. I was also finishing my bachelor’s degree in engineering. I had a girlfriend. This semester should have been cake because over the past five years I had totally adjusted to my undergraduate life being, as a professor of mine once put it, putting out fires. You take care of one thing—put its fire out—and then there are two more fires to put out, etc. I was ready to move on from that lifestyle.

One day, my honors department director approached me because I hadn’t signed up for a class to do a senior project for the honors program I was in. We talked. I added into the course, seeing it as more of a hassle than anything else. It was just another project. I was getting burned out. See, everybody just does some project to supplement their major, or get them into law school, or whatever. I didn’t want that. I wanted this project to be fun, and not related to engineering. So, after a lot of deliberation, I decided I would make my project about *The Bible Code*—a book that I picked up again over the
Christmas holiday just a month earlier and had read three times in a row. I thought I
would just try to recreate the bible code and verify its validity. The Hebrew part would
be a minor setback. After that it would just be computer programming, and a simple
answer of either 'Yes' or 'No' the original experiment was trustworthy.

It started as a simple project.
Chapter 2—WHERE IT WENT ASTRAY
I determined that doing the code wasn’t realistic because I couldn’t read Hebrew.

I started checking out books at the library and researching on the internet about the code. I also started looking into books about Hebrew. During this time, I started trying to find a code in the book of Revelations in the English version of the King James Version of the Holy Bible using Matlab (a computer software program). One book that was particularly useful during this time was *Cracking the Bible Code* by Jeffery Satinover.

At this point my project was up and rolling, and I decided to tell my friends about it. I told Brock about it, and he and I were up until about 5 a.m. discussing religion. It was more of a friendly discussion of things than a serious talk. I was telling Brock about how, in my studies, I learned that Hebrew letters and numbers were represented by the same characters. So for example, it would be like if we in the United States used the letter “C” for the number “3”. Then we started talking about the book of Revelations in the Bible. We brought up Chapter 13 and Verse 18 where the mark of the beast was 666. I told him that if you translated that to Hebrew you get “vvv”. I made him bear with me. But I reminded him that “vvv” in Hebrew could be both letters and numbers. Then I told him what the letters would be if they were in English: “www”.

He thought that was interesting because I was saying that the internet was “The Beast”, but he insisted that he had read somewhere that there was a new computer being built which was named “The Beast”, and that it was not too far down the road from being completed. Apparently the computer was going to be able to operate by placing a
computer chip within humans. And so our conversation continued with random topics and biblical thoughts until we finally called it quits, and I went home and went to bed.

I finished reading *Cracking the Bible Code*, and learned a great deal about many things. The book itself dealt mainly with the code that is inherent in the bible—the one Drosnin had written about. But it handled it with a different approach. It talked about Jewish tradition and took a more serious approach than Drosnin’s book, which was more of a commercially suited book.

One of the things Satinover discussed was the religious belief that the words of the Torah were actually handed down to Moses by God himself onto tablets. This I knew. But apparently, this Torah is very serious business for the Jewish. Since the beginning of the religion, there were a series of scribes who had to undergo extremely strict beliefs about how the Torah was copied. Apparently, these scribes are trained for a long time on exactly how to reproduce a written copy of the Torah. It is more than just copying letters. If a single letter was done incorrectly, the entire page had to be torn out, and the scribes just started over. Miscopying the Torah was considered to be a serious offense. Some believe that if you miscopy the Torah, you actually can disrupt the universe. I was getting in over my head. But I continued.

There is a practice called “gematria” in which people replace letters with numbers (again, not a problem in Hebrew) to explain things about the world. Micheal J. Alter explains some of this process in another book called *Why The Torah Begins With The Letter Beit*. Apparently there are many, many ways of using numerical methods to analyze the Torah into a pattern. These patterns have been established for many years in Jewish tradition. An important point to keep in mind was that the belief exists that one
must believe in the Torah for what it says first before searching for codes in it. Otherwise, the search would be fruitless and even dangerous to the individual.

Somewhat scared, I continued.

One example of such patterns that was interesting included information about the moon. We all know that the moon goes around the earth about once a month. But according to Satinover, the exact path it follows is a very hard number to accurately describe. There are a series of complicated equations with many terms that can only really just approximate the position even with computers. However, according to Jewish tradition (Satinover), the exact time of the first new moon was handed down by tradition as being a little over fourteen hours into the sixth day of creation. The exact time of the new moon one year prior was encoded in the Torah. By looking at these two dates, the length of one lunar-year could be determined. Therefore, if you divided the number by twelve, you could determine the length of a lunar month. The exact details of this mathematical process are detailed in his book, so I will get to the point.

The number arrived at by this process was 29.53059 days. This number was passed down as tradition since Rabban Gamliel recorded it near 50 A.D. What is interesting is that this number was calculated numerically in 1968—before satellites, but around when sending a man to the moon was beginning to become a reality. The value they calculated: 29.53059. As a matter of fact, even with satellite measurements from 1996, the calculation for the length of the lunar month in days was 29.530588. This is a difference of only about .000002 days. I thought about how accurate that was. It was a little off, but we’re talking fractions of a second. It was good enough to get us to the moon because it was the exact number we had in 1968 before the satellite reading. It was
intriguing—to the point where I thought I was going to convert my religion and become Jewish. Not just this particular lunar month occurrence, but all the other "coincidences" discussed in Satinover's book were too convincing to me to have been explained by chance. I would suggest reading the entire book to understand this type of reaction. I freaked out. I had to call Brock. So we went to play pool and have a beer.
Chapter 3—QUANTUM PHYSICS
We were playing pool, and I started talking to him about another idea in Satinover’s book that I squirmed at the thought of—quantum physics. I know I sound like a big dork. Who goes to play pool and talk about quantum physics? Apparently Brock and I do. But bear with me because even if you don’t have a handle on science, I don’t intend to make this any more technical than it needs to be. I want to stick to words so that everybody can have a general understanding.

Although, again I was getting in over my head, the general concept I had at the time I tried to explain to Brock while we were playing:

“See these pool balls. Well, this game is very easy if you know geometry. All you do is calculate the angle you want to make the ball go in the desired direction and it goes there, right?”

“Yeah.”

“Okay, but according to quantum physics, that doesn’t necessarily happen.”

“All right.”

“According to quantum physics, when ball 1 hits ball 2, there isn’t just one place that ball 2 goes. There are a series of possibilities for where ball 2 can go. Let’s say, for example, that when the balls collide, ball 2 could roll in 4 different directions. Each direction has a certain probability associated with it. So although we only observe it going in one direction, it’s still possible that it could have gone in one of the remaining three directions—there was a probability, even though small, that it could have gone in those other three directions.”
“But it doesn’t, it only goes in one direction.”

“Right, but it was still possible that at the instant of the collision, that it could have gone in any of those four directions.”

“Okay.”

“Okay, so now expand the thought. When ball 1 collides with ball 2, there are an infinite number of places where ball 2 could go. It could go in this pocket, or it could go across the room and hit that girl in the head.”

He laughed. It seemed a little far fetched. But I continued.

“So in reality, this pool ball, although we see it as going only in one direction, it actually could go in any direction. It actually could go in all directions simultaneously, but we only see the one.”

The idea interested him. The idea baffled me. Needless to say, I lost quite a few games of pool to Brock that night. My project had taken an interesting turn: I had gone from a religious phenomenon that couldn’t be explained by science to a scientific
phenomenon that couldn’t be explained. That made me wonder why I had always trusted science so much.

A few days later, I ran into a friend of mine after class named Brent, who is in the top three of the most brilliant young people I have ever met. I change my mind on the order sometimes, but anyway, I found out by broaching the subject that this guy was perfect to talk to about this stuff. It turns out that we ate lunch at Wendy’s after class because I was so interested in what he knew about quantum physics. By chance, he had recently heard about some good reading in a book called Six Easy Pieces by Richard Feynman.

“Did you hear those guys talking about this book in class the other day?” he said.

“What book?”

“Well, actually, they were talking about a book called Lectures on Physics by this guy who used to teach back in the 60’s at Cal Tech.”

“Oh, yeah, I think I heard Dave talking about that. That was like the really expensive 3 volume set, right?”

“Yeah, ok, but there’s this book, Six Easy Pieces, which is just a collection of six of his different lectures on physics principles. And the last chapter is on quantum mechanics. I’d suggest you read the whole thing because it’s good reading.”

He continued to tell me how he bought a cheap copy at a used bookstore for $6. It cracks me up that some of the most useful, intriguing, and important knowledge can be bought used for $6—for less than a used Jerry Springer Too Hot for TV video. Don’t act like you don’t know what I’m talking about.
But anyhow, I explained to him what I explained to Brock, and he began to draw a diagram on a napkin. Again, I know I'm a big dork for talking about quantum physics in Wendy's, but bear with me. The diagrams he drew are shown. He began to give me a better explanation of exactly how quantum physics worked.

"Okay," he said, "Here's what's going on in this picture. There is a machine gun that is firing randomly in many different directions. Some of the bullets will pass through hole 1 and some will pass through hole 2."

"Right."

"Okay. So if you cover up hole 1 and only let bullets go through at hole 2, you can determine the probability of where on the backstop the bullet will end up."

"Okay."

"So if you look at the picture, it makes sense that it's highly probable that the bullet can pass through hole 2 and end up directly behind hole 2 on the backstop. Also, it's not highly probable that the bullet will go through hole 2 and end up extremely far to the left or right on the backstop."
“Okay I can see that. So you can do the same thing for the other hole also.”

“Right, if you cover up hole 2 and let hole 1 be open, you can draw a similar probability curve of where the bullet is probable to land.

So now from statistics, if you leave both holes open, the bullet can go through hole 1 or hole 2. So how would you draw the probability curves?”

“Well, you just add them together, right?”

“Right. So the resulting curve is like the one I drew in the diagram for \( P_{12} \).”

“No, but listen, in this book, he explains that this isn’t what happens. What actually happens experimentally is that the two curves add together like this:
Brent said, “So, what seems to be going on is that by measuring this process, we change the outcome. The outcome seems to be dependent upon us watching and studying and measuring it.”

“Wow.”

Eventually, I gave him a ride back to his place so I could get a copy of this book. There had to be something I could use for my project in this book, and I figured it was just one chapter of a book. Oh, come on, you didn’t think I would read the whole thing did you? Of course I skipped to the last chapter on quantum physics even though Brent suggested for me to read the whole thing. That makes sense for someone who’s life is about putting out fires. I needed to put the mystery to rest and find some direction for this project.

Upon reading this book, I got a better understanding of Brent’s diagram. Basically, electrons can operate as either particles or waves. We have known that for a while. So, in the diagram, imagine that the gun is shooting electrons, not bullets. If you just run the electrons through holes 1 and 2, they behave like waves (not particles) when you count the probability at the backstop. But this phenomenon doesn’t make sense because we determined that the electrons should operate like bullets from a machine gun—the probabilities should just add together. So the next step to understand what is going on is to set up a counter just behind the holes so that you can tell which hole the electrons are going through. That way if there is something strange occurring, like electrons going through hole 1 and then back through hole 2, and then back through hole 1 again, we would be able to detect it.
My understanding is that right past the hole you can set up a beam of light. This will be a detector because when the electron passes through the hole, it will cause a flash of light by either hole 1 or hole 2. That way, we can begin to understand the phenomenon.

But when this is done, we can see where the electrons come through and tally them up as passing through hole 1 or hole 2, but the probability distribution at the backstop changes, and the electrons operate like particles again.

Some might say that the light beam affected the electron path and made it change directions. However, various variables can be changed in the experiment like the wavelength of the light beam and the intensity. The phenomenon that occurs is that no matter what we change, the electrons still behave like particles. However, at some point, you can lower the wavelength so low that the flash of light becomes indistinguishable as to which hole it came out of. You might see a flash so large that you can't tell if it went
through hole 1 or hole 2. At this point, the electrons behave like waves and the probability at the backstop again changes to represent a wave distribution.

So it was like Brent said, it was almost as if by measuring the results, we changed the outcome. Why does this phenomenon happen? Well, I set out to determine that by researching more on quantum physics applications on the internet.
Chapter 4 — APPLICATIONS OF QUANTUM PHYSICS
Quantum physics involves a lot of mathematics that I don’t plan to get into because I myself can’t exactly grasp it with my level of education at this point. However, there is one basic property intrinsic to quantum physics called the Heisenburg Uncertainty Principle. There are many ways of explaining this phenomenon, but I’m going to try the easiest way I know how. Basically, this principle states that we cannot gather all the information about a particle at any given time. We get extract some information, but we miss out on the other information.

For example, for a moving particle at any given instant in time, we can determine the particle position or the velocity, but not both. The easiest example I have come across to explain this is to think of a skier. Pretend this skier is coming at you and you are taking a picture for a magazine ad. You want a clear, crisp picture, so you adjust your camera and take the photo. You’re happy and you deliver it to the magazine company for insertion into their latest skier’s catalog. But, when you deliver the picture, the boss says that he wanted a fuzzy picture—a blurry picture that shows how fast the skier is travelling.

Well, in real life, you would probably just reshoot the picture. But if you think about it, you cannot go back to the same instant in time as the original picture and capture that skier’s velocity by taking a blurry photograph. No matter what you do, when you shoot the picture, you must determine whether you want to capture the position with a crisp shot or the velocity with a blurry shot. But there is no way to capture both at the same instant in time. This is the idea behind the uncertainty principle. Scientists still
have not found a way around this phenomenon—a phenomenon that underlies the basic operations of quantum physics.

So then I began to wonder who is controlling these things when we can’t see them. If we can only see half of what is going on, who is taking care of the other half. Some would say God. I would agree. But I’d like to talk about why quantum physics will change how our society operates.

Some of the applications of quantum physics include teleportation which has actually been done (for a photon) by researchers at the University of Innsbruck in 1997 (www.insubordination.com/~curtis/quantumteleport/). Also, it has been shown to be possible by researchers at IBM. According to www.research.ibm.com/quantuminfo/teleportation/, teleportation was thought to violate the uncertainty principle because we never thought we would be able to extract all the information about a particle to be able to send the exact particle to another place. However, it has been shown that by interacting three objects A, B, and C, is possible to teleport object A to object C in such a way that destroys C and to create A. This may sound complicated, so I want to use the example of a photocopy machine first to make it easier to understand. This example was provided on the website as well.

In a photocopy machine, one starts with object A and gets a scan of the information to produce an approximate copy. This copy is sent to a treatment station where the treatment (ink) is applied to object C (paper). This creates a photocopy. It is not an exact copy, but it is pretty close.
However, for teleportation, it is necessary to have an intermediary object B. This object will help to gather the information that we cannot scan immediately. First one must interact object B with object C. Then one will scan object B and object A in such a way that both objects are now disrupted from their original forms. When the scanned information is sent to the treatment station where object C is located, the treatment is applied to object C thereby producing an exact replica of the original object A.

Remember, this is not duplication, it is teleportation because the original object A is not retrievable after object A and object B are disrupted by the scan. Why does this occur?
Apparently by interacting object B with object C prior to the scan, the unscannable information becomes highly correlated with object C. So that after B and A are scanned together, the scanned information changes object C into object by applying a treatment. The unscanned information from object A changes object C because object B was highly correlated with C, and B was scanned with A. The result is that object C becomes object A by receiving, simultaneously, the scanned information from A and B being scanned together and the unscanned information about object A because object B interacted first with C and then with A during the scan.

In other words, the scannable information is sent to C because of the treatment that was applied, but the unscannable information was sent to C because B and C interacted, then B and A interacted, so A’s unscannable information went where B’s unscannable information was—at C. Therefore, we have teleportation of object A to object C because of object B. The unscannable information that is exchanged by B and C at the start of this process is explained by the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen correlation and is also referred to as entanglement.

However, even if this is difficult to understand, it will be important to our scientific future very soon. Hopefully, some of the following applications will help to understand what use quantum physics will have in the future. It seems that there are other fields soon to evolve based on quantum science. Quantum computing will soon be a reality. Scientists are discovering that since computers now must complete each operation in a step by step manner with zero’s and one’s representing all the data, today’s computers are extremely slow compared to what quantum computers will be able to do.
Quantum computers are expected to be able to do in a few seconds what today’s computers would take about a year to do.

Another area expected to evolve will be cryptology. Currently, cryptology involves a message which people can sit and decipher given enough time. My understanding is that with quantum cryptology, it will be much like mission impossible—if you don’t know how to crack the code, the message will self destruct. Actually, what happens is that if you don’t know how to crack the code when you receive the code, there is only a certain amount of time before the code breaks down and begins to disintegrate into a jumble of nonsense. This area is not one I have any expertise in, however, I found it interesting to throw out as an idea. Better explanations of how this operates are available on the internet.

Finally quantum physics is being applied to communications as well. For example, take a cellular phone. Cellular phones only have a certain range and amount of clarity to them. The problem is that when someone speaks, we can only collect a certain amount of that data to send out to other people who receive that signal at a slight time delay. Quantum communications expects to be able to instantaneously deliver the exact message with perfect clarity, much like teleportation will deliver objects in the same fashion versus a copy machine, which takes longer and doesn’t produce an exact copy.

All of these ideas are very basically explained, so I would suggest the reader do outside research to understand them more fully. I have explained them the best I can with the education I have on these topics. It is important to mention that I think these quantum applications will be something we will not actually be using for about 100
years. However, the directions that quantum physics will take us will literally change our world in amazing ways.

After researching this information, I began to wonder how my project had strayed so much from the original idea. But actually, it hadn’t. I had heard of priests who claimed to be able to teleport and teleport objects. Also, the correlations between the words found in the Bible Code were actually statistically significant, yet unexplainable. It was much like quantum physics. This is when I began to wonder if the zeros and ones in science correlated with God in some way. Maybe, science and religion are approaching the same thing?
Chapter 5—*THE CELESTINE PROPHECY*
As the semester rolled on, I met someone who has since become very special to me. Lisa and I began dating in January, and as things got more serious, I began to tell her a little about my project so that she could understand exactly how much of a freak I am. She didn’t seemed scared that I was a freak, and actually she helped me by telling me that there was a book I needed to read called *The Celestine Prophecy*. She explained a little about this book, so I thought I would read it just to humor her. I didn’t really think it would apply to my project. I went to the library and checked it out.

When I got home, I read the book—all in one sitting. Now most people right now would probably ask me if I wanted a cookie or a reader’s award for reading a book all in one sitting. But you have to understand me—I NEVER read a book all in one sitting the first time. I didn’t even to that with the Bible Code the first time I read it. Not to mention I’m a slow reader because I never read much in my youth since I enjoyed math and science so much more.

This book is a fictional novel, but it reads like reality. It wasn’t until the end of the book that I realized it was fiction. The book suggests that there are 9 principles to life. I will briefly list each principle, but would highly suggest reading the book for a fuller understanding.

1) Coincidences are not random, they happen for a reason. Pay attention to them.

2) Be conscious of historical time. Realize that the search for the answer to the question ‘Why are we really here?’ has been repressed by man by other items of importance (human exploration, feudalism, economic progress, etc.) throughout history.
3) Humans will discover a new energy which forms the basis of and radiates outward from all things including ourselves.

4) Humans will eventually see the universe as one dynamic energy that we will sustain us and respond to our expectations. At this point, humans will feel stupid for having tried to control or manipulate each other for energy because we felt short of it.

5) There exists a mystical consciousness that we will be able to tap into that will allow us to have flashes or glimpses of events (like the seers who get flashbacks and help the police solve crimes). All human conflict will end at this point because those with the power will be receiving their energy from another source that they will eventually be able to tap at will.

6) We must face up to our way of controlling others (coined a “control drama”) and taking their energy. Everyone’s control drama is based upon how they were raised by their parents and the methods they used to get attention (energy).

7) We become ourselves by posing a question, following intuition, and arriving at an answer.

8) We must relate to others in a way that brings out their best in order to keep the answers coming.

9) We can harness enough energy that we can begin to vibrate so much that we become invisible to other people at lower energy levels (we can change our wavelength to an invisible wavelength by changing our energy level). We can experience coincidences consciously.

As soon as I finished reading this book, I closed the book and decided I was going to call Lisa to talk about it. Then the phone rang. It was Lisa. We talked about the book, and I very much determined that pieces of this book could play into my project which seemed to be developing into finding connections between science and spirituality. Although I couldn’t pinpoint exactly what this project was going to be about, I could see that it was funnelling toward a conclusion if I just would continue the journey.
I gave a copy of the book to Brock, and he read it. We had a beer and talked about the book. Some of these things he wasn't shocked by. I started to realize that Brock was much more spiritually advanced than I was in that he had already contemplated new concepts of spirituality and come to terms with all of it to develop his own thoughts. He had once been in school to be a pastor or something, but he quit and was now a bartender. I wondered why I ended up telling Brock all these details about this project, and after that conversation, I realized he had a lot spiritually to say. He was strong in that element. Although originally, I only really told him out of coincidence—he was there and seemed to listen.

I began to analyze how *The Celestine Prophecy* principles applied to everything that had happened in this project. I realized that by coincidences I met all these people who all had something to give to me as far as information on what to read for this type of project. Also, by coincidence, I'm telling Brock every last detail, and I have no clue why he is listening to my venting about this project and the observations discovered in the process.

I had read about quantum physics and teleportation enough to believe that maybe becoming invisible was possible by harnessing energy. I had posed an original question about the bible code and followed intuition to find the answers. I had talked to people in a way in which they opened up to me on their thoughts on this project—that provided more answers, and yet more questions. However, some of the other elements of *The Celestine Prophecy* did not really sink in with
me after the first reading of the book. It would take another book suggested to me by Lisa called *Ishmael*. 
Chapter 6—ISHMAEL
Lisa told me the book would be weird. She told me the book would change my life and freak me out. She told me to ignore the fact that the book is told from the point of view of this talking gorilla. Well, I got past the talking gorilla, but I didn’t realize how this book had affected me until after I had finished it.

Basically, this book starts with a lot of concepts that we have seen before involving evolution and the existence of a finite amount of food and space for all living things. This book divides humans into Leavers and Takers. It states that the beginning of how man went wrong started with the agricultural revolution—when man decided it would be easier to grow crops systematically rather than rely upon the natural locations, variety, and amounts of food provided by nature.

The story traces back to Cain and Abel in the Bible. I read the story in chapter 4 of the book of Genesis. Cain and Abel both provided a gift to God in Genesis. One was a shepherd and presented to God his gift: one of the animals from his flock. The other grew crops. He presented to God some of the crops he had worked hard to grow all season. God was dissatisfied with the crops. He was happier with the animal. *Ishmael* suggests that the reason for God’s anger at the farmer is that God knew the shepherd accessed his food by coexisting with nature in a natural way and only killing animals he needed for food. In contrast, the farmer was overproducing and creating more food than needed to live on. Although, there is not a full explanation of why God reacted in this way in the Bible, this idea provided by *Ishmael* made sense.

The book is full of concepts, one being that there is a natural balance to life. Anyone who disturbs that balance is a fool because only God has control over those
things. For example, those who store food do not believe or have faith that God will take care of them. According to our culture (referred to as Mother Culture in *Ishmael*), not storing your food is considered to be uncivilized—an act for animals, but we should know better because we are humans.

Mother Culture is considered to be the humming motor in the background that tells us what to do, what is right, and what is wrong. It is not something we pay much attention to because we have grown accustomed to the background noise. It is the motor of our society, and we question it not.

Most humans have created Taker societies ever since the agricultural revolution, although for years man lived in the world just as any other animal—according to evolution. We were hunter-gatherers. But after Mother Culture took over, that became shameful because we should know better. We should be able to control our future whereas the other animals cannot. The book goes on to show how this viewpoint will destroy all life in the long run.

We know that we are disturbing the natural balance of things with our Taker beliefs: clearcutting, pollution, overpopulation, etc. When does it stop? What is our future if this continues? The book suggests that eventually we will all die. We will be so overpopulated that we will no longer be able to feed ourselves. At this point, we will have killed off everything, so killing each other for energy (references are made to the Jews and Hitler at this point), for survival will be our only option. But we kid ourselves by thinking that our society will operate in this way and eventually find a way to function. We also ourselves by saying that we really care what happens because we
know that this occurrence of the end of the world due to overpopulation and food shortage will not happen in our lifetime. It will be some other generation's problem.

Our society is projected to the reader as a bad flying machine. Back when man was learning to fly, we would push contraptions off a cliff and people would pedal thinking that the machine was helping them to fly. At some point, the driver realized that the machine wasn't handling the way expected, so he pedaled harder. Eventually, the driver realized that he was actually falling. The book asks, "If we see that our society isn't working, why do we just continue to pedal harder?"

Finally, the book points out that the meaning of Adam's name is "man" and the meaning of Eve's name is "life". Man was tempted by life to eat from the tree of knowledge and believe he had a better way of controlling life than the gods. This created the split into Leavers and Takers among mankind and all other living things. It is only a matter of time before the Takers wipe the Leavers out if our society continues to live by the Taker philosophy.

*Ishmael* suggests that we have determined that we are smarter than the gods—that we have control, and they do not. We think that, ultimately, we are better equipped to determine who will live and who will die than God. If we store food, we will not go hungry. We can be equipped for a drought with a basement full of canned yams and batteries. The only other option is to die. But if you die, it is God's decision. It must have been your time. Eventually, the drought, the famine, etc. will be over, and the balance of all living things will be restored by God. So what if we go hungry for a day? So what if we die? It was meant to be. God will make this balance work. Our control is an illusion of culture. And culture is an illusion created by man.
The argument is one that can be explained very well with a Taker/Leaver philosophy comparison of life: Taker—the world belongs to man. Leaver—Man belongs to the world. Taker: With man gone will there be hope for gorilla? Leaver: With gorilla gone, will there be hope for man?

Still I had a problem after reading this book: Can one person reading this really change how the world operates and feels about this way of life? Should I just stop pedaling? Is my pedaling making a difference? What responsibility do I have to make everybody else stop pedaling? Is this concept realistically applicable, or have we fallen too far of the cliff? Should I just walk away from society and go live on some Indian reservation? I was torn by the disturbing reality I lived in, and the other living option which was definitely better, but highly unrealistic to achieve. Besides, I hadn’t even decided what function God had in all this. I still believed that there was a way for science and religion to approach the same thing. I didn’t hang out with Lisa that night as I planned. I went home from my art video class depressed and ready for bed. I wanted to disconnect from society like never before. I took a nap and decided I had to go have a beer with Brock.
Chapter 7—THE SNAP
I was about a month away from graduation. I had my beer with Brock. Again, he was really calm about all of it. He seemed kind of surprised I hadn’t thought about all of this before. What does it take to freak this guy out? It got me kind of back to earth on the whole topic. We played pool again that night. I was okay.

About two weeks later, I was talking to Lisa about the book. I had a good grounding at that point. I wasn’t like locking myself away from society or anything. I had had time to digest the whole thing. She began to tell me about how God had touched her one day. How she had been writing and was really upset and stressed. She began writing and suddenly she felt God touch her head. She began writing involuntarily and this frantic, uncontrollable wave washed over her. I don’t explain it well. But basically, this experience affirmed her faith in God. She never was atheist or anything. I think she just wanted proof. But after she explained this experience, I realized I had never had anything like this happen to me—and I was jealous. But not just jealous, I didn’t understand why this hadn’t happened to me. I had always believed in God and prayed to him out loud and in my head, so why had I not earned such an experience?

A week later or so, I was rehearsing with the band. I got done and went over to Brock’s apartment. I always just go over there. I got there, and was completely frustrated with everything. I was so angry at everything, but I didn’t know why. I had this pent up anxiety that I could not explain. God bless him. He tried to help me figure out what I was mad about, but I didn’t know what it was, so our conversation was just going in circles. Then his roommates came home and I didn’t want to freak them out.
This whole process was something that had been going on for months, and I couldn’t explain it to them in five minutes. Brock was the only one who really would understand. So Brock and I got quiet and I put on my pseudo-happy face until I finally decided I needed to leave.

I was on my way home. I still had these feelings. I was thinking that I must be going insane. I figured that nobody else had ever thought these thoughts for more than 30 seconds. I got to my parking garage, and got ready to park. Then I decided, I was just going to leave and go to California. I had always wanted to go. I was just going to drop everything: graduation, the band, everything. I got to the interstate and decided that Charleston was more realistic since I had never been there either and it was a shorter drive. So I headed east. I had a vague feeling that life itself was pointless, and I was mad about it.

I was driving down the interstate and saw signs for a gambling casino. I thought I might stop there and gamble my life away. But then I realized whether I won or lost, was rich or poor, I still would think life was pointless. I continued down the interstate and thought about finding the Indian reservation on the border and just joining it. But then I realized that they have societies and structures too. I would still be a part of a culture, it would just be a different culture. I would have to adopt their beliefs religious and otherwise. That wouldn’t work.

I started looking for signs for a mental institution. I wanted just pull over and check in and be insane. That way I wouldn’t have to think about all this. But then I realized I wasn’t insane and that that was a cop out. Not to mention how many times do you see “mental house, check in at the next exit” on the interstate?
I turned the radio on. I turned the radio off. I needed direction. I needed God. I
was still driving.
Chapter 8—THE ULTIMATUM
First of all, before I continue, I want to make a couple of things clear. I have held Christian beliefs all my life. I have never really questioned them. I always believed everything went down as it was said in the Bible. The Bible was the authority and my peace when I had a problem I couldn’t handle. I’m not a fan of organized religion, but I don’t despise it either. I believe that everybody has their own beliefs and their own rights to practice on their own or to congregate together to practice or both. That’s the American Way, and it always worked fine for me.

But all this reading, this project, and all the other stresses I had made me snap. I set an ultimatum with God. I thought about what Lisa had said. I wanted proof. I wanted proof that God existed. I exited off the interstate and turned around to go home. I had about 45 minutes until I got home. I spoke out loud to God in my car. I gave him until I got home. If God didn’t prove to me that he existed by the time I got home, then life itself must truly be pointless. I begged him as I flew home to show me he existed. I was getting no response. I also began to realize that no matter what I asked God to do, it still could have happened by chance. If I asked God to prove his existence by striking lightning down on my car, that doesn’t prove anything because there is still a small probability that that could’ve happened by chance. I was getting desperate. I was getting scared. And I was getting closer to home.
Chapter 9—SUICIDE
Now before I go any further, I’m going to be very up front about something. I want to explain to you a few things about my personal beliefs about suicide. I think suicide is childish. I think it is immature. I think it is selfish. I had considered it as an adolescent once after I broke up with my first girlfriend ever. I think I just wanted attention. I couldn’t follow through with it. Once earlier in college I had considered it, but that was just because I was having personal problems that really don’t apply to this book. Again, I didn’t go through with it. Actually, I never attempted to go through with it.

Here’s my thought on suicide. It kind of like masturbation. If you tell me you have gone through your whole life and have not considered suicide as a thought, you’re either lying or you haven’t lived long enough. I don’t care who you are, you’ve thought about it at some point. It may have been a fleeting thought; it may have been something you planned out in your head; it may be something that you have attempted. In any regard, it is my personal belief that if it hasn’t crossed your mind, then you are not normal.

So I’m on my way home. The reason that I write this book is for me as well as for others. I never want to feel the way I felt in that car that night. I want to remember what happened to me that changed the course of my life forever. I will never consider suicide again.

However, that night I did, but for different reasons. See, I understand sometimes people think about it because they are going through a tough time that they see no way
out of, or they have a drug addiction, or family problems, or they go bankrupt, or they have a low self esteem. But this was totally different. I was considering it because I thought that life itself was pointless. That God was non-existent. That no matter whether life was good or bad; whether I was rich or poor; whether I was a king or a thief that God did not exist because he had never spoken to me or given me a sign to where I could be 100% sure that he existed. I always rode in the 60% sure category. I wasn’t satisfied with that. I wanted 100% proof. I wanted to experience what Lisa experienced. No, I wanted even more proof than that. I wanted to hear the voice of God clearer than Moses did with the Ten Commandments. I was almost home. I was not planning the suicide because I had faith that by the time I got home that God would show himself. But as I got closer and closer to home, I started crying because my faith was dwindling and I got into the right lane and started driving slower to buy me more time. Also, I didn’t want to wreck and hurt anybody else because it wasn’t anybody else’s fault. How were they to know that the lives we all live are pointless? As far as I was concerned, it was God’s fault.

I have always feared suicide because I don’t want to hurt other people. I don’t want to deal with the pain of it. I don’t want to feel regret during the last moments because it is too late to turn back. But all these things aside, I knew that if God didn’t come through that I was going to do it. I knew I was going to, but I refused to plan how until I got home because I still had an inkling of faith that God would show himself to me in some way.

By the time I got off the interstate, I had pretty much given up. All I had left to do was park, go home, and do it. It was almost official: life is pointless.
Chapter 10—GOD COMES THROUGH
As I was pulling into the garage I was still yelling at God in anger about how I had asked him to show himself to me all my life, and he wouldn’t. I was furious. I didn’t understand. I felt like nobody was listening. I said it out loud, “I’ve been patient with you my whole life. I’ve been patient with you this whole ride home. I’ve been patient with you—WAIT!”

From here on out, things get a little fuzzy to me as to what exactly happened. Some may think I really did go insane. Some may not believe my story. Some may think, as I did, that this was a truly spiritual experience.

Within a matter of what seemed like seconds I started getting this tickling sensation across my whole body. I started telling God, “Quit it.” Suddenly I felt relieved and started laughing. The whole time, I must have been parking, but I don’t remember what I was doing exactly. I was trying to talk, but gibberish was coming out. It was words sometimes and not words other times. Eventually, I regained control, but it was slow (or so it seemed, but my sense of reality and time were totally disrupted by this experience). I was trying to hold on to whatever God was trying to tell me and spit it out.

I started formulating it in pieces. I said it out loud, “I’ve been patient with you this whole drive. I’ve been patient with you this whole drive. I’ve been patient with you this whole drive—so why not for the whole rest of my life?”

I had made the connection. The tickling sensation faded away. I was slowly seeping back into reality. I said it again three of four times, “Why not for the rest of my
life?”. I had a direction. God had touched me and restored my faith without 100% proof of hearing him or seeing him or a lightning bolt. I pulled into a parking space, and walked home.
Chapter 11—DIAGRAMS OF LIFE
When I got home it was like 4 am. I was tired. I was exhausted in every way, but I stayed up and decided to write. The rest of what the reader sees I came up with in about two hours. I was writing so fast, I couldn’t keep up. I fell asleep, woke up, and kept writing.

Basically, the next day I reviewed my thoughts. I knew for a fact that I would never consider suicide EVER again. I basically came up with a more complicated version of Pascal’s wager. I determined that every living soul has a life that can be mapped out as a timeline. There is a living section, and an after life section separated by the date of death of the individual. I also devised a dot that would lie on this timeline. The dot represented the (100% proof positive point of knowledge of God). For short, I will call this the POKOG.

\[ \text{LIFE} \quad \text{Point of Death} \quad \text{*Point of Knowledge of God (POKOG)} \]

Let's say that you place this dot on the line during the lifetime. For some people, there is a POKOG during their lifetime. They know without ANY doubt that God exists because they know him, saw him, had a miracle performed by him—whatever. Whatever it is for the individual to have a POKOG, but they must be 100% sure about it. Some may equate the POKOG with faith. I think these two entities are separate. Although my experience brought back my faith in God, I still hadn’t had a POKOG because I never
saw God; talked to Him; got to sit down and have a beer with Him. But for some, this may be one in the same. Regardless, I started placing this dot on the timeline.

If you believe in God and you have POKOG in your lifetime, then you are both lucky and blessed and obviously not the questioner that I am. You live your life, have a POKOG, and continue living your life knowing that God will take care of things.

If you believe in God, and you live your whole life, but you never have a POKOG, there is quite a possibility that you will have a POKOG after death. Thus, one should be patient because God will do things in his own time, and you may still have your POKOG after death.

If you don’t believe in God, then the POKOG does not exist in your life. Good luck. I know I couldn’t deal with that. You live your life. You die. You may be rich. You may be poor. You may be 56 when you die; you may be 25. It doesn’t matter. Once you die, you die. There is no POKOG because God does not exist. There is no one running the planet but humans who have evolved over time by random coincidence for no reason whatsoever.
Given these options, I choose to believe that there is a POKOG and that it will come to me in the afterlife or later in my lifetime. My faith helps me wait until that moment. If I die and God doesn’t exist, well I haven’t missed out on anything, and it was a great coping mechanism. If I die and God does exist, well I had faith in it all along. Thus, I proved Pascal’s wager to myself with this diagram.
Chapter 12—GOD AND SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY
I am reminded of a concept in *The Celestine Prophecy* where it is suggested that man will one day no longer need to eat or make purchases or control each other. We will receive our life support simply from sharing spiritual energy with each other. We will share energy by interacting with each other and with nature by harnessing a supernatural energy. In this way, we will not have people like Hitler in the world who harvested the energy of other people and stole it for his own.

I am reminded of the Cain and Abel story in *Ishmael* about technologically growing a surplus of food. I am reminded about scientific ethic involved in today’s concerns, for example, cloning. The question that keeps resurfacing with each technological advance is “Are we playing God?”.

My answer is in some ways yes and in some ways no. I think God wants us to understand how the world works. I think he gave us science as a way to cope with the world—as a way of understanding it. I think any scientific study that doesn’t intentionally hurt other living things is good, but when we start trying to take control of science by applying technology, we have to be careful. There are ethical considerations that always return to the question “Are we playing God?”.

For example, if we have the scientific ability to clone, can we not just know that and move on? Must we actually apply it? Must somebody make money off cloning people or even animals? Is it going to be a service available to everybody so they can just live forever? Everybody has their own thoughts on those questions. I think science is good because it helps us explain things. I think applying science to create technologies for man’s use needs to be
questioned ethically before being applied. I very much believe in knowledge for knowledge's sake.

However, it becomes a question of who's issue is it? Is cloning a scientific issue or a religious issue? Maybe it's both. Maybe science and religion are approaching the same thing. Maybe we should temper our scientific bravery with prayer. Although I had started to piece it together, I couldn't quite put my finger on it. I think science and religion were approaching the same thing—the fifth dimension. But I couldn't quite figure out what it was. The hardest project of my life was still funneling toward a close. I had to determine what this fifth dimension was.
Chapter 13—WHEN DOES SCIENCE STOP?
It’s a good question. When does science stop? Should we just stop and walk away from science like I felt the day I finished reading *Ishmael*? Or should we keep pedaling away? Would we ever crack the Bible Code? How could we ever be sure? Do we just let science progress until we know how everything works? Then what? We still won’t know why everything works. Remember the uncertainty principle? We can only know so much about a given instant in time—remember the skier analogy? We can’t know everything. For example, it is possible for light to be in two places at once according to quantum physics. Which place is it?

The uncertainty principle even bothered Einstein. Einstein hated the uncertainty principle. He didn’t want to believe it. Einstein once said, “God doesn’t play dice.”. Einstein believed that everything in the world had a logical explanation, and the quantum explanation just didn’t fit logically into his rationale. However, in one of Einstein’s last theories, he was forced to use the uncertainty principle to prove his theory. But we still have the question, “When does science stop?”.

As a side note, I want to explain another scientific concept explained in thermodynamics. It is the concept of entropy. According to the laws of thermodynamics, entropy is what makes something break down. Say two atoms in one molecule have a certain entropy. This means there is a certain amount of energy needed to maintain that state, or else the molecule will separate back out into atoms. By expanding this thought, it is more easily understood.
Entropy basically states that without putting energy into something, it will tend towards chaos. Basically the entire world naturally tends toward chaos unless we put enough energy into things to put them in order. Think of it like this. If you build a house in a deserted forest, and leave it there untouched for 50 years, and come back to retire there, the house will not be in nearly the shape it was when you first built it. There is a certain amount of energy needed to upkeep that house to make sure it stayed in order. Without using energy to upkeep the house, in 500 years the house would be dust in the wind. According to entropy, we can’t maintain order without some type of energy transfer.

Or can we? What about the amount of energy needed to make one atom occupy two spaces at once (yes, this has been done scientifically)? Is that order or disorder? How much energy is required to do that? How much energy is required to make that pool ball fly across the room and hit that chick in the head? Who’s energy is it? Maybe we should be finding order in disorder. Because if that’s the way God created it, maybe it should naturally be that way?
Chapter 14—SCIENCE VS. FAITH
The idea of teleportation has been mentioned as a scientific advance and as a religious experience. Which one is right? Well, according to science, we need energy to teleport—a measurable amount of energy. Let’s suppose we try this experiment with a walk to L.A.

If I was to walk to L.A. right now, a scientist could measure the number of calories I used on the trip and determine how much energy was spent on the trip. I could do the walk 500 times if I was truly insane, and the scientist could develop an average or some other statistical method to determine and quantify the energy spent on such a voyage. Therefore the next time I did the walk, I would know exactly how much food my caravan behind me would have to carry for me to complete the walk without buying food (assume all freeze-dried food so nothing spoils). Let’s say that the measured amount of calories burned on this trip is X calories.

However, let’s say I do the walk one more time, but we don’t measure the calories burned. The next time I take the trip will I burn Y calories? No one knows because the one time that we don’t measure the results, we cannot know how many calories were burned. And we can’t go back in time and measure it to see what happened. Let’s say on this journey, you bring no food, but you trust in God for you to make the trip safely, and you make it. Most people would call that a miracle if you lived in Tennessee.

So there is a dichotomy in life because science says, “Measure it and know,” and spirituality says, “Trust in God and know.”. But much like the uncertainty principle—
YOU CAN'T DO BOTH AT THE SAME TIME. Yes, it appeared that science and religion were approaching the same thing. I almost had it figured out.

I believe that this dichotomy is the root of all scientific and religious wars and arguments dating back through all of history: Einstein, Columbus, Galileo, and beforehand. The more we stray from trust and try to measure and create on our own, the more we know. But at some point the knowledge has to stop: we will know how everything works while we’re looking at it, but we will never know what happens when we’re not looking at it and observing it and measuring it. We will just assume that the way we see it operate is the way it is even when we are not looking at it. And that is a dangerous thought because that leaves no room for God to control anything. That means that God has never controlled anything. That means that God would never exist. That is a dangerous thought. But I think if we do not pay attention to scientific ethics, we may find ourselves of that viewpoint in a few generations.
When we’re not looking at something, when we’re not studying it, something different happens. I saw a sign on a church driving home one day the same week of my restoration of faith. It read, “Choice not chance determines destiny.”. What struck me as I started writing about this sign is that I believe that what we see as chance or probability is really God’s choice. So I believe God does have his hand in science. We throw dice. God determines how they land.

We don’t know what happens because God can pull strings when we’re not looking. So I think we are doing things the hard way. For example, consider teleportation again. It may seem far away until we have to deal with that issue, but remember it has already been done for a small particle. However, how much truth is there to the story of the saints? Maybe it is easier to teleport by faith than by trying to harness the energy of science? Who did it right? Science and religion are definitely approaching the same thing. They approach the same concepts in different ways. What does the future hold for this pattern of science and religion explaining things in different ways?
Chapter 16—DIAGRAMS OF OUR FUTURE
Consider how science and religion have explained things over time and how they will explain things in the future. From a religious perspective, God created everything, then Adam and Eve. We believed the earth was flat and trusted in God that it was. We realized that for some reason things fall back to the earth and trusted in God that it was so. The saints believe that they can teleport and trust in God that it is so.

Of course, from the scientific standpoint, the universe started with the big bang. Man was created through evolution. Columbus showed us that the earth was round. Newton discovered that gravity is a force that makes things fall. And IBM has officially released that teleportation is possible.

All of these things require energy. Who’s energy do they require—ours or God’s? Maybe we’re doing things the hard way? Maybe we need to have more faith? Maybe faith is the fifth dimension? According to quantum physics, it appears that the amount of faith that we have in our experiments determines the outcome. Remember using the wavelengths of light to determine whether the electron passed through hole 1 or
hole 2? If we measure, it we change the results. But when we can’t measure it, the outcome is different. Maybe this faith can be quantified numerically?

Consider again teleportation. Teleportation requires a change in the dimensions we currently know: length, width, height, and time. If we can’t explain how the saints harness this energy to teleport, but are still able to change their dimensions, there must be a 5th dimension called faith which helped them change the other dimensions. According to science, all of the dimensions are interrelated.

For example, we know from $e=mc^2$ that if we accelerate a particle faster than the speed of light, it will change the mass of the particle. By changing the mass, most likely the length, width, and height would have to change. Otherwise, an object’s density would become so great that it would no longer be the original object, but a different object.

Now consider someone bouncing a ball straight up and down on a subway train. The length, width, height, and time can be measured by the perspective of a person on the train, or a person off of the train. The person on the train will see a ball go up and down over time. But the person outside the train will see the ball moving in the direction of the train. The relative velocity differences between a passenger on the train and a person watching the train pass change the description of the path of the ball. It depends on your point of reference.

Person in train watching ball go up & down.
So based on these examples, one can see that dimensions of objects and the paths taken by them are all relative to a point of reference. Also, the existing four dimensions seem to be linked together in an undeniable way according to e=mc². I believe there is a similar connection between the five dimensions. I think that if you have enough faith, you can change the relative position, space, and time of anything—including ourselves. This is why I believe it when God says that with enough faith we can move mountains.

As a final note, I think it is ironic that all of this is listed in the creation story. First there was God, then he created all time and space. Isn’t it interesting how we discovered it all backwards? We discovered length width and height dimensions first, then we discovered time as a dimension, and now I think that science and religion are moving toward the discovery of the fifth dimension—faith in God.
Chapter 17—WAS IS GOD OR WAS IT SCIENCE?
What happened to me wasn’t a miracle, it was God. Some might say that the fact that I’m still alive is a miracle. Some might never take the interstate again. Some might find me crazy. That’s fine. But I have faith that it was God that touched me the other night. And it was wild because I went from 0% faith to 100% faith just in time for God to convince me to be patient with Him and let Him determine my life’s length. That’s why I mumbled, stuttered, and was stupefied. That’s why I don’t remember the exact order of things.

No, I’m not crazy, I had just found faith, and to have faith means I had to let logic and reason and measuring go. So in a way, I teleported for a little while that night. Because God got me home through faith and listening, and that weird tickling energy. And I like that idea a lot more than using an IBM teleporting machine. But the question remains that although I have faith that something happened, I can’t explain or measure or even really distinctly remember it. How did I change my location and how much time did pass? I don’t know. God tweaked it.

So faith must be the fifth dimension. It must be quantified as a zero or a one. Because if you believe in something, you either have 0% faith or 100% faith, but you can’t have 50% faith. So I believe in my heart and soul that faith must be the fifth dimension because I somehow changed my location, time, and energy through nothing but faith. Therefore, faith must be a dimension in order to have had that drastic an effect on my other dimensions.
Another strange result of my experience: I didn’t eat for 36 hours afterward. I was full. I had energy. It came from somewhere. I say it came from God. And if energy cannot be created nor destroyed then I don’t know where God got that energy for me that night, but he took it from somewhere. If it requires energy to prevent things from tending to destruction, then God got plenty of it to keep me alive, because I didn’t have that energy on my own.

God changed the course of my space, time, and faith by interfering when it was necessary. So I agree with Einstein. God doesn’t play dice. We do. He interferes when we aren’t looking. Or in my case, he forces me not to remember, but to hear, speak, and feel weird things so he can interfere.

So to explain how life works, I conclude that science is only good when you’re watching, and God is good when you’re not. But whether we’re watching or not the world still works. The sun still rises everyday. So how could faith not be the fifth dimension?
Chapter 18—WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?
What if we continue our diagram of explaining how the world works into the future? Consider the religious perspective: You can move objects, trust in God. You can time travel backward, trust in God. You can time travel to the future, trust in God. You can get to heaven with God. We can control everything about our destiny with God. We are God with faith (by his life, his energy, him being in our soul).

Now from the scientific perspective: You can move objects with science. You can time travel backward with science. You can time travel forward with science. You can get to heaven with science (Tower of Babel). We can control everything about our destiny with science (cloning/genetics). We are God with science (by knowing as much as God, but not trusting Him). This is what creates the debate about whether or not we are playing God when we use science.
Just how long until God gives up on us? I thought I was patient. For this reason, I think science and religion are going to always be at odds and have a final battle—the apocalypse. I think that science and religion both are approaching the same thing. I intend to invest in faith before science. I intend to let God drive more often. And I believe with faith I can do anything. I just don’t know how to harness that energy yet. But maybe we should figure that out before we waste our time pedaling away on the science-machine, and God gets angry and tired of waiting? Maybe we need faith in the Bible instead of trying to decipher it? And so my project had come full circle.
Chapter 19—WHY I WROTE THIS BOOK
I am a scientist by trade. I dealt with a life or death situation during the entire stressful collection process of this project for the first five months of 2001. I wrote this in part because I hope the reader chooses to read some of the books that lead to the conclusions I came to. I can’t stress enough how important that is to achieve a full understanding of what I’m trying to talk about. You may even understand this better than I do by reading the books I referenced.

But I also wrote this because I want to be reminded if I ever feel like I have 0% faith that I shouldn’t—because God tweaks things. God saved my life that night. And with 0% faith, I’m a lot more scared of my future than with 0% science. I hope that these writings can help others as they have helped me in finding faith. Life is not pointless, but you have to let God drive, or you’ll never see the point. I don’t know when the POKOG happens. It’s a life quest. All I know is that it does happen if you have faith. If I had not had faith that night, perhaps these writings would not exist. My lack of faith nearly killed me. That is sad because if the POKOG is after death, then I would have missed out and had very little to say about my life. I would have been ashamed and embarrassed and felt very stupid. But now, I don’t feel any of that.

I’m looking forward to life with faith because the POKOG will be wonderful. Everything happens for a reason. I trust God’s reasons. I hope you do too. God bless you.
Chapter 20—WHY THE WORLD SPINS
As a closing, I thought I would share a final theory I developed on my own. I have a thought—not a belief—but a thought as to our future from how the world spins. In an introductory physics class, I once learned that the Big Bang happened, and the universe began to expand. But scientists have found out that it is expanding slower and slower over time. Theories suggest that when the universe stops expanding, all the energy will have run out. At that point either the universe will stop expanding or will collapse back onto itself because there will not be enough energy for gravity forces to hold it apart. I think it will stop expanding. I think God's energy creates the forces in the cosmos, but he lends them to us when we need them. When we have faith. And as more and more humans have been born and died, a little faith energy has been left with each person who believed in God. This is why the universe is slowly coming to a halt. And I think God will give up all the energy he has until the world stops spinning.

At that point, he will, in a manner similar to mitosis (cell splitting), separate those with faith on one half of the earth and those without faith on the other half. I don't know how he will do this but he will use his energy to create this separation. He will shine down onto us from one side of the earth and pull those with faith towards him and push those without faith away onto the other side.
At this point, heaven and hell will have been created. God will be on one side shining like the sun, and brightening the lives and souls of all those who had faith in him. The other side will be dark and cold forever.

It's just a thought. A wise person once told me, "Sometimes you [in general] can think and worry so much that it takes the enjoyment out of living life." So right now, I think I'm going to go have a beer with Brock, and just let God take care of everything the way He has and always will.
References (In the Order They Were Read)

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