

# Ants Publications!



Copyright © Jarmo Koskinen, 2009\*

<http://antspub.com>

## “What is ATiism?” by Ken Koskinen

### \*Conditions of Copyright\*

Individuals and organizations may make electronic or print medium copies of this document/file providing: (1) No alterations or changes are made. (2) It includes the document must be reproduced in whole i.e. you cannot cut or copy and/or reproduce parts of this document. \*\* (3) As an electronic document this file should **not** be saved in or **converted** to another computer file or electronic format i.e. **it must remain in Portable Document Format i.e. PDF.** (4) All copies must be freely given (i.e. no charges). (5) No one or organization can post the document on any medium or offer it on any occasion if/when donations (in addition to that within the document) are requested without **the written permission of Ants Publications.**

\*\* Short excerpts published for the purpose of review are the exception, provided <http://antspub.com> is included.



Ants Publications freely distributes all writings posted on their website and relies on **donations** from those who are able. **Donations can be made by via our website:** <http://antspub.com> There you may also view and/or download other writings, leave comments and/or participate in our Ants Forum.

### Table of Contents

[Conditions of Copyright](#) (page 1)

[Donations](#) (page 1)

[About Ants Publications](#) (page 2)

[About the Author](#) (page 3)

[Introduction](#) (page 4)

[The Nature of Beliefs](#) (pages 4 – 6)

[Acting Out Negative Emotions](#) (page 6 – 7)

[ATiism Compared to Other Religions](#) (pages 7 – 11)

[Five Functions of Healthy Religions](#) (pages 11 – 12)

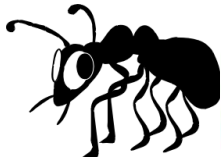
[Negative Features of Unhealthy Religions](#) (page 12)

[Conclusion](#) (page 12 – 13)

[Basic Tenets of ATiism](#) (page 13)

**Navigation Tips:** There are several ways to move about this PDF document. (1) You can **use the scroll bar** on the right of the screen. (2) **Turn on the thumbnails** by clicking the pages icon at the upper left-side of the screen. Then you can click on any thumbnail page image and it will take you to the page. (3) If they aren't already on, **turn on bookmarks**. The icon is also at the upper left-side of the screen. The bookmark list acts like a navigation table of contents. Click on an the **text** i.e. a bookmark and it takes you the page/location. (4) You can also press the “**page up**” & “**page down**” keys on your keyboard. (5) You can click on and go to any heading in the **Table of Contents** above.





# Ants Publications!



Copyright © Jarmo Koskinen, 2009\*  
<http://antspub.com> \*See Conditions of Copyright



"Hi, I'm Ken Koskinen. Welcome to the world of **Ants Publications**. Much on this page was taken from my home web page: <http://antspub.com>

## NEW & COMING

Check this box out on my website. It's intended to inform visitors of any new additions to the site and to keep you up-to-date on what's on the planning boards. It also keeps repeat visitors, who have surfed all the sections before, informed. They can simply go to the new additions. You can also subscribe to our website RSS Feed. 

## A GRAND BEGINNING!

To celebrate the launching of my website I've posted my ebook *"What I Told My Son About the Bible: Things the Clergy Doesn't Want You to Know."* It's about 185 pages of

## About Ants Publications

Ants stands for (A)nswers (N)onsense (T)ruthfully and the "s" pluralize(s) and stands for repeatedly. Ken Koskinen is the founder of **Ants Publications** and this site is currently a vehicle to post his writings; but eventually others may also be able to contribute. Ken writes academic essays, books, poetry and some short comedy pieces. His writing is not well suited for certain individuals. He does **not** for example accept the teachings of **any** major world religion. There are many myths and teachings that are nonsense and he writes factual rebuttals. He exercises **the freedom of the press** but it isn't **his intention to offend others**. **Please do not read his material if you aren't open-minded.**

Ken primarily writes from a scientific mode of mind. This means his information processing leads with reason and observation but intuition and emotion assist. When he writes serious essays and books he uses the persona, "**Ken Koskinen.**" When he writes poetry he's "**The Naked Psalmist.**" When he writes comedy he takes on one of several personae such as "**Ken the Wildman**" or "**SureFoot Helms.**"

People who want to discuss the issues and themes raised on this site are invited to log on to the **Ants FORUM**. It might take time to attract some traffic to the venue but "big things always grow from small beginnings." You can also post your opinions and/or questions in **Comments**.

All downloads are **free** of charge. The plan is to make all posted writings available to anyone who wants them. Even if some people are short of cash they can still learn from and enjoy them. Hopefully others will make **donations**. Keep in mind **Ants Publications** isn't a registered charity and therefore cannot send receipts for tax deduction purposes.

## [How to Make a Donation](#)

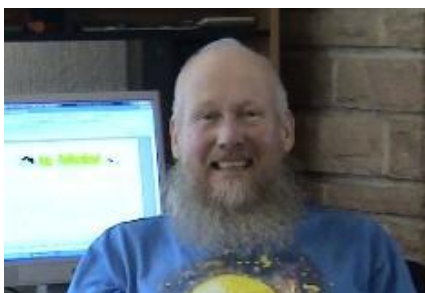


entertaining and informative discussions between a scholarly Father "Dad" and his intellectually gifted son, an early teen named "Charlie." When Charlie asks Dad about the Bible the fun begins.

Dad informs him of the opposite point-of-view of the modern clergy. You will encounter scriptural contradictions, failed prophecies, historic and archaeological evidence that doesn't support the Bible. You will also learn how the clergy tries to make their religions more believable by taking verses out-of-context, ignoring modern science & reforming the data to conform to their ideas about the Bible.

In the process readers will also learn about how the Bible came into being. It's written from Dad's perceptive and he is a tenured professor, teaching Biblical studies from a rational and scientific perspective at "Forevermore College!" Down loaders be forewarned ... this ebook is a mind blower!

To stay abreast of new poetry, comedy & science articles: **Go To:** <http://antspub.com>



## About the Author

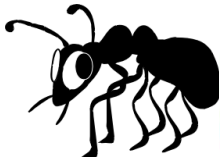
I was born in Helsinki, Finland but immigrated with my family to Toronto, Canada when I was about 2 -1/3 years old. My Finnish given name is "Jarmo Olavi Koskinen" but I use the English nickname "Ken" Koskinen. I'm a naturalized Canadian and have lived most of my life in Ontario, Canada. I studied at Centennial & Niagara Colleges in Ontario but earned my BSc. at Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. I majored in psychology but also studied history and biblical subjects.

I love to write. As a writer my goals are to **inform/educate**, **stimulate/challenge** and **inspire/entertain** readers. I write serious pieces as well as some comedy. Over the last several years I have taken a great interest in science with an emphasis on physics & cosmology. I am currently writing my first science book, **"The Big Vibe: Steps Towards a Theory of Everything."** In this work I hope to add to the quilt of theoretical science. I do not currently plan to make it available on this site since I hope to publish with a scientific book publisher. However you can learn more about current unsolved scientific mysteries by reading my posted essays.

I enjoy working out with the 1/2" thick steel cable skipping rope I invented, **"The Skip Walker/Jogger."** I use it to skip walk; that is, I skip rope while walking for several miles. You can view my video of me skip walking. I've also written the lyrics to a light country/rock song **"The Unemployment Line."** I'm neither a musician nor a good singer but you can view me singing the song, without accompaniment. I hope somebody with some real talent, like Billy Ray Cyrus, contacts me and puts music to it and turns it into the next big hit! I've also invented a very good carpet cleaning detergent and a skin cream that helps to clear up blemishes and outbreaks. It is also a good topical dressing on burns. Both of these products are in the research and development stage.

I also love nature, comedy, good food and beer. I love to learn and enjoy the mystical awareness and feeling of being alive while exploring & experiencing life within **"All That Is!"** It is the **"everything"** in which we have our being!





# Ants Publications!



Copyright © Jarmo Koskinen, 2009\*

<http://antspub.com> \*See Conditions of Copyright

Since much of the material on my website refers to **ATI** I felt I had to share what **ATIism** is with our visitors. Yes ... it's my worldview, outlook, source of great inspiration and fulfillment. Even if you don't agree with it, it still might broaden your scope and outlook. **Good Luck in which ever direction or road you chose to travel!** Feel free to leave a comment or participate in an on-line discussion on the Ants Forum.

All references cited in this article are on this site in the **Reading Room** and/or available as free downloads in the **Downloads section**.



## What is ATIism?

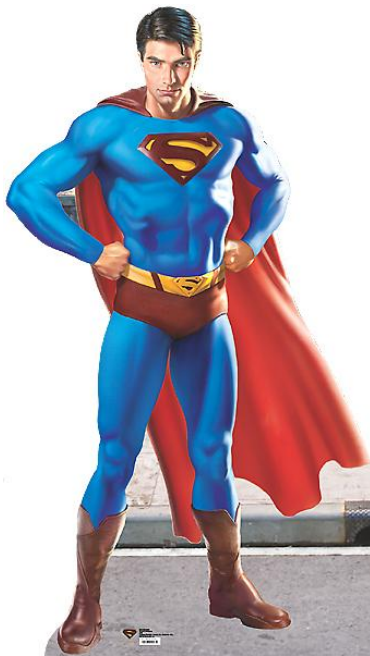
### Introduction

People are meaning and purpose seeking creatures. Our consciousness includes an awareness of our own existence as distinctive from other things. Some animals also have a highly developed sense of awareness but they do not ponder the meaning of existence. Humans also wonder whether there is life after death. (See my poem: "Do We Survive?"). Religions offer different answers to some of these mysteries. Today there are many religions but it can be said there are five major world faiths: Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam (See my poem: "I Only Know ATI You're Here"). Millions of people find solace, friendships and guidance within one of these forms.

Many years ago I as was a member of a Christian church but left disenchanted. Many things they claimed about the Bible turned out to be untrue and in many instances the truth was the exact opposite. I'm simply too reason & scientifically-oriented to have remained convinced (See my poem: "Some Years Ago" & download my free eBook "What I Told My Son About the Bible: Things the Clergy Doesn't Want You to Know"). I also found that none of the other faiths work for me. Yet I'm still amazed by the things I see all around me and my studies in science only make it all the more wondrous. (See my poem: "I Only Know, ATI You're Here."). Over time I intuited/reasoned/created "ATIism." It is a worldview that works for at least this intuitive intellectual. What follows explains what it is and how it works?

### The Nature of Beliefs

To believe something is to fill in the blanks between things known and unknown. This section might sound as if I'm against beliefs but it's not the case. I also believe things; it's just that empty beliefs that don't include any real evidence are difficult for individuals like me to accept. You will see that in a later section I do support things when there are "reasons to believe." In fact so do scientists; its just that these are usually amendable based on new evidence. In other words one can use a belief as a working hypothesis as long as there is a willingness to change due to new information and/or interpretations. However be aware the mind can creatively or in some cases emotionally either fill in the blanks or ignore them and accept untested conclusions. One can also jump to conclusions by connecting unrelated dots. Therefore beliefs should arouse a measure of caution since there are always different ways to view incomplete puzzles.



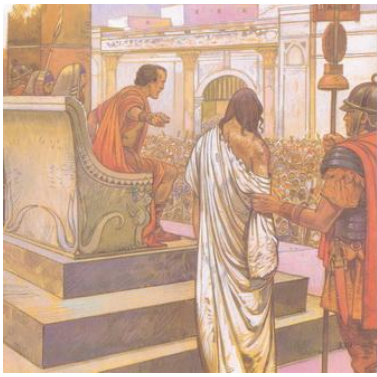
I think we arrive at beliefs partially via intuition and sometimes emotions. I say partially since reason and sometimes even observation is involved during parts of the process. Parts of the “story” can even be false but it can all be made to seem very reasonable. In any case there are always missing pieces in the puzzle. This is to say intuition/emotion often via assumptions can be used to fill in the blanks or missing pieces. There are many variations but generally this is how “faith” or beliefs operates. One feels compelled to believe something and eventually accepts the incomplete theme. The caution is that any such leap of faith can be wrong.

Another common problem relates to the definition of terms or their lack. Consider the common question: “Do you believe in God?” Any answer depends much on what one means by “God.” The term may mean many different things. Is god a humanoid or anthropomorphic being, kind of like a Superman? Is God a spirit, the creator, the first cause, the grand designer, greatest thing that exists or the magician behind the curtain, etc.? Someone could answer yes but have something very different in mind than the questioner. Here is another example. Imagine someone asking, “Do you believe some people are psychic?” What does the term “psychic” mean? Many people think it means someone who walks around knowing everything about everyone. All you need to do is ask such a person a question and you’ll know the future. (Of course, no one is psychic according to this definition). To serious ESP or paranormal research scientists “psychic” means someone whose guesses or imaginings are correct over and above the laws of chance. They don’t expect to see perfection. To them a statistical analysis determines whether something other than chance was operative. In any case you can see how important definitions can be.

We all have to operate in an imperfect world where *all the data* is rarely available and accounted for. We use beliefs and assumptions just to maneuver through a day. We make all sorts of decisions based on partial information for example while driving or walking down the street. If a group of teenagers are walking towards you, for example, it doesn’t mean they are necessarily intent on harming or robbing you. One might still cross the street to err on the side of caution but the assumption operates like a belief.

So we can see that we shouldn’t confuse beliefs with things proven. After there is enough supporting evidence there comes a point when we can arrive at a proven conclusion. We do this like juries are instructed: due to the preponderance of the evidence (i.e. the standard in civil cases) or beyond a reasonable doubt (i.e. the standard in criminal cases). In any case after something is proven we no longer need to believe it, since then we know it.

There is another confusing element and that is beliefs can lead to a *feeling of knowing*. Many people mistakenly think that if they believe something and have this *feeling* it is the same as knowing. It isn’t. It is simply a compelling emotion but it isn’t anything like knowing something after it has been confirmed or verified by the evidence. Another issue about this kind of feeling is that often people will say “*I knew that*” after something has been verified, but they rarely say anything when such a feeling is proven to have



been completely wrong. Sometimes people emotionally react to "stereotypes" based simply another's appearance or dress. Everyone who wears leather jackets for example isn't evil. My counsel isn't to ignore such feelings since they can in hindsight also be proven right. My best advice is to listen to them and even act to ensure your safety as long as your chosen path is harmless. At least then, even if your feelings misjudged an individual or situation how you reacted didn't cause anyone any harm.

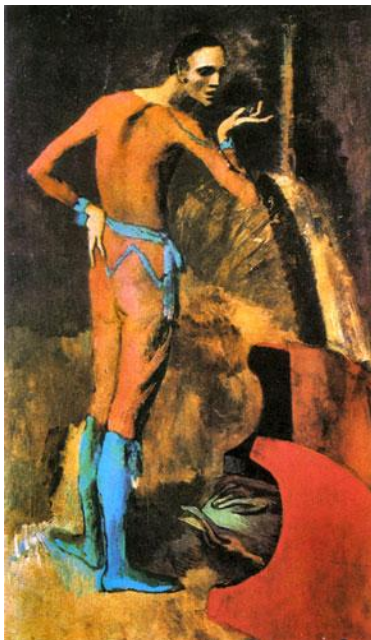
You can see why I claim that faith stems largely from intuition and emotion. Just because you believe something it doesn't mean it's true. Of course one can get clever and ask, like Pontius Pilate allegedly did of Jesus, "*What is truth?*" One good definition is that truth is the degree that your statement(s) or assertions agree with what is. This of course means that we must be able to test, check or verify an assertion by observation and/or detection. Keep in mind I'm not saying that intuition cannot be correct. Many times it is; but it's just we can't really know it, despite our feelings, until it's verified.

### Acting Out Negative Emotions

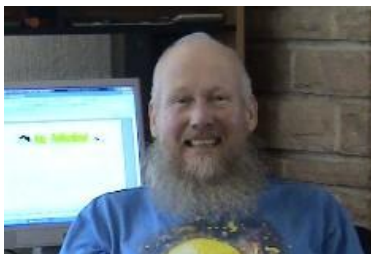
There is another element related to beliefs. Some religions teach that believing their doctrines is the most important thing in life. However, your actions can directly affect others but what you simply believe cannot. Believing things is an internal process and in ATTISM what one does is more important than the simple act of believing. (See my poem: "When I Woke Up"). This doesn't mean that beliefs don't count; it's just that they count less than your actions. You simply cannot justify committing crime, for example, on the basis of a belief. In cases of so-called ideological crimes I'm convinced that negative emotions play a large part in their perpetuation. Hitler and the Nazis murdered millions of Jews, for example, as they instituted the so-called "Final Solution." They believed the Aryan Race was superior and the Jews had to be exterminated. Hitler's hatred of Jews was without doubt primary in his development and initiation of his evil philosophy.

Even more common crimes are committed when someone has lost control of some negative emotion or feeling. It could be hatred, jealousy, envy, revenge, lust, power, greed etc. *I claim that in every crime committed someone lost control of their emotions and allowed it to motivate them into action.* Police departments would do well by looking for the perpetuating emotion as well as the physical evidence. It does not mean that just because someone had a negative feeling they committed a crime. It means that someone or even a group of people who committed the crime acted on a negative emotion. Of course you might wonder how you can "look" for an emotion. Well, it requires that you know something about human behavior. You also have to imagine the crime scene and set up the situation. If, for example, there was a love triangle and one of the parties was murdered, jealousy and revenge is very likely motive. It isn't hard to figure who had such feelings.

This doesn't mean that one should never feel negative emotions but we do have the responsibility to control them. In recent years there have been numerous cases of deranged individuals killing numerous innocent people

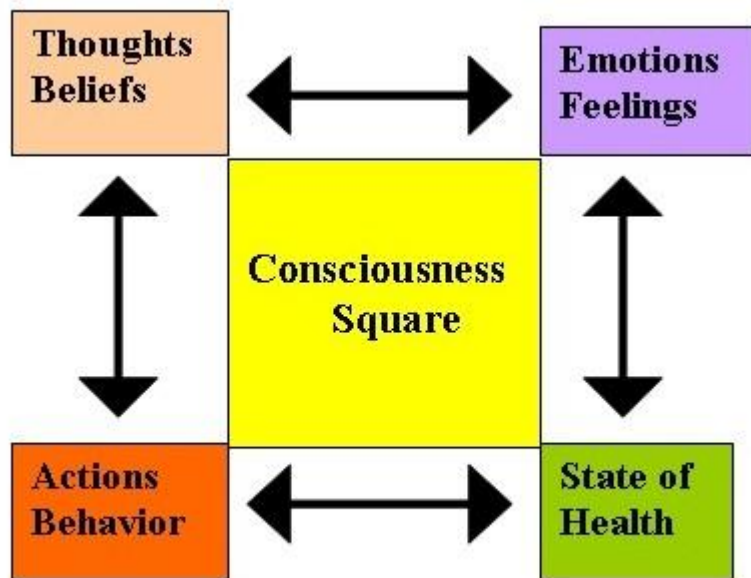


**The Actor (1904) by Pablo Picasso**



after they acted out their negative feelings. If one is continually haunted by negative emotions they should seek out appropriate aid. It is much better than letting them harbor and build until one loses control and acts on them.

There appears to be a quadrangle or square of factors that are interconnected. Imagine each corner of the square represents one of the following: (1) beliefs/thoughts (2) emotions/feelings (3) actions/behavior (4) physical well being or state of health. I call this the “**Consciousness Square**.” Generally stated it means there are links between what we believe or commonly think, our emotional state, our actions or behavior and our state of health. Any one link can influence the others. If you are physically ill it affects how you feel, think & behave. If you are continually thinking negative thoughts, it can affect how you feel, act and even your state of health. How you feel can affect your thoughts/beliefs, behavior and state of health. How you act can affect your thinking, feelings and state of health. All the links can affect your awareness and/or consciousness. You can use the Consciousness Square as a tool to help map or engineer your way to better well being and higher awareness.



### **ATIism Compared to Religions**

ATIism is the concept that we and all other things exist within a greater collective that one could call “All That Is” i.e. “ATI.” It is the greatest thing that exists; this is to say it is existence in its fullest sense. No thing could have created ATI since that means there had to have been something outside of ATI and this is nonsense. In this sense you can metaphorically think of ATI as the creator and the creation. However changes within ATI give rise to things, most being temporal (See my poem: “Does Everything Change?”). Speaking metaphorically you can say that ATI is continually creating some things and destroying others. It is amazing that humans have arrived after billions of years of previous changes (See my poem: “Earth, My Dear Mother”). I want to emphasize that when I say ATI I’m not referring to only our universe, meaning the one that includes our solar system and planet



Earth. These things will in some billions of years disappear without a trace. We don't currently know if there are other universes but there are several multiverse (or multiple universe) theories in physics. However existence and activities within ATI will continue in some way, on and on. ATI is literally "everything" and includes whatever is outside our neck-of-the-woods. In any event ATI has to be omnipotent (all powerful), omnipresent (present everywhere) and infinite (has always existed and will always exist). These are qualities that other religions attribute to god and in this sense ATI is god at least in ATlism.



Most religions follow the lead of faith (i.e. recall in my terms this is intuition/emotion) and reason/observation assist. This is to say great regard is given to "revelation." However in ATlism it's the opposite. Reason/observation leads while intuition/emotion assists. Great regard is given to science as the most objective mode of exploring things within **ATI**. There are other differences. One is that in many religions god is thought of as being an anthropomorphic being, that is to say a superman-like being. A common image is that of god sitting on a throne upon a cloud somewhere in heaven, surrounded by a sea of worshipping angels/spirits. There isn't anyway to prove this but people can believe it, if they like. On the other hand the existence of **ATI** is certain. It is something you don't have to believe (See my poem: "*When I Woke Up*"). If an individual has enough awareness they will become conscious of their own being. The auxiliary to this is the realization that since one exists so does something that includes all things. The final nugget is you and I exist only since **ATI** does (See my poem: "*The ATI Realization*"). This to say we have our being within **ATI**. Our species evolved over time and our lives exist along the latest twigs on the Homo sapiens limb of the grand biological tree.



Another difference is some religions put the founders of their faith on very high pedestals; some are even thought to be god. We can see this in varying degrees in the cases of Moses, Buddha, Jesus and Mohammed. In ATlism no former human is or can be viewed as anything like **ATI**. Such a notion is nonsense, meaning that one cannot arrive at this via reason/observation. One can only accept the idea that some former human is god as an article of faith, which is to say one must believe it. However it also entails that others are free to **not** believe it, especially since there isn't any evidence. ATlism says all people are/were merely human. (The physical birth process begins when a female's egg or "ovum" gets fertilized by a male's sperm, etc.). This doesn't mean that some people don't possess great talents. We all have the potential to grow and develop into more mature, creative beings. In ATlism those who have founded religions should be appreciated, even respected but not deified.



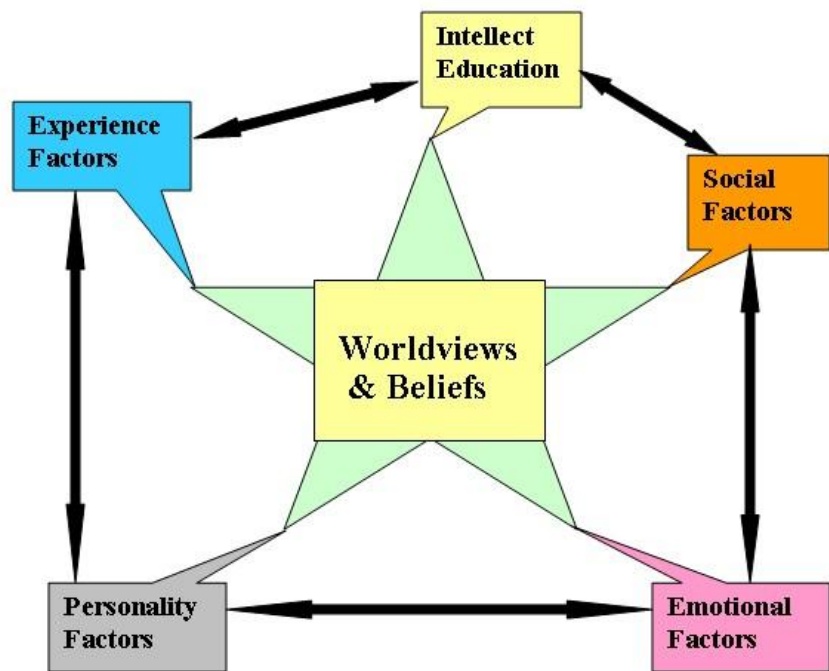
Religions often have remedies for people who have erred. In Catholicism they have confession to the Priest, who sometimes requires things like the recital of the Rosary. In other Christian groups it mainly includes prayer and appealing to the sacrifice of Jesus. In ATlism if you miss the mark one tries to make amends but good deeds have at least as much power as bad actions. If it weren't the case it would be giving mistakes more power than good works. This is the meaning of the line: "*Mistakes are part of life but good*





deeds have a longer reach; they can make up for many a miss.” (See my poem: **“When I Woke Up”**)

ATIism **isn't** the one and only religion that saves people nor must it be spread around the world before some arbitrary deadline like a so-called judgment day or end of the age. ATIism doesn't require that everybody must become ATiers (An ATier is one who follows ATIism). It can only work for whom it fits. In other words individuals must be ready to make the internal shift to ATIism. We have to keep in mind that what we think and believe today is usually due to many factors including: intellect and education, social, emotional, personality factors & the wealth of experience. People can broaden their outlook from reading diverse literature, traveling and interacting with different sorts of people, etc. I call these five interactive general factors the Worldviews & Beliefs Star.



These factors can affect each other and in combinations can influence the nature of your accepted worldviews and beliefs. Experience factors can include many things. If someone has had an angelic, ghost or UFO experience they are more likely to believe such things compared to someone who hasn't. Even if some people have had such an experience their intellect may still oppose it and rationalize the event as a momentary hallucination, wakeful dream or delusion of some kind. If so, they still might not believe it. Some individuals may encounter convincing arguments against some of their religious beliefs but they may not make any changes due to social factors. This might entail family and other kinds of group pressure. Much of this could also be due to emotional factors. They might feel the need to remain accepted by their significant others and therefore chose to ignore the problems.



**A baby Buddha & statue.**

Much of what people are willing to believe depends also on their personality type. If some one is primarily a “thinking” type they rely much on their



**The Dome of the Rock which houses the famed Rock. It's on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.**



**Top view of The Rock inside the Dome of the Rock. It is the place from which Mohammed allegedly ascended into heaven, with the Angel Gabriel.**



**Ghostly image on a photo**

intellectual analysis. An “emotional type” relies more on feelings. An “action type” likes to act independently and is often in the thick of conflicts. A “social type” likes to keep the peace, avoid conflict and readily goes along with traditions. They stubbornly hold on to what they have been taught. An “intuitive type” goes with their “sixth sense” and experiences. Of course all of these forms reside within everyone so you could create a 5 tiered system to more thoroughly describe individuals. Here is an example. One personality type is an individual who is (in order of usual predominance) primarily a thinker, secondarily an intuitive, thirdly a socializer, fourthly an actor and fifthly emotive. So you could have all the forms in any of the five tiers of usual operation; creating a system of 25 possible personality descriptions. Keep in mind there are other systems of personality analysis.

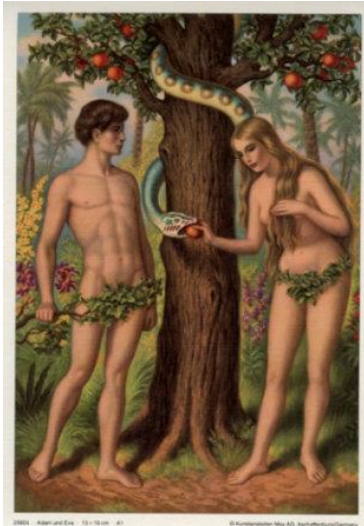
My main point is what we believe also depends much on the filters created by our personality. The idea is what one person sees as being significant another barely notices and vice versa. Some people, for example, could be careless about reason, evidence and proofs while to others it's primary. In any case the issue is complex. Recall the Cinderella story; the shoe didn't fit Cinderella's sisters no matter how hard they tried and in like manner one shouldn't try to force fit people into ATIism. There are many other perspectives and religions that may simply be more suitable for them. After all people can live successful, meaningful lives within any of the world's religions.

There are many stories in religious literature that is without any evidence: Moses received the law directly from God on top of Mount Sinai, Buddha reincarnates as several contemporary males, Mary the mother of Jesus was a virgin, Mohammed ascended into heaven, etc. Of course people are entitled to believe such stories but there are those who don't. ATIism allows for incomplete evidence to act as **reasons to believe** but it must be based on some real evidence and not simply on empty faith. There may be, for example, a purpose for humanity. I simply look to the evolutionary record that indicates that life started from simple unicellular forms and edged its way up to more complex forms. There were great extinctions along the road (see my poem: "*Earth, My Dear Mother*") but hominids eventually arrived including Homo sapiens. Even if the processes were all random, as the Neo-Darwinians claim, it all happened within ATI and who knows what the next steps will be. I think there are many **reasons to believe** there may be an even greater purposefulness with ATI. I will be addressing these reasons when I deal with evolution in more detail in future articles. Specifically I will illustrate some possible additional factors to natural selection that could also be driving evolution forwards.

There is other less certain things such as the nature of an afterlife. Again there is good reason to believe there is more; but we can't completely prove it. If there are other realms, as I suspect, these would also have to be part of **ATI**. ATIism allows individuals to make up their own mind about such things. Some people are convinced that re-incarnation of some sort is part of the plan. Some believe in other after-life schemes like souls going to heaven, purgatory or hell. Others think there will be a resurrection to either



**An illustration of an imaginary UFO crash site.**



**Hercules**



**Atlas**

a newly made physical body or to a spirit form. Of course some founders of religions were adamant about their after life teachings, believing they couldn't be wrong. Considering how different their teachings are they can't all be right. I think we can't know the precise nature of any after-life (See my poem: **"Do We Survive?"**). ATlism claims that where you are now is your place-of- power and we will know what's next when we get there. In the meantime this life and world is of immediate importance and the "next realm" isn't comparably so. Even if there isn't an after-life it is still better and more fulfilling to live a meaningful, purpose-filled life. Despite our beliefs, it is what it is.

An ATl'er also decides for her/himself the form of their spiritual practices. To some prayer makes sense, for others it's meditation and/or contemplation. I like to use all the forms but that's my choice. People also decide what therapies to use for healing but modern medicine is recommended to be part of the plan. Healthy lifestyles are encouraged including a wholesome diet and exercise but people make these and other lifestyle choices for themselves.

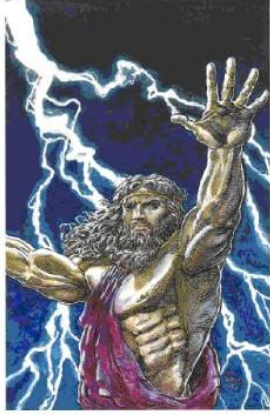
### **Five Functions of Healthy Religions**

Here are five general functions that a healthy religion should include but there are others.

- Firstly a healthy church creates an atmosphere or a feeling of belonging to a spiritual family. The group should function as to accept individuals who show an interest in the group's purpose and doctrines. This should not include any physically draining or harmful initiation process.
- Secondly a healthy religion inspires its membership towards living moral and lawful lives. This isn't to say everyone must be perfect but rather direct individuals to strive towards taking the high road and live a healthy way. If any group encourages you to commit crime or violence go to the police!
- Thirdly a healthy religion encourages members to do good works for those with needs within the group and others.
- Fourthly a healthy religion allows individuals to question doctrines and teachings. People should also be allowed to choose their own therapies but modern medicine should play an important part in the process.
- Fifthly a healthy religion inspires individuals to live purposeful lives. It should provide people with a sense of meaning for their existence, as well as provide solace to those when ill, counsel to those who require guidance, aid to those in need and hope to those who are grieving over a deceased loved one.

### **Negative Features of Unhealthy Religions**

Here are some unhealthy signs to watch for in religions but there are others. If you see more than one of these, you should consider leaving. I'll be using the term "church" to cover the "group" that may be known by some other names.



**Zeus**



**Odin**



**Jason & The Argonauts**



- Beware of any church that teaches their leader is God's one and only channel. This limits one's ability to get direct inspiration since there is only one source, the leader. Beware of any leader who takes upon any lofty name or title, like "Christ" "God's Messenger" or "Chief Apostle" etc.
- Beware of any church that divides the world into two; the church is good and the world is evil. This teaching can even be used to try to keep individuals from associating with family and with other people outside of the group. In extreme situations people can be impelled to live in the church's compound, where contact with people outside is restricted. Similarly beware of any group with racist teachings. (It's the same problem. One race is declared to be good and another is degraded or claimed to be bad).
- Beware of any church that demands most of one's resources, free time and aims to control members. One shouldn't be required to give up all their money and/or belongings. Nor should one have to participate in *continual* church activities to raise funds. A healthy church teaches and encourages individuals to interact with others outside the group and does not dominate all their free time. Do not give up your power to any church that insists they have the right to physically punish individuals for non-attendance, mistakes or so-called sins. If any group engages in beating people go the police.
- Beware of any church that doesn't allow people to question doctrines; especially if their teachings go against sound science and reason. Extreme compliance is often part of a group's programming techniques. They also often use negative emotions such as fear and guilt to control people. Also beware of any group that has a blanket prohibition against modern medicine. This does not mean that every medical treatment is desirable but individuals should be allowed to make their own decisions in consultation with doctors.
- Beware of any church that condones liberal sex with more than one partner or with minors. Healthy sexual expression is a *private* affair and a special bonding with one loving partner. Beware of any leader, priest or minister who uses his/her position to take advantage of others. When these lines are crossed it can lead to a lot of trouble. If minors are being sexually abused go the police.

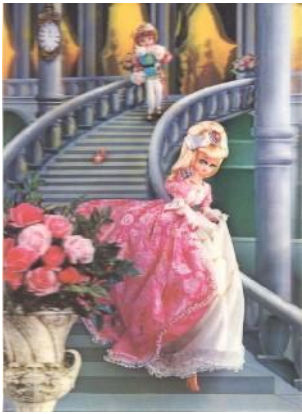
### **Conclusion**

What then is ATIism? It is a worldview, a philosophy & a religion. It is my religion at least and perhaps that of a few others and that means it is the big intellectual picture we use that puts it all together. ATIism is really an alternative religion for people, like me; for whom the other religions simply don't work. However, ATIism is not yet an organized religion, with members and services etc. Perhaps it will become that but I would only like to see it with people for whom the shoe truly fits! Cinderella's sisters belong and would be much happier amongst other offerings.

There is also a mystical component to ATIism. I have spent many wondrous moments being full of the joy and amazement of **ATI**. These mystical moments are difficult to express in words but your awareness heightens and



**The Phoenix rising from the flames**



**The shoe doesn't fit Cinderella's sister.**



**The ATiism Logo**

[How to Make a Donation](#)

you feel part of the amazing big picture, impressed by the synchronicity and serendipity of events that led to your life within **ATI**. You can feel the sunset, ride with the wind, beam along with star light and visualize distant galaxies and yes ... feel blessed peace and happiness!

### The Basic Tenets of ATiism

- **ATI** is All That Is. It is the greatest thing that exists and/or is existence in the fullest sense. **Metaphorically** speaking **ATI** is the creator & the creation.
- ATiism is a world view where reason/observation leads but intuition/emotion assists.
- Science is the best vehicle for exploring and understanding things within **ATI**.
- Human beings arrived after billions of years of changes within **ATI**. Even if the processes were random, the serendipity is remarkable.
- Good works have a longer reach than mistakes. In other words good is more powerful than evil since it can make amends.
- People can live successful lives within almost any religion.
- There are reasons to believe (but not to absolutely prove) there is a purpose for our existence and life after death. Aware people endeavor to become all that they can be and aim to stay aligned with their sense of purpose. They strive to control negative emotions and to feel the mystical union with **ATI**.



Ken Koskinen, fooling around pointing to his bushy beard! Recall he has a wacky sense of humor, expressed in his insane comedy writing.

