

After Cross Country practice in High School, I would often think about the Universe and Religion. On the way home one day I was thinking about God and who made him and the person before if somehow, he makes us and we then become Gods. I was thinking about this because I learned in Seminary in the morning that day that we are to [become Gods when we get to the Celestial Kingdom](#). This prompted me to think why there is something rather than nothing. I thought I was a genius with this original thought that nobody talks about, but it seems I didn't think about it first after all. You should watch the entirety of these two videos: [What is "nothing"? And Why is there something rather than nothing?](#) (Hit the settings button and watch it at a higher speed so you can save time)

When I recently came to Utah from Brazil, I went for a long run down up around the neighborhood I grew up in around the area I used to play with friends. I was naively thinking that I can't belong to the church and have friends, stay with my family, and get a partner for life unless I believe, and I can't be with people who are not part of the church, so I must convert them, so I wanted to convert my old friend Steven. I was thinking I needed to learn that the church is true because I had so much doubt about it. I was thinking, I needed to become like an apologist because I didn't truly believe all the things I have learned about the church. I decided to go to Weber State University and study Physics (naively) because growing up I knew that was where the money is at because it requires math, and I had previous college credits in Math & Physics from Mesa Community College and maybe I would understand the Universe more and would be able to understand the Religion I grew up in from the study.

When I was going to Weber State University in the early 2010s, I was also going to a singles ward, there I remember still pondering about nothing and why does Christianity make sense to so many people but not to me. I was in Sunday class, and they were talking about 'feeling the spirit' and how it may not even be unique to our church. It isn't unique, it is something called the feeling of [elevation](#). Also, I was thinking about depression and why people do anything at all (the brain-reward system) and thinking we know about so many things about the brain, but [we don't have evidence of a soul at all](#). See [this article](#) too after watching all of that. [Soul](#).

I remember being on an anti-anxiety medication called Paxil and remember brazenly telling a return missionary in my acting class elective at Weber State University what I thought about Jesus's sacrifice not making sense and remember his face and how he went through his mission and doesn't really think it made sense either. I think he told a Bishop or something and was just told to read the Scriptures more (because I remember that was a cure to doubt from a conference). I remember talking to my bishop at the time and how I thought it was wrong that it should be considered a sin to not believe without evidence, to not have faith, I was thinking about a so called 'spiritual death' in which the biggest sin is hearing of the Gospel and not believing it, and they would be the ones to live in Eternal darkness. (I now think it is tyrannical for any being to suggest such a thing, not good or benevolent at all)

At this time, I was dreading going to Church because I knew it to be wrong and yet with so many people around me saying it was right and getting socially rewarded for saying so, I just had to keep quiet & pretend. I finally stopped going (this was when Aaron was living with us at the Cold Creek Way house) I was in such emotional pain about being coerced to go to church.

A couple of months, or maybe it was a year after when I started going to University of Utah, I started going back to Church because I wanted to meet women. (This was when Josh was considering going on a Mission) However, that aspiration was in vain because I still thought the Church was bunk. I remember listening to an Audiobook titled [The Wisdom of Psychopaths](#) and I was thinking that people in the Church

learn to have sociopathic behaviors. Telling oneself & others that something is true based on feeling instead of supporting evidence and to have “believers” tell how much they believe based on their feelings and do that every month or ever so often is sociopathic behavior. This was around the time the phrase “Doubt your doubts before doubting your faith” was being said. This was at a time I was thinking heavily about [Cognitive Dissonance](#).

Also, while studying at the University of Utah, I read a book for one of my Game Development classes which was titled [Reality is Broken](#) and learned that a game is defined as a goal and set of rules where it has meaning to the players who are taking the rules seriously but is absurd to those who do not know the game or do not plan on taking it seriously. After this, thinking about the absurdity of life in general, and of why we are driven to do activities, thinking about how neurotransmitters, neuromodulators, and hormones within the brain and body determine one's behavior, I had the epiphany that life is much like a collection of games. You don't have to play the game of finding food & water, you could just waste away. Purpose is just a concept. There is no grand purpose in life for everyone.

The last time I went to Church was a New Year's Eve party, I think it was the end of 2012. I was thinking about how wrong it was & how the scripture mastery from seminary which says “For the natural man is an enemy of God...” was ironic since people's brain-reward system which drives people do things such as all the social aspects of the Church. People are social creatures, and they pair up for their [own selfish needs](#). Feeling awe and togetherness and being worried about how you are seen by others is natural. It is no wonder we use our [imagination](#) for higher thought such as long-term planning and [coming up with innovative](#) ideas which artificial intelligence has a hard time replicating. Our imagination is one of the reasons why the human species dominate the world and is most likely [the reason why we believe in a higher power who created us](#).

Everything is natural or we just simply do not understand it. It requires the scientific method of questioning it and testing and coming to a conclusion, which we are able to understand things which are and occur. Religious faith corrupts relationships & the understanding of the world. There is no being which would be considered as ‘Good’ that would require anyone to believe in something without evidence, that is just manipulation. Also, knowledge of good & evil and life being a test would be considered a joke if faith is considered to be good. I agree with the philosopher Albert Camus that it is [philosophical suicide](#) to escape the absurd nature of life with belief in Religion and the afterlife.

I remember playing Dragon Quest V and thinking about the probability of getting a King Slime would be rare. I won a drawing at the plasma donation center and won a free 3DS Video game system. Upon thinking about rare events, I have realized that everything that is rare may indeed happen to someone or something even though it is rare and very likely not going to happen to you. Looking at life in this way you can say that everyone is special and at the same time not very special at all. A glass half full or half empty world view. This is problematic when people think they are divinely special or think of otherworldly forces are at play because of [the Barnum effect](#). I have thought of this over the years as an evolutionary standpoint to think highly of oneself and affiliations, family, work, church, & country as the best. And to think that everything good which occurs are blessings from God and all the difficult things are seen as tests or trials from God. From this world view, it is understandable that [the fine tuning argument for God](#) is so popular. But the fine-tuning argument turns out to be a black & white fallacy and begging the question.

The thing which bothers me the most about the Church is the members' willingness to promote & pretend. The apparent fakeness of it all and yet being serious about it was disturbing. It reminds me of [Kayfabe](#), a term used for the acting of professional TV wrestling. I have my own accounts of just pretending to be good in the church and yet not being much of a believer or follow the commandments and it is disturbing to then get praise of something like "I felt the spirit so strongly during your prayer" or "I felt the spirit strongly from your talk" and yet the recently returned missionary just determined that he doesn't believe any of it. I know there are many occurrences where this has happened. It is frustrating that one's authenticity is compromised when living within a religious community and yet so many on their death beds wish they were more authentic in life. I felt so fake, and my parents loved it when I was faking to them. It reminds me of The Portrait of Dorian Gray and how he liked the actress called Sibyl when she was a good Actress on stage but not as herself. It is troubling to go through our one certain life with the inauthenticity which the Church produced.

Crazy to think people believe that magic & symbols are so horrible and yet they are fictional all the same as their own beliefs. They take other's crazy and go along with it as if it were real. [The Satanic Panic](#) is absurd. Yet it is okay to believe in killing one's own Son if "God" told one too (is that guy hearing voices is the reasonable thing to say) or that Polygamy is rational or it is rational to kill someone if God demands it because, the plates, the so-called God's word would be lost if he isn't killed. And yet unbelief is the worse sin for the people who will go to eternal darkness. I think it is reasonable to not want to go to someone's house who believes in the Church. A reverse satanic panic is reasonable. The burning of poor fruiting olive branches & cutting the wheat from the chaff can be applied to the ones who are teaching of leaving bad influences the most fervently.

It is frustrating that so many think that one's moral framework depend on the existence of God, yet his existence has not been proven and that someone needs to be a church goer in order to prevent them from doing harm. We [have philosophers from universities](#) who regularly debate [morality](#) and yet so many are still stuck in the stone age thinking they can be [moral](#) if they read the Bible which has senseless animal sacrifices, killings, and slavery all in the [name of God](#).



The population of the church is small. The history is wrong and [doesn't match archaeological discourse](#). The church's finances are well off and are hurting the members by telling them to tithe and save and spend their time with the church instead of purely with family without the church's influence. The speed of light is fast, yet planets are still lightyears away and yet you expect a magical omniscient God who can see and do everything faster than the speed of light and has a reason (a drive) for why he does things (presumably benevolently) much like the brain-reward system consisting of neurotransmitters, neuromodulators, and hormones humans have?