Why You Can Trust Me:

An Epistle from the Chief Rabbi and Grand Wazoo

1. I will never say “trust me” except as a joke. You can decide for yourself whether to trust me or not.
2. I will never say “believe me” except as a figure of speech. If you don’t believe me it’s because you already know better.
3. I don’t want your money. I would like to live comfortably, and have the resources to do what I think is right, but I have no love of riches. “Being rich” is a euphemism for “having more than one needs.” I do not want to be rich. A detailed list of what I see as the necessities of life is available online, for free. Once I have these things, I won’t want more.
4. I don’t want the power to tell you what to do. I have ideas I consider worth promulgating, but I have absolutely no desire to impose my belief system. I want friends, not subjects. I want fellowship, not students. I want to live among people who are willing to debate me, with the goal of improving my philosophy.
5. I acknowledge that future history will demonstrate the inadequacy of my enlightenment. The next generation will make me look silly. I welcome this transformation. It is part of Fun.
6. I acknowledge that you may have better ideas than me, and I don’t take it personally. Eventually I may have to relinquish the title of Chief Rabbi to one more learned than me. However, I am the Grand Wazoo in perpetuity, and there is nothing anyone can do about that, just as you may be the Royal Funkenheimer until you die.
7. I’m a writer-philosopher and that is what I do best. What I am not is a prophet or an oracle. I have no magic, no second-sight and no epiphany to relate. I am not channelling, am not privy to the wisdom of any arcane or secret knowledge, and I can’t talk to God in any way that others cannot. I cannot pull a rabbit out of a hat without getting bitten in the process. I am not anything that you couldn’t be.
8. I preach a democratic process and goal. Fun is for everyone, in every degree. It cannot belong to anyone unless it belongs to all. It is an All-for-one, One-for-all kind of thing. I preach something anyone can do/have/be. There is no test at the end of this book. There is no mystical hurdle to leap. There is only you and me and Fun.
9. I have very big, completely flat feet. I have a largish nose. I have had my teeth fixed. I have a history of stupid behaviour. I am mentally defective, although well-medicated. I am not an alpha-male. I am not financially successful. I’m not muscular. I have bad habits. I was a drug-addict. I fart when I think no-one can hear. I lie on occasion. I am completely, 100% human. I am not better than you.
10. I am a good listener. You would have no reason to listen to me if I was not also willing to listen to you. A leader who can’t take advice is a tyrant.
11. I will never tell you that the only way is my way. In fact, I will tell you that any way that can be named is not the way. I will tell you that the road to enlightenment and beyond is your own, and only yours, and that I can’t tell you how to get there, even if I can show you how I did.
12. I will defend your right to be an idiot. I will tell you if I think you’re being an idiot.
13. I like cheese. I eat meat. I am not holier-than-thou.
14. I am free of religion. I am not a member of a political party. I don’t play team sports. I am all about individualism. You are an individual, not a statistic or a member of an artificial group. You may be religious, or political, or sporty, and that’s fine, because you aren’t writing this book.
15. I believe in human rights: freedom of action and thought. I believe in the ability of humans to be noble. I believe in equality. I believe in the establishment of a network of public lavatories. This will be a good thing.
16. I will defend you from wombats with handguns. None of my friends has been shot by one yet. Ducks with knives are your problem.
17. I am having fun. I am having Fun. I am. These statements are all the same.