

# The Eternal Way

August - September 2003

## How to Verify Truth

This world is full of ideas. And some pretty unbelievable ones at that. How can we be sure that what we hear or see is true or real? Let's take a brief walk through history and take a look at some of the ideas that have come and gone through the ages.

Remember when we studied in elementary school that some early societies actually thought that the world was flat? And how it was thought that if you sailed a boat into a sea's horizon, you might actually fall off the edge of the earth? Individuals like Galileo, much to the dismay of the prevailing social, political, and religious authorities, intuited that the earth was not only *not* flat, but it was also not the center of the universe. He did not have the benefit of satellite photographs, but he *did* have the benefit of tapping into the truth within himself of how the solar system was and is structured.

Another idea once considered acceptable was for one human being to be the subject or slave of another. Human beings were simply owned like cattle by a ruling monarchy, a wealthy nobleman, or brutal tyrant. Unbelievably, this still exists in places on our globe. But in 1776, something remarkable happened politically. Thomas Jefferson captured the imagination and hearts of people by penning the famous American Declaration of Independence that stated *"we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their Creator with certain Unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."* Where would such an idea come from? Certainly, it was not circulating as an idea from the British crown. No, it was something wholly different than anything previously imagined by men. It was divine inspiration articulated by a man who had contacted something deep within himself.

When Henry Ford developed the automobile at the beginning of the twentieth century, "experts" of his day warned him and consumers that driving an open carriage automobile at 30 mph would result in suffocation to the driver and passengers. I presume they meant that

the onrushing air would make taking a breath impossible and cause one to suffocate. Henry pursued his ideas and I'm sure the experts all lined up for a ride. In 1895, Lord Kelvin, President of the British Royal Society stated emphatically, "Heavier than air flying machines are impossible." The Wright Brothers in Kitty Hawk displayed otherwise. Charles H. Duell, Director of the U.S. Patent Office prophesied in 1899 that "Everything that can be invented has been invented." Inventors of his era went on and developed their ideas anyway.

There is another idea that has come down and persisted in religious and institutional dogma through the ages. That notion is that man is separate from God and that we must somehow petition, plead, and appeal to God far away somewhere to come and save us from the miserable existence that we find ourselves in.

Accordingly, elements within certain religious traditions are eagerly awaiting a messiah to come save the day in a "second coming." Uh-unhh, excuse me, but the "first coming" is still here. *"In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and the Word was God....All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made....In him was life; and the life was the light of men...That was the true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."* (John 1:1,3,4,9) There you have it. Why would God need to come again when God never left? God is *expressing* as you, me, everyone and everything. God is here and now!

Hasn't this been what enlightened saints and saviors have been saying throughout time? The renowned saint of India affectionately referred to as Babaji (revered Father) has been quoted as asserting *"few individuals realize that the kingdom of God fully extends to this realm!"* Christ Eshua (Jesus) stated it this way when asked point blank by Pharisees when God was coming. In Luke 17: 20-21 we find, "When some of the Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God

would come, he answered, saying to them, *The kingdom of God does not come by observation. Neither will they say, Behold, it is here! Or, behold, it is there! for behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*"

So here it is! How can we verify the truth of this or of anything else? This has been the opportunity since time immemorial. And that is to recognize what is already given to us, what is already *here*. How? We do so by the ancient and contemporary practice of *meditation*. By directing our attention within, we return to the source of our being and remember who we are at our core. Spending time daily by turning the data collection power of the senses back to the source of our being, we get beneath all the diversity, multiplicity, and duality of life and get to the *singularity* of our existence! We remember that we are one with God. We realize that only one Reality exists and that no relative event can ever change the Changeless.

What are you waiting for? The earth is not flat, and you are not a slave to anyone. You are meant and designed to know the truth and that truth is to liberate you to be free...*to truly live, to truly be*.

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Front page article by Rocco benRoy unless otherwise noted.

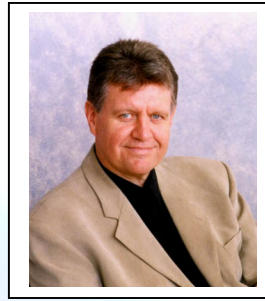
Rocco benRoy is the minister-director of the Eternal Way. His training and ordination are in the spiritually enlivening and holistic tradition of the ancients as taught by his Kriya Yoga mentor, Roy Eugene Davis.

The Eternal Way Center provides personal counseling and group seminars for spiritual realization, emotional and mental clarity, and physical vitality. The center is dedicated to assisting and empowering each responsive soul, a living temple of God, to cultivate their innate potential and to express their unique purpose and destiny as divinely intended.

All services and functions are funded by donation support. Come join in and participate.

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## **Transforming Conflict Into Peace**

**by Rudy Davenport**

I don't know about you, but I have really grown tired of hearing about people in the news who claim their actions are justified on religious grounds, thus expressing God's will. From Islamic terrorists who try to achieve their goals by killing in the name of Allah (the All-Merciful and Compassionate, ironically), to Catholics and Protestants playing out their hatred of each other in Northern Ireland, to Christian conservatives in America preaching intolerance of gay people and anyone they demonize as "liberal," to Jews and Palestinians shedding each other's blood on the very ground that Jesus and the prophets walked, to Hindus and Muslims murdering each other in the land of Rama and Krishna, I am tired of it. Yet, I never tire of hearing about God's love, and the wonderful meaning, dignity, and purpose Divine love gives each human being. So why the dichotomy?

As the world has gotten smaller through travel, business, and information technology, the interaction between members of different religions is a fact of contemporary life. Many problems result from this simple fact of globalization. Since our world's divergent religions teach that the path to God consists mainly of differing rituals, dogmas, moral codes, and even dress and diet, conflicts are bound to arise. Christianity and Islam historically have held the belief that the whole world should follow their religions, through either conversion or conquest. These views simply do not work.

Far too often, religion becomes a vehicle for expressing dark desires of power, greed, fear, ignorance, hatred, intolerance, and bigotry. After all, if God hates a person for their color, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, or gender, it becomes much easier to dehumanize them; in effect, to separate them from "the righteous."

So what are we to do to transform the current state of conflict, division, and separateness into a more spiritually beautiful state of peace, unity, and acceptance?



The following are some guidelines to help the world and each person gain spiritual balance:

- 1) We must individually and collectively affirm that “*We Are One Loving Family Of One Eternal Loving God.*” Then we must put this spiritual truth into practice in daily life. We will gain more clarity by living this idea than by theorizing about it.
- 2) God must never be used by anyone to control, threaten, discriminate against, or kill any human being anywhere at anytime. We need to stop condoning this abuse of God’s name in ourselves, in others, and in organized groups. Let us remove the hypocrisy that it is God’s wish.
- 3) We must come to know, in the depths of our being, that we have come from God, we are held in being by God, and ultimately we will be transformed in God. There is no separation from God at any moment of our lives. In other words, we must come to a spiritual understanding of the Divine rather than a religious one. God is our destiny. Divine Love will prevail.

**Rudy Davenport** has a B.A. in Music and a Master of Divinity Degree. With an extensive background in the devotional traditions of East and West, he provides Pastoral Counseling and teaches the use of Music for Therapy and Meditation at the Eternal Way.

### **An Invitation To Be An Eternal Way Spiritual Partner**

The Eternal Way's mission is to reach as many people as possible with a spiritually-based message that God is expressing in our lives. Would you join us? Become a Spiritual Partner by devoting \$25, \$50, \$75, or \$100 or more to the ministry work each month. This allows us to share literature freely and do lecture work with groups unable to donate at present.

Please use the enclosed donation envelope and be as generous as possible to help us help those in need in all our departments. All ministry services function on a donation basis and we freely serve everyone without regard to their ability to donate. Wonderful things can be fulfilled in this world when we collectively commit to supporting uplifting work!

**Watch the Eternal Way “Your Body, Your Temple” T.V. Program Thursday Nights at 10pm, Channel 11 on Austin Community Access.**



### **Reflections on the Mission Statement**

**By Shara Amelia**

The enjoinder to *Actualize Compassion and Love in the Form of Selfless Service to Those in Need* involves some discernment. We must define our community of service and may be asked to cast our gaze with a wide-angle lens. Then we must discern who is in need. Have they asked for help? We then must align ourselves with God’s economic policy, counter to the leanings of the ego. It is not the policy of striving only to increase or hoard resources through heroic, self-centered effort. It is an economic policy that requires us to consider what serviceful energy we can wisely give *right now* to those in need around us. It is a policy that asks that we keep what is truly God’s abundance in circulation and strive only to perfect the channels of its distribution.

Selfless service can seem precious in today’s survivalist, uncertain climate. In the early middle ages, St. Clare would nudge the sisters of her order to distribute available alms compassionately to the neediest among them. In no less uncertain times, they viewed what came into their religious house as, by definition, *enough*. God had supplied them and they realized with clarity that they could neither out-produce nor out-give God. They could instead act without complaint as midwives to the divine abundance that has shown itself. With compassion, we too can attune ourselves more deeply to those in our community whose needs have been made known to the divine inner ear and whose answer is to be made known specifically as God through us.

**Shara Amelia** has a B.A. in English Literature, an M.A. in Linguistics, an M.S. in Oriental Medicine, and is a staff member at the Eternal Way.

### Good News!

**Roy Eugene Davis is coming to Austin, Texas!** Mark your calendars for Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003, to attend a **seminar on Meditation** conducted by **Roy Eugene Davis** of the **Center for Spiritual Awareness** of Lakemont, Georgia. Roy is Rocco's mentor and has served over 50 years in ministry work. Roy was a direct disciple of the renowned yogi Paramahansa Yogananda, author of the international spiritual classic *Autobiography of a Yogi*. This meditation seminar, in the tradition of the ancients, will be held at the First Church of Religious Science at 9003 Waterford Place in North Austin on Sunday tentatively from 2pm -- 5pm. Richard Imprescia, minister at the FCRS, is also a longtime friend of Roy Davis. Announcement cards will be sent to our member body and volunteers willing to help distribute flyers can contact us.

**Hatha Yoga (in the Kriya tradition) with John Stern** will be available on a donation basis here at the Eternal Way every **Tuesday at 5:30 pm beginning September 9, 2003**. John is a Kriya initiate, a yoga instructor, a graduate of chiropractic school, and does accounting work for the Eternal Way. Come enliven yourself with stretching, limbering, and breathing with Hatha Yoga!

A **19-foot-long Galaxy boat** with a 120hp inboard/outboard motor plus trailer has been donated to the Eternal Way for use as a fund raising item to help us complete the retreat. It comes with a Shoreline trailer. This boat is appraised at about \$4500, but we are asking about \$2250, only half price. If getting into boating is one of your desires, this may be just right for you. Call now!

### E.A.T. Outreach News

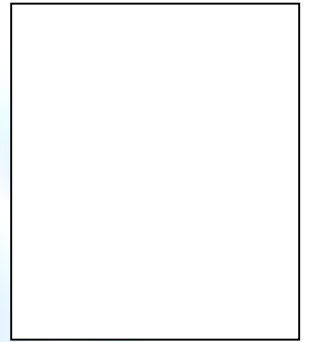
Looking for a way to participate in the upliftment of humanity, but not sure what to do? Come help touch others by volunteering with the E.A.T. Outreach.

If you could donate one hour, one day a week to this volunteer work, the people who we serve would deeply appreciate it. Call us at 445-1080. The E.A.T. Outreach has delivered surplus whole-grain bread to 21 agencies a week on average during the past two months. Thanks go out to our dedicated core of volunteers: **Jay Erwin-Grotsky, John Stern, Gavin Emberson and his Bahai Faith Center Crew, Julian Bruno, Morris Greggs, and Paul Thraillkill.**

### Eternal Way Retreat

We presently need one **french-type door** on the north side estimated at about \$671 and about **40 sheets of 5/8ths sheetrock** estimated at about \$240 to completely enclose the retreat. A bid of \$1641 for a **new gutter system** has been received and plans are underway for its installation, *as soon as funds fully arrive*. This is needed to improve rainwater collection since this is the only source of water available at the retreat presently. Call us at 445-1080 to help.

The retreat is nestled in the pines on 7 acres in Bastrop County about 39 miles from Austin. It is used as a site for refreshment of body, mind, and being.



### August and Sept. 2003 -Wednesday Programs

	August / September		
Studies in Truth	6	3	7pm
Using Mind, Body, and Heart to experience God	13	10	7pm
Kriya Yoga: Constructive Keys to Spiritual Living	20	17	7pm
Community Spiritual Gathering w/Potluck at 6pm	27	24	7pm

### Rocco benRoy's Speaking Engagements

8/5/03            Master's Commission – Austin

8/7/03            Austin Family House – Austin

8/11/03           Dr. Griffin Cole's Dental Office  
Staff Training - Austin

Every month at the Eternal Way's **Community Spiritual Gathering**  
Every Tuesday at **Austin Recovery Center** for individuals in drug  
and alcohol recovery. **9AM**

Contact us if you would like directions or additional information.