

Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Karen's question: Valerie, is it fair to say that you basically believe that something like God exists but that your "God" just isn't a God of relationships? You seem to believe in some "force." Also, yes, this conversation is related to our other conversation about how God works through the world and people.

My response: I do not believe in any higher power that is remotely like a consciousness or a being that cares about individual humans and influences their lives, if that answers your question. The closest thing to a "force" that I believe in is that the universe appears to have an inherent "tendency" to produce higher levels of complexity, based on the fact that it has done so and continues to do so to an extent that seems (just intuitively) way beyond what we imagine as mechanical chance. (This is not a hard belief of any kind, just a general speculation/suspicion.) This is not a tendency driven by any kind of consciousness, just something inherent in how the universe works. I believe this tendency does not at all tend to produce happiness or love except incidentally as it aids the existence and survival of lifeforms - which is why the result the universe has produced for us humans (and life on this planet in general) is extremely sub-optimal. I believe it is 100% our job to make our lives, and the world, good for ourselves and each other; no higher power is going to do it for us. I believe that is why my Dad had to CHOOSE to solve the chronic Babesiosis problem and did it against immense challenges with virtually no help from anything or anyone. He could have just let me, and all of us, suffer and die but instead he persisted through failure after failure and years of absolute hopelessness and suffering and me begging him to give up and let me rest in peace. (Of course, he is my Dad so he kind of didn't have a choice and this never would have happened otherwise.) Every day us humans choose to defy "nature" and decide that the world/the future would be better if we changed it rather than just let everything happen as it will