

Welcome To **UNA-BELLA-VITA!**

By
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What does it mean? **Bella Vita** is Italian for **Beautiful Life**; and **Una** says it is **One Beautiful Life**. In searching for a name to call my website, I chose this one because it very much defines my approach to the world and to all within the world.

In brief, my view of the world is that it is **indivisibly one**. The reason I believe that is because I believe all existence is really **INFINITE - or of the INFINITE**. Since it is impossible to divide what is infinite, that makes all existence one. How can you divide that which has no ends - and therefore, no middle either?

I do not think most people believe that, however - and very few have ever believed it. On the contrary, I think most people down through history have viewed the world as one that can be divided - seeing it as finite in its totality - not infinite. It is this wide majority view that has allowed people - and especially those who want to rule others - to try and divide the world into good and evil so that people can be commanded that if they disobey those who try to rule others, they can be sent to the evil side of things and prohibited from the good side of the world. One tends to do such division if one sees the world as limited because the finite almost demands that anything finite can be divided.

As a matter of fact, I grew up believing that the world can be divided - especially into regions of good and evil. Such was the teaching of my faith - Catholicism - and being a good Catholic, I believed it - without assessing the reality of existence. It seemed obvious to me that existence has to be limited because it did not even occur to me to think about it. *Of course, the world was - and is - limited. It only takes observing reality to know that. Everywhere I looked it seemed that things are limited - and thus it never occurred to me to suspect otherwise..*

But then one day, I awoke to realize that in spite of appearances, it makes no sense at all that the world can end. If one really applies him or herself to thinking about it, an end to the world cannot be imagined; and that very small, but powerful, notion suddenly puts it all into immediate perspective. It is one of those **WOW** moments and ideas - to say the least.

If you don't believe me, test the idea yourself. Can you imagine an end to the physical world? How is such possible? How can there be an end to reality? If there can be an end to reality, where is it? If you were to go on some endless space flight, is

it likely you could ever reach **an end to space**? In truth, no one can really imagine such a thing if one really applies oneself to thinking. If one imagines an end to something, there is always something beyond that - and then something beyond that - and then something beyond that - and then something beyond that, etc.

But, what does it mean?

I do not want to get too heavy, but essentially it means that since the infinite world cannot be divided, neither, then, can there be what may be thought of as **good** regions and **evil** regions. In truth, good and evil, as regions, only makes sense if the world can be divided; but if the world cannot be divided - being infinite - then neither can there exist in a traditional sense: **Heaven** or **Hell**. If the world is truly infinite, there can be no place in existence called **Heaven** - declaring it as a region - and there can be no place called **Hell** - another region.

If you think otherwise, tell me where your **Heaven** can be found. Tell me where your **Hell** is found. If they really exist, you ought to be able to tell me where they can be found; but if you can't tell me where they are found, then they probably do not exist - as places.

That is not to say, however, that **Heaven** and **Hell** don't exist at all. It is only to say there can be no region that is set apart that can be called **Heaven**; and there can be no region that is set apart that can be called **Hell**. If **Heaven** is defined, not as a place, but as a disposition of joy and gratitude, then, of course, **Heaven** can exist - and it can exist **everywhere** - where joy and gratitude is found. Likewise, if **Hell** is defined, not as a place, but as a disposition of suffering and pain, then **Hell** can exist - and it can exist **everywhere** where pain and suffering is found. **Heaven & Hell**, then, are here and now - not later - though later they will be too if a present allows them; for what we do now, we will probably do later. To assure a **Heaven** is in our future - or my future, I must live **Heaven** now! Does that not make a lot of sense?

The *Bella Vita* Test

Given that it is **likely** that there can be no **Heaven** to go to as a place because all places are **probably** of the same worth, let us take the **real Heaven test**. If it is true that there can be no place worthier than another place because of no possibility of dividing reality into good and evil places, stand there in your kitchen and sip a cup of coffee or whatever you wish to sip. Now take that cup with you and go out into your front yard. Ask yourself: **Am I worthier out here in my yard than I was earlier in my kitchen?** Then take that same cup with you and amble on over to the neighbor's yard. Ask yourself again: **Am I worthier here in my neighbor's yard than I was earlier in my kitchen?**

Then amble on down the street and when you reach the end of street, take another sip of coffee - or whatever it is you have in your cup. Then ask again: **Am I worthier here at the end of the street than I was earlier in my kitchen?** Then get into your

car or mount your horse or whatever and go to the other side of town. Then ask: **Am I worthier here on the other side of town than I was earlier in my kitchen?** Now, take a trip to the next town and have your cup refilled at a local coffee shop. While sipping that next cup of coffee - or whatever - ask yourself: **Am I worthier here in the next town than I was earlier in my kitchen?**

Then take a plane trip across country. You might have to leave that old cup behind and get a new one, but upon deplaning, ask yourself: **Am I worthier across the country from my home than I was earlier in my kitchen?** Now, get back into that plane and fly across the ocean and land in a more distant country. Ask again: **Am I worthier across the ocean from my home than I was earlier in my kitchen?** Then get into one of those space ships and shoot on out there into space. Look back on good ole Planet Earth and seeing it way down below, ask yourself again: **Am I worthier way out here in space than I was earlier in my kitchen on Earth?**

Then power up the booster on your space craft and leave Earth's gravity behind and head on out to Mars. When you get there, step out of your space craft and look around and ask yourself again: **Am I worthier here on Mars than I was earlier in my kitchen on Earth?** Then get back into your space craft and head back to Earth, but go instead past the Earth and head on to Jupiter. When you get there, get out of your space craft and standing on whatever wonderful surface you find there, ask again: **Am I worthier here on Jupiter than I was earlier in my kitchen on Earth?**

Don't stop there. Get into your space craft and head for another galaxy entirely - leaving our wonderful Solar System completely behind. When you get to another planet within another galaxy, stand on its surface and think of what it was like way back on good ole Planet Earth - way back when you were standing in your kitchen and sipping that long ago cup of coffee, My, how different this planet is than my old Planet Earth! But then ask again: **Am I really worthier here in the middle of nowhere than I was earlier sipping coffee rather quietly in my kitchen on Earth?**

Time to head back home to good ole Planet Earth. Fill up the booster tanks on your space craft with the fuel available on that other planet in another galaxy and head on back to Earth. It might take a long time to make such a trip - like five hundred lifetimes - but when you get back to Earth, go on back to your old kitchen, sip another cup of coffee and while looking at your image in the mirror across the room, ask yourself: **Was I worthier in that far distant galaxy than I am here in my kitchen on good ole Planet Earth?**

Welcome to *Bella Vita!*

No matter where I was in that last enormous adventure, I was in ***Bella Vita***. In reality, because there can be no real division within what might be called **INFINITY** - worth wise - everywhere I might go could be called ***Bella Vita***. No matter where I might go, all is of the exact same worth - be it my kitchen in Laramie, Wyoming - or the Vatican in Rome or some Temple in Jerusalem - or some Mosque in Baghdad - or on

some really strange turf in another galaxy. It is all the same - because it has to be all the same - worth wise; and that is my notion of **Bella Vita**.

Perhaps this website can lend some positive notion about life to all who access it - keeping in mind that it only represents an idea that **All Life is Equally Worthy**. It is Life Itself - not how anyone or any tradition might handle Life - that is important. At least, as your host, that is what I believe. Life itself has taught me that.

Bella Vita is not about power either. Those who insist on power probably will not enjoy anything that is in this website. In one of my favorite gospels, **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THOMAS** - banned in the 4th Century probably because of its anti-power vision - Jesus said: **Let him who has power renounce it.** The reason for that is that only those who want or need power need division. **Division is a pre-requisite for power;** but since those in **Bella Vita** do not recognize any real division, neither do they have any real need for power.

It might seem strange, but it is also the truth. **Only those need power who are not satisfied with the notion that all are truly equal in worth; and no man can attain power - unless he find a way to divide his subjects.** It goes with the territory - power and division of worth, division of worth and power. Where you find one, you will find the other. In the end, the question all must answer is: **do I really want - or need - power?**

ONWARD!

This website is really all about the past - for the most part - that is the past in terms of my **past writings** - and to some extent, past productions - though I will present new occasional brief commentary on various notions as well. I have been writing my views of life - or about my views of life - since I was a kid, though all previous writing before the age of 21 has been lost. I am now 70.

This website will allow access, then, to those writings that I have actually kept since the age of 21. That's 49 years worth of writing. I was pretty much the same at the age of 21 as I am now at the age of 70, but details vary a little - as they would in any life. Of course, I know more now at age 70 than I did at age 21 - and the past has been somewhat evolutionary for me - at least in detail.

For instance, at the age of 21, I had no idea that gospels were written about Jesus other than the gospels actually found in the **BIBLE**. I did not realize there had been other gospels - that were actually banned in the 4th Century. In 1979, when I was 37, friends, Russ & Joe, introduced me to **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THOMAS**. Was I ever surprised! Then in December of 2004, when I had just turned 63, I became aware of **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARY MAGDALENE**. Again, I found myself in awe and surprise - mostly because I found myself amazed at what I found. Time marches on and we learn new things every day; and I must say that "time" eventually delivered into my hands two gospels that have significantly impacted my life. To some degree, my writings available on this website will present some of that impact - and I think, greater understanding of Life and the remarkable person of history we know as **Jesus**.

Briefly, however, some ancient gospels were banned in the 4th Century - shortly after a fellow by the name of **Constantine** became emperor of Rome and Rome's territories. When Constantine came to power, he chose Christianity as his new "state religion" - though he was still Pagan himself. Recognizing the advantage of a unified religion to support his civil power, he not only condoned the previously banned religion of Christianity, but he authorized Christianity as the newly chosen religion of the empire.

In doing so, however, he authorized the bishops of the "new state religion" to decide on a canon to be made into what is now called The **BIBLE**. The problem facing the bishops was that not all gospels declared the same Jesus. Some - like those of **Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John** - saw Jesus within a **Jewish light** - and some - like those of **Thomas and Mary Magdalene** - saw Jesus **outside of a Jewish light** - in terms of requiring a fit within **Jewish Tradition** for Jesus to be understood. From the standpoint of power and organization, two opposing views could not be allowed - and thus, the **non-Jewish** oriented gospels were banned - and not only banned, but commanded to be destroyed.

As it happened, however, some of the gospels - like that of **Thomas and Mary Magdalene** - were hidden away to prevent them from being burned - though no one really knew of this hiding process until many years later.

I am not really sure when and where the gospel of **Mary Magdalene** was eventually discovered from its hiding place, but the gospel of **Thomas** was discovered - by accident - by a peasant in 1945. This peasant was looking in a cave off the Nile River in Egypt and stumbled upon a huge jar in that cave - near a place called Nag Hammadi. Out tumbled a number of ancient manuscripts - among which was the long banned and hidden gospel of **Thomas**.

That should offer a glimpse into this story of "**hidden gospels**" that personally I have found most intriguing. I will say no more here, but my writings will feature a good bit from these **once hidden gospels**. As a German character from the old television show of the '60s, **LAUGH IN**, would say: ***Very Interesting!***

Be that as it may, let me say now that I think the **real Jesus** would find himself right at home in **Bella Vita**. I think the real Jesus would have no need for power anymore than I do because the real Jesus would not be about dividing people into various false hierarchies of worth. I think the real Jesus was all about equal worth - not one of us being more worthy than another - be it due to gender, race, tradition or whatever. The real Jesus did not see man and woman. He saw **person**. At least I think so - and I will be declaring the same in some of my writings.

One of my favorite gospel verses comes from the once banned gospel: **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARY MAGDALENE**. In that verse, Jesus encourages us to look for the **child of humanity** within us and to not make any law that would override such a search. Specifically: ***"Peace be with you. Receive my peace. Be careful that no one leads you astray by saying, 'Look here' or 'Look there.' The child of humanity is within you. Follow that. Those who seek it will find it. Go and preach the good news of the kingdom. Do not lay down any rules other than what I have given you, and do not establish law, as the lawgiver did, or you will be bound by it."***

It is all opinion, however - nothing more and nothing less. I do not pretend to be an expert about Life - only one student of it; but I will gladly share my views on this website - regardless of where that may take us. OK?

Let me finish with one of 151 songs I have written that will be featured in the writings of this website. I wrote it in 2001 - having observed that all life on this Earth really depends on the light of the Sun. We may argue as to source of life here on Earth, be it God or Evolution or whatever, but one thing I think is clear: **No life would exist on Earth if it were not for the light of the Sun.** That makes us all "**children of light.**" I also think of **INFINITY** as **Spiritual Light** or **GOD**. Thus, one could consider "**child of the light**" as being a "**child of Infinity - or God**" as well.

In whatever way you wish to interpret "**child of the light,**" enjoy it as you will. OK; and as I say farewell for now, once again -

Welcome to Bella Vita!

CHILD OF THE LIGHT

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Written May, 2001

(A poem; but may also be sung)

**Oh, Child of The Light, play as you will.
You have but to live to find your fill.
You can't understand from whence you came
Just embrace it all joyfully as if it's a game.**

**For a game life is, or should be for all.
Oh, Child of The Light, have yourself a ball.
Look at the earth and the sun and the moon
and know that they are all in tune.**

**The wonder of all of God's great creation
should fill your mind with jubilation.
Oh, Child of The Light, you fit in well
and you ring as you should as one of the bells.**

**So, don't fret and worry and live in fear.
As God is your source, It's also your care.
Be not afraid as you go forward in time.
Oh, Child of The Light, you've a life that's Divine.**

