**Mysteries**

**And if I have prophetic powers,**

**and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,**

**and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,**

**but have not love, I am nothing.**

***(1 Corinthians 13:2)***

**Behold, I show you a mystery:
we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,**

**in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.
(1 Corinthians 15:51-52)**

**Imagine a world saturated with ignorance and hatred, a lonely, brutish place without any hope of redemption. Now, picture a man -- Abram, the Bible calls him -- who hears a command from God: Leave behind the life you know, and I will one day bless the entire world through you. How this will happen, and why, is a mystery to this man, but he sets out. In time God gives him a new name: Abraham. In time he will become the patriarch of three monotheistic faiths -- Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. And history will be forever transformed by his story. *(Tad Szulc, in National Geographic)***

**In every soul, there is an “abyss of mystery.” Each person has his abyss of which he is not aware, which he cannot know. When hidden things shall have been revealed to us, according to the Promise, there will be unimaginable surprises. (*Leon Bloy)***

**Iowa is about as far from the tropics as you can get, which is why experts are mystified by the discovery of an alligator skull at Lake Okoboji. Curtis Marti, 14, found the skull buried in the beach during a visit. *(World Wide Vew, October 26, 1986)***

**Forty blondes went on a mystery bus trip. They had a sweepstake to guess where they were going. The bus driver won $400. *(The PassTime Paper)***

**Admiral Richard E. Byrd, at Ross Barrier: He stood, that afternoon, looking out over the Barrier, feeling its beauty and its power. He listened to the stillness, filling that vast brooding space with mystery. He thought of the orderly swing of the planets in their orbit, the everlasting movement of the constellations across the sky, the steady rhythmic change of the seasons. And he thought how all these things went together, how they showed a master’s touch. *(Lillian Eichler Watson, in Light From Many Lamps, p. 33)***

**Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. *(Rachel Carson)***

**As their physical abilities ebb, elders and grandparents become more relaxed and contemplative; their spiritual capacity expands to contemplate life's mysteries. These are the same issues that children are preoccupied with. They believe in angels and monsters and are able to live in their imaginations. *(Arthur Kornhaber, in The Grandparent Guide)***

**Never a daisy grows but a mystery guides the growing. *(Richard Realf)***

**The ultimate mystery is one’s own self. *(Sammy Davis Jr.)***

**One of the deepest mysteries of life is that every individual in the world stands alone; he lives his life alone and can never really be united with anyone in a purely physical sense. Each person lives in a separate world, the world of his or her own thinking. Just as no two atoms ever really touch each other even in the most compact of substances, so no two individuals ever completely touch each other, even in the most beautiful relationship of husband and wife. (Eric Butterworth, in Unity magazine)**

**If the vision of Easter is soon lost, that may well be because resurrection, at least in Western Christendom, has invariably been described as belonging to another time and place. The typical emphasis has been either upon what happened in the environs of Jerusalem on the third day after Jesus was crucified, or upon what may be in store for us after our own death. Considered thus in terms of past and future, resurrection is robbed of its impact on the present. We think that we have no personal experience of it. The fact is, there can be an experience of resurrection now, of resurrection and of the death which must precede it. The death in this case is a death to familiar and childish certainties. The resurrection consists in our being raised up to a first and no doubt fleeting glance at unmanageable mystery. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Einstein once expressed the relationship between the mysterious and the miraculous, saying: “The beauty of it is that we have to content ourselves with the recognition of the miracle, beyond which there is no legitimate way out.” *(Dr. Larry Dossey, in The Healing Provess)***

**The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible. *(Albert Einstein)***

**The eternal mystery of the world is its comprehensibility. The fact that it is comprehensible is a miracle. *(Albert Einstein)***

**The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science. *(Albert Einstein)***

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**It's a confusing world. We're running out of electricity already -- and no one even knows what it is. *(Changing Times, The Kiplinger Magazine)***

**The Christian uses faith and gets marvelous results, the electrician uses electricity and also get marvelous results, and neither of them knows the real nature of the agent he uses so freely. *(Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 14)***

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**Faith is not knowledge of what the mystery of the universe is, but the conviction that there is a mystery, and that it is greater than us. *(Rabbi David Wolpe, in Making Loss Matter)***

**In Death Valley, California, the hottest, lowest spot in the United States, there’s a small pool of water in which a colony of tiny fish lives. They’re only 1 1/2 inches long and are called “pupfish.” How they’ve managed to survive for 10,000 years in the most hostile environment in the world for fish remains one of those tantalizing mysteries of nature that keep scientists on the prowl. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 99)***

**A fitness advocate who takes wonderful care of his body is diagnosed with cancer. A hemophiliac contracts AIDS through a blood transfusion. A young couple in the Santa Cruz mountains, after spending three years and $200,000 modeling their home, sees it destroyed in 15 seconds by the 1989 earthquake. *(Douglas Bloch, in New Thought magazine)***

**A Texas woman had jaw surgery and emerged with a mysterious neurological condition that left her speaking in a thick British accent. After Lisa Alamia underwent the operation to correct an overbite, neurologists diagnosed her with foreign accent syndrome, which has struck fewer than 100 people over the past century. "Mum" is probably the one word I notice right away," says Alamia, 33. "My daughter laughs at the way I say"tamales." I used to be able to say it like a real Hispanic girl. Now, I cannot. *(The Week magazine, July 15, 2016)***

**I would rather live in a world where my life is surrounded by mystery than live in a world so small that my mind could comprehend it. *(Harry Emerson Fosdick, in Riverside Sermons)***

**A retired workaholic is driving his wife crazy, so she buys him a set of golf clubs and a country-club membership. “This game is a mystery to me,” the man tells the pro. “What do I have to do?” “You hit the ball toward that flag down on the green.” The guy puts a ball on the tee, picks out a club and takes a swipe. The ball goes straight down the middle and rolls across the green, stopping two inches from the hole. The pro can't believe his eyes. “What's next?” the man asks. “You're supposed to hit the ball into the cup.” “Now you tell me!” *(Bob Monkhouse, in Just Say a Few Words)***

**The mystery of government is not how Washington works but how to make it stop. *(P. J. O’Rourke)***

**One of the greatest mysteries of life is how the idiot that your daughter married can be the father of the smartest grandchildren in the whole wide world. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Bad week for: The male of the species, after physicist Stephen Hawking, who is renowned for his work on the most complex question of astrophysics, admitted he's stumped by one topic he thinks about often. "Women," said Hawking. "They are a complete mystery." *(The Week magazine, January 20, 2012)***

**Movie cowboys mystify me. How can they jump off a porch roof and onto a horse, and still sing in a normal voice? *(Bob Hope)***

**Humanity is a mystery. It needs to be unraveled, and if you spend your life unraveling it, don’t say you’ve wasted time. *(Fyodor Dostoevsky)***

**Advent is a time to discover Christ anew. The mystery of the Incarnation is not something that will happen on December 25th, but the realization that Christ has already taken our flesh and is waiting for us to recognize his presence among us. (Sister Lenora Black, in Catholic Digest)**

 **I shot my lamb, and I wish my neighbors had shot theirs, too, said Jon Katz. I raise sheep on my upstate New York farm, and last year I gave three lambs to a couple who had just moved up from the suburbs. Over the winter, one of my lambs and one of theirs took sick with the same mysterious infection. Both grew weak and disoriented, their fleece peeling off in patches. Knowing the old farmyard axiom, “Sick Sheep Seldom Survive,” I carried my lamb behind the barn, “told him how sorry I was, and shot him twice in the back of the head with my .22. He died instantly.” My neighbors, though, have a more “contemporary urban sensibility about animals.” Doting on their lamb as if he were a family member, they moved him into a spare bedroom, feeding him fresh hay and nutritional supplements. But months later, he still “looks like a concentration-camp sheep.” I don’t question my neighbors’ motives, but they merely are prolonging the animal’s suffering. I’m afraid their efforts have more to do with “their own emotional gratification” than with what’s truly in the best interests of the lamb. *(The Week magazine, May 18, 2007)***

**In India's Delhi is an iron pillar 23 feet high. Though exposed to the weather, it has not rusted in 1500 years. But nobody knows why. (Boyd's Curiosity Shop, p. 252)**

**I'm on the side of keeping things mysterious; I have never enjoyed understanding things. *(John Cage)***

**Life has its many mysteries, among which is why there is always one key on your chain that doesn't fit anything. (Bill Vaughan, in Kansas City Star)**

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**In the time of your life, live – so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite variety and mystery of it. (William Saroyan, American author)**

**One of the greatest mysteries of life is how the idiot that your daughter married can be the father of the smartest grandchildren in the whole wide world. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Life is a mystery to be lived, not a problem to be solved. (Catholic Quote)**

**Lucy: “Life is a mystery, Charlie Brown. Do you know the answer?” Charlie Brown: “Be kind, don’t smoke, be prompt, smile a lot, eat sensibly, avoid cavities and mark your ballot carefully, avoid too much sun, send overseas packages early, love all creatures above and below, insure your belongings, and try to keep the ball low.” Lucy: “Hold real still because I’m going to hit you a very sharp blow to the nose!” (*Charles Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

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**A mystery rider on a fiery horse cleared a man wrongfully accused of murder in the January 30, 1933, premiere of The Lone Ranger, on Detroit’s WXYZ radio. Written by Fran Striker and played live by several actors over some 3,000 episodes (Brace Beemer wore the mask from 1941 to 1954), the Ranger – with his Indian friend Tonto – aired on some 400 radio stations, and spurred movie serials, a TV show (starring Clayton Moore), books, comics and a romantic notion of the American West. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Little girl to minister: “If you think the Lord moves in mysterious ways, you should see my mom doing aerobics.” *(Randy Glasbergen, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, nobody knows what they are. *(W. Somerset Maugham)***

**I am a vital and necessary part of the mystery of the Universe. God created me for the sole purpose of making his plan work. Help me to accept my place, dear God, and help me to realize there are no lead singers and no minor roles. *(Malachy McCourt, in Harold Be Thy Name)***

**The classical period of Mayan culture lasted for six centuries and then collapsed for reasons that have never been explained. Theories range from an epidemic to bad farming methods that exhausted the land. The mystery is that the great Mayan cities flourished at the beginning of the ninth century and were ghost towns by its end. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 424)***

**Mystery is not the absence of meaning, but the presence of more meaning than we can comprehend. *(Eugene Peterson, theologian)***

**It's about 800 times as massive as Earth, whizzes around two suns instead of just one and is close to three times as old as the orb on which we humans reside. Meet the Methuselah planet, the most ancient planet known to astronomers, just recently detected and suggestive of some rather extraordinary possibilities. For a decade, the identity of this object had been an astronomical mystery. At that time, astronomers were still struggling to confirm the first planet detected beyond the family of the sun. Now, the population of known extra-solar planets exceeds 100. But the newfound planet is the only one known to orbit a double star system. *(Rocky Mountain News, July 14, 2003)***

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**Laughter is one of the great beacons in life because we don’t refract it by gunning it through our intellectual prism. What makes us laugh is a mystery – an involuntary response. (Dennis Miller, in The Rants)**

**After seven years of marriage, I’m sure of two things: first, never wallpaper together, and second, you’ll need two bathrooms -- both for her. The rest is a mystery, but a mystery I love to be involved in. *(Dennis Miller)***

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**In a discovery that seems straight out of The Da Vinci Code, Italian art experts have found mysterious letters and numbers in the Mona Lisa’s eyes, apparently placed there by Leonardo da Vinci himself. New high-magnification techniques revealed the tiny symbols, which apparently include the number “72” and the letters “CE” and “B,” as well as “LV” – the artist’s initials. “We also know that da Vinci was very esoteric and used symbols in his work to give out messages,” says Silvano Vincenti, president of Italy’s National Committee for National Heritage. “We are confident they were a message from him.” *(The Week magazine, December 24, 2010 – January 7, 2011)***

**In 1791 a funeral party was carrying the body of a 35-year-old man to a pauper's grave. A thunderstorm came up. The funeral party dropped the coffin and ran for cover. When they returned, the coffin was gone. And to this day nobody knows for sure what happened to the mortal remains of one of the most gifted musical geniuses the world has ever known: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 35)***

**While serving as rector of the Anglican parish of Eye, England, the Rev. Philip Randall spent eight years searching the register for a name to match the initials "H.W.P." on a stone slab in his church. He finally solved the mystery. The initials stand for "Hot-Water Pipe." *(Sunday Mirror, London)***

**Nature speaks mysteriously in seeds and in silkworms. *(William Arthur Ward, in Nature’s Voices)***

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**It has been said that a mystic is one who is no longer mystified – by religions, by theologies, by doctrines. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 78)***

**The answer is “no one knows”:**

* **Who invented the kite**
* **Origin of the name “panda”**
* **Exact number of people on Titanic**
* **Where Mozart is buried**
* **Origin of nursery rhyme “Humpty Dumpty. (World Features Syndicate)**

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**In the early 1960s, two Bell Labs researchers, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson, were hard at work at a research facility in Holmdel, N.J., modifying an antenna to pick up radio signals from our galaxy. But their readings were continuously contaminated by low-level static. Hoping that their equipment was at fault, the two cleaned and thoroughly tested the antenna. Still no luck. The noise would not go away. Now they could easily have given up and gone on to another project, but the two were determined to get to the bottom of the mystery. Could the static be, they wondered, a remnant of the massive explosion that began the universe? The big bang was an intriguing idea in astrophysics at the time, but it lacked proof. If the big-bang theory was right, Earth would be enveloped in constant low-level radiation. This, Penzias theorized, must be the static his antenna was picking up. Experiments eventually confirmed his theory, and in 1978 Penzias and Wilson were awarded the Nobel Prize in physics--all because they wouldn't ignore a little background noise. (Robert McGarvey, in Reader's Digest)**

**No object is mysterious. The mystery is in your eye. (Elizabeth Bowen)**

**One of the great mysteries in life is how a paperboy can pitch a no-hitter in a little league baseball game, but can’t hit a front porch with a newspaper. (Bits & Pieces)**

**We always should recall that it is mystery that paves the way for the miracle. If there are no unknowns, the miraculous has no home. *(Dr. Larry Dossey)***

**One of the most profound mysteries surrounding prayer and healing is the question of why some people are healed and others are not. To illustrate, three of the holiest men of this century have died of cancer. Ramana Maharishi, one of India's most revered modern saints; Suzuki Roshi, who helped bring Zen Buddhism to the West and who established the San Francisco Zen Center; and J. Krishnamurti, the legendary sage and spiritual teacher. Even Bernadette Soubirous, the french girl who saw the Virgin in 1858 at Lourdes, which then became a pilgrimage site where miraculous healings continue to occur, died of cancer at the age of thirty-five. *(Rachel Naomi Remn, in The Healing Process)***

**So complex is the venom-enzyme cocktail of the rattler that it has thus far defied precise chemical analysis. *(Bil Gilbert, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The most unusual of all reptiles may be the tuatara of New Zealand, the sole survivor of a large group of reptiles known to us only through their fossil remains. What is so unusual about the tuatara is that it has three eyes instead of the customary two. On top of the tuatara's head, protected by a hard transparent scale, is a small third eye. The optic nerve of this third eye is completely developed, but the iris--the colored portion of the eye--is lacking. Just what use the tuatara makes of its third eye is not clear to us at present, but scientists are trying to solve that mystery. At one time in the long-distant past many creatures had three eyes. Other lizards, even today, still have a third eye, but it is grown over and no longer useful. Even human beings have the remains of a third eye. Called the pineal gland, it is buried in the back of our heads. The tuatara remains the only living creature that has kept its third eye virtually intact, and appears to be continuing to make use of it. *(Bruce D. Witherspoon, in Astounding Facts, p. 369)***

**Mystery is a resource, like coal or gold, and its preservation is a fine thing. *(Tim Cahill, in Jaguars Ripped My Flesh)***

**Resurrection is always a mystery. It is always a miracle. It is always the creative act of the Eternal Word. Because that Word is spoken now, in the present, in terms of what we call the common circumstances of life, there can be nobody who at some time or other has not thus been raised from the dead. But more often than not we do not recognize resurrection when it comes to us. The presence of the Eternal Word is unnoticed, and evidenced only in the new life made available. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**Poets say science takes away from the beauty of the stars – mere globs of gas atoms. I, too, can see the stars on a desert night, and feel them. But do I see less or more? The vastness of the heavens stretches my imagination – stuck on this carousel my eye can catch one-million-year-old light. It does no harm to the mystery to know a little about it. *(Richard Feynman, in The Feynman Lectures on Physics)***

**How did my shoelaces get wet? When did my shoelaces get wet? Why are my shoelaces wet? Add three more entries to the great mysteries of life! *(Pat Brady and Don Wimmer, in Rose Is Rose comic strip)***

**The Pilgrims were so unimpressed with the significance of what they were doing that none among them bothered to keep colony records for the first dozen years. That’s the way of many a great undertaking, ain’t it? The whole world is littered with mysterious signs of undocumented early traffic. One historian says nobody really knows who discovered what. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Even under close questioning, the empty skeleton cannot explain what has become of its former owner. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Consider the female red-sided garter snake. When she crawls out of her winter den, she’s met by about 100 male red-sided garter snakes. They’ve missed her. They love her. They want her. In a moment, they all wind up in a writhing, vibrating “mating ball” with her somewhere in the middle. How she gets rid of all but one is not explained in our Love and War man’s lower-order flies, but she does. (L. M. Boyd)**

**There is little chance that meteorologists can solve the mysteries of weather until they gain an understanding of the mutual attraction of rain and weekends. *(Arnot L. Sheppard, Jr., in Reader's Digest)***

**For 92 years, a heated controversy raged about a stone tablet inscribed with hieroglyphics, that was found in Moundsville, West Virginia, in the autumn of 1838. The tablet was found by workmen digging in the Grave Creek Mound, in a chamber containing other prehistoric relics. For the next century, more than 60 linguists examined the hieroglyphic characters on the tablet, and argued as to whether the inscription was Runic, Etruscan, or some other ancient language. The mystery was finally solved in 1930, when an American glanced at the letters from an unusual angle, and was able to decipher them. The inscription was in English, and read: “Bill Stump’s Stone, October 14, 1838.” *(James Meyers, in Mammoth Book of Trivia, p. 199)***

**Billy: “The mystery story was good ‘til the end. Then they gave the whole thing away.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**I have the luxury to do exactly what it is we all need time to do, and that is just think about the mystery of life. *(Amy Tan)***

**In devices called cloud chambers, we can easily see subatomic particles appearing out of the void and disappearing back into it -- the mysterious transformation of energy into visible matter and matter into invisible energy. Science, therefore, clearly shows us that the void, whatever else it may be, is not nothing. *(Dr. Larry Dossey, in The Healing Process)***

**A missionary to Africa has related the story of his work with a tribe that was mysteriously poverty-stricken, even though other tribes in the same region were relatively prosperous. He was curious about this strange phenomenon. He spent years researching all aspects of their culture. He came up with but one possibility: in their tribal language, they had no word with which to express gratitude. Perhaps, through some quirk of evolution, they had forgotten how to say thank you. He drew no conclusions, but he did ask a question: “Could this loss of the spirit of thanksgiving have been responsible for their poverty?” It is an interesting and revealing possibility. *(Dr. Eric Butterworth, in Spiritual Economics, p. 92)***

**The universe is not only queerer than we suppose, but queerer than we can suppose. *(J. B. S. Haldane, British scientist)***

**One of the great unsolved mysteries of life is how you can get 24 pounds of leftovers from an 18-pound turkey. (Robert Orben)**

**There is little chance that meteorologists can solve the mysteries of weather until they gain an understanding of the mutual attraction of rain and weekends. *(Arnot L. Sheppard, Jr.)***

**When the windows are open at night, you go to bed hot and wake up chilly. When the air conditioning is on at night, you go to bed chilly and wake up hot. *(Bill Flick, 1997)***

**Why It Is Good To Be A Woman: We can scare male bosses with the mysterious gynecological disorder excuses. *(Tidbits)***

**To recognize that the soul of man is unknowable is the ultimate achievement of wisdom. The final mystery is oneself. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**There is only one mystery: the world. *(Rene Magritte)***

**You are that mystery which you are seeking to know. *(Joseph Campbell)***

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