

# Close to the Edge

Pastor Ahyh's commentary on the 1972 masterpiece by **Yes**

*What does it mean?*

Strangely, this question is posed to me regularly - often enough to become a recurring theme in my life. To me, this is remarkable for many reasons:

- The lyrics in question are 40+ years old! Not exactly current on the top 40 list. Four decades after release, the fact that poetic musings by a British rock group are of interest to anyone is startling.
- Even for people who have listened, read and studied the lyrics for 20+ years, they still have no idea what they mean! Some have analyzed the admittedly obscure lyrics phrase by phrase, and remain without a clue as to their intent.
- Nevertheless, people feel like the words must mean *something*. Not simply gibberish, these dramatic and colorful lyrics are pregnant with meaning and ripe with poignant symbolism - exactly *what* is another question.
- And finally, with a glimmer of hope, the question is asked of ME, thinking I might actually be able to shed some light on the mysteries.

This is my response. I care very much about these lyrics, having faithfully listened and studied **Yes** songs for 40+ years. Within them I have found immeasurable inspiration for my life. And I am flattered to be asked, and honored to be able to give my response. Even today, this music is very important to me, and I'm sure it always will be. There is great glory in **Yes** songs, and I hope to be able to share the grandeur.

**I wish to make clear, however, that I do NOT claim to know the original intent of the author. Jon Anderson hasn't told me what he meant by any particular line, and I do not claim to explain what he intended. I only hope to be able to explain what the lyrics mean to ME, and they may mean something very different to you.**

With these admonitions in mind, I present the annotated *Close to the Edge*.

## OVERVIEW

*Close to the Edge* means *coming closer to terms with God*.

On the fringe of our normal existence/consciousness, always present and ever near, is the reality of the Divine/sacred. *Close to the Edge* deals with our return to the awareness of this sacred order, both from a personal and universal (global) perspective. The song is cyclical,

ending where it begins and beginning where it ends. Put it on auto repeat and let it go for a couple of hours. You'll see what I mean.

The cyclical structure of the song is a condensed version of *Tales From Topographic Oceans* (album released in 1973), which begins at the dawn of creation and ends with the consummation of the ages. In the course of *Tales'* journey there are celebrations, wars, and revelations, all designed to teach and fulfill.

*Close to the Edge* is in four sections, relating to the four seasons, and it takes us through the ages of man. For me, there is no other 18-minute journey like it to be found *anywhere else* within the history of human musical expression. Let's begin with the lyrics themselves.

## ***Close to the Edge***

### **I - The solid time of change – Summer**

1. A seasoned witch could call you from the depths of your disgrace
2. And rearrange your liver to the solid mental grace
3. And achieve it all with music that came quickly from afar
4. Then taste the fruit of man recorded losing all against the hour.
5. And assessing points to nowhere leading every single one
6. A dewdrop can exalt us like the music of the sun
7. And take away the plane in which we move and choose the course you're running
8. Down at the edge, round by the corner / Not right away / Not right away / Close to the edge, down by a river / Not right away / Not right away
9. Crossed a line around the changes of the summer
10. Reaching out to call the color of the sky
11. Passed around a moment clothed in mornings faster than we see
12. Getting over all the time I had to worry
13. Leaving all the changes far from far behind
14. We relieve the tension only to find out the *MASTER'S NAME*
15. Down at the end / Round by the corner / *Close to the Edge* / Just by the river
16. Seasons will pass you by
17. I get up. I get down.
18. Now that it's all over and done / Now that you find, now that you're whole

### **II - Total Mass Retain – Fall**

19. My eyes convinced, eclipsed with the younger moon attained with love
20. It changed as almost strained, amidst clear manna from above
21. I crucified my hate and held the word within my hand.
22. There is you, the time, the logic or the reasons we don't understand
23. Sad courage claimed the victims standing still for all to see.

24. As armored movers took approach to overlook the sea.
25. There since the cord, the license or the reasons we don't understand, will be
26. Down at the edge close by a river, *Close to the Edge* around by the corner / Close to the edge, down by the corner, down at the edge, `round by the river
27. Sudden call shouldn't take away the startled memory
28. All in all the journey takes you all the way
29. As apart from any reality that you have ever seen and known
30. Guessing problems only to deceive the mention
31. Passing paths that climb halfway into the void
32. As we cross from side to side we hear the total mass retain
33. Down at the end, round by the corner, *Close to the Edge*, down by the river
34. Seasons will pass you by
35. I get up, I get down

### III - I Get Up, I Get Down – Winter

36. In her white lace she could clearly see
37. The lady sadly looking saying that she'd take the blame
38. For the crucifixion of her own domain
39. Two million people barely satisfy
40. 200 women watch one woman cry
41. Too late
42. Through the duty she would coil their said amazement of her story
43. Asking only interest could be laid upon the children of her domain
44. The eyes of honesty can achieve
45. How many millions do we deceive each day?
46. I get up, I get down
47. In charge of who is there in charge of me
48. Do I look on blindly and say I see the way?
49. The truth is written all along the page
50. How old will I be before I come of age for you?

### IV – Seasons of Man – Spring

52. The time between the notes relates the color to the scenes
53. A constant vogue of triumphs dislocates man so it seems
54. And space between the focus shape ascend knowledge of love
55. As song and chance develop time lost social temperance rules above
56. Then according to the man who showed his outstretched arms to space
57. He turned around and pointed revealing all the human race
58. I shook my head and smiled a whisper knowing all about the place
59. On the hill we viewed the silence of the valley
60. Called to witness cycles only of the past

- 61. And we reach all this with movements in between the said remark
- 62. Close to the edge, down by the river
- 63. Down at the end, round by the corner
- 64. Seasons will pass you by
- 65. Now that it's all over and done
- 66. Called to the seed, right to the sun
- 67. Now that you find, now that you're whole
- 68. Seasons will pass you by

## I – The Solid Time of Change - Summer

The opening instrumental section begins in summer, signifying the initial appearance of life on the planet. Teeming with life, all is chaotic, unstructured. Let it be, if you will, the first instant after mankind's fall from grace in the garden of Eden.

Whatever the case, the guitar goes through a very frenetic solo, leading to a powerful break when the *Close to the Edge* **theme** is first heard. To me, this symbolizes civilization and the dimensions of human achievement. To you it may just be music.

In any event, when the singing starts, things are not entirely well with humanity. Mankind needs some help.

### 1. **A seasoned witch could call you from the depths of your disgrace**

We start with mankind in disgrace. He has been dis-grace-d, also known as 'the fall.' Frankly, this is the state we find ourselves in much of the time, filled with anger, depression, sorrow, and ignorance. What is rightfully noble and glorious has fallen into a pit.

Grace is a gift. Grace is God. Grace is the power through which everything was created and through which it exists. Thus, our dis-grace is a renunciation of our roots in Grace. We live without God, without a sense of purpose, of history or destiny.

To call us from our disgrace will be to return us to the true path of our source and destiny, to rediscover God and our purpose.

'You' can apply equally to humanity as a whole and to each of us individually. In similar manner, religion has been called the private action of a man's heart, performed in company with his fellow man.

This is a powerful mystery and revelation: the reflective nature of the Universe. What happens in the whole happens in each individual part, and vice-versa. Man and Humanity. Earth and Galaxy. Creation and Creator.

The story of humanity found in *Close to the Edge* is your story too.

We say something is 'seasoned' if it has been around for a while. Witches have endured a lot of disrespect (to say the least) for the last few hundred years, but classically speaking, a witch

was someone who had learned to harness the natural elements of the earth, in order to perform certain works outside the realm of normal experience.

Though not necessarily evil, it certainly can be.

Witchcraft is very different from Satanism, though few understand this. Satanism espouses that *evil* is their *good*. Witchcraft (Wicca) espouses that there is great natural power in and of the earth that we can tap in to and use for either good or evil.

Returning to the lyric, then, someone with great experience in the ways of nature and the world could call man from the depths of his disgrace. Not move him, but call him. No one can change us except ourselves.

Change almost always begins with a call, a word, a proclamation. Faith comes by hearing, and that by the Word of God.

The seasoned witch is going to call us away from the depths of our disgrace. But what is she calling us to?

## **2. And rearrange your liver to the solid mental grace**

Such simple lines, and so much power. And we've just begun.

The liver is the organ of the body that removes impurities and toxins from the blood...but there are greater impurities than those of the body: the impurities in the soul.

Toxins and impurities in the soul are the primary pollutants humans need to spend their energies removing. It is these impurities that constitute our disgrace. We are impure beings.

Though most people think of the body (physical matter) as the most tangible reality, it is not. The realm of *mind* is much more solid and stable than physicality. *Thoughts* and *ideas* of love, hope, peace - these are more permanent than any physical body. The physical body will die, but *mind* will continue.

Think of the tyrants of history. The civilizations. They are all dead and gone, but the *ideas* still live! The might and power of Rome is gone. But what God said to Moses is still *alive*, and affecting people's lives right now.

'Solid mental grace,' then, is the realm of the soul. It is solid like a rock...the solid rock upon which to build one's life and destiny.

Grace, the opposite of the dis-grace in line 1, is undeniably a gift from God. To purify the soul brings true fulfillment, beyond any sort of temporal gratification that can be derived from material or physical pleasures. We purify the soul by cleansing our thoughts and ideas, and focusing on the eternal realm of the Spirit, we return to the state of Grace.

## **3. And achieve it all with music that came quickly from afar**

Here, music is a symbol for divine revelation, because it 'comes quickly' (when we ask for and need it) 'from afar' meaning not of this world.

Only divine revelation can 1) call us from the depths of disgrace and 2) purify us to a greater way of living.

'This music' or this proclamation from God, is sufficient for all our spiritual needs, thus the words achieve it all.

Also interesting to note is the word 'came,' past tense.

The proclamation of love, the higher path of life available to us, was made ages ago, and is clearly available to all who might seek it. Nothing new needs to happen in order for us to return to the path.

#### **4. Then taste the fruit of man recorded losing all against the hour.**

What is the 'fruit of man'? It is the same as the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. To bear this fruit is our destiny, our purpose and our fulfillment. This has been recorded in the Bible, in the scriptures of the world and in the hearts of those who know we have been called to a better way.

This better way sure seems lost, my friends, and it seems to get worse every day. We continually build military machines, kill, hate, cheat, lie, steal...my God. We all share the indwelling spirit, and so many of us sacrifice it on the altar of ego, selfishness and greed.

(For you real **Yes** scholars, you will see a parallel to the verse in **Awaken** from the **Going for the One** album, where Jon sings: "*Workings of man set to ply out historical life / Re-regaining the flower of the fruit of his tree / All awakening, all restoring you.*")

Without the grace of God, the music from afar, we will not taste the true fruit, we will live in disgrace, and our lost condition will continue to lose more all the time.

But there is hope - great and immeasurable hope.

#### **5. And assessing points to nowhere leading every single one**

'Points to nowhere' – this is life in general, as we usually know it. Normal, mortal consciousness; fractured, analytical, pulling at us constantly, yet never going anywhere. Most of us live in a never-ending spiral of increasing desire/examination.

There are endless examples. The consciousness of humanity today is an expression of this line.

Let's think about baseball. Games won/games lost. Games won at home vs. on the road. Batting averages. Batting averages for second at bats with two men on base facing right handed pitchers...statistics, comparisons, computations, on and on and on.

Endlessly 'leading every single one,' every idea, every single number and new statistic, invites comparison and cross-referencing with each and every single item before it. Left handed batters, during their second at bats with two men on base facing right handed pitchers during night games have a one in five chance of getting an RBI if there is only one out, but only a one in nine chance if if if...

Baseball. Stamp collecting. Television. Crochet! All these leading, every single one – any idea can lead to a million other ideas, if you follow them...but they lead nowhere! In and of themselves, they are meaningless, because they have nothing to do with the meaning or purpose of life.

To *analyze* is to pick apart. Constantly analyzing pulls us further and further away from unitive experience of the uni-verse, the Oneness that is all and all.

And yet, the fact that we pick apart, compartmentalize and analyze our thoughts and get nowhere, and that every single one will lead us to dozens more doesn't mean we're doing anything wrong!

## **6. A dewdrop can exalt us like the music of the sun**

A 'dewdrop *can* exalt us', if we can properly assess it (line 5).

A simple dewdrop. Such a small amount of water it can't even cover a whole leaf. Appearing only at night, the dewdrop is as transitory as can be, gone soon after the sun rises.

Yet, if only that dewdrop could talk! What processes of life and condensation created it? Where has the water been throughout the centuries? And what of the atoms that make up the water? From whence did they come? How long have they been here?

To *assess* is to establish the value of something.

When we properly assess the dewdrop, it will yield great treasure. Instead of using, manipulating, comparing or analyzing the dewdrop, what if we paused to see it for what it *really* is?

Using the baseball example again, statistics, etc. are examinations of the *results* of our actions. But if we are able to properly assess our actions and realize the miracle of a body that can move, the mind that conceives, the people who can cooperate and work as a team...and the real biggie: the fact that, although our entire universe could have forever been nothing but a big empty nothing, BASEBALL EXISTS!! Proper assessment of *baseball* can be as exalting as hearing the very music of the sun.

But how to assess? What is true worth? Though anything will lead us onward in our quest for comparisons, things have *intrinsic* worth in and of themselves, such as beauty, grace and purity. All things are directly or indirectly a manifestation or creation of the infinite Consciousness. Intrinsic (or inherent, genuine, built-in) worth simply *is*, as opposed to ascribed or utilitarian value, which we give to things.

If we could really see, if our way of thinking could be purified (verse 2) to enable us to experience the limitless, glorious miracle of that single dewdrop, we would be exalted, lifted up, infused with a glimpse of the Beyond... 'the music of the sun.'

So...what is the music of the sun?

We need to know 1) what is music?, and 2) what is the sun?

How would you define music? Try. If you can't define music, you don't really know what it is. We can't have a real conversation about music unless we know what music is...and when it comes to the *music of the sun*, the importance factor is much greater. How do you define it?

Let's give the dictionary a crack. Here's the Random House definition:

music - the art of combining and regulating sounds of varying pitch to produce compositions of various ideas and emotions.

We will use this as our working definition of music.

Now, what is the sun? Billions of tons of matter. Shines bright. Provides energy. Fusion. Power. Hydrogen. Helium. The sun is the source of all life. According to **Tales from Topographic Oceans**, side 4: *Nous Sommes Du Soleil: We are of the sun*. Without the sun there could be no life at all on this earth. No. Life. At. All.

The sun is the source and sustainer of all physical life on earth, via photosynthesis, warmth, and evaporation.

Now that we have our terms defined, we are equipped to answer the primary question before us: What is 'the music of the sun?' Using our definitions, 'the music of the sun' is compositions of various ideas and emotions from the source of all life. In other words, the music of the sun is everything we think, feel and desire – the entire human experience, individually and collectively!

As the sustainer of all physical life, the sun is inseparably linked to the source of all spiritual life: God. In the beginning, God said, "Let there be light!"

The sun is, therefore, the purest symbol for God, the source and fount of all life. As I said before, the reflective nature of life is profoundly meaningful: as above, so below.

God. Life. Light. Eternity manifest within time and space. That, my friends, is the music of the sun. The song it sings is countless millennia old. The music holds within in all the events and history of the solar system, from the planets to the smallest living organism...and all this is contained within the dewdrop! If the dewdrop could tell its entire story completely, its story would be 'the music of the sun.'

Every created thing contains, comes from and refers to the creator, whether human or divine. Every key I type in this writing is an expression of *me*, and if you could fully see through (assess) every letter, seeing it as a manifestation of my mind (music), you would get a glimpse of into my soul.

Every created thing, from mountain to pebble to tree to bacteria to human to ant, refers to and points us clearly and directly to God.

Dewdrop  
Sun  
Music  
Mind  
You  
God  
One

**7. and take away the plane in which we move and choose the course you're running**

This verse explains the results of properly assessing life. We can use the process of meditating to properly assess life, because meditation re-focuses consciousness from everyday reality to deeper, higher truths.

A 'plane' is a two dimensional geometrical idea. While it is infinite (leading every single one), it is limited in its infinitude, being only two dimensions. In our physical universe, we know of at least four dimensions (height, width, length, and time) and there may be many more.

A plane, then, while providing plenty of space, is nevertheless a limited view. When you move to three-dimensional space, there are an infinite number of planes. The 'exalting' from line 6 removes these limits. That's the first idea here.

And another idea: it is not enough for the limits to be removed, because no limit whatsoever is meaningless, without some form of guidance or direction...a pathway through infinity, if you please. And that is exactly the case, because when we gain a higher consciousness, we also gain the ability to *choose our own pathway*.

This cannot be over-emphasized. We spend most of our lives being ruled and governed by forces on the earth-plane around us: language, parental conditioning, peer pressure, fashion, laws, societal behavior rules, etc. We are told what to do, how to act, what to think, what to believe, and so forth. The higher consciousness, the 'solid mental grace,' enables *us* to choose our own path.

And where are we going? What do we seek? What is the essence of our path through this exalted bliss?

...which is precisely the subject of the rest of the piece.

**8. down at the edge, round by the corner / Not right away / Not right away / Close to the edge, down by a river / Not right away / Not right away**

The course we choose to run (7) is down at the edge, round by the corner, *Close to the Edge*, down by a river. The 'edge' of the universe is God. *Close to the Edge* means close to God. The

song is about the process whereby we become closer to God. The 'corner' is where this manifest reality meets, touches and encounters the Godhead. The 'river' is the flowing life which proceeds from the Godhead, unfolding and begetting the universe.

That's where we are headed.

But 'not right away.' Oh, no. This process of realization, enlightenment and salvation takes a l-o-n-g time, individually and collectively.

## **9. Crossed a line around the changes of the summer**

This first section of CTTE (Close to the Edge) represents summer, as we see here. Summer has the longest days and the most direct sunlight. The 'line' represents the first steps taken toward the edge, being a line. The commencement of the spiritual journey begins here.

## **10. Reaching out to call the color of the sky**

One of the first things God did in the Bible was to pass all the creatures by Adam, so that Adam could give them names. As consciousness evolves it begins to abstract, and words, especially names, are crucial to this process. This stanza focuses on the name.

The sky has always been blue. It is a very significant step, however, to give the 'color of the sky' a *name*, or to 'call' it.

There is so much to be said on this that hundreds of volumes have been written about the relationship of man to language, and how language affects his perceptions.

For our purposes, I will summarize:

1. Birth: objects with no names (unconscious unity)
2. Education: objects have names attached (unconscious disunity)
3. The Fall: objects are only names (conscious disunity)
4. Enlightenment: names are transcended, gaining direct perception of the object (conscious unity)

Individually, this is the cycle of learning. Communally, this is the Breath of God.

## **11. Passed around a moment clothed in mornings faster than we see**

This is a time compression: now and eternity. The moment is only here and now, or instantaneous. As we have seen, each moment unfolds its' own eternal revelation, properly assessed. Yet simultaneously, the earth spins, and days flow into each other so quickly it is difficult to distinguish them.

The earth is contained in a galaxy of 200,000,000,000 stars like our own Sun. We call it the Milky Way. The Milky Way is 100,000 X 6,000,000,000,000 miles in diameter, and every 200,000,000 years it makes one complete revolution around its center.

There are realms of perception where this galaxy is spinning like a fireworks pinwheel, spraying stars throughout the universe as it goes.

That, to me, is what this verse says.

Every moment is an eternity, and Eternity is but a moment.

## **12. Getting over all the time I had to worry**

When we realize the truth, the eternal nature of all that exists and our relationship to it, we realize that all anxiety and worry is simply a waste of time and energy. This truth is a powerful transformer for our everyday lives.

## **13. Leaving all the changes far from far behind**

That means that the changes are here, now! They are not even remotely ('far from') behind us, but here and ahead!

What changes? The changes in perception, focus and consciousness we've been talking about.

## **14. We relieve the tension ONLY TO FIND OUT THE MASTER'S NAME**

For my life, this has proven to be the single most important verse in the song, because the Master's Name is the most important revelation available to human beings.

As we 'call the color of the sky,' we can discover God's Name.

We have ascribed many names to God. But He has ACTUALLY written/revealed His own Name. And it is known to all people, literate or otherwise, in all cultures and all places, throughout all time. The recognition of this Name is the essence of all truth.

Taking us OVER the Edge.

There is so much to say at this point that it's another document, God is Not God's Name. Go there for more information and answers.

## **15. Down at the end / Round by the corner / Close to the Edge / Just by the river**

Here, I only want to point out the juxtaposition of discovering the Master's Name and becoming *Close to the Edge*, etc.

## **16. Seasons will pass you by**

The profundity of verses 16 & 17 is breathtaking. The seasons exist and they cannot be stopped. But, once you are *Close to the Edge*, 'seasons will pass you by!' You will find constancy, which remains in the midst of all changes. We are then able to keep our focus on the eternal, and not suffer through the ongoing game of chance.

## **17. I get up. I get down.**

There is no aspect of life (none!) that is not reflected in these six words.

Up/down. Wake/sleep. Birth/death. Breathe in/breathe out. Tide rises/tide falls. Sunrise/sunset. North/South. I could go on and on and on...

## **18. Now that it's all over and done / Now that you find, now that you're whole**

Notice the fruition of the soul, the wholeness. At this point, we are quite transformed. The plane of dis-graced consciousness has been removed. We know the Master's Name; all tension is released and worry is gone.

We are whole, and it would appear that it's all 'over and done.'

But remember, we're in a cycle, and this is only a phase in the cycle. To say, "I found it" implies there is no more to learn, yet humility indicates that we have found very little.

## **II - TOTAL MASS RETAIN - Fall**

### **19. My eyes convinced, eclipsed with the younger moon attained with love**

In life, victories are often but a prelude unto failure, and sadness a prelude unto joy. Gautama Buddha taught that life is suffering. By this he meant that no matter what your apparent triumphs or seeming pleasures, they will always be followed by pain and suffering. Knowing that right around the corner from your ecstasy is agony can make it difficult to experience any real pleasure. I think we've all had the experience of finding ourselves in a great situation, blissfully delightful – and yet, we can't fully enjoy it, because we know that this blessing is a transitory puff of wind.

So Gautama Buddha says to recognize that this is the essence of life; that either you are suffering now or you will suffer in the future. Further, he says that all your suffering is due to selfishly clinging to desire.

The proclamation in verse 19 is similar, yet different. We have just come through summer, the solid time of change, and we have seen great glories. The simplest dewdrop has begun to vibrate with the music of the sun. And yet, there is much more to be learned. Our eyes have become convinced, we have seen truth, and we may individually, personally recognized the truth of God. We may have individually, personally relieved the tension and found out the Master's Name. Via that Name we may, in fact, have come to know all truth.

And yet, this is not enough. This is why verse 19 is essential. 'My eyes convinced, eclipsed.' An eclipse is the darkening of the light of the sun with the presence of the moon. The moon is dust and dead. At best, all the moon can do is reflect the light of the sun. At worst, the moon blocks the light of the sun. The moon is, therefore, a symbol for human achievement, human power, human intervention and the totality of human ego.

So what does this verse tell us? My eyes are convinced of what? The Master's Name. But now that we have found our wholeness our eyes have become 'eclipsed with the younger moon, attained with love.'

The moon is younger. You see, the proclamation of the Sun, the music of the Sun is ancient. It is beyond all measurable time. And that Sun, that light of God is the only reality.

The Moon is much, much younger. If you turn to the study of astronomy, it does not matter if you are talking about the Biblical perspective or the atheistic, materialistic, scientific perspective, the Moon is much younger than the Sun.

According to the Biblical record the Moon doesn't appear until the second day. According to the scientific accounting the Moon doesn't appear until approximately the second day. The Sun, secular scientists will say is approximately 5 billion years old, the Earth is approximately 3 billion years old and the Moon is approximately a billion years old.

So the Moon is, in fact, younger. But as a symbol of God's presence through the language of the primordial archetypes, the Moon, being the symbol of our individual ego, must be much, much younger than the light of the infinite Godhood.

God created the heavens and the Earth, and created Adam and Eve. And only later did the Moon of Adam's eclipsing ego block out the light of the perfect grace and bliss which Eden was, is and will be.

So what does it mean, then, to say this was attained with love? Well, love exists in many formats. In its purest sense love is simply a union. I can love a hot dog, I can love my children and I can love God. The essence of love is union.

This Moon we attain with love. We strive with all of our being to retain our egos. We love the fact that we stand in opposition to all other human beings, that we stand apart from each individual soul on this earth.

This Moon is attained with love, but it is misbegotten love. It is love of the self, it is love of the individual, it is love of the local consciousness. And what we see here in the Total Mass Retain is the struggle between the individual and the group. Because my eyes, the first two words of this verse, refer to the individual. But, this is not enough.

One of the greatest burdens we have comes toward the end of the religious pathway. It is an honor and blessing to have this curse, but it is never the less a curse.

As you personally and individually achieve knowledge, consciousness and attainment you will recognize ever clearer the ignorance, stupidity and filth of the darkened souls around you.

Each individual human being has had that experience, and it is completely in tune with religious revelations. Gautama Buddha worked to somehow communicate his enlightenment to his disciples. Jesus wept at the ignorance of Jerusalem and was constantly frustrated that his disciples, even after years of relationship could not begin to understand the teeniest, tiniest thing he was saying.

So, we enter here a period of great frustration and great darkness. Though our eyes are convinced they become eclipsed with the social consciousness of ego and darkness, which the world seeks to hold on to so desperately.

One of the greatest frustrations that a human being can have is to walk on this earth as an enlightened soul. It is, on the one hand, a blessing to be sought. It is simultaneously a curse to be avoided at all costs.

Imagine a very, very bright 9<sup>th</sup> grader being forced to sit in a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. First, you will find almost immeasurable boredom, because there is nothing to be learned here that you haven't experienced and absorbed and internalized years ago. But much more than that, with your grand and glorious attainment you will be endlessly and daily frustrated by the ignorance and stupidity of those around you. The only way out of this frustration is to become a teacher with love and empathy.

This is the Moon, the eclipse, the darkness which the social consciousness has attained with love.

The pain, the suffering, the misery. The gang wars, the nuclear proliferation and murder which we see all about us, the social consciousness loves and adores and holds on to at great and almost immeasurable pain and expense.

## **20. It changed as almost strained, amidst clear manna from above**

The true mystery in this verse is what the word "It" refers to. Through linguistic analysis you can discover that the it is the Moon.

The focus of the previous verse is the word Moon. It changed. How did it change? "As almost strained amidst clear manna from above."

What is manna? Manna is, despite what any scoffers might wish to say, a reference to a Biblical idea. The Hebrew people, held in bondage to slavery in Egypt, were through the Passover freed from their bondage and enabled to return to their promised land. While they wandered in the wilderness they came to a point where they had no food, no water, no visible means of sustenance. God sent to them this miracle food and it floated, as it were, straight down from Heaven.

The manna has become a symbol for God's provision, God's food. You see, the seeker is still in tune with the knowledge of the Sun. The seeker still is one with the Holy Name. We will forever be that way. Whether we currently acknowledge it or not, we are and forever will be one with the Master's Name.

The seeker during the Total Mass Retain has achieved a certain level of awareness of this. And the heavens are opening up and, without any self-effort, the manna is flowing all around. It is the manna of God, given graciously, limitlessly from above. And yet this Moon is changing. It is straining, the encompassing of ego is becoming ever more intense. And this Moon begins to take upon itself unbelievable ugliness.

## 21. I crucified my hate and held the word within my hand.

This is something that occurs fairly regularly in the discography of **Yes**, that you must go to great lengths to find anywhere else. Here the singer Jon Anderson is speaking first and foremost as the individual, the person. The human being. And yet these words merge perfectly well with an inversion of the first person. By that I mean that the word "I" can equally apply to the human being seeking for God and for God seeking for the human being. This is something which occurs toward the very end of the spiritual pathway.

There is a story that is told of a man who truly, desperately, wanted to know what God's will was. So he went to talk to his local priest and he said, Father, what is God's will? His will be done. And the priest said, Well, we had best pray, Father thy will be done. As the man became frustrated the priest said, Well, we had best take this to a higher authority.

So the man was given an audience with the local cardinal and he joined in prayer with the cardinal, Father thy will be done. When the man still persisted the cardinal got him an audience with one of the highest, holiest bishops who helped to supervise the church worldwide. And the man knelt in front of the holy altar and prayed with the bishop, Father thy will be done.

Well, the bishop eventually led the man into the Pope's innermost private chambers, so convinced was the bishop of this man's immense, devout Christian heart. The Pope took the man down into the holy Vatican, knelt in front of the altar and said, Oh Father thy will be done.

All of a sudden the man was transported into heaven. And he saw in front of him the holy Archangel, Michael. And he said, Michael, what is the will of the Father? Pray for me St. Michael. Father, Thy will be done. St. Michael took the man up to see Gabriel, the holy angel who blows the trumpet of God upon the final resurrection.

Oh! Gabriel! Show me what is the Father's will. Thy will be done. Gabriel finally takes this seeker into Heaven, and takes him to the highest holiest place, to the eternal Virgin Mary. The man falls upon his knees in utter and complete devotion and humility, Oh Mother of Mary full of grace, pray for me, I seek only the Father's will. Father, Thy will be done. The Holy Virgin Mary recognizing the blessed nature of this man's devotion grants him the ultimate gift that any human being can be given.

She takes him past all the cherubim and seraphim, past the apostles and takes him to her holy son, Jesus Christ himself. The man says, Oh! Dearest, precious Lord Jesus, I seek only one thing, what is the will of thy holy Father? Jesus kneels and prays with him, Father, Thy will be done. Jesus grabs him by the hand and they fly high, high past all the multitudes of worshipping beings, until finally they stand at the throne of God itself.

The man falls not on his knees this time, but on his bare face. His chin hits the crystal throne of God. And says, Holy Father, I have sought for so long to ask only one question. What is thy will? Oh! Holy Father! Infinite God creator, preserver and destroyer of the universe, Thy will be done!!

God from his infinite throne says, rise my good and faithful servant.

And God looks deeply into his eyes, and God says one simple thing.

**“Thy will be done.”**

This vision is called a Theophany, an appearance of God, where God transcends the limits of normal human consciousness and appears to us directly in a vision.

What the mystics have told us from the beginning of time is that the difference between God’s will and our will is a fiction. There is in fact only one will: God’s will. And that will God has deliberately, intentionally, and conscientiously placed into us. That is the doctrine of free will, through which we ultimately recognize that we are co-creators with God. We are a spark in the heavenly fire, cast out of the celestial fireplace to land upon our own woodpile, to create our own local flames of fire.

Occasionally, albeit very, very rarely, in the human race we see such an experience, where the human will is poured out so completely that it is quite apparent the human will and the Divine will are one. St. Paul was able to claim (Galatians 2:20) that he did not exist. The only thing that really existed is God. Therefore here in verse 21, this remarkable verse can equally apply with complete 100% total integrity to both the human aspirant toward God and God himself.

“I crucified my hate and held the word within my hand.” From God’s perspective this is obvious, and is a very clear direct reference to the Christian Gospel. If Jon Anderson, when he wrote these words, didn’t intend for them to mean that, all I can say is he should have. God’s hate is the hatred of sin, and sin is the occurrence of ego. This is very clearly laid out for you in my document, In the Garden.

The ultimate sin is not one of disobedience, but is one of ego, wherein the individualized local consciousness imagines that it is separate from the divine unity. This is a hateful, odious thing. God takes that hatred and takes the Word who was with him in the beginning, places that word upon the earth in the form of Jesus and crucifies it.

But that is also what we do. For we saw in verse 20 the pain and suffering which the individual has. As the individual achieves awareness and has to struggle with those who are so ignorant around us, we too must crucify our hate, we must be able to rise above us. We must be able to rise above our own self-concerned-enlightenment and be able to see and walk with the totality of the human race. We must crucify our hate and hold the word, the infinite word, through which the heavens and the Earth were made. We must hold that word within our hand.

## **22. There is you, the time, the logic or the reasons we don’t understand**

This is, if you will, the “out” for the previous verse. We can come to understand many things, but if we don’t understand, then there are reasons. There are reasons why our fellow human beings walk in ignorance and darkness. Those reasons ultimately tie to what the East calls the wheel of Karma.

The highest truth is that the universe is a fractal equation based upon the formula, “I will be what I will be.”

This has endless and infinite ramifications, for us, at this time. It suffices to say that this is an expression of health. When we are healthy we can be whom we choose to be and not whom or what someone else tells us we should be. But, that health takes much time and effort to achieve.

For the most part we are unable to do that. Why? Because we are trapped, we are enslaved. We gain the perceptions and thoughts and feelings of our parents and our society, and we wind up being a flag blown about in the wind. This is truly sad. And yet these are the reasons we don't understand.

In this verse, we see four entities. Number one is you. Number two is the time. Number three is the logic. And, number four is the reasons we don't understand. "We don't understand" stands in counterpoint to the previous trilogy. You, time and logic work together.

To whom does "You" refer? Number 1, as the previous verse speaks through the person of God, it refers to the human race. And as the previous verse also speaks from the perspective of the individual seeker for God, it speaks of God himself. The word "you" here in verse 22, refers to God and the human race.

"The time" refers to the consciousness which transcends time and space. You see, time is nothing more than a flow of measurement of physical reality. The time is part of what we live within. And that time can be anointed. Can be transformed. Need not be profane time but can be realized to be truly sacred time.

"The logic" is the salvation of the mind. The mind can perceive with complete and total certainty the truth of the infinite Godhead.

So, what do we have here?

Both the seeker for truth and God have crucified their hate and they have held the infinite Word within their hands. And then they recognize that there is you, which is shared union attained with love between God and his seekers. There is the time, which is the here and the now beyond all ramifications of space. There is the logic, which is the anointing of human consciousness to perceive all infinite truth.

**Or...** there are the reasons why we do not understand. We do not understand God, we do not understand the time, we do not understand the logic.

What we are about to enter into is a phase wherein we truly and deeply do not understand anything at all.

**23. Sad courage claimed the victims standing still for all to see.**

**24. As armored movers took approach to overlook the sea.**

We have here in poetic form a description of war, the saddest and most pathetic manifestation of mankind's ego that we have. All pain and suffering is an extension of this ego, this self-clinging, and it is unnecessary. But, as the human race gets together in the total mass, which

is what we are discussing, the total mass eventually bubbles up in it's ego to create these vast, horrid unmentionable orgies of death, suffering, and pain.

In these two tiny verses all of the human experience of war is encapsulated. We have armored movers: tanks. They are moving from their inland position to the sea. And with their sad courage people without the tanks, without the armor, are hoping to stand in opposition to these armored movers. But, they cannot.

The history of the human race can be seen as an unfolding of greater ability to manifest the physical creation for purposes of death. The reason that the Greeks overtook most of the know Western world in the centuries before Christ, is because they had the ability to manipulate iron for purposes of creating chariots and spears.

The Romans were able to advance because they took the art to an even higher degree. I will not bore you with the details. The reason America is seen as an immense global power, the reason Russia, China, England and France exert power on this earth is not due to any morality, is not due to any enlightenment. Is not due to having a greater standard of living for their people. And it is not due to having a lower infant mortality rate. No, the reason the so-called super powers are super powers is because they can kill more people more quickly more efficiently than anyone else.

For one whose eyes "have become convinced", this becomes like drinking sewer water; this stench and the filth of this disgusting mass of human evil. Some might have courage, some might wish to rise above the evil and make a brave claim for truth. But, we have seen what has happened at times past.

While some people may eventually, through their pain and suffering, convince the evil ones that they are doing wrong, number one they must suffer immeasurable death. And number two, more often than not, the evil ones never really care. That's why the courage is so sad. Because on this plane if you want to swim in a sewer you had better be prepared to fling some shit. That's simply the way it is.

So the movers are approaching the victims, and with their sad courage the victims are standing still for all to see. They are declaring their faith before the world. Just as the Jews stood to oppose the Holocaust, just as Mahatma Gandhi opposed the British, they stand. The courageous ones who attempt to oppose the oppressors. They stand and are seen by all, but ultimately the armored movers do approach. They kill, murder and slaughter the sad courageous ones until finally, they take their position overlooking the sea.

## **25. There since the cord, the license or the reasons we don't understand, will be**

"There" is where the armored movers are standing upon the scene. As they have always been since the cord, the license or the reasons we don't understand, will be. The cord connects us to the eternal. And since the beginning of time, since the beginning of the first moment of creation we have been connected to the infinite.

But that connection, that cord has always been coupled with license, freedom. We do have free choice. This is one of the greatest mysteries in all of creation: the notion of human will. It exists and needs not be argued over. We have the capacity to do as we choose. I am capable and have the freedom to murder my father, my mother, my wife and my children, yet I need not do it in order to prove or establish that I actually have that freedom. That is the license we have been granted.

Just like the social order grants a license to people, to drive a car or own or operate a business, so too, YHWH has granted to us all a license to be co-creators with him.

The reasons we don't understand we have covered in a previous verse. In verse 22 we discussed you, time, logic and the reasons we don't understand. So, what we are saying here in verse 25 is that war, the waging of war, hatred, evil and sin have been there since the beginning of time with the cord, which had connected all of creation to YHWH himself. And it has been there since the beginning of license, which is free will, which gets us back to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Because, one of the very first things the Bible tells us is that of their first two children, Cain and Able, one killed the other. Due to ego, due to sin. All of these constitute the reasons we do not understand. This murder with the armored movers killing the sad courage of the victims has been there since the beginning of time. Has been there since the cord itself was woven, since license was granted to the human race. These all constitute the reasons we don't understand.

The essence of religion constitutes a certain awareness, a knowledge. Repentance, for those who understand it, is not a matter of feeling sorry. It is not an emotion or a ritual. Repentance is not a series of acts, and it is not a commitment or a promise.

*Repentance means to think differently.*

And what we must do is have our awareness heightened. We must learn.

## **26. Down at the edge close by a river, *Close to the Edge* around by the corner / Close to the edge, down by the corner, down at the edge, round by the river**

At this point, at the end of this war (or in the midst of it), the singer comes in with this very high-energy, frenetic proclamation regarding the edge and the river and the corner. The purpose is to tell us very simply that, even in the midst of war, **the only reality is the edge**. We are constantly coming closer to terms with God and the river of life that flows from Him, because if God did not grant us the license and the cord did not exist, then war could not happen.

It is only because of the cord and the license that we do not understand. Even ignorance and stupidity, even war and death...**even sin is a part of the cycle**. Is a part of the grand scheme we see here in *Close to the Edge*. That's why we're reminded that, even in the midst of war, even in the midst of suffering, even in the midst of cancer, we are now and forever remain *Close to the Edge*.

Just around the corner, if we will turn, (because that is what a corner constitutes, a turning from one pathway to another) we will dwell in the truth. *"Like the time I ran away, turned around and*

*you were standing close to me.*" (from **Awaken**) If we turn the corner we will find that the river has always been there. If we will change our way of thinking or *repent*, then we will recognize the all-consuming truth of YHWH. Even in the midst of genocide or a nuclear war. Because the only truth that is forever is either our misunderstanding or "time, logic and you." That's why we're called to be *Close to the Edge*.

## **27. Sudden call shouldn't take away the startled memory**

One of the things that remains constant across all of the world's religions is the notion of the *call*. Sometimes it is the call of God in religions that are particularly theistic. Sometimes it is the calling of the unknown, or the beyond.

But, sooner or later, the religious figures of the world experience a calling, much like in our modern mechanized society we receive a call on the phone. We are behaving ourselves, when suddenly this call comes in, and this call transforms us. Musically in this passage, we have an incredibly dramatic change from being down at the edge and round by the river, and we are lifted, as it were, upon a high plateau, musically speaking. And this sudden call comes in, this is a reminder.

And when someone calls you on the phone, what do you hear? You hear their voice. This is the word of God. This sudden call should not take away your startled memory. We stand, as **Tales from Topographic Oceans**, part 2 tells us, 'upon hills of long forgotten yesterdays.'

The only reason you are able to sit and read this is because of World Wars I and II, the Civil War, because there was a cure and a vaccine found for polio, because Leonardo DaVinci helped find a way to transport clean water...this 'memory' constitutes the sum-total of the human experience. All of these wars and all of this ego is a part of who we are and where we have come from. This is the startled memory. When you hear the sudden call of God, when the dewdrop can exalt you like the music of the Sun, it should not take away your startled memory.

Do not forsake a moment living out your life. The past, even if that past is darkness, can always be redeemed.

There is a darkness upon the face of the planet, upon the entire human race. A scourge, an evil that is the crucifixion of the Son of God himself. But, we are called to always remember it. Just a few years ago the Jewish race lost a third of its' entire population. Yet every Sabbath, every high holy day, we remember that. Because out of the pain, out of the misery, out of the suffering comes salvation. That is why the sudden calling of God upon our hearts should not take away this startled memory.

We should always remember, because of what verse 28 tells us.

## **28. All in all the journey takes you all the way**

We see here a promise, a promise of moving from who and what we are to the completion of the pathway. We are not yet at the halfway point in the lyrics of *Close to the Edge*. Most of us are not yet at the halfway point of our spiritual life, because once we become completely healed, well and self-actualized, we have only arrived at the halfway point of our life.

‘All in all the journey takes you all the way.’ ‘All in all’ refers to the sum-totality of the human race. Sooner or later all human beings will drink from that divine dewdrop of the Sun. Sooner or later all beings will come to the totality of their understanding. The journey takes you all the way. Not just the individual you, but the total you that includes everyone.

A magnificent miracle of the English language is that the word “you” can refer to a single individual human being, and it can also refer to the collective of every human being who has ever walked the Earth. “You” is both singular and plural.

The journey does take you all the way from your pollution, wherein the seasoned witch can transform you to the solid mental grace. And can take you to the pure egoless state of absolute perfection. The journey will take you.

And notice how important it is that the phrase is “takes you.” The journey takes you, you don’t take anything. Because this small you, this ego you, is what gets in the way. The journey will take you from where you are to the inner throne room of God himself.

## **29. As apart from any reality that you have ever seen and known**

This sudden call that we are discussing, to move us from our profane existence to our elevated spiritual insight, and this journey which takes us all the way, is actually apart from any reality that we have ever seen and known.

As Shakespeare said, “There are things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, not dreamt of in your philosophy.” There are realms, domains and kingdoms beyond our wildest imagination. Many of these kingdoms are available to us now, but due to our inordinate dependency upon the material/physical creation we have blocked off any access we would have to them.

Through the process of what we call death, we gain access to more of these realms. In the next world, whatsoever you desire is your “action.” Through focusing your will through your mind as you clothe your thought with desire, *that desire is your action*.

The results of this are quite astounding. All you need to do is want to touch someone and you can touch them. All you have to do is want the music and the music is real. If you want a red rose, you have a red rose. Not a red rose made of carbon, nitrogen and hydrogen the way red roses are made down here, but red roses made of a finer, more glorious stuff.

The strength of your desire is likened to the strength of your bodies. On this earth we must have physical energy in order to manifest anything. And what we find is that through technology we are able to gain access to functions of the higher realms without being in the higher realms.

For example, desire. If we desire to hear Beethoven's symphonies, in the next realm that desire makes the symphony play. In this realm, for the longest time hearing that symphony required an immense amount of effort. To find the musicians, rehearse, go to the concert hall and actually have the music performed. Through technology, we now have the ability to speak into a computer and say, "Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> symphony", and the music begins to play.

We therefore see that through the application of technology the limitations and forms of the current physical realm are becoming reduced. We are approximating in this realm the natural realities of the higher realms.

But this is only the beginning. There are vast vistas that go far beyond our conception. You see, as huge as this physical earth is it is very, very small compared to the next world. If you think of all the worlds and dominions within what we call fantasy or fiction, you can see that through desire we can create new worlds as easily as thinking them.

In this world, thinking them also requires us to put a little physical energy into it for them to become manifest reality. Then in the next world, as I've said before, that final step is not necessary. Therefore, the creation of new worlds is in some respects easier, though there are greater dangers and pitfalls because we have access to higher forms of power.

You can see the physical body as being a type of training wheels. True, you're not going to go as fast as you could, but you're not going to wreck yourself as easily either.

Well, that's what it means when Jon Anderson talks about the journey that takes you all the way, all the way from here to the ultimate.

The ultimate consciousness is something the overwhelming majority of human beings cannot begin to conceive of. But there are domains within the universe wherein you can see the faces of all of the uncountable billions of souls bubbling up through the waters of existence and returning to their primordial spiritual home.

You can eventually recognize that you are what you have always been, and the only thing that you could ever be: **the birthless, deathless, creator, preserver, destroyer of the entire universe.**

That's what it means for the journey to take you all the way. And it is, ladies and gentlemen, quite definitely apart from anything you have ever seen and known. Do not be deceived, you will not be disappointed. This is exactly what the Bible refers to when it says that the eye has not seen, nor has the ear heard, nor has the heart conceived of those things which God has prepared for those who love Him.

So, taken in totality, this little triplet of lines paints an astounding picture of the soul's journey beyond this mortal frame, far beyond any reality we have ever imagined: your destiny.

Now how do we get there? That is what the rest of this story is going to be about.

### **30. Guessing problems only to deceive the mention**

Throughout my life, friends, this one little line has proven to be one of the most important lines of any that I know. It's one of those things I find myself singing or repeating to myself over and over, reminding myself, 'guessing problems only to deceive the mention.'

What does this mean?

'The mention' is the word, the speaking. This relates to the sudden call in verse 27, and it relates to the Word of God and to our startled memory.

We deceive that mentioning. We live in constant states of lies. We lie to ourselves that there are problems on this earth. We lie to ourselves that there are difficulties. We lie to ourselves that there is a scarcity of resources. We lie to ourselves that there is no way we can ever live in peace. We lie to ourselves that war is inevitable. We lie to ourselves that taxation is a part of life. All of these are problems that we guess, because **we do not have any real or genuine problems.**

**NONE.**

And this calling from beyond,  
    this great mentioning,  
    the dewdrop exalting as the Music of the Sun,  
    taking us to the highest realms of existence,  
these, ladies and gentlemen, are the only reality.

There is none other.

One of the things my writing, The Revealing Science of God attempts to state over and over, through a variety of examples, is that the only reality is God. There can be no other reality.

Therefore, since we are all a part of this oneness, **there is ultimately no problem! All problems must be guessed.**

We are talking here about a journey that will take you from here all the way to the highest realms of Heaven. And this, to me at least, is completely consistent with the Bible, where in the last book of the Bible, Revelation, we find the souls of God surrounding this celestial throne, sitting on a lake of crystal. And you and I are there.

So regardless of what Jon Anderson meant when he wrote these words, regardless of whether he would pronounce the proper Biblical formulas to convince a fundamentalist Christian that he is one of the redeemed, Anderson has, through these lyrics, tapped into a revelation which is extremely Biblical and very much a part of God's holy Word for all of us.

'Guessing problems only to deceive the mention.' We know the truth, that there is only one human race. We know that there is no reason for war. We know that there is no reason for anxiety. We are constantly guessing problems.

Life basically boils down to being like a jigsaw puzzle. We start off with a beautiful picture and we spend our time and a lot of technology cutting that puzzle up into thousands of little pieces, until finally we derive the pleasure of putting it back together again.

That is the mention we we are guessing problems about, in order to deceive ourselves.

There is no reason for it. It's silly and a waste of time and space. Yet this is what we do, and it has become what the world is all about.

I remind myself of this often. On a practical level, I think back on those times and phases of my life where I was anxious, worried or disturbed about something, all the energy I spent contemplating these different problems and what I could theoretically do to solve them. All the countless hours, days, even months I spent worrying about something that never came to pass. Having anxiety about a situation beyond my ability to control. Having negative feelings about things I simply could not affect, and ultimately would not affect me.

'Guessing problems only to deceive the mention' is the normal, fallen human condition. In terms of being *Close to the Edge*, it specifically relates to this war that we find going on in this second section, the fall.

### **31. Passing paths that climb halfway into the void**

The 'void' is a magnificent term and an astounding idea in the course of human history.

A true void exists in two ways. There is what we call the left hand and the right hand path, the positive and negative existence. It is the difference between nothing and no-thing.

Nothingness is when the radio is turned off. That is the negative void, the left hand path. When we turn all radios on and simultaneously listen to all radio stations then we get what acousticians call white noise - all frequencies are represented. You cannot distinguish anything. That is the no-thing, or the positive void.

Which void is being discussed here? Personally, I think it's the positive void, but it works just as well being the negative void. In mysticism, the positive void is referred to as the vast countenance of God. The Hindus refer to as Naguna Brahmin, God without attributes, or God before God became creator. Before there was a creation God was not creator. God before there was anything to love, because until he had a beloved, God was not love. Until there was something to shine upon, God was not light. That is Naguna Brahmin, God beyond and before all attributes.

The Hebrews call the vast countenance of God the Arik Anpin. Inside of the Bible we see God passing before Moses and God says, my backside you may see, but my front side you cannot see. For no man can see my front side and live. That is the same vision. We have in the book of Revelations the seventh scroll being opened and a silence in Heaven for at least half and hour.

These are the void, these are the realms beyond human consciousness. Beyond human experience. Beyond human thought.

If you were able to perceive the thing which makes you think, how could you know it?

If you are thinking in a language beyond words, what language are you thinking "in"?

These are the void. The paths that we walk climb halfway into the void. Both the negative and the positive void.

The negative void, so much of what we do is entirely silly, idle meaningless trivial amusement. These things lead everywhere as we have seen before, but not a one of them creates life. Every path. For example, memorizing the batting averages of every major league baseball player for the last 25 years. This is something that climbs halfway into the negative void. Not that there is anything inherently wrong or evil or bad about that, but this ultimately is part of the creation that is moving ever farther away from the creator and, as we've discussed before, we can endlessly stay involved in all of these statistics. And that will take us at least halfway into the negative void.

But all the while we are also passing paths that climb halfway at least into the positive void. Being able to experience the sacrament of sexual bliss. Being able to hear a bird's song. Being able to experience the touch of the divine within our hearts, seeing a mother care for her child. All of these, and so many more, are different pathways of love, devotion, enlightenment, understanding which will take us halfway, at least, into the positive void.

So while we are waging our little war and we have the sad courage being overtaken by the armored movers and we have the divine call, we should be able to recognize that **right here, right now are paths that will take us straight to the infinite throne room of God himself.**

Biblically speaking St. John the divine wasn't anymore saintly or divine than you are, or anymore saintly and divine than you could be if you choose. And the visions which he had in Revelation, the experience of communing directly in the inner most throne room of God, has been repeated over and over by countless mystics throughout all religions, throughout all centuries.

God awaits you because, once again, it is you, it is I who are deceiving ourselves by guessing all of these constant problems. "Well, someday I'll get to know God if only I could." "Well, if I could do this then I could." "Well if only this." "Well if I could just get this one more thing."

It doesn't work that way.

### **32. As we cross from side to side we hear the total mass retain**

As we cross from the side of the positive void and the negative void, as we cross between the journey which takes us all the way and our points which lead to no where, as we vacillate between these extremes we begin to touch and see and feel the total mass retain.

Now, what does that mean? It means several things.

There is within the realm of physics what we call the conservation of mass. What is mass? Mass is defined as the resistance to inertia. Inertia states that an object at rest stays at rest unless acted upon by an outside force. Objects at motion stay at motion, unless acted upon by an outside force. Inertia is a measurement of how much force is needed in order to alter your resting or moving state. Mass is the measurement of your inertia.

Mass is different from your weight. Weight is the force exerted upon your mass by gravity. A 200 lb. man on the Earth weighs only 32 lbs. on the Moon because the Moon has 1/6<sup>th</sup> as

much gravitational pull. However, that 200 lb. man has the same exact mass. So while it may take less energy for the man to jump up on the Moon. It will take exactly as much energy to accelerate him to 60 mph along the surface of the Moon.

One of the pillars which underlies all of science is known as the principals of conservation. Conservation means it stays the same. Conservation of mass means that throughout all chemical and physical changes the sum total of all mass remains constant. If you burn incense then the amount of mass in that incense doesn't disappear, it simply becomes transformed. It becomes transformed into smoke and ash. But the total mass remains constant.

Jon Anderson, with the phrase "the total mass retain", (which is, if you'll recall, the name of this entire second section) is referring to the totality of human experience. All human beings universally. Remember that the religious journey is done personally by each human being individually, but it's also done communally as we share this together. That is the total mass.

As we cross from the side to side. From the positive and negative voids we hear the total mass retain. The total mass of what?

Our lives. Whether we are a part of the fall or the redemption, whether we are walking with God or without him, whether we are in peace or war, whether the planet is blaspheming or fulfilling it's nature as the bride of Christ, the total mass remains constant.

And that total mass is what?

The total mass is God.

We remain forever close to terms with God. God is once again the only truth. That sudden call is the only reality, everything else is just a guess, an imagined problem.

You see, the Hindus refer to the term "Maya", which is not to be confused with the Mayan Indians. Maya is the delusion by which individual human beings stop looking at the totality of life and stop recognizing God as everything and in everything, and begin to look at each individual tiny particle. Maya is the trick, the illusion wherein the one appears to be many. It is only, however, a delusion, because God is one and is the same yesterday, today and forever, and therefore nothing can ever be lost from him. The total mass retains.

What science knows is that *inside of a closed system conservation of energy and mass are absolute*. That means that if nothing exists outside of the system to act upon it, if there is no external force, then the system in terms of it's energy and it's mass, it's angular momentum, it's center of mass and many other scientific formulas **remains absolutely completely unchanged!**

God is, by definition, the totality of the entire universe and there is, again by definition, absolutely nothing outside of Him. Therefore God's angular momentum, His conservation of energy/mass, His center of mass must all be completely unaltered by any changes which occur in this universe.

As we cross from the side to the side we hear the total mass retain!

And what does it retain? That is answered for us in the next verse.

**33. Down at the end, round by the corner, *Close to the Edge*, down by the river**

The total mass retains the fact that it's down by the end, the end of existence which is our purpose, the fruition of our souls. Around by the corner, because just around the corner is God and fulfillment. *Close to the Edge*, the total mass retains the fact that it is close to terms with God. Down by the river, because the river of everlasting life is still there. And still flows from the Heavenly throne!

It is of ultimate significance that in the first chapter of the Bible we are told about God's creation and how in the center of Eden he placed these flowing rivers surrounding the Tree of Everlasting Eternal life. It is profoundly important for any spiritual seeker to understand that those trees, that tree of life and that river of living water flowing from it, are described for us in the last chapter of the last book of the Bible. We are always by the river. The river remains the same. We are always *Close to the Edge*. We are always just around the corner. We are always down by the end. That is what the total mass retains. The fact that, despite all of it's silliness and stupidity, it remains once and forever, *Close to the Edge*.

**34. Seasons will pass you by**

Because for every time you inhale you must exhale. For every time you eat, you must excrete. For every time you sleep, you must wake. For every time you are born, you must die. For every time you become richer, you must become poorer. For every action there is an equal but opposite reaction.

That is a necessary corollary to the conservation of energy/mass. As you give so shall you receive. And of course, what goes up must come down.

**35. I get up, I get down**

This is the breath of God, this is the cycle. We have heard it before, we will hear it again.

I would like to close this section on the total mass retained with a little poem that I wrote in 1986, called Passion.

**When you embrace life with passion  
you experience both its' joys and sorrows  
with an intensity unknown to those who  
protect themselves behind a  
fortressed heart.  
To be open to life's pleasure  
is to be  
vulnerable to it's pain.  
But as spring time follows winter,  
so sunshine follows rain.**

### **III - I GET UP, I GET DOWN - Winter**

This is, on a simple sonic level, one of the most truly beautiful passages of music I've ever heard, and I've heard a lot. There's no way to count how many decades of music I've listened to in my life.

After the highly frenetic energy of The Total Mass Retain, they go through an extended coda and a segue way into a passage of astounding depth. If you never have, get a decent pair of headphones and listen to the passage between The Total Mass Retain and I Get Up, I Get Down. Notice how some of the sounds are so far away. Notice how they painted a complete aural landscape. It is truly gorgeous. They spent weeks in the studio on these 3 minutes.

In terms of what is being communicated here, I read an interview with Jon Anderson back in '73 when this had just come out. And he said that this whole thing came from a dream he had, and I believe at the time he said that this was a scene between Mother Nature and the human race. Whether my memory is correct I cannot at this point verify. But that certainly fits in very well with the words presented here.

We have a passage that is very, very soft and Yes worked for a long time on the harmonies vocally making sure that all of the voices could intertwine properly. It paints a picture of such subtlety and beauty that it is almost entirely unique within the world of rock 'n roll.

**36. In her white lace she could clearly see**

**37. the lady sadly looking saying that she'd take the blame**

**38. for the crucifixion of her own domain**

The lady sadly looking is Mother Nature. The one in white lace who sees the sad lady I believe to be the human race. We're transported to a cave or a great hall, or some mystical land wherein Mother Nature is going to give an accounting for the harm that has been done to her through the years. In her white lace, that is the human race, that is all of us, we clearly see the lady sadly looking. Mother Nature says that she will take the blame for the crucifixion of her own domain.

You see, we have crucified nature. The human race can be seen as a struggle between culture and nature. Mother Nature, we at least think, is often very cruel: floods, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, all sorts of strange disaster. Pestilence, disease, problems which the human race has had to deal with from the beginning of time.

Rather than befriend Mother Nature, for the most part we have crucified her and taken her holy and sacred domain and ravaged it. Raped it. Pillaged it. That is what is happening here. Mother Nature is saying that she will take the blame. That she will not pass along to humanity any anger or negativity for mankind's faults. That it is a part of our nature, albeit ignorantly, that we have so abused Mother Nature.

That is why Nature allows us, as a part of our nature, to abuse nature itself. This is magically and mysteriously part of the Total Mass which is Retained.

### **39. 2 million people barely satisfy**

As I have said so often, I do not know what Jon Anderson meant when he wrote this. But I will tell you what it means to me. The 2 million people is a symbol for the countless millions who have been slaughtered on this planet. 6 million Jews during World War II, 20 million Russians during World War II, 12 million Vietnamese during the Vietnam War, we could go on and on. And even if we kill 2 million of them at once, that barely satisfies the hunger and the need that the human race has for crucifying nature's domain. We will kill and we will pillage and we will murder and we will torture until we are absolutely utterly stuffed with it.

We gorge upon this orgy of death lust. But that does not barely begin to satisfy us. Because after we are done with the blood feast then we spend millions upon millions of dollars more preparing for the next one, and we even spend several million dollars making movies in great graphic gory detail of the previous carnage. And we spend even more hundreds of millions of dollars paying money to go watch these recreations of the carnage.

2 million people barely satisfies.

But in this holy sanctuary which Jon Anderson has given to us, he also tells us:

### **40. 200 women watch one woman cry**

There is a sadness here. Mother Nature has been profaned, all is not well. Yes, it is true that the Total Mass does Retain. But it is also true that during the flow, during the cycle, during the getting up and down there is great sorrow and great pain. The 200 women, I think, symbolizes the small remnant, the small remnant of people who seem to want to be the peacemakers on this earth.

If you look at the Bible one of the things that is constant throughout it's revelation is that God is forever using smaller and smaller numbers than we would at first anticipate. God had several hundred thousand people in bondage to slavery in Egypt and yet we had to await the appearance to the One in order for the Hebrews to be freed. That one being Moses.

We had Gideon and 10's of thousands potential soldiers who he could have worked with, but no, from the 3 thousand came the 300.

When Jesus came to the Earth, of all of the thousands and millions of people it boiled down to a small group of 12, and ultimately one who would do the Lord's work.

I think that's one of the reasons that the peace keepers are so blessed, because they are so small in number. The 2 million people barely satisfy our blood lust. And the smaller 200 people watch this one woman, Mother Nature cry. The 200 are the ones who try and remain outside of the evil and who have taken the journey and have seen the needlessness of all of it.

If he had chosen to work in togetherness and peace Adolph Hitler could have recognized that he already owned the entire world.

Domination of kings and kingdoms is so silly and so senseless, that's what the 200 women watch. As the one woman Mother Nature weeps.

#### **41. Too late**

In some ways, it is already too late for us. The desecration that we have made upon this planet is not trivial. The threats which we have placed for ourselves are like thousands of tiny time bombs just waiting. Between the nuclear power plants and the nuclear bombs and the toxic waste sights and the depletion of the ozone layer, the destruction of the rain forests, and the dumping of toxic pollutants into the oceans, mankind truly is upon a course which one need not be a Biblical prophet to recognize is fraught full of danger.

This is not to say that the end of the world is near, and I'm not one of those doom-sayers. But it is in so many ways too late, so many of our children already, whether they are in industrialized areas or in the pre-industrialized slums of Africa and India, never have a clean drink of water their entire lives. It's already too late.

But while Jon Anderson is singing those words, there are other words in the background which are very challenging to hear but are oh so significant to the telling of the story!

#### **42. Through the duty she would coil their said amazement of her story**

What in the world does that mean? Well, "the duty" is responsibility. It is ultimately the parent's responsibility to help guide the children. It is ultimately Mother Nature's responsibility to make sure that her children are going the right direction. That is her duty. So through her duty, she would coil, would rap up their said amazement of her story.

Mankind sits astounded, looking at the desecration of nature, looking at the war, looking at the carnage. And it is so easy to give up, but Mother Nature is talking to their said amazement, the 200 who are watching, the ones who are truly listening to her story, because her story is here for whoever wants to hear it. She will take their amusement and wrap it up and give them a gift. What is that gift?

#### **43. Asking only interest could be laid upon the children of her domain**

What Mother Nature says is, if you are astounded by me then your interest should be laid upon my children. Mother Nature is renouncing herself.

This is another thing you find throughout the ages of man. Moses pointed only to YHWH, Jesus pointed only to YHWH. "If you love me, feed my sheep." "No one is good but God alone." Gautama Buddha sought to bring no attention to himself.

This is key. Mother Nature is taking the amazed interest of these small remnants, the 200, and asking that they not be so concerned with nature herself, but with nature's children.

Ultimately the Earth will survive, nature will survive. And if we erase the human race, in enough time the Earth will be restored to the place it was before we desecrated it. Certainly something that is capable of generating 100 billion stars for every one of 100 billion galaxies cannot ultimately, in all of the billions of years it takes, be concerned about whether or not we blow ourselves up in some sort of grand final carnage. No, God says, if you love me, feed my sheep.

Mother Nature wants us to know that our ultimate concern is for each other. For God's children. As the Bible says, "No one who loves God can hate his or her fellow man." This is so true.

#### **44. The eyes of honesty can achieve**

You see, mankind is on a quest, a quest for knowledge, a quest for truth. We want to become *Close to the Edge*. We want to see and know God. And here especially in the 3<sup>rd</sup> section, we enter the darkness of winter. The falling leaves and the winds of October and November have died down and the trees are silent. The quiet snow rests upon the branches.

And mankind is in a time of hibernation. Waiting for spring, waiting to discover, waiting to be able to understand.

The eyes of honesty can achieve this. We see this theme being repeated, how we guess problems to deceive the mention. How we look not with the eyes of truth, but we are constantly deceiving ourselves and others. If we will open our eyes and look honestly to see the truth, we will have taken the largest step we can in our redemption.

There is an old saying. Lie to your doctor, lie to your priest, lie to your family, even try and lie to God, **but never ever lie to yourself!** There is great wisdom in this. We have to begin with honesty somewhere. And if we cannot be honest at least in the depths and recesses of our own heart, then we cannot be honest with anyone, anywhere, anytime.

The proclamation, though is glorious. The eyes of honesty *can* achieve.

#### **45. How many millions do we deceive each day?**

There is such deception upon this earth. The religious organizations deceive the poor, scared, frightened multitudes, using threats of hell and damnation in order to subject them to the wills of the Ecclesiastical structure. Governments lie to people constantly in order to get them to behave in the way that the Governments want, to increase their pathetic little power.

Lies and deceptions are the actual stuff of society, it is the food that we eat, that fuels our media, our advertisements, our complete socio-economic system.

How many millions do we deceive each day? It is not possible to count the numbers.

**46. I get up, I get down**

Mankind ages a little bit.

**47. In charge of who is there in charge of me**

Someone is in charge of nature. We may live our lives according to nature but something rules and controls nature. So whoever is in charge of us has someone in charge of them. That person, that being is our ultimate goal, that is God.

**48. Do I look on blindly and say I see the way?**

This is a very healthy attitude to have, wherein we constantly reexamine our thoughts, our ideas, our impressions, our opinions. We say we see the way. But do we really? Do we have any true understanding? Is there a single thing I have written in this entire document that has one *gram* of truth to it? Is there a single thing that has ever been written in the history of the human race about God and religion that has anything to do with truth at all?

So we see here the honest seeker for truth. This is a prayer that we offer to God, that we offer to Mother Nature. Whoever is there in charge of who is in charge of me, I have a question. Do I look on blindly, but only say I see the way? This is the prayer. This is the beautiful nature of what I attempt to describe in my document, *The Revealing Science of God*, in that the human race reaches for God, but God also reaches to the human race. With our minds we attempt to understand God and with His Word He attempts to talk to us.

So here is a moment of prayer. "Hello, you, whoever you are, in charge of whoever is in charge of me, **what is the truth?!?!**"

The answer comes from Heaven.

**49. The truth is written all along the page**

God gives us the answers. The pages of the great world's religions, *including the Bible*, do contain absolute infinite truth. And in this dream vision of phase three of *Close to the Edge* the seeker for truth is handed a page. And upon that page is written the entire sum-totality of everything the human race ever needs to know.

There is only one thing remaining. Mankind is not quite ready for it yet. You see, the truth has been presented from the beginning of time. But, we can only understand what we are prepared for.

**50. How old will I be before I come of age for you?**

This is so profoundly beautiful that it almost makes me weep. Mankind has been presented the page, the Holy Book. This is much like the scrolls of infinite truth that St. John sees in the Book of Revelation. And mankind now holds this sacred page, but he looks at it and he realizes that *he doesn't understand a word it says!!* He doesn't understand the language, and those few words which he can recognize make no sense.

So, here he has been given a divine gift, the infinite truth of the universe. Written out for him in black and white. And Mother Nature, God Him/Herself has handed all infinite God consciousness to mankind.

And we simply have to say, how old will I be before I can read this? Where do I go to school? We have to be prepared.

“Ripeness is all,” Shakespeare said in King Lear. Ripeness is all. It is certainly possible to teach integral calculus to second graders, but they're going to have a very very difficult time dealing with it. And even if you can teach them on a rudimentary level some of the base mechanics, it will be impossible for them to understand the greater picture.

That's what happens here. The journey does take us all the way. And it is apart from every reality we have ever seen and know. And yes, the total mass retains all knowledge, and yes, it is here. And yes, it has been presented to us on the page for us to simply open our eyes and read. We have asked and we have been given, but we are not yet able to receive it.

So what happens? We go through the cycles of growth.

## **51. A total of seven “I get up I get down.”**

Seven is a wonderful, magical number. The seven moments of creation, and after the seven cycles of aging we have an extended instrumental solo, which communicates the exuberance of the human race, celebrating the fact that now we have matured. With every “I get up” and every “I get down”, with every breath we become a little older, a little wiser, a little more mature. A little more able to understand the truth.

Mankind finally is now ready, and through this extended instrumental passage dances the dance of celebration. The music picks it's energy back up and all of the sudden it is time for us to enter the fruition of our soul, what we have been seeking all along from the very first verse. The seasoned witch, purifying our liver so that we might experience the solid mental grace, is now ours, is now in our hand. We have gone through the wars, we have gone through the ego, we have overcome the desecration of nature. We have realized the foolishness of human carnage and war. And we, as a mature race, and as individuals, are prepared to see the totality of God's infinite truth.

Winter is over, the sun is rising in the sky.

The flowers are beginning to bud....

and it is springtime!

## IV - SEASONS OF MAN - Spring

It is now springtime. Man has gone through the dark winter of his soul. He has overcome the carnage of murder. He has decided to seek for truth, he has gotten up and down. And gone through the cycles of aging. And is now prepared after a glorious festive dance to have revealed to him the sum total of all truth.

This is some of the most mystical and almost bizarre language I've ever read in or outside of lyrics. And is very densely compacted with symbolism. The music returns to its high energy state and we continue.

### 52. The time between the notes relates the color to the scenes

This is one of the most potent and bizarrely symbolic lines I have ever heard in my life. And this is another one of those lines which I happen to wind up referring to over and over and over again in my life.

What in the world could it mean? Well, let's take the second half first...."the color to the scenes." Color is optional, ladies and gentlemen, and for the most part provides us very little information necessary for evolutionary survival.

Many species of animals, we know, perceive only in black and white. Common household cats and dogs, for example, do not see in color. What they see are black and white patterns and shapes. And obviously they have been able to survive for quite some time.

Color is an interplay of light as light vibrates at different frequencies. The lower the frequency the more red it is. Red is a vibration of about 46,000 cycles per second. Then we move through orange and yellow and green, blue until finally we get to violet, which is approximately 72,000 cycles per second.

What we find is that this one presence, this one entity called light, vibrates at different rates and speeds, and as it does so it creates what our eye perceives as color.

Now, how does that color get related to the scenes that we see? In other words, if you look out upon a hillside you see a thousand shades of green; lighter green, darker green. If you look into the sky you can see a million shades of blue. Especially if it's a cloudy day you can see 10's of thousands of shades of gray.

What is actually happening, though is that the light is hitting the scene, the mountain, the sky, whatever, and is bouncing off. And as it bounces off it takes upon itself a certain colorful vibration. You cannot actually see a tree, you cannot see a car. **You cannot see anything except light.** This is a deeply and profoundly potent revelation. The only thing the eye can see is light. As the light descends from above it hits the tree, the light takes the shape of the tree and bounces off of the tree into our eye. *That is the way that color relates to the scenes.*

By folding and molding itself to the scene and reflecting off until we have the light beams enter our eyes and we have the illusion of seeing the tree.

Now, how does this happen? What we are talking about here is the miracle of sight and the miracle of being able to perceive a wide variety of colors. To perceive all of the spectra.

Then we have this very mystical statement, the time between the notes...relates the color to the scenes. Well, musicians learn very quickly in their careers that what is **not** played is at least as important as what is played. The silence can speak volumes.

Piano players and organists learn the difference between a legato, which is a very smooth flowing style, and a staccato, which is a very marked and fractured style, and a pizzicato, which is extremely short notes. The duration of the notes is critical, and how much time there is between them is essential to creating the mood, or if you will, the color of a piece.

So what we have here is what is know as synesthesia. Synesthesia is the crossing over of different perceptual frames. In other words, when you can hear what you see or you can see what you hear. When you can taste what you see, when you can hear what you feel then you have a crossover of your senses.

This is something available to all people, and this synesthesia is also one of the most potent mystical revelations. As people draw ever closer into the throne room of God and approach what we call theophanies, very often they report some kind of intermingling of their senses. Most often, although not exclusively, what they see is what they hear and what they hear is what they see.

We have a definite reference here to synesthesia, where “the time between the notes”, being a very auditory experience, is being related and connected to color and light. It turns out that sound is merely a lower vibration than light. Light is anywhere from 44,000 cycles per second to 72,000 cps. Sound is anywhere from 25 cps up to approximately 18,000 cps. So we are dealing with different vibrations. And you can do a mapping of one to the other.

One thing that is happening through computers is that we are able to connect what we see with what we hear. Thus you get a lot of animated and computer graphics material that attempts to portray visually what we hear.

But there is something deeper than a mere reference to a crossover of sight and hearing. The notes, I believe, can refer to the song of God, the music of the sun which we saw in part 1. That music of the sun is played by notes. Now we are not always going to hear those notes are we? No. We go through times of darkness, we go through times of despair, we go through times of war. But eventually we do see the light and eventually we do hear again the music of the sun.

Now the time between those notes is what we can call the fall, it's what we can call darkness, it's what we can call sin. So, symbolically speaking, the times of non-enlightenment, the times of darkness, the times of despair relate the color to the scenes. They form the framework by which the truth of God can be played out.

If you look around you we see all around us villains and heroes. Every story has a villain, every story has a hero. This is universal. The hero performs his deeds based upon the actions of the villain. Whatever the villain does will affect what the hero must do in order to right the wrong. So, what we do is, with our modern technology and our movies and our books, we create ever more elaborate villains. So that we can delight in watching ever more sophisticated heroes vanquish them!

This is a planetary multi, multi, multi billion dollar enterprise. You can see much of our life being shaped by this. Not only in the world of fiction but also in our so-called reality. We create enemies only for the joy of vanquishing them. And populations need, it seems, at this point in our development, enemies to hate.

What is “the scene” in this verse 52? There is only one scene, and as we’ve seen before, that is God. God is the only reality, and yet we shape and color Him in our perception of Him through our darkness. If it wasn’t for humanity’s fall there would be no redemption. If it wasn’t for alcoholism there would be no glorious testimonials of life reborn without alcohol. Without death there would be no resurrection.

That, to me, is ultimately the symbolic significance of this verse. The time between the notes, the times of darkness, is exactly how the universal field of God gets shaped and molded by us. Until we become separated from Him and dwell in the realm of sin, we are essentially automatons.

This is a very important clue to the ultimate meaning of *Close to the Edge*. Because we are getting very close to when we will see that this interpretation is entirely in harmony with the rest of the verses.

### **53. A constant vogue of triumphs dislocates man so it seems**

This is in many ways the opposite of the previous verse. The previous verse is talking about the darkness, the time between the notes. And this is talking about all of our triumphs. These are the vanquishing of the villains by the heroes.

We have these alleged triumphs, the building of a sky scraper, the creation of a symphony, the creation of a micro computer. And all of these triumphs, mankind feels, gets him somewhere. But ultimately what we have to do is realize that *there is no where to be gotten*. We will see this shortly. That we are forever the only place where we can be, in the mind of God dwelling in the celestial kingdom. There can be no other place.

And it’s interesting how it’s a **vogue** of triumphs, because sometimes it’s triumphant for the male of the species to be strong, sometimes it’s triumphant for him to appear to be weak. Sometimes hem lines are up, sometimes they are down. It really is a vogue, because each triumph is someone else’s failure.

So as we constantly roll through life making our victories and successes, we come to the realization eventually that none of this is real, it dislocates us. Because, much like the Tower

of Babel, we try and create towering achievements to ourselves. Monuments of human accomplishment. It should not be so.

It is interesting that verse 52 is related to the I get down, verse 53 is more on the I get up. Both of them are a part of the cycle. Forever, we see the cycle over and over again in this piece.

#### **54. And space between the focus shape ascend knowledge of love**

...space between the focus... Well, when you are focusing a camera you have at least two lenses, one in front, one in back. The space between them determines exactly when and where the focus will be. That space, that distance, is here referring, I believe, to the previous two verses.

The triumphs and the failures. The getting up and getting down. That space, that distance, that time between them shapes and ascends knowledge of love.

“Knowledge of love” is such a magnificent phrase, linking as it does to elements which most people think of as being different. We talk about thinking with our head and feeling with our heart, that knowledge is cerebral and love is emotion. Neither is true. Knowledge of love is the truth of the universe. God is love, and has been so from the beginning of time. We are all brothers and sisters in this world. And as such share a harmony and a oneness as only families can. Therefore the true identity of our relationship, even with our enemies, is one of love. That is the truth. Because love is harmony, love is union. Love is relationship.

As we then go through life we eventually have our minds transformed. Our livers get rearranged to the solid mental grace and we begin to understand and perceive the truth. We gain knowledge of the love which God has always had for us. We gain knowledge of the love which our parents had for us and all that they gave to us and all that they sacrificed. We gain knowledge of the brotherhood and sisterhood of all humanity.

So between our triumphs and our failures, between the time we get up and the time we get down is that time which is going to focus us and ascend to rise up and grant us knowledge of all love.

As this happens, things do come into focus. The space between the focus. Once we find the right space, once we find the right understanding and can properly assimilate both our successes and our failures, then we are able to have life come into proper perspective, come into focus. And as that happens, knowledge of love begins to ascend, to bubble up through the inner most parts of our being so that we can see, feel and know the truth. The truth of love.

#### **55. As song and chance develop time lost social temperance rules above**

The song is the music of the sun. It is the time between the notes, it is the song of God. It is the hymn of the faithful. The song is when we can live our lives in accordance with the plan, God’s perfect plan, God’s unfolding plan. That song is always there. Waiting for us to sit and listen long enough so that we can hear it. That song couples with chance.

Now chance is a magnificent notion. And it contains two parts: Complete random happenings, and absolute law.

Unpredictable, non-deterministic and absolutely random. Just like the shaking of dice, it is completely impossible to know what number will come up next. It is total, utter chance. And there are many things that happen in our lives which are simply chance. And it is not for any better or worse reason than that. It just happens.

But, there is another side to chance. And that is the side of law. Because you see, though each individual event within a chance relationship may be random, the totality, the total mass retain, operates according to law. After an infinite number of rolls of the die, exactly  $1/6^{\text{th}}$  of that infinity will come up #1,  $1/6^{\text{th}}$  will come up #2 etc...

So, while each individual event is unpredictable, the total mass retains perfect law. So, what we find here is that the song of God, which is God's direct ordination, His direct plan and chance, are working together to create life. Part of the revelation that we have in the Seasons of Man is that life consists not always of predestination and ordination but also a certain element of chance, that even chance works within the broader perspective of absolute deterministic law.

You take the song of God, and you take the laws and indeterminacy of chance, and you put them together, and you have the development of all time. That is the sum total of the human race and all of time. Song and chance develop time.

And while that happens, lost social temperance rules above.

There is always love. The greatest commandments, to love God and to love our fellow people as ourselves, remain true. And that simple social temperance is enough, or could be enough, or would be enough, to solve all problems. If human beings would simply take the time to reach out and love we could eliminate all suffering, we could eliminate all pain.

All suffering and all pain.

This lost social temperance is the guiding, loving hand of God, which is always trying to shape and mold and protect us. To help us to get back upon the path. God does not, has not and will not abandon his children. This social temperance rules above. Also meaning that inside of all of us there lives a conscience. We know when we hurt someone else. We know when we are doing wrong. And if we will listen to it, that will guide us.

## **56. Then according to the man who showed his outstretched arms to space**

It is time for the infinite limitless truth to be revealed. The singer, along with a few other representatives, is taken up to a high mountain. And upon this mountain is the man. We can speculate if this man is God in the flesh or just an enlightened being or maybe it's who ever you want it to be. But it is now time and people are going to have revealed to them all truth.

The man is standing holding his outstretched arms up to space and then he turns around.

**57. He turned around and pointed revealing all the human race**

Here, the man shows Jon Anderson all that there is to see, all that there is to know. The totality of the human race. How many songs have you ever heard in your life that even attempt to tell you what the sum-total purpose of life and human existence is all about? I don't know of too many others. And yet, here, this man is about to reveal all the human race.

**58. I shook my head and smiled a whisper knowing all about the place**

Jon Anderson smiles a little bit, shakes his head, and almost with bemused astonishment realizes that now he understands it all. And upon this ultimate revelation he has a little smile, but there's also a tiny bit of disbelief, shaking of the head.

Because we are about to have what amounts to a little bit of a shock.

What is the secret? What is it that this man has revealed? We have now spent pages and pages talking about getting closer to the edge. We have talked from the very first verse of mankind trying to become purified so that he can understand the truth. We want his knowledge to be ascended, we want to seek the solid mental grace. And now finally we have had all revealed.

What is it?

**59. On the hill we viewed the silence of the valley**

There is no great mystical statement, we don't have any divine visions. There are no mystical scrolls to be unlocked. There is no strange magical formula, there is no great deep dark incomprehensible mystery, no. The valley is silent. Standing upon this huge hill, having the whole human race revealed to them, the valley is silent. What happens?

**60. Called to witness cycles only of the past**

That is the key verse of the entire piece. The ultimate truth of life, the ultimate purpose of the human race. The ultimate truth written along the page that we are now finally come of age to understand.

***The ultimate revelation granted to us consists of witnessing only all of the cycles of the past which have brought us to here and now.***

Cycles of the past, getting up, getting down. Wars and peace. We see these cycles as being the truth, perfection and fulfillment of the human race.

In short, traveling is no less desirable than arriving. Becoming is not less important than being. We are not to regret a moment living out our lives. Life does actually spin its own purpose and is its own meaning. The infinite limitless Godhead creator, preserver and destroyer of the universe has granted to us all the power and ability to live and we have our freedom.

Yes, we can maximize and increase our bliss and our joy and our ecstasy. And yes, that is our destiny and that is what we want. But, even in those times when others hurt us or pain abounds. We can learn from them and they can ultimately become a force for good.

Life is its own end. This sacralizes (makes sacred) the entire human race. Composing a symphony ultimately is no more nor less important than scrubbing a toilet. This is what we were told at the very beginning. That a dew drop can exalt us like the music of the sun. If we truly understand, then the simplest task, petting a cat, cleaning the garden, fixing dinner, becomes a holy ecstatic dance of joy!

There is no reason to separate within your mind any difference between sacred time and profane time. The Bible itself is quite clear on this. "What so ever you do in thought, word or deed, do all to the glory of God."

Whether you choose to accept it or not, whether you like it or not, this song *Close to the Edge*, is telling you exactly what the Bible does. *Close to the Edge* is quite clear that there is evil in this world and that evil must be overcome. And that there are higher purer better ways to live.

But the Bible is quite clear that we should appreciate everyday of our lives. "Do not take any thought for tomorrow, for each day has trouble enough of its own." "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything with prayer and supplication, thankfulness in your heart, make your requests made known to God."

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. "Behold I am with you even unto the ends of the age."

What is the purpose of life?

**To live!**

What is the purpose of existence?

**Existence!**

What is the purpose of the universe?

**The universe!**

"On the hill we view the silence of the valley....."

There are no trumpets here, there is simply a solid profound deeply moving religious revelation, where we are called to witness cycles only of the past.

Do you want to see what the purpose of life is? Well, all of the time that you spent wondering what the purpose of life was, you were living its purpose! **This** is the purpose, right here, right now. You do not need any special revelations. You do not have to have anything more divine or more spectacular than **simply being able to breathe!**

## **61. And we reach all this with movements in between the said remark**

This is truly beautiful. We reached all of this, this fulfillment, this revelation, this comprehension of the total sanctity of all life, we reach all of this with movements in between the said remark. What said remark? Well, that is the purpose of the final verses. Because the remark is the Word, which is the proclamation of God from the beginning unto the end. And this all happens within the Word. And we are granted one more time a glorious recapitulation.

You have here a classical Beethoven symphony climax, where the music comes to it's absolute apex. And that happens over the course of the "said remarks." We have been told from the beginning. They follow.

## **62. Close to the edge, down by the river**

We are forever *Close to the Edge*. We had those words presented to us at the very beginning of the song. We are told from the beginning, in our darkness, in our ecstasy, in our joys, in our pain we are always *Close to the Edge*. We are always near to God. As the Bible says, He will never leave us, ever!

Where can I go? Into the heights of Heaven God is there, into the depths of hell God is there. We are always *Close to the Edge*, that is the said remark. We are always down by the river. The river is still here. And notice how they continually recapitulate these words. They're not just meaningless words. They're showing us that in summer, winter, spring and fall the river is always here.

## **63. Down at the end, round by the corner**

## **64. Seasons will pass you by**

The totality of all seasons works together. God is no less present in the fall than he is in springtime. It is all a part of the blessedness of life. We may not necessarily enjoy using a toilet, but it is a blessed sacrament and a way that God's grace is communicated to us. Without the ability to get rid of waste it would clog and pollute us. Without the ability to get rid of poison we would own it forever. In other words, excreting is no less important than eating.

All of life is a celebration. All of life is an ecstasy to be lived, we are always just by the corner and all seasons will pass you by. We forever remain outside of time and space. We may not understand it, we may not be comfortable with that concept, but, time and space are relative terms. We are, in reality, eternal beings and the totality of our existence is eternal life. The music of the sun is the ascended knowledge of love.

Seasons will pass us by, but we will remain. You can become happy, you can become depressed, but you are the same person. So while we need not be attached to the cycles and flows of life, we also need not shy away from them. They are to be celebrated each and every moment.

**65. Now that it's all over and done**

**66. Called to the seed, right to the sun**

Because at this point in the song mankind has come to the end of his life. We have come to the end of this cycle and we have had all truth revealed to us. Now that it is all over and done, now that we have been called to the seed, right to the sun. You see the tiniest seed dies, falls into the earth, gets watered by that river and rises up toward the sun. From fruit comes the seeds of new life.

We have been called to seed and we are now stretching right to the sun itself, the source of all life. Light itself and all life comes from the sun without which nothing would exist. And it is so glorious the way this is echoing back to the very beginning, the music of the sun.

**67. Now that you find, now that you're whole**

**68. Seasons will pass you by**

The greatest climax of this piece comes on these words. Followed by a series of, I get up, I get down. The cycles of life.

To be attached not to any single part, to not always be striving for, fall or spring or summer or winter, but to recognize the beauty of the totality, the total mass retain. Seasons will pass you by, and it is that flow that is so glorious. We breath in, we assimilate the oxygen, we transform the oxygen into life and into carbon dioxide and then we exhale. All parts of that are divine.

We have our four seasons and those four seasons are the breath of God. We are being told through this song that God is always here, that we are always near to God. That our consciousness can always be transformed from the profane to the sacred just by opening our minds and coming to understand the truth. That we can appreciate every moment of our lives and dance in the bliss of being forever...

***Close to the Edge.***