

CHAPTER SUMMARY

CHAPTER 1 – *God, Man, and Facebook* begins with the story of a momentous event that took place in Chicago, USA, on September 11, 1893. This chapter takes the reader through an intellectual journey by raising several significant questions about God, and ends with a note of laughter about the whole notion of defining God in words.

CHAPTER 2 – *God’s Song of Myself* starts with the story of Goddess from the caves of Germany, and then goes on to chronicle many other stories, including the story of the still-unending search for the *God Particle* by the best scientists of our days. This chapter contains excerpts of a fascinating dialogue on “the truth and the divine” between two Nobel Laureates—one a poet and the other a physicist—for readers to decide who was right. The chapter ends with a brand new idea: a collage poem entitled “God’s Song of Myself” and composed by juxtaposing quotes from scriptures and humans to describe a transcendent identity of God. This poem captures the essence of God through 5,000 years of written words.

CHAPTER 3 – *God is Born (250,000 BC to 2000 BC)* traces the birth of God through the first written expressions on God in ancient Egypt. It answers questions such as, “What did the humans of antiquity think about God, kings, and the afterlife, and how similar are those thoughts to the current thinking in modern religions?”

CHAPTER 4 – *God Gives Us Religions (2000 BC to 1000 BC)* starts with the story of scriptures of the earliest known organized religion, Hinduism, then travels through the scriptures of other pre-Christian religions to capture their central messages. The chapter reveals surprising similarities among the messages within the holy scriptures of Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the monotheistic philosophy of Pharaoh Aten.

CHAPTER 5 – *God of Prophets, Philosophers, and Poets (1000 BC to 1 AD)* weaves a fascinating tapestry of colorful thoughts from prophets, philosophers, and poets when early human civilizations were simultaneously emerging in Greece, India, China, Rome, and the Middle East. The human struggle with the choice between “reason” and “belief” that began in that historical period is evident in the selected quotes.

CHAPTER 6 – *God Speaks (1 AD to 1000 AD)* is primarily concerned with two major religions—Christianity and Islam—which appear to be at odds with each other today. It shows that there is great similarity between the central messages of these two religions, and that Muslims are commanded by God to believe in Jesus as a prophet. A comparison of the ten commandments of Christianity and Islam provides additional insights into the common ground between the world’s two largest religions.

CHAPTER 7 – *God of Believers, Unbelievers, and Mystics (1000 AD to 1700 AD)* captures the varieties of human expressions, from atheism to pantheism, amidst revolutionary changes in science, art, and society throughout the world. Diverse opinions about God culminate in the war between science and religion that reaches its peak when Galileo is forced to recant his scientific theories that are at odds with the Christian church. The words of the mystics in this chapter provide deep insights into human spirituality.

CHAPTER 8 – *God is Dead (1700 AD to 1900 AD)* is a colorful journey into human minds, where men and women are busy rediscovering their self-worth and morality without reassurances and dictates from Heaven. We find that God is almost banished from human intellectual life in the West, while Eastern thinkers are wrapped in mysticism. The chapter contains excerpts from the *Woman's Bible*, written by mere mortals to denounce the patriarchal interpretations of the *Holy Bible*.

CHAPTER 9 – *God is Back (1900 AD to 2012 AD)* documents the glorious return of God, shining as a bright ray of hope over the ruins of two global wars, numerous genocides, and multiple regional conflicts that caused the loss of more than 160 million human lives in the twentieth century. We make the surprising discovery that belligerence is not the monopoly of a single religion, through a comparison of scriptures from the three major faiths. This chapter ends with a discussion on interfaith dialogues, which have been gaining momentum as intellectuals realize that *God Divide* must be a bridge among nations and cultures.

CHAPTER 10 – *God of Nobel Laureates* attempts to answer popular curiosity about the beliefs of the best human minds in science, art, and politics. The difference of opinions among these Nobel laureates on the topic of God is indicative of the humanness of these “earthly gods.”

CHAPTER 11 – *God of Children and Teenagers* is a fascinating chapter that takes us into our childhood, and makes us sometimes cry and sometime laugh at the utter simplicity and genuineness of children's expressions about God. This chapter ends with a discussion of *Harry Potter and God*.

CHAPTER 12 – *God Gives Interviews* puts God face to face with humans and provides answers to some intriguing questions from a colorful group of interviewers: a Black girl, a Muslim poet, an American journalist, and a free-thinking citizen of New Zealand.

CHAPTER 13 – *God of Computers, Bloggers, and Twitterers* takes us into the new world of computers, where free spirits roam in their own glory and show unusual courage in ridiculing God. God also shows infinite tolerance by not sending a massive bolt of lightning to shut down the global network of computers. As a result, fake gods proliferate in the blogosphere, write e-mails to teens, and establish the Church of Google with its own ten commandments, all within a very few years of the Internet revolution.

CHAPTER 14 – *God of the Future* takes a closer look at our differences and similarities, and argues for a “God of Love” as the God of the future. We are encouraged to think about whether humanity can chart a new course for the future by accepting the proposed new paradigm of peaceful coexistence.