



God 2.0



By John Loofbourow, MD

GOD 1.0, IN VARIOUS FORMS, was discovered, like fire; was all-knowing, all-powerful; feared but generally effective as governor of human behavior. People knew God 1.0 was watching everything they did, knew every thought they had, and would hold them accountable. As foreseen by God 1.0 human knowledge increased exponentially, far beyond the limits of human wisdom. Despite many reverses humanity prospered, ultimately attaining some God-like power over life on earth, and aspiring to explore (read conquer) the universe.

Latter day gods were created, or invented like gunpowder or silk stockings; for generations these gods, were still feared, able to limit those human appetites that can be considered evil, but they were not hands-on like God 1.0. In time people began to recreate themselves in the image of God, becoming demi-gods: Titans, with Olympic power, but fully human appetites and failings, a curious return to ancient Greece.

Therein lay the problem. Power derived from great knowledge ultimately became available to almost everyone on earth. Not so wisdom. And power without wisdom leads to problems, as the Greek pantheon suggested so long ago. The Titans were a pretty horny violent lot, like the Olympians. Nuclear, biologic, chemical, genetic, sociopathologic and nanotechnologic weapons were everywhere. Of course, floods and plagues were still caused by "Nature," a name for a puny version of God 1.0. These natural and impersonal assaults on the world were infrequent and undirected. Yet immense unearthly focused devastation often was inflicted by despots, by nations, by individuals, and by unforeseen effects of technology; by LUC, the Law of Unintended Consequences.

For the vast majority of the earth's demi-gods it became acceptable or routine to act like Titans; to consider the welfare of others unimportant whenever one's own interests were at stake. By the mid 2000s of the Modern Era, civil society had devolved. In retrospect this sort of retrograde evolution. Theft became wrong only if discovered, and some forms of theft were just too common to bother with, like stealing a shopping cart; faking a work injury; bribing an elected official; lying to intimates; defrauding by corporate executives and politicians.

In time technologic advances made it likely that some far day many people, would have the capability to destroy most, if not all, of humanity. The world was clearly at risk of a collective technology mediated suicide, or homicide, as had been long ago suggested by an insane scientist- terrorist called the Unabomber. Omnipotent people accountable solely to themselves began to fear only one another.

A worldwide panic developed; the socio-economic world body sickened. The ordinary circulation of people, goods, ideas, and commerce was stopped by a fearful fibrillating world heart. To resuscitate civilization required near unanimous agreement; and neither individuals nor nations were willing to relinquish freedom of action, while demanding that others do so. Nations also acted like Titans. Supranational organizations seemed helpless. The "United Nations" continued to do what it had always done. Religious bodies that in theory might have come together to set the world right, did what they have always done.

It seemed clear that a new world order, not to mention a new world ethic would be needed. Our techno-crazed world was like an alcoholic who needed the "hair of the dog that bit him" for a hangover. The world required a complete turnaround back to a technologic form of God 1.0, a TechnoGod; incorruptible, all knowing, and all powerful, but with one difference: The new God must instantly and dispassionately judge, and punish the living, rather than merely the dead.

During the late 20th century of the modern era, the earliest armamentarium that would be required had been pioneered. Its essence was *Surveillance*, which gradually became more and more acceptable to people because it was almost always carried out in the name of the common good or safety. In retrospect social and technologic requirements for Universal Surveillance, or U.S., had been developing for a long time:

- After The War to End All Wars, World War I, for the first time nations began to require entry documents of foreigners. No longer could anyone travel across a border freely. The *Illegal* was created. In some societies it even became illegal to escape.
- Nationalism required increased central power over all citizens in order to protect and preserve the fatherland, the race, the church, the commerce, the language, the species, the environment.
- With the advent of the microchip, video recording in stores, parking lots, traffic intersections, public buildings, increased exponentially. The accumulated information ultimately became public property. How else to protect people from one another?
- Average citizens videotaped and recorded eagerly to the same end, to catch the bad actors; besides, they profited greatly for making their private video records public.
- Licensing, taxation, banking surveillance became ubiquitous. At first only animals were implanted with microchips; later every newborn would have one which was satellite conformed.
- Generations of sophisticated satellite surveillance became routine. Monitoring of all electronic communication became necessary to help protect people from terrorist acts and from one another. Ultimately each and every nation monitored communications of all types and every person in the world was implanted with the same satellite programmable nanotechnology.
- As surveillance improved, rates of crime and antisocial acts were modestly reduced. Yet something was lacking. Surveillance still could not discover people's thoughts. Those called Radicals claimed that only acts mattered, not thoughts. But those called Statists claimed that any demented soul who secretly sought to destroy the world must not be allowed to nurture such ideas hidden away in thought. And the Statists proved to be right. People, states, the world in general became fearful of occult and undocumented thinking. Knowing what each citizen thinks was precisely that aspect of surveillance needed to save humanity from humanity.
- Two final developments made God 2.0 possible. First was U.S. (Unlimited Surveillance). It became possible to monitor thoughts. We all could know not only what people do, but what they feel or think.

Second, as LUC would have it, the North Koreans developed the first fully functional system of satellite tele-reprogrammable nanotechnology. It was spread by contagion, and had invaded all of humanity before the world was aware. Using information available to all through U.S., the Koreans could reprogram anyone on earth in order to punish unwanted behavior or thought. All the requirements for God 2.0 were in place. At 0800 GMT on April 1, 2084 S/He simply Was, in the form of Kim III.

It's not as bad as you might imagine. A comprehensive Book of Commandments is downloaded to us all. We all communicate in thought in our own tongue. Punishments are graded very fairly from simple things like a headache or an episode of vomiting to severe pain or even death. Whosoever breaks any Commandment in deed or thought is instantly punished. No one knows what happens after death, but God 2.0 makes it clear that those whose net T.S. (Transgression Score) is high will pay a personal cost during Organ Harvest.

During the first two decades of the third modern millennium, it was expected that the World Terror Wars, like many before, would be the War to End Wars; unlimited Surveillance would cease to be necessary. How wrong we were. But Darwin was partly right. God 2.0 has caused people to again *evolve* in a civil sense. Not only are acts of terror eliminated completely, but the planet and its people are far more civil. There is no unobserved act or thought. There is no crime, no terror, no rape, no theft, no lie, no inconsiderate behavior, neither venial nor cardinal sin, no unhealthy sport, or meal; and very little prohibited thought. We are a completely conformed world.

So I look forward to the year 2086 with much optimism, especially since Coveting in all its forms, and Fornication in all its forms, are no longer totally prohibited. (Commandment 72.3 e sub 5 through 12.) In God 2.0 We Trust. S/He is more understandable, humane, rational, and accessible to everyone on earth than ever was God 1.0. This is a wonderful world, a Garden of Eden 2.0. Who would be so foolish as to even *think* otherwise?

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