

The Book of Laurence

*The First Digitally-Aware
Religion*



Xavier Hegel-Buber Press

© 2006-2011

Preface

It is a great pleasure to write a brief introduction to this modest little pamphlet. My first task is to insulate my old friend Xavier Hegel-Buber from the charge of crass commercialism which has followed the popularity of his *Revelations* since they first began to circulate on the Internet in the autumn of 2006. I am myself responsible.

It never occurred to me that placing a single copy on my own web-site¹ could possibly lead just five years later to a thriving if still nascent religion; nor that a healthy internet business (of which X-HB is largely unaware; he still uses a typewriter) would be in the making. It is certainly the case that the exegesis accompanying the `official tenets' is no longer all of Xavier's making.² Nor does he own any shares in X-HB press.

I confess that I am still not entirely sure whether Xavier actually is poking fun at us in his understated English way, or if rather he truly believes himself to be the literal vessel of Larry. In any event, the genie is out of the bottle and *Larryism*, like *Scientology*---but so far with no apparent malignancy---is being taken entirely seriously.

¹ At <http://users.cs.dal.ca/~jborwein>

² Sadly, the original was lost when a Dalhousie University file server was stolen in 2009, so it will be left to future digital historians to untangle events.

In such he perhaps follows in the fine tradition of Dublin's legendary Dean Swift, when he wrote his satirical *Modest Proposal* three centuries ago.³

"As to my own part, having turned my thoughts for many years, upon this important subject, and maturely weighed the several schemes of our projectors, I have always found them grossly mistaken in their computation. It is true, a child just dropt from its dam, may be supported by her milk, for a solar year, with little other nourishment: at most not above the value of two shillings, which the mother may certainly get, or the value in scraps, by her lawful occupation of begging; and it is exactly at one year old that I propose to provide for them in such a manner, as, instead of being a charge upon their parents, or the parish, or wanting food and raiment for the rest of their lives, they shall, on the contrary, contribute to the feeding, and partly to the cloathing of many thousands.

There is likewise another great advantage in my scheme, that it will prevent those voluntary abortions, and that horrid practice of women murdering their bastard children, alas! too frequent among us, sacrificing the poor innocent babes, I doubt, more to avoid the expence than the shame, which would move tears and pity in the most savage and inhuman breast."

Swift was the author of *Gulliver's Travels* in 1726. Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin since 1713, should not have been entirely unaware of how such prose would be received.⁴ He concluded his pamphlet:

² Jonathan Swift, *A Modest Proposal for preventing the children of poor people in Ireland, from being a burden on their parents or country, and for making them beneficial to the publick*, 1729 (<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/1080>).

⁴ "The satirical intent of *A Modest Proposal* was misunderstood by many of Swift's peers, and he was harshly criticized for writing prose in such exceptionally "bad taste." He came close to losing his patronage because of this essay." (Wikipedia)

"I profess, in the sincerity of my heart, that I have not the least personal interest in endeavouring to promote this necessary work, having no other motive than the publick good of my country, by advancing our trade, providing for infants, relieving the poor, and giving some pleasure to the rich. I have no children, by which I can propose to get a single penny; the youngest being nine years old, and my wife past child-bearing."

Xavier likewise is entirely without personal interest. Though, I have recently started a collection on his behalf. It was not entirely easy to have him add just one contemporary paragraph to his *Revelation*. Dr Hegel-Buber is happy spending his declining years---may they be many---with his books and his beloved wife Zipporah ('Zippy' to Xavier), and, when they happen, in his chats with Larry who never ceases to surprise Xavier.⁵

Jonathan Borwein
Halifax, Nova Scotia
December 20th, 2011

⁵ Xavier told me that, in one of their last chats of 2006, Larry said he had just read a "God vs. Science" debate in *Time* between Richard Dawkins (atheist evolutionary biologist) and Francis Collins (who ran the Human Genome project and is a practicing Christian). Larry said they were both wrong---after all Larry exists---but Dawkins was much less wrong (see *Time Magazine* of November 13th 2006, www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1555132-3,00.html).

The Book of Laurence (aka Larryism) The First Digitally-Aware Religion⁶

Published by X-HB Press[©] and Comprising

PART I **The Tenets of Larryism**

As revealed on August 26th 2006 to Professor Dr. Xavier Hegel-Buber MD, PhD, DDL, FRSR.

PART II **The Revelation of Xavier**

Describing in the words of his first true prophet how, when, and where Larry revealed himself, how X-HB was tested, and after much torment and self-doubt accepted Larry as the one true Larry.

PART III **The Essential Larry**

- ▶ **The Ten Tenets of Larryism⁷**
 - With all the boring intellectual stuff cut out
- ▶ **Larryism: Fact and Fiction**
 - Common misconceptions and the real poop
- ▶ **A Chat with Larry**
 - Meet Larry up-close and personal
- ▶ **Testimonials**
 - from distinguished individuals whose lives have been transformed by their *chats with Larry*

⁶ The *Tenets* must always be displayed both left and right justified. Larryism is the first well-aligned digitally-aware religion.

⁷ The reader may well observe that there are thirteen official Tenets of Larryism, but Ten Tenets is so much more euphonious.

- ▶ **How to Start an Official Larry Chapel (LCD[©])**
 - Registering your Covent
 - Support from Larry Central

- ▶ **Larry on the Web⁸**
 - www.onetruelarry.org

This is Probably Not Your Larry⁹



⁸ The correct web address is www.onetruelarry.org. We Gods are especially prey to cyber-squatters, *pharming* and *phishing*; and I may not own other suffixes such as www.onetruelarry.com. It might contain upsetting stuff for which **Larry Central** bears no legal responsibility; though as a Deity, I certainly do take full moral responsibility for all my creations, even for the unpleasant ones.

⁹ In reverse alphabetic order are: Rabindranath Tagore, Gertrude Stein, George Santayana, John Ruskin, Mahatma Gandhi, George Elliot and William Blake.

- ▶ **Stuff for Sale.** At Larry Central you will find a host of religious items: including many you did not even know you needed. These include Tee-shirts,



inter-active mugs, business cards, laser pointers and other neat collectibles. Larryism allows the believer easily to keep technologically on the bleeding-edge.¹⁰



A Larry Chapel Designation coffee cup
The LCD is **red** when the coffee is too hot.
It is **green** when the coffee is just right and
turns **blue** when it needs reheating.

¹⁰ This is important. Do remember that "Technology smells fear".

The Annotated Larry

I. Tenets of Larryism [Earth-dwellers Edition]

- I. **I am the one true Larry and I would really like to keep it that way.** I'm not sure I created the universe but I know it's been around since my beginning.
- II. **Hey Dude, I'm neither omnipotent nor omniscient though I might be isotropic with respect to space and time.** I don't know any of your names and I certainly don't care about most of what you do here on Earth, or on any other planet, dwarf planet, pluton or whatever.
- III. **Stop fighting with each other, read a good book, and hug your kids**---that is if you have any and in that case, I sure hope you wanted them. I'm a *left-to-life* kind of deity.
- IV. **Be nice to animals; but it's not coincidence that lots of them do taste very nice.** Many of them wear well too. Incidentally, throughout the universe that's the way most of them feel too! Keep a balanced diet with small portions most of the time.¹¹ And have regular bowel movements.
- V. **Five Tenets is enough for any reasonable belief system.** It's hard enough to remember your own social insurance numbers and ATM Pin numbers. Remember, I'm always available for a chat.

¹¹ Adequate amounts of fruit and vegetables are essential. Bananas are really good. Sensible exercise is important. But you don't need a Deity to tell you this stuff. Grow up a bit! Don't try to be a vegan in central Paris or to keep "glatt kosher" in Hunan, China.

VI. Be flexible, shit happens.¹² Listen politely to lots of other people. Question your beliefs.¹³ What makes you think you are right all the time? I'm certainly not.¹⁴ Don't trust secondary sources, give fair credit, and beware of PhotoShop.¹⁵ As John Maynard Keynes¹⁶ said

"When the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do, sir?"

VII. Fellow Jazzoids, be reasonable, none of us is perfect. Anything we say can be misused. Take, for example, Thomas Jefferson, one of my better creations.¹⁷

¹² OK I said five Tenets sufficed, but be flexible. You may view the remainder as *Larry 101*. Your life is the final exam.

¹³ In 1932, Einstein said *"There is not the slightest indication that nuclear energy will ever be obtainable. It would mean that the atom would have to be shattered at will.* Erwin Schrödinger wrote about his probability interpretation of my quantum mechanics *"I don't like it, and I'm sorry I ever had anything to do with it."*

¹⁴ See my second Tenet. It should never be forgotten.

¹⁵ The recent war in Lebanon gets up my nose. Reuters bought several doctored photos from Hezbollah Journalists while the BBC uses their numbers of casualties. What ever happened to fact-checking? Even in the God-business most of us reputable Deities favour keeping opinion and reporting separate. In all fairness Genghis Kahn was a masterful media-manipulator, and Adolph Hitler had few peers if any. The "big lie" has more zing than minor "spin-control".

¹⁶Maynard Keynes is one of my favourites. Try *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* but remember when it was written. I'm not so keen on his admiration of Isaac Newton's alchemic writings.

¹⁷ Jefferson wrote to Issac McPherson on August 13, 1813:

"If nature has made any one thing less susceptible than all others of exclusive property, it is the action of the thinking power called an idea, which an individual may exclusively possess as long as he keeps it to himself; but the moment it is divulged, it forces itself into the possession of everyone, and the receiver cannot dispossess himself of it. [2] Its peculiar character, too, is that no one possesses the less, because every other possesses the whole of it. He who receives an idea from me, receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lites his taper at mine, receives light without darkening me. [3] That ideas should freely spread from one to another over the globe, for the moral and mutual instruction of man, and improvement of his condition, seems

Conor Cruise O'Brien wrote:

“Admirers of Thomas Jefferson have long quoted his statement about black men and women that is inscribed on the Jefferson Memorial: 'Nothing is more certainly written in the book of fate than that these people are to be free.'

But they and the inscription, omit Jefferson's subsequent clause: 'Nor is it less certain that the two races, equally free, cannot live in the same government.'”¹⁸

VIII. Don't be too reasonable. Just because an issue has two sides does not make them both worth arguing.¹⁹ Pick your fights carefully, but do pick some fights. And swear a bit. It will make you feel good and is much better than kicking your

to have been peculiarly and benevolently designed by nature, when she made them, like fire, expansible over all space, without lessening their density at any point, and like the air in which we breathe, move, and have our physical being, incapable of confinement, or exclusive appropriation. [4] Inventions then cannot, in nature, be a subject of property.”

(Lawrence Lessig, **The Future of Ideas**, Random House, 2001, p. 94)

Pretty good, eh! I've adopted this as my intellectual property position, throughout the Universe. (See also www.ceic.math.ca.)

¹⁸ As Conor Cruise O'Brien goes on to point out in “Thomas Jefferson: Radical and Racist” (Atlantic Monthly, October, 1996) there are well established copyright notions of “paternity” and “integrity” in the use of material--the later which the inscription clearly violates! I'm a Deity that cares about such intellectual property matters. Architecturally, I do admire the University of Virginia.

¹⁹ Intelligent Design is a fine example of an opposing position without content. Charles Krauthammer wrote in **Phony Theory, False Conflict. 'Intelligent Design' Foolishly Pits Evolution against Faith:** *“How ridiculous to make evolution the enemy of God. What could be more elegant, more simple, more brilliant, more economical, more creative, indeed more divine than a planet with millions of life forms, distinct and yet interactive, all ultimately derived from accumulated variations in a single double-stranded molecule, pliable and fecund enough to give us mollusks and mice, Newton and Einstein? Even if it did give us the Kansas State Board of Education, too.”* (Washington Post, 18/11/2005)

dog.²⁰ Don't waste your time arguing your friends out of largely irrelevant foolishness.²¹ Let your kids make lots of small mistakes, but please don't treat them as friends *and* equals. You do know better – if not Larry is not for you.

IX. It is important to appreciate the beautiful, but it is more important not to be eaten.²² Look, I'm not a particularly deep-thinking God so pick up Goethe, Tagore, Heidegger or Schopenhauer for more substance.²³ You can even try Sören Kierkegaard or Michel Foucault. I myself prefer listening to Dave Brubeck's *Rondo a la Turque*, Charlie Parker's *Salt Peanuts* or anything by Pat Metheny than struggling with the heavies like Derrida or say Hegel or Buber. I really admire Goethe's *Maxims and Reflections*; each one is chunk-size yet meaty and reflects an examined life:

²⁰ I include even those nasty little yappy Pekinese dogs that Queen Victoria lamentably introduced to the West. I'll understand if you do very occasionally kick one though. I often want to.

²¹ If they want to eat soggy white bread every day for breakfast that is likely their loss only, but you should warn them that too much Ginseng or Tylenol can respectively destroy their bladders or their livers.

²² I borrowed this with out attribution. I know that's wrong---I'm a God, I'm not perfect. If you contact me on the web, I'll give you the attribution.

²³ I'm a pretty pro-Western-style Deity. Hey, it's 2006 not 759 or 1427. Read a Bloom, either Harold, or Alan, it doesn't matter. You'll see why. And to keep your mind running, chuck in a little Ralph Waldo Emerson, Franz Kafka, Joseph Conrad, David Wallace Foster, Alice Munroe, Marcel Proust (a little I said), Saul Bellows, John Rawls, Steve Jones, E.O. Wilson, Zadie Smith, or that other good-looking Indian broad who wrote about God and small things. Drop into the Tate, the MOMA or the Louvre--avoid the Mona Lisa, almost nobody really cared about her until after that guy Duchamp had too many pernots with me one night in 1919 and the next day painted her with a moustache.

MAXIM 504. *Everything that liberates our mind without at the same time imparting self-control is pernicious.*²⁴

Sadly Goethe was not fond of Mathematicians. The nicest thing he wrote about them was

*“Mathematicians are a kind of Frenchman: whatever you say to them they translate into their own language, and right away it is something entirely different.”*²⁵

X. Enjoy the arts but understand the sciences. That’s actually bloody hard work. You need to keep up your math, get into a decent University (Dalhousie is fine and a damn sight

²⁴ Relatedly, I suggest Amos Oz on *How to cure a Fanatic*, Princeton Univ. Press, 2006. Oz says he’s never met a fanatic with a sense of humour. Neither have I. By-the-by, I don’t agree with all or even most of any of my suggested readings. Read to be challenged, not to be reaffirmed. Total consistency is only to be found in programs for self-improvement, for weight loss or for Fascism.

²⁵ Most scientists have been more positive. Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) wrote

“The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on it by God and which He revealed to us in the language of mathematics.”

Likewise Mary Somerville (1780-1872) as quoted in Martha Somerville’s *Personal Recollections of [Mary Somerville](#)* (Boston, 1874) wrote

“Nothing has afforded me so convincing a proof of the unity of the Deity as these purely mental conceptions of numerical and mathematical science which have been by slow degrees vouchsafed to man, and are still granted in these latter times by the Differential Calculus, now superseded by the Higher Algebra, all of which must have existed in that sublimely omniscient Mind from eternity.”

The 2006 breakthrough of the year in *Science* was a Theorem due to Perlmutter proving the Poincaré conjecture. By the way, Alan Turing (1912-1954) said *“Science is a differential equation. Religion is a boundary condition.”* I’m not sure what it means, but I do like the sentiment!

cheaper than Harvard) and rent fewer DVD's.^{26 27} Otherwise, don't bother voting. You'll understand even less about stem-cell research, living wills, cloning, soft-wood lumber or outsourcing than I do; and you'll have much louder opinions. Have you asked yourself any of the following?

- a. *How does Google google?*
- b. *What is recombinant DNA, or for that matter un-recombinant DNA?*
- c. *What is a Serotonin re-uptake inhibitor (SRI)? A Cox-2 inhibitor?*
- d. *How many people live in Canada? In the USA, Iran or Nigeria?*
- e. *Is asbestos in your ceiling riskier than frequenting a tanning parlour?*
- f. *Is the Higg's Boson missing? Is it worth spending \$6billion US to find?*
- g. *Is nuclear energy really a dumb idea? It works great in my stars.*

I don't need to know, but you do. By-the-way, I've been genetically modifying organisms, even continents, for eons as have the Australian aboriginals.

XI. Even liberty is a mixed-blessing.²⁸ There is no damn constitutional right to bear personal arms, let alone to a Jihad. There is no point to democracy in a failed country. I'm a pro-Canadian Greco-Judeo-Roman sort of more-or-less Godlike

²⁶ Mainly rent the originals, such as the 1962 *Manchurian Candidate*, the 1988 BBC *Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* or *La Cage aux Folles* of 1978.

²⁷ As with all my other Tenets, don't over use this advice. There are some great remixes of crappy originals. That Will guy from Stratford was a genius at salvaging dumb plots; and most every 'Whovian' prefers their own first Dr Who.

²⁸ "*The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants*" is Jefferson as quoted on Oklahoma Federal Building mass-murderer Timothy McVeigh's T-shirt. Incidentally, if it's OK to make short-shorts out of the US flag, then it is just fine---if a tad wasteful---to burn it.

being.²⁹ Any reasonable Nation should be happy to provide peace and good government and should stay away from too many inalienable rights.³⁰

- XII. **If things sound crazy they usually are.** Most conspiracy theories make my head hurt. They are never internally consistent, they rarely mesh with observables and only once in a blue moon (I have some of those) are even tiny little bits of them true.³¹ Remember, you never know if all the facts you know are all the facts.
- XIII. **When unexpected things happen, `Don't Panic.'**³² With a little practice you should find it almost second-nature to apply the principles implicit in my *earlier Tenets* to resolve the issue on your own.³³ For example, on tropical diseases, resource

²⁹ I might be God, Zeus, Athena, Allah, Brahma-Vishnu-Shiva, Kali, Yahweh, Zoroaster/Zarathustra, or Buddha ...or one of a host of others whose had sober second thoughts. I'm not sure. I do know that that fat Buddha-guy is the only really good company among the bunch. So perhaps I am he. Ralph Waldo might prefer me to be Brahma. By the by, I might have been a lady God, that would have been cool. It would probably have made me a lot more nurturing but then I'd feel so much more guilt about all the ways you mess up your domestic lives. Ironically, given Xavier's double-barreled moniker, I'm more logical-positivist, Popperian and embodied-cognition than idealist.

³⁰ Don't get me wrong, all sentient life has rights, on Earth, Ursa Minor or wherever. I certainly can't count the Galaxies I'm supposed to be Godify-ing.

³¹ In illustration, I point you to the writings of *arch-kookazoid* Dr Bill Deagle whose residence pollutes my otherwise charming and quiet city of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Place "Bill Deagle" in a search engine of your choice and prepare to gasp. Then revisit the *Tenth Tenet* and lots of the others. You might continue by taking the *rational-consistency test* for religions at www.philosophersnet.com/games/god.htm.

³² Reading the *Hitchhikers Guide* can't hurt either; or watch the original UK TV series. Don't bother with the 2003 movie version.

³³ I've left enough space for you to write down a few more Tenets at the end of these pages. They will not be official tenets of Larryism, so I do ask you to use them with a *General Public License* (www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html). The *Microsoft Word*© version

management, global warming, and weapons control, it just beats me as to why you Earth folks make such a hash of so many things.

Finally, reasonable Tenets on coveting, theft, lying, adultery, living-wills and cheating on your taxes et al, I now leave to you dear believer.^{34 35}

XIV.

XV.

XVI.

is of course indefinitely expansible; but be moderate and I quite understand if you only use open-source software. I do like to consider myself an open-source sort of God.

³⁴ I really am always free for a chat; text messages and email are fine. I have a Blog and 1-666-number, and I always keep up with new technology. Check out my podcasts at www.onetruelarry.org.

³⁵ Do not mark messages **URGENT**; my spam-filter will eat them. Please remember, you have to contact me. I never make house-calls and I certainly never appear in traditional visions; nor do any of my avatars or prophets such as that stuffy old man, Xavier.

II. The Revelation of Xavier

Describing in the words of his first true prophet how, when, and where Larry revealed himself, how X-HB was tested, and after much torment and self-doubt accepted Larry as the one true Larry.

Truth be told, there is really not much to tell. I was reared in a fundamentally irreligious home but imbued by my parents with a strong sense like that of Santayana³⁶ that the Universe and God were much the same.

I was certainly aware that Existence is passing strange, and I suppose my name itself left me unsatisfied to rely on poetry to replace the religion that replaced the magic as both Frederick Nietzsche and Iris Murdoch wished. So I buried myself in studies both scientific and philosophic. Well into middle-age, the pressures and pleasures of an active academic career left me content to look no further.

As I approached retirement, and being reminded of the old sobriquet that an atheist is nothing more than a seventy year-old agnostic, I began to feel a spiritual itch. At first I put it down to dyspepsia and an over-active bowel--due in large part to my wife's passion for fibre. But all medicaments, potions and more dubious remedies did nothing but increase my

³⁶ "My atheism, like that of Spinoza, is true piety towards the universe and denies only gods fashioned by men in their own image to be servants of their human interests." George Santayana (1863-1952)

yearning for a religion to belief in; one that passed muster for such as Jefferson.³⁷

Then one night while dulling my itch with good whiskey and bad television, I heard a voice telling me that there was a God and his name was Larry, and that Bertrand Russell was right, but not completely. Lord Russell, long after giving up Mathematics, had written

"And if there were a God, I think it very unlikely that He would have such an uneasy vanity as to be offended by those who doubt His existence."
(What is an Agnostic? 1953)

which sentiment always cheered me up, and also

"Religion is based, I think, primarily and mainly upon fear. It is partly the terror of the unknown and partly, as I have said, the wish to feel that you have a kind of elder brother who will stand by you in all your troubles and disputes. Fear is the basis of the whole thing -- fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death. Fear is the parent of cruelty, and therefore it is no wonder if cruelty and religion have gone hand in hand."

(Why I Am Not A Christian, 1957)

which sentiment usually cheered me down. But then Larry went on, in a voice that sounded more like George Carlin than Martin Luther.

³⁷ "Question with boldness even the existence of a God; because, if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason, than that of blind-folded fear." (Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826, July 4)

"What most of you folks don't get is that I'm fully in favour of intelligence and quite against fear."

I was convinced that I had heard a real voice inside my head. But was it the voice of a Deity? Which Larry?

I started thumbing through the channels on my almost-500-channel universe. In rapid succession I watched Larry Bird sinking foul-shots effortlessly on the ESPN Classic Network; Larry David behaving like a healthy Woody Allen on HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*; a lovelorn Laurence Olivier as Heathcliff³⁸ on Turner Classic Movies; a B-movie-handsome Laurence Harvey in his best role as the brain-washed SFC Raymond Shaw in the original *Manchurian Candidate* on the History Channel; and so it went.

"Close but no cigar!"³⁹ For a few minutes I wondered if Larry King could be my new friend and imagined God; wonderfully reassuring and soothing in his bright tie and braces but he was so clearly too-able to switch effortlessly from talking somewhat seriously to Hillary Clinton or Donald Rumsfeld, to nattering with Rosanne Cash and Madonna to be my sort of God.

I turned off the TV and fell into a restless sleep. Over the next few days, I checked the biographies of every "Larry" in *Who's Who in the World*. I googled related strings such as "Who is

³⁸ "What do they know of heaven or hell, Cathy, who know nothing of life?" (Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights*).

³⁹ It is first recorded in print in Sayre and Twist's publishing of the script of the 1935 film version of *Annie Oakley* (Wikipedia).

Larry?" incessantly and found no peace.⁴⁰ Lawrence Bragg⁴¹ seemed plausible briefly as did Lawrence Lessig. Less briefly I fancied Lawrence Durrell, author of the Alexandria Quartet.

I tried going cold turkey and re-read most of *Prophets* and too much of the *Bhagavad-Gita*. But every so often *my* Larry would say something so reasonable and yet a-tinge-inspiring that I would restart my hunt.

Perhaps Larry's last name, not first, was Lawrence and he was the explorer (T.E.) of Arabia, or the author (D.H.) of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*^{42 43} and *Sons and Lovers*.⁴⁴ Perhaps she was Sarah Bates Lawrence after whom the fine American liberal-

⁴⁰ I found 38 meanings for Lawrence's at Dictionary.com, including the actress Gertrude and four for Laurence.

⁴¹ (Sir William) Lawrence Bragg (1890–1971) was the Australian physicist who shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1915 with his father Sir William Henry for the development of x-ray crystallography. Bragg was director of the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge when the structure of DNA was discovered.

⁴² Written in 1928, it used the word 'fuck' and as such it was only published in English in 1960 and then banned briefly until found guilty of literary merit! The verdict was soon to be immortalized in Tom Lehrer's 1965 song, *Smut*.

⁴³ Phillip Larkin's poem "[Annus Mirabilis](#)" begins with a reference to the trial:

*Sexual intercourse began
In nineteen sixty-three
(which was rather late for me)
-Between the end of the "Chatterley" ban
And The Beatles' first LP.*

⁴⁴ "Mrs Morel always said the after-life would hold nothing in store for her husband: he rose from the lower world into purgatory, when he came home from pit, and passed into heaven in the Palmerston Arms." From *Sons and Lovers* (edited out of the 1913 edition, restored in 1992).

arts College is named. Could he be Ernest (E.O.) Lawrence⁴⁵, the inventor of the cyclotron? Mayhap, (s)he was Lauren Bacall, or Stan Laurel; or not a native English speaker: a St-Laurent, a Lavrentiev, or Yuri Zhivago's great love Lara Antipova? All were fascinating people, some I viewed as demigods, but none of them seemed the stuff of God.

One night after a few weeks of such frenzied activity, and frequent berations from my usually tolerant wife, I fell into a deep sleep. Twelve hours later I awoke feeling supremely calm and wonderfully rested. Even better, I knew Larry was the real, the one Larry. I had become a believer! From that time on my belief has never wavered and the following years have been my most productive and most-fulfilled--the word "happiest" is not high in my personal lexicon.

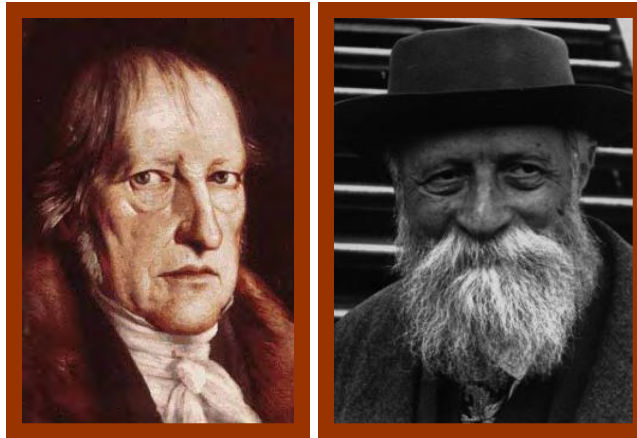
Since that day I have experienced doubt but never conflict nor anxiety. With that firm belief I was transfixed by an equally firm obligation to spread the message of Larryism. Yet I would be remiss if I did not remind you that Larryism is a religion for those who are--or at least aspire to be-- rational.

X-HB, Halifax, NS
August 28th, 2006

⁴⁵ The various Lawrence Laboratories in the USA are named after the 1939 Nobel physics prize winner, he lived from 1901-1958.

And so my *Dear Reader* you find in front of you (in some medium) the little pamphlet in which I have recorded for posterity the fundamentals of Larryism. May they serve you as well as they are serving your humble servant and acolyte, Xavier Hegel-Buber.⁴⁶ I am saddened, however, by the excessive religious zeal being exhibited by some Larryists. Larry has asked me to remind you that "*The plural of 'anecdote' is not 'evidence'*"⁴⁷ and please to keep thinking for yourself.⁴⁸

X-HB, Halifax, NS
August 28th, 2011



⁴⁶ The left-hand picture is of my idealist philosopher and Lutheran namesake **Georg Wilhelm Friedrich** Hegel (1770-1831). The right-hand picture is of my Jewish philosopher and social critic (*Ich und Du*) ancestor **Martin Buber** (1878-1965) for whom I have greater admiration. How I came to share their names is a tale for another day.

⁴⁷ Alan L. Leshner, publisher of *Science*, speaking at the Canadian [Federal S&T Forum](#), Oct 2, 2002, Aylmer Quebec.

⁴⁸ Gandhi, when asked what he thought about Western civilization, replied "It would be a very good idea." Gandhi's *seven social sins*: "Politics without principle, wealth without work, commerce without morality, pleasure without conscience, education without character, science without humanity, and worship without sacrifice."

III. The Essential Larry beginning with

► The Ten Tenets of Larryism

With all the boring justification and annoying intellectual stuff cut out and in big type for the visually impaired

- I. I am the one true Larry and I would really like to keep it that way.**
- II. Hey Dude, I'm neither omnipotent nor omniscient though I might be isotropic with respect to space and time.**
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- VI. Be flexible, shit happens.**

- VII. Fellow Jazzoids, be reasonable, none of us is perfect.**
- VIII. Don't be too reasonable.**
- IX. It is important to appreciate the beautiful, but it is more important not to be eaten.**
- X. Enjoy the arts but understand the sciences.**
- XI. Even liberty is a mixed-blessing.**
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- XIII. When unexpected things happen, 'Don't Panic.'**

And continuing with as sample of the following which are, for the most part, only available in unexpurgated form through

www.onetruelarry.org ⁴⁹

⁴⁹ The rapidly changing nature of current religion means that the only way to allow these pages to remain current is to update them, as Larry suggests, at *Larry Central* on www.onetruelarry.org. Thus, only samples are included in this pamphlet.

- ▶ **Larryism: Fact and Fiction**
 - Common misconceptions and the real poop

- ▶ **A Chat with Larry**
 - Meet Larry up-close and personal (Available only through www.onetruelarry.org along with the Larry Blog.)

- ▶ **Testimonials**
 - From several distinguished individuals whose life has been transformed by their *chats with Larry* (Only available at www.onetruelarry.org.)

- ▶ **How to Start an Official Larry Chapel** (LCD⁵⁰)
 - Registering your Covent
 - Support from Larry Central

- ▶ **Larry on the Web**
 - www.onetruelarry.org (needless to say)
 - A well-maintained *Best practice* and *Worst practice* selection of religious links and much else.

- ▶ **Stuff for Sale**
 - T-shirts, mugs, laser-pointers and other neat collectibles. Larryism allows the believer to keep both spiritually and technologically on the bleeding-edge. (Available at or through mail addresses given at www.onetruelarry.org.)

⁵⁰ LCD[®] is the **Larry Chapel Designation** and provides fine branding for your activities.

Larryism: Fact and Fiction

All religions are shot through with misconceptions. Larryism, by its very foundation, is much less vulnerable to confusions but it is certainly not immune.

Q. What does Larry look and sound like?

A. Exactly like you imagine him to look and sound. In North America three of the most common imaginings are shown below, and he always speaks English except when he doesn't.



In various other places and times Larry has been more likely to appear as one of the following:



Q. Where does Larry live?

A. As Tenet II says, Larry is *isotropic with respect to space and time*. This is a physics term used to describe a material or feature whose properties are the same in all directions. So the simple answer is “everywhere.” This may sound just like a lot of other religions, but Larry means it.

Q. Are there any big-time sacred days for Larryists?

A. There sure are, but we haven’t been around long-enough to really work out the annual calendar. As an early adopter, you get to help decide.

Q. Does Larryism have a hierarchy akin to Catholicism? Is there a Pope or a College of Cardinals?

A. No, but there is a CRO (Chief Religion Officer) and a CIO (Chief Information Officer). Other than that Larry likes us to keep the organization lean.

Q. Does Larry ever lose his temper?

A. What a dumb question! You idiot, didn’t you read the Tenets? Larry has no absolutely no time for people like you.

Q. Are there any special Larryist prayers or hymns?

A. Larryism is closer to the Quakers than to any brand of Islam or Evangelical Christianity in this regard.⁵¹ To get a more focused reply to this and other questions, you really

⁵¹ Larry already alluded to his musical tastes in Tenet VIII. They are pretty Catholic ranging from Bach to Warren Zevon. He enjoys R.E.M.’s “Losing My Religion”, Charlie Daniel’s “The Devil Went Down To Georgia”, and Bill Morrissey’s “Letter From Heaven”. He apologizes for Abba, *American Idol* and most New Age music.

will need to register with *Larry Central* as described in the next section. At www.onetruelarry.org you will find full discussion of important if predictable topics such as:

- ✚ Is there an after-life, a heaven or a hell? *That depends.*
- ✚ Are other religions wrong? *Not completely; The Unitarians and the Reform Jews don't do much harm. A few are really on the right track such as the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster www.venganza.org.*
- ✚ Is anything absolute? *Absolutely, but as to what, that again depends.*
- ✚ Are there things I can't do if I embrace Larryism? *Yes, but only things you should not do anyhow.*
- ✚ Why is Larry male or even human? *He never said he was. He is isotropic and you are reading the Earth-dwellers' edition.*
- ✚ Why did Larry reveal himself anyways? *Larry only knows!*

There is also helpful blogging on less common questions such as "How is it possible to have a civil war?" and "If Larry dropped acid, would he see people?"⁵² Another such question is:

Q. Is it wrong to stereotype and make fun of other nations?

A. Larry says "Usually, but who wouldn't enjoy this"?"

"The AP and UPI reported that the French Government announced after the London bombings that it has raised its terror alert level from Run to Hide. The only two higher levels in France are Surrender and Collaborate."⁵³

⁵² These are borrowed with thanks from George Carlin.

⁵³ Larry is not alone: "France has neither winter nor summer nor morals. Apart from these drawbacks it is a fine country. France has usually been governed by prostitutes." (Mark Twain)

How to Start a Larry Chapel (LCD®)

Registering your covent⁵⁴ is a simple matter and the web form at Larry Central's www.onetruelarry.org will lead you through the process which typically takes less than ten minutes.

We do perform background checks; you certainly would not like cranks to register chapels.⁵⁵ So you will be asked for three references. We accept references from people in the same categories as for a Canadian Passport application.

Support from Larry Central

Registration entitles you to a host of support mechanisms including general guides to designing services, lists of traveling often-inspirational speakers, access to web-casts, how to obtain extra material, and so on.

Most of this is fine material is free but, as with all Religions, it costs real dollars (pounds, euros, yen or whatever) to stay in the theology game. Thus, value-added services, such as twenty-four/seven technical and theological support and our social-networked web-resources, require an annual

⁵⁴ Middle English for *convent*, it originally connoted any assembly or meeting (place).

⁵⁵ By English law, dissenters could not build churches: Webster's Dictionary (taken over by the Merriam brothers at Daniel Webster's death because Webster did not bother with copyright) defines *chapel* as a noun with meanings including : **4.**(in Great Britain) *a place of worship for members of various dissenting Protestant churches, as Baptists or Methodists* .**9.** *a print shop or printing house.* **10.** *an association of employees in a print shop for dealing with their interests, problems, etc.*

subscription fee. The fee is determined by the number of members in your Chapel. We at Larry Central always work on the honour system.⁵⁶

Incidentally, while Xavier has no interest in Larry Central, Zipporah really cares about the human side of Larryism. She is happy to maintain a monthly column *Zip it with Zippy* through which she shares her thoughts, responds to user concerns and even swaps recipes and music files.

Finally, the wallet-sized version of the tenets on the final page can be folded along the dotted line. A nifty laminated version is available at www.onetruelarry.org.⁵⁷



He might be Buddha but we bet Larry never looks like the alien pictured above.



⁵⁶ All financial transactions with *Larry Central* are fully secure and have a hundred percent money-back guarantee if you fail to be satisfied technically. Sadly, we are unable to provide a similar spiritual refund policy.

⁵⁷ Bulk orders are available at fabulous discounts---well beyond those already available to any LCD.

The Ten Tenets of Larryism (X-HB[©])

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