

Preface

In late 2012, when I was 59 years old, I was told that I was going to lose my job teaching in a Catholic seminary. I had been there some fourteen years, and it was not just a job, but a vocation and a passion finally fulfilled after many years of searching and struggle. I was devastated, and, overnight, seemed to have lost my faith in God. From one moment to the other, when I received the news, it seemed as if I had been given a poison pill and died, and with it, God had disappeared.

After several months, when my fears were coming true –it was very difficult, if not impossible, for a now sixty-year-old man to get a job– I began writing. I wanted to write about my experience, and I did. In the process, I found that I was learning about myself and my positions of faith and religion and the Catholic Church and God. I finished a book which I have entitled *Jacob's Struggle. A Survival Saga*, which has not been published. I could easily publish it on Amazon-Kindle, but I have decided not to, as of yet; it is a very honest story, told with names changed, but the benefits of publishing it right now seem to be outweighed by the cost. And so after finishing it, I decided to start another book, about God.

As it turns out, it is either a booklet, a small book, or a long essay. Either way, it represents my understanding of “God,” presented as an inquiry, a search, an overview, starting from what I learned many years ago from studies in psychology and anthropology, which fascinated me. My approach has been, as with *Jacob's Struggle*, to be very honest and not assume things, but to spell them out, and uncover what their bases are. It is a reflection on God, and it ends with my conclusion regarding the query. In the process, I have grown to understand better what I believe, and have spelt out my areas of continuing struggle.

It is my hope that these relatively few pages will enlighten the way for others. Unlike *Jacob's Struggle*, I put on my professorial hat when I wrote, but seeking to be as clear as possible. Some pages, perhaps many, may seem too pithy, succinct, abstract; perhaps the reader will be indulgent and will read, or think through them, with greater care. That at least is the humble request of the author.

As with most writings, things start getting clearer with time, and as the end of this long essay is approached, it is my hope that the reader will arrive at an understanding of where I have arrived, as humble and undramatic as it may be. If anything, it is my hope that my sincere

attempt at honesty will recommend this book to others. I have been studying and writing about and experiencing God all my life. This account, therefore, should have something to say about the topic. As it helped put my ideas in order, my wish is that it help others do the same.