



"And I saw something else under the sun:
In the place of judgment — wickedness
was there,
in the place of justice — wickedness
was there."

Ecclesiastes 3:16

"These objections that skeptics make to
religious thinking are themselves part of
religious thinking; rather than being
swept under the rug of a seamless
discourse, they are the very motor of that
discourse,

impelling the conflicted questioning of theologians and poets (not to mention Jesus who cried my God my God why have you forsaken me? And every verse of the book of Job)."

Stanley Fish: Philosopher/
literary theorist

"I said to myself,
'God will bring into judgment
both the righteous and the wicked,
for there will be a time for every
activity,
a time to judge every deed.'"

Ecclesiastes 3:17

"Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other.

All have the same breath; humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless. All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?"

Ecclesiastes 3:18-21

"All right," said Susan. "I'm not stupid. You're saying humans need...*fantasies* to make life bearable."

REALLY? AS IF IT WAS SOME KIND OF PINK PILL? NO. HUMANS NEED FANTASY TO BE HUMAN. TO BE THE PLACE WHERE THE FALLING ANGEL MEETS THE RISING APE.

"Tooth fairies? Santa Claus? Little—"

YES. AS PRACTICE. YOU HAVE TO START OUT LEARNING TO BELIEVE THE *LITTLE LIES*.

"So we can believe the big ones?"

YES. JUSTICE. MERCY. DUTY. THAT
SORT OF THING.

"They're not the same at all!"

YOU THINK SO? THEN TAKE THE
UNIVERSE AND GRIND IT DOWN TO
THE FINEST POWDER AND SIEVE IT
THROUGH THE FINEST SIEVE AND
THEN *SHOW* ME ONE ATOM OF
JUSTICE, ONE MOLECULE OF
MERCY.

AND YET— Death waved a hand. AND
YET YOU ACT AS IF THERE IS SOME
IDEAL ORDER IN THE WORLD, AS IF
THERE IS SOME...SOME
RIGHTNESS IN THE UNIVERSE BY
WHICH IT MAY BE JUDGED.

"Yes, but people have *got* to believe that,
or what's the *point*—"
MY POINT EXACTLY."

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more."

Revelation 21:1