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Contents

Introduction	1
Prologue	9
1 The Stirring	13
2 Stranger in the Midst	23
3 Begin with a Single Point	33
4 Expanding World	45
5 Crossroads	57
6 The Coral Reef	71
7 Resonance	85
8 Wisdom From <i>The Keys of Opportunity</i>	97
9 Rejoice!	115
Recommended Reading	119
Research Prize	120

Introduction

 English physicist and mathematician Sir James Jeans once said that the universe was beginning to look, not like a great machine, but rather like a great thought. Much has been presented in a variety of forms about the power of the mind. And “mind” offers such a vast field for exploration! In the last fifty years, some of the world’s best scientists have developed the Anthropic Principle, which examines whether the entire universe was developed in order to produce humans. Could it be possible that—at some time or some level—many other creatures might be so self-centered as to think that his species was the ultimate purpose of the universe because he was not yet able to become aware of more “advanced” or seemingly superior intelligences?

Most of us, on some level of consciousness, desire to

increase our awareness of life and help improve our lives, our thoughts and feelings, our environment. It certainly seems natural for us to want to be aware of what is going on within and around our world. However, as we become more willing to release the personal ego, we open the door to greater discovery. Truly, there is no place we can go where we are not bathed in the infinite sea of creativity. We are free spirits and our minds are not bound to anything unless we think we are.

In the motion picture *The Empire Strikes Back*, Luke Skywalker tries to lift a starfighter out of the muck and mire through the power of his thoughts—and fails. Yoda, the Jedi Master, lifts the starfighter easily. Luke stares at Yoda and says, “I didn’t think it could be done.” Yoda replies, “That is precisely why you couldn’t do it.” Yoda believed in and used the full power of the “Force,” which could be described as the everywhere-present power of God that is within and all around us. If we are not enterprising and open to vast possibilities, our own doubts may defeat us as we struggle to lift ourselves out of the mire of earthly limitations.

Why would the lowly clam be chosen as the primary character for our allegory? Because Columbus Clam can

be representative of our struggles for enlightenment and our resistance to change. Consider the possibility that every minute detail in Columbus Clam's adventure may not precisely correspond to a particular scientific theory or philosophical perspective. However, this story, taken as a simple analogy, may open some possibilities to a questing mind.

Are we often held back by the limitations of our own minds and the narrowness of our cultural experience? We see only dimly the vast unseen, and understand less of the *Creator* who lies behind all creation. We may think we have a fairly good understanding of life and "consciousness." But do we really? If we can imagine the events unfolding in this little reverie, can we also expand our thinking faculty and research the possibility that every atom may be included in infinite Divinity?

Even in this enlightened age of space travel and semi-conductors, the early stages in each onward course of human development often occur through a shadowy twilight, which results in more diligent seeking. Occasionally, the light of illumination touches humankind and we are spurred forward, searching for answers, desiring more awareness of what lies beyond our immediate

perceptions. Have we within us the power to rise above the confusions of our times? Can we be stronger than anything that may distress, grieve, or seem to limit us? So, let's affirm the truth of the great mystery of life with a conscious, deliberate, and powerful research of spiritual reality. Besides, have we not heard that "*with God all things are possible*"? (Matt. 19:26)—even the elevation and evolution of a lowly clam!

We live in a world of change, a world that can sometimes seem to be a stranger and more baffling place than we may have thought. It can certainly be filled with creative surprise, even to the point of generating sentient beings such as ourselves! As we consider the wonders our eyes behold, it is not difficult to sense something incredibly imaginative, purposeful, and powerful taking place. Perhaps in the future it will be possible to describe these wondrous phenomena in far more sophisticated scientific terms. But we are inclined to think that a full scientific description will still elude us, because the true definition will require knowledge of the infinite god of the universe, whose reality we only dimly perceive while he "holds in being" the universe.

So, Dear Reader, may you enjoy this little tale of

anomalies and unlimited possibilities. May it stir the musings of your mind and the quickening of your heart. As we begin to understand our own limitations as finite creatures in a vast universe of infinite complexity and intricacy, perhaps we can be released from our prejudices—whether scientific, philosophical, or religious—and open our minds to discovering more of the great plan of which we are a part.

The nineteenth-century fable *Flatland*, by Edwin Abbott, showed how people of two dimensions imprisoned anyone who mentioned three-dimension realities. Likewise, this *Story of a Clam* helps us see multiple benefits of becoming open-minded.

By every discovery, do humans learn more about the infinity of divinity? By diligence, open-mindedness, and research, can we discover over one hundredfold more about the aspects of infinite divinity than any human has yet known?