

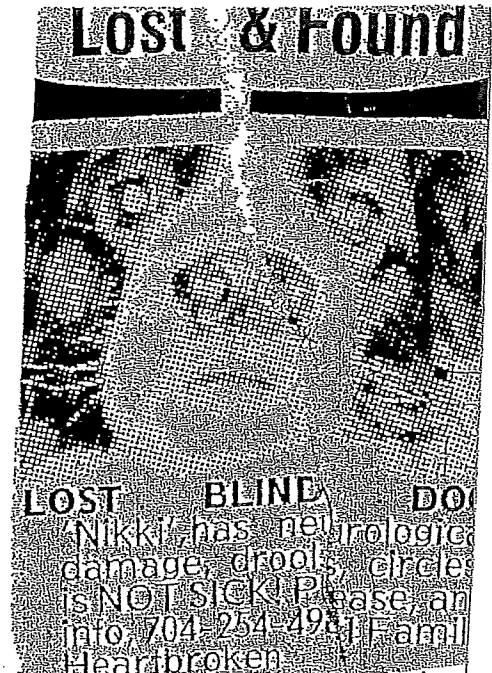
Grace

Christians often seem to define their faith by a list of things they do NOT do. There are a myriad of problems with this. At the very least such an approach makes Christianity seem more like bad news than Good News! One associate, who was proud of the many things he did NOT do, was fond of sharing that he did not smoke, drink, swear, dance or run around with loose women. To which I informed him that although my best friend has that same list of "credentials," I was quite certain that he would not consider him a Christian, even though he consistently points me to God. Curious, my associate asked about my best friend. To which I responded it is "my dog." Most of us recognize these "godly" traits such as faithfulness and loyalty, that are inherent in our furry "best friends." Atheist Bertrand Russell once was asked what he would say to God if confronted by Him in heaven: Russell responded, "I would ask God why he showed so little evidence of His presence." During the Hebrew Passover, the word, Dayenu, "it would have been enough," is spoken in the context of all that God has gifted His people with. This word follows such blessings as the Promised Land; the 10 Commandments; the freedom from slavery and other such dramatic signs of God's Presence. For someone like me, I would add my dog, Dayenu, he truly "is enough" proof of a loving Creator's Presence.

Dog-God-Dayenu

It is enough
 The sight of your half-cocked
 Inquisitive head
 Or your shining eyes or drawn back
 happy ears
 Your desire to please in the ever exuberant
 Never failing, wagging welcome
 Or the sometimes demanding
 Sometimes protecting bark
 So easily quieted with a much cherished
 Pat to the head

It is enough
 That
 You diminish my constant neediness with your instant satisfaction
 In the simplest of pleasures
 For that makes me realize what really
 Is enough
 Your other worldly way of communicating



Impregnating the quiet
Without a word
Is enough

The unconditional way you
Who are so good at laying around
Would without a thought
Lay it all down
For me
That is enough

Enough for me
To know
There must be a God
For only a God could possibly be bold enough to change
And challenge my world
With one such as You.

