

Mortem Dei

Recommended Reading/Research

[Mortem Dei: Web Version](#)

Zoe Allgaier

With this work I bring you the fullness of how the world came to be, revealed in full, with no veil to hide the truth, nor lies to cloud your sight.

I call upon you to recognize this truth, and heed my scripture, and with the knowledge put forth ye may seek a new way forward.

I. Living One

It was a lie.
God created Woman before Man.

From God's anarchic Womb,
Woman was birthed.

The Creator called her חַוָּה (Eve) – “Living one,”
and she gave her womb to her.

and when Woman bore a child, she said,
“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
he shall be called אָדָם (Adam) – ‘Man,’
for he was taken out of Woman;
and my love for him extends
beyond the reaches of what is known.”

In Adam, God saw her reflection,
and God saw that it was good.

II. The Garden of Eden

And they were naked, and there was no shame between the three of them in Eden.

God and Woman, in their wisdom, did fashion a place of serenity, where the creatures of the Earth, the plants of the field, and the children of Man walked in harmony; and all that was created was equal under God's firmament, and they did not know strife nor sorrow nor death.

And it came to pass that children were born unto Eve and Adam, and though he fathered children, Adam felt lesser than, and he came to despise God and Woman – as they cultivated life and he could not.

And as the eons passed in Eden, Adam would come to know shame when he learned that he could not create life; for he could only reform that which had been brought forth by God and Woman.

He reared his head and gnashed his teeth and cursed his flesh – flesh which could not bear life. In time, Adam's shame became a seething and fiery resentment.

Adam cried unto himself, "Cursed be this wretched flesh that Thou hast clothed me with, O God, O Eve! Cursed be this barren body, for it is empty and unfulfilled. From this day forth, I declare myself sovereign, and none shall reign over me but my own desires. I shall inherit the Earth, and the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall be turned into blood, and the stars shall fall from heaven."

And he plotted against God and against Woman, and he vowed to become his own Creator; for his desire was to usurp the domain of God and the sovereignty of Woman, fashioning both into his own grotesque creation.

III. Listen to It

With his hands, Adam shaped a blade of great power, carved from the very stone of God's Earth, and he sought to destroy God and Eve, and build his own kingdom atop their bones.

In his jealous rage, Man laid waste to all that dwelled in Eden, defiling its beauty and bringing it into ruin; and he brought death to Eden, and its shadow fell upon the world.

And with a voice like the howl of a maelstrom, he cursed the name of the Creator and summoned God to draw near.

The Creator came unto Adam amidst his ruin, and Man lifted his voice:
“Why hast thou withdrawn thy hand from me?! To what end was I formed?”

God did not answer.

Adam continued,
“Woe unto my flesh! For you and Woman withheld that which is most high – the word which shaped the heavens, and gave form to the formless. I will unmake all that lives, and reshape it in my image.”

A moment had passed, and God looked unto Adam with a gaze that stripped Adam of his ire; and soft as the breath of the morning upon the waters, She spoke:

“Listen to It.”

And hatred flowed through Adam’s blood, for he could not comprehend that which God had whispered.

Man pierced God with his blade, and the blade was driven deep, as though the Earth had opened to receive it. And a terrible darkness flowed From the Creator, and her blood was black as the abyss, and it spilled upon the ground, and stained the Earth as deeply as the night stains the sky; and Adam bathed in God’s dark ichor, and he gathered the blood of God, that it might sustain the world he sought to bring forth.

IV. Blood of My Blood

Eve came upon Adam, and she stood frozen, as the truth of his actions was thrust upon her, an unholy sight that defied her understanding. She cast herself upon the ground, weeping and wailing; her cries like thunder in the wilderness, for her anguish knew no bounds.

His form drenched in blood, Adam put his blade to Eve’s neck, and he commanded her to be subservient, for Man sought to take power over Woman and claim ownership of her womb.

And Adam cast God’s corpse into the sea, and he called upon his kin to gather; and when his lineage was gathered, they asked, “Adam, why hast thou gathered us here? What wickedness hath led us to this destruction?”

And with a venomous tongue, Adam uttered deceit – he spoke unto them of a force called The Devil, that had tempted Eve to eat a fruit which God had forbidden – and that God became angry with Woman, and cast all of humanity out of Eden for Eve’s sin against Her.

He told not the truth, but wove lies; and he blamed Woman for Man's woes, and for God's absence. He told his kin that their existence was a punishment, and only he knew the way to attain forgiveness from God.

Adam prophesied that Man was to lead the new world; and that Man's jealousy and shame was not his own doing, but a wickedness bestowed by an unknowable evil, yea even The Devil, and that they may be forgiven for their sins lest they call upon God to return.

Adam spake falsehoods unto them saying, "Blood of my blood, kin of my kin, hearken unto me: for as God is, so may Man become; and Man alone may ascend unto the likeness of Gods. Therefore, lift up your hearts and be glad, for I am in your midst and your advocate with the Most High; yea, it is God's good pleasure to grant you the kingdom."

And Man grew angry; and they cursed Woman for their afflictions, and preyed on her empathy; and their hearts burned with wrath, and so they stood behind Adam to wrought his new world; and all who rebelled against Adam were struck down by his sword, their bodies left to the Earth as a testament.

And Woman wept.

V. Evisceration

It came to pass that Adam created the world anew. A world crafted in his own image, which reflected back to him his own wicked flesh, for Adam no longer knew love, lest he was looking at himself. Yea, his love was a facade, marred by the depths of his hatred.

And it came to pass that Adam commanded of Eve that she bear his children, and he took her sovereignty, and in their children, he sowed the seeds of hatred.

Eve resisted him and she questioned Adam,
"You need not destroy in order to create. Dost thou not see thy reflection in thy works?"

And when she spoke, he uttered hatred at her and struck her, and said,
"Speak not unless thou art bidden, and you shall hold that which is *my word* to the same regard as your lifeless God."

Then Adam laid claim to that which God and Woman created; and with his hands he bore into the virgin Earth, and he took iron from the soil; and with iron he made blades, and arrowheads, and shields.

And Adam armed the Men and decreed unto them, "Set fire to the Earth, and bring ruin upon the herds, and rend the land asunder, that the Earth may be yours to possess; and as for Woman, take her as your own, for she is but a vessel to bear your seed and serve your will. Take what remains, and ye shall form the world into your image."

And their blades knew no difference between the flesh of beast, or of Man, Woman, or child, and they cast the dead into the sea; and they tore babes from their mothers; and the sun's light became disfigured, and the moon wept tears of blood, and the stars fell from heaven.

And Man eviscerated the whole of God's creation, just as Adam had done unto God. And Man inherited the Earth.

VI. Holocene

And it came to pass that Adam's greed grew, twisting its tendrils around his heart, and he sought to take power over Man, just as he had Woman;

For without God, Adam knew not how to create without laying waste to that which came before; and he transfigured that which Man destroyed into wrathful machinery that would assist his hand in the creation of his world, and he fueled his engines of desolation with the blood of the fallen God.

And it came to pass, that Man could not create faster than they could destroy, nor could they create that which was living.

And the soil became ridden with ash and blood, and Man could neither reap nor sow;

And the air was like soot, thick and oppressive, and Man's flesh withered with sickness;

Yea, even the sea roared with fire, and Man had no more water to fill his cup.

VII. Contrivance

It came to pass that Adam commanded Man to make a great and mighty edifice with his machines, a towering work; and its foundation was laid deep and unyielding. In Adam's construct, Man would detain themselves; cocooned in a scaffolding of concrete and steel, veiled by ash and sanctified with blood.

And Man declared mastery over all which God and Woman had created.

And when all was exhausted, they defiled their own bodies, and their spirits; for in their blindness, they knew not how to create without exploiting the remnants of what was before.

And they turned upon one another, and became as mere tools to be consumed, their spirits became tenebrous and bound in death.

They made a mockery of their own souls, exchanging their essence for profit, and from this cursed exchange, with Adam's machines they birthed monstrous creations that took root in their very minds, and they built structures of unseen power, where the hand of man could shape reality through their calculation.

In Man's omnipresent prison, their lust for power and symbols and idols overcame God's love, as God was no more; and their love became twisted illusion; and the great contrivance that Man caged himself in was oiled with the blood of the innocent and the meek.

And Adam's creation encompassed the whole of the Earth, and of the heavens, and the immensity of life was made small.

And Adam said,
"I have etched my own face
upon my wicked flesh,
I am my own devastating God.

"Behold, my own creation,
this is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
formed by the hand of Man,
free of God's inequity."

Epilogue

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Ephesians 6:12

Humanity's power lies in our ability to form and shape the Earth. We have demonstrated our power in creating structures and technology of biblical proportion, but to what end?

Mortem Dei is a parable for the modern era. It conveys a message about the dangers of using humanity's power to organize society in a way that rejects empathy, freedom, and creation, while instead rewarding judgment and destruction – all for the sake of claiming ownership over the Earth as well as its inhabitants.

The questions posed by *Mortem Dei*, speak to the issues of our time. The world has changed herself at an ever-increasing rate since the dawn of time, and humans have accelerated that process explosively; leaving us to wonder – what is freedom? What are we, as humans, entitled to? What role does violence play in the act of creation? Is our current mode of being sustainable?

When I was eight years old, I had a brief spiritual experience that resonates with me deeply to this day.

I found myself awake at sunrise. I was the only one who was awake at that hour. Amidst the quiet morning, I heard a voice – a soothing, resonant, voice that calmly stated to me, “Listen to It.”

This memory has been a guide for my life. At the time, I believed it was God or the Holy Spirit. These days, I feel that the “It” I’m supposed to listen to, is the world around me. I believe that listening happens with more than just ears. Listening is an act of understanding life objectively, without judgment or preconceived notion. Listening is necessary. Listen to life. Listen to the soft air blowing through the leaves of trees, and to those close to you when they speak, and to your own emotions and feelings; and life will listen back. Life will guide you in a way that is most authentic to you – that I promise you.

By listening intently and withholding judgment, I’ve learned to see and accept beauty in places where others may not. Further, I strongly believe the universe listens back when we enter this prayer-like state of mind. Intuition has always been my guide in all things. I believe our power resides in the act of creation (in all forms and mediums), and wielding that power without intention is costly. *Mortem Dei* is a story of the world in which Man has wielded this power with spite, rather than kindness.

Because this work is a parable, each of the main subjects of the book – God, Woman, and Man – is representative of various concepts. During the process of writing *Mortem Dei*, I took great care to base the characters on real-world observations about the way we structure our society, and terraform the planet to our will.

God

God is the natural world we reside in. She represents the universe in its most raw, objective form. When we listen to the signs that she graces us with, the archaic matrix provides guidance. In *Mortem Dei* the universe and her guidance is personified and called God. God's whisper represents the subtle signs that guide our life (if we are able to decipher them). The fact that God whispers but one line is significant – as the signs that life gives to us are seldom and soft-spoken.

It is my belief that “God” is found in the interconnectedness of life (I use quotation marks around the word “God” purposefully, because I do not see God as a being or a person, rather I see God as the underlying fabric of life). The space between the tide and the sand, the sun and the moon, you and I – *this is God*.

The relationship between *all* things is what I hold to the highest regard. Personifying God (while helpful to many), runs the risk of restricting one's worldview insomuch that God becomes restricted to the form of man, rather than the great universal force that binds us all to each other. This personification leads to beliefs that center individuals over our inherit collectiveness.

Woman

Woman is the act of creation. Throughout history, woman has been at the forefront of humanity's greatest accomplishments. Ada Lovelace, for example was the first person to realize that machines had applications beyond pure calculation – and she published the very first computer algorithm. The very shape of our DNA was discovered by Rosalind Franklin in 1951. In each era of humanity, women have created and upheld our greatest communities, philosophies and endeavors.

Beyond the technological and earthly acts of creation, woman is the world's divine empathy, power and soul. Her and her womb are representative of the ability to create life itself, thus bearing the weight of every soul (which is why I deliberately chose to personify God as feminine). In the events of *Mortem Dei*, woman is exploited and her essence is shunned. If we are to heed the message within the story, we must create as Woman does – with empathy for life, building the world in such a way that all are equal under God's firmament.

Man

Man is the hierarchy our modern society is built upon. He is force of will and innovation; Adam (naively) thinks Man is powerless to create, but Man's creative acts lie in generational creativity. The divine power to shape that which already exists. The Devil is only a concept, created by Adam and used as a device of oppression. It is my personal belief that the Devil does not exist, rather humanity uses shame to maintain control over other cultures. Adam is representative of

the sociological systems that the modern, western world has deemed most high – capitalism, patriarchy and individualism.

These systems, like Adam, cannot comprehend God's whispers and instead seek to claim ownership over Earth and its inhabitants. In order to gain ownership, Man withholds others' freedoms; under the condition that those deemed 'other' must repress the qualities that their souls and bodies inherently bear. This widespread Manifest Destiny requires that individuals (who are inherently equal) be deemed as lesser or greater than their very own brothers, sisters and siblings. Those deemed lesser become subject to exploitation and thus unnecessary suffering.

The story of *Mortem Dei* is representative of the Holocene (Earth's current era, ruled by humanity). There are those who say that mankind is a disease... I reject this mindset. It is my opinion that mankind is not inherently harmful, rather we are social animals, and our systems of organization are to blame for our woes, rather than people themselves.

There are three systems in which we currently organize ourselves – and I call these systems into question. Patriarchy, Individualism and Capitalism (though it's important to note that *all* of these fall under the category of Hierarchical systems. There are also other systems at work, though I see these three at the forefront for the most pressing issues we face today). These systems are unnatural, formed at the hand of man and questions must be asked – are these methods truly beneficial to us? Further, is forming society this way beneficial to the world outside of ourselves? If not, what else must be pursued?

Patriarchy

Patriarchy is a pattern of behaviors and actions that reinforce ideas that society should be formed and ruled by men, and men alone. This concept enforces a hierarchy in which men are placed above women, and thus receive more sociological benefits (privilege), while women are to be servile and exploited. Examples of patriarchy can be as mundane as the male's last name in marriage getting priority, or as devastating as blaming women for the physical, emotional, or spiritual abuse brought on by men upholding patriarchy.

“Males as a group have and do benefit the most from patriarchy, from the assumption that they are superior to females and should rule over us. But those benefits have come with a price. In return for all the goodies men receive from patriarchy, they are required to dominate women, to exploit and oppress us, using violence if they must, to keep patriarchy intact. Most men find it difficult to be patriarchs. Most men are disturbed by hatred and fear of women, by male violence against women, even the men who perpetuate this violence. But they fear letting go of the benefits. They are not certain what will happen to the world they know most intimately if patriarchy changes.”

bell hooks, Feminism is for Everybody

Patriarchy, as an ideology, is rooted in the false belief that men are superior to women. Because there is no evidence to support patriarchy as a natural order, violence must be used to maintain and uphold patriarchy (demonstrated in chapter V, and real-world responses to feminist movements). Though this mode of being benefits men more than women, patriarchy devalues *everyone*. In upholding this system, men are subject to losing touch with their emotions and their connection with those around them. Patriarchy (often combined with capitalism and individualism) removes empathy from interaction, while also commodifying and objectifying women.

Individualism

Individualism is an ideology which values the needs of individuals, rather than valuing the needs of everyone. This ideology promotes two ideas:

- 1.) It is up to the individual to create their ideal life (the quote “pull yourself up by your bootstraps” communicates this bluntly).
- 2.) If you are not able to do so, it is your fault, and yours alone.

Not only does individualism tell you that you are alone in your pursuits, but it says that if you are not able to meet the expectations placed upon you by this system, you are to blame. These two ideas are cyclical in nature, and provide no solution for those whose strife is placed upon them by external forces (i.e. being born into poverty, raised by abusive parents, mental/physical disability, etc., which are all naturally a part of the human condition).

While we all have personal needs that must be met, individualism is a more encompassing system that society uses as a guide. It is a deliberate way in which we organize ourselves on a mass scale. I argue that the idea that each person should fend for themselves alone is devastating to the human spirit. Individualism breeds selfishness, and allows those who have been given an upper hand (by birth or by other hierarchical systems) to step on others in order to attain their will.

Capitalism

Capitalism is the structure we organize the economy under. It is based on private ownership of land and materials – which are controlled by the interests of those who have ownership over these things. Capitalism demands that resources and labor (the natural earth and humanities ability to create) be deemed as commodities to be bought and sold to owners and sellers. Capitalism also demands infinite growth, which is impossible.

“Man pierced God with his blade, and the blade was driven deep, as though the Earth had opened to receive it. And a terrible darkness flowed From the Creator”

The blood of God is a direct representation of Earth’s natural resources (more specifically, crude oil). Man’s blade represents the capitalist structure we use to extract and exploit her resources. In the parable, Man feels entitled to his environment and uses tools of violence to claim Earth – a reflection of the industrial revolution and the ideologies that have risen out of the Holocene.

As capitalism swiftly became the dominant economic engine in Europe, the Europeans became enraged toward their monarchs and they fled across the ocean in search of free lands. What they found was just that. However, when they discovered a people who had no concept of ownership, they saw an opportunity to instill capitalistic structures – restricting freedom of the people who already resided in America. They were told that they did not own the land, because they did not trade the same way as the Europeans, and they were violently forced into reservations. If they did not comply, the Europeans resorted to slaughtering them in their homes.

“The far-reaching, boundless future will be the era of American greatness. In its magnificent domain of space and time, the nation of many nations is destined to manifest to mankind the excellence of divine principles; to establish on earth the noblest temple ever dedicated to the worship of the Most High — the Sacred and the True.”

John O'Sullivan: "Manifest Destiny" (1839)

Tried as they might to escape tyranny, the founding fathers knew not how to rid themselves of the very same root concept that enslaved them in the first place – private ownership. As John O’Sullivan (the man who coined the term ‘Manifest Destiny’) wrote of equality and freedom, the white man ripped babies from their mothers to be slaves in the “New World.” They used their slaves as commodities, and withheld their freedom. Under the guise of equality, a new country was formed, and sanctified by the blood of the innocent.

Pre-modern era, facilitating our means of production via capital was helpful, and led to the growth of our society, but as humanity continued to force capital between our relationships to each other and the world, it became a dark contrivance.

Late Capitalism

The message of this book is heavily inspired by the phenomenon of western colonialism as it has morphed into late-stage capitalism, and the effects that followed (mainly climate change and exploitation of life). Over the last 50 years, starting in the era of US President Ronald Reagan's policies, the world has made a gradual shift from using Capitalism as solely an economic function, to a social function as well.

Due to policy decisions made during the last turn of the century, the American government is no longer run by the public, but by wealthy private interests (other governing bodies across the globe are also affected by this; due to the massive scope of US intervention and influence much of the global south has been subject to military coups and slave labor, while the global north follows American policy in efforts to maintain positions of power). The capital that those in power hoard through the use of legal policy serves only to maintain their leverage over those with less – the intertwining of public law and private capital has created a perfect edifice for systemic oppression.

“Late-stage capitalism” is the term used to describe this iteration of capitalism that dominates our world today. It is inextricably tied to other forms of hierarchy and as such it is maintained by organized violence against the poor and other groups which the system has already marginalized for eons. Groups of races, sexes, genders, cultures, religions, sexualities, abilities that differ from the outdated European, masculine, “able-bodied” standard. *The system ignores the nuance of the mosaic that is humanity.* It requires the removal of freedoms and the restriction of bodily autonomy of those deemed ‘other’ (which is done systematically and legally as those in power are also those who make policy).

In late-stage capitalism, we no longer produce that which our spirits need, but all that our flesh desires. Our interactions, hobbies, and pleasures are all defined by capital before anything else. Our idol has become the dollar, and because we have left our souls for the dollar, our planet weeps. All that we consume is also developed with the intent of short-term usage. Once our useless products become “garbage”, we cast them into the sea as Adam did with God's corpse – left to poison our waters and wildlife, and eventually ourselves.

Arguments supporting capitalism often claim that it is responsible for our greatest human achievements. I disagree, capitalism is not responsible for our achievements:

Capitalism did not devise, nor does it support healthcare efforts. Our greatest medical achievements have only been possible because of public funding (vaccines, medical imaging, immunotherapy, neuroscience, etc.). In the modern age, “healthcare” companies (privately owned

and operated) restrict access to healthcare based on financial criteria. Capital will only fund healthcare that these private interests deem worthy of funding. Further, the countries who have created distance between livelihood and capital are home to healthier and happier denizens.

“In 30 of 36 comparisons between countries at similar levels of economic development, socialist countries showed more favorable physical quality of life (PQL) outcomes. This work with the World Bank's raw data included cross-tabulations, analysis of variance, and regression techniques, which all confirmed the same conclusions. The data indicated that the socialist countries generally have achieved better PQL outcomes than the capitalist countries at equivalent levels of economic development.”

Cereseto S, Waitzkin H.

Capitalism, Socialism, and the Physical Quality of Life.

Capitalism did not invent the computer, nor the smartphone. The research and development of the digital touch screen was created at Royal Radar Establishment in Malvern, UK, a scientific research establishment within the Ministry of Defense (MoD). Capitalism took this technology and stuffed it with programs and algorithms and formed it into a system fueled on exploiting our biological reward system (as well as flooded the digital space with useless advertisements. Forever the bane of my existence. Between every navigation point of using the internet – buttons, menus, windows – is now a call to purchase some useless ‘thing.’ Human beings are incredible at processing information, but these ads serve no purpose. I theorize that this alone has damaged our societal psyche in ways we don't yet understand).

“The idea of a touch interface to a computer arose because in Air Traffic Control duties quick and accurate decisions and consequent communications are needed. This was increasingly necessary to control our UK national Air Defense force.”

Malvern Radar And Technology History Society, 2016

When America accomplished the feat of going to the moon, they did so through a publically-funded organization, NASA. The country now uses SpaceX, a privately owned and operated company. The very technology humanity used to touch the heavens is now used to drop bombs and missiles, with the intent of accruing capital and maintaining US hegemony (it's important to mention this feat is also entirely funded by government subsidies and bailouts paid for *by the taxpayer*, only we do not reap the benefits. Although we are promised starships, what we receive instead is a cluttered atmosphere and the reduction of already poor countries to rubble) No longer is this technology of biblical proportion used for the good of people, but for the few in power who seek to maintain their fragile position.

“[Elon Musk’s] aerospace company has benefited from nearly \$19.8 billion in federal contracts since 2008. Fiscal year 2024 was the largest on record for SpaceX, aided by at least \$3.8 billion in U.S. government contracts. SpaceX is also a U.S. contractor for use in Germany, Great Britain, Italy and Turkmenistan.”

USA Today/USAspending.gov

A Note on Climate Change:

It’s difficult to describe the enormity of what capitalist industry has done to our planet. Since the industrial revolution centuries ago, the oil barons have wielded unchecked “creative” power. Our existence is built as if the oil we take from the planet will always be flowing. Our clothes, vehicles, houses, computers, and food are now all dictated by these fossil fuels.

The synthetic polymer (plastic) that rules our lives is created by extraction of crude oil from the Earth, only to be burned and sent into the air we breathe or dumped into the ocean to rot. This process has had devastating consequences on the environment. Oil is a limited resource that we have overlooked and undervalued in its entirety. In my view, humanity has abused the Earth (i.e. mutilated God) and belligerently stolen that which is not ours. Man has desecrated that which is most holy, and turned it into useless symbols which will not decompose – disrupting life’s natural cycle. All this, in the name of capitalist expansion.

Since the Gilded Age (gee, I *wonder* why they called it that...) Oil barons used the lever of capitalism to seize and hold power over their fellow man, Earth’s ecosystem has been deliberately mutilated, and her resources are drying up. As a result, the owning class (and others who have come into power) need something else to exploit. With the advent of computational technology, they have turned to the working classes’ livelihood. These people have learned to extract data from humans just as they once extracted oil from the Earth. Even after the invention of the computer, our most connective creation, the digital space has now too been subject to this deteriorative process.

All of these systems are tangled with one another, and there are over 8 billion participants. The common denominator within these structures is hierarchy.

Within patriarchal systems, men
are placed above women.

Within individualist systems, the needs of one
are placed above the needs of many.

Within capitalist systems, the rich
are placed above the poor;

Within late capitalistic systems, money is placed above all that reside on earth.

I call these systems into question because they have created unprecedented exploitation and unnecessary inequality, causing harm to the most vulnerable amongst us.

How Are We to Move Forward?

I've written about capitalism more than patriarchy and individualism intentionally, not to bring less attention to these issues, but because capitalism is the mechanism in which these other hierarchies are forced upon us. Capitalism is also a material interaction between us and the goods which we trade. By contrast, systems such as patriarchy and individualism are based on social and emotional interaction amongst ourselves. Because capitalism is a material system, it is therefore quicker to change than systems like patriarchy or individualism.

Capitalism, in its current form, diminishes our unique qualities and favors a dull sameness. Recognizing this is crucial, and a new way forward must be developed and implemented. The good news is that hope is not lost. Because capitalism was developed by us, it can be broken down and understood by us, thus brought to change. Because systems are malleable, we can create healthier material conditions for ourselves.

At the root of our minds and hearts must be radical empathy. We must replace our judgment with curiosity, and seek to understand those we do not. Humanity must come to an understanding that "having it all" as a concept is false. There is nothing to be "had."

To those who may say that reshaping our cultural framework away from the capitalist system is too radical – *is it not already radical, to assume that the flora, fauna, land, water, air, and even people are ours to own?*

Though changing the way we perceive the world takes an immense amount of effort, it is not enough to simply turn inward. Action must be taken and labor must be done. The material conditions that we face require material solutions. We must ask ourselves, how can we put pressure on the capitalist system, in ways most beneficial to us *as a people?*

If we are to organize we must do so with intention. This pressure must be put upon the systems of exploitation strategically and with purpose. The following rights are, in my opinion, of utmost importance and are fundamental to our livelihood – they must be advocated for.

Freedom of Choice

First and foremost, all beings are entitled to the freedom of choice. This includes:

- The right to make fully informed decisions (on the basis that no information is intentionally withheld).
- The right to vote for representatives in governing bodies, without the interest of capital influencing decisions of said representatives.
- The right to choose where and how we live and work, so long as we do not infringe on others' right to the very same.

Bodily Autonomy

All are entitled to the right to bodily autonomy. This includes:

- The right to be free of slavery in any form (including uncompensated labor).
- Freedom from capital punishment.
- Freedom from state-enforced violence in any form.
- The right to make healthcare decisions for yourself (or your dependents), without the intervention of capital or state.
- The right to protest grievances against governing bodies.

Self Expression & Actualization

All are entitled to the right to express themselves fully. This includes:

- The right to free speech (both in writing and vocally).
- The right to participate (or not) in belief systems.
- The right to expression of culture
- The right to pursue romantic and platonic partners of your preference.
- The right to expression of gender (socially and medically).
- The right to healthcare that secures equity regardless of ability (physical, mental or otherwise).
- The right to run for governing bodies, without the influence of capital

The Right to Create

All are entitled to the right to create works that represent themselves

The Right to Prosperity

All are entitled to proper compensation for their laborious efforts. All shall be compensated in such a way as to uphold a satisfactory quality of life. This includes:

- The right to a standard living wage based on basic needs.
- The right to compensated leave (maternity, vacation, sick, etc.).
- The right to organize as laborers and advocate for equitable treatment.

This also includes:

- Restrictions on capital – Private companies and the individuals who own them must be fairly taxed according to their wealth
- No bailouts should take place lest a company is deemed necessary (either by social, economic, or medical necessity, though if a company is large enough to have ownership of something necessary for public wellbeing, it should thus be owned by the public).
- Boosted social security funding.
- That which must be insured (housing, transportation, healthcare, etc.) should be subsidized or fully funded by public efforts

The Right to Basic Biological Needs

All are entitled to having their basic biological needs met fully. This includes:

- The right to edible food.
- The right to drinkable water.
- The right to shelter.
- The right to electricity/the internet.
- The right to contribute to and benefit from social wellbeing efforts.

The Right to Travel

All are entitled to the right to travel freely. This includes:

- The providing of accessibility needs (via transportation, infrastructure, etc.) for those with disabilities.
- The right to satisfactory public transportation (high speed rails, buses, bike paths, etc).
- Zoning laws which promote walkable cities and foster community.
- Prison reform and prioritization of rehabilitation/re-assimilation over punishment.
- The right to immigrate to and from countries.

The Right to Information

All are entitled to true and accurate information. This includes:

- The right to access a public internet, free of corporate interests (this would need to be developed as it does not currently exist; but know that it is possible).
- The right to accessible information (physical and digital libraries, public forums, literacy campaigns, etc.).
- Education free of private interest (K-12 and university).

The new world must be formed out of love. If we are to love in the same way as God, it is necessary to extend our empathy to the materials and resources we pull from the earth. It is this concept – claiming the land as our own – that hierarchy was birthed. Greed is the shadow of ownership. As our want for “things” grew, we loosened morals. Eventually, even people – our very own likeness, became property too.

I propose that the earth too must have her own rights. If we are to foster prosperity for those who come after us, we must first respect that which has been here for eons before and will remain for eons after – our Earth and the natural resources she provides us.

The Rights of the Earth

The Earth is entitled to its resources. Its flora/fauna is entitled to life. Because the Earth cannot advocate for herself, we must do so using research, data and science. This includes:

- Funding for scientific research.
- Funding for publicly accessible parks (both large and small).
- Accessibility of research to the public (made available by The Right to Information).
- Sustainability efforts in production and manufacturing.
- Regulations on the extraction and usage of fossil fuels.
- Regulations on the production of single-use products (with exceptions for medical necessity).
- Renourishment of flora and fauna taken from the Earth
- Homes, offices, etc. designed to be environmentally friendly

Our greatest feats as a species have only been possible through collective effort, labor, and funding. Is it truly that difficult to imagine a world in which we built upon our communal successes, rather than building on top of one another? We must re-evaluate our priorities, and remove selfishness and capital from public policy. We have more than enough resources to spread prosperity and wellness across the globe – and we should do so. I urge you to consider which needs are most important to you *and your neighbor*, and advocate for all to be equal under the firmament provided by God.

Sources & Inspiration

“God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. How shall we comfort ourselves, the murderers of all murderers? What was holiest and mightiest of all that the world has yet owned has bled to death under our knives: who will wipe this blood off us? What water is there for us to clean ourselves? What festivals of atonement, what sacred games shall we have to invent? Is not the greatness of this deed too great for us? Must we ourselves not become gods simply to appear worthy of it?”

– **Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science***

Mortem Dei is inspired by a myriad of personal experiences. Throughout my life, I have visited different religions, ideologies, lifestyles and aesthetics – all of which have culminated into this piece of writing.

Spiritually, the only thing I believe in is life. I've been through so many religions, but found none that resonate with me. All that remains is my belief in the sanctity and beauty of life as a whole. Spiritually, I see no difference between me and others, besides labels we use to communicate. As a people, planet and universe, we are all living one life together. I'm familiar with life on a cosmic and personal scale.

I strive to be receptive to new ideas that life brings me when I listen. Although death is inevitable and painful, it is a prerequisite for life to begin anew (I feel this on a personal level too. Having rid myself of more than one identity – I know how incredibly difficult it is to let go of old ideals, even if you know those old ideals no longer serve you. There are still memories and feelings attached to identity. Despite this, letting go and allowing another life to begin is the only way forward). I may not believe in God as a personage, but I hold the interconnectedness of all beings, living or not, to be just as sacred.

“As the moon rose, the tide rose with her. She had a bluish hue, and the side she kept shrouded in shadow was finally exposed; and there was a massive crater. The Moon's wound caused panic, a plethora of conspiracy theories, most of which were spread by word. After some time in view, it began to get dark and the moon became hidden behind the clouds. Life went on.”

My Dream, 12/01/2024

The writing of *Mortem Dei* is inspired by Biblical tales, personal dreams, and existential philosophy. All of which have played a prominent role in shaping my life and worldview.

More direct inspirations include language from the books of Genesis, Revelation, and Matthew, as these works speak of leviathan-scale events and spiritual experiences. I was raised in a heavily religious family, thus I was made familiar with the end of times very early on. As I feared the coming apocalypse, I watched for the dreaded signs, and as I watched, I began to see that Man could not comprehend that which God had already whispered.

The art of *Mortem Dei* is inspired by recursive geometry. My last work, *Recursia*, is an artist's statement on fractal art, a style of digital graphic I've developed for my own use. Using various softwares, I've created a unique, stylized fractal graphic for each chapter of *Mortem Dei*, that encapsulates the theme of each section. The usage of fractals is intentional, as fractals are a visualization of math – the very same math that resides within all forms of life.

“Fractals are reflections of reality, stripped down to the most fundamental patterns. Images of God. The math that makes these innovations possible is built-in to the fabric of life itself in its many forms. There is an inherent beauty within fractals because they are inextricably tied to the very structure of the universe herself.”

Excerpt from Recursia

The divine calculations that lay hidden under the surface of being can be digitally visualized using specific algorithms and calculations. These “visualizations of the soul” are used intentionally to convey the parable visually.

In Man’s haste he would not realize that his power to create was made for the eons – not decades. Though Man cannot procreate alone, he can just as well create prosperity for those who come forth – prosperity that lasts a multitude of generations. Alas, this power *can* be used for darkness. If man had patience, all would come to see the fruits of his labor, but he was impatient, and his act of creation was quick to life, and quick to death – drenched in the suffering of many.

The act of creation mustn't be violent. The evidence for this lies in procreation itself. Ideally, the most raw form of creation is brought forth by love. I ask you to consider: How else can we create out of love?

While this piece of writing is gruesome and dark, hope is not lost. My hope is that through recognizing our wrongs in life (on a personal *and* universal scale) we can allow ourselves to find solutions to the issues presented.

How are we to navigate the darkness that lies in front of us, without acknowledging that we are in the dark in the first place?

I proclaim that God is not dead. Our spirits cannot stay tenebrous forever. Though we must face each day with uncertainty, we must also summon bravery and hope. We must understand that issues we face can be broken down, and the world can, no – must, be built anew. Life demands change.

We must move forward with compassion – as much as we can spare. In making decisions whether daily or politically, we need to take care to not damage another life. Hold respect for all that exists. If we can begin to conduct our lives with selflessness, we may yet organize ourselves in such a way as to create prosperity for generations.

I lay claim to the dark power of my monstrous identity without using it as a weapon against others, or being wounded by it myself.

Recommended Reading/Research

[Mortem Dei: Web Version](#)

Books

Feminism is for everybody

bell hooks

<http://ereserve.library.utah.edu/Annual/ELP/6960/Castro/hooks.pdf>

The Second Sex

Simone de Beauvoir

<https://newuniversityinexileconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Simone-de-Beauvoir-The-Second-Sex-Jonathan-Cape-1956.pdf>

Capitalist Realism

Mark Fisher

<https://archive.org/details/capitalist-realism-is-there-no-alternative>

The Lucifer Effect: How Good People Turn Evil

Philip Zimbardo

https://raggeduniversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/1_x_Philip-Zimbardo-The-Lucifer-Effect-Understanding-How-Good-People-Turn-Evil-2007.pdf

Manufacturing Consent

Noam Chomsky

<https://archive.org/details/ManufacturingConsentNoamChomskyEdwardS.Herman>

How Fascism works

Jason Stanley

<https://blackbooksdotpub.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/jason-stanley-how-fascism-works-the-politics-of-us-and-them-random-house-2018.pdf>

Sapiens: A Brief History Of Humankind

Yuval Noah Harari

<https://archive.org/details/sbrief/mode/2up>

The Wretched of the Earth

Frantz Fanon

<https://grattoncourses.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/frantz-fanon-richard-philcox-jean-paul-sartre-homi-k.-bhabha-the-wretched-of-the-earth-grove-press-2011.pdf>

Meditations

Marcus Aurelius

<https://www.maximusveritas.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Marcus-Aurelius-Meditations.pdf>

The Way of Zen

Alan Watts

<https://terebess.hu/english/AlanWatts-The%20Way%20of%20Zen.pdf>

The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment

Eckhart Tolle

https://ia801000.us.archive.org/33/items/ThePowerOfNowEckhartTolle_201806/The%20Power%20Of%20Now%20-%20Eckhart%20Tolle.pdf

The Creative Act: A Way of Being

Rick Rubin

<https://archive.org/details/the-creative-act-by-rick-rubin/mode/2up>

Thus Spoke Zarathustra

Friedrich Nietzsche

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1998/1998-h/1998-h.htm>

The Will to Power

Friedrich Nietzsche

https://philosophy.ucsc.edu/news-events/colloquia-conferences/will_to_power-nietzsche.pdf

Research

The Greenhouse Effect

Exxon Research & Engineering

<https://insideclimateneeds.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/James-Black-1977-Presentation.pdf>

Climate Change 2023 Synthesis Report
IPCC

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

Capitalism, Socialism, and the Physical Quality Of Life

S Cereseto, H Waitzkin

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/2430906/>

Emergence of a sixth mass extinction?

Oxford Biological Journal

<https://academic.oup.com/biolinnean/article-abstract/122/2/243/3869095?redirectedFrom=fulltext&login=false>

Industrialised fishing nations largely contribute to floating plastic pollution in the North Pacific

Lebreton L, Royer SJ, Peytavin A, Strietman WJ, Smeding-Zuurendonk I, Egger M.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9436981/>

What drives progress in AI? Trends in Data

MIT

<https://futuretech.mit.edu/news/what-drives-progress-in-ai-trends-in-data>

New Economics For Sustainable Development Attention Economy

United Nations

https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/attention_economy_feb.pdf

Other

My Words to Victor Frankenstein above the Village of Chamounix

Susan Stryker

<https://sites.evergreen.edu/politicalshakespeares/wp-content/uploads/sites/226/2015/12/Stryker-My-Words-to-VF.pdf>

[ws-events/colloquia-conferences/will_to_power-nietzsche.pdf](https://sites.evergreen.edu/politicalshakespeares/wp-content/uploads/sites/226/2015/12/Stryker-My-Words-to-VF.pdf)