

My last testament version 2 dated 23 February 2025

Tracked changes from [Version 1 dated 31 May 2011](#)

People make wills. I don't see the need for one, yet. But there is something I do want to leave behind: a few thoughts, for whatever these may be worth. The audience for this testament is: first, my family, for which a private section is included; and second, everyone else, particularly all children today and of the future.

Why this urge to write a last testament? ~~I know that~~ I might well live another ~~thirty fifty~~ years ~~b-or more~~. But it seemed important to say a few things ~~– in a timely manner~~, and what better time ~~for that~~ than now? Should opportunity permit, I'll ~~will~~ update ~~this testament~~ through later versions.

I'd like to add that my draft manuscript, [Discovery of Freedom](#) includes more extensive thoughts on broadly similar topics. Once ~~it is~~ finished, it should be appended to this testament.

* * *

Mine have been arduous enterprises, almost quixotic. My goal of promoting liberty in India and the world seems to be going nowhere, or at least has not gone anywhere ~~far, so far to date~~. Spending effort on enterprises that yield no visible fruit perhaps calls for an explanation.

~~But As~~ this testament will suggest, ~~such the~~ explanation is strikingly simple. ~~Two I seek two~~ things ~~above all explain it: a search for knowledge of the~~ **truth** and ~~the~~ pursuit of the **right action**. These two lodestars ~~have guided~~ my free actions. This ~~approach~~ rules out compromise with falsehood and evil. Hence.

I hope ~~everything that's all is very~~ clear now. ...

But let me elaborate.

1. One family

Let me at the outset confirm that you, my dear children, were not born for my sake – nor I born for yours (much as you might like to think that to be the case). My children by birth are inordinately dear to me, but I have never for once forgotten that we *all* – all of us – are the progeny of one common ancestor, the first human – whose uniquely human traits are encoded in each cell in our body. Each of us is connected in an unbroken chain that leads to that one ancestor. We are **one family**.

~~Biologically “any two peoples' genomes are, on average, ~99.6% identical and ~0.4% different”.~~¹ Your commonality with others far exceeds ~~any possible~~ differences. That's ~~is~~ why a medicinal drug has the same effect on you as it has on any other human. That is why you experience the same emotion as others experience when you read a great novel or watch a great movie. Not just physically, ~~therefore~~, we are virtually identical ~~even~~ mentally, with similar hopes and dreams. We should bear this in mind even as we (must) assert our individual sovereignty.

Because you, my children, are human (the highest being in the universe), I have never indoctrinated you in any religion or culture nor tried to give you an identity beyond what you are

¹ <https://www.genome.gov/about-genomics/educational-resources/fact-sheets/human-genomic-variation>

already born with. This *foundational equality* among all humans leads us to the concept of equal freedom in which no one has a ~~claims to-of~~ superiority over others, no one has a 'divine right' to tell others what to say, do, or believe in.

In this world of equal humans, only our works and contributions distinguish us from others. These contributions are determined by our thoughts; and that's what is so important. ~~That's what makes us achieve the true potential of being human.~~

Parents ~~therefore~~ have only one key role – to develop in their children a capacity to think. This is best done indirectly, preferably through example, but also by creating for ~~the them-children the~~ opportunities to learn to think.

2. Critical thinking

You are fortunate, dear children, to be alive in a world where the risk of death from disease and war is much smaller than it ~~ever was; in the past before~~. While unknowns are increasing because we now have access to many instruments and tools (~~such as nuclear technology~~) ~~that have-with~~ both good and bad uses, the actual risks to life ~~are continue trend downward actually reducing~~.

Unfortunately, we haven't ~~not been able to dealt~~ effectively with a major source of uncertainty ~~in human life~~: that which arises from human bigotry and ignorance. ~~For instance, T~~the catastrophic consequences of nuclear technology falling into ~~the~~ bigoted hands are too severe to mention. While having more tools ~~to operate for our benefit~~ is good, not ~~having an assurance being able to assure ourselves~~ that these tools will only be used for the advancement of humanity, is a problem.

The continued existence of bigotry ~~is can be attributed~~ ~~able~~ at least in part to the almost universal failure of our education systems which tend to load students with 'knowledge' but forget to teach them to think. Knowledge, however, ~~no matter how useful;~~ is ~~only merely~~ incidental to the fundamental purposes of education.

Most teachers have never learnt to think, so naturally they can't teach others to think. Another problem is the increasing tendency to be politically correct; and thus to avoid hard questions. But in the search for the truth, nothing should be out of bounds. Education must fortify our minds and develop in us a capacity to question everyone, *including ourselves*. We must particularly welcome those who question us, for ~~the that's yet another~~ opportunity ~~it provides to review and assess evaluate the veracity of~~ our ideas.

While it is relatively easy to question others, it is ~~much~~ harder to question ~~ourselves oneself~~, and ~~even harder~~ to welcome – as our benefactors – those who question us. But adopting such an ~~open~~ approach is necessary ~~in if we want to our search for get to~~ the truth. Without hard questioning – often deemed by some to be disrespectful and disdainful of established 'authorities' – bigotry can't be eliminated.

I'm not sure whether disregard for the truth is increasing, but there sure is great disregard, and impatience with those who ask questions. But ~~we must not be cowed down by just because someone has managed to those with obtain a particular~~ formal qualifications or even multiple Nobel prizes, ~~for such things do not make a person all-knowing doesn't make that person all-knowing~~. As ~~such~~ formal qualifications and 'awards' become more widespread, ~~it seems that many of these purportedly~~ 'all-knowing' people ~~strut about as if they are above questioning. Be~~

not bothered by anyone's qualifications. Just ask if something doesn't make sense. As Buddha said: are less inclined to be questioned:

Do not believe something just because it has been passed along and retold for many generations. Do not believe something merely because it has become a traditional practice. Do not believe something simply because it is well-known everywhere. Do not believe something just because it is cited in a text. Do not believe something solely on the grounds of logical reasoning. Do not believe something merely because it accords with your philosophy. Do not believe something because it appeals to 'common sense'. Do not believe something just because you like the idea. Do not believe something because the speaker seems trustworthy. Do not believe something thinking, 'This is what our teacher says'.²

This open-minded approach towards the truth has many implications. It leads, for instance, directly to a view that everything is merely work in progress, not a finished product. This approach leads to freedom, humility, and tolerance, in which —, given our limited mastery over the truth —, we are willing to expose our ideas to perpetual scrutiny.

The nature of the truth

A truth must be self-evident upon the undertaking of appropriate analysis. It must be as inevitable as water flowing downhill. A genuine truth does not require 'belief'. We don't have to 'believe' in gravity, nor do we have to 'believe' in our own existence. Further, the truth is robust to any number of questions being asked about its nature. Questions don't change its properties, no matter how many times it is tested.

This line of reasoning gives us the necessary tools to test claims about a truth, basically that it can be questioned from all possible angles; and always result in exactly the same properties. This applies to everything, including claims about God. The idea of God, for instance, should be possible to test from all angles; and we should all come to exactly the same conclusion each time. (Since this hasn't happened yet, something is amiss with the God concept of God, but which I'll touch upon it later.)

Scientists advance the frontiers of human knowledge by proposing a range of plausible hypotheses (not 'beliefs') and testing these diligently for internal and empirical consistency. Thousands, if not millions of false hypotheses have fallen by the wayside over the centuries. When that happens, 'extremist scientists' don't take out the sword and kill off those who don't 'believe' in their failed hypotheses. When Einstein was proved wrong (he found the universe is expanding, contrary to his earlier suggestion), he did not take out his gun (if any) and shoot everyone who disagreed with him. He merely changed his mind.

Being only human, however, scientists are not exempt from an unconscious desire to distort the truth in their favour of their preferred belief. Two areas come to mind: string theory and climate 'science'. The common characteristics of these political areas, where the truth is often a casualty, are (a) the complexity involved, and (b) the absence-absence or difficulty of defining of clearly falsifiable hypotheses. Under these circumstances, speculation tends to parade as the 'truth'. The truth, however, is never speculative. It is always empirical, it can be repeatedly

² Kālāma Sutta, Anguttara Nikaya, Vol 1, 188-193 – [<http://oaks.nvg.org/kalama.html>]

tested, ~~i-~~It is ~~in that sense~~ eternal. And ~~just~~ because it is ~~now~~ discovered ~~now~~ doesn't mean it was not true prior to its discovery.

Further, ~~the a~~ truth exists regardless of the number of people who 'believe' in it. Human belief doesn't make a falsehood true. The seeker ~~therefore~~ does not count the number of his 'followers' (he needs none). All he wants is to incrementally advance his own understandings of the truth. The urge to indoctrinate anyone never crosses his mind. He is pretty relaxed ~~as part of this journey~~ for he knows that the truth will ~~always win in the end, being eternal, and that the untruth is only a transient error-~~ (*Satyameva Jayate*), being eternal, and that the untruth is only a transient error. Time is on his side. He doesn't need a sword to prove his case. Not even a pen. Like Socrates, ~~a~~ he carries about in his head is a critical, open, curious mind: asking more and more questions.-

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It is important to note that the ~~truth~~ seeker ~~for the truth~~ makes no claim about his own ~~personal~~ knowledge being either complete or final. He too is subject to ~~deep~~ ignorance and error. All he claims is to be searching for the truth, and hence willing to lay his knowledge to question, equally eager as others to find whether he is right. His ego is not wedded to his 'beliefs'.

Given this lack of subservience to authority ~~or formal qualification~~, disdain for unproven claims, disdain for ~~proof through haughty~~ arrogance, disdain for ~~proof through~~ insistence, disdain for trickery, disdain for coercion, and a quiet confidence in his own approach, the seeker of the truth is loved by few, particularly not by those in 'high' places.

~~But there are many enemies of the truth:~~

Enemies of the truth

~~We are perhaps ourselves the worst enemy of the truth.~~ Despite ~~each of us being blessed possessing with a powerful fine~~ machine (the brain) that could, if allowed to work freely, investigate almost anything that the universe throws at us, we seem to have a proclivity to latch on to ~~beliefs~~, sometimes almost in desperation: as if the truth will disappear just because we don't 'believe' in it. We seem to either not know, or ~~maybe we~~ forget, that the truth is eternal – and more importantly, that it doesn't need our 'consent' or 'support'.

None of us is exempt from ~~this the~~ tendency to take a 'belief short-cut'. We are particularly gullible ~~during under~~ emotional distress, ~~or when we are~~ in pain; or ~~when~~ sleep-deprived. At such times we must avoid forming a view. And so by all means ~~let's~~ believe in ~~oyouur~~ ourselves, believe in ~~your~~ capacity for incremental improvement, but ~~be~~ also ~~be~~ aware that ninety per cent of the world's problems – including wars, poverty and misery – are caused by ~~our the human~~ urge to believe without first having carefully determined the truth. Belief short-circuits ~~and effectively destroys~~ our brain, ~~effectively making it worthless, like a fused bulb~~. We ~~therefore~~ become sub-human; and lose our claims to belong to ~~this the~~ great family ~~called of~~ humanity.

~~Apart from our own tendency to form hasty beliefs, t~~There are three enemies of truth.

a) Garden variety enemies

The garden variety enemy of the truth ~~simply just hates rejects~~ the ~~idea that~~ truth ~~can exist outside his own belief system~~. He ~~believes-is sure~~ that something is true merely because he ~~believes or~~ says so. Unable to argue and reason ~~in support of his belief~~, he resorts to ~~ad hominem~~ attacks. On the internet, he spits out vile language. At one time, such people would

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have loudly cheered while when you were someone was being burnt at the stake for speaking out the truth.

Fortunately, we are able to ignore such people most of the time these days. The philosophers of classical liberalism have fought for and brought about a modicum of tolerance into this world, and most legal systems allow for at least some freedom of speech.

bb) Profiteers

Magic is sleight of hand. When we go to a magic show, we expect to be fooled, and pay for the privilege. The better we are fooled by the magician the more we are willing to pay. The problem begins when someone acts as if he has real powers of magic:

Such fraudsters and tricksters generally seek to profit from human gullibility. They profit from the untruth. Many religious leaders fall into this category, having mastered the art of deception (not necessarily through magic), deftly blocking out any investigation of the truth:

Only our training in critical thinking can save us. If we don't question these fraudsters and ensure that their claims are tested under controlled conditions, our money will be fleeced and we could well end up with delusions. Never let your guard down for a moment!

c) Extremists

The extremists start as garden variety enemies of the truth but they are fundamentalists: they are not happy to spew vile language against those they consider to be The third category is the most heinous of all. These are obnoxious people who split humanity into what they see as the 'right' and the 'wrong' categories. They Not being satisfied with merely classifying people, they insist on 'converting' (or destroying) those in the wrong category. Thus, you may find yourself, for no fault of yours, belonging to the right or wrong 'race'; right or wrong religion; right or wrong political philosophy; right or wrong 'scientific' belief. go on to the next step, of 'converting' or even destroying those who fall in the category they consider to be 'wrong'.

These are the extremists and fundamentalists, who want to compel others to believe in their version of a 'truth'. They take resort to force. They compel others to believe their version of the 'truth'. They are dangerous because not only do they refuse to answer hate-questions, the truth, they can't tolerate the fact-possibility that others think they might be wrong. They take resort to force. You may find yourself, for no fault of yours, belonging targeted because you belong to the wrong 'race', wrong religion, wrong political philosophy or wrong 'scientific' belief.

But we know that the truth never requires the sword. From that this we can know see clearly that the beliefs of the ese extremists are necessarily false. are engaged in compelling others to believe in falsehood. When such people impose upon us, we have no choice but to resist. Persuasion and explanation is the only civilised way to work towards the truth. If someone forces you us to 'convert', we can be sure that you we are being forced-compelled to accept the untruth. And w-Let this knowledge act as a shield around you: hen that happens, we must resist.

Fortunately, most extremists are intellectually feeble decrepit and have a weak sense of self and cause no harm. The absence of universal agreement to their beliefs (which their parents drilled into their silly little heads) makes them feel inadequate. Many find safety in numbers and take up the sword. Such people. Most of them, however don't know the front of their hand from the back and will cut themselves with their own sword. They will fall into the traps they set for their 'enemies'.

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But there is, ~~indeed~~, a ~~genuinely~~ dangerous breed of extremists, ~~those who are the~~ intelligent ones. These people ~~can cause great harm, even as they not only act upon their coercive ambitions, but~~ exploit ~~human the~~ weaknesses of lower-calibre extremists for personal gain. Some ~~of the intelligent ones~~ become dictators; others ~~become are~~ nihilists who ~~seek to try to~~ take the entire world down with them. ~~All such intelligent extremists must be~~ These we must identify, isolate, and bring brought to book. We can nNever afford to take such extremists lightly. ~~They are not just bigoted, they can destroy the world.~~

c) Profiteers

~~Magic is sleight of hand. When we go to a magic show, we expect to be fooled – and pay for the privilege. The better we are fooled the more we are happy to pay. The problem begins when someone acts as if he has **real** powers of magic. Such fraudsters and tricksters seek to profit from human gullibility. They profit from the untruth. Many religious leaders and gurus fall into this category, being masters of the art of deception (not necessarily through magic), deftly blocking out any investigation of the truth.~~

~~Only our training in critical thinking can save us from them. If we don't question these fraudsters and insist that their claims be tested under controlled conditions, our money will be sucked out of our pockets, and we might even end up with delusions. Never let your guard down for a moment!~~

The matter of God

What about God? Why have I not taught you about ~~G~~god or about religion?

Religion

Let me deal with religion first.

Given the ~~stringent~~ requirements of truth ~~outlined above~~, I have not yet found a *shred* of evidence to indicate that *any* religion is true. Instead, I have found the self-seeking fingerprints of man, the all-too-human urge for power and pelf, the ready exploitation of human gullibility, significant evidence of manipulation, ~~deception~~ and choreography, and a range of other ~~human~~ shortcomings. Of the truth of their claims, I have not found ~~a shred of any~~ evidence.

I resent their ~~brazen audacious attempts to proclaim claims about~~ the 'truth' ~~without providing evidence, none of which have been established~~. They take me for a fool. That I'm not. Plenty of fools to go around, though; it would appear.

The stories of most religions are implausible to the extent of being absurd. This earth is smaller, in relation to the universe, than a *single* grain of sand on the combined beaches of the earth. God surely has better things to do with His time than to visit the earth to tell us things (about Himself and his Heaven) that can't be empirically verified. Why are we, who are not even ants on the scale of the universe, so important? And can he please get His story right, for once. So much confusion. So many self-contradictory claims. ~~This is all man-made.~~

~~Some r~~Religions tell us that God is omniscient and all-powerful and ~~has~~ even created the universe. But when the ~~e same is~~ God comes down to the earth (or sends His emissaries) he becomes impotent. Either He manages to get hung up on a cross; or He perpetrates cheap tricks of a standard worse than ~~those of~~ a common magician. He seems also to lack any

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capacity to influence us except through the sword, which He doesn't ~~use-wield H~~himself (~~which would at least be the understandable~~), but ~~delegates this to sends-out~~droves of ~~maniacal~~ human squadrons ~~to-that~~ cause riots, burning to death innocent women and children. This feeble, cowardly creature surely can't have created the universe! You'll pardon me ~~me~~ if I'm not impressed. I need to see and understand *true* power, *true* knowledge, *true* purpose, *true* goodwill for life. Man-made religion doesn't interest me, just as I've outgrown my interest in novels.

God

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Let me ~~therefore~~ leave aside the distraction of religions which are best spurned, and turn to the broader ~~and more important~~ question of God. This question is extremely pertinent. Not sullied by religion, it is ~~also~~ amenable to objective investigation.

Now, much as I would have liked to tell you something useful, I ~~don't seem to have n't yet~~ found much to say on this topic. One thing is becoming evident, though, that as scientific knowledge expands, the universe no longer (logically or empirically) *requires* a God in order to come into ~~beingexistence~~. The zone of ~~events that can be plausibly explained by the potential~~ intervention of God is becoming increasingly smaller. There's not much left for God (~~as we currently think of Him~~) to 'do'.

While there remain many plausible hypotheses about God (and there may well be others we have not yet thought about), two characteristics seem most likely to be found in a God, if He does exist. First, He is likely to take the form of all-pervasive energy (noting that energy is never created nor destroyed). Second, God's primary 'job' seems to be to establish the laws of nature, and to then let go. He never, ever, dabbles with the laws of Nature. It is ~~also~~ increasingly harder to fit a human 'soul' into this picture, ~~paricularly~~~~particularly~~ since nothing super-natural has ever been established.

But these are mere pointers. I have not closed my mind ~~on this topic~~ and suggest you don't close yours. I continue to suggest (~~and this is a leap of faith, without empirical basis~~) that you ~~maintain~~ a plausible 'minimal faith' in God, particularly if that helps you. Prayer has never harmed anyone (unless we pander to our brain's ready capacity to invent delusions). There's no harm in starting and keeping up a conversation with God, hoping one day that we will find the truth. Till that happens, ~~i.e. till after we die and find out~~, let us create our own meaning in life. Let us search for the truth, follow the right path, and help this great family – *one* mankind – ~~to which we belong~~, advance ~~one step forward~~ to unprecedented heights of wisdom.

The many benefits of critical thinking

A habit of critical thinking may be challenging, but it does ~~lead-to-have~~ a huge personal dividend. ~~They rightly say that health is wealth, and in my case I have encountered at least There have been at least~~ four major (very painful) health problems ~~I've encountered~~ which doctors and 'experts' ~~have~~ *pathetically* failed to solve. In each case I did not give up and ~~took~~resort~~ed~~ to my own thinking. Through diligent investigation, and by using myself as a 'guinea pig' to experiment with remedies (including some ~~that~~ I've discovered myself), I have achieved ~~tolerable highly satisfying~~ results. Without ~~this the~~ ability to think, I would have been in ~~deep~~ trouble.

That I have not only survived so far, but ~~I am~~ remain largely fit as a fiddle, is living proof of the ~~health~~ benefits of critical thinking. (This doesn't mean that nothing will go wrong with me in the future, but I do take ~~great much~~ care to apply my mind ~~on to~~ matters of personal health.)

And so, whether or not you find God ~~through your open-minded approach and the use of the brain (the only thing that distinguishes us from animals)~~, you will surely find many practical advantages ~~of critical thinking. For that to happen,~~

~~Therefore~~ have no heroes. Be confident in the use of your magic machine: the ~~human~~ brain. Use it fearlessly.

3. The right action

It is important to create a close consonance or alignment between the truth and what one does. Let me tell you a bit about *right action*.

The way to the right action is through applying the ~~same~~ blowtorch of critical thinking to one's actions, ~~as that~~ one might apply it to ideas. I question myself before doing something, and question myself *after* doing it. Often I fail to undertake the right action in the first go. The review informs a revised action that is ~~often typically~~ better than the first one. Trial and error and lots of questioning. Why am I doing something in a particular way? (Or not in another way?) That's the question of interest.

There's a second aspect to right action: undertaking it without concern for the fruit (*Nishkama karma*). A journey that is based on the right action is fruit enough.

You will, ~~of course~~, ~~att~~ need to feed yourself and your family (may you prosper!). It is relatively easy to find a job after acquiring some bookish 'education'. But is this enough? Is ~~the job this~~ the right action? Our work ~~and livelihood~~ must ~~also~~ be consistent with the truth. If one is required to compromise the truth in one's job, or to glorify undeserving individuals, then one must withdraw support. I am not suggesting that we don't look after ourselves and our family, but it is important to ensure self-respect and the primacy of the truth.

My work on India

A digression about my work on India will illustrate. But first, why do I focus ~~so much~~ on India? I am not parochial, nor xenophobic, nor jingoistic. I don't glorify India or any other nation. So why is *India* such ~~an~~ big deal for me?

India is where I was born and grew up. I learnt a lot about life and society from India. I also started on a life-long search for good policy while I was in India, a search that led me through considerable reading, reflection and learning, to what I think is the truth about what works and why – in relation to matters of governance. There is a way, ~~in my understanding of this truty~~, by which everyone in India can live a decent life. Poor Indian children don't need to scavenge in rubbish heaps for food.

Given this search was based primarily on investigations in relation to India, the right action (in my case) involves (a) offering the information about this truth to India, and (b) offering my services (at cost) to reform India's governance. ~~Till around 2013 I was happy to return full time to India to participate in the political process if things had moved in the right direction. But that did not happen, so the services I now offer remain more in the space of general advice. The latter, I believe, must be authorised through popular mandate.~~

I'm not in a hurry. The truth wins, so I know that what I have said (in *Breaking Free of Nehru*) will ultimately be accepted. I don't have to use the sword to buttress the truth. The people of India are responsible for their lives. Let them decide whether they want ~~my assistance to use any of this knowledge in to~~ convert ~~ing~~ India from an underperforming and corrupt Third World country to a world-best economy and society.

~~But m~~ Making such an offer is not enough. The right action ~~also~~ involves withdrawing support for wrong action. I therefore left the IAS (to enter which I had at one time spent considerable time and effort). I can't possibly wage war against untruth (socialism) while supporting socialist misgovernance through the IAS.

Whether these actions yield fruit is irrelevant. The important thing is to do the right thing. With that I will die knowing that I did not support falsehood, and I tried to do the right thing for India. That's more than most people will be able to say on their deathbed.

I can add to this my resignation as an economist in Victorian Treasury to protest the criminal actions of the Daniel Andrews government, but there is no need for detail: the principle remains the same. I am at peace with my actions which cost me income and positions in society. They were the right actions to take.

Conclusion

We must stoutly defend our freedom to search for the truth and to undertake the right action. ~~Let's all insist on being free to do what we think is the right thing.~~ I trust you will become genuine seekers of the truth and maintain your self-respect and dignity by undertaking the right action.

Do find yourself a good partner (this applies to all), someone with openness of mind and willingness to give you some leeway. Give your partner the same leeway. Above all, feel good about being alive. There is so much negativity in this world, so many fanatics, so many bullies, so many paternalistic know-alls, so many haters of the truth, so many forceful preachers of falsehood.

The only way to maintain your spirits in the midst of such people who are intent on taking us back to the medieval era, is to maintain your health in the best condition. ~~A life of pain, imposed upon the ceaseless interventions of knaves, will drive you to desperation.~~ So take care of your body. Note that you can't do that without understanding how it works. Ask questions.

I sincerely hope my journey continues a little bit longer, ~~many decades~~, but like all good things it will ~~one day~~ come to an end. It has been good sharing some time together. The 'extra time' that I will now enjoy with you would be relieved of the apprehension that I did not spare some time to get to say what I had to.

To those who have not yet been born (my second and other grandchildren, but also the children of my larger family: humanity), let me assure you that life as a human offers many challenges but its rewards are unparalleled. So do get born! (Everyone, please have plenty of children!) Let the world resonate with the joyful squeals sounds of children. Let mankind also squeal with-in delight at the discovery of new truths.

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Acknowledgement

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I want to thank everyone who has helped me grow (physically and mentally). I've not been particularly easy to live or work with, and your kindness in tolerating my quirks is highly appreciated. Many of my teachers from school onwards come to mind here, as well as my parents, brother and sister, and nuclear family. But also hundreds of others, both living and dead.

(The fact that so many people have been involved in my life – as surely in your life – confirms that the human family is indeed very close-knit, and deserves to live together in peace.)

Above all, I'd like to thank, although I don't know whom, the random chance that brought me into existence. We have been blessed to have been alive.

This is Version ~~21~~.0 of my last testament, dated ~~31-23 May~~ February 20~~25~~11. I will update it as time permits.

ADDENDUM

~~Stuff that might support some of the things I've noted above.~~