

**MIRROR
MEDITATION**

By EMMITT L. BRINSON

As man stands poised on the threshold of outer space, ready to venture onto other planets, a cloak of mystery hovers over him in anxiety, as to what might be found on other worlds out there.

Man is aware that not only is there a possibility of other species, but he wonders what the advance of knowledge might do to our present concepts of religion and God.

The adjustment that was made when man discovered that the earth was not the center of all things was nothing compared to the adjustment man must make when he discovers life as sacred as our own exists on billions of other planets.

It seems that theologians must face this truth, and now is the time in which they should study conflicting ideologies, and band together their basic unifying ideas to cope with the future of all mankind.

We need but look back to the basis of all the major religions, and find their spiritual resources came from the same Almighty God. As time moved forward, their basic ideas were inspired and spearheaded by great men, or prophets, who were given many titles by those who followed.

Their commandments, however, are somewhat the same, even though they were separated, in fact, if not by the same distance that separates this globe from others. We

Christians might cry out that God is on our side, but the answer to that lies within ourselves and the compassion and love we show for others.

One of our greatest commandments, according to Christ was- "thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." I wonder if the same drive for understanding, guided by the hand of God, steered other religions to the same ideals. In the Hindu Vedas, it reads: "As thou deemest thyself, so deem others."

In the Mhammedan Koran, it reads: "No one is a believer until he loves his brother what he loves for himself." Buddhism states: "One should minister to his friends and families by generosity, courtesy, and benevolence, by treating them as he treats himself."

Confucious taught: "Do not into others what you would not they should do unto you." And pray read the whole 19th chapter of Liviticus, adhered to by Jews and Christians alike.

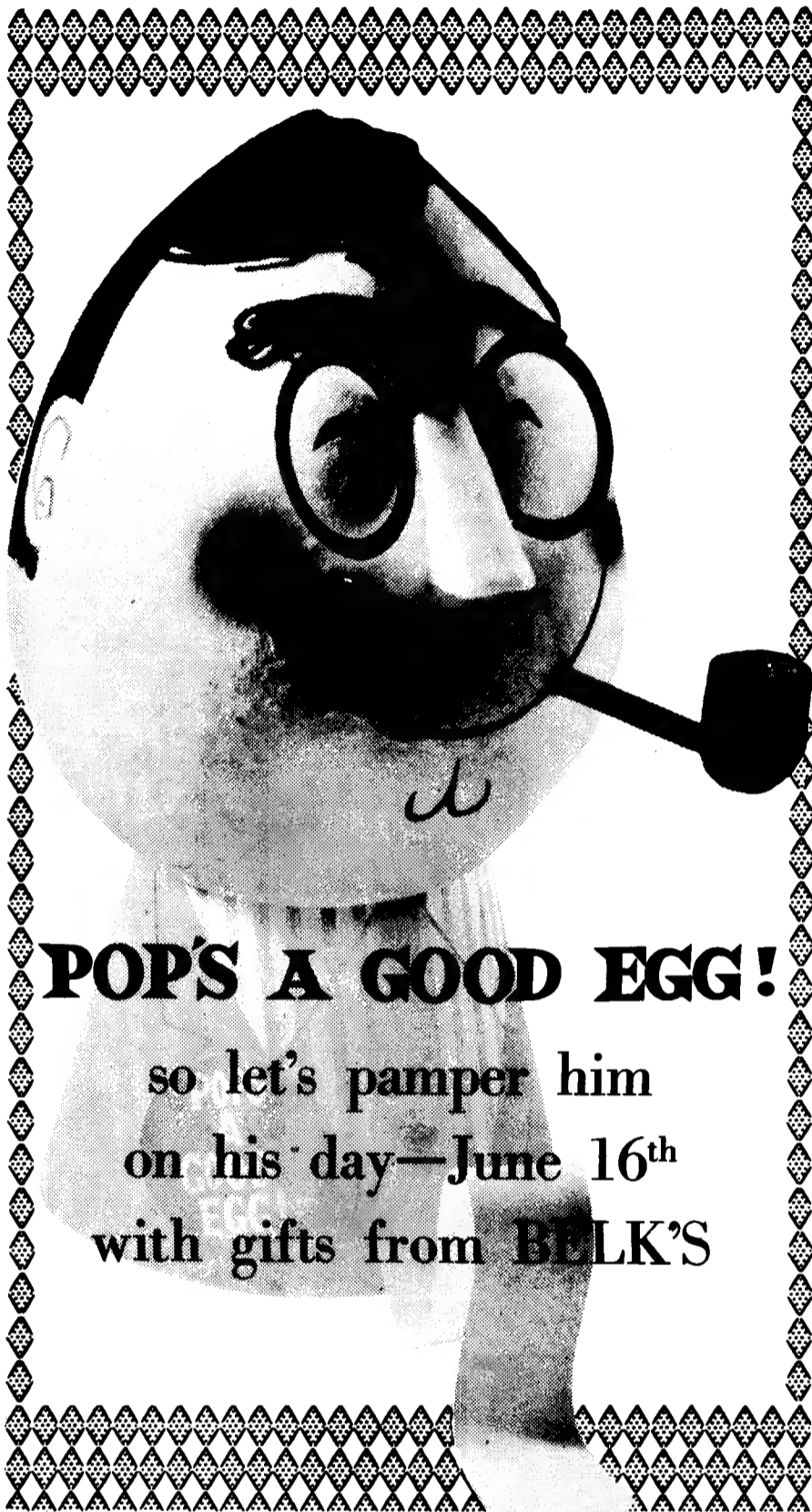
We can not limit God by believing He is our alone, because all the people of this world are God's children. Nor can we limit God to our own universe. Even though it is beyond our comprehension, it is not beyond His. For out there beyond the depths of space, God is the tremendous infinite power behind all His Creation.

We must keep Him in step with our knowledge, our advance, our discoveries, for surely we will find He was already there, and we are but late arrivers. The challenge that confronts all religions today under God is to overcome the common enemies of atheism, communism, and materialism.

A few years ago there was a world conference of religions, arising since the reformation, who were trying to get together on basic concepts, and the late Pope John-- in his magnanimous spirit advocated the same thing. For the common cause to prevent atheism and communism from becoming the dominant power of this globe is the business al all religions.

Sometimes, in my wild imagination and dreams, I can visualize that this old world of ours will improve in knowledge until we have reached the essence of understanding, where all men will "love thy neighbor as thyself." And I am sure with the billions of other worlds that exist out there, there are some who have advanced in God to where they are no longer in need of redemption, and even now know the trials and failures that confront the future of this infinitesimal globe, as it tosses and struggles for truth, in this vast sea of stars.

Will the peoples of God on this planet take up the challenge today, which faces all religions for survival? I wonder!



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