

To whom it may concern:  
God, universe, spirit, soul, nothing and everything,

if you had only given us the Big Bang,  
and not given us life,  
it would have been enough.

If all that ever happened was that matter exploded into existence,  
with all the energy that would ever exist  
flaring out from a single dot,  
as time unfolded from nothing,  
as the laws of physics – themselves an item of great beauty –  
were made manifest,  
if all that happened was the great beginning,  
the mere birth of all that was yet to be,  
the supernovas and the rainforests,  
the black holes and the ice cream trucks,

I would have abundant cause for a grateful heart.

Even though there wasn't an individual *me* there to see the big bang,  
and there wouldn't be for another fourteen billion years,  
even though I'm not convinced  
there was even a *you* there to perform it,  
I feel overwhelmed with gratitude  
for this cosmic stardust process  
that I get to be a part of,  
this beautiful burst of being.

To whom it may concern:  
God, universe, spirit, soul, nothing and everything,

If you had only given us life,  
and not given us consciousness,  
it would have been enough.

If all that happened was the earth  
evolved into a beautiful blue-green living rock,  
a place where the air  
passes through a multitude of forms,  
and the forms move and grow and change  
in concert and conflict,  
a place where life leads to more life,

I would have abundant cause for a grateful heart

From the honeydew melon to the bullfrog,  
from the eukaryotic cell to the Great Barrier Reef,  
the life of this world is so incredibly amazing,  
I would say that it takes my breath away,  
only I know it is exactly the opposite.

To whom it may concern:  
God, universe, spirit, soul, nothing and everything,  
if you had only given us consciousness,  
and not freed us from slavery,  
it would have been enough.

If all that happened was I was able to notice  
the wiggling my little finger,  
or if I looked out the window right now and, instead of the  
lustrous beauty of the surrounding fields all I could see was a brick wall,  
still,

I would have abundant cause for a grateful heart.

To notice some small piece of the world,  
the world without and the world within,  
to be aware of what's out there,  
to be aware of what's in here,  
what an amazing gift to be a part of the  
universe's noticing of itself.

To think, to reflect, to be aware of the soulfulness of things –  
I'd be abundantly satisfied with US weekly and elevator music,  
and yet we have been given Shakespeare and Janis Joplin.

To whom it may concern:  
God, universe, spirit, soul, nothing and everything,  
If you had only freed us from slavery, and not given us our morning cup of coffee,  
it would have been enough

If all that happened was that we live at a time and  
in a place where no other human being  
is able to force us to build pyramids we  
don't agree to, if we were instead free  
to live where we want and marry who we wish and  
befriend whom we love and do what we feel called to do,

We would have abundant cause for grateful hearts.

To go to sleep at night knowing that even our challenges are  
our own, that we can embrace life,  
or wrestle with life,  
on our own terms,  
is a power pharaoh and kings have sought, and thankfully,  
we possess.

To whom it may concern:  
God, universe, spirit, soul, nothing and everything,  
If you had only given us our morning cup of coffee, and not given us UUMAC  
It would have been enough.

To whom it may concern:  
God, universe, spirit, soul, nothing and everything,  
if you had only given us a morning cup of coffee,  
and not given us the congregation,  
it would have been enough.

If all that happened was I woke up  
and tasted its liquid to my lips,  
that I began the day receiving something  
that had grown in the fields through no help from me,  
to live in necessary communion with the earth,  
receiving its permission to remain alive and awake,

I would have abundant cause for a grateful heart

Not only do I get to live,  
I get to live with flavor,  
and the rising of my body is accompanied  
by a swelling of gratitude in my soul.

To whom it may concern:  
God, universe, spirit, soul, nothing and everything,  
if you had only given us a UUMAC,  
and not given us creative inspiration,  
it would have been enough.

If all that happened was that we could find a community to  
remind us that life is worthy of our respect,  
that to be alive is a precious and wonderful experience,  
if there were a place that affirmed us as individuals  
while reminding us that we are not alone,

We would have abundant cause for grateful hearts.

Here we have known a place we can be accepted,  
a place with a diversity of people and beliefs  
can come together to create something beautiful.

And finally, to whom it may concern,  
God, universe, spirit, soul, nothing and everything,  
I thank you for inspiration.  
For the fact, that even that happened up until now  
would have been enough, would be more than enough,  
I mean if today were my very last day,  
you'd still find a "thank you" singing from my heart,  
we have been given inspiration,  
the creative spirit,  
the holy breath of life,  
the feeling that there is something else tomorrow  
that was not here today.

Help us to remember that anything  
is possible.

If I were to speak in prophecy,  
and say that one day,  
humankind would walk on the moon,  
they would tell me I was stating the obvious.

If I were to speak in prophecy,  
and say that after 400 years  
of violence and oppression and hatred,  
a black man would be president of the United States of America,  
they would tell me I was stating the obvious.

If I were to speak in prophecy,  
and say that one day,  
we'd harness the power of the sun  
they would tell me I was stating the obvious.

And yet, if I were to speak in prophecy,  
and say that one day there will be peace between the nations,  
one day there will be no more war,  
they might tell me I'm being naïve.

We walked on the moon, we made solar power, we elected a black man  
president of the United States, but peace between the nations –  
that's crazy talk!  
Anything is possible, with inspiration.

The seeds of this revolution are already in place,  
all we have to do is let them grow within us.

Inspiration can heal us.  
There are some folks hurting here, I am sure.  
Reeling with grief,  
recovering from trauma,  
some of the wounds here are deep and lasting and real.  
If I were to speak in prophecy and say  
that you will find healing,  
you might say to me its impossible,  
that there's no way to recover  
from a wound so deep.  
Please don't believe that.  
Remember that humankind walked on the moon.  
Anything is possible.  
You will find healing.

There will be peace between the nations.  
We will live in harmony with the earth.  
We will protect the free church and help it grow.  
All these can be done, if we just start from a  
base of honest gratitude.

We have been given we have been given the Big Bang, life, consciousness,  
freedom from slavery, the morning cup of coffee,  
and this wonderful community of UUMAC.  
We have been given everything in our lives up until today.

If we are blessed enough to receive tomorrow, too,  
let us use it to reach out to others with love,  
to give of our gifts with abandon,  
and to recognize *this* world,  
as the precious gift that it is.

Blessed be,  
AMEN