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CD702: Working With People

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In this paper, I will discuss how God can represent Himself to an irreligious person in a manner that can impact the nonbeliever's life. On February 15, 2023, I interviewed a forty-year-old male coworker who believes in a "higher power", but does not believe in committing to any rules, regulations, laws, or any other form of oaths which will establish a spiritual relationship of belonging. In order to get a better understanding of how a person who does not accept the beliefs of any religion can find a way of connecting to God; one must establish his ideology. Arman's, not his real name, definition of irreligious does not serve a "higher power" but lives a good life by bringing positive energy into the world through relationships of one's family, community, and the world. I entered into Arman's worldview by relating to one of his heroes, Wong Fei Hung; a martial artist. I asked Arman, Why is Wong Fei Hung a hero? "He is my hero because, "His life centered around doing good for his family, the marginalized, and the community. He believed in fighting for what is right in the world and overcoming evil". I further asked, Did you participate in martial arts and why? "I have been practicing martial arts for many years and I learned how to strengthen myself physically, mentally, and emotionally because I had low self-esteem. It taught me how to associate better with my peers and people in general".

What Arman is describing is someone disciplined, constitutes good, loves helping the community, and creates a better well-being of self. Similarly, Wong Fei Hung's ways resemble the characteristics of Jesus. There is no affirmation that Hung has given his life to Christ, but his actions point toward a better way of living by helping his neighbors, by practicing disciplines

that enhance his temple (the body), and by being an example of positive light through the means of honor and respect. As I explained this comparison to Arman, he could see the similarities, but he expressed a need to know if his hero, Hung, found what he believes that everyone is looking for; “peace”. Arman’s ideology is built on the foundation of the search for “peace”. He struggles with the thought, “How can a spiritual person be at peace if they are not representing who they claim to be? I have seen people from various religions who have done sinful things but proclaim that they are good people. I have seen people do whatever they want, and if they confess their sins; they are forgiven?” The thought of being forgiven, or as he refers to “an escape card”, when compared to someone who is a hard worker and who consistently does good, makes their life feel as if they were being cheated. In other words, Arman feels someone who did wrong almost their whole life to be forgiven by just repenting at the end of their life is completely unfair!

Before continuing the interview, I let Arman digest and reflect inwardly to 1) give him a few minutes to relax, and 2) prepare him for the next question. Do you think that Wong Fei Hung did good all of his life? “No! But he dedicated himself to doing good, being both respectful and honorable and that is what matters whether one commits their life to a “higher power” or not”. The final question that I asked Arman was, If everyone in the world has some bad qualities (along with the good), where do you think that they go after living? “I do not know if the good people will be converted into different forms of matter or energy back into the world. The people who do evil, I am not sure if there is a place for them or if they are no more. But if there is a “higher power” and Wong Fei Hung represents someone who came on earth, to convince me that I had to not only live right but also submit to the “higher power”, I do not know if I will commit myself. If the “higher power” gives me the peace that I am searching for, I will still have to deeply think about it “.

I have presented Jesus to Arman in the form of his hero, Wong Fei Hung. Although Arman believes in all the good things that Wong Fei Hung represents, he is not convinced that if he gives up his life and choice of free will, to find and receive the ultimate fulfillment of his soul, which is peace; will be worth it. Nevertheless, Arman still hopes that if there is a “higher power” that he (the “higher power” will take into account the amount of good he has done to accept him.