

and commensurate importance in the mental or spiritual world, and I find it manifested in communication of the atomistic kind (accomplished by units such as words, numbers, digits, letters, sentences, poems, epistles, books, etc.)

By 2005 Howard was working on another book, *The Ethical Imperative*. An ethical imperative gives the command to all people about what is wrong or right—but such an imperative can't exist without a divine intelligence implanting or enforcing it. The author of an ethical imperative must be non-corporeal, transcending time and personality. If an ethical imperative exists, then God exists, because no one else could author such an imperative—if not, then God does not exist. However, it cannot be written in any book because anything written has a human bias.

In 2010 Howard left Sweet Home, moving to a home near his stepdaughter in Woodinville, Washington.

A RIDDLE

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At the 9th Gathering for Gardner, Al proposed this riddle.

Starting with a common NINE letter word in the English language, what word continues to be a commonly used word (no slang or abbreviations) in the English language each time you remove a single letter? When you are finished you will have a list of NINE words, each word having one less letter. The last word, consisting of only a single letter, also must be an English language word, which somehow relates to the number 9.

The answers may be staring right at you. The answer may not be as difficult as String Theory, but perhaps it is not as easy as it would be for Gordon Sumner to sing Happy Birthday.

Try figuring it out for the startling result? Progressive hints are in Answers and Solutions, but it would be a sin to look at the hints!