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Put a Ring on His Hand

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Luke 15:11-24. 11 And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my fathers have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Mavis? Is your holy book the actual word of God? Are your professions of atheism an absolute authority?? If it is, how can it be so open to interpretation? What is the meaning of life if we have evolved from a mud puddle?? Surely the word of God is ineffable and perfect.? Surely the empirical data collected from every micron of matter will reveal the meaning of life.? From where else does the message of your religion come? Where do the precepts of atheism originate from?

bladeofzion So how are universal guiding moral principals established? Seeing that you care about what others do instead of what they claim to believe. One culture may consider certain actions moral while other cultures consider those same actions repulsive. Are there universal morals or are moral values relative to ones native culture?

waltz Highly successful engineer. Married, plenty of money, desperate alcoholic. I haven't been feeling much like myself lately - whatever that means. It's more like there's someone where I'm supposed to be and I'm where someone else is supposed to be. I've switched places, somehow. Sunday, we leave to go to the beach. A week at the Outer Banks might help - or maybe it won't, seeing as my attempts at ersatz(an inferior substitute) escapism don't seem to be doing much. But I keep thinking that this is all I need - a week at the beach; a long weekend in New York City in December (when did I decide that NYC in December was a desirable vacation?); just... something different. It doesn't even have to be the beach. A mountain would do. A lake. The edge of a desert; maybe a whale-watching cruise near Alaska.

Wren? There seems to be a lot of that going around, not discontent exactly, but a restlessness to do or be something different. "If you can't find what you're looking for in one, you

won't find it in more. You're looking the wrong place." That seems to be true of way more than alcohol. We're looking for something.... Is it "meaning"?