



## God is Life

by Gordon L. Toombs

**If** we were asked to draw a picture or symbol to represent God as we envision, or understand or relate to the deity, what would we put on our paper?

If we were doing this assignment as children, some of us would probably draw a picture of a harsh judge who was all-powerful and ready to punish evil-doers wherever they could be found. Or, we might draw a picture of a benevolent and indulgent grandfather, or a Santa Claus in the sky.

There are many images or metaphors for God in the bible, e.g., father, Lord of lords, fortress, deliverer, shepherd, etc. Such names reflect the variety of ways in which people have attempted to think of God. Although these pictures or metaphors may have been, and some continue to be, helpful, they, like all descriptions of God, are incomplete and inadequate because the human mind cannot comprehend the divine.

I am suggesting that we need a new metaphor to introduce God (ultimate reality) to our generation. One of these new, yet very old, images for God is that used by Hildegard, a creation mystic of the 12th century. She said, "God is life." In one of her mandala paintings she pictures God as a kite with four sides: Father, Son, Holy Spirit and Earth. To her Earth is an integral part of God.

*Think of the implication of the metaphor "God is life" at a time when our planet is threatened. If God is life, then every living thing has God in it. No longer can the ultimate mystery of the universe be locked up in a book. No longer can it be locked up in the human species. "Every creature is a word of God" (Eckhart). This means that whether we are dealing with spiders or elephants, with mushrooms or trees, with bacteria or human beings, we are dealing with God, with this awe-inspiring creativity.*

It means that every living cell is holy, whether it be in a plant, or an animal or even one of the millions of cells which constitute our bodies. Each cell shares a "spark of the divine fire," is a holographic image of the universe. In this way an inner mystery and spirituality belongs to each unique life form. Our only appropriate response becomes what the Jewish philosopher Rabbi Heschel calls "radical amazement" and reverence.

*How do we love God then, the God who is life? By caring for all forms of life (not just other members of our own human species), by respecting the variety and genetic originality of all plants, animals and micro-organisms, for these constitute the resource base on which the future of planet Earth depends. Furthermore, we love God by protecting the milieu within which all life is sustained, e.g., the purity of water, the quality of the air and the fertility of the soil.*

How do we kill God, commit deicide, or crucify the Cosmic Christ all over again? We do it by producing non-biodegradable poisons, by destroying the habitat of a single species of plant or animal, by making profit and the maintenance of our affluent lifestyle the chief determining factor in how we relate to the forests, the topsoil, the rivers, or even the people of Third World countries.

Is it possible that by making "life" a metaphor for God, we can recapture a sense of Earth as sacred space, behold in every creature a "mode of the divine presence," and thus discover the basis for a new environmental ethic?

Gordon L. Toombs is a United Church of Canada minister who lives and works in Manitoba.

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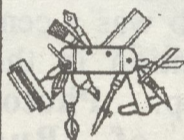
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# Five Dollars & A Clean Shirt

*from A Trout's Best Friend: The Angling Autobiography of Bud Lilly*

by Bud Lilly and Paul Schullery

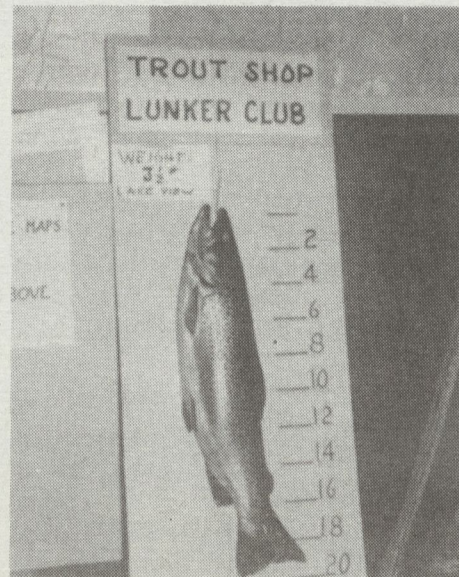
## When the Trout Shop

was operating at its peak during the great fly-fishing boom of the 1970's, we put in long days. I usually got to the shop at about 6:45 a.m. The first thing I did was make five gallons of coffee, and by the time I had done that, the line had started to form. We had the steadies, sort of the Trout Shop Coffee Klatch, who showed up when we unlocked the door for the early social hour, which seemed to last until around lunchtime.

The guides showed up at 7.00 a.m. Their clients had been told to meet them at the shop, and each guide's assignment for the day was posted, along with a suggested trip for that day. The clients and guides knew each others' names in advance. The guides had a checklist of what to make sure the clients had before leaving the shop, most of it routine, like making sure they had the right flies for that day's fishing. But within a few minutes after seven, we'd have eight guides and twice as many clients foraging here and there, picking out a few of this and a few of that, and the cash register would start to sing. The guides were trained as salesmen, and they knew our inventory and our prices; that isn't as mercenary as it might first seem because the clients were generally pretty insistent that they be properly outfitted, and spending a little more after they'd already spent a lot to get there and to hire a guide didn't seem like a problem to them. We just



Left: Bud Lilly, a skilled and proud young fisherman would years later become a champion of catch and release, not catch and disease, angling. Right: The Lunker Club was a center of attention in the Trout Shop. Photos courtesy of Bud Lilly.



made it as easy as we could.

We would have five or six people writing up the purchases and twice that many calling from various parts of the shop to put them down for six of this and ten of that. I had this old gas station adding machine on the counter that required pulling the handle every time you added a number. First thing in the morning, when all these people were milling around getting ready to go out, and the first early customers were drifting in, and the store staff was bustling around tripping over each other and a dog or two, someone would come up to me and ask how I kept track of the 3,000 items in the store and all these people buying and renting. I'd tell them I had a computer. This was when computers were still pretty exotic, and they'd light up and say, "Really? Where is it?", assuming we had some kind of big electronic thing in the basement. I'd give another yank on the handle of the adding machine and say, "Right here."

We'd have the clients and their guides. We'd have three or four people downstairs starting their day at the fly fishing school. Mike might be getting someone ready to go backpacking into the Beartooth. Annette and Bonnie would be getting their ladies-only clients ready to go. Steve and Bonnie Billeb would be going over last-minute preparations for their headwaters camping trip group. I would stand in the middle of all that chaos and enjoy the cash flow, hoping we were getting receipts for most of it, at least.

The biggest challenge was keeping track of that much money collected in a short time. Twenty or so fly fishermen fresh from the city and anxious to make the most of their fishing can be world-class impulse shoppers. If we had a full load of clients, we might have cleared \$5,000 by nine o'clock in the morning. At that point, anything we took in during the rest of the day seemed like bonus money.

We kept the coffee and cookies for customers all day, every day. We fed every Boy Scout in America. They would pull up in big buses just for the cookies in the Trout Shop. I still don't know how they sniffed us out, but they didn't buy much tackle.

It stayed busy all day. There was no such thing as a reasonable break, and the business didn't arrange itself conveniently so that anybody could sit down and eat a civilized lunch. It seems to me now that during the years the shop was doing well, I ate about 9,000 hot dogs. Finding time for lunch was a problem.

Business did begin to taper off by four o'clock, and then about five we'd get an hour or so rush from guys who were going out for the evening fishing. After that, staying open was merely a matter of doing the locals a favor by providing them a place to come in and try on hats.

I hated to close the shop in the evening. I'd just be about to turn off the sign and lock up when here would come some bleary-eyed guy who'd just driven three thousand miles and wanted to get an early start tomorrow and could he just pick up a few things and oh, by the way, how's the fishing been?

The guides would start dragging in between seven and eight to report on their day's fishing. I would have spent the day gathering random information from fishermen, so between what I had picked up and what the guides brought in, we had an unusually good idea of what the next day's fishing possibilities would be. That network of information gathering gave us an edge over the other shops. The last few years, Greg was in charge of the guides, so he would check them all in and learn all he could from them about fishing conditions. Then about ten o'clock that night, he and I would sit down at the kitchen table and go over all we'd learned that day about fishing in the area. Then we would plan the next day's trips, matching each client's personality, interests, and skills with the right guide and the right fishing. About ten or eleven we would call it a day. As I collapsed into bed, I would sometimes wonder if success was such a great thing after all. It had been a lot simpler back in the beginning.

*Bud Lilly no longer owns The Trout Shop. He lives in Bozeman with his wife, Esther, and her two children. Bud is still active in the fly fishing world as a guide and lecturer. A Trout's Best Friend is available by mail from Bud: see the order form in this issue.*

"For years now, writers in *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, and *Sports Afield* have been bragging so loud about the terrific fishing hereabouts, it's sort of inspired the fish, given them something to live up to. And around this neck of the woods, The Trout Shop is generally acknowledged as offishal fishing headquarters. In fact, FISH KNOW if you've been here first, and if you haven't, they're likely to fin their noses at you.

So first thing to do when you arrive in West Yellowstone is visit *The Trout Shop*. Get your license (no license required in the Park), get free current fishing regulations, swap lies, etc. NOTE: I will listen to all your fish stories with a straight face. No other tackle shop can make this claim. I promise not to pressure you to buy a single doggone thing. You're welcome if all you want is free directions, advice, or to escape from a charging moose. (No moose can charge in The Trout Shop, and neither can you. Cash only.)" — from *Bud Lilly's fishing map, designed by Milford Poltroon.*

## from Around Yellowstone, page 20

Hunters and trappers in other parts of America are watching the Arizona situation carefully, believing that if animal righters stop hunting there, they will try elsewhere, particularly in the Western states.

For more information, call Bob Phillips at the RMEF in Missoula, 406-523-4566.



## Adopt a trail people needed to maintain forest trails

The Targhee National Forest's Adopt-A-Trail program is a volunteer program created to help with trail maintenance. With more than 1,200 miles of trails, the Forest Service is finding it increasingly difficult to properly maintain all these trails with its limited funds.

Maintenance requires picking up trash along the trail, repairing damage from excessively large campfires, and removing logs that have fallen across the trail.

To adopt a section of trail, call 208-624-3151.



## Fremont County Parks & Rec helps Island Park

In its May meeting, the Fremont County Parks and Recreation Board awarded the Targhee National Forest over \$7,000 to purchase sign poles for Island Park snowmobile trails. The Board also awarded some

\$17,000 to Kenny Bedded to build a boat dock on Henry's Lake at Frome Park. The BLM and the Targhee National Forest will help with this project, with the national forest maintaining restrooms at the park.

Also discussed were plans to expand and improve the popular Henry's Lake State Park for the 1993 season, and the need for volunteers to prepare snowmobile trails in Island Park for the 1992-93 season. Anyone wishing to help should contact Gene Hardin at the forest service office. The Board meets again on Thursday, June 4, at the Targhee ranger station.

## QRU trains

The Island Park Quick Response Unit is even more knowledgeable than ever, after attending a Triage in Trauma seminar last month conducted by Bonnie Burlage, R.N. at the A-Bar in Island Park.

The theme of this year's seminar was reviewing basic emergency aid skills, and special sessions were held on heart problems and unique injuries to the pelvis and abdomen.

At the seminar, Dr. Tom Thompson, an emergency room physician at the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, was honored for exemplary work in the emergency medical field, and given a stuffed animal wearing a scrub suit.

## New addition at Ophir

The sixty students at Big Sky's Ophir elementary School have more room, thanks to a \$600,000 addition recently completed by Edsall Construction of Bozeman.

The new annex, designed by Ralph R. Cole of Bozeman, adds 11,000 square feet to the existing 5,000 square feet building, and includes a new gymnasium, three class rooms, a kitchen, and storage.

## Business Briefs

### Snowshoe Grill brand new eatery near Henry's Lake

The Snowshoe Grill, on U.S. 20 near the intersection of 20 and Highway 87 in Island Park, will open this month.

The restaurant is owned and operated by the Lewis family of Island Park. Cherie will cook and manage the restaurant, which will be staffed by her children, Josh and Becky. Her husband, Rich, an Island Park developer and owner of a construction company, built the facility, which sports a dining area with redwood paneled walls and forest green wallpaper.

The restaurant will close on Tuesdays and be open the rest of the week from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. It will feature charcoal grilled burgers and steaks and fried chicken. Take out orders will be available for travelers on the go.



### Nancy is back

former West  
Yellowstone resident  
back in town and in  
business

Remember Nancy Sheffield's wonderful Boutique West? In the 1970's, it was the favorite place to go for clothes and conversation.

Nancy Sheffield has returned to town with a new clothing boutique, and the old store's name: Boutique West. She has great prices, and tasteful casual

and unique clothing, accessories, and jewelry.

Boutique West is in the West Park Mall on Canyon Street, next to DeAnn's Country Hare Salon. It is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Where *has* Nancy been all these years? Stop in and ask her.

### Alcohol/drug services in West

Alcohol/Drug Services of Gallatin County offers drug and alcohol treatment services to people with dependency problems and their families. The office serves Island Park as well as the West Yellowstone area. For information, call 406-646-7922.

### New owners at Yale Creek Inn

Richard and Susan Zimmerman, from Big Bear Lake, Ca., have purchased the Yale Creek Inn in the Shotgun area of Island Park. Rich has been visiting Island Park for the last 17 years to fish, and he and Susan honeymooned here after their wedding two years ago.

Rich is an avid fisherman and Susan a skilled quilter and sewer; the restaurant features her quilted tablecloths.

Rich recently worked as a chef for the Elks Club in Big Bear Lake, where he also served as Exalted ruler.

The couple plans to serve charcoal broiled food and a basic family style menu.

The inn is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. from Tuesday to Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, and closed on Mondays.

see Around  
Yellowstone, page 27

## The Snowshoe Grill

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# Gallatin and Targhee National Forests offer varied and plentiful recreation opportunities

by Pat Feldsien

Yellowstone and Grand Teton parks offer unique experiences of the awesome wonders of nature, but to get out and create your own awesome experience calls for a visit to one of our national forests. Fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, scenic drives, water sports, wildlife viewing, berry picking, rock collecting, gold panning—all these and more are available in our national forests. And to an abundant degree on the Gallatin and Targhee National Forests on the north, west and south sides of the parks.


## The Targhee National Forest

The Targhee National Forest contains 1.8 million acres of varied terrain from semi-desert to peaks over 10,000 feet. Seven mountain ranges are located in or border the Targhee: the Snake River, Teton, Big Hole, Henry's Lake, Centennial, Beaverhead, and Lemhi mountains. It is located mostly in Idaho, with a small portion in Wyoming, and borders Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

There are two wilderness areas on the Targhee. The Jedediah Smith Wilderness borders the west side of Grand Teton NP and consists of 116,500 acres. The towns of Victor, Driggs, Tetonia, and Ashton, Idaho are 5 to 20 miles west of the wilderness and information can be obtained at the Teton Ranger District office. The Winegar Hole Wilderness (10,800 acres) is 25 miles east of Ashton, adjacent to the southeast corner of Yellowstone NP. Information is available from the Ashton Ranger District office. The Jedediah Smith Wilderness encompasses the west slopes of the Teton Mountain Range and portions of it are heavily used during the summer months.

There are 29 campgrounds on the Targhee with a total of 670 campsites. Most campgrounds are adjacent to rivers or reservoirs and charge fees based on facilities available. Most undeveloped areas in the forest are open to camping.

If you are seeking a scenic drive, one is there almost anywhere you care to go. The Palisades Reservoir area has several, including the highway along the reservoir. Some off-highway "roads" require 4-wheel drive or a high-clearance vehicle. A favorite in the Ashton area is the Ashton-Flagg Ranch Road, a bumpy shortcut for the adventurous that skirts the south side of YNP and ends up on the John D. Rockefeller Memorial Parkway at Flagg Ranch, Wyoming. A popular drive between Island Park and Ashton is the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway. This road offers spectacular views of the Tetons as well as access to Upper and Lower Mesa Falls on Henry's Fork—and the road is paved all the way. In Island Park one can drive to the top of Sawtell Peak, site of a Federal Aviation Agency radar installation. The road is steep and winding above tree line but the view of mountain ranges and valleys in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming is worth the trip. The wildflowers along the road are profuse and there are some not-so-secret berry picking spots.

  
**National forests contain 50 percent of remaining wildlife habitat and 50 percent of cold-water fisheries habitat.**



Boating and water skiing occur mainly on Island Park and Palisades Reservoirs. Rafting, kayaking and canoeing are popular on short stretches of the Snake River near Heise and Swan Valley and on Henry's Fork. Henry's Fork boasts the first National Recreational Water Trail a five-mile scenic stretch of slow-moving water that offers excellent viewing for birds and wildlife of all kinds. The trail begins downstream from the scenic Big Springs interpretive site and ends at Highway 20 near Macks Inn.

Hunting and fishing are popular activities that require state licenses. Game species include moose, elk, antelope, mule deer, bighorn sheep, black bear, and game birds. Fishing is found on almost every lake and stream. Game fish include rainbow, eastern brook, brown and cutthroat trout, kokanee salmon and whitefish.

Trail users who prefer not to walk find plenty of trails for ORVs, horses and mountain bikes. There are over 1200 miles of trails on the Targhee for hikers and non-hikers, with 42 trailheads.

For rockhounds there is an opal mine near Spencer, Idaho, where one can dig for fire opals. The mine is privately owned and operated—the digging is for a fee. Or look for free almost anywhere for just plain interesting rocks...

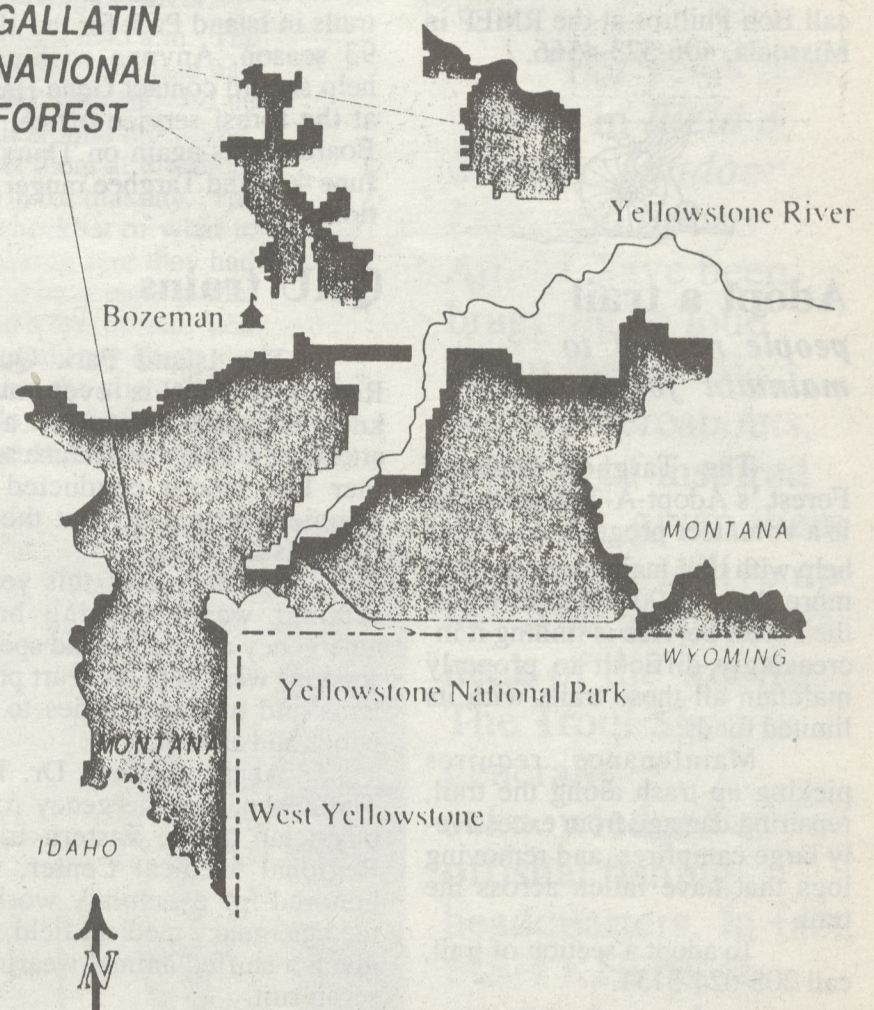
Detailed maps and information are available at the following Targhee National Forest offices:

Supervisor's Office, 420 N. Bridge St., St. Anthony, ID 83445 (208) 624-3151;

Dubois Ranger District, PO Box 46, Dubois, ID 83423, (208) 374-5422;

Ashton Ranger District, 30 S. Yellowstone Hwy., Ashton, ID 83420, (208) 652-7442;

## GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST



Palisades Ranger District, 3659 E. Ririe Hwy., Idaho Falls, ID 83401, (208) 523-1412;

Island Park Ranger District, PO Box 20, Island Park, ID 83429, (208) 558-7301;


Teton Basin Ranger District, PO Box 777, Driggs, ID 83422, (208) 354-2431.

## Gallatin National Forest

The Gallatin National Forest contains 1.7 million acres of national forest land and 414,000 acres of private land. The checkerboard pattern apparent on forest maps results from the policy of the federal government to give every other section of land to railroads as an incentive to build railroads through the west in the early part of this century. The Gallatin borders Yellowstone National Park on the north and west.

Six mountain ranges fill the Gallatin: the Bridger, Madison, Absaroka, Beartooth, Crazy, and Gallatin ranges. Over 41% of its acreage is designated wilderness—the Absaroka-Beartooth and the Lee Metcalf. Parts of both of these wilderness areas are also on other forests.

There are 2,000 miles of hiking and riding trails throughout the forest, with more than 800 miles located in the Lee Metcalf and Absaroka-Beartooth wilderness areas. One of the outstanding points of interest for trail users is the Gallatin Petrified Forest which covers more than forty square miles and contains more than 100 species of petrified

  
**There are 156 national forests, containing 191 million acres in 44 states. This amounts to only 8.5 percent of U.S. land area.**



trees. The area is reached either from the Gallatin Canyon or through Tom Miner Basin north of Gardiner.

The drive through Gallatin Canyon, Highway 191 between Bozeman and West Yellowstone, is striking with the Gallatin River dashing alongside the road and high mountains on either side.

Another scenic drive is from West Yellowstone around Hebgen Lake to the Madison River Canyon Earthquake area. A major earthquake (7.1 on the Richter scale) in 1959 caused a mountain to slide across the canyon, forming a lake and leaving behind monstrous boulders. There is a visitor center and self-guided tour. Two other roads along Hebgen Lake are worth side trips. One is Beaver Creek, which is

*continued next page*