

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Thanksgiving

A child is born into this world naked.

He is given food,

clothing,

and a place to sleep.

He is given language and learning;

taking in all things and growing in

body,

mind,

and spirit;

and from these things, he makes his way in life.

Even if he thinks, "I have 'taken' what I have"

he could not have take anything that wasn't provided "for the taking" by

someone else.

His life, itself, was not of his own doing.

Whom, then, can he thank for these things?

Someone else?

Everyoine else came into the world as naked as he.

They merely passed along, willingly or unwillingly,

that which was given to them.

No one?

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Then all things came from “nowhere”...

and out of “nothingness:...

and he has acknowledged, knowingly or unknowingly,

the truth that says,

“in the beginning...The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” [Gen. 1:1, 2]

No human hand can lay claim to that which he is, or that which he has;
but all things had to come from “somewhere” for, by his own arguments
“energy cannot be created or destroyed. It merely changes form.”

Even those things which he does not like about himself, or the world around him,
he has been given “free will” to change.

And, if he was born into this world

and remained naked,

unfed,

unclothed,

and nowhere to lay his head...

then there is still One who will receive him back

into His loving arms, thanks be to God.

(November 12, 1980)