



**SMOKY DAY**

*For now we see through a glass, darkly...* (I Corinthians 13:12)

I'm sitting here on another smoky day. Hazardous air quality. It's been that way and worse up and down the west. No end in sight. My sailboat just barely visible.

My mental system is smoked in too, trying to *explain the unexplainable*. A book on mysticism.

It stirred a memory from my early youth. I'm not sure when or where. I know I was someplace outdoors. No idea what or if I was thinking... The thought was about the immensity of the universe. This was pre-Hubble. I was overwhelmed with the thought that this was a mighty big universe and I was one puny speck in it.

I remember my conclusion of that brief mental vision...that whatever I was in this universe I wanted to be a part of the harmony rather than part of the dis-chord. That was a pretty big thought for me at the time.

That was it. Was that a mystical moment? Who knows? I can't explain it.

Mystical moments don't require belief or faith. Amazing grace happens. Mystical moments are not necessarily religious. They are equal opportunity experiences. You can experience the indescribable while reciting creeds you don't believe.

You can thrill to the Hallelujah Chorus without believing the words like many non-believers I know do. They attend performances year after year!

My latest summer book is Rabbi David Cooper's "**GOD IS A VERB --- Kabbala and the practice of mystical Judaism**"\*

Rabbi Cooper declares that "*God is a **verb**.*"

Many religions think of God as a "**noun**"...that an entity "exists" out there. Many don't believe that anymore. Many openly declare themselves "atheists." Jewish Kabbalah mysticism basically says that God is the name we attach to the indescribable.

Such thoughts are too big for me. The smoke is too thick.

I turn for one last look toward the water and my anchored sailboat. I can still see it...barely. Shrouded in heavy smoke. Like my brain. "*Now we see through a glass darkly...*" Haven't we all had moments that we can't really describe or explain?

For the Moment...*Art Morgan*