

Of the one who has been to the edge of the abyss, peered in
and seen the nothingness and everything.

Preamble, the Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh

*Dedicated to all my colleagues and friends, alive and dead,
who were inside and around the Towers as I was watching
the beginning of the beginning of the Apocalypse.*

Four years ago today on September 12, 2001, I wrote a report of my visit to NYC September 8-14, 2001. I was running Advanced Technology for Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. I was scheduled to attend an XML conference on September 13. As a bonus, I had intended to be in Tower One at the Waters Conference at Windows on the World on the 107th Floor. On that beautiful, clear Tuesday morning that was to belie the devastation to come, Divine came intervention at 7:30AM in the form of a truck and crew who unjustly towed my car to the pound in the old Brooklyn Navy Yard. It was the delay from dealing with this event that kept me from meeting a friend at the conference at 8:30AM. Thank you God!

I am not a particularly religious person, but I do have an abiding interest in how Spirituality manifests itself in people all over the World. The other time my car was towed in Brooklyn under similar circumstance two years earlier, I was delayed also in retrieving it before I could travel to my then home in Philadelphia. Turns out, had it not been towed, it was highly probable that I would have been on the New Jersey Turnpike at the precise spot and time of a semi crash that wiped out seven cars and their passengers. I will become a believer if I experience a third such event. These are two of the most memorable near death experiences in my life. As the late Grace Hopper, grandmother of the computer industry, was want to say in her insightful and enjoyable lectures, "Once is an accident. Twice is a coincidence. And three times is a law of Nature."

May there yet be peace and joy in the world.