You may wonder why being merry could be proper or even possible in this confused and conflicted world wherein the primary pursuit and most urgent concern of the plurality is "to reorganize the temporal order to the exclusion of God" (Pope John XXIII). With four explicit references to God in the Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers had rejected this godless outlook on life—then about to bloom in Europe—and had stayed in accord with the Judeo-Christian culture that brought the western world to the threshold of modern civilization. Their rationale was in touch with reality, while the Ten Commandments met the need for the adoption of a common code of conduct without which the Founders saw democracy as inconceivable. The radical difference between European and American views on what made us human appears in a statement from Supreme Court Judge Anthony Kennedy in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)* that sought to support *Roe v. Wade (1973)* which in defiance of the Founders' convictions had certified abortion as a constitutional right. Kennedy wrote: "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life."

This quote at first delighted progressives. It suited their modern definition for humans as *autonomous individuals.* They soon quietly withdrew their approval as they realized the statement was not only erroneous, but that it called attention to the symbolic nature of language used to describe the *immaterial* dimensions in humans, vaguely referred to as "the mystery of human life." As his own words reveal, it is impossible to describe the intentional and relational realities we experience exclusively as humans without using words that transcend or rise above the physical world. We don't talk about monkeys having concepts, the heart of liberty, mystery or the meaning of meaning. The one word missing from this statement that definitively and exclusively describes the experience that makes us human is what we know and experience as *love,* actualized only in humans and found nowhere else in the universe. Take it away, and we cease to be human.

To explain: Love is realized in acts of giving and receiving. God as Love is not revealed as a lone god or as many gods, but as a Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Absolute Goodness, self-identified as "I AM WHO AM, Unconditional and Infinite Love, and therefore by Name and Nature bound to share Godhood. Since only God can Love Unconditionally, not even God could create other Gods; so, God created us with the natural capacity to love. Jesus, from all eternity, was to become human, giving our Triune God the way to transfigure us by divine love, becoming precious beyond measure. Dying on the Cross, Jesus frees us from selfishness and sin, and in accepting his love *unconditionally,* we can be brought to experience unconditional love, the essence of divinity!

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