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heaven and hell

There are a couple of problems people have with these two - **HEAVEN & HELL**. A minor problem is *So where are they???* Sorry, I have bad news. You can't point to them. Heaven is not up, hell is not down. A telescope will never spot a big city with pearly gates and geologists will never accidentally drill into hell.

Aha! because they don't exist! May it never be! It's because they, too, are in other dimensions, outside the physical realms, in the "heavenlies."

Just as Flatman could never point to you from his Flatland (remember, you get to be **completely** outside his wimpy two-dimensional realm), heaven & hell are quite literally "beyond" us. And everything that goes with them. Meaning, there we won't be subject to time and space as we know it: we'll never run out of things to do and know and discover, we will never be bored. Just think of how much more we can do in our three spatial dimensions than Flatman can do with only his two and you'll get just a *glimpse* of how much more superior heaven is to earth. The two aren't comparable. And that doesn't even include all the *other* dimensions of space **and even time!** OY! What an unimaginably awe-filled place it will be! **Best of all, we get to be filled with the awe of Him. Can I get a witness??!!**

As to **HELL**, the main hangup here is that it exists at all, extra dimensions or not. ***How can a loving God send people to eternal torment? What kind of God does that??!!***

Warning! a simple answer is forthcoming, but remember there is much more to it, and more time should be spent honestly answering a person's concern. OK? OK.

I'd propose that one would be hard-pressed to think of something more loving & freeing & fair than what He offers now in both heaven *and* hell. Follow this: A loving and just God allows free will. Free will includes the "right" not to follow God. And the free-willed spiritual creature (like you or me) is eternal. So, here's the dilemma: We can't cease to exist spiritually. We must "be" somewhere. Should God force people into an eternity of praising and loving Him, always being in His presence, *when they don't want to?* No? Then the other choice is an eternity without Him; that's the worst imaginable "life," but it's a life chosen by some. No joy, no peace, no comfort, no love; none of the things that "are" because of God; just separation, isolation, and emptiness to their most horrific extremes.

Why not just annihilate them, put them out of their misery? Because even when they are in full-on rebellion He respects their choice. Annihilation takes away that free choice - it takes away their free will.

A philosopher once said, "*The gates of hell are locked from the inside.*" Hard as it is to imagine, people actually **choose hell** and will suffer because of it.

**BUT THE CHOICE - HEAVEN OR HELL
IS ULTIMATELY BETWEEN GOD & YOU.**