

YES, I BELIEVE

By Martin Mills,
of Kapa'a, Kaua'i, Hawai'i ;
printed in the Garden Island News

In regard to the numerous letters lately concerning religion, perhaps an atheist will be allowed a word or two. After decades of long and careful consideration, I have decided in my old age that I am an Atheistic Christian Ecstatic. I think that the existence of a "God" as most people think of "Him," is so unlikely as to be practically impossible, but I follow the teachings of Jesus as best I can, and this makes me very happy. So, when asked if I believe in "God," my answer to "The Question" is:

Oh, I've been judged a thousand times,
as if measured by a rod,
by a multitude of folk who've asked
"Do you believe in God?"

Well, it seems to me that faith
is more a lifelong quest
than a question to be answered
by such a simple test.

A hundred thousand holy ones
from genius to insane,
have struggled to agree on this,
through centuries in vain.

There must be something more involved
than just what meets the eye;
When the deepest mystery we may know,
one word is answered by.

In fact, I think it's obvious,
the question's so absurd,
that it has a meaning other
than what at first is heard.

What people ask of strangers
since first the race began.
What group do you belong to;
what family, tribe or clan.

A need to know the “us” from “them;”
who’s welcome, whom to curse;
and not too many years ago,
to burn and sometimes worse.

Now I have never known a god,
all-powerful, all-knowing,
who sits in heaven on a throne
in robes with long hair flowing.

But surely love is in my heart,
and God and Love are one;
nor have I heard of cause or man
any other way was won.

And my belief each day is tested
when I trust my fellow man
to choose love instead of hatred
as often as he can.

So, when I’m asked if I believe,
I answer “Yes I do.
I have God within my heart,
and faith, my friend, in you.