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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I appreciate Mihail's attempts to grapple with the uncertainties of the here-and-now and the mysteries of the hereafter. I always enjoy reading and conversing with people about these topics. They provide great food for thought that ultimately defies any resolution. Pick your theory!

I found the text interesting but often redundant. I think you could greatly reduce the length of the essay, and increase its impact, by ruthlessly editing redundancies throughout the manuscript.

I didn't understand the significance of the cities/countries as sub-headings. I guess, but don't know for sure, these were reflections you had while you were visiting the various cities/countries.

I wonder if you could make a stronger and more interesting case for your points if you discuss relevant ecological, economic, social, and political facets of each of these locations historically and nowadays. You could then draw distinctions and parallels among locations historically and today.