

Attention: Spiritual Leaders

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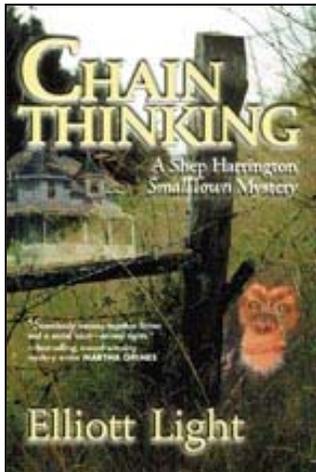
“Having justified our claim to human rights based on cognition, ability to suffer, self-knowledge, culture, and other ‘uniquely’ human qualities, we must now deal with the realization that we may actually share these ‘uniquely’ human qualities with other living things.”

--Elliott Light

A Murder Mystery with a “Spiritual Message”?

What does a murder mystery have to do with spirituality?

Chain Thinking continues the story of lawyer-cum-detective Shep Harrington, who made his debut in Light’s first



novel, Lonesome Song. But while Lonesome Song was written in classic mystery style, and also as an introduction to a colorful cast of characters (including the setting of the

Poor Farm, which is a character in and of itself), **Chain Thinking** transcends that genre, doing something few authors have successfully attempted—marrying an engrossing story with a sensitive social issue.

KIKORA, A CHIMPANZEE left in Shep’s initially reluctant care, has been liberated from living as the “property” of DMI—a mega medical conglomerate that uses animals like her to test a new antiobesity pill. **Chain Thinking** poses many hard to answer ethical quandaries directed at the way non-human animals are treated in our society. But the philosophical framework of the book - the concept of chain thinking - goes well beyond animal rights issues.

CHAIN THINKING IS A MODE of assigning value to living things based on their place in a chain-like structure. In the classic chain, male humans were place on top of the ladder. Slaves and women follow, then animals, in descending order. The gist of the chain is that dwellers of the lower rungs exist for use by dwellers of the higher rungs.



All living things exist at the pleasure of humans because they are of less value.

Legally, living things below man have no legal status other than property. This is the view of the world from atop the Great Chain of Being. We inherited this view of the world from Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato, and have practiced it through various religions for centuries.

CHAIN THINKING IS ALIVE and well today. The cruelty of humans to animals, humans to humans, and humans to the planet we live on can be explained by the arrogance that comes from chain thinking. Cultures ally themselves with different chains and, unconsciously citing those chains, fight wars for centuries.

If we can detect and question the chains that control our thinking, the hope is that we can evolve to a higher spiritual plane. Humans can become stewards of the earth, its resources, and its living residence.

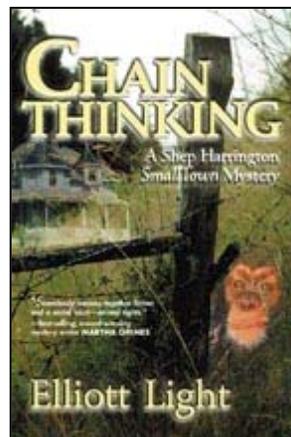
All of this from a murder mystery?

IF YOU ARE AT ALL INTRIGUED by this unusual teaching tool, please, request your complimentary copy of **Chain Thinking**, and read it. Then, if you like, talk about the book and the concept with members of your congregation.

It's bound to get people talking about something truly important, truly spiritual and ethical, and entertaining to boot.

"She signed 'chase,' then ran into the tall grass and hid. It took me a moment to realize she was trying to cheer me up by playing the hide-in-the-grass game. I managed to play with this marvelous creature for a few minutes until I just couldn't overcome the dread of events to come. As she frolicked and hooted for my benefit, I was struck by the enormity of what would play out during the next twenty-four hours."

From Chain Thinking



To request a complimentary copy of **Chain Thinking** please contact:

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Astonishing Praise for Chain Thinking

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“Like *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Chain Thinking* is fiction that shocks the conscience. It is nothing less than a must-read.” -- **RICK BOGLE**, Founder, Primate Freedom Project

“Raises immense ethical questions without the usual, politically correct claptrap. Regardless of how you feel about the issue, *Chain Thinking* is a thoughtful and well-written read.” -- **LEWIS PERDUE**, author of the acclaimed mystery-thriller *Daughter of God*

“When a writer attempts to introduce a social issue into his fiction, he almost surely will be accused of proselytizing. In *Chain Thinking*, the issue is animal rights, and the fiction is the story of Kikora. Elliott Light has managed not only to weave these two parts together, but to do it seamlessly.” -- **MARTHA GRIMES**, Best-selling mystery writer

“Both an entertaining read and an invitation to seriously consider how we conduct our affairs.” -- **ROBERT A. HOLT, PHD**, Head of Sequencing, Canada's Michael Smith Genome Science Centre, BC Cancer Agency

“Within this mystery, Elliott Light's reluctant detective, Shep Harrington, makes his own case for the need to break ‘chain thinking’ and morally look at an important topic for discussion -- the way we treat our fellow creatures.” -- **NEVADA BARR**, Best-selling mystery writer

“Those who think that stories about legal rights for nonhuman animals have to be boring, tedious, complicated, or abstract are in for a treat in *Chain Thinking!*” -- **STEVEN M. WISE**, Lecturer, Harvard Law School, and author

Let's hope that millions read *Chain Thinking*. It's the answer to my prayers.”-- **LYNN PAULEY**, Founder, Primate Freedom Project

Chain Thinking's success in the marketplace could mean that many people not necessarily in tune with the issue of animal use in laboratory testing will develop a more thoughtful attitude about the whole sordid mess.”- **LORI KETTLER**, Attorney, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

Author Bio

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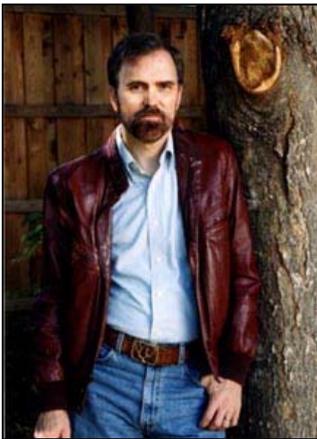
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“We hide from the reality of our chain-based relationship with other living things. I am still a chain thinker. I will probably die a chain thinker. But knowing what I am means that my choices are conscious ones. And perhaps that’s the heaviest burden of them all.”

—Elliott Light

Biography of A Reforming Chain Thinker



ELLIOTT LIGHT GREW UP outside Washington, D.C. in McLean, Virginia before the beltway encircled the capital city, before farms were turned

into housing developments, and before open fields became mega-malls.

THE SMALL TOWN OF LYLE is his creation and reflects a mixture of true life and fiction drawn from the place he grew up and the places his relatives and ancestors lived. Among the more colorful members of his family tree are his great, great, great uncle John Marshall, the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and his great, great, great cousin, Thomas Jefferson.

ELLIOTT ATTENDED THE University of Virginia, receiving degrees in Electrical Engineering and Law. He’s had an interesting legal career, mostly as in-house

counsel for high tech companies. He has sold a satellite to China, worked with the founders of the Internet commerce at CyberCash, and written regulations that resulted in the energy labels we see on many appliances. He filed patents and received patents for detecting the status of a device over the Internet, then taught himself patent law, passed the patent bar exam, and is now a practicing patent attorney.

OH YES—HE’S ALSO a mystery writer. Elliott gives a lot of credit for being published to Sonya, his wife. “Her patience and ‘tough love’ combined with my abhorrence of failure made *Lonesome Song* and ultimately *Chain Thinking*, possible,” says Light. “She helped me learn where my voice was, what I was good at. Sonya loves a good book and is not shy about giving an opinion. Of course, I was lucky to meet Bruce Bortz of Bancroft Press. The rest is, well, history.”

ELLIOTT AND SONYA live in Rockville, Maryland with their two much-loved felines, Sasha and Sumo.