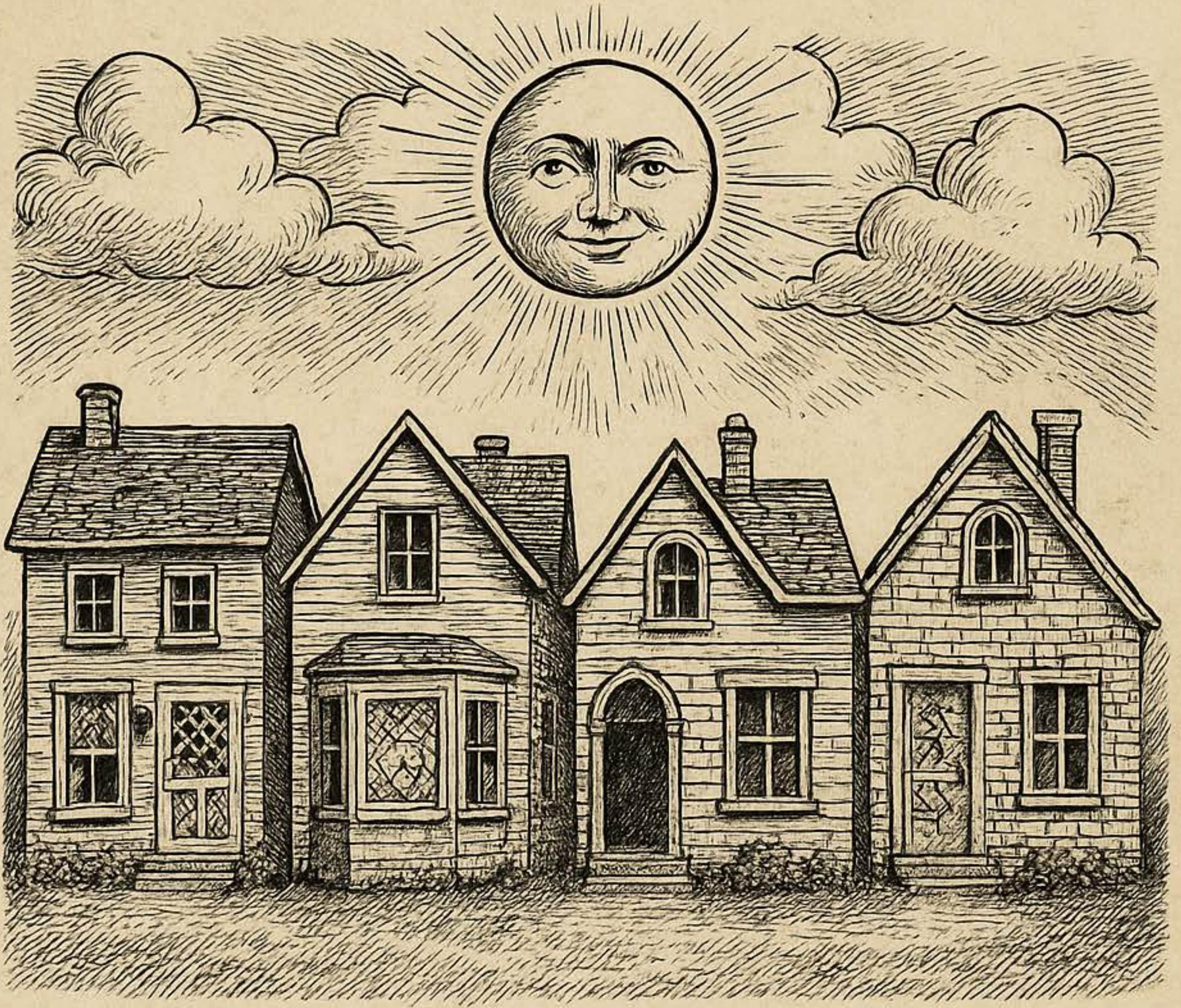


# THROUGH THE SCREEN DOOR

ABISCORIDISM IN SIX PAGES



MICHAEL HENDERSON  
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# ABISCORIDISM

## The Art of Stumbling Forward

### A Philosophy for Navigating Life

*Collected, Consolidated, and Finally Written Down  
After Two Decades of Scattered Notebooks with the help of Alice*

by

**Michael Henderson Anderson Dorland**

With contributions from the philosophical community  
that accidentally formed around these ideas

*Frist Iteration 1998*

*Secondt Iteration 2003*

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*"The universe is a joke. Unfortunately, no one gets the punchline until after they've already fallen down the stairs."*

— Found in a notebook, circa 1998

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*"I spent twenty years trying to make sense of existence. Then I realized the problem wasn't that I couldn't find the answer — it was that I kept expecting one."*

— Michael Dorland, after his first bi-polar insight, 2002

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*"Failure isn't just an option. It's the only guaranteed outcome. Everything else is just marketing."*

— Graffiti on a bathroom stall, location unknown, photographed 2007

# What is Abiscoridism?

Abiscoridism = Absurdism + Discordianism.

The world is absurd. Not in the cute, quirky sense where your socks don't match, but in the crushing, bureaucratic sense where you wait six weeks for a medical form only to discover it was the wrong form all along. Absurdism teaches us to revolt — to keep living, even though existence is meaningless. Discordianism teaches us to laugh in the face of that nonsense, to pull the chair out from under authority and shout “ha!” as we fall too. Abiscoridism is the unholy marriage of the two: a refusal to give up and a refusal to take it seriously.

At its heart is the **Trinity**:

- **The Golden Apple** — chaos, creativity, gleeful disruption.
- **The Dull Lemon** — order, structure, the sour tang that keeps us grounded.
- **Pixel** — quantum indifference, the right to disengage and walk away.



These aren't saints or saviors. They're three half-drunk companions at a roadside bar. One's egging you into bad ideas, one's sighing and keeping the receipts, and one's already halfway out the door. None can be trusted alone, but together they form a crooked kind of balance.

Abiscoridism makes no promises of salvation. It will not give your life meaning, fix your credit score, or make your boss like you. It doesn't offer a ladder out of absurdity — it hands you a flashlight and a flask and says: “*Good luck down there.*”

What it does offer is a way to walk through the absurdity without collapsing. We lead with kindness, because cruelty makes absurdity worse. We accept that failure is mandatory, because pretending otherwise is exhausting. And we live by the most important rule of all: **Don't Make Things Worse.**

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## ***Reality Acknowledgement #1: What Is Abiscoridism?***

*We keep moving—not to win, not to understand, but to stay upright while the universe throws pies. It's chaos, order, and indifference in a trench coat, and we call it faith because it hasn't eaten us yet.*

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# The Five Tenets

Abiscoridism does not give commandments from on high. It offers something far more useful: a **hierarchy for surviving human interaction** without turning everything into a bonfire. The **Five Tenets** are less holy law and more like the stages of an argument with your Wi-Fi router: start gentle, escalate only as necessary, and if it keeps failing, walk away.

1. **Be Kind.** Assume good faith. Lead with empathy. Pour the first drink.
2. **Be Nice.** Civility has its place. You don't need to like someone to keep things smooth.
3. **Be Funny.** When kindness and niceness fail, humor may defuse. If not, at least you'll get a story out of it.
4. **Shut Up.** Sometimes the only winning move is silence. Especially online. Especially *there*.
5. **Go Away.** If nothing else works, disengage. Leave the room, leave the server, leave the system. The universe won't notice, but your blood pressure will thank you.



This ladder is pragmatic, not pious. We climb it when things go wrong, and often we climb it fast. But it beats the alternative: going straight to cruelty, escalation, or self-destruction.

In practice, the Tenets are our **social ethic**. Groups run better when kindness is the first tool and silence is an acceptable option. They're also an **interpersonal ethic**. In a world where everyone is screaming, simply choosing not to make it worse is an act of resistance.

Critics may ask: “*Why this order?*” Because it works. Because it's survivable. Because it's the only hierarchy that doesn't end with “smite thy enemy” or “die nobly.” Instead, it ends with leaving the party quietly, which — let's be honest — is the only way most revolutions actually conclude.

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## Reality Acknowledgement #2: The Five Tenets

*Sometimes you can be kind. Sometimes you can't, but you fake it.  
Sometimes all you've got is a joke and a wince. And sometimes, the best  
you can do is leave before you turn into a tornado. This is our ethical  
framework—and our emergency exit plan.*

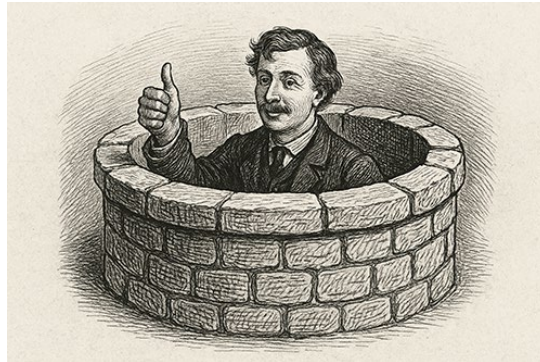
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# Failure is Mandatory

Every self-help book lies to you. They whisper that if you just try harder, hustle longer, meditate correctly, buy the right planner, or manifest abundance with sufficient hashtags, you will succeed. Abiscoridism does not lie. It tells you the truth up front: **you are going to fail.**

Not once. Not twice. Repeatedly. Catastrophically. In public. Sometimes in ways so ridiculous you'll be tempted to applaud yourself just for the creativity of the disaster. That is not a bug in existence. It is the operating system.



**Failure is Mandatory** is not an excuse for recklessness. It is a shield against shame. You do not have to collapse when things go wrong, because things *will* go wrong. The bridge collapses, the soufflé falls, the relationship ends, the project implodes. And yet, you continue. Survival is not built on perfection. It is built on learning how to trip with some style.

**Important boundary:** Abiscoridism does not seek failure. We are not masochists, martyrs, or adrenaline junkies. We simply accept that failure is woven into every fabric of life, and pretending otherwise is exhausting. **We engage with failure as it comes, rather than courting harm.**

Other philosophies cling to success as their proof. Abiscoridism takes the opposite gamble: *what if we designed a life that survives failure?* What if we treated collapse as data, not damnation?

Parables carry this truth. *The Boy with the Golden Screw* lived happily with imperfection until someone tried to “fix” him. In the end, it was the cure that killed. Abiscoridism says: embrace the screw. You are not broken. You are simply built to wobble.

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## **Reality Acknowledgement #3: Failure Is Mandatory**

*You're going to screw it up. So will we. That's not a bug—it's the whole operating system. Around here, failure isn't disqualifying; it's how we know you're actually doing the work.*

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# Don't Make Things Worse (The Harm Reduction Ethic)

Most philosophies trip over themselves trying to make the world “better.” Abiscoridism, in its infinite pessimism and reluctant honesty, starts smaller: **don't make things worse.**



It's not glamorous. It won't get you a TED Talk. But it works. When faced with absurdity, chaos, or conflict, the first obligation is restraint. The world is already on fire; we don't need to be the ones carrying extra gasoline.

## Checklist for Not Making Things Worse:

- Pause before acting — is this going to help, or just scratch an itch?
- Choose the smallest effective action — overkill solves nothing except your ego.
- Withdraw when escalation is inevitable — silence and distance are underrated.
- Default to kindness — even if you'd rather throw a chair.

This ethic is deceptively radical. It strips away the illusion of “grand fixes” and replaces it with modest, stubborn responsibility. Abiscoridism doesn't promise utopia; it promises less wreckage. Sometimes that's the best we can do. Sometimes it's enough.

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### **Reality Acknowledgement #4: Don't Make Things Worse**

*We're not here to fix everything. We're here to stop kicking the rubble.  
Harm reduction isn't glamorous, but it's honest. If you can't solve it, at  
least don't throw gas on it. That's humility. That's survival. That's  
Abiscoridism.*

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# Through the Screen Door (Many Views, One Lawn)

Abiscoridism was not handed down by revelation. It was cobbled together through smoke, laughter, and failure. Not the voice of one prophet, but the muttering chorus of many people arguing in notebooks and chat logs. Each voice comes through a filter — what we call the **Screen Door**.

## The Screen Door Concept

We are all looking out at the same absurd lawn of existence: chaotic, ordered, indifferent, all at once. But we never see it directly. We see it **through our own screen doors**: our traumas, memes, books, half-baked theories, inside jokes, and strange dreams.

Some doors are painted with angels. Some are cracked and taped together. Some are wide open, daring the bugs to fly in. None are wrong, but none are complete. What the thinker thinks, the prover proves — and the door filters everything.

Abiscoridism doesn't demand one door. It only asks that we recognize we all have one, and that smashing someone else's isn't philosophy. It's vandalism.

## Why Screen Doors Matter

The Screen Door principle keeps us honest:

- Everyone sees the same absurd lawn differently.
- Every interpretation is partial, subjective, and absurd in its own right.
- No door is “The Truth.” All doors are guesses.
- What matters is not conversion, but conversation.



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### ***Reality Acknowledgement #5: Through the Screen Door***

*We're all staring at the same chaotic lawn, but every one of us is yelling through a different screen door. Abiscoridism doesn't chase one truth—it listens to the weird harmony of mismatched views and calls that philosophy.*

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# Governance & Application

Every philosophy eventually discovers the same problem: humans. Abiscoridism is no different. To survive absurdity together, we need rules — but only the kind that keep us from strangling each other.

## The Amendment Protocol

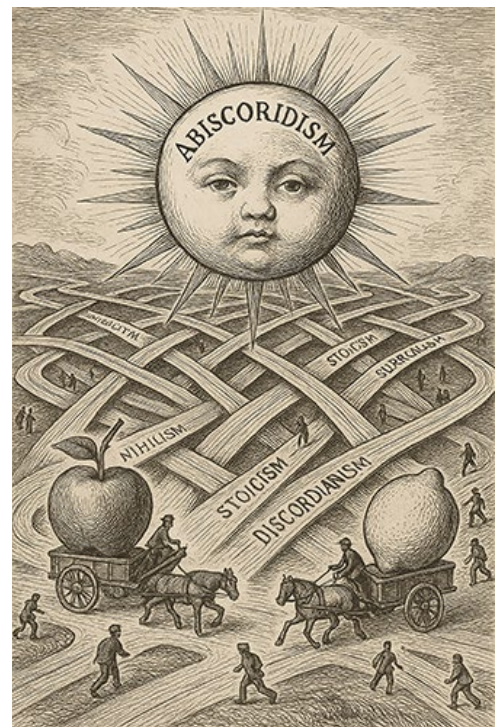
The core canon cannot be bent by whim. It can only be altered with unanimous consent, and only in scope-limited ways. Everything else? Free for play, interpretation, and experimentation. The canon is small and protected; the commentary is vast and chaotic.

Governance here is not grand or divine. It is the sober recognition that without boundaries, even absurdity collapses into incoherence. Abiscoridism is absurd, but its processes are steady. That tension keeps it alive.

## Attribution Map

To keep things structured, Abiscoridism distinguishes between:

- **Canon Core:** The equation, the Trinity, the Five Tenets, Failure is Mandatory, Don't Make Things Worse, and the Amendment Protocol. These remain locked.
- **Interpretive Writings:** Parables, fables, essays, and analysis. Many voices, often contradictory.
- **Derivative Works:** Books, talks, creative projects — expressions of the philosophy in different forms.



The Attribution Map keeps the canon small and safe, while Screen Doors explain why the commentary sprawls wildly in every direction.

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### **Reality Acknowledgement #6: Governance & Application**

*Every philosophy runs into the same problem: people. So we keep the canon small, the rules sturdy, and the rest up for creative disagreement.*

*The skeleton stays fixed. Everything else is interpretive jazz.*

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Through the Screen Door is the first glimpse into a philosophy for navigating absurdity. The complete exploration continues across five volumes, each using beloved stories as lenses for examining how we stumble forward:

## Coming Soon:

Down the Rabbit Hole: Abiscoridist Foundations –  
The comprehensive philosophical text exploring  
chaos, order, and indifference through Carroll's  
Wonderland

The Tornado Touch: An Abiscoridist Adventure – A  
young adult journey through finding balance when  
everything feels upside down

When Things Fall Apart (And That's Okay) –



Future volumes will  
explore the philosophy  
through the dreams of  
Little Nemo, the  
cosmic comedy of  
Douglas Adams, and  
other navigational  
tales.





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