



BRUCE LICHT

FOUNDER OF *MY ELEVATOR PITCH FOR GOD*, ENTREPRENEUR, AND AUTHOR

Bruce grew up in Lafayette, California, and later received a B.A. in political science from the **University of California, Los Angeles**, as well as a Graduate Gemologist degree from the Gemological Institute of America in Los Angeles. After graduating, Bruce operated his family's century-old retail fine jewelry business for twenty-two years before selling his share of the company in 2001.

Bruce had a passion for computers and graphic arts, so he went into business with his friend at a national technical publishing company. He served as the company's publisher for seventeen years. The company pioneered the modern labor law poster industry, including inventing the first "all-on-one labor law poster" and "labor law poster compliance plan" before Bruce and his partner sold the company in 2018.

In addition to being the founder of the website, *My Elevator Pitch for God*, Bruce is the author of the book, *My Elevator Pitch for God*, co-editor of *Elevator Pitches for God: Volume 1*, and author of the cookbook *Immediate Chef: No Previous Experience Required*.

Visitors to *My Elevator Pitch for God* (www.mepfg.com) can read many wonderful, inspirational, and thought-provoking one-page essays by thought leaders with the widest breadth of backgrounds and experiences from all around the world.

Bruce's mission is to introduce more people to God and strengthen the faith of those who already believe. He aims to bring people together, find common ground between different faiths, create meaning in people's lives, and start to move the world in a better direction.

You can help by sending this website to friends and family and posting it on social media!

You can also connect with the website project's LinkedIn page by clicking the link below:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bruce-licht>

Mysterious, Unseen Wonders

BRUCE LICHT

The oarfish, scientifically known as *Regalecus glesne*, ranks as one of the most fascinating and breathtaking creations on Earth. This unusual fish, which many say is the inspiration for ancient sea serpent myths and terrifying sea monster legends, has intrigued human imaginations for centuries.^{1,2,3}

First officially sighted in 1772, its long, flat, ribbon-like, tapering body ends in a fine point.⁴ It can grow up to thirty-six feet with maximum published weights as much as six hundred pounds. The Guinness World Records recognizes the oarfish as the longest bony fish on Earth in modern times. It is largely considered to be inedible. Fishermen who on unusual occasions haul in oarfish usually throw them back, unable to sell the flabby, gelatinous meat at market.

Its shimmering, silver to silvery-blue, scaleless body features a red dorsal fin running its entire length and some peculiar, elaborate, elongated fins that make it look like a mythical creature from a Dr. Seuss book. It is perfectly designed for filtering krill, plankton, crustaceans, and small squid by straining them carefully from the water using specially evolved gill rakers located inside its toothless mouth. These incredible creatures can be found dwelling far off the beaches in Southern California, south to Chile in the eastern Pacific Ocean, across the Atlantic Ocean, in the Mediterranean Sea, as well as recent uncommon sightings recorded in the Philippines.

Yet, what makes this remarkable creation so mysterious is that direct encounters with live oarfish remain exceedingly infrequent. Typically, the oarfish remains at great depths ranging from 656 to 3,280 feet below the surface. In fact, it was not until as recently as 2001 that a living oarfish was actually captured on film by the United States Navy.

This deep-water fish spends the majority of its concealed life far beneath the rolling ocean's surface, inhabiting a quiet, pitch-black world far beyond the reach of sunlight. Because oarfish normally live in an extreme environment which humans can rarely visit, their presence is almost entirely unseen by our everyday eyes.

This hidden oddity offers a striking parallel to the spiritual realm. Even though the elusive oarfish has only been witnessed by a tiny handful of people throughout all of human history, one cannot make the case that it does not exist. The absence of widespread human sightings does not negate this biological reality.

In the same way, the theological fact that many people have a difficult time physically seeing or perceiving God, does not mean He does not exist. The divine, much like the magnificent oarfish residing in the shrouded, dark trenches of the ocean's floor, is entirely independent of our limited human observation and fleeting perception points.

We do not need to thoroughly behold the veiled depths of the ocean or the vast expanse of space to know that there are wonders far beyond our comprehension. Obviously, existence can transcend human vision and imagination, reminding us to not rule out profound truths that subsist just beyond the interpretive horizon of our ordinary sight and current exploration.

Footnotes:

- 1) Other common names for the oarfish in the English language include: Oar-fish, giant oarfish, king of herrings, Pacific oarfish, ribbon-fish, ribbonfish, rooster fish, and streamer fish. Other names in other languages are: Airokala (Finnish), bandfisch (German), brandfisch (German), fjamma tal-fond (Maltese), haringkoning (Dutch), heringskönig (German), kurdele bal??? (Turkish), pai-da-sarda (Portuguese), peixe-real (Portuguese), pez remo (Spanish), pojas (Croatian), re di aringhe (Italian), regaleco (Portuguese), regalengo (Portuguese), rei dels peixos (Catalan), rei-dos-arenques (Portuguese), relangueiro (Portuguese), rey de los arenques (Spanish), reimenfisch (German), roi des harengs (French), régalec (French), sildakongur (Faroese), sildasterril (Faroese), sildekonge (Danish), sillkung (Swedish), sillkungen (Swedish), sneesvis (Afrikaans), sildakóngur (Icelandic), vasilias regon (Greek), and wstegor królewski (Polish).
- 2) <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/discover-fish/species-profiles/oarfish/>
- 3) <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/article/pictures-oarfish-philippines>
- 4) First officially sighted in 1772, by Norwegian biologist Peter Ascanius, in the Glesvær area near Bergen, Norway.

