

# Letter to Nereyda II

## Matter made simple

By and Based on the Books of Robert J. Cormier ([www.thefaithkit.org](http://www.thefaithkit.org))  
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# Letter to Nereyda II

## Matter made simple

Dear Nereyda,

Like my last letter to you, the purpose of this one is stated by its subtitle.

Like my last letter to you, this is another attempt to explain things without lots of historical background and other information not everyone needs.

Putting things as simply as we can, matter is what everything is made of. Matter is the most basic stuff that God created.

We know this because things can be broken down into parts, and the parts can be broken down into parts, and the parts of the parts can be broken down into parts, but this cannot keep happening forever. This are, at the bottom of everything, things that are not made of smaller things—this is matter.

Once upon a time, units of matter, then called “atoms,” were imagined to be something like little billiard balls. They are still said to have “mass” and, most of the time, to act according to certain laws of motion.

Now, it was admitted that this idea did not easily explain everything—like light, for example—and that’s why science kept working on the idea of matter.

Now we have something better. Instead of a little billiard ball, picture something circular, darkest at the center, with its color fading fairly rapidly the farther one goes out from the center. Now imagine that this something circular is actually three-dimensional and round. Now imagine that the fading color represents a “force” which is strongest in the center, and weaker one goes out from the center; but still there is some force even at a great distance from the center.

This is a “force-center.” It is our best description of matter.

Now, this matter has two interesting characteristics.

One, each unit is attracted to every other unit to the degree that the center of one is near to the center of another. (Units can approach each other closely, their forces overlapping and there creating a field of greater force.)

Two, each one wants to move through the universe at the speed of light (which is about 186,000 miles per second). This will happen unless there is sufficient attractive force at a given point to restrain it.

These two interesting things are not unrelated. Force and speed are two sides of the same coin which is energy doing one thing or the other. In other words, the faster a unit is moving, the weaker the force originating at its center. Movement among the fields of other force-centers causes things have a certain “pulse” and exhibit some of the characteristics of a wave.

We can talk about speeds less than the speed of light because when many units are attracted together, this group does not move very fast; but it still moves.

Being a big group of units is what makes things “massive” and gives them structure and many other properties. A big group is what makes up the parts of the parts of atoms.

Especially if we imagine that the forces of all units extend outward indefinitely, the universe can be pictured as one big field.

Dear reader,

If, perhaps, you might like to read the first Letter to Nereyda, just go to the Christian Materialism menu of [www.thefaithkit.org/panorama2](http://www.thefaithkit.org/panorama2).