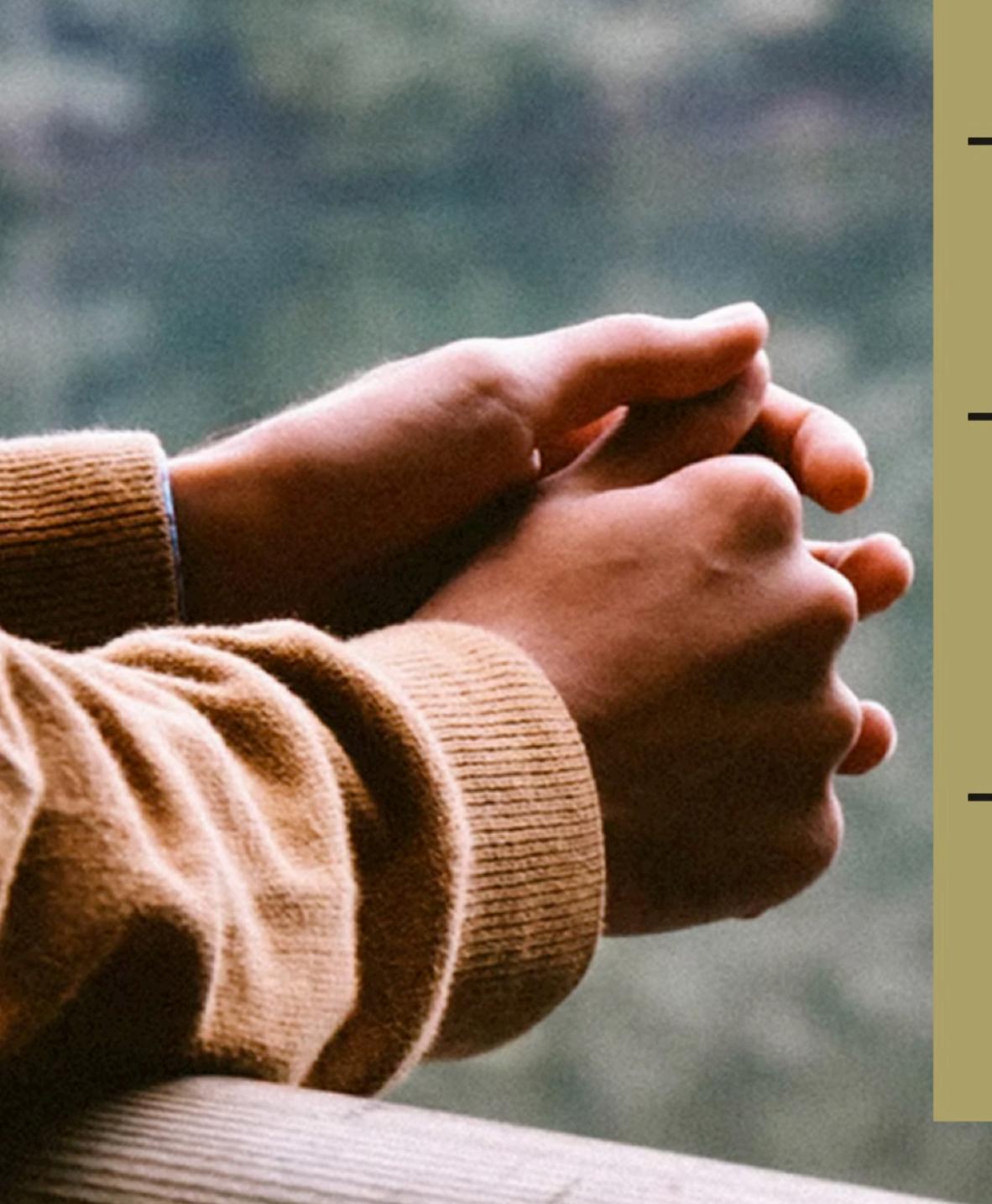




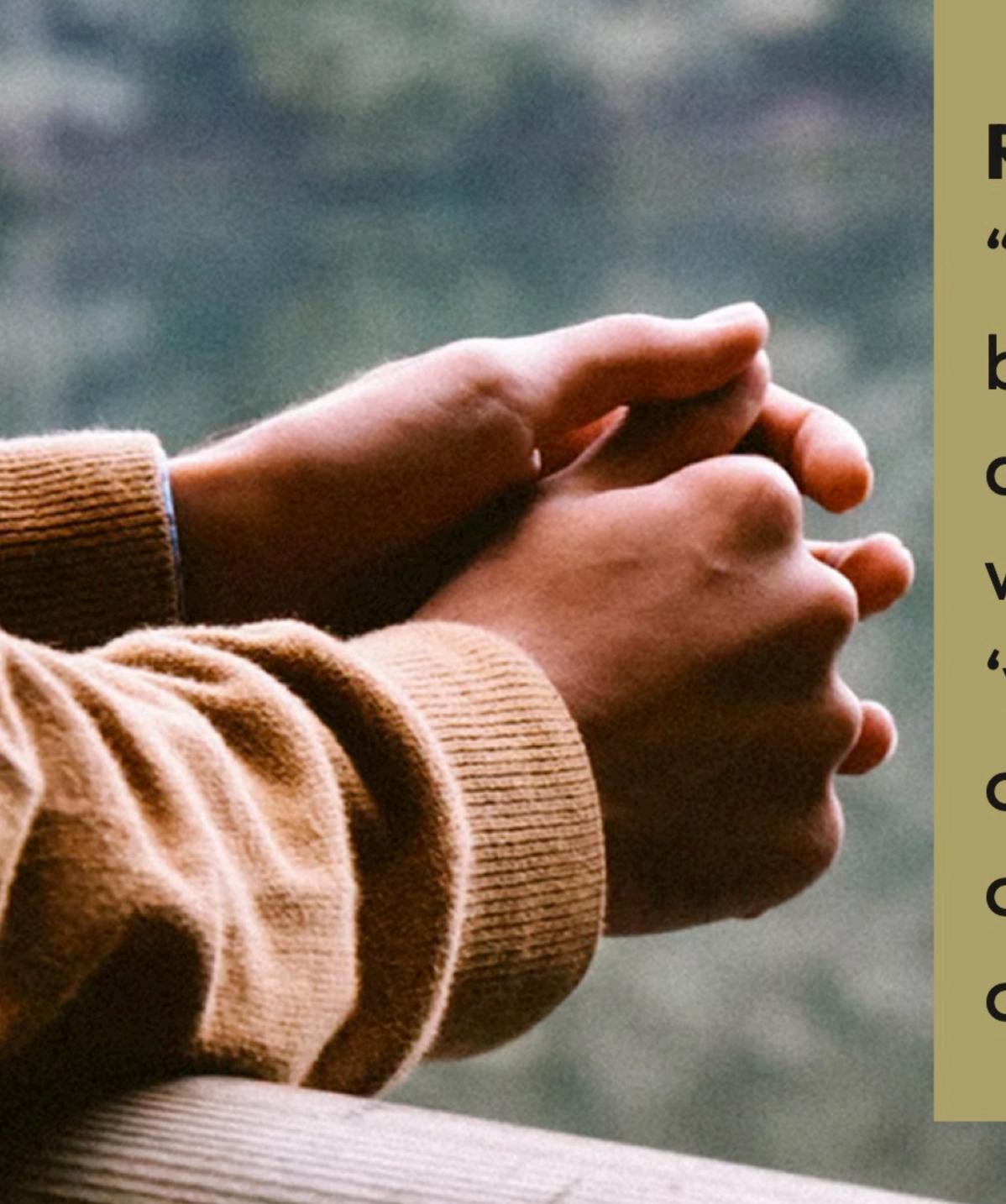
The Bible People Talk About Vs. The Actual Bible



- "If only you Americans could get over worshiping ancient texts."

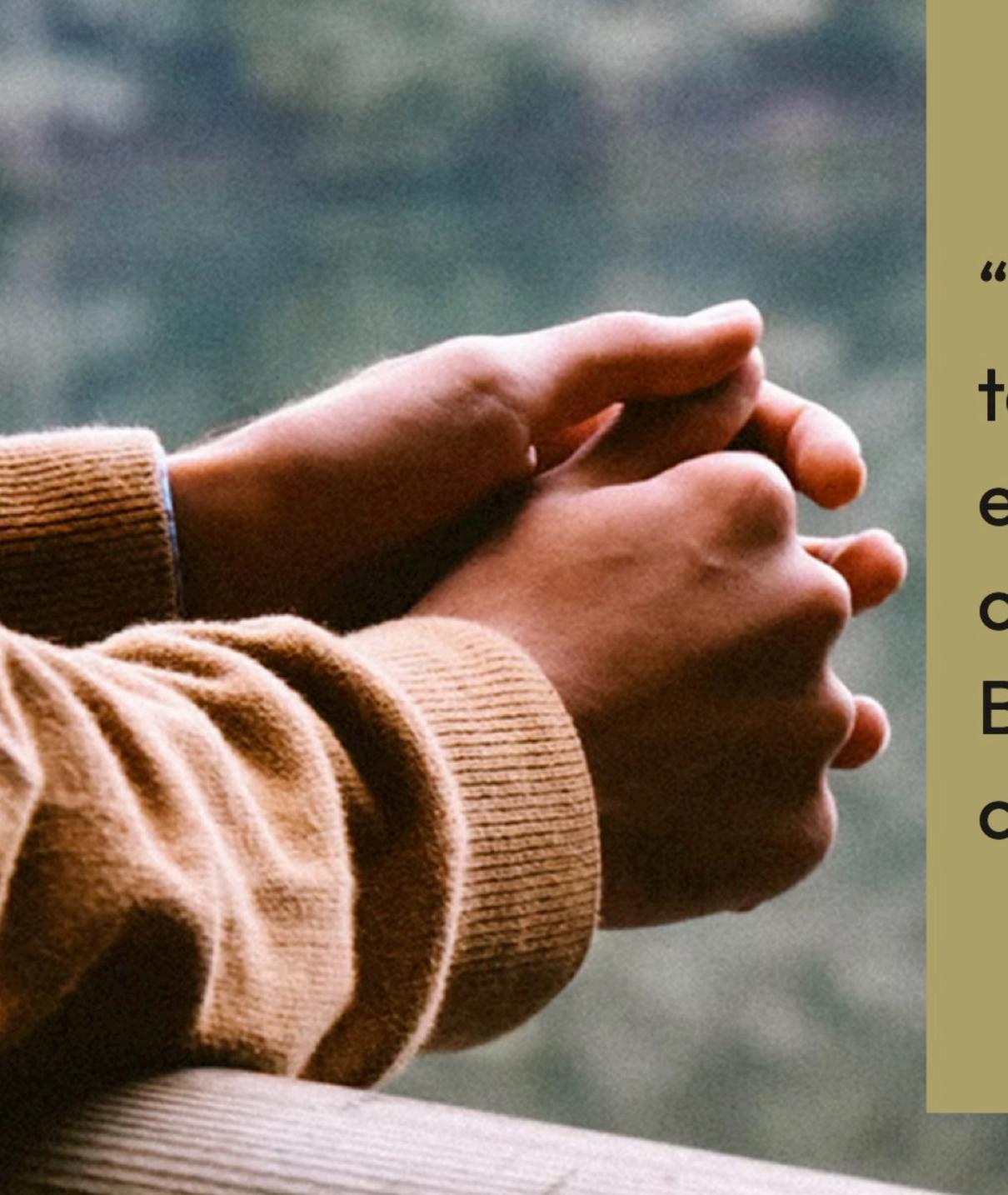
- Christianity is an "authoritarian belief system for which there's no evidence at all."

- The "magic book says it's OK to hate gays."



Rosaria Champagne Butterfield:

"Christians always seemed like bad readers to me, too. They appeared to use the Bible in a way that Marxists would call 'vulgar'—that is, common, or in order to bring the Bible into a conversation to stop the conversation, not deepen it."



"'The Bible says' always seemed to me like a mantra that invited everyone to put his or her brain on hold. 'The Bible says' was the Big Pause before the conversation stopped."



- -Historically suspect
 - -Morally suspect
 - Irrelevant
 - -Out of date
 - -Contradictory



The actual Bible is much more compelling than the imaginary Bible people reject.

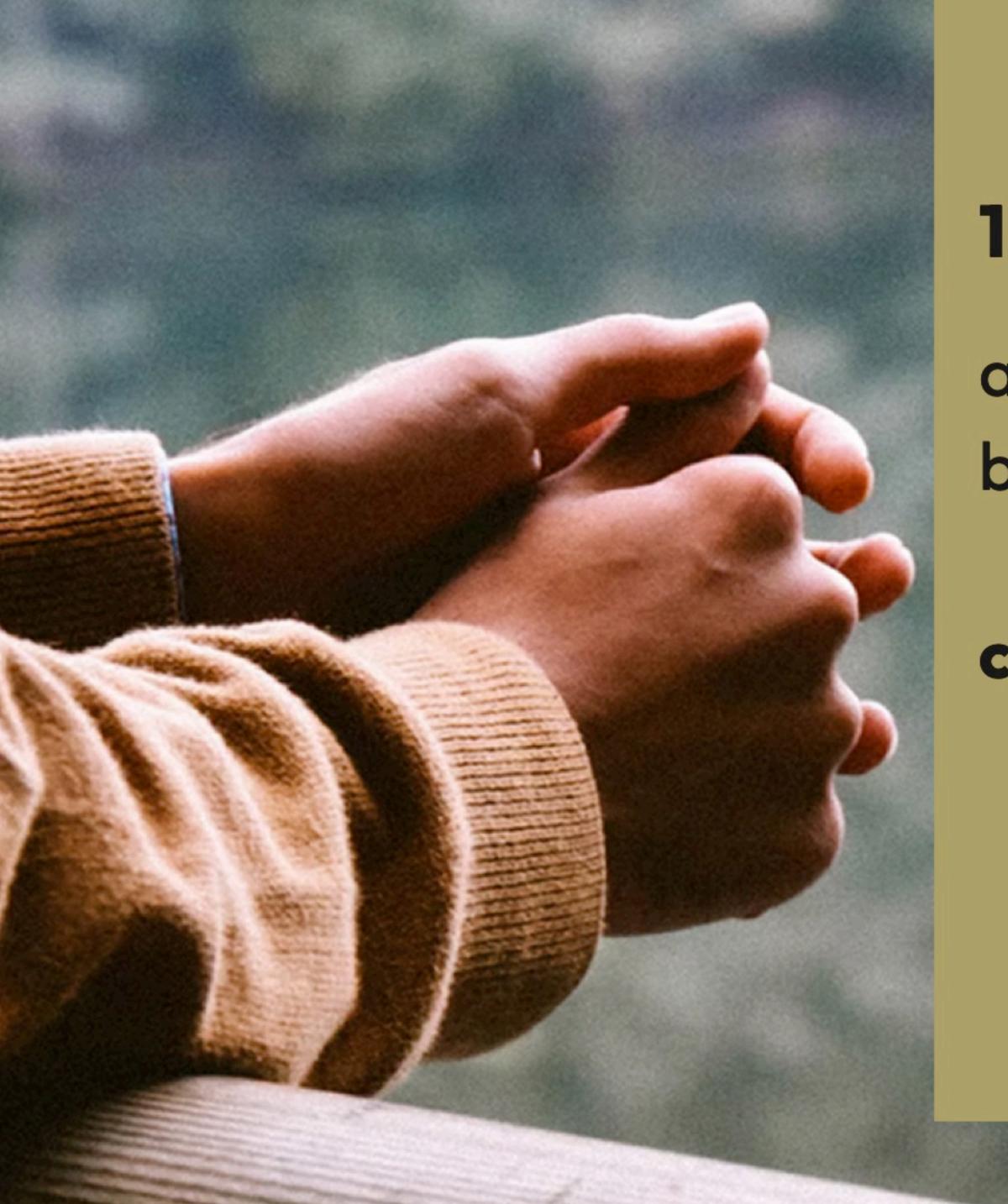


a. A "flat" book of rules.



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b. A translation based on a translation.



- a. A "flat" book of rules.
- b. A translation based on a translation based on a translation.
- c. A collection of premodern myths to explain what science now explains.



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- d. A contradiction-filled collection of legends.



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- e. An ignorant expression of unenlightened morals.



- a. A "flat" book of rules.
- b. A translation based on a translation based on a translation.
- c. A collection of premodern myths to explain what science now explains.
- d. A contradiction-filled collection of legends.
- e. An ignorant expression of unenlightened morals.
- f. An opiate of the masses.

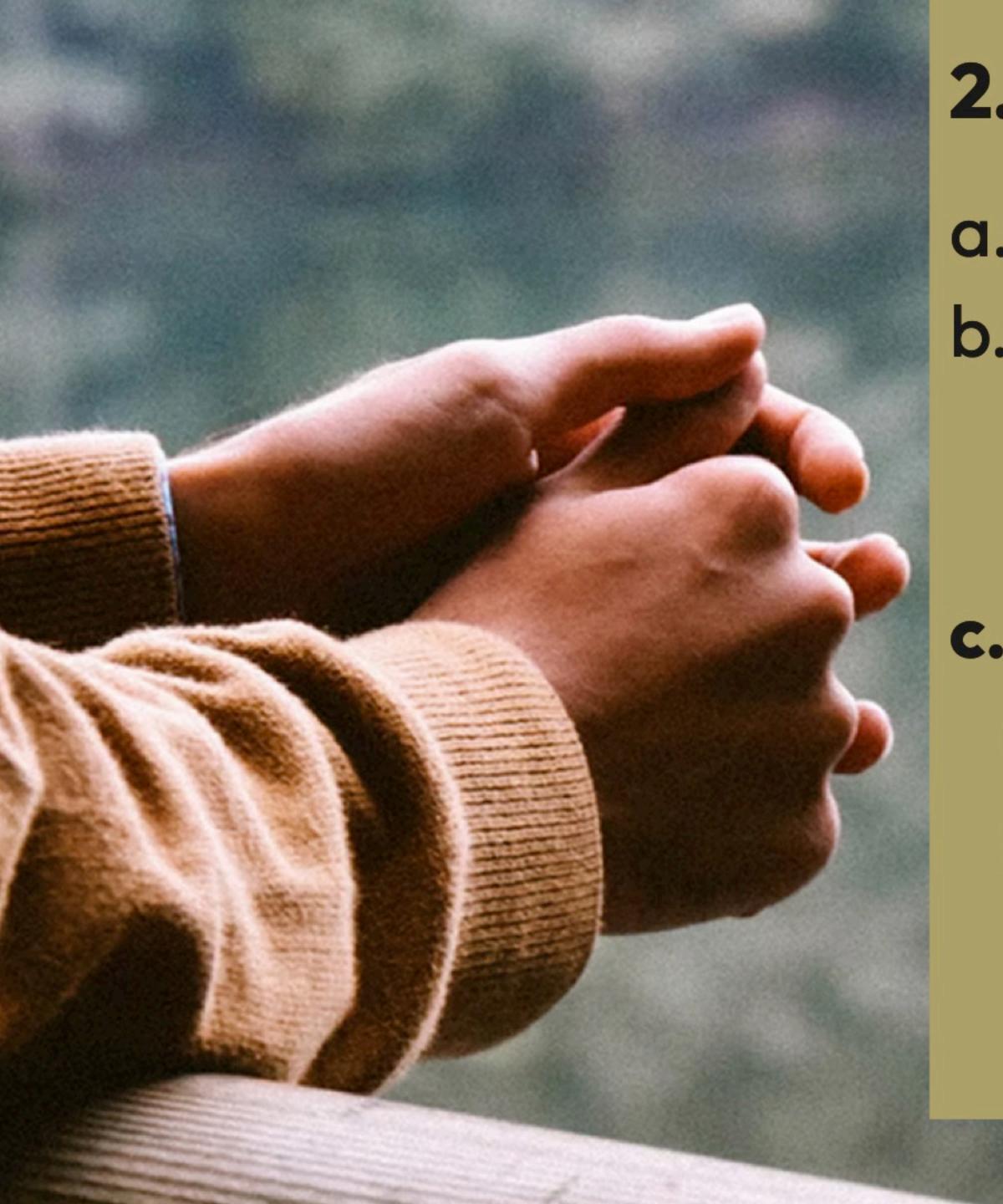


a. A collection of 66 diverse books.



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b. Attested by thousands of ancient, original-language manuscripts.



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- c. Focused on explaining not natural phenomena, as does science, but the human condition.



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- b. Attested by thousands of ancient, original-language manuscripts.
- c. Focused on explaining not natural phenomena, as does science, but the human condition.
- d. A reliable, brutally honest account of history.



e. The saga of the Creator's victory that He graciously shares with His people.



- e. The saga of the Creator's victory that He graciously shares with His people.
- f. A call to live lives defined by the cross of Jesus Christ.





a. Sensitive to the saga



a. Sensitive to the saga

b. With Christ's Cross at the center



- a. Sensitive to the saga
- b. With Christ's Cross at the center
- c. Laying down hostility and defensiveness



- a. Sensitive to the saga
- b. With Christ's Cross at the center
- c. Laying down hostility and defensiveness
- d. Open to experiencing what others have found compelling