

The Unity of Man

Man by nature desires to know, were Aristotle's opening words from his *Metaphysics*.

I am convinced that every child, as they grow, develops the unanswered questions that we all seek to know.

What is the purpose of my life? What is the point of existence? How was I created—was I created by something greater, or did humans create themselves in a distant future or... ? What is consciousness?

I will claim that every other scientific or philosophical question is an extension of the fundamental question *why* (am I here). What is good and what is evil, how shall I live my life, who do I want to become, how is the eye capable of seeing, what am I made of, how do cells work, what is the sun, how old is our planet, why do we fall towards earth, what is mathematics etc. etc.

The solution to many of these detailed questions over-time—particular thanks to the scientific method—results in a summarized view of ourselves and of our existence.

It may be the case that the very essence of being human means to have the ability to ask such questions—and forever attempt to chase the answer(s).

But even if we may never be able to fully make a claim as to why we exist, or what is consciousness, or what is beyond us etc. etc.—I am convinced that one can attain a specific *state of mind*—a realization of the answers to these questions without having it in the form of a discrete, tangible, phrasable answer.

I believe this is what Buddha had meant about *enlightenment*. I can see no other understanding of it.

This state of mind arrives from contemplation, questioning, philosophizing, experience... In one word: *learning*.

There are many ways to gain knowledge, and various kinds of knowledge—so it is not always relatable if I were to pick one topic. But one experience that I am certain will give you some form of knowledge through *experience*—an awakening of consciousness if you will—is the *Psychedelic Experience*.

Whoever you are, however, your life has gone, and whatever information on the experience that you had gained in your life—the psychedelic experience carries some fundamental properties that will be realized by any human being (and maybe other creatures?) that experiences it.

What sort of fundamental property? For example, the dissolution of the ego—the feeling that you are connected to the entire universe: nature, people... everything!

This feeling that one acquires through the psychedelic experience is, in my view, synonymous to the idea of God.

In fact, this philosophy has even been given a name—pantheism. It contents me that a man of great distinguishment as a genius figure held interest in this view, Einstein.

Historically, this idea existed. In one of the oldest religions—Hinduism, there exists the idea of the ultimate reality—the greatest truth of all, the ultimate answer—*Brahma*.

But this idea, in my view, is difficult to grasp explain (hence I relate it to the psychedelic experience—relatable to any individual in their specific unique way) and incorporate into a way-of-living. In other words, now that you have realized that life is an illusion, how must you live? It is difficult in practice.

I am no historian, but in my analyses of human civilization and culture, I would presume that this difficulty resulted in the creation of various gods and goddesses—god of this quality and god of that. It is helpful and more comforting to pray for health if you are ill to a god of health, to pray to a god of earth in hope for a good

harvest, and to a god of love if you are feeling lonely. Such prayers, however, make one distance themselves from the unification of the self (you) (in Hinduism it's the "Atman"), with the 'psychedelic idea'. You are now obsessed with the god of love because of your personal negative feeling of loneliness, the god of war because of the negative feeling of fear of battle, etc. In other words, in praying to these gods, you are focusing back on your ego.

It's sad that due to the difficulties and struggles that people have gone and do go through today, they require the belief in such manifestations of their personal feelings. The need to have a 'big brother' watching over them.

{It's quite ironic too since to be at peace, and hence happy, means to understand and come to come to terms with this "psychedelic idea", but by focusing on your own ego in an attempt to be happy, you disconnect yourself from the universe thereby bringing you unhappiness.}

Buddhism, in my view, was an attempt to return to the psychedelic idea from the developed idolatry of Hinduism. Hence, Buddhism does not even speak of a 'god' but rather of enlightenment—a *state of mind*—not of an abstract idea (god) which can, and too often does, become poorly interpreted as I just described.

In fact, I think Judaism shows this vividly. What started off with Abraham breaking the idols of his father's idol shop to return to the one true idea—the abstract idea of *one* 'God', turned into a religion that, although varies wildly in interpretation and imagination, nonetheless created more followers of a 'personal god' figure. A "hidden idol" if you will.

I would argue similarly with Islam: Mohammed proclaimed that people must return to the one true idea—Allah, the same god of Abraham. I am sure there exists Muslims with a degree of wisdom and understanding that allows them to view Islam and Allah in an abstract way—similar to a unified idea that I discuss with pantheism, psychedelics and Brahma—but there are, yet again, many who indulge in the conviction of a 'personal god' figure.

The word God is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weaknesses –Einstein

Today, in the 21st century, we live in a time of transition in ideology. Science has succeeded in globalizing the world and radically changing the way that we see the universe, thereby breaking much of the traditional views that the world culture has developed. As such it is destroying the 'personal god' that has guided many individuals—and the sum of them: a society—into living by specific principles, with a specific caution of their actions (out of fear).

My comment on this fact is as follows:

This is scary. Since our civilizations have been used to living like this, by taking this 'personal god' away from them as the source of culture, morality, and comfort, we leave many people naked and bare—as they have lost their answer to the question of their existence, but have not yet been *personally* (i.e. *emotionally*) acquainted with science (and the understanding of its position in man's evolution) such that science becomes a religion in and of itself (I say this as I am well aware there exists scientists who still pray to a supernatural). They have lost this backbone of belief, and the societal structure that came along with it. As such, I think many would agree that there seems to be a certain decay in morality in the past hundred years. A lurking nihilism—nothing to hope for, nothing to live for but to just get by—to keep the economy going so that our entire system doesn't collapse, and we don't starve. And to achieve this do nothing more than consume. "God is Dead" as Nietzsche famously put it. And with this moral decay, along with terrifying WOMD—it is something to fear.

But I think that there is reason for optimism: I think that in the long run, this death of a 'personal god' is ultimately good. Because if the psychedelic idea exists in the hearts and minds of every individual—having a raised consciousness on the unity of our existence—I do believe that good will come of it: an opportunity to live on a planet of peace and harmony.