

To Thine [Known] Self Be True. - [adaptation of] Hamlet (Act I, Scene III)

By John Steiner

All- and I say ALL organized religions are mental constructs created by, excuse me, apes that talk.

Now I'm not where the atheists or agnostics are in terms of doubting or refuting beyond doubt anything like a spirit or a divine phenomenon. But understand we're apes. I know that irritates some people to say it, but fuck. It's true!

I've delved into a vast array of religions and spiritual traditions seriously looking for answers.

Mormonism- which I was unfortunately born into, was openly racist [and remains so today, don't let those suited bicyclists lie to you about it]. That's not an answer.

But I was still cool with the Christian theme. Yes, I still say Mormons are Christians, but that's not always a good connection. So I tried evangelicalism [I shit you not]. But it only took nine months [like a spiritual pregnancy interestingly enough] to figure out these guys were swimming in circles [Nazrami reference intended]. Some did rather well at being Christian. I personally know of a guy named David Cunningham who use to play football for U of U. This guy is from what I saw the personification of what being Christ-like is all about. But his personal "coming to Jesus" wasn't the result of the church he attended. Rather the church thing came after [whether he knows it or not].

And on and on it went, me cruising the traditions and religions and philosophies the world over. They were all interesting. They each had powerful observations. But in the end they each had an intellectual ceiling.

Through all this time and a while before I also took a strong interests in all the sciences. My degree's in biology, but I just drew in all the science I could like a black hole, letting none of it escape so as to fully incorporate it into my daily life as best as humanly and inhumanly possible.

The sciences explained to me why we talking apes create religions and gods like soda pop products and insurance plans. And, honestly, a great many worldly factors for doing this weren't bad at all. There are still lessons of Jesus I keep close in my mind. But i take them in from a messenger I know to be another one of us talking apes. That made it easier to incorporate his message more thoroughly and profoundly.

Just so I take in lessons from Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam [that's right, look and be amazed what they have to offer] as well as many indigenous traditions and religions which very nearly were wiped out but thankfully they endure. Sciences offered me the most penetrating looks into the human condition. It's like "The Matrix" movies where I can see the code that weaves the fabric of our lives. That new sight became more amazing than all the miracles I could've imagined or read about.

What makes life more amazing is that because science isn't complete, and scientists fully admit to it, I know there will be greater more profound observations yet to come. I bring up how we're like Adam and Eve in the garden or liken to the ancient Greek traditions. I mention this because we've clearly exhibited that potential incorporations of godlike knowledge and power

just as the mythologies and theologies the world over say we could have. The stories of your religion and countless others do have powerful truths, but they do so because of us, the literal Apeman, not because some mystical being dropped from the sky and handed it to us.

It's this reason that we talking apes are more amazing than any of the gods we create in our image. A lot of Christians get terrified at the statement that we could be greater than their god, but that to me is their attempt at keeping us down- even if they don't realize that's what their phobia does. Sure I rail against religions but that's because I see their greater potential being fully squandered for entirely primitive and chimp'ish reasons.

That's why I know we apes do not know the name of the divine.

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