Filling the Encircling Void with the Light of Love

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. (Genesis 1v1)

IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning, the universe was without form and void. The universe was no more than a speck, poised to fill the encircling void over billions of years. I—or rather the universe—shall deal with God later.

In its first 13.7 billion years the universe has evolved ever more complex forms, each new form built from what already exists; *evolution means that the universe is Self Creative*[1]. It has created life, a myriad flora and fauna, human beings. And throughout this 13.7 billion years, beyond everything that the universe has created, there remains the void. The created universe, perpetually poised to fill the encircling void.

Humankind evolved 3.2 million years ago, *Australopithecus afarensis*, called affectionally Lucy[2] when unearthed. Lucy-kind had a small brain, and beyond it a void that evolution gradually filled for 2.8 million years, to create *Homo sapiens* around 400,000 years ago. Since then, something amazing and unique occurred; *the human species has come to embody the creative capacity inherent in the universe*, beginning simply with the creation of tools; the ground of human creativity is an ability not only to act instinctively but also thoughtfully, to have an ability to think, and to do so creatively.

Between 3.2 and 2.8 million years ago, hominid evolution was about brain capacity. With *Homo sapiens*, it's evolution has been more about brain capability, the ability of the mind to expand its creative intelligence, not only about making things but also about seeking to understand life, the universe, and everything, a creative process greatly enhanced by the evolution in humans of a conscious mind.

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1 The Evolution of the Universe, Scientific American
https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-evolution-of-the-universe/
2 Australopithecus Afarensis, Lucy's Species, Natural History Museum
https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/australopithecus-afarensis-lucy-species.html

THE CREATIVE CONSCIOUS MIND

Çatalhöyük Earth Mother

We see a flowering of the creative conscious mind—both head and heart—in literature, art, architecture, engineering, science—astronomy reaches ever deeper into the origins of the universe—and in philosophical, psychological, and religious thought. We need also to mark, millennia of conflict, slaughter, heartless cruelty, slavery, forced migrations, xenophobia, domination and abuse of women, as products of the conscious mind.

From earliest times, with our capacity to think, we have reflected about the world we see about us. Then something wonderful happens, over time there emerge myths and tales—regarding observable natural phenomena and the powers that control them—about gods and creation of the world. Every ancient community conceived its own creation myth to describe the earliest beginnings of the world[3].

Tales like the creation myth of the San people, genetically the closest surviving descendants of our original ancestor, creating rock paintings 26,000 years ago. Their creation myth must be one of the oldest in the world:

> In the time before time, when the whole earth was covered with water, Bee carried Mantis over the water, searching a place of solid earth to set them down. Bee flew, and saw no dry land. Just as she grew so tired she was not sure she could continue, Bee spied a flower on the water, its petals reaching out like welcoming arms. Bee flew down and gently placed Mantis onto the flower, after planting a seed in Mantis' body before dying of exhaustion. The seed grew to become the first human. So began Mantis, the First One, the Maker of Fire, the Keeper of the Dream.

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Bee Myths and Folktales

Deceptively simple, this short and ancient creation myth is full of meaning. Bee is the first cause, the creator. Bee sacrifices her life for her creation, itself a not unfamiliar theme. Here, at the beginning of creation, the myth introduces the cycle of death and rebirth, Bee sacrificing her life so that something more, the human race, shall be brought to birth.

As this creation myth illustrates, "creator" and "god" are ideas conceived by the human mind to explain the meaning of the world and its earliest beginnings. We can argue till the end of time about whether God exists, but the only inescapable fact is, *"God" is a product of the human mind, itself a*

3 The List of Creation Myths website https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_creation_myths lists and links to many creation myths.

product of evolution. “Well, that about wraps it up for God.” (Douglas Adams, 1979, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*)

LOVE

Not so! Now, as much as in ancient times, humans need to hold on to ideas that serve to explain the meaning of the world, its earliest beginnings, and the cycle of death and rebirth, a need that is met by religious thought. Putting aside the—often divisive—differences in dogma, what religions have in common is a belief in the power and importance of love. *Love is present in diverse religious texts*: you shall love the lord your god with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself; none of you has faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself; love is a gift of one’s innermost soul to another so both can be whole; “Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, not quick to take offence. Love keeps no score of wrongs; does not gloat over other men's sins, but delights in the truth. *There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance*.” [4]

Love is a product of the human mind—both head and heart—a profoundly significant psychological product of evolution. Whatever we may or may not believe about God, we can unite in a belief in the power of Love, we can apprehend God—rather than as a being—as an experience, Love as the essence of godliness.

THE FLAW IN THE CONSCIOUS MIND[5]

Neuroscience research shows that left and right hemispheres in humans have very different functions (Iain McGilchrist, 2009, *The Master and His Emissary: The Divided Brain*). Major motivational systems—attachment, fear, sexuality, play, shame, and disgust—are located in the right hemisphere. With its overall perspective, the right hemisphere is dominant for: the reception, expression, and communication of our feelings and passions; our ability to regulate stress; our sense of self, our relationships with others, our empathy with others, our compassion for others, our sense of morality; our understanding of metaphor and our sense of humour; our insight, intuition, and creativity. Everything, in fact, that marks the human spirit, the self-aware, living, feeling, relating, human being who is able to apprehend life in others within the context of the lived world. A world of individual, changing, evolving, interconnected, implicit, incarnate, living beings, but in the nature of things always in flux, never fully graspable, always imperfectly known.

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4 1 Corinthians 13 verses 4-6 – New English Bible

5 Taken from my article, The Great Dilemma—Evolve Or Die! or a Psychosynthesis of Heart and Mind https://soulfulness.co.uk/psychosynthesis-of-heart-and-mind, this paragraph briefly summarises McGilchrist’s insight of the Divided Brain.

In contrast, the left hemisphere is dependent upon language to name objects and understand their construction. It has the clarity, focus, and power to manipulate things that are known, fixed, static, isolated, taken out of context, explicit, disembodied, general in nature, but ultimately mechanical and lifeless. Everything in fact that has enabled the human species to dominate the world. McGilchrist states, “an increasingly mechanistic, fragmented, de-contextualised world, marked by unwarranted optimism mixed with paranoia and a feeling of emptiness, has come about, reflecting, I believe, the unopposed action of a dysfunctional left hemisphere.”

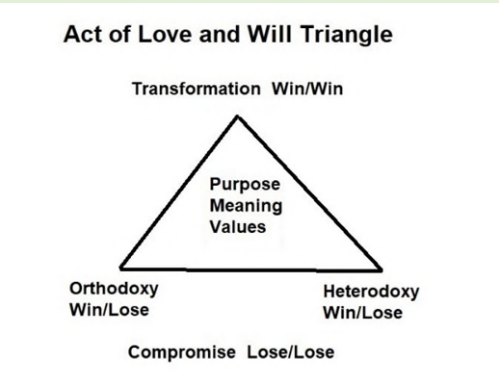
This is the evolutionary flaw in the human species, the left hemisphere is dominant over the right, worst case being the crushing of the human spirit. We see the global consequences, dehumanised cruelty and production-line extermination of millions of men, women, and children, and devastating wars, as well as the actual use of nuclear weapons, the ongoing threat of nuclear conflict.

FACING THE VOID

The future is a void. Evolution never stops, has always followed its own path. The difference now is that a species has evolved which embodies the creative capacity inherent in the universe, meaning *we can participate in the unfolding of our own evolution*.

Of course, there may be no future at all if we fail to tackle climate change. Then again, we can imagine what might emerge if we leave it to others, the ultimate triumph of the left hemisphere: the world isn’t short of actual and aspiring despots, capable of marshalling the technical resources to crush the human spirit; big money financing human enhancement research might turn our species into robots.

Or else, we can envisage an advance in human psychology whereby the functions of the right and left hemispheres are fully synthesised, human values being embraced by everyone, the needs of people and all planetary life being acknowledged, the articulation and planning of ways to fulfil those needs without regard for self-interest, disputes resolved with mutual respect and understanding, based on Right Relations, a synthesis of Love and Will. (Assagioli,1974, pp100-103)



I call this advance in human psychology *trans-consciousness*, its realisation being based on three ideas:

1. The human species embodies the creative capacity inherent in the universe.
2. Love is a product of the human mind, a profoundly significant psychological product of evolution.

3. There are in this world plenty of people who embrace human values, who express Goodwill and Love in serving many vital causes: saving the planet; caring for the environment, all creatures and species; the rights of women, ethnic minorities, workers, etc; the education, care, and protection of all children; enacting just laws; working in various fields of physical and mental health and spiritual wellbeing ...

Nothing love cannot face! No limit to its faith, hope, endurance! Love is a sustained Act of Will! Love is a tough call. Love has not, so far, been the guiding principle in human affairs. Yet, it remains a demanding and radical foundation for human conduct: mutual respect, honesty and clarity, fairness and generosity, cooperation and conciliation.

What if all people of goodwill—"ironic points of light"—see themselves as one, poised to fill the encircling void—evolution of human consciousness—with the light of Love? Trans-consciousness!

As psychosynthesis therapists, we are part of this psychospiritual challenge:

Defenceless under the night
Our world in stupor lies;
Yet, dotted everywhere,
Ironic points of light
Flash out wherever the Just
Exchange their messages:
May I, composed like them
Of Eros and of dust,
Beleaguered by the same
Negation and despair,
Show an affirming flame.
W. H. Auden (September 1, 1939)

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He trained as a Shamanic Practitioner at Eagle's Wing College of Contemporary Shamanism. Impressed by the synergy between Psychosynthesis and Shamanism, he wrote Soulfulness, The Marriage of Shamanic and Contemporary

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