

Why God Needs Us ... sort of

Does God need us? The answer depends on how we picture the Divine Being. The traditional Western view pictures God as the ancient patriarch, God the Father. Aside from being the Supreme Being, which is generally considered a good thing, He has a dark side. Capable of anger, jealous, and vengefulness, He has allegedly reigned down destruction on entire nations.

Other cultures have invented even more colorful god-forms: Elephant gods, creatures with ram's heads and human bodies, men with wings on their feet, and countless other anthropologically inspired "anthrogods" — deities with a potent mix of human traits and supernatural powers.

Anthrogods have needs and put demands on us, whether they are of the "one-true-god" or "one-of-many-gods" variety. At the very least, they usually want us to love or respect and serve them. This is good advice if by serving them we improve ourselves spiritually. Unfortunately, religious leaders and believers can misconstrue the deity's message. They can become judgmental and even violent. Few religions are above this. For example, how can the core message of Jesus, "love one another," inspire people to commit genocide? It's obvious then that our view of God is important, because it can influence how we interpret events and interact with one another.

Beyond Gender

The emerging New Spirituality pictures God not as a He, She, or an It, but as the All-That-Is. Others call it the Presence or Being. Currently, there's no pronoun in English to accurately describe this "Beingness," so for convenience we'll use the traditional "He," the same pronoun we use for the anthrogods.

If we see God as formless (yet innate in all forms), eternal (yet can experience mortality), and omnipotent (yet limited), then we will perceive life quite differently than if we see Him as biologically and psychologically similar to ourselves. Unlike humans, whose bodies and minds carry many demands and expectations, the All-That-Is requires nothing. He is complete: He is everything, everywhere, always. He

creates, sustains, and exists in all things. If the All-That-Is is complete, why would He need us?

Unfolding

The goal of life is happiness, peace, love, and enlightenment. The desire for perfection comes from the Self, the image of God, which seeks to express itself through all humanity.¹ Expanded to a cosmic scale, the story could go something like this:

At some point, the universe with its many dimensions came into being. On one of these dimensions, primitive life forms emerged. They could perceive creation thanks to “cause and effect,” an illusion made possible by the illusion of time. In a most rudimentary way, these first life forms *sensed* the universe; they could *feel*.

Billions of years passed and creatures developed new sense organs. They could experience life in novel ways -- through sight, sound, smell, and so on. The brain continued to evolve as well, in part because it needed to process the additional information gathered by the new sense organs. As new layers of brain formed, the “organ for thinking” expanded in function and capacity.

Evolutionarily, the first layer that appeared was the “reptilian” brain designed basically for survival. Eventually, a “mammalian” layer grew over the reptilian base. This made social bonding possible. Lastly, at least for now, the neocortex developed, covering the previous two layers.

Humans have the largest neocortex to brain ratio. We can think abstractly, use symbols, and be aware of awareness. We can experience the exquisite patterns, textures, colors, scents, and sounds of nature and go “Wow!” We can deeply appreciate the Creator’s work. And within the last few decades, we have glimpsed into deep space with powerful telescopes and are awed and humbled by what we see. Not only is the scale unfathomable, but so is the beauty.

The Many Eyes of the One

The All-That-Is doesn’t need us to appreciate what He has created. He is complete. Nothing is outside of Him. Yet, if He is everything, then He is us. Maybe *He is using us to experience and appreciate Himself*. From one

point of view, this sounds extremely narcissistic. However, if the Creator was narcissistic, then He would be another anthrogod, not the All-That-Is.

God, though, has created “apparent individuals”: us. We are “apparent” in that we can believe we have an independent existence apart from Him. All creatures are God, each uniquely sensing the universe from within the limitations defined by their forms -- their physical, mental, emotional, astral, and spiritual bodies. God then has zillions of eyes, ears, brains, souls, and the like in which to appreciate His work. And we share in the experience of awe, beauty, and wonder of it all.

The Law of Infinite Progression

There appears to be a Law of Infinite Progression. Life moves from simple levels to higher ones. We can see this in the evolution of life forms as well as the spiritual progress of humanity. Many people are becoming spiritually aware.

Two thousand years ago only a handful of individuals – Jesus and Buddha for example – realized that we were “Children of God” or ultimately one with Divine Consciousness. Those Masters tried their best to say, “Hey, at our core, we’re all like this,” but most people didn’t understand that. Instead, they deified them, turning them into anthrogods of sorts. Today, many understand that idea that all is One, regardless of the context we use. Humanity is advancing.

The Big Picture

In evolutionary terms, the universalism of Mahayana Buddhism says that everyone will become a Buddha and that looks like the Plan. Expand this to a cosmic level and the story could sound something like this: Start with some primitive life forms and have the tiniest bit of divine consciousness shine through them. As the universe unfolds, let the life forms evolve. As they develop more capacity, divine consciousness can express itself more fully through them. In humans for example, a few individuals would develop this capacity first, and the effect would eventually ripple throughout the whole.

On Earth, it appears as if some part of the neocortex is a major biological, multidimensional interface. It acts as a doorway for divine

energy, insight, and information to enter the material world. Creatures living in other parts of the universe probably have developed different biological interfaces that provide a similar function.

Eventually, enough individuals, species, planets, and galaxies will awaken to their divinity, and the dream will be over. Just as miraculously as the universe appeared, so will it flash out of existence in the brightest blaze of light and ecstasy. And another story will begin.

In the most fundamental way, “common sense” is knowing our relation to divinity and that we are the eyes and ears of the All-That-Is. It is in this way, if any, that God needs us -- to share in His dream.

End

1. Babaji's Kriya Yoga

<http://www.babajiskriyayoga.net/english/home.htm>