

What is God?

As a general rule, most of us shirk away from things that smack of a paradox. Our analytical left brain demands that we reduce reality into predictable, understandable components, usually rejecting anything that defies common sense. This is precisely why quantum physics remains a fringe interest for the public, despite revolutionizing science since Max Planck and Albert Einstein first exposed its bizarre rules. We naturally crave simplified, clear-cut answers. Yet, quantum mechanics forces us to accept a paradox: the fundamental building blocks of reality are simultaneously waves of energy possibilities and solid particles of mass. It is a concept that defies human logic. And it is this exact comfort with the impossible that we must adopt when we turn our minds to an even older, deeper paradox: **What is God?**

Spirituality requires we embrace the apparent paradox of mysticism. The classic definition of a paradox is something that seems to go against common sense, but when you look more closely turns out to be true. I do not pretend to know the truth of God, which is a subject so vast as to be beyond human capacity to fully grasp and understand. Ergo, it may be foolish for me to attempt an explanation from a definitional point of view. Afterall, God is the purview of religious organizations and institutions, and they can't seem to agree. Nevertheless, I shall endeavor to provide what I perceive to be valid elements of the *Force and Being* we commonly refer to as God.

For many, the word God is a trigger of cascading thoughtforms loaded with preconceptions, emotions, and definitions. This seems especially true for those who were raised in a fundamentalist environment, be they Jewish, Muslim, or Christian. An increasing number of the spiritual, but not necessarily the religious, seem to reject, or at least avoid, the term God including the numerous names of reference found within scriptures and the writings of religious organizations. Instead, a growing body of the spiritually minded tend to use definitions, such as, the Creator, the Source, All That Is, the Ground of All Being, the Logos, the Monad, the All, Universal Consciousness, Universal Love, I AM that I AM, etc.

The last name presented above, I AM THAT I AM, is the title name that God used to refer to himself, as recorded in the burning bush story of Exodus 3:14 in the Bible. The same appears in the Torah, and also in the Quran's retelling of the story, except the name is changed to Allah. The Quran is the youngest of the scriptures, having been compiled around 650 years after Christ and about 2,200 years after Moses wrote his story in the book of Exodus. Nisargadatta Maharaj,

an influential Indian guru, centered his core practice and teachings on the sense of "I AM". In an interview I recall him stating that I AM THAT I AM, is the most powerful true statement in all of human language. He wrote a book titled: *I Am That*. So, surprising as it may be, there is a growing body of Hindus, Christians, and Jews all using the same title name for God.

Most major monotheistic traditions define God as supreme, infinite, the eternal creator, all knowing, all loving, powerful, present everywhere, and unchangeable. Within the major world religious disciplines God is often referred to as our Father in Heaven or simply Father. Masculine reference only. However, in the most ancient contexts, Pre-Biblical Sumerian tablets, references to the Creator and creation involve the powerful feminine force. Ninhursag is the supreme earth mother and co-creator of life who fashioned the first humans out of clay. Other early feminine god names from Sumer, which is the oldest civilization from which we have written records, were Nammu, (the mother of God) Nintur, (the exalted lady who assisted in the creation of humans) Mami (the mother goddess from whence we derive the term Mama), Damkina, the nurturing earth goddess, which today we might think of as Gaia.

From the somewhat later Egyptian records, but still Pre-Biblical, we see a similar pantheon to Sumer, but with different names. The goddess Neith, one of the oldest deities, was revered as the original creator goddess. The sky goddess Nut was said to have given birth repeatedly to celestial bodies including Ra, the sun god. Ra was eventually considered the supreme creator after the creation of the cosmos. Later, the goddess Mut, (whose name translates to "Mother"), rose to prominence as the queen of the gods. Egypt also featured numerous other influential female deities, including Maat and Hathor.

Egyptians tended to group gods into trinities, most famously Isis, Osiris, and their son Horus, Egypt's Holy Trinity, the divine mother, father, son. Interestingly, it was a Christian bishop from Egypt, Athanasius of Alexandria, that convinced emperor Constantine and some of the bishops at the famous Nicene council in 325 AD (CE) to refer to God as a Holy Trinity. Rome would eventually declare Father, Son and Holy Ghost as the Christian Trinity. It became law and doctrine 56 years later throughout the Roman empire in 381 AD (CE).

Some writers have claimed that Horus, the son of Isis and Osiris was born on December 25th and that the festival of the coming forth of Isis was on the same date. This appears to be inaccurate. However, December 25th, was the winter solstice on the Roman calendar. It was also the birthday of the Roman god

known as the Unconquered Sun. Roman soldiers linked this solar imagery to the Legion's military god Mithras; a deity derived from the Persian god Mithra. Throughout the Roman empire, the 25th of December was a massive, empire-sponsored solar festival for two Roman gods, and eventually a third, Jesus of Nazareth, the prophesied Messiah.

The Roman church was formed some 300 years after the resurrection of Jesus, taking its name from the Greek title Christ, which in Hebrew is Messiah. It was in 325 AD (CE) that the Catholic Church was established and given imperial sanction by the Roman Empire. The church was institutionalized under Emperor Constantine at the first council of Nicaea in modern day Turkey. The Roman Empire was then in the process of shifting to Constantinople, today's Istanbul, from Rome, but the church it established made Rome its home.

In 354 AD (CE) Rome declared the birth of Jesus would be set on 25 December. This date was widely celebrated worldwide as winter solstice day signifying a new beginning. For a whole host of reasons, December 25th became the settled day to celebrate the birth of the Messiah. The Biblical scriptures suggest Jesus was actually born in the late Spring when Ceseas Augustus in 2 BCE required all of Judea to report to their birthplace and take an imperial loyalty oath Rome. Interestingly, there was a spectacular Jupiter-Venus conjunction in the night sky at that time, where these two planets merged as if one, creating in effect, a "new" star of considerable brilliance. It was by several degrees of magnitude the brightest thing in the night sky other than the moon.

Returning to the question, What is God? This is likely an unanswerable question for mortals, at least within this time and space. On the other hand, it seems that God is both a Force and a Being, not one or the other. A paradox similar to the basic building block of the universe, atoms exist as both particles and waves in the quantum world. My personal descriptive is the *Force and Being* of God. The force field from which all of creation arises and the being of God as an entity.

In my view, it is the love of God, which is the Force, Source and Sustenance of All That Is, and that God is the Supreme, Infinite, Eternal Creator of All That Is. I also think of God as my Eternal Father, and I cherish a personal relationship as a consequence. This is my most deeply held belief. However, I recognize that beliefs are tricky things. Strongly held, well-reasoned beliefs can engender great power. Belief held in mind with sincere conviction is FAITH. Faith can bring amazing things to pass. Things impossible for science to explain. However, when

we say “I believe” we tend to narrow thinking and reduce expanded insight, so I tread lightly with the use of the “I believe” term.

Well-reasoned beliefs are usually good. Spiritual conviction, and personal testimony, is perhaps better. When combined they are powerful. Nonetheless, I hold most beliefs loosely enough to allow for new information to be integrated and further inspiration to be gained. Beliefs can sometimes keep us trapped in a way of thinking that does not allow us to rise above problems at hand so we may learn the lesson each problem has presented. When this happens, we are stuck. When we're stuck, we are not learning. That's when we suffer.

Positive religious participation can be emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually beneficial. This is demonstrated by both practice and science. But excessive focus on the “Shalt not,” is a prescription for negative reinforcement. That which inspires and lifts one's vibration and frequency to higher ideals, such as love, peace, joy, beauty, kindness, and happiness, is the essence of spiritual focus and ought to be of all religious activity, definitely not judgement, blaming, and the criticizing of others. However, regardless of the religious activity, true spiritual development derives from looking within for improvement.

The definition of God is best decided by each of us through prayerful contemplation, right brain spiritual confirmation, in concert with left brain reasoning. To this latter point, and in my view, to remain an Atheist in this day and age requires greater faith in the inaccurate stories science has been telling for decades, than in believing in a higher power. Serious scientific inquiry testifies of a master planner, a creator, but for funding and employment reasons most scientists will not openly admit this conclusion, at least until retirement. It's well past the time that we ignore the religious zeal of some few in the scientific community that preach, in essence, that the new priesthood are those in the white lab coats.

There appears to be an irreconcilable conflict, rarely reported in by the media, between the essential sciences of physics and mathematics and that of the naturalistic theories of the universe. For example, even an inconceivably tiny change in any one of the four forces of physics would have resulted in a universe without galaxies, stars, atoms, or even nuclei -- and, thus no life. Higher mathematics actually fits the cosmos and does so in ways that cannot have arisen from evolution or survival advantage. That is not to say that physicists and mathematicians are arguing against the gradual emergence of life, merely against it happening by chance. Randomness and naturalism, the reigning

dogmas in high school and university textbooks, have no support in math and physics. The belief that all of reality is mere matter and that random processes produce complexity has been battered by advances in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and genetics. Randomness does not produce order without the prior existence of information and a directed process.

Whereas I value science and read scientific journals with great interest, I also know that you cannot put Love in a test tube and prove its existence. If science cannot prove it, it must not exist? Seriously? Why some in science have taken this unsupportable position borders on the absurd. To draw conclusions about spiritual inquiry through scientific endeavor is to ignore the truth and essence of love. Love exists. It is the fundamental force of the universe.

Spiritual inquiry, religious institutions, and scientific analysis, when operating at their best, endeavor to discover truth. When individuals or institutions participate in shaming or blaming others due to their own anxiety, stress, anger, or confusion, they are operating at negative frequency levels. Shaming and blaming is the ego's way of avoiding responsibility, and in effect placing itself above others. Organizations invariably have entrenched and elevated egos based on those having risen to positions of leadership. Not always true, but substantially so.

LOVE is the Force of God, we may call this Consciousness, Light energy, the Source, the Field, or what have you. The title is not the thing; love is the aspect. Love is the greatest power in the universe. Love over-arches and undergirds all personal evolution. It is the Force that includes and governs all others. In the distilled words of Albert Einstein: *"Love is light. It enlightens all those that give and receive it. Love is gravity, the attraction between people, and all life forms. Love is power. It multiplies the best we have and allows humanity to not be extinguished in their blind selfishness. Love unfolds and reveals. For love we live and die. Love is of God. God is Love."*

Spiritual evolution is to rise in love, for oneself first and then for others. In Biblical terms: *"Love your neighbor AS yourself."* If we do not love ourselves as who and what we are, we need to work on ourselves first. To give love, we must feel worthy to experience love. Learning to love is the way to experience God. It requires that we first forgive everyone of everything as forgiveness is the very foundation of emotional and spiritual evolution. Without complete and utter forgiveness, we are mired in self-pity. Forgiveness is loving-kindness. To progress in godliness requires that we reframe negative thoughts and responses

into something finer and more evolved. Spiritual evolution brings out the best in each of us.

Religious organizations provide structure and are helpful for most. In my view, they typically begin with inspired spiritual instruction. Too many then tend to devolve into institutions of doctrine, dogma and control. When love remains as the prime motivator, not obedience to doctrine, the religious structure serves humanity. Spiritual growth comes from within. Whatever supports spiritual growth is valuable and praiseworthy.

In the Hebrew Bible, the word Elohim appears roughly 2,600 times. It is translated into English as "God" the vast majority of the time. Elohim is a plural noun. In the first book of Torah and the Bible, Genesis 1:26 says: "And God said, *“Let “US” make man in “OUR” image, after “OUR” likeness: and let them have dominion...”* So, who are the US making mankind? The reference to the word God, as derived from the Hebrew is plural, and yet treated most times as singular. Another paradox perhaps? And if that's not confusing enough, in Psalms 82, it says, *“God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; He judgeth among the gods.”* In this case "He" must refer to the Supreme Creator God, as he judges among the other gods. So, the Bible itself settles the question that there are a plurality of gods, although only the plural word Elohim, which was translated as God over 2,000 times in the Bible, is to whom we are to give obedience? So then, does Elohim refer to a counsel of gods, as the Sumerian tablets indicate, and its leader is the supreme God, or is Elohim referencing the eternal family, the divine Mother, Father, Son and Daughters, or does it refer to the Trinity godhead as defined by Rome, or? Something to ponder.

Dozens of times throughout the Biblical scriptures those being addressed are called the "children of God." For example, Romans 8:16 *“The Spirit testifies that we are children of God.”* Psalms 82.6 says: *"I said, ‘You are “gods”* Jesus repeats this line in the New Testament in John 10:34: *"Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are “gods?”* By this standard, we are of divine heritage as God's children and are therefore gods in training. We are a fractal of the divine thus we get to decide the part we wish to play in the evolution of ourselves, the world, and possibly the universe at large.

In prior writings I have argued that earth life is a vibrationally produced, highly sophisticated, 3 dimensional holodeck training module, designed and comprised of frequency emanations. To what end? To provide for our personal growth and evolution. We are here to learn and to create and experience the effects of our

creations. This is where we learn and can create experientially. We attract into our experience that which corresponds to the sum total of our current state of consciousness as the law of attraction works automatically. Like a mirror, it reflects the subconscious image held before it. Earthlife can be remarkably beautiful, but it seems to have been designed to deliver struggles. If it did not, we would not, and could not, learn as quickly or completely. Experiential learning is vastly more valuable than academic instruction. In order for this to work, we must have a veil drawn on our remembrance of who we really are, so we can explore creation within a limited scope and learn from every choice we make. The veil of forgetting is the gift that makes the mortal experience possible.

The level of our personal progress and enlightenment is a function of the quality of our thoughts, and the vibrational set point of our consciousness. Our sojourn in this mortal life is our current classroom. Human life is designed for us to collect experiences, learn from them, serve others, and evolve. Mortal life is not a courtroom; it is a classroom.

More than mere belief, I have a powerful and personal testimony of God. Both the Force of God, which is Love, and the Being of God, to whom I refer to as my "Father in Heaven", in the traditional sense. God is the father of my soul that carries the fractal, spark or spirit of God. As to my take on doctrinal thoughts and ideas, some make logical sense, some are spiritually supportive, but I shy away from saying this or that. At times I find myself resonating with the famous lines of Gandhi when he said: "*I am a Muslim and a Hindu and a Christian and a Jew ...*" Notwithstanding, I define myself as a Christian in the sense that I am a believer in Christ Consciousness and that Jesus WAS AND IS the prophesied Messiah. I also honor the ascended Masters for teaching Christ Consciousness, the Buddha nature, the Krishna spirit, and those other master teachers like Paramhansa Yogananda, Lao Tsu, the Jewish prophets, and so many others that have given so much to so many, in terms of spiritual wisdom.

If Heaven is the throne of God, why did Jesus instruct us to seek heaven within us? Luke 17:21 says: "*The kingdom of God is within you*". The Messiah, like the great Vedic Masters, emphasized that a person's external actions are dictated by their internal spiritual wellbeing. Thus we create heaven within at the level of the heart, as we raise our vibration to that matching a heavenly experience. It seems reasonable that we can only endure for long that which we can resonant with. This may explain John 14:2 "*In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.*" The word "mansions" was translated from Greek to Latin and then to English. The original Greek "mone" means place of abode,

not the connotation “mansions” in English suggest. Furthermore, I doubt seriously Jesus was speaking about real estate values. The consistency of physics suggests that our average frequency vibration will attract to us the appropriate abode in the hereafter that best fits our personal evolutionary state and that will be perfect for us.

In the late 1960's I became close friends with John Mackey, a scientist with doctorates in both Mathematics and Physics. He was the head of computer sciences for Boeing Aircraft, an absolutely brilliant man of considerable humility. When we met he had just taken a 6 month sabbatical allowing us to spend many hours most days debating and defining our thoughts and ideas and paddling about on a canoe on Lake Fenwick, which was within walking distance of our two residences. John had left university after completing his PhD in Physics and served a 2 ½ year mission in Scotland for his church, before returning to embark upon a 2nd doctorate in Mathematics. John was deeply intelligent, committed to the scientific process and deeply spiritual. To my eternal benefit, John was impugned with an amazing amount of patience. My background in ancient history and archeology was of interest to him, his understanding and testimony of God, was of more interest to me.

Eventually, John would create within me a curiosity in physics and a much greater passion in spirituality. John Mackey described God as “N dimensions plus one,” which I took to mean as essentially undefinable. He would patiently explain to me that we live within the box of a 3 dimensionality reality. We can only see and measure less than 1% of the information carried within the light around us, so whereas we may summarize that which we begin to grasp, we are not capable of defining with any degree of accuracy that which presides in dimensions we cannot even begin to imagine.

As children of God, we carry the spark of divinity. We are a fractal of our godly parents. And although I refer to God in the traditional way of the world's major religions, in my heart, I firmly believe that God is both the Force of All Being, the Love that creates and sustains, AND that God is both Spirit and Being. I also sense that God is the great Patriarch of a huge celestial family.

According to Hermes and Thoth wisdom, “As Above, So Below” gives us a model by which to grasp the greater concepts of God. For example, I expect to one day meet my Mother and my Father in Heaven. Everything is of them and through them. And, we are not their only children, as there are Beings who reside on innumerable planets. In the Pearl of Great Price, where God speaks to Moses,

there is insight on this point: *"And the Lord God spake unto Moses, saying: The heavens, they are many, and they cannot be numbered unto man: but they are numbered unto me, for they are mine. And as one earth shall pass away, and the heavens thereof, even so shall another come; and there is no end to my works, neither to my words."*

All of creation is eternal, and all of humankind is immortal and in training. We are in effect, gods in embryo, trusted, good, honored and loved. God is over all, the total of totality, the Source of all there is. Universal hierarchy then, is not domination, it is order. As to the organizational hierarchy, these are my thoughts:

- Spirit is consciousness, resonance, and the energy of all life and creation. Spirit is the life energy of the soul.
- The Soul is what we are, the personal interface energized and illuminated by spirit. Soul is who I am.
- Each soul, or the "I am" carries the record of sojourns in mortality, its preexistent state, and beyond.
- Soul retains individuality beyond the veil of mortality, yet it is intimately connected with all things.
- To achieve mortality we must pass through the veil of forgetting. This is the gift that makes mortality possible.
- In mortality, the soul has its own individual biological body. Ego is the soul's physical function in temporary mortality.
- Ego is a powerful program; it adapts to physical reality as it perceives it. It is driven by subconscious programming.
- The ego's mission is to protect and make safe, physically, emotionally, psychologically, etc. Ego is not bad; it is simply a human program that needs be subject to soul.

The level of my personal enlightenment is a function of the quality of my thoughts, and the vibrational set point of my consciousness. My sojourn in this mortal life is my current classroom. Human life is designed for us to collect experiences, learn from them, serve others, and evolve towards Godhood. Mortal life is not a courtroom; it is a classroom.