

"The Supermyth"

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Myth and Legend

Legends are repeated and embellished stories of great human exploits. John Henry, Paul Bunyan, Joan of Arc and so on. When there are metaphysical stories about Goddesses, Divine Beings or one supreme God, they are called Myths. The beliefs and assumptions flowing from these are called, "mythos". These myths have changed and evolved across the ages, as described in my previous presentations. They are all attempts to understand our relationship with life, both physically and metaphysically and they have all changed across the ages insofar as our collective identity has changed with advances in technology. The arrival of science is one of these advances and has marked a major turning point.

How science changed the world.

In earlier times when the physical world had not been scientifically analyzed and deconstructed, everything was a big complicated mystery. Explanations for physical phenomena were woven together with metaphysical themes. Apollo in his chariot made the sun move across the sky. Earth, sky and oceans were created in seven days. Lightning was Thor throwing his hammer. So was bad luck. No distinction was made between the physical and metaphysical aspects of existence until scientific understanding came into being and clarified the basics of physical reality. This contradicted the fixed beliefs of the dominant cultural mythos and conflict ensued. Science continued to develop and became the dominant narrative as its products formed our current technology based world.

When science revealed the structure of the physical world two things happened in the domain of understanding. Because the analysis was so good and produced such reliable results, the symbolic metaphysical narratives were discarded, relegated to the domain of superstition or junk. The previous melding of physical and metaphysical understanding that had unfortunately turned into religious dogma and doctrine was shattered.

Symbolic and mythical representations could no longer survive or usefully serve. Although guardians of the old way resisted the new understandings, they were overwhelmed by the results of technology and science. Some of the pioneers of the new way then became arrogant, supposing their way was the only way. Both sides, the religious and the scientific, failed to recognize that the epistemological territory involved consisted of two sections, one of which fit better with each approach. The metaphysical for the religionists and the physical for the scientists. Instead, the religious continued to cling to their melding of both physical and metaphysical, rigidly adhering to beliefs in the literal and infallible nature of their scriptures, while the scientists became intoxicated with their success in understanding and explaining the physical world so that they declared that the metaphysical world really did not exist. The latter outlook constitutes the arrogance of science; the assertion that there is no metaphysical side, that everything falls under the heading of the physical and is therefore discoverable by science or else it is not real. Consequently science refuses to even consider the possibilities of energy medicines, calling them quackery. Synchronicity and patterns of correspondence between levels of being, for instance the correspondences seen in astrology are rejected out of hand, presumed not to exist. Psi, ESP, or paranormal phenomenon are brushed off as impossible and non-existent.

However, science itself has revealed it's own limits.

The advancement from Newtonian physics to Quantum physics shows that everything physical consists of energy and 99.99% empty space. Huh? Phenomena like light and radio are both waves and particles. What? It is impossible to know both the location and the speed of an elementary particle. Red shift shows that the universe is constantly expanding from everywhere at once but no one can say where it came from or, what may have been there, wherever that is, before the so called, "Big Bang" and what was the power that did the banging? Gravity is a stupendous mystery as are the forces holding together the atom. Deeper still is the mystery of consciousness. What is it? How is it able to be attached to material substance? A substance which only seems to be solid but is not, when

understood deeply. Or, why do we find patterns of meaning in synchronicity, coincidences, and astrology?

These matters are entirely beyond the domain of physical reality. They are “metaphysical”, beyond the physical. They can not be discovered or understood by science, which deals only with physical phenomena.

The attachment of the traditionalists to the historical doctrines which scientists have shown to be unworkable, combined with the arrogance of the scientists to the effect that there is nothing metaphysical, has produced a huge tension in our collective world view which blocks us from developing a new mythos appropriate for this age. If the old views no longer serve, and are discarded, does that mean there is nothing or does it mean it's time for new ones?

Results

The development of high technology has both made ordinary tasks easier and previously impossible things possible. To travel a few miles is no longer necessary to saddle up the horse or hitch up the buggy. Just hop in the car and away we go. Flying between continents or talking to your friend very far away is easy. Television, internet, quick Covid testing and effective birth control are miracles of science and technology, when seen from the view point of only a century ago.

One of the results is a historically new *empowerment* of each individual. A person with a credit card is not only able to do things that the royalty of previous ages could not even imagine, but is freed from the immediate and obvious dependence on others that knit the social fabric together in earlier times. While it's true that someone had to build and maintain the infrastructure of the credit card system, the roads, sewage, cell phone networks and so on, they are invisible and no direct interaction with these people is required. This creates an illusion that the user is independent and promotes a feeling of empowerment and ego inflation with increased feelings of entitlement and egocentricity. Social links of overt interdependency have weakened and demands for privileges without corresponding responsibilities have increased. Society as a whole is unravelling as it becomes less mature and more demanding.

In the absence of a coherent metaphysics, the pursuit and accumulation of money and power have become obsessions in their own right. The subconscious expectation is that money and power will provide identity, security and freedom, the psychological basics, as well as meaning and purpose, substituting for love and service to others. However, this is not a workable proposition for society as a whole, instead making for greater income inequality, social injustice and loss of shared stewardship of our world.

Iron age style struggles for dominance, superiority and control have gotten out of hand, given that science has provided the technology of mutually assured nuclear destruction. Many people don't realize that the Iron Age is over. It ended not just when the first atom bomb went off, but when the last frontier was penetrated and it became clear that there is no more, "out there", to conquer or exploit, no place to which to transfer our garbage or dump off undesirables. There's no place left to go. We're all in one big fishbowl, which we are contaminating and ruining in the obvious forms of climate change, overcrowding, and chemical pollution of the lands and oceans. Who's responsible? Nobody. The moral imperative has been lost by the removal of metaphysics from the overall equation, leaving only mercenary materialism in its wake.

Emphasis on individualism

Over population, over pollution, income inequality, political strife and polarity, all forms of discrimination against any differentness, gender inequality, climate change, nuclear weapons and reactors as points of contamination. All of these are results of technological development occurring in a material world without a metaphysical framework, with negative consequences on the collective well being of all of us. Each problem can be assessed, analyzed and discussed in great detail, but suffice it to say that they all exhibit the same foundation. The empowerment of the individual occurs to the detriment of the collective as it occurs only within a materialistic framework. Without metaphysics there is no sense of collective responsibility.

New Harmony

If we are to have a decent future for human civilization and society we must form a new social harmony to manage our social stresses and to make the planet habitable for all over time and in the future. While individual freedom, empowerment and identity enhancement are good in prudent measure, it is easy to go too far; to become narcissistically addicted to self indulgence, ego inflation, over consumption of resources, dehumanization of others who are not like you, suppressing and condemning them in service to your own ego, your subconscious fears or your personal comforts. Self empowerment without balance distorts our ability to create the livable future we need so that the entire human species can thrive over time. Beyond individuality we need to learn to cooperate globally and locally in a state of mature mutual interdependence. It is not enough to philosophize about love in the abstract. A new mythos must emerge and become widespread; one that provides a unifying and motivating story so we work together rather than perish together.

Domains

Science has provided many benefits and can provide more. Let us recognize it's value in mastery of the physical domain. Let us also separate out and recognize the metaphysical domain. Its value lies in our collectivization, in our emotional self-management, in providing us motivation for harmoniously and effectively restraining the excesses of individualism and denial of responsibility to one another.

It is necessary to address a new myth, recognizing it as metaphysical in nature so there is no conflict with physics and no ignoring or denial on the part of those who have become entranced by science.

History

Images and symbols of the metaphysical have changed through time, as noted in my earlier talks. From ancestor and nature spirits, to Gods and Goddesses. A pinnacle was reached with the image of One God, by whatever name, followed by an unraveling of this imagery in the atheist/existential declaration that there is no God, that God is dead. This

symbolic dead end has produced a great chill in the mythology. Some have reacted by embracing an overly enthusiastic Fundamentalism, reminiscent of the denial in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, "Me thinks thou dost protest too much".

The metaphysical representations I have reviewed have all taken the form of something or someone who is, "out there", separate from the self. The logical follow-up, seen in the "New Age" religions of the last century, has been to internalize the imagery with the assertion that there is something, a "spirit", inside of you, not out there, sometimes expressed as the Jesus within you or God within. A popular meme that goes with this is, "Namaste", a Sanskrit word roughly translated as, "The spirit in me salutes the spirit in you". However, even if it is "within", this philosophy still promotes a deity separate from the self.

In the next step we come to a more fitting root level symbolism for this time. Rather than denote a spiritual "it", a something within you, this symbolism represents that you are within an overarching unfathomable source, as a particular expression or extension of that Source itself.

This changes the imagery from a particular specific "it" to an undefinable mystery that can not be specified. It is not a "something", but a plenum which is much much more than any person can even begin to comprehend. You, the smaller limited being are within the unmanifest Source, the larger boundless being, rather than the bigger being somehow compacted and squeezed into you, the smaller.

Metaphysically, the double reality is that at the experiential level of reality we seem to be separate autonomous selves, while at the root level we can recognize that we are extensions or parts of something non-individual, a constantly renewing Source. The fact that we are split, being ignorant of this root level reality is called the disassociation, which I will explain momentarily.

Because of the disassociation the root reality that we are is something of which we are unconscious. We can then recognize that all the various mythological symbols and representations of spirits and gods through out history are different projections of our unconscious unknown root level self reality. That is why the images have changed as our collective culture

identity has changed in step with changes in the structure of our civilizations, based on advances in technology which have changed our conscious sense of self.

Now it will never do to take this as meaning that we are "God". That is not the idea. What we call "God" or a god is a symbolic representation of something outside the self, something that we are not, something separate and apart from our self. I'm not talking about that.

The Double Reality approach says that we are inside of and a part of the infinite source. Since we have not known it we therefore have had to project it outside in some symbolic form. These symbols have rigidified into signs, losing their vitality, and left behind.

In this view, we ourselves are derivatives of the infinite Source, personalized individual expressions of the all inclusive formless and impersonal Source, root, beingness, and fabric of all existence.

There is no outer "it". We are within the larger self, we are parts of and we are extensions of the Source/Force. When we project that onto a symbol, that is not what we are. There is no "It" literally out there. If we must affirm an "It", to get at the root level we must not look "out there" or, "in here", instead turning it all inside out so we can see it's not in us, we are in it. And, the "it" that we are in is not one of the externalized symbols.

Story

Now let's make the super myth less abstract and tell it as a story, keeping in mind that this is symbolic, not literal.

Consider an infinite being. Infinite in time, space, knowledge and power. These dimensions have been called eternal, omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent in the Judeo-Christian-Islamic theology. We will imagine such a being in anthropomorphic form, as has been historically portrayed.

OK. So far, so good. Now for a new part. Such an infinite being faces a basic challenge or problem, one stemming from infinity itself.

With infinite knowledge there can be no novelty, suspense or surprise. Everything being known, past, present and future, nothing can be unknown. How could anything be new? How could there be surprises?

With infinite power there could also be no challenges. Nothing would be too difficult or even difficult at all.

Additionally, there could be only one such being since if there were another and both were infinitely powerful than what would happen in the case of a conflict? Which one would win and which would lose? If one or the other, only one of them would be infinitely powerful, thus only one can be.

Where does this leave such a being? No novelty, excitement or challenges? No equal beings with whom to interact? For eternity and everywhere? In our anthropomorphic projection such a being would be very bored. Stuck in a rut forever.

Even if we consider this to be a pre-state or not anthropomorphic, i.e. not subject to boredom, which might be a decidedly human thing, what would there be for an infinite being to do?

Well, if such a being is really infinitely powerful it follows that solving such a "problem" could be easily done and by the time we are here to ask the question the solution must have already happened. The solution is the disassociation, which I mentioned a little while back. This is also the source of the "super myth" itself.

If we look around us and observe the world as it is we readily see it. We and every other being consists of limited awareness, limited power and limited extent in time and space. The infinite state has split itself apart into any number of finite states. The answer to the challenge of infinity has consisted of splitting apart the whole. Each part is a part of the same Source, but by being separated has taken on a particular nature.

In the potter's studio there can be found a great mass of clay with no particular shape- a formless blob. To make something, anything, a section is broken off. This can now be formed into something, first a ball, then a pot. It's still clay but now made separate because split off from the whole and personalized into a particular form.

For instance, that beautiful Ming Dynasty vase could never be, were it not split off and disassociated from the original lump of porcelain.

The process of breaking or splitting off from the whole is the "disassociation". In the example of clay the separation is physical and the

piece is physically apart. In the metaphysical realm of life and consciousness the disassociation is into separate beings.

In an example from psychology we have the common experience of disassociation when your attention is distracted. This talk is getting boring and you are distracted by a noise out in the street. Clearly you are not really disconnected from yourself, like the clay from the physical mass. Your attention has merely split off from your earlier focus of awareness, attaching to some other point of interest. This is a disassociation of consciousness.

Infinite consciousness has split itself into any number of parts or branches, each limited in time, space, knowledge and power, each disassociated from the whole, each in its own way. Depending on the depth of the split, there will be different degrees of limitation and different manifest beings. As a result there are plenty of surprises, challenges and others to encounter.

In this metaphor, we are each extensions of the whole, deliberately limited, differentiating from infinite oneness into particular individualities, not knowing that this is what we have done, each individual experiencing self as if the center of all creation, since our consciousness is self-reflective. At the root level we are all one. At the experiential level we feel like we are all separate.

This is not to say there is a god or spirit within you, but the reverse. You do not *have* "God" within you. There is no "God". You are an extension of that source which is infinite but it is not "God". We only call it that when we externalize it as a concept from the position of our disassociated ignorance.

This is also not a version of, "May the Force be with you". The force is not "out there" to come to you or to be with you. You are the force, but split off from and necessarily ignorant of your identity as such, in order to overcome the constraints of being infinite. Whatever force may be is not "out there", separate or distinct from you, instead you are within it, made distinct. Compare this to a blood cell in the body is a separate seeming entity, but it is a part of the entire bodily being.

The double reality of our existence is that the power, awareness, time, matter and space of which we are each individual personalized extensions or expressions has split apart and disconnected from itself, making us and the world. Each part or piece does not know of it's identity at the experiential level. We experience that we are each self-aware separate beings, separate sparks of existence, existing in a cloud of unknowing. At the root level reality we are all the one Source, made of consciousness, emptiness and love, the attractive and repulsive force.

A different, more modern metaphor is a comparison with the electrical grid. This is an interconnected web of power spread all over the state, region and continent. It is impersonal. Any given electrical device, whether a light bulb, microwave oven, computer or TV set appears to be a separate entity. However, it is actually an extension of or a part of the unseen grid that encompasses the entire region. As an undifferentiated "mass" of electricity the grid would be able to do nothing. As driver of individual connected appliances much is done. If each unit were fully separated, unplugged, they could do nothing. If the grid were not separated into parts it would not function. If there were parts which were electrically disconnected they couldn't work. At the experiential level each item seems to be an individual. At the root level each one is part of the whole. Each part is not disconnected, but disassociated.

The grid is not something *out there*, apart by itself. We can call it, "The Grid", but that is only to make it easier to talk about. There isn't a piece of the grid within each electrical device. Rather, each device is an extension of the grid, an individual realization of it. In a very real sense it is the grid, realized or made real, in this individual form.

What about the experience of sleep and dreaming? Are you still yourself when you are in a dream? Your consciousness has split off from your outer world senses and ordinary awareness of self in a body. You seem to be in a different stage setting, but you don't recognize it. In the dream it feels like ordinary reality, at least until you wake up and say, "it was just a dream". You are not truly separated. You're still in your body. You are disassociated.

The dream state is the experienced reality. The physical body lying in the bed with all the electrical activity in the physical brain is the source reality. Both are real, but there is a split, a disassociation in consciousness.

Comparing the symbolic image of "God" to a person, we have what is called "the metaphor of the dreamer". In this representation the projected super being called "God" dissociates in the same way we already know from sleep and dreaming. The experience level of this being in this dream state is the human. In this metaphor we are the figures in the "dream of God". This is not a fact, but symbolism.

What this metaphor shows is another instance of how awareness splits off from its source, awakening into separate seeming individual self awareness, oblivious to it's source reality identity.

The metaphor of the dreamer simply represents the impersonal source consciousness splitting itself away from itself, having the limited experience of being a conscious self in an embodied individual form, unaware of itself as being this way at the source level. What we call our existence, from our limited point of view, is understood symbolically at the root level, as what could be called the dream of the infinite.

The key thing in all of these metaphors is the split, the disassociation. We are aware of our experience in this physical seeming world made of atoms and molecules which science reveals to be mostly emptiness and spinning energy balls and we are cut off from our source identity, whatever that is. What difference is there between a purely mental experience in a sleeping dream and a waking living experience in a physical body which is totally insubstantial at the sub-atomic root level? Only that we are totally attached to this experience. If we are cut, do we not bleed and feel pain? This sensory awareness is a feature of the disassociated state.

We think we are a separate ego self in a mobile bag of skin, muscle and bones, a physical being which we partly control with our voluntary intentions. This is not an illusion. It is not false. But it is not the whole picture and is not the only reality, only the experiential reality.

We have lost the recognition that in addition to the experiential reality our existence also consists of the metaphysical source reality.

All the other myths relating to source reality described through the ages are also metaphors and symbols; whether it be ancestor spirits, Apollo or Athena, the God of Gods, Allah, or Jehovah. Unfortunately the institutions built up around them have rigidified. Science came along, took them as the rigid factual truths they claimed to be and shot them full of holes. This eliminated the comprehension of anything other than physical reality and triggered defensive hardening on the part of these institutions. My purpose is to bring back the comprehension of the metaphysical, but not in the same framework or mythological representation as the version that has already been shown to be unworkable.

This is not a representation that the metaphor of the dreamer or the disassociation from the infinite are factual physical phenomena. This is a symbolic representation of metaphysical reality- source reality, not experienced reality. The purpose is to provide a workable frame work around which collective unification can occur without the sacrifice of individual value and worth.

When we know that at the root level we are all each other and that what I do unto you I also do unto myself, then we may be able to see the value of working cooperatively for our mutual benefit, instead of being side tracked in the pursuit of individual self-interest; a pursuit which technology has rendered so far reaching and powerful that we threaten to destroy all of us if we continue to pursue it.

Current Status

All the God images and social institutions are good, each in its own way, and they have been great so long as we realize that that's what they are: symbolic images. If we can relate through them without claiming that only this metaphor is right, only this symbol is correct and all others are wrong, then we can harvest their value. If we insist each is not metaphysical and symbolic but is literal physical fact, and the ONLY fact, then they become useless, as history has shown when science blew it all up.

The mythology of the future is to recognize that it's mythology. It's to acknowledge that our representations are symbolic and metaphorical approaches to that which is beyond our ken, since we are the derivative of

it. The infinite is an impersonal source. You and I are personal non-infinite manifestations of that source which is way beyond our possible comprehension.

"Part 99", The ego

Freud pioneered the use of the word and concept of the ego to refer to conscious self awareness. He explicitly stated that his position was scientific and material, not spiritual, metaphorical, metaphysical or symbolic. He did not recognize a double reality but only wanted to establish his special new theory as a way to assert himself, his own ego. He did the job and It has helped advance the science of psychology

Our society has become material, as it has shed the metaphysical and turned the ego into an idol of worship and an object of popular adulation. Child rearing has been focused on not damaging the developing ego. Culture has endorsed success itself as a goal and a win, to build the ego and encourage the accumulation of money, popularity and power. Look where it has gotten us. A technologically advanced world of self-centeredness and self-indulgence, prejudice and exclusion has followed, not a world of mutual love, respect, cooperation, and social harmony.

We have further confused the matter with the idea of self-esteem and that children's school achievement is less correlated with academic smarts, self-discipline, determination and diligence, and more correlated with self esteem; making ego-building a central focus and lack of self esteem a pathology. This has morphed into approval of selfishness, inflated to narcissism; the sense of deserving and entitlement and the huge social distortions called income inequality and racism.

The metaphysical has been removed from our social conversation because it has been encapsulated into religion and religions are intolerant of science and of each other. The difference between religions has been rigidified as a line not to be crossed in respect for each person's right to religious freedom.

The value of an over arching understanding, call it "super myth" or anything else, is to see that this compartmentalization of metaphysics into the silos of different religions is harming us. The purpose is to provide an

over view, an umbrella understanding so that each tradition can be respected and acknowledged without competition over which is right, but with the recognition that each is a unique metaphor. Just like a love song, no metaphor of love is the only one. Yes, it is like a flower and yes, it is like the glowing moon, a cutting knife, a fountain or a river. There is no argument, only artistry. If religions don't want to die out, this approach is recommended.

The ego is a necessary psychological point of development for functioning in the physical world. However, if it is viewed solely on a material or physical basis there is no ground for cooperation or harmony unless that can be exploited for personal self-interest. "What's in it for me?"

When we see that at the root level we are all each other, extensions of one source, we have a basis for collective unification beyond self interest at other's expense.

Inflation

The ego inflation that results from it's cultural glorification is further encouraged by the very technology that has provided the distributed power that obviates the need to explicitly rely on others. Driving my own car I don't need a stable boy to harness the horse. Using my own cell phone I don't need a runner to carry my message. Of course I need others to manufacture the car, supply the fuel and roads, build the cell phone and broadcast network, but these others are hidden. They are out of sight, so my exercise of these and other powers seems to be independent, further glorifying my ego.

This ego inflation interferes with social cooperation because the focus becomes, "What's in it for me?" and "I deserve", rather than, how can I work with others to produce something beneficial for us all?

The Double Reality mythology, as I call it, nudges us to think collectively. We are encouraged to treat the other person as you'd like to be treated yourself through our understanding that at the root level the other person and myself are all one being. We are not just all in the same boat, we are the boat and we are the ocean, although in disassociated form.

We are all each other at root level. Where's the magic? Its not in the hands of Zeus or Jehovah, but in the collective "us", when we stop clinging to the sanctity of the individual self. This does not mean that we discard that individual self, but that we integrate it with the collective, beyond, although including, the individual.

We can choose to work together, seeing our selves as parts of the One, pulling ourselves out of the holes we have blindly gotten ourselves into, creating a new harmony for the benefit of the whole, the one.

How do we do it? Its not a question of defeating or eliminating the sense of self as if a separate being, but one of putting it into context. We directly experience the reality of individuality. My point is to realize that there is also a root level of reality which we are ignoring, at our peril.

As scientific understanding of physical reality has deepened beyond Newtonian mechanics and moved into quantum dynamics, so also can our philosophical understanding of metaphysical reality deepen beyond religions from the previous age that place the all powerful "out there" and demand adherence to rigid dogmas. The Double Reality understanding is that we are the disassociated personalized versions of the impersonal source from which we all stem. Everyone is valuable, worthwhile and important because we are all expressions of the one same Source.

To transform collectively we need to realize this is our identity; that what we do to others and or to the world is what we do to ourselves because we are each other and we are the world. To get past the problems we have created by blindly painting ourselves into a few corners, we can open to the awareness of how reality is double, source and experience, and how we are both collectively and individually responsible to act on that.