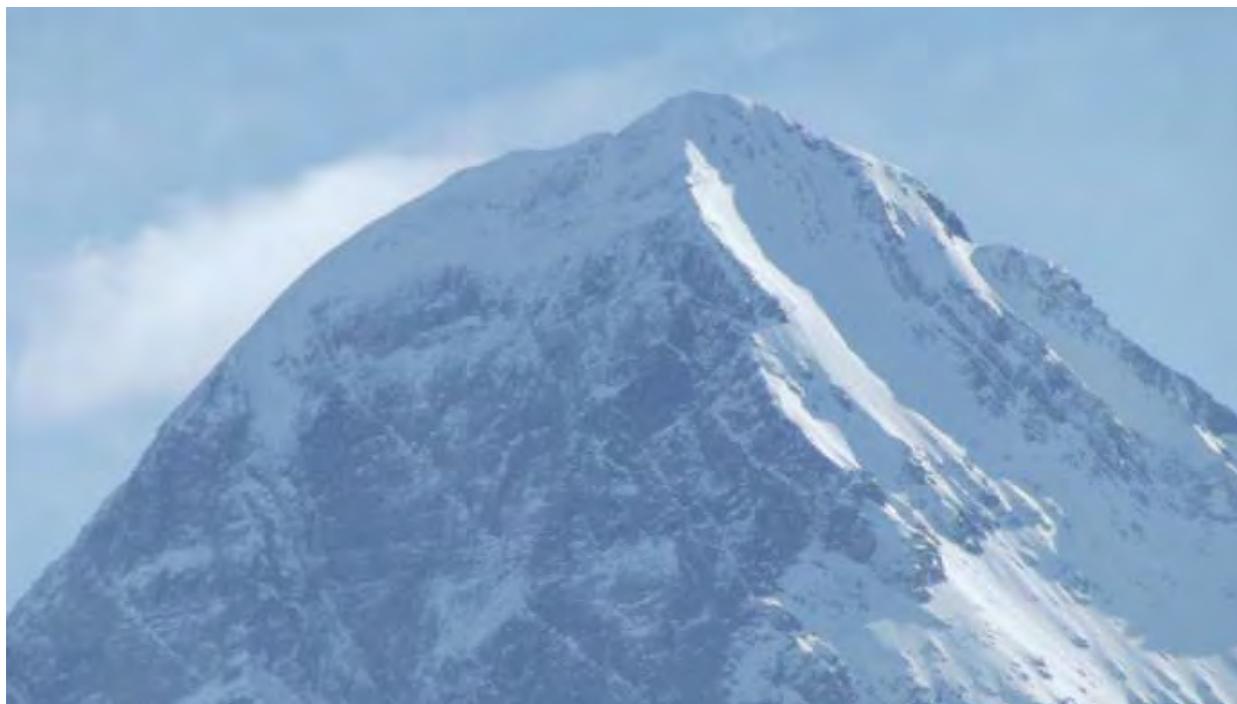


My view of God as it has evolved

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May 5, 2008



Diary entry 26 April 2008:

Recapitulation of my ideas about god: What monotheists refer to as "God" is -- to me -- universal consciousness, the cosmos as a whole, the "sum" of all consciousness. God is in everything and everything is god. We humans are the highest level of consciousness on this planet earth -- as far as we know -- and we represent the highest level of the evolution of god here. On our small "island" in the cosmos god evolves through us, changes through us. If our "island" the earth is unique in this sense, then we humans are the spearhead of the evolution of god itself. God is not in any way greater than the cosmos and did not "create" it, and cannot exist separately from this cosmos. In fact, if we are unique -- which seems unlikely if the cosmos is as we perceive it (see my post below: "the universe and us"), though certainly not impossible -- then god is dependent on us to a great extent.

God has a "personality" of its own, and each one of us humans -- and every other intelligent being that may exist elsewhere -- represents an aspect of the "personality" of god. Each one of us reflects a facet of god's nature.

If the cosmos itself "emerged" in some way through a Big Bang or something like it, then god was the internal essence that "emerged" with it, as did what we know as the laws of nature. The cosmos was not "created" based on any design but emerged and evolved through a process of trial and error, "guided" by god's evolving intelligence based on the organization of memory. The emergence of life on earth and its evolution was also "guided" in this way by god. Humankind is a product of this evolution, taking consciousness to the highest level known so far on earth.

I believe god inspired man to create religions, spiritual teachings, etc., because it wanted to find a way to guide or even control humankind.

(More on 29 April 2008): This is also the reason why humans and just about everything else tends toward forming hierarchies and pecking orders. God needs hierarchical organization in order to be able to exploit and control "created" beings. And what we have come to regard as "good" and "evil" are just different ways of looking at things from the larger perspective of god. God has traditionally favored the strong, the top of any pecking order hierarchy, because he draws the greatest pleasure from that type of organization of both living beings and inanimate reflections of his consciousness. Is god, then, like a human in his feelings and behavior? I say, absolutely, yes: at least on this earth, our tiny part of the cosmos (=>["the universe and us"](#) and ["the end of religion"](#) below), god cannot be otherwise, because we are this way -- we reflect god's nature and god is no greater than us as a collective, and no better.

More to come ...

Here are my answers to two questions about the post above:

It is still difficult for anyone to imagine that god is just as "evil" as he is "good." I think that is the case.

My point is that god has encouraged both in humankind and has enjoyed setting one against the other, using hierarchies to form opposing groups centered on rival leaders. But god evolves and changes through us, as I have emphasized. And despite appearances to the contrary I believe we are very slowly moving towards a better world with less conflict and violence. Perhaps I am naïve, but I am quite sure that god cannot change the world to good. We can. There is no hope for us if we do not believe in humankind. God and the natural world has no meaning without us or some beings like us -- it might as well not exist at all.

By hierarchies I mean hierarchical-type organization as such, and what is known as "pecking orders" in particular -- where the strong, wily (cunning) and/or violent generally dominate the weak. It is dominance by one or a few over others -- especially systematic dominance. But it also includes implicit hierarchies where, for example, many people follow a spiritual leader (say, Jesus), who then dominates not by force but by love (if you can use that word in this sense) or the power of inspiration. God encompasses both great beauty, goodness and gentleness as well as their counterparts ugliness, evil and violence -- just like we do. It is not that I am making god seem human but rather that I believe we humans are simply a full reflection of god: here on earth we represent the spearhead of god's evolution, the highest point of consciousness that god itself (or him/herself) has reached. God cannot be different from us here -- that is, from humankind as a whole.

There is no "absolute," no "perfection"

November 2007 diary entry:

I continue to believe that we -- humankind -- must outgrow religion and all of the things that have divided us in such a way as to lead to war. All of our religions, which have been the foundations of civilizations, have tended to divide us because they have led us to use force against each other in the name of a god or gods. There are always "chosen" ones, favorites, or the "good" in religion as opposed to the others, the "bad" or "evil." I do believe in an ideal of "goodness," which we have been developing. There is no absolute "good." There is no absolute anything at all. We are striving towards a goal that can never be reached -- but which is nonetheless a worthy goal. Our understanding of this goal, this imaginary and forever unreachable "absolute" goodness, is evolving, and so is our ability to put this understanding into practice. But we must come to realize that the universal consciousness, the fundamental essence of the cosmos that we like to call "God," is in itself neither good nor evil, and cannot move our world towards goodness without our help. -- We have to begin by thinking and feeling as "we," "us," including all humankind; and beyond that all living beings, to a lesser extent.

The Biggest Lie (from a post originally written in July 2010)

We have been cheated, in a way. We have been living with a big lie: God. -- But we have willingly participated. The lie is our lie, too. We have been happy to be deceived by God, because it is comforting to believe in a great supernatural power that is on the "good" side -- which is always our side, because no one believes they are bad. Even the worst criminals and mass murderers believe they are "good." They may admit mistakes -- like most everybody does -- but they always believe they are fundamentally "good." However, the "good" can really exist only if there is also an opposing "evil." We do believe in an "evil" but it is always someone else -- just like God wants us to see "evil" as something entirely separate from him.

Yes, we are all part of this deception or self-deception. We participate willingly, most of the time. -- But then we cannot separate from this God and his deception. This God leaves us some breathing space, some room for maneuver, some space for us to think for ourselves, because he wants us to grow, to improve, and he grows with us, improves with us -- through us.

We are, all of us humans without exception, part of this God. We are really, ultimately, one. The whole cosmos is one, but we and any other intelligent beings that may exist are the most important elements of this one. The one, as I have said again and again, grows with us and through us.

I think perhaps the Buddhists have the deepest understanding of this oneness, this monism, this interdependence. The accounts of Buddhists I have read -- such as those of the French Buddhist monk Matthieu Ricard -- give me the impression that they have a much better and clearer understanding of the importance of oneness and interdependence than any Christians I have met, including the Moonies. Moon's teaching has many good points, for sure, but I regard it as deficient in the sense of explaining the real God, and misleading. I think Moon himself does not want to acknowledge the fact that God has deceived us by making us believe in an "evil" that is not of him. Moon's interests are better served if he just ignores this -- and I tend to believe he knows that very well. This would be the element of hypocrisy in Moon that I feel has been touched on indirectly by Nansook Hong, the ex-wife of his now-late son Hyo Jin.

Of course, it is clear that – ultimately – we will have to work with God, no matter how much he has deceived us. We are inalienable parts of him and he is totally in each one of us. We are really one. My contention is only that we have to grow up to be aware of the reality of God – not the fantasy we have believed in for so long. – And the reason we have to grow up this way – with this understanding – is that it is the only way God can continue to evolve – and, indeed, grow himself. As I have insisted many times before: God evolves through us (and any other beings at the highest levels of consciousness) – he grows through us...

