

# **The Mystical Mind of God**

**An interpretation of the works of some Western Mystics from the fields of Theology, Psychology, Philosophy and Science.**

## **Warning**

Mystics are, by definition, unorthodox.

Any reader who holds strong orthodox beliefs on any of the above topics may find some of the content offensive.

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# THE CHALLENGE

*However, if we do discover a complete theory (of everything), it should in time be understandable in broad principle by everyone, not just a few scientists. Then we shall all, philosophers, scientists and just ordinary people, be able to take part in the discussion of the question of why it is that we and the universe exist. If we find the answer to that, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason – for then we would know the mind of God.*

Steven Hawking, *A Brief History of Time*, closing paragraph

*But in the end a rational explanation for the world in the sense of a closed and complete system of logical truths is almost certainly impossible. We are barred from ultimate knowledge, from ultimate explanation, by the very rules of reasoning that prompt us to seek such an explanation in the first place. If we wish to progress beyond, we have to embrace a different concept of ‘understanding’ from that of rational explanation. Possibly the mystical path is a way to such an understanding. I have never had a mystical experience myself, but I keep an open mind about the value of such experiences. Maybe they provide the only route beyond the limits to which science and philosophy can take us, the only possible path to the Ultimate.*

Paul Davies, *The Mind of God*, conclusion

# INTRODUCTION

Those opening quotes come from two of the highest profile scientists in the modern world.

Steven Hawking is probably best known for his book *A Brief History of Time* and because his soaring intellect is held in a wheelchair-confined body. His book ends with an appeal – can anybody get into the Mind of God?

Paul Davies tries. In his book *The Mind of God* he somewhat forlornly concludes that a different concept of ‘understanding’ is required, and suggests that a mystical path is the way to such an understanding.

This essay agrees with the conclusion reached by Davies and is an attempt to gather together the thoughts of mystics from the fields of theology, psychology, philosophy and science itself and to show that, in their own languages, they are all saying the same thing – that you can, by your own efforts, get into the Mind of God. Well, almost. The final step is up to God.

Before introducing the mystics, however, a review of western attitudes to the concept of God may prove helpful.

There are two principal belief systems – theism and atheism.

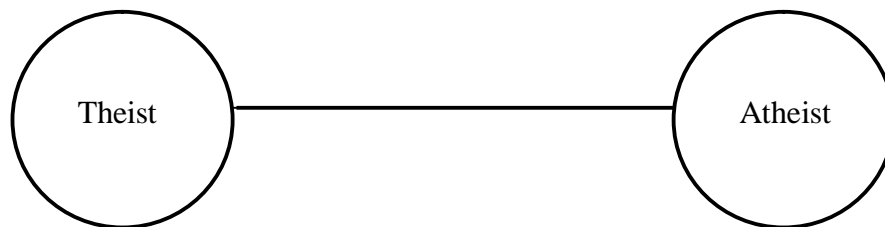
Theism states: I believe in the existence of God.

Atheism states: I do *not* believe in the existence of God.

Obviously these core beliefs are in direct conflict with one another. One would wonder why, though, an Atheist would even want to try to get into the mind of something that doesn’t exist!

Oh, well. But theism also has its problems – which God are you trying to get into the mind of? It isn’t difficult to name a dozen different concepts of God within Christianity alone!

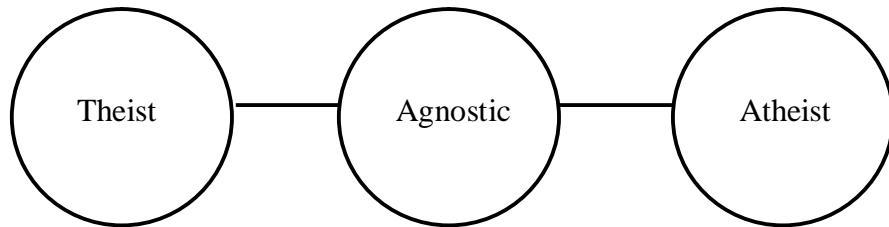
Diagrammatically the situation may be represented thus:



A third attitude towards the existence of God is bewildered Agnostic. An Agnostic cannot accept *either* belief system and instead states: I *don't know* if God exists. Having examined and rejected the dogmatic beliefs of theism and atheism and not being convinced by the arguments of either, an Agnostic apparently is lost.

All *belief* systems are based on dogma of some kind. A person becomes a *believer* when that dogma is accepted as a valid way of thinking about the meaning of life. It removes uncertainty. Follow the orthodox path and you will be alright. A comfortable belief system can bring peace of mind for many.

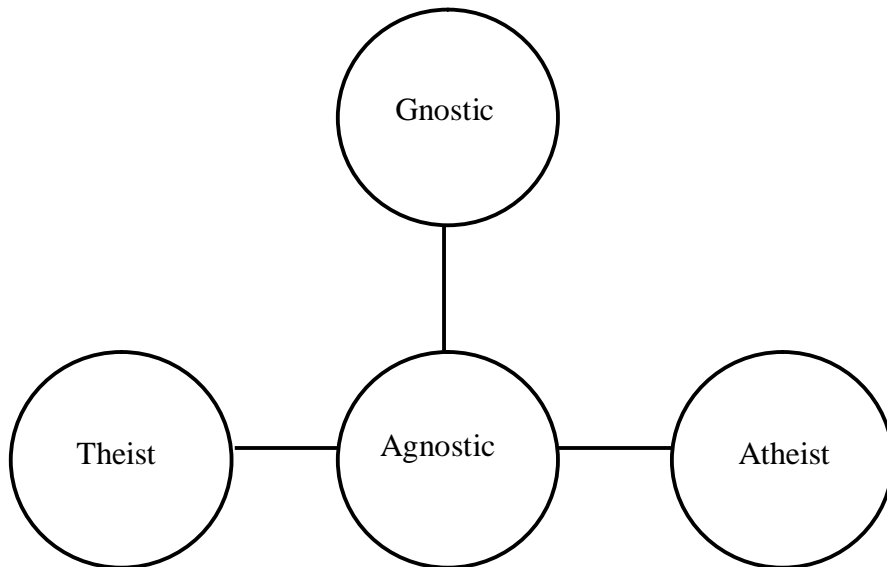
Diagrammatically:



There is a little known fourth attitude towards the existence of God. This is the path available to an Agnostic. It is Gnostic: I *know* that God exists. ‘Gnostic’ is derived from the Greek word for ‘Knowledge’. Mystical Knowledge.

This path is long and hard and not for the faint-hearted.

It may be visualised thus:



‘I KNOW that God exists!’ What an extraordinary position to take. Obviously that immediately antagonises a Theist who at best can only *believe* in the existence of God and sees such a position (correctly) as a direct challenge to its viewpoint as the only way to understand the Mind of God. It was not a good attitude to adopt in the Middle Ages – all power lay with the Theists. The Inquisition was very effective.

While Theists see Gnostics as heretics, Atheists see Gnostics as lunatics!

As one of our mystics, Aldous Huxley, wryly observed ‘The path of spirituality is a knife-edge between abysses’.

Another of our mystics, Carl Gustav Jung, in a television interview shortly before his death, was asked ‘Do you believe in God?’ Jung replied ‘I don’t need to believe, I know.’

*That* is a statement only a true mystic can make!

He *knew* the Truth.

### **A note on notation**

English is a confusing language even to the English as an exasperated Professor Henry Higgins often lamented.

The first letter of every sentence is capitalised irrespective of its importance.

The first person singular, I, is capitalised while ‘me’ isn’t and certainly ‘you’ isn’t. You are not as important as I am. And *nobody* is as important as He is.

God!

God has many Names. In this essay, each mystic has a different Name for God. This Name will appear capitalised. Some Names <shock> are regarded as feminine (e.g.) Love, Life, Wisdom (Sophia) and Beauty.

Oh... and Truth. And Justice.

Being thus forewarned, tread gently into the following...

# SOME MYSTICS RESPOND

## A Plea for Peace

*We must attempt a bit of intellectual daring and, above all, we have to be prepared to listen and to learn from each other, showing mutual tolerance and acceptance in doing so. I do not yet see a dialogue of this kind taking place between mainstream theologians and mainstream scientists, but I fervently hope it will be one of the leading developments of the next few years.*

John Polkinghorne, *Belief in God in an Age of Science* (1998)

John Polkinghorne, FRS, KBE, is past president and fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge, and Canon Theologian of Liverpool, England.

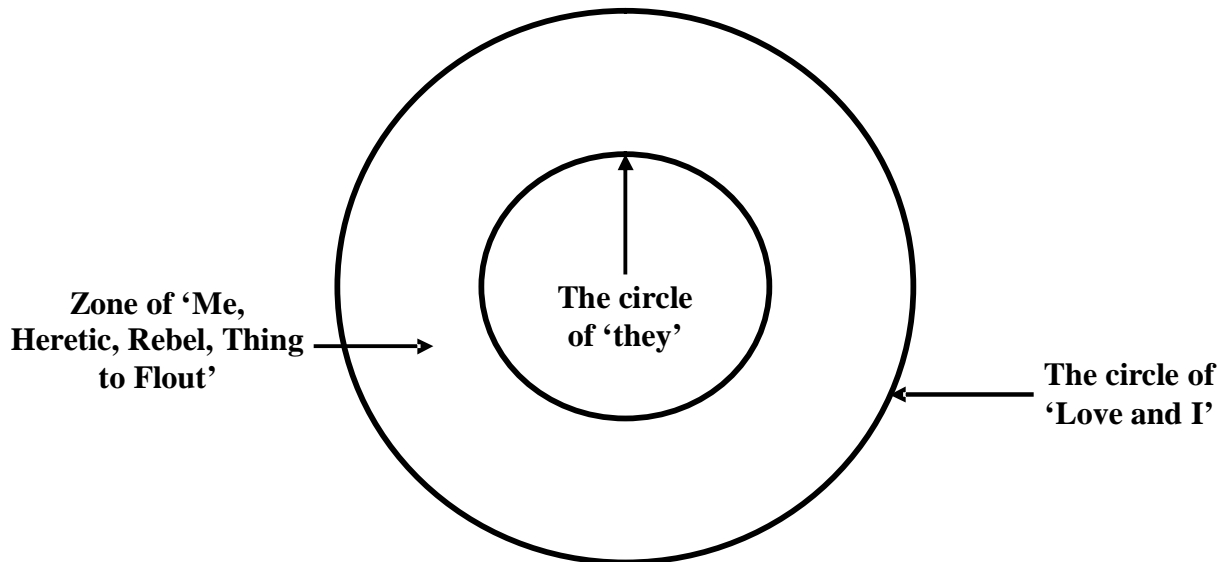
# Two Theologians

## John Shelby Spong

*They drew a circle that shut me out  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But Love and I had the wit to win  
We drew a circle that took them in.*

This is from a poem by Edwin Markham entitled *Outwitted*. It is quoted in a book called *The Sins of Scripture* by John Shelby Spong.

The quote may be represented thus:

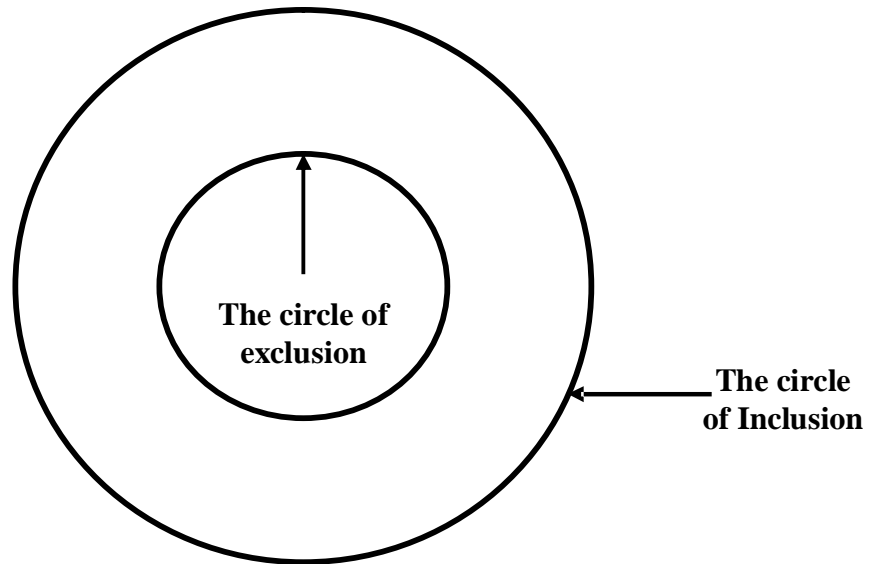


Spong must have said 'Exactly!' when he read that verse of Markham's.

Spong is one of the best known theologians in the world today. He is a retired Episcopalian Bishop. And he has been called much worse than 'heretic' or 'rebel' by his orthodox critics. But what he says makes a lot of sense. The quote he uses comes from one of his many books. The title, *The Sins of Scripture*, gives a general idea of his thoughts – that large chunks of the Bible should be left out as being inappropriate to life in the twenty-first century. I can hear the howls of indignation at such a suggestion from here! Anyhow, he pulls far larger crowds than 'Father McKenzie' ever did.



A further translation yields:



Markham's 'Love' is Davies' 'Ultimate' is Hawking's 'God'

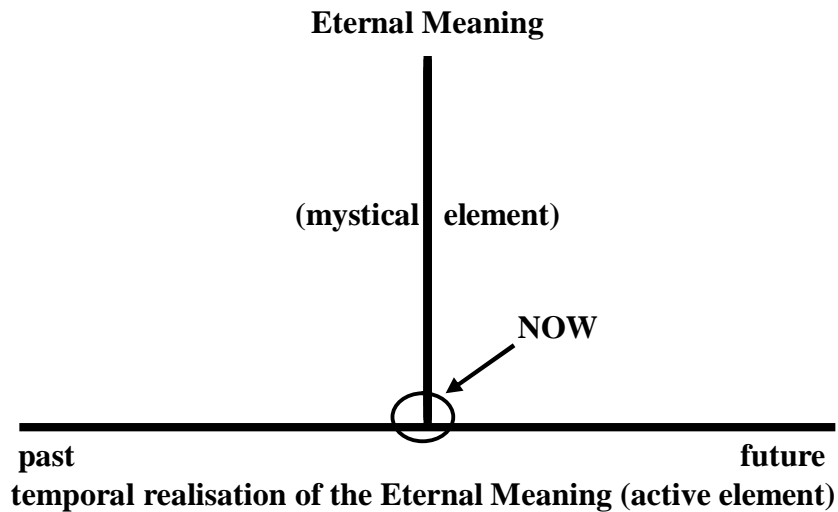
Love is Inclusive.  
Ultimate is Inclusive.  
God is Inclusive.  
Mystics are Inclusive.

A second theologian, some fifty years previously, had painted another (not exclusive!) picture. Paul Tillich is sometimes referred to as a theologian's theologian.

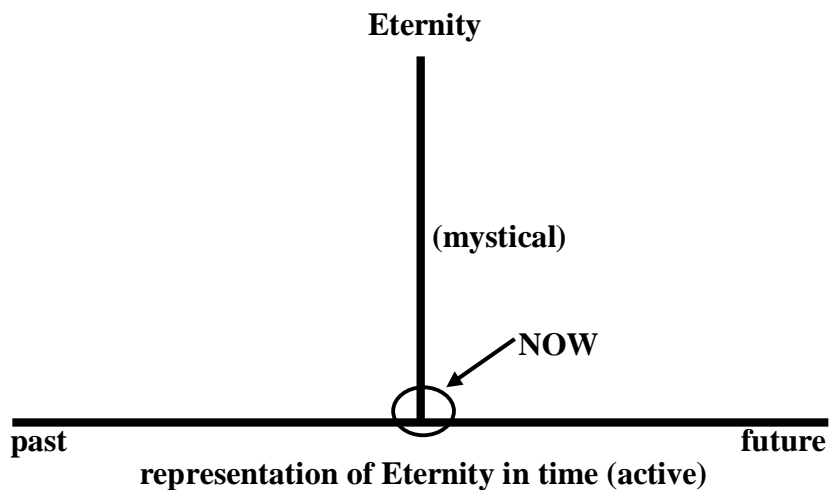
## Paul Tillich

*There are two lines by which the meaning of human existence can be symbolised: the vertical and the horizontal, the first one pointing to the Eternal Meaning as such, the second to the temporal realisation of the Eternal Meaning. Every religion necessarily has both directions, although different religions over-emphasise the one or the other. The mystical element which belongs to all religion is symbolised by the vertical line; the active element which also belongs to all religion is symbolised by the horizontal line.*

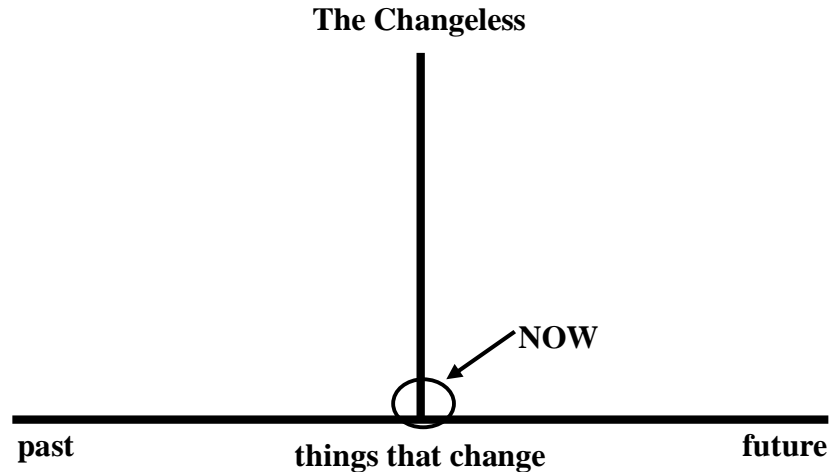
*The Essential Tillich, page 113*



Which simplifies to:



This is bound to raise a few eyebrows. However even Plato himself said that 'Time is the moving image of Eternity' so the concept is not exactly new. Note that Eternity is *not* a long, long time. It does not, except for one point, have anything to do with time. Eternity is time-less. The intersection between the Timeless and time is NOW.



Tillich's 'Eternal Meaning' is Markham's 'Love' is Davies' 'Ultimate' is Hawking's 'God'.

Tillich's diagram needs more explanation because it is one of the foundations of this essay.

The split between science and religion was largely initiated by the thoughts and influence of Rene Descartes. Science declared that if you couldn't measure it, it didn't exist. Bang goes the vertical line – that belongs to the church if anybody is really interested. But now the mystics in science, (and we'll look at some of those a bit more later on), are saying that maybe, just maybe, we might have been a bit hasty three hundred years ago.

And the mystics in theology are saying maybe, just maybe, we might be able to learn from science!

They are discovering that each axis, by itself, is *necessary* but not *sufficient*.

The horizontal line essentially belongs to science. The world has lots of things in it of all shapes and sizes and scientists can have a lot of fun trying to figure out how these interesting bits and pieces fit together. God is non-existent in this viewpoint. God is not *a thing*.

But organised religion via church schools, creation 'science' and the like also lays claim to the horizontal line and has thrust *its* mystics out into the cold.

And therein lies a major problem!

It is only the *mystics* who are communicating!

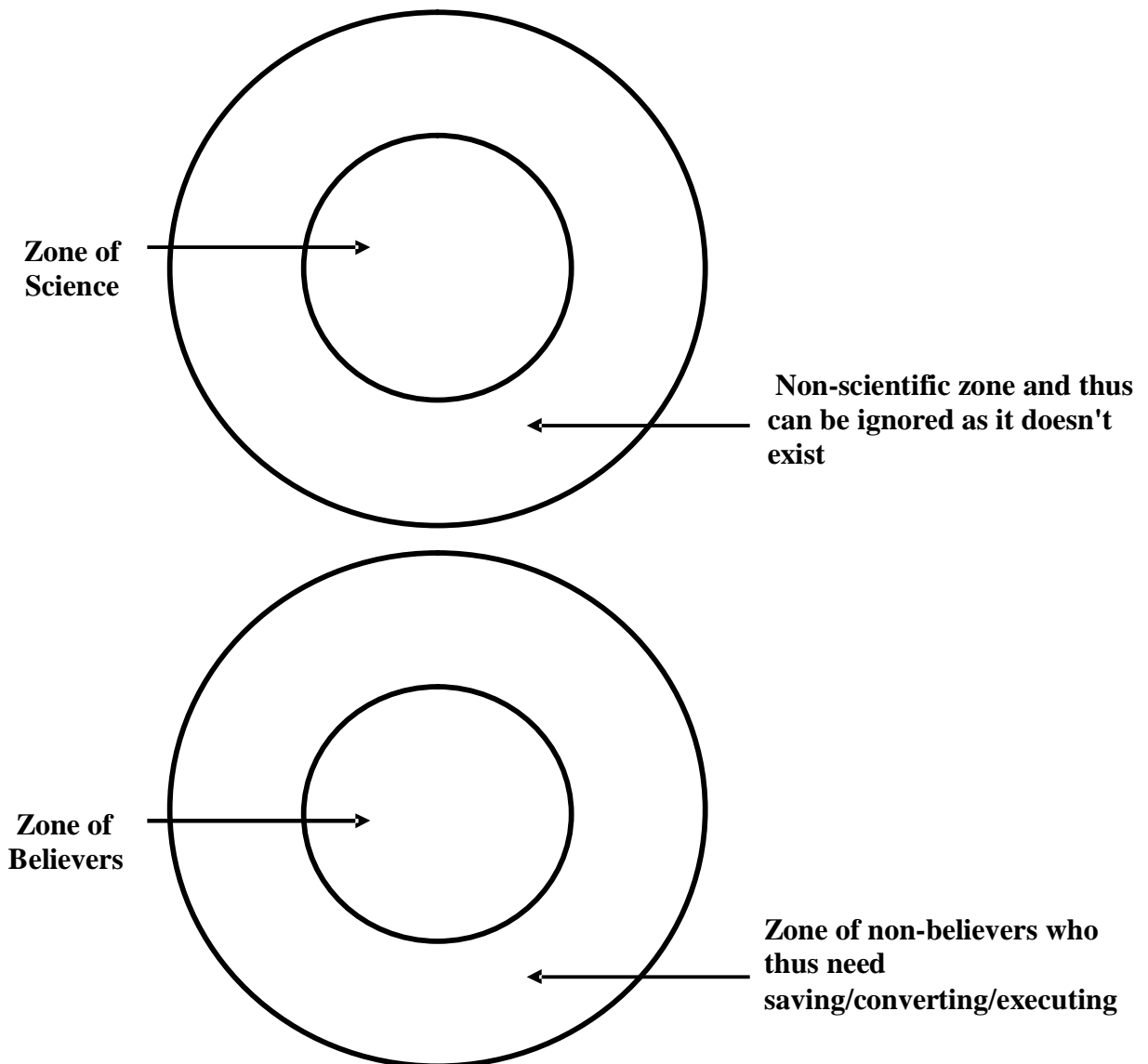
People like Spong, a representative of religion (albeit heretical), are saying that the Bible needs to be edited to line up with 21st century reality. A lot of the dogma is just not true. That squarely makes him a heretic in the eyes of those who consider the Bible 'The Word of God'.

And the heretics of religion and the heretics of science *agree* with each other!

Science has adopted the attitude that a thing or statement is either scientific or not scientific in which latter case it can be safely ignored! Science has raised reason to the level of God and the God of reason is barren.

And the church has always had the attitude of 'It's in the Bible so it *must* be true!'

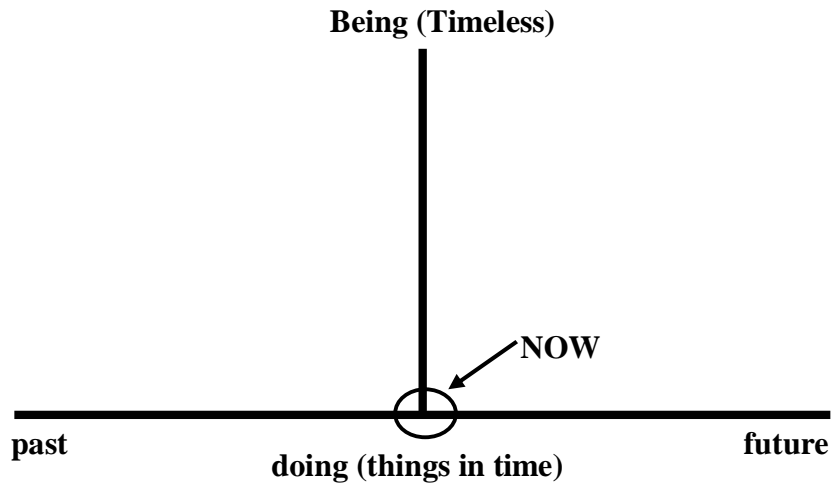
Both science and the church have been operating from their own circle of exclusion!



Both need to move toward the circle of Inclusion.

*In Aristotle the movement from potentiality to actuality is vertical, going from the lower to the higher forms of Being. In modern progressivism the movement from potentiality to actuality is horizontal, temporal, futuristic.*

Paul Tillich, *The Courage to Be*

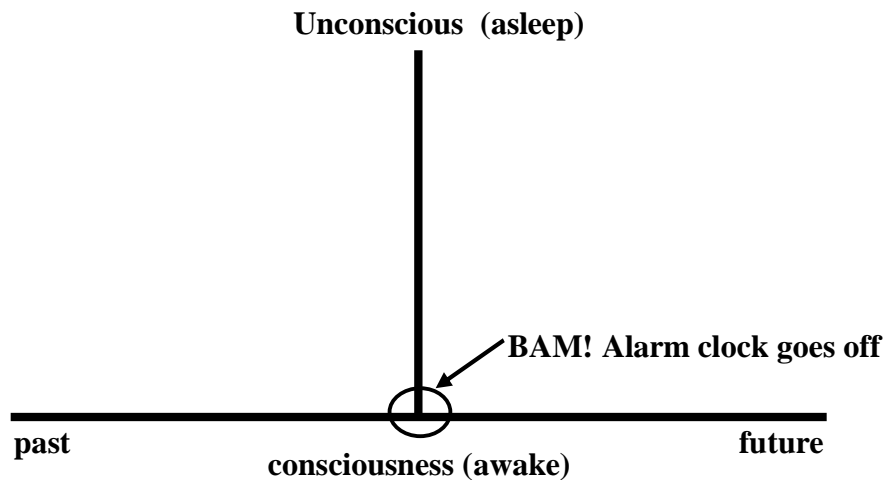


# Two Psychologists

## Carl Gustav Jung

*For indeed our consciousness does not create itself – it wells up from unknown depths. In childhood it awakens gradually, and all through life it wakes each morning out of the depths of sleep from an unconscious condition. It is like a child that is born daily out of the primordial womb of the unconscious.*

C.G. Jung, *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*, Glossary

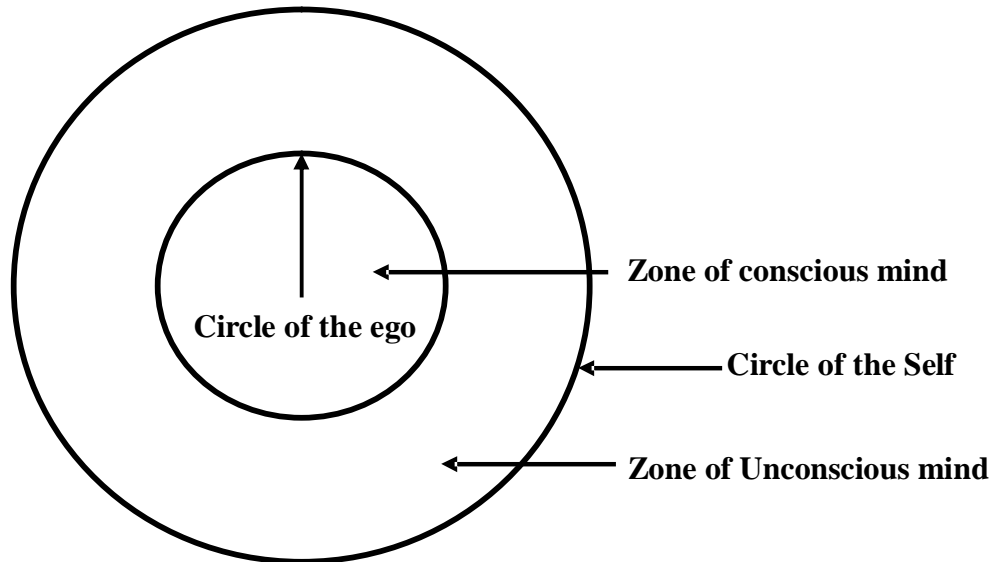


Carl Gustav Jung. What can one say? Foremost psychologist of the 20th century? Prolific author? Mystic? All of those and much, much more. Pioneer of the unconscious? Sure. Dreams come from the unconscious (you're asleep, so *who* is dreaming?) and are notoriously difficult to remember and even more difficult to interpret. He could do both with ease. He spent most of his life exploring the unconscious and reporting on what he had found.

Psychology has had a hard time becoming accepted as even approaching a scientific background and is still looked at as being something slightly unacceptable by orthodox science. However, when Jung's ideas were found to be able to be used for dividing people into one of sixteen types the commercial world suddenly took interest. You could make money from this!

And what did Jung find at the end of the unconscious?

*The Self is not only the centre but also the whole circumference which embraces both consciousness and unconscious; it is the centre of this totality just as the ego is the centre of the conscious mind.*



Add Jung's 'Self' to the list of names for God.

From the viewpoint of the Self, the ego is running around in circles *believing* it is God. If the ego stopped *doing* things it might have a decent chance of *being* God!

The answer is blowin' in the wind if the ego ever took the time off to *listen*!

The ego disappears at night and the unconscious comes out to play in dreams.

The ego can also be *constrained* to some extent through meditation. The resulting releases from the unconscious during meditation are in most cases a lot more understandable than dreams!

## Abraham Maslow

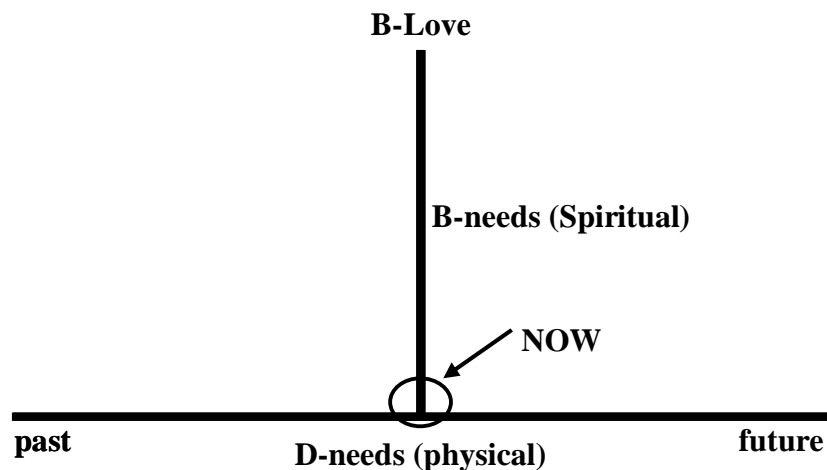
*The development of physics, astronomy, mechanics, and chemistry was in fact impossible until they became value-free, value-neutral, so that pure descriptiveness was possible. The great mistake that we are now learning about is that this model, which developed from the study of objects and of things, has been illegitimately used for the study of human beings. It is a terrible technique. It has not worked.*

A despairing Abraham Maslow *The Farther Reaches of Human Nature*

Abraham Maslow once served as President of the American Psychological Association. Probably best known for his *Hierarchy of Needs* which is now a staple component of management training seminars. Heavyweight psychologist.

What Maslow tried to do (pretty effectively) was to create a 'scientific' system which included value. By doing this he hoped to extend science from 'objects and things' into a scientific study of people as well.

To do this he identified two kinds of human needs – he called them D-needs (D = Deficiency) and B-needs (B = Being). D-needs are those required for physical survival in this world: food, clothing, shelter, red wine etc. B-needs are optional, but necessary to achieve some *value* from life: friendship, the arts, humour etc.



And the highest value according to Maslow?



It should be no surprise to find that it is B-love about which he says: *It is a real question whether the full development of the human being is possible without it.*

B-love he defines as love for the Being of another person, unneeding love, unselfish love while D-love is deficiency love, love need, selfish love. The latter is generally found in singles bars. The former is rare. Mother Teresa territory.

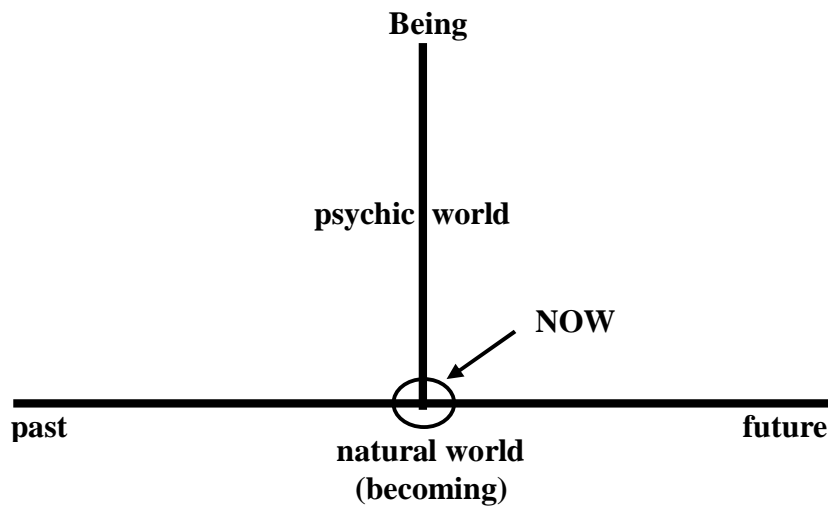
In another of his books, *Toward a Psychology of Being*, he tries to redress the situation by proposing an alternative way of addressing human nature via what he terms 'growth psychology'.

*The psychologist proceeds on the assumption that for his [this was written in 1968!] purposes there are two kinds of worlds, two kinds of reality, the natural world and the psychic world... One aspect of (mental) health is the ability to live in both of these worlds.*

*It can also be described as self-actualising, Being, expressing rather than coping...*

*The process of growth is the process of becoming a person. Being a person is different.*

[Maslow's capitalisation]



A little further on in his *Farther Reaches of Human Nature*, Maslow declares:

*...there are many paths to heaven (Being) and sex is one of them and music is one of them. These happen to be the easiest ones, the most widespread, and the ones that are easiest to understand.*

Throw in some red wine and spend the rest of your life in Paradise!

# Review 1

So far, as we have attempted to explore the Mind of God, we have had two prominent theologians who have offered models for us and two prominent psychologists whose thoughts (in different languages) align with these simple models. Science rules (appropriately) in this real world of which we are a part. It has *no* jurisdiction in the realm of the time-less (despite the best attempts of Maslow).

*Everything* in the observable universe changes with time.

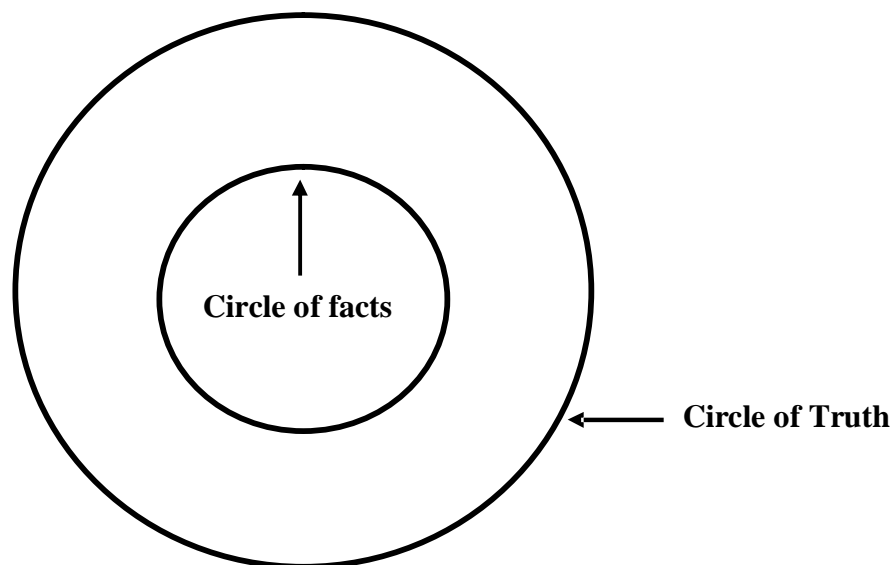
*Nothing* in the universe of 'Love and I', 'Eternal Meaning', 'Self', 'B-love', 'Being', 'Ultimate', 'God' changes with time.

Things that change with time are called *facts* e.g. the Earth is flat, the Sun goes round the Earth, 'Here be dragons' were *facts*.  
Science deals with *facts*.

Things that *do not* change with time are called *Truths*.  
Truths are Eternal!  
That's what Eternal Truth *means*!

But the Truth *includes* the facts.

And facts can *point* to Truths but they can do no more.



# Two Philosophers

## Plato

*Along with nearly all human beings, you are living in a cave which has an opening that leads into a tunnel which connects the cave and the World of Light. Like the others, you are a prisoner who, since childhood, has had his legs and neck chained so you cannot move and can only see straight ahead because the chains prevent your turning. The tunnel leading to the Light is behind you and you are not aware of its existence. Also behind you is a fire, and between the fire and you and your fellow prisoners there is a raised walk with a low wall built along it, forming a sort of primitive projection booth.*

*Men pass along this wall carrying all kinds of objects, statues and figures, and these are raised above the wall. Some of the men speak. Some remain silent.*

*You do not see the men or the objects, only the shadows of them which the fire throws on your screen in front of you. Thus the men are perceived as shadows and if you and the other prisoners were able to talk to each other, you would describe the shadows as the true things.*

*If the cave had an echo, when the men spoke, you would think the shadows were talking.*

*Now imagine you are set free from your chains and forced to stand up and turn around to look at the fire and at the Light shining outside the entrance to the cave. What pain you would suffer. What distress you would endure from seeing the flames of the fire and the Light, however dim, that comes down through the tunnel. How you would try to look away and avoid the brilliance to which you are not accustomed.*

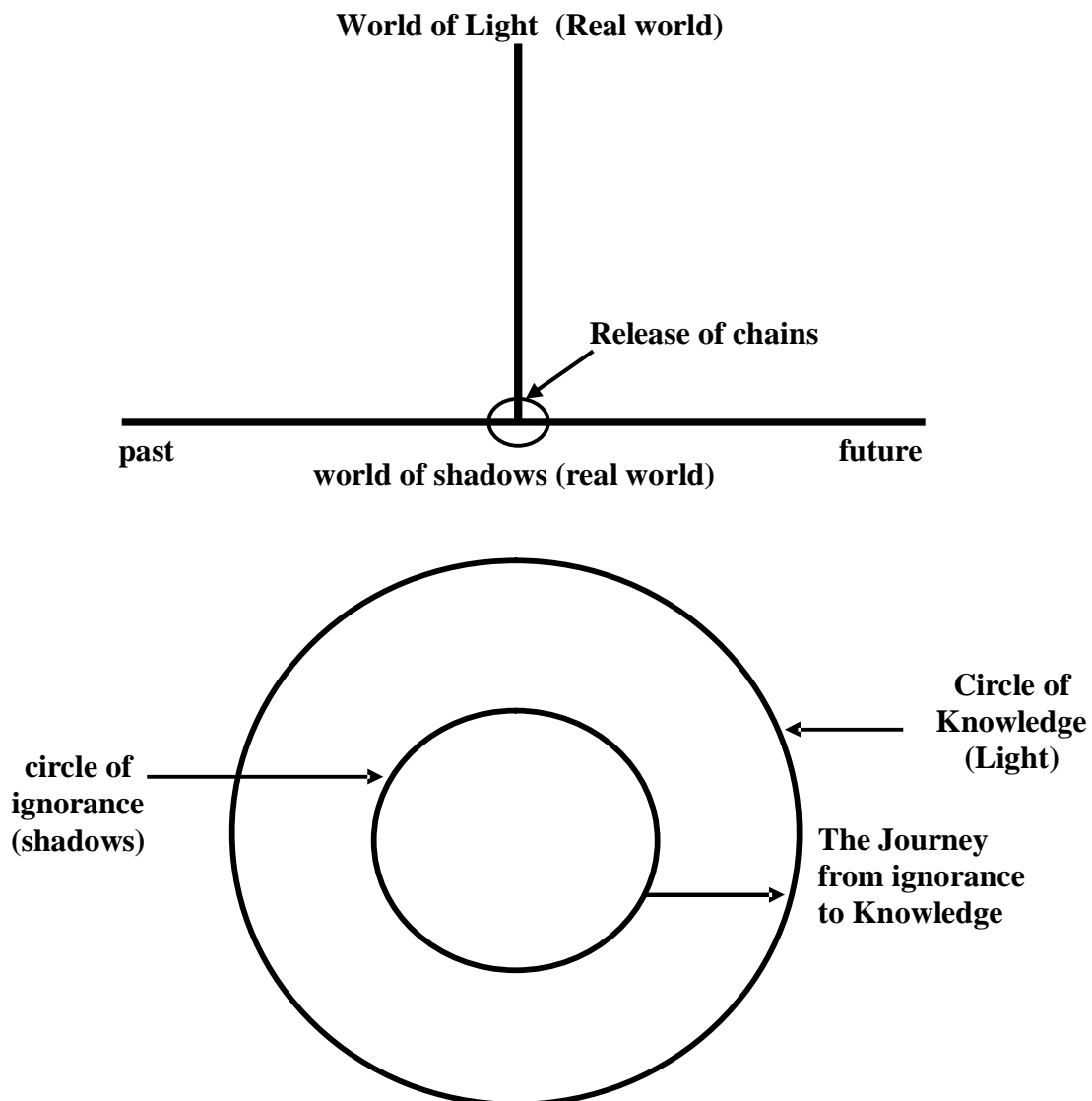
*No longer would you be permitted to view the shadows. Instead, you would be forced up the steep and stony incline of the tunnel, protesting each step of the way because the increasing Light from the entrance assails your eyes. Finally you would be thrust to the mouth of the cave where the sun would beat full upon you. What pain that would cause. How dazzled your eyes would be, and what a time it would take for your eyes to adjust to the Light. But soon you would be able to make out the shadows of objects in the Light. Later you would be able to see reflections in water, and at last, to view your surroundings themselves. As your eyes grew stronger, you would lift them to the heavens to gaze at the stars and the moon. Eventually you would see the world in sunlight and look at clouds washed by the sun.*

*When you accomplished all this, and remembered your life in the cave and your fellow prisoners, would you not pity them and want to share your discovery?*

*How much more eager you would be if the prisoners of the cave held contests to find who observed most carefully the movements of the shadow men and could foretell with some accuracy what the shadows would do next. Wouldn't you want to return to the cave and gain the greatest honour by showing the prisoners their shadows were false?*

*And when you returned, your eyes would have to reaccustom themselves to the dimness. Then, wouldn't those who remain imprisoned consider you mad because you cannot see the shadow-show yet you rave about what you perceived in the World of Light? Wouldn't they believe you have lost both eyes and reason, and resist your attempts to make them ascend to the mouth of the cave? Might they not attempt to kill you or anyone else who would force them to leave the familiar and safe world of the cave?*

Plato, *The Republic*, Allegory of the Cave, Book 7 [summary, with dialogue removed]



Plato's 'Allegory of the Cave' is 2400 years old and is still being quoted in contemporary literature. Plato cunningly put all the words into Socrates' mouth as Socrates was already dead – sentenced to death for his thoughts by one of civilisation's earliest democracies – and therefore Plato himself could claim he was just recording history. It worked. He survived. Plato was a pupil of Socrates.

Twenty-four centuries of existence is as close to Timeless (in the Western world) as you can get. Expanding on Plato is unnecessary. But it is perhaps worthy of mention that he established the world's first University.

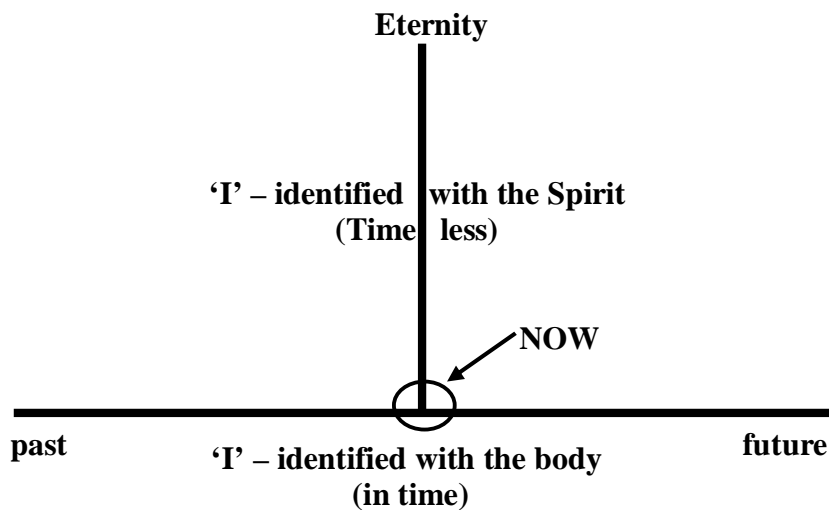
## Aldous Huxley

*The body is always in time, the Spirit is always Timeless and the psyche (Soul) is an amphibious creature...*

*In the statement, 'At one time I am Eternal, at another time I am in time' the word 'I' stands for the psyche, which passes from time to Eternity when it is identified with the Spirit and passes again from Eternity to time, ... when it chooses or is compelled to identify itself with the body...*

*The present moment (NOW) is the only aperture through which the Soul can pass out of time into Eternity...*

Aldous Huxley, *The Perennial Philosophy*



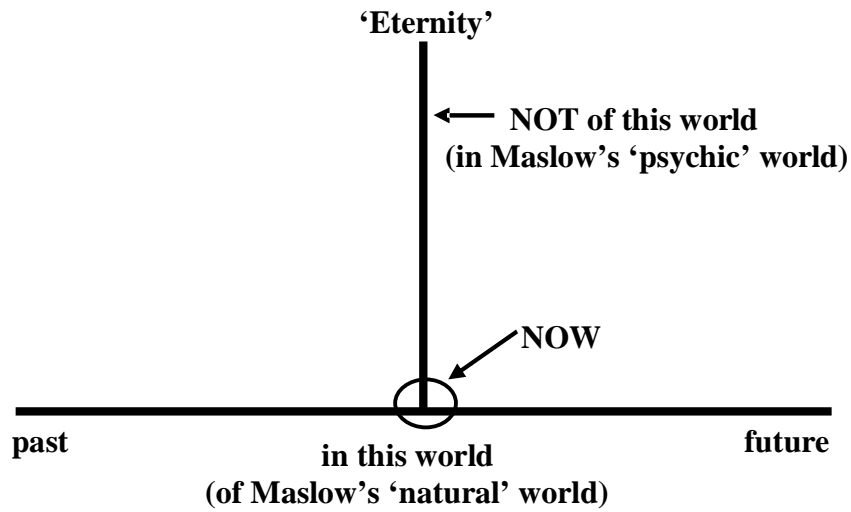
Classifying Huxley is difficult. That statement applies to all the mystics of course but probably no more so than to him. Best known for his fictional work *Brave New World*, Huxley was a prolific thinker and writer on all themes. But *The Perennial Philosophy* established him firmly as a philosopher engaged in investigating the Timeless. The diagram represents the basic structure of the quotes taken from him.

'The body can only access the Spirit NOW' is perhaps a legitimate paraphrase of what Huxley was trying to say. Not in the past. Not in the future. NOW. And the present moment is the only aperture through which the Mind of God can be glimpsed by the human mind.

In his posthumously published work *Shakespeare and Religion* he wrote:

*The world is an illusion, but it is an illusion which we must take seriously, because it is real as far as it goes... We have to find ways in which to detect the whole of Reality in the one illusory part which our self-centred consciousness permits us to see... We must continually be on our watch for ways in which we may enlarge our consciousness. We must not attempt to live outside the world, which is given us, but we must somehow learn how to transform it and transfigure it... One must find a way of being in the world while not being of it. A way of living in time without being completely swallowed up in time.*

This can only be achieved by living NOW – in the present moment.



Every *thing* is an illusion according to Huxley.

But sometimes a beautiful illusion.

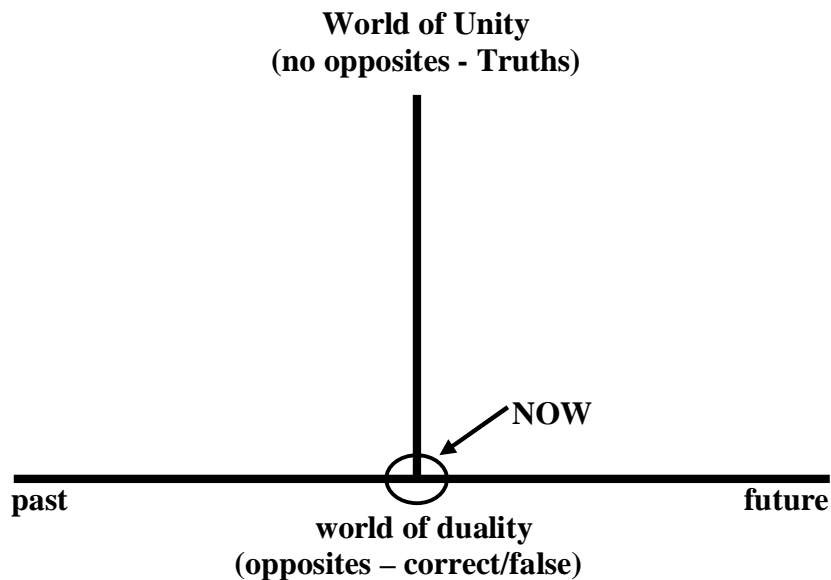
# Two Scientists

## Neils Bohr

*Opposites are complementary.*

*The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. But the opposite of a Profound Truth may well be another Profound Truth.*

Neils Bohr, Nobel Prize Winner



We live in a world of duality. It is an either/or world. Either it is a correct statement or it's a false statement. Either it's male or it's female. Either it's good or it's bad. Either...well, fill them in yourself.. clean/unclean, hard/soft, legal/illegal...take your pick – there are plenty of choices.

The moment you draw ANY boundary you create the duality.

Either it's my land or it's not my land.

Either it's America/Russia/China or it's not America/Russia/China...

Either you're a German or you're not a German.

Either you're one of us or not one of us.

Either you're for us or against us.

And what are you going to do about it?!



That is the world of duality. It all comes down to drawing a boundary which creates the either/or in the first place.

It is a world of *exclusion*.

Either you're a Christian or you're not.  
Either you're making a scientific statement or it's total rubbish.

But opposites are complementary.  
Good cannot exist without evil.  
Knowledge cannot exist without ignorance.  
God's Mind is Inclusive, humanity's mind is exclusive.

And this is what the mystics have been saying for centuries, millennia. All you need is Love.  
Because Love is *inclusive*.

It is an AND not an either/or.

And the mystics have been pointing to Truth.

Mystics blur boundaries. Then, in time, quietly eliminate them. They shake foundations.

That is their role.

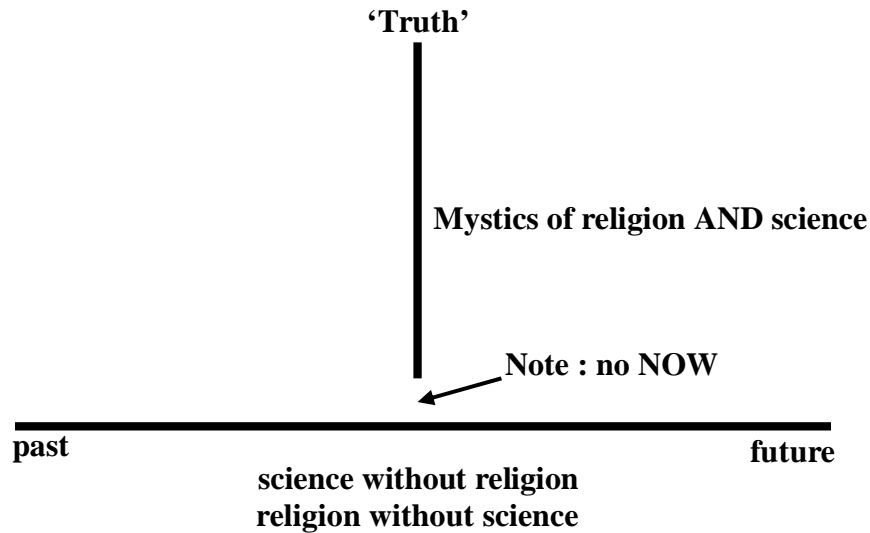
"All the world's a stage...." someone once wrote.

It is not Reality.

## Albert Einstein

*Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.*

Big Al



Who better qualified to make such a statement? Obviously it was not well received by either party! Maybe the lame and the blind should get their heads together! They just might be able to help one another! They are arguing over facts, not Truths. Both science and religion have thrown the baby out with the bathwater.

But to communicate effectively, both science and religion have to jettison some dogma and, despite the earlier plea from John Polkinghorne, that is extremely unlikely to happen – who, for example, would represent religion to the satisfaction of *either* side?

At the age of sixteen (!) the question in Einstein's mind was: 'If one runs after a light wave with a velocity equal to the light velocity, then one would encounter a *time-independent* wavefield. However something like this does not seem to exist!' Later in his career he found it.

A photon travels at the speed of light. It *is* light. From the point of view of a photon, time does not exist. It is the ultimate in Timelessness, so the concept 'GOD IS LIGHT' is both scientifically and theologically valid!

From the viewpoint of a photon – like – it just is! It's in a sort of Zen state.

A photon is totally in the NOW and to it, the universe may as well not exist. From *our* perspective, light takes eight minutes to travel from the sun to Earth, but from the *photon's* perspective it takes no time. It is simply a different perspective!

To get into the Mind of God, Einstein tried to get into the Mind of the humble photon. The speed of light is Constant in this physical creation ‘the universe’. That has to be a good starting point for a search for Truth. One could put forward an argument that a ‘created’ (emitted) photon was in a Unitive state of Mind prior to coming into contact with ‘reality’ – the world of illusion – subsequently becoming part of the dualistic state of mind.

The photon effectively *changes its mind!*

One suspects a photon is a lot smarter than *we* are! Particularly if it can avoid ‘reality’!

‘LIGHT IS GOD’ could be the foundation for a review of science.

*Physically*, God is revealed in the electro-magnetic spectrum (e.g.) in the colours of the rainbow.

‘GOD IS LIGHT’ could be the foundation for a review of religion.

*Symbolically*, to many in the West a rainbow is a sign of God’s promise to Noah but the rainbow is a powerful symbol in most of the world’s cultures – the Rainbow Serpent for example.

It has *universal* appeal.

A rainbow is God showing off. It’s God’s signature.

‘All I want to know is the Mind of God’, Einstein once thundered, thus anticipating Hawking by several decades: ‘All the rest is detail.’ But towards the end of his life he could say ‘I now bask in the solitude which was so painful to me in my youth.’

Methinks Einstein got into the Mind of God. According to him, science and religion had both lost the plot and could both benefit from a little Light. It is perhaps no coincidence that he won his Nobel Prize for his explanation of the photo-electric effect.

Somewhat more recently, in an interview recorded in his book *Eye to Eye*, prolific philosopher/writer Ken Wilber says, with a laugh, about the growing interest in the ‘new’ physics:

*Don’t spoil a good thing; physicists are talking mysticism! I can see the headlines now: ‘Scientists at M.I.T. today announced they discovered God. That’s right, God. Asked whether God was compassionate, merciful, all-pervading, radiant, all-powerful and divine, a senior researcher was heard to say, ‘Gee, we’re not sure, we think it’s a photon’*

Einstein has not been forgotten.

## Review 2

In light of what the mystics have shown us, let's look at the original statement by Hawking. He concluded '... it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason – for then we would know the mind of God'.

Immediately we strike a problem. What the mystics have been saying, to the best of their abilities, is that the Mind of God cannot be understood by *rational* means. No amount of *reasoning* will ever get there.

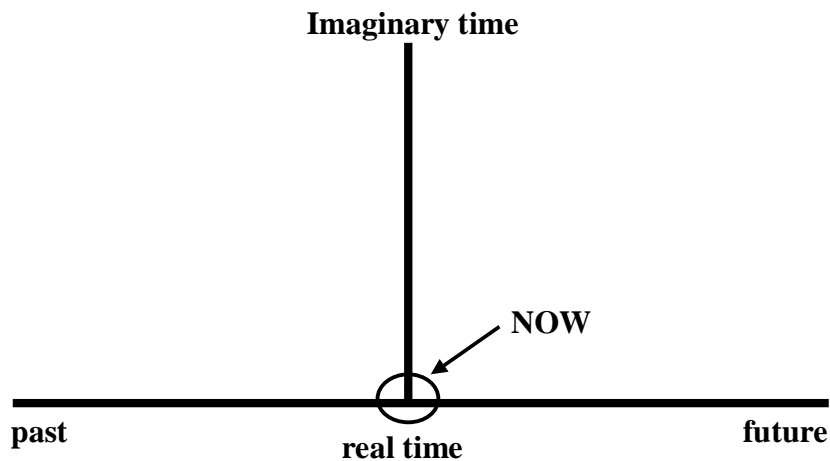
The mystics are saying that the Mind of God has to be reached through the timeless NOW. But science does not even acknowledge the existence of the vertical axis!

Or does it?

In the same book Hawking makes the following, on the surface, extraordinary statement:

*This might suggest that the so-called imaginary time is really the real time, and that what we call real time is just a figment of our imaginations...A scientific theory is just a mathematical model we make to describe our observations: it exists only in our minds. So it is meaningless to ask: Which is real, 'real' or 'imaginary' time? It is simply a matter of which is the more useful description.*

The mystics would agree and propose the following:!



Discovering the Mind of God is NOT an intellectual exercise. Being a genius may be in fact a *hindrance*. The access to the world of Imaginary time is by *stopping* thinking and just *Being*.

But finding time to stop time is very difficult in the real world. Therein lies the rub.

## Roger Penrose

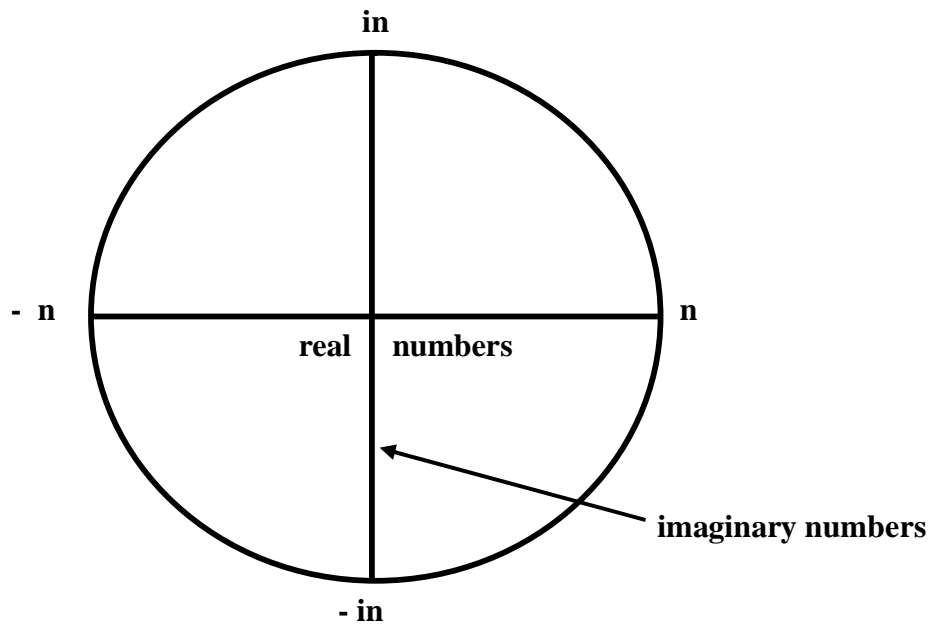
*...the magic of complex numbers...is a miracle worth appreciating*

Roger Penrose, *The Road to Reality*

Roger Penrose has co-authored several books and papers with Steven Hawking. He is an international scientist/mathematician in his own right.

But magic? Miracles? What is Penrose going on about? This isn't orthodox science speaking!

Complex numbers aren't really so complex. They've been used by science for a long, long time. They have a real component and an imaginary component. Diagrammatically they may be represented thus:



The symbol  $n$  represents any real number. The symbol  $i$  is an imaginary number representing the square root of minus 1. It exists only in one's imagination. It is not real. A complex number can exist anywhere.

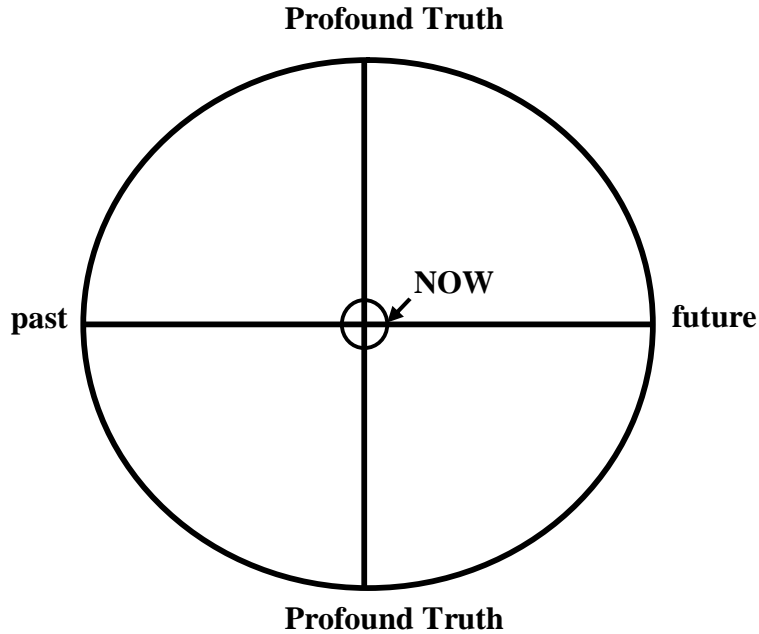
Real numbers are the ones one encounters in everyday life – telephone numbers, credit card numbers, page numbers.

Real numbers point to *one* reality. Imaginary numbers point to *another* Reality. *Both* realities are necessarily valid to describe the world we live in.

We've *all* experienced minutes that seem like hours (e.g.) Departure Lounges, and hours that seem like minutes, ahem. These states of mind are *more* real to us than the ticking of some arbitrary clock. As Einstein so graphically put it, *An hour sitting with a pretty girl on a park bench passes like a minute, but a minute sitting on a hot stove seems like an hour.*

Time is a *perception!*

Applying complex numbers to time, with a nod from Bohr, we get:



And therein lies the magic!

Shazam! The paradox of time is revealed!

Time is *complex*, not *just* real!

It is real AND Imaginary! It depends on your state of mind!

A watch is nearly essential in the real world. It is useless in the Imaginary world.

Time is a man-made concept and that Truth should never be forgotten.

We are all Gods and Goddesses, stumbling around, lost in reality, lost in time, lost in space.

And therein lies the miracle. Complex numbers can show us the way Home.

Any resemblance of this diagram to a mandala is purely coincidental.

# A Mystical Path

or

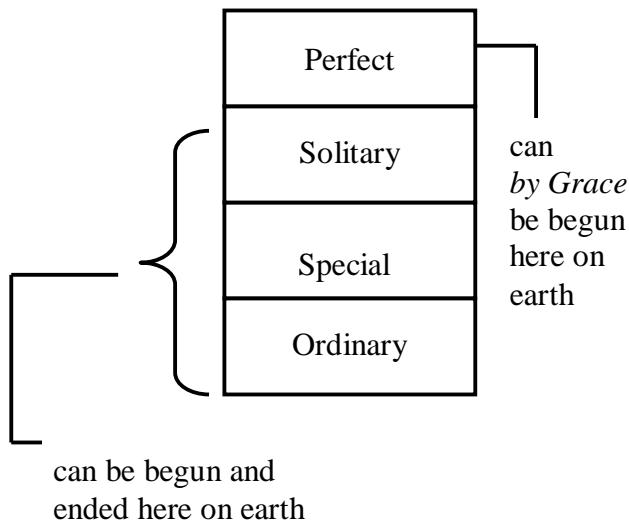
## A transcendental journey from the world of shadows to the World of Light

or

## A mystical theologian meets a mystical psychologist

One of the best loved Christian mystical books is *The Cloud of Unknowing*. Written anonymously by a late fourteenth century monk (anonymous because his skin wasn't fireproof), it is still in print and quoted widely today. It is written as though the author was addressing a novice. The opening words of Chapter One read:

*Spiritual friend in God, you must understand that, to my simple perception, there are four levels and forms of Christian life: Ordinary, Special, Solitary, and Perfect. Three of these can be begun and completed on earth, while the fourth can by Grace be begun here, but it will last for ever, unendingly, in the blessedness of heaven. And just as you see them set out here in order – first Ordinary, then Special, next Solitary, and last Perfect – so, in the same order and sequence, it appears that our Lord in his great mercy has called you and led you to him by the desire of your heart.*

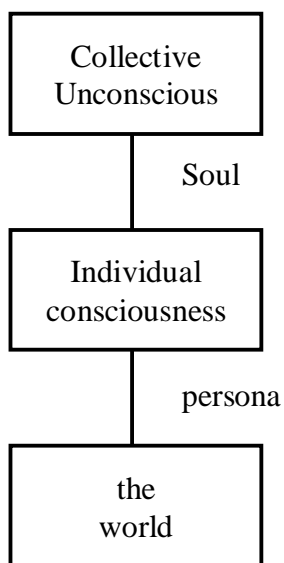


Note: Entering the fourth level is not under the control of the individual. It is granted *by Grace* because this level represents the Mind of God and She doesn't take kindly to mere mortals wanting to know what is on Her Mind. If She does let you know, you're in heaven.

Fanciful medieval nonsense?

Six hundred years later we have C.G.Jung:

*The natural function of the Soul is to remain in place between Individual consciousness and the Collective Unconscious exactly as the persona acts as a sort of stratum between the ego consciousness and the objects of the external world. The Soul should function as a bridge, or a door, leading to the images of the Collective Unconscious, as the persona should be a sort of bridge into the world.*

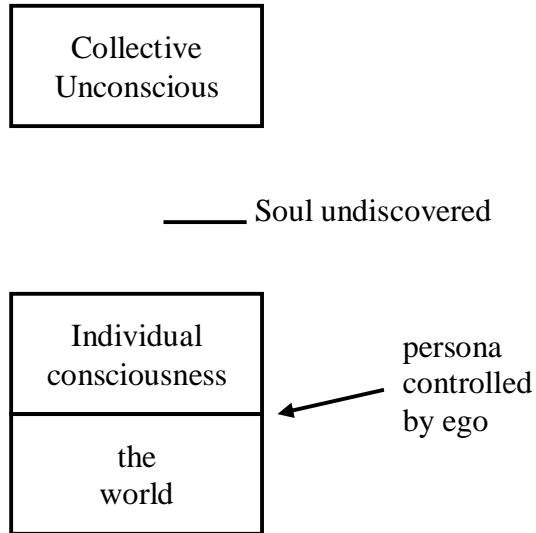


These two diagrams represent different centuries and different disciplines. But, using different words, they say the same thing.

Consider:

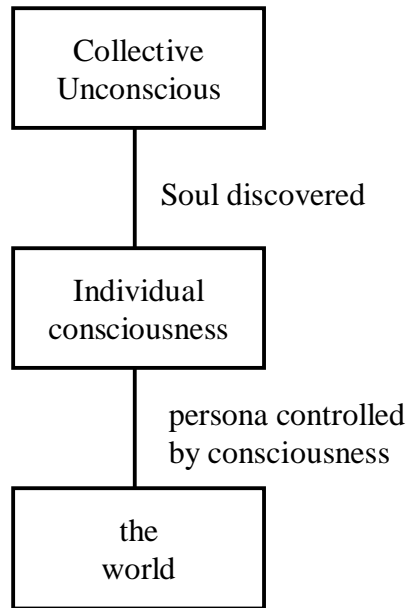


The *Ordinary* state of mind may be represented thus:



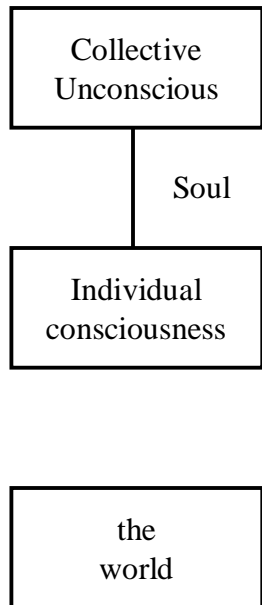
Here we see the Individual consciousness totally aligned with the dualistic world. The persona is controlled by the ego which has successfully removed the Soul from consciousness. It has *excluded* it. The Individual is controlled by time. This state of mind is necessary to be able to live in the world on a day to day basis. Without this state of mind, the world would appear to be total chaos. There is no bridge to the Collective Unconscious (God). Time does not allow it.

The *Special* state of mind may be represented thus:



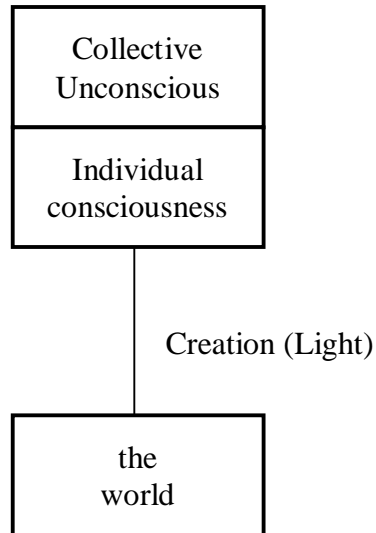
The repressed Soul finally makes its presence felt. The Individual consciousness discovers that there is far more to this world than meets the eye. The ego is shattered by this discovery by the Individual. Its long dictatorial rule has suddenly come to an abrupt halt. The interface between the Individual and the world is now through a persona which is not exclusively ego-controlled. The ego is still alive and well but it no longer thinks it is God – well – most of the time anyway. Via the Soul, the Individual consciousness is introduced, for the first time, to the Collective Unconscious. It is the first glimpse of the Unitive state of mind. There the Timeless awaits.

The *Solitary* state of mind may be represented thus:



The Soul is now largely in charge of Individual consciousness. Links to the world have been broken except for the necessities of life which are handled by a virtually ego-free persona. This state is exemplified by the monastic lifestyle. Thought is mainly Unitive. The entrance to Plato's cave has been reached and the birds are singing and the sun is shining. Time is becoming almost irrelevant.

The *Perfect* state of mind may be represented thus:



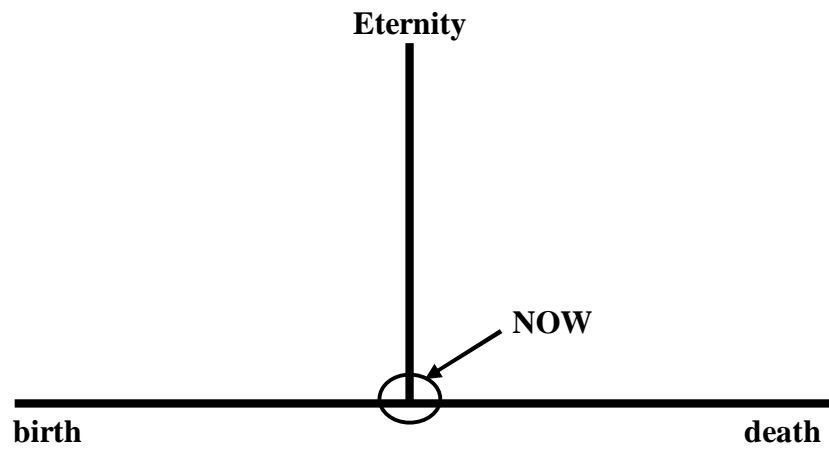
The Soul has done Her job. She has merged the Individual consciousness with the Unitive Consciousness which is the Mind of God. It is the opposite of Ordinary consciousness. It is Timeless. At this level of consciousness *everything* is Inclusive. This is the 'found' level of 'Seek and Ye shall find'. The Mind of Man is identical to the Mind of God. You are the Creator of this world.

Time for a glass of red wine. It's been a long six days.

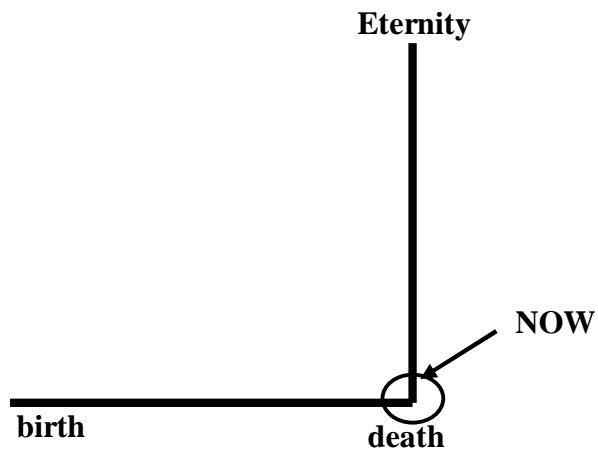
# A Final Test

**‘Is there life after death?’**

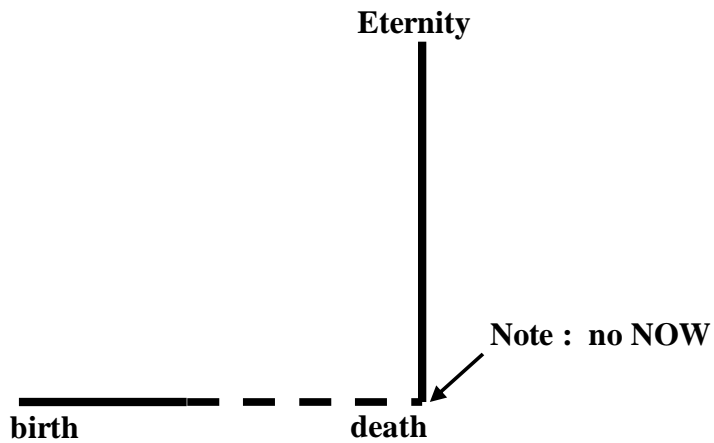
Firstly, the situation while you’re alive:



Secondly, the situation at the point of death:



Lastly, after death



Life has finished for you as an individual and the physical body returns to its native ashes and dust in time.

There is no more NOW for the individual and no more NOW for the individual Soul which once again is free to return to the Eternal.

The Soul escapes from the human mind to the Mind of God, Ultimate, Love, Eternal Meaning, Self, B-love, Being, Truth, Light, Knowledge, Eternity, Unity.

The purpose of our life on Earth is to learn Unconditional Love through Light. To learn to Love one another without conditions. No boundaries. No us. No you. Just We.

*There is no conditional way of reaching the Unconditional; there is no finite way of reaching the Infinite,* wrote Paul Tillich.

*That is the Mystical Mind of God.*

The other mystics seem to be nodding their heads in agreement.

Either that or they've dozed off.

# SOME SUPPORTING MYSTICS

*If I am I because I am I, and You are You because You are You,*

*Then:*

*I am I, and You are You.*

*But:*

*If i am i because you are you, and you are you because i am i*

*Then:*

*i am not I and you are not You.*

Menachem Mendel of Kotzk, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Rabbi

*I also am mortal, like everybody else.... When I was born, I began to breathe the common air, and fell upon the earth we all share. My first sound was a cry, as is true for all....For no king has had a different beginning of existence; there is for all one entrance into life, and one way out. Therefore I prayed, and understanding was given me. I called on God, and the Spirit of Wisdom came to me. I preferred Her to sceptres and thrones, and I counted wealth as nothing in comparison to Her.*

*The Wisdom of Solomon Chapter 7, Verses 1- 7*

*'It is I who am God, and there is no other apart from me'*

*And a voice came forth from above the realm of absolute power, saying*

*'You are wrong, Samael' (which means, 'God of the blind')*

*And he said,*

*'If any other thing exists before me, let it appear to me!'*

*And immediately Sophia ('Wisdom') stretched forth her finger, and introduced Light into matter, and she followed it down into the region of chaos.*

*And he again said to his offspring,*

*'It is I who am the God of All.'*

*And Life, the daughter of Wisdom, cried out; she said to him*

*'You are wrong, Saklas! (which means 'fool').*

*Hypostasis of the Archons, quoted in The Gnostic Gospels, Elaine Pagels, p.79*

*I Yam who I Yam.*

Popeye

*Time is what keeps the Light from reaching us. There is no greater obstacle to God than time. And not only time but temporalities, not only temporal things but temporal affections; not only temporal affections but the very taint and smell of time.*

A typically little-over-the-top Meister Eckhart, medieval Christian mystic

*And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day that ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil'*

Genesis 3, 4-5

*Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the keys of Knowledge; ye entered not in yourselves, and they that were entering in ye hindered.*

Jesus to the Pharisees. Luke 11:52 (orthodox)

*Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*

Jesus to his disciples. Matthew 10:16 (orthodox)

*Jesus said, 'The pharisees and the scribes have taken the keys of knowledge (gnosis) and have hidden them. They themselves have not entered, nor have they allowed to enter those who wish to. You, however, be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.'*

Gospel of Thomas, 39 (heretical)

*The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,  
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit  
Shall lure it back again to cancel half a Line,  
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.*

Omar Khayyam, Persia, 12<sup>th</sup> Century poet and mathematician

*Farewell, friend in the spirit, in God's blessing and in mine. And I beseech almighty God that true peace, sound advice, and spiritual comfort in God with abundance of grace, may evermore be with you and all God's lovers on earth. Amen.*

Anonymous, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, closing benediction

