

The background is an abstract composition of various textures and colors. It features a prominent circular pattern in the upper left, a large central swirl in shades of brown and tan, and a plaid pattern in the lower half. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, browns, and tans.

Death of Spirituality

Mark Crawford

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Part 1

Anyone choosing to look forward, towards the evolution of humanity can see with clarity that we humans are standing on the verge of an expansive, all-encompassing techno-scientific revolution of a sort and scope and degree absolutely unparalleled in the whole of our history.

We now stand at the edge of a colossal new understanding in terms of nearly everything that we previously thought we knew. As we prepare ourselves for the changes which are to come, the question becomes this: Will the coming evolution in understanding cause humanity to rise up and become greater than they were before we elevated our awareness regarding the fundamental, underlying mechanisms governing reality, or will our eternal quest for the answers result in our own physical as well as spiritual destruction? Lest you think this question is overly unfair or weighted with doomsday prejudice on my part I'd first like to take some time to look at some of the bitter fruits of unrestrained progress which humanity has been, tricked into or force to digest in the years since Reason became supreme.

Being that we are human to the core and dependent on our bodies the majority of us who are not sufficiently educated and trained to comprehend physics, et. al., cannot easily understand the myriad ways that so-called scientific achievement has resulted in things that do not contribute to our comfort, or to our safety, or for that matter, to our longevity.

And so it is in the face of seemingly miraculous advances in the field of medicine and in light of a whole slew of labor-saving devices seemingly designed to liberate us for the bondage of work, how can we argue that Science is not in reality the only logical pursuit?

The spiritually enlightened freely acknowledge that the seemingly miraculous advancements that our scientific community has bought to us are powerful stimulants, but our wise ones also ask us: "At what price have these things come?" In our quest for modern medicinal miracles is it possible that we have created a world fostering sickness and disease. Created a society of people who lean on the crutches of chemical medicines to cure infirmities which exist only in the psychosomatic states of their minds? Do some of the wondrous chemicals that scientific advancements conjures forth from the bubbling cauldrons of their laboratories, in fact, actually create cancers? Is the AID's Virus the unwitting result of someone's Science gone awry?

The learned men and women who have a vested interest in ensuring that the institutions of Science continue to prosper would tell you that the answer to these questions is 'No'. But, those who have learned to see beyond the dark matrix of modern societies addiction to greed and comfort will tell you "Yes, of course!" They will tell you that we humans have been tricked by the illusion that happiness can best be obtained by having "more" of the illusion; more medicine, more science, more money ... more, more, more. This is the message being forced into the minds of humanity by a lost and misguided materialistic society.

I will try to illustrate this point by drawing your attention back to a time in our past when our historic ancestors also stood at a divide in the road to a time when we as a species moved away from an intimate relationship with the infinite spirit of the natural world, to a place where our every thought and action is upon artifice, stimulus and distraction. How what we call progress is in reality, merely a

move away from a direct and literal connection to the higher states of mind which separate us from the ape. We as a species have, I am sad to say, digressed away from being worshipful members of the natural ego into a dispirited mindset enslaved by the unnatural ego of the small self. And this dispirited mindset is plunging into chaos not only our planets ecosphere, but is disintegrating our natural connection to our true nature and purpose.

I, for one, am of the opinion that history clearly reveals the moment in time when mankind mistakenly decided that the old forms of worshipping God in the forest, or on top of a hill, with Magic and with Ritual, etc., no longer had a proper role to play in terms of shaping mankind's future. A moment when the decision was made to combine and therefore transform the dualities of Science and Theology, into the god of the future. This change, this directional change to Western Societies thinking process, can quite properly be viewed to have taken place, sometime during the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Century.

Science And Religion

The sixteenth Century was a time when the onset of the Scientific Revolution was bringing the answers to humanity's long held questions concerning the hidden, underlying realities governing the world in which we lived. New found knowledge was illuminating the dark recesses of ignorance that had previously confined man to a laborious existence. This new knowledge began to open portals through which our greatest thinkers could contemplate the edge of unimaginable advancements, a time when decisions could be made about the path that our entire species would take for the next four hundred years. Theirs was a time not unlike our own. And we will talk about the choices that they made, and about the sorts of directions that our ancestors chose to take, in hopes that by examining their decisions, we can somehow learn valuable lessons about our past, and by doing so, hopefully avoid making some of the same mistakes that they made... Thus averting the potential annihilation of our species and our planet.

We will also examine the way in which we evolved, changing from a species that gazed into the miraculous heavens, filled with a profound sense of awe and wonderment, into a species which has become focused on artificial realities and man-made pleasures. How we became transformed, from a species that understood its place, regarding Spirit, and regarding Nature, a species which worshipped its Creator, a Creator who could be seen in all places and in all things, into a creature who seems hell bent on destroying its environment.

We will try to reconnect ourselves with the past, in an effort to try and pinpoint just how it was, and why it was that this disconnectedness occurred with our hopes toward the possibility that by attempting to recognize our past, we might somehow be able to alter the course of our future. Perhaps, if we learn from our prior mistakes, we might regain some measure of the awe and the humility that our ancestors once possessed concerning the very environment which sustains us.

As we study our own historic development, my hope is that we will begin to see how the great thinkers of the past could suddenly believe in a purely materialistic future, leading the greatest minds of this period to arrive at levels of insight and understanding never previously even dreamed of. Men like Galileo and Newton led the charge through these cerebral doorways, and as they made their

advance, the rest of mankind began to revise the way that he or she looked at the world. We, as a species, became overly impressed with our own capacity to think and to intellectualize, and as we began to regard our intellects more and more highly, we fell into the trap of following our cerebral processes deeper and deeper into the realm of pure conjecture and thought, believing that we could, eventually, utilize pure reason to unlock all of the great mysteries which had puzzled humanity since its inception. In awe of our own brain power we lost the capacity to be in awe of spirit and nature; thus we took a wrong turn at the very outset of our long journey to understand creation and therefore lost sight of our goals at the moment when we first started looking.

The insights and awareness's that we subsequently arrived at were not tethered to an appreciation of life as a spiritual journey. The things that we learned were merely ego comforts, wholly lacking in a connection to the hidden, underlying Divine Mind which constructs all things and that holds all things together.

Our new perspective is called Scientific Consciousness. And it is formulated upon an inherent separation of humanity, from our true self and our environment. We have become the "Subject," and the rest of our reality matrix is reduced to the "Object." This disconnect ensures that for as long as humanity adheres to this point of view, we shall never again be made ONE with the rest of the things in Creation. We have cast ourselves into a role where we are now and forevermore standing in opposition to the rest of the things that exist in the world and beyond it. We humans as Subjects, are condemned to view ourselves as (a) different form and (b) superior to everything else around us.

We have stumbled into a mindset that causes us to regard the world as something removed from us, as something un-related to us. As something not necessarily relevant to us. Removed and unrelated and irrelevant in the sense that the world and its existence has been reduced to one bit "IT" or a collection of its, wholly lacking in life as we know it. And, since it has no life, we are free to manipulate it and use it and force it to conform to our own will, and therefore justified to use and abuse our cosmos by believing that it is our Manifest destiny to dominate the world that surrounds us. And Science has become the tool we are using to help us do the work of that domination.

Having so quickly and so easily separated ourselves from the Spirit of Nature, we humans were able to take the next step, which was to separate ourselves from the Spirit of God. Unfortunately, it was an easy transition. We began to look for truth in Science expecting it to provide us the answers that we needed, instead of looking to the Universal Consciousness for the solutions that we needed. We began to seek answers in the little self not in the greater self. We traded in a very valuable spiritual birthright, for low-order materialism. And, this downfall away from a spiritual consciousness, would ultimately lead us toward the brand of empty and useless Religionism which is currently being promulgated throughout the world today.

But I must ask, if for more than ninety-nine percent of all human history humanity held the belief that he or she was in direct and tangible communion with creation, perceiving himself or herself to be an integral part of the environment, and hence, inextricably linked to all things, then why has our view become so drastically changed, in such a relatively short period of time?

What happened? What entered into the equation causing us to embark upon this drastic and potentially fatal change in direction? The answer may surprise you! Our fall from spiritual consciousness can be traced directly to two things: 1) The advent of Industry and Science and 2) our acceptance of materialistic organized religion.

To see how these two forces were able to alter humanities complete course we will first place our scrutiny upon the various ways that organized religion participated in severing our inborn connection to higher consciousness. Then, we will follow up with an analysis of the ways that a craving to satisfy what we have come to regard as our "basic human needs" led us to and into a dangerous addiction to Industry/Science, and how taken together these two seemingly dis-seperate processes pused out ancestors past the point of no return.

Part 2

Why would religion end up serving as a ruinous device helping to destroy the link to God that it purported to serve? Why would the institutions that we like to refer to as our Houses of Worship end up becoming the empty places where God is least likely to be found? The answer of course, can be summed up in just three words: Pride. Ignorance. And Fear.

Prior to the Sixteenth Century, we humans really had little or no say in the workings of any of the Organized Religions that were flourishing in the world, at the time. Our own Christian churches basically thought that humans were little more than children and that as such, they were practically incapable of comprehending or understanding the true meaning of God's Word. No one except for the people who populated the upper structure of the Church were therefore, even able to possess a copy of the Holy Bible. Think about that for a moment... The Church felt that the populace could not be trusted to read or to possess a copy of the Bible! This damnable pride on the part of the Organization of Christian Religion, finally resulted in the first great and tumultuous religious reformation spearheaded by a rebellious monk, named Martin Luther. The resulting wave of change liberated the Old and New Testaments from the despotic clutches of the priest caste, and for the first time ever gave the people direct access to the Bible, without first needing to have it run through the filter of priestly interpretation. Another very important aspect of the revolution was the way that the changes which were brought about by Martin Luther and by John Calvin, et. al., who succeeded in bringing a kind of spotlight to bear upon the very core of Christian Doctrine which held that only through the direct participation and intercession of the church could a person be expunged of sin. The churches arrogant and ignorant position was that it and only it could intercede to work a pardon for ones sins. Evidently, in the churches view, God's children weren't even to be trusted to talk to God without an intercessor. Change was needed.

However, after the reformation, the new denominations which sprang up to fill the need for a more tolerant religion became exactly like that which they were created to replace. And as always, organized Christian religion, regardless of sect, flourished on power, power which was derived for all of the people who were obedient to or subjugated to the authority of that particular denomination. And over time, the men who constituted the hierarchy of the Christian faith began to impose their own restrictions upon the faithful; dictating how the faithful should worship, live, procreate, etc. In time, as more and more of the sin and ego of the men in authority was derived from obedience to their dictates, anyone who was found to be still in communion with the 'old' ways of practicing spirituality were considered to be a challenge and a threat to the men who ruled the churches. Naturally, anyone foolish enough to represent a threat to the men who led the new church was consigned to punishment in the form of hellfire and brimstone. These two examples of course, are examples of pride, and, pride was the first nail in the coffin of Spiritual Consciousness and Moral Literacy.

As more and more people were coerced into setting aside the 'old' ways, and were forced to adopt the tenets of the man-created and human-sponsored 'new' churches, the ranks of the 'new' churches became swollen with converts. And, sheer strength of numbers eventually caused the 'new' churches to grow more powerful and more authoritative; the fact that so many people accepted the 'new' churches lent a curious kind of overt legitimacy to it, as well.

All man-created processes work their way through predictable evolution/devolution pathways, and the 'new' Religion, the Religion of the Christians went through its own series of changes, too. More and more power and authority accrued to the Religion. The Church became bloated and oppressive and excessive. The faithful were plucked like fowl and plundered like the conquered.

The church grew richer, and richer, and richer. But in time, people grew tired of being mis-used and abused by their Spiritual leaders. They grew weary of swaying beneath the heavy yokes which were so unjustly and so unfairly being piled upon them. When the flock grew tired enough, and angry enough, they began to resist the tyranny of the Religion that ruled them.

The church reacted just as they always had in response to anyone or anything that seemed to threaten its prerogatives, they lashed back, violently! The Religion that portrayed itself the representative of love, began to act contrary by accusing all who disagreed with its tenets and practices as being heretic. Trials were conducted. Witch-hunts, in the exact, literal sense of the word were held. False accusations flew, and untold numbers of innocent men, women and children were put to torture and painful death by their own religion. All of this power protection and authority saving carnage was naturally, carried out by zealous monks and priest and pastors in the name of God!

Despite the savagery of their defense, the Religionists were quite unable to stem the rising tide of change which was washing thought and over their institutions. Every violent and reactionary act, no matter how shocking or brutal it may have been, only served to cause the seekers of reform to increase the fervor of their struggle that much more. Every instance of torture and degradation and painful death, up to and including the myriads of innocents who were bound to stakes and burned alive, only succeeded in adding yet another rallying point to those who disbelieved in a God of any kind.

So it was that the Church drove its own adherents to the brink of desperation and beyond. The faithful began to feel as if their church had lost all holiness, and since the church supposedly represented God, here, on planet earth, it was the concept of God itself that people began to dare to doubt! This fear of church, and of reprisal by the churches for anyone who dared to stand in defiance of what the church stood for, turned out to be the second nail which was being so furiously pounded down into the coffin lid of Spiritual Consciousness.

Even in the face of arrogant, doctrinal pride, and trembling in fear of the adjust horrors of misinterpreted doctrine which was being rained down upon the heads of the suffering faithful by a bloated and odious religion, there were many people who were content to blindly follow the Organized Religion that guided them. These people continued to look to the church for Spirit and for God. However, even these staunch and faithful advocates would find it nearly impossible to stand firm in the face of the third terrible plague which would soon completely and with great finality sever the thin psychic thread which yet connected human-kind with its Creator.

The third and final threat to spirituality will forever be know as Ignorance ... spiritual-ignorance. What makes this threat so ominous is the fact that more so than all the others, this plague is still alive and virulent today!

The effect to these changes and influences upon Western Society, was that the citizens of the Sixteen Century became disillusioned with the God of the church. They lost the rudder that they had preciously always been able to cling to, as they endeavored to chart some kind of clear passage through the storm tossed waters of life. As a result persons of intellect rose to the rescue. Men, like

Galileo and Isaac Newton, began to conjure forth a tiny rivulet, and then an entire ocean of new ideas and inventions, ideas and inventions which also seemed to attack and to question the God that the narrow minded and corrupted church purported to represent.

One of the main pillars of Sixteen Century Religious Principle was the preposterous notion that the earth was the exact center of God's Cosmos. That, and that it - the Cosmos - swirled and orbited and revolved around the earth. When Galileo dared to challenge that position and was able to prove it wrong with the judicious application of a wondrous new invention, called a telescope - well, suffice it to say that the church went berserk! It accused Galileo, and, through him, by extension, accused all who dared to challenge any of the tightly held tenets of the church, of heresy. When Galileo invited the church to look through the lens of his telescope and see, for themselves, as it were, just what the truth was, the College of Cardinals responded by refusing to do so. After all, how dare Galileo presume to question the knowledge that the church possessed, even if he did have a silly invention (which was probably gifted to him by the Devil, to begin with)? The church then went on to demand that Galileo a.) renounce his wild theories and b.) recant his heresy, by admitting that the earth indeed did reside at the absolute center of God's Cosmos. The church then made Galileo a prisoner in his own home, where they kept him, until he recanted. Thus was Doctrine maintained even in the face of truth and the light of reason. Unfortunately, this and a great many other examples just like it, only amplified the ignorance that the church displayed. And it added fuel to the fires of rebelliousness and discontent that were beginning to rage within the hallways and in the pews of the institution.

The church's erred in suppressing Galileo's ideas, not only in its instinctual censorship of what Galileo was trying to say, but also in its knee-jerk resistance to the underlying factuality supporting Galileo's arguments. Its one thing to stop a man from speaking, and it's another thing entirely to imply that the words that that man is trying to speak are untrue when it is patently obvious to any observer, that the man is speaking truths. But, more importantly the church erred in its censorious treatment of Galileo, because an entire vast wave of great minds and clear thinkers were waiting on the horizon, and they were all watching and gauging the church's reaction. And when separation of church and science became the outcome, they took it in stride and have ever since been at war with religion.

But the problem did not end there, so today we face the exact same sort of ignorance in terms of our established religious entities. And in terms of the sorts of things that these entities strive to teach us is still very much alive and thriving, today. Organized religion may well have been forced to concede the point that the earth is not, after all, the center of the Universe. However the church has continued to cling to a wide variety of equally nonsensical and unsupportable "Sacred Cows", believing that they are defending that which they perceive to be written in the Holy texts. Ignoring of course the fact that a great many telling arguments can be launched against the validity of the church's interpretation of what these sacred words say. Choosing instead to simply circle their theological wagons around the same mistaken and tired ideas and opinions concerning what they presume God's word and God's intent to be; this is the same identical position that the church of Galileo' day and age took with Galileo.

The 'Sacred Cows' of this modern age are many, yet I will content myself with pointing out the two which I, personally, feel are the most instrumental in driving a wedge between humanity and God and between God and church!

These 'sticking-points' are 1) Speculation regarding the exact scientific timeline concerning the origin of humanity, and the years of our tenure, here, on earth. And 2) the Religious centric position, Regarding just who it is that can benefit from God's gift of salvation, and just what it is that those people must do to get it.

Part 3

The Sacred Cows Of This Day and Age

Even in the face of direct and overwhelming scientific proofs and data to the contrary, most hidebound scholars of Organized Religion continue to insist that the data of when God created humans can only be known by scrutinizing the Sacred Texts of their religion.

In Christian centric terms, these scholars insist that creation occurred some paltry span of time ago, perhaps six-thousand years ago, only. These men would have us believe that that was when God lifted the first man, Adam, from the dirt, and carved the first woman, Eve, from Adam's flesh. Never mind the fossil record. Never mind other evidence that shows us the men and women have lived and walked and talked and breathed, here, on planet earth many, many thousands if not millions of years before that arbitrary six-thousand years stating point.

The people who do the thinking for the church are of course free to believe and/or mis-perceive anything that they like. The problem lies in the way that those misperceptions are aggressively foisted upon the flock who subscribes to the tenets of that religion and are subsequently forced to make an impossible choice regarding the truth that their church insists is true and the truth that their minds and reason and wisdom and logic reveal to be true. On the one hand, these poor people are confronted with what the 'interpreters' of the Bible claim to be God's reality, and on the other hand are confronted by what scientific reality itself has proven to be true.

Most of us respond to being thrown into the dilemma by compromise and admitting to a little bit of judicious juggling of faith and its demands upon our mental faculties and of common sense, and the demands that it imposes on us. We suspend our faith, just a little, to be able to accommodate truth, and we ignore truth, just a little, to be able to cling to our blind and unreasoning faith. Never mind the fact that this mental juggling process is hypocritical and that it compromises us, in terms of our assessment of truth and falsehood.

Regardless of the ethical and philosophical implications of the dilemma that the church has fostered upon us, it, the church, steadfastly and stubbornly continues to cling to its hard-line and wrong-minded positions concerning what they believe God 'says', and the sort of role that that interpretation of reality is supposed to play in our lives. This willful blurring of our lenses of perception, by obfuscating the truth and pretending that another, God inspired truth, trumps whatever reality that science and the evidence of our senses shows us to be true. This anti-Galilean tendency has the added, unintended, effect of wounding God, because the church errs by pretending that their reality is different from the one that factual evidence has proven to be real. God is supposedly inextricably linked to the religion. And, therefore, if the religion is wrong, then by extension, God is made to suffer that failure. As a result, men and women began to fall away from a devotional relationship with God, because when the church takes preposterous positions, all free thinking devotees, are driven away by God given common sense.

When we stop to consider the Christian-centric position that only fellow Christians have access to eternal life via God's Grace and Salvation we see how another seemingly insurmountable stumbling

block had been placed in the path of many, many human beings who might otherwise strive towards a close and devotional communion with God. And, this egotistic, self-gratifying interpretation of God's so called "Word" does a double disservice because it paints a picture of God as being an Entity that arbitrarily chooses some small select group for eternal blessings, while consigning all of the rest to hellfire and eternal torture.

It's true, you can most certainly read that sort of stuff in the Holy Scriptures of Islam, Christianity and Judaism. However, if you are seekers of the knowledge, then with a more careful perusal of reality you can see a completely different, more mature view of the truth. All that is required, is for you to be willing to strip away the spiritual blinders which have obscured your view. When you see the truth you will passionately realize that to be restricted to one narrow set of beliefs is nothing more than mistaken opinions and interpretations of the religionists who - like spoiled children are desperate that only they be favored by their father.

These two basic disputable tenets of modern religion - a) That organized religious reality is more real than the true reality (and God's Reality, of course, is determined by the scholars who interpret the Scriptures) and b) The view that Salvation and Eternal Reward will only be doled out to a select group, while all the rest of humanity who inhabits this planet will be condemned to an eternity of suffering etc., are both merely just glaring examples of the way that distortions and mistaken interpretations can creep into the doctrine body of any given Religion, and, of how those misinterpretations and misperceptions can erode the ability of said Religion to be a positive vehicle for humanity.

As a result of the wrong-minded and hard-lined thought processes governing the church from the Sixteen Century forward, many people have become disillusioned with and discontented with the church. As a result of all this, many people distanced themselves from and effectively became divorced from the church, as a result, the gap between Creator and created has continued to widen. And, by that I am not making reference to the sort of separation from God that ignorance produces. I am instead referring to the type of separation that weakened faith produces.

The aftermath which is so readily apparent in our world today, is a society where nearly every person is so extremely dis-connected from God that they spend their entire lives standing alone in a place of absolute and utterly abysmal Spiritual Ignorance. These poor souls exist in a state of helplessness that allows them to fall easy prey to charlatans, hysterical evangelical frauds and quacks, each one purporting to have the direct connection to God that every single one of us subconsciously desires to reclaim and yearns to have. Pushed away from God by the shortcomings and mistakes of our religions we have fallen into a desperate search for truth, and for God in all of the wrong places, and in all the wrong ways. As we stumble through the darkness with no true church lighting our way we are destined to pitch headlong into any one of the many oblivion traps that are strewn in our way. Into lunatic belief systems, into drugs, into television, etc. We become ensnared by these traps that are all basically just various ways to sate our physical desires with the raw sensations we need to drown out our desire for communion with God. We are squandering the precious life that birth charged us to use, lives that we are suppose to spend perfecting happiness. And the very reason why we have become ensnared, is simply because we are hungry for God! A hunger that our Organized Religions are supposed to feed, and are not.

For the sake of framing the argument, I have pin-pointed the Sixteen Century as the moment when pride, fear, and ignorance within the church conspired to help push mankind over the edge, away from spirituality and headlong in a frightening freefall into the abyss of modern thinking. We tend to

equate the word 'modern' with progress, but in the case of the spiritual consciousness, the 'modern' church really only helped to play an integral role in the absolute death of our spirituality.

To Eat Or Not To Eat

The second primary factor in the death of spirituality was the birth of science and the advent of the Industrial Revolution. When our ancestors began to experience the fruits born of scientific truth and industrial possibilities, they had to make a choice concerning it as well: Either they would embrace the future, or cling to the past. When the inroads of progress began to wend their ways into the meanest and most common household, the choice became exceedingly simple to make. Towards a God who's church had by its actions, proven itself to be extremely unreasonable and absolutely out of touch with reality, or, towards a new and brilliant way of thinking which seemed to be paved with prosperity, as well as with all of the myriad things that mankind needed to survive? If you still aren't sure what choice you would make, then I suggest that you conduct the following experiment: Go to one of our planets third world countries and offer a starving, disease riddled person the choice between faith in a God, or food. I submit that we can already guess the outcome of that little experiment.

The choice to pursue God, or to pursue progress in and of itself really wasn't the problem. After all some scientific and technological advancements are so down right helpful and beneficial to humanity that, they can only be regarded as Gifts and Blessings, from God. Where the problem arises though, is in the tendency that modern humanity has to a) look back upon in abject condemnation of and b) to criticize every manner of thought or opinion which ancestral humanity held before the rise of science. This is exactly what modern science believes; that all mankind's pre-scientific thought processes could be disregarded as being spun from webs of ignorance, superstition and stupidity. And, if you go ahead and extend the argument, perhaps all of the 'old' ways are merely anthropomorphic fantasies erected upon unscientific and unreal foundations of misperception and of misunderstanding.

Rene Descartes, the brilliant mathematician and philosopher of the French Renaissance summed up this anti-olden time, anti-prescientific stance when he said:

"My discoveries have satisfied me that it is possible to reach knowledge that will be of much utility in this life; that, instead of the speculative philosophy now taught in the schools we can find a practical one, by which knowing nature, and all the other bodies which surround us, as well as we now understand the different skills of our workers, we can employ those utilities for all of the purposes for which they are suited, and so make ourselves master and possessors of nature."

Where in this mindset is there any room for ways of thinking and of modes of perception which aren't slavishly tethered to the scientific methods? What he and others like him was actually saying is, since our ancestors knew no legitimate science, they know nothing. As a result modern science has concluded that we need not concern ourselves with any of the processes that the olden ones

employed but, instead seize hold of our own, entirely new processes which are to be constructed from modern principle. However, if you accept for just one moment the possibility that at some point, far removed in our past that our forefathers existed in harmony with their natural world, and that they were much more closely connected on a spiritual level with God and with nature than any of us are today, then you will appreciate how dangerous it is for us to ignore and to discredit everything that our ancestors did! At the very least, it would seem obvious that we need to arm ourselves with the awareness and the understandings and the processes which enabled our precursors to achieve the good things that they achieved!

Rene Descartes represents just the scant tip of an entire spearhead of thinkers who wholeheartedly believed that progress, the new religion that they worshipped, is conditional ... conditioned upon the belief that, in order to achieve progress, they, the representatives of the new and enlightened science minded person must discard every single one of the old ways. They decided decisively that the olden ways were nothing more than outmoded and irrational processes, resting upon the notion that progress could only be made by plunging head long and with absolutely no remorse forward.

The new scientific way forward was ultimately predicated upon the adaptation of a mindset that urged us toward sweeping change with no consideration given to maintaining that which had already been proven, through usage and the passage of time, to be efficacious and good. In other words, the problem with these new rationalists was that they displayed a marked tendency to throw the baby out, with the bathwater!

Part 4

The practitioners of the old religions, the pre-Christian pagans, et. al. were quickly caught between the jaws of a tightening vice, being squeezed by the fanatics of the Organized Religion who hunted them down and propagandized against them at every turn, and at the same time by the adepts of the new rationalism whose science and whose progressive thinking only served to disillusion and dissuade anyone who dared to view the fabric of reality through the lens of mysticism and spirituality. And, as the over-arching war between Church and Science began heating up in earnest, the nature loving folks were caught in the middle; it really is no small wonder that the old ways and the men and women who clung to them began to fade away. Unfortunately, when these spiritually connected humans disappeared from the landscape, humanity's historic and fundamental connection to God with whom they were linked via the Universal Mind, or as the Christians call it, The Holy Spirit, also began to flicker and grow dim. Eventually, that connection died out almost entirely, kept alive by only a scant and precious few.

Science began to reap vast harvests gathering in the succulent fruits of many, many life altering successes. And as the bounty grew, the citizenry began to view it, Science, as their new Messiah, as their new Savior. For its part, Science grew arrogant, and it began to pose questions to the Church that were far beyond the scope of the religionists ability to answer. Rather than admit to the possibility that Science might be correct regarding its interpretation of reality and that they, the religionists, might be wrong, religion dug in its heels and resisted the truths that Science was trying to promulgate. Rather than concede that Science might be right and respond by articulating a theology that finds God in the new view of truth, the Theologists fought back. They argued unsupportable and specious arguments, and they practiced a guerilla war of retaliation and retribution against, not only the so-called Pagan's, but the rationalists as well. They abused their God given authority utilizing it to banish and punish all who dared to question their interpretation of God. As a result, the people, especially those who had been educated and had become literate, were persuaded by the debate to turn even farther towards reason.

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In summation, these are the primary reasons why I believe humanity ultimately became channeled into the direction that we have traveled, since the Sixteenth Century. And, having been routed thusly, these are the reasons why we began to develop what, for lack of a better terminology, others have called, Western Consciousness. The price that we as a people have had to pay for all of this of course, is the loss of the vital spiritual connection to our environment that our ancestors enjoyed. A connection that linked each and every single one of us, in a very real and inextricable way, with the Universe that swirls around us.

The solution? Well, I am not suggesting that we abandon Reason and abdicate Science by calling for a return to some kind of medieval mindset or some archaic kind of thinking. Nor am I pointing to the ills of the world and crying out that science and progress alone are responsible for our current

predicaments. I am however, saying that we, the human race, are once again standing at a great crossroads. Once again, destiny has brought us to the point where we must choose one direction, or another. This time, the choices that need to be made aren't simple ones. This time we must look ahead to the end game when it comes to things like greed, war and the strain we are putting on our planet.

This time things are more serious as we face the grim prospect of destruction, a destruction of our planet, and of our species. This predicament is the full true harvest that we are now forced to reap based upon seeds which were planted the last time that we chose a direction to travel. Our past choices have carried us to the very edge and the very edge of destruction, and with all that said, I do recognize that we cannot turn back retracing our steps to safer ground. We can only press onward moving forward from here, but if we do not alter the way we are treating our planet the future will indeed be grim.

What we need to do is to arrive at a place where we begin to combine the benefits that our ancestors harvested from the fruit tree of spiritual consciousness. We need to erect a comprehensive socio-political structure that combines the three elements which our own bitter experience has assured us are essential for the survival of our species ... God, the Human Mind and Nature.

Authors Note

I subscribe to a Magazine called, The Sun. The December 2019 edition of this wonderful magazine carries an interview with a man named Barry Lopez called, "The World We Still Have". As I read this interview I suddenly remembered something I'd written 20yrs. ago.

Being motivated by Mr. Lopez' article in The Sun, I went to my locker and dug out this piece of work yeah, lol, I'm one of those guys who keeps stuff for 20 years. Anyway, as I began to look over my notes from back then I remembered that allot of the info for this work had actually come from a book I had read and, for some reason, I neglected to write down the title and the author.

With that in mind, and in spite of my mistake I have decided to go ahead and post this story for you to read. Again I must apologize to you and to my anonymous inspiration for using, only God knows how much, plagiarized material ... sorry! In spite of this unfortunate problem, the issue remains the same - if we don't change the way we are, not only living our lives, but the way we are treating our planet, we will not survive as a species.

Love you and my Mother Earth, always.

Sincerely, I AM, the man who talks to trees.

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