

# **THE RELIGIOUS URGE : HUMANITY'S NEED FOR IRRESPONSIBILITY! alexis dolgorukii © 1997**

Prostitution, it is said, is the "World's Oldest Profession", but that can hardly be true. For if prostitution is defined as "trading sexual favors for some kind of barter" then it was impossible for it to have been introduced until well into the development of civilization after the formalization of family groups and the introduction of the concept of trade. It also must post date the change in consciousness that made a woman an article of value and gave them sufficient independence to "charge" for favors. None of this can have happened among the earliest hominids.

No, the "World's Oldest Profession" is that of "Witch Doctor", "Spokesman of The Gods", or "Priest". (Note: I want to make it absolutely clear that a "Witch Doctor" is NOT a Shaman. See my Essay on Shamanism for the differences)

Of the two, I'd say the Prostitute is more honest because a prostitute (of whatever sex) fills a real physical human need. A Priest (or any other minion of any religion) fills a completely manufactured need in response to one of humankind's most primitive urges, and that is the desire to have something or someone else that is responsible for one's situation and actions; and worse yet, something to blame for occurrences that have no connection at all with human or other beings.

It is, however, perfectly clear that this need to have someone or something which is responsible for one, or which can be blamed for ones trials and tribulations, and which I call "The Urge to Religion", or "The Religious Urge", is one of the most primal of all of humankind's internal imperatives. In fact, it probably predates Homo Sapiens by a good deal.

Archeological, Paleontological, and Anthropological evidence exists that clearly shows that the predecessors of Homo Sapiens, probably as far back as Australopithecus and Homo Erectus, in an extremely primitive way, practiced rituals and employed fetishes. This is the strongest possible evidence that the "religious urge" is very old indeed. This was an imperative entirely based on ignorance and total misunderstanding. The problem we have inherited along with this "need" is that there have almost always been individuals who were willing to take advantage of this imperative to gain power and profit for themselves.

Religion, in every form it takes, is now, and always has been a "con job", and that's all it is. We know that it is a "con-job" because its motto is a thing called "Faith". And "faith" simply means that a person is told to ignore the evidence, ignore what their senses tell them, ignore all they know of science and history, ignore reason, ignore logic, ignore common sense and rationality entirely, and believe what they're told to believe. "Faith" is the essence of totalitarianism. Religion, and its insistence on unquestioning faith and total obedience, is the quintessence of antidemocratic oppression. Today, as always, it returns false coinage for value received.

That does not mean to say that I wish to infer, or imply, in any way, that many, if not the majority, of the people who serve professionally in the world's religions are not as much victims of that "con-job" as any of their congregants. That is so because the "faith" that they sell is a "faith" that they adhere to. Religion "brain washes" its adherents from birth to the grave. The great majority of the minions of religion are just as brain washed as their victims; but not all, not by a long shot. Some of them are fully aware that religion is the easiest pathway to power and wealth.

Let's examine the question; How did religion come to be, and what purposes does it purport to serve?

If one empathizes (puts one's self in the place of) those pitiful beings who were the precursors of what is now the human race, it's not really hard to find a reasonable answer to those questions. It doesn't for one moment change the fact that religion is a "con job", nor does it ameliorate in any way the immense harm done by religion, but it does make its development more comprehensible.

I repeat, the entire edifice is based on an enormous fabrication composed in equal parts of misunderstood observations, ignorance of the significance of things observed, fear, otherwise unanswerable existential questions, and falsehood.

For instance, with one exception, and that is the most severe form of which is absolutely Monist Vedantin Brahmanism, all the world's religions today are entirely dualistic.

As it is not an everyday usage except in Theology and Philosophy, I don't wish to assume that everyone knows what is meant by "dualist", so let me define it. "Dualism" is that perception of the Universe that is entirely based on the polarity of opposites. Now this is a rational perception all things considered, but it is entirely wrong. We now, at long last, know it is wrong, because the cutting edge

of modern scientific cosmology proves it to be wrong.

Some aspects of dualism, the simpler ones, are of course, readily observable and, in their own way, "real," for instance, light and dark, hot and cold, black and white, male and female. But once you depart from the physically observable appearance of duality, the validity ends. In any case, even in the physically observable phenomena, the duality is far more apparent than real.

Today we know that other than energy itself, nothing is more than relatively real. Now, what do I mean by "relatively real"? I mean to say by that term that: **All things are "real" relative to themselves and to all things existing at their level of energy manifestation. But these things are not real when compared to the energy which is their intrinsic reality.**

It's easy to see how the earliest hominids made these mistakes. All they knew was what they could see and touch and feel. For them neither science nor abstractions existed or could exist. They lived entirely in a world of "HERE" and "NOW" but for them it was far less circumscribed than a modern human could think.

Now, there's another aspect to the nature of the environment or milieu of early hominids that served to complicate the story. And that is the fact that their environmental awareness was far more acute than is modern humanity's. Now, some of what this must have meant to them is obvious, but another part of it is far less obvious.

Let's face it; twentieth (almost twenty first) century humankind is constantly bombarded with noises, both human and mechanical, and in self-protection have cut themselves off from their milieu. This is necessary because the cacophony of modern life would be completely unbearable otherwise. That is why, when modern hominids go into the forest they comment so delightedly on the "wonderful silence", but a forest is anything but silent. My wolves, as they walk with me in the woods around our home, are constantly reacting to sounds that I cannot hear. But ancient hominids were possessed of senses as acute as wolves.

Now then, aside from these things, there is something else that wolves and cats (and all other animals) are completely aware of, that almost all humans have lost the capacity to notice. Have you ever watched a cat very carefully observing "nothing"? I have, and so has everyone who has lived with a cat. I am fortunate enough to be able to watch wolves engaged in the same fascinating occupation.

Early man could also do this.

But, what is it they are watching?

Sometimes is a bug, that's very true. But most frequently it is not. They are watching, and quite frequently interact with, non physical intelligences (i.e. "Spirits") which they can see and which humans could once see, but to which they have long since desensitized themselves. Today only "psychics " and "Shamans" can sense these things. And of course, "Psychics" are derided as "crazy" and Shamans as either "crazy' of "charlatans"

But what has this to do with the development of religion?

The answer is everything.

All of religion today is the inheritor of the fact that the earliest humans were totally aware that there were non-physical intelligences whose activities were peripheral to physical life. Now while the perception of these intelligences was valid, the perception as to their meaning and activities was NOT. Early hominid life was a thing of many fears, much hardship, and almost no joy. Though that was a lack they most likely didn't know they had not having anything better to compare their lives with. But it is clear that the earliest of our ancestors were probably frightened most of their lives. Not knowing why anything happened, they feared all things. Not knowing why things happened they attributed infinite influence to the non-physical intelligences that they knew surrounded them, and so these intelligences were transmogrified into "Divinities".

The most negative aspect of this misunderstanding was the development of the perception that these "divinities" were the cause of, and responsible for, everything that happened to these primitives. Eventually it became to be seen as a very convenient thing, people were never to blame for anything, the "spirits" were behind it all. And then came the "Priests" to convince people that these "divinities" need propitiation to prevent them from causing negative things, and that the people needed Priests to tell them what the "Divinities" wanted and needed.

Before going on with my discussion of how religion and the religious urge came to be

I'd like to discuss the scientific realities that lie behind the idea that there are non-physical intelligences.

Firstly, and most importantly, we know, not believe but know, that the only intrinsic reality

within what we call the "manifested universe" is energy. The Universe in all its unimaginable extent, is composed entirely of energy. It is the reality of what Einstein called the "Unified Field of Energy". Everything that exists in a physical or near-physical form within that field is simply energy held in stasis by a "force-field" or network of energy.

Human beings, and many other beings as well, are all sentient, but intrinsically they and all else, are energy fields. In essence the absolutely intrinsic nature of all physical sentient beings is that of a non-physical intelligence. Why then should it be impossible to accept the idea that there are other intelligences as well, whose reality is not visibly physical?

Now, is it not logical to assume, that if some energy, i.e. that of which all physical sentience's are composed, is capable of both sentience and abstract intelligence, is energy itself, if not actually sentient, not at least potentially so? I do think so. I also am pretty certain that the development of that potentiality is the only "reason" behind the manifested universe. I am absolutely certain that the only reality of the concept people call "God" is that the Unified Field of Intelligent Energy and potentially intelligent energy of which all things are part, is what could, if one needed to, call "God". But, of course, it is NOT a specific, or individual intelligence. What it is, can only be defined as: "The Universal Data-Base. Because it is energy, I suppose it would not be entirely irrational to call it "The Life-Force". It is obviously vast, but it is not a "Cosmic Busybody" which is the only way to describe religion's "God", nor is it the vain, petulant, spiteful, malevolent entity which is another reasonable way to describe religion's "God".

In the eons that have passed since the earliest hominids, religion (the religious urge) has become a compulsive obsession with the human race, and a very harmful one at that.

How so?

You will remember that I said that the early hominids and early Homo-Sapiens as well, spent an enormous amount of time being terrified. Fear; both definitive fear, and inchoate fear, was probably the hallmark of their miserable little lives. These were tremendously reasonable fears. Early hominids and early true humans had very little going for them, they were naked and relatively hairless upright (sort of) apes, like all apes and monkeys they had opposing thumbs, but what singled them out as "special" was they had intelligences that were relatively more flexible and inventive than those of the creatures around them. Had this not been so they

would not have survived. They had neither claws, nor strength, nor fangs, but they had the inventiveness to create artificial replacements for these things. They were "tool users" and that is what made them different than the other sentient creatures with which they shared their environmental milieu. Humans and the hominids which preceded them, are not the only "tool users" but they are the most efficient of such creatures. There is another "tool" humans and early hominids used, and that is the most important of all, and the tool that is unique to the species, and that is fire.

I'd very much like to digress a moment and discuss what the term "sentience" means.

Intelligence and its corollary, "sentience" are simply ways of discussing awareness. The degree of awareness is the degree of sentience. Intelligence, as an abstract thing, has more to do with creativity and synthesis than it does with simple awareness. So then when I say a creature is sentient I mean that it is aware of itself and aware of things and creatures around it that are not itself. Most sentient creatures are not aware of their mortality, those which are so aware are the more advanced levels of sentience.

Now, besides being "tool users" the early hominids and their descendants (true humans)

were "askers of questions".

## **THE TRUE MARK OF HUMANNESS IS THE WORD "WHY"?**

It was this wonderful trait, asking "why?", that, while it led to all human progress, also led to religion. It led to religion because at a very early point in history, some totally solipsistic individuals clearly realized that they could gain power over their fellows, and profit mightily, by pretending to provide answers to the questions all of them asked. Most of the questions they pretended to answer dealt with the omnipresent fear that so marked life for these beings.

Some of these questions were simply environmental, for instance: "Why does it rain?", "Why did the ground shake?" "Why has the game gone away?". But others were existential. They were the important ones. Many of them still haven't been answered fully, and they too were all "why?" questions.

Human Beings have always questioned the nature of the human condition. They have always wanted to know if they were other than what they appeared to be. Most of all they have wondered about what "happens" when they die. The greatest of all human fears is the fear of the unknown, and "death" has always

been the greatest unknown. Early humans were terrified of the great predators who shared their world, with good reason.

They were also terrified of giant herbivores like the Aurochs and the Mammoth who could squash them like bugs. But these were real fears, and because real, they could be dealt with to some extent. Fear of "death" however, was not so easily dealt with.

Religion's greatest crime has always been using that fear as a way to extort power and wealth from humanity.

Religion's answers to humanity's existential questions is infinitely worse than no answer at all. But what religions have successfully done is use humankind's desire to escape responsibility to become the responsible and controlling agency. This is criminal and has hurt humanity greatly.