

HISTORY- Lecture #4

Universe next door -

Why people are turning to E. Thought

Foundation of our country was the Bible

Judicial laws parallel OT law

Not all Christians but a

T. Jefferson- atheist but with a moral framework

1800's- Writer began to influence- seeds of Eastern thought

Art, Music

Emerson and Thoreau- 19th Cent. transcend. -> emphasized feelings and intuition more than reason

Before 1900 no gurus came

*1872- rules for teachers

Theosophy- 1875- Theosophy is based on claims of a mystic insight into the nature of God and the laws of the universe. They believe that the truest knowledge comes not through reason or the senses, but through a direct communion of the soul with divine reality.

Huxley- Brave New World-- influenced by Theosophy

Carl Jung- Swiss Psychiatrist incorporating Zen Buddhism

Para psych, etc.

Wedding of Eastern Mysticism and Western Psychology

Many others influenced also, but majority of people held to Bib. thought

By 1950's a group that lived what had been taught for 40 years
Beatnicks in Greenwich Village, Alan Watts, speaker for
the East

"Dropping out" - Alan Ginzberg

Dobbie Gillis show- Maynard G. Krebs (Gilligan)- Bob
Denver

Condemned middle-class American life as morally
bankrupt

Stressed being an individual

1960's - Free speech movement

San Francisco- flower children- Eric Burdon

When you are going to S.F. be sure to wear some
flowers in your hair

Drug Culture- 1966

Spokesman- Timothy Leary- LSD is an end run around
J.C. to the Holy Spirit

A whole generation lived what they had been taught to
the shock of the whole establishment- Schaeffer

*A whole new world view evolved

America- Love it or leave it!

*Philosophical preparation for drugs and eastern
mysticism:

1. rejection of reason and rationality

2. altered states of consciousness induced by drugs and meditation

*Loud music produces an altered state

*Drugs do experientially what eastern thought does philosophically

Beatle Music- I want to hold your hand- 1964

The Prophetic Group

I am the Walrus- "I am he as you are he as you are me and we are altogether"- 1967

"Dust of Death"

Oz Guinness

Instant Karma- 1970

My Sweet Lord- 1971 Hallelujah Hare Krishna

1982- Watch the documentary on the Beatles

*This gives rise to the New Western Mystic

3 Major Factors of the 60's

1. Technology- (reason in its practical application) That got us into the Viet Nam War. Conclusion: Let's abandon reason.

2. Economics- Western economics has led us to gross inequity and economic oppression of large masses of people. That led to a rejection of anything plastic and affluent.

Jeans

Conclusion: Reject the traditional values

3. Religion- religion seemed to support #1 and #2 and showed no alternative Christ-like lifestyle

Conclusion: reject the Bible and Christianity

Lenny Bruce- "More and more people are leaving the church and going back to God"

Personal anger at religion

Opened door for

TM, EST Moon, Hare Krishna (Hindu), Zen Buddhism,
The Way International, New Age cults, Church Universal
and Triumphant

RULES FOR TEACHERS 1872

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.

7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.

8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity, and honesty.

9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh- Prayer

Baha'i Faith- World Religion Day

4. What Happens to Man at Death- chart

A man sees diversity (I am not a rock) but his system of thought presupposes that there is no diversity. He assumes the diversity is an illusion.

Good and evil are one, "The dark side of the force"

5. What is the basis of ethics and morality?

God: infinite- impersonal

Man: finite- impersonal

Karma: The law of karma is closely related to reincarnation. It states that every action of a person, no matter how small it may be, influences how his soul will be born in his next reincarnation. If a person performs honorable deeds and lives a good life, his soul will be born into a higher state, perhaps into the body of a brahman. If a person performs evil deeds and leads a bad life, his soul will be born into a lower state, perhaps into the body of a worm. Hindus

believe that a person's reincarnation continues until he achieves spiritual perfection. The soul then enters a new level of existence, called moksha, from which it never returns.

No personal judge judging by moral principles. No mercy, forgiveness, and compassion. Just cause and effect on a moral level. All sin is paid for by good works.

NO RIGHTS OR WRONGS:

"Because God is considered the sum total of all there is, distinctions between right and wrong become meaningless. In fact, the whole thrust of eastern philosophy is to get you to quit making such distinctions. Zen master Yun-Men says:

'If you want to get the plain truth,
Be not concerned with right and wrong.
The conflict between right and wrong
Is the sickness of the mind'

With a wave of a mystic wand, good and evil are both given the same divine glaze, and the world suddenly becomes perfect in every respect. In Hermann Hesse's novel *Siddhartha*, Siddhartha gives a spiritual seeker the following perspective:

'The world, Govinda, is not imperfect or slowly evolving along a path to perfection. No, it is perfect at every moment. . . Therefore, it seems to me that everything that exists is good-- death as well as life, sin as well as holiness, wisdom as well as folly.'"

HITLER AND THE BUDDHISTS

"There is however a price tag attached to a world without categories of good and evil. Journalist Arthur Koestler poignantly captures the ramifications of such a world view in his description of an interview with one of the greatest Japanese experts on Buddhism in the world today. Koestler asks: 'You favor tolerance toward all religions and political systems. What about Hitler's gas chamber?' 'That

was very silly of him.' 'Just silly, not evil?' 'Evil is a Christian concept. Good and evil exist only on a relative scale'."

*Values only have meaning in the context of absolute right and wrong standards.

"Stealing is worse than lying" assumes an absolute framework

*Truth is lost

6. What is the meaning of human history?

Eastern- endless merry-go-round of incarnations

Western- linear view of history. History has purpose and meaning

Creation
Fall

Jesus'
Birth

Second
Coming

Eternity
in
Heaven
or hell

The eastern man transcends history.

East has very little recorded history => it's not important

*See pictures of Eastern examples

REINCARNATION:

When the body dies the soul is reborn as either an animal or a human being.

Moksha (Hindu) or Nirvana (Buddhist)

Ascended Master

Human- caste system

Closer
to
God

Animal

Mineral

How does one achieve the goal of Nirvana?

"Although we are all 100% Divine, consciously we do not know that we are Divine. . . and we suffer on the conscious level. On the level of the Transcendental Consciousness we are Divine already. So suffering on the conscious level has to be eradicated, because that is the main suffering. Meditation, just a few minutes morning and evening, and no suffering will be there."

Meditation: rid your mind of conscious thought-- empty mind
Since your thoughts are merely an illusion

Dangerous: communion with demons

Christian meditation

Goal: become impersonal, isolated, Get on the vibe level
of reality

Chanting: mantras, Yoga, Acetic fasting, beds of nails, coals of fire, prayers, acts of obedience - transcend the illusion

OM- the great chord of the universe

"The Mandukya Upanishad says it this way:

'OM. This eternal Word is all: what was, what is and what shall be, and what beyond is in eternity. All is OM.

Brahman is all and Atman is Brahman. Atman, the Self, has four conditions.

The first condition is the waking life of outward-moving consciousness, enjoying the seven outer gross elements.

The second condition is the dreaming life of inner-moving consciousness, enjoying the seven subtle inner elements in its own light and solitude.

The third condition is the sleeping life of silent-consciousness when a person has no desires and beholds no dreams. That condition of deep sleep is one of oneness, a mass of silent consciousness made of peace and enjoying peace.

This silent consciousness is all-powerful, all-knowing, the inner ruler, the source of all, the beginning and end of all beings.

The fourth condition is Atman in his own pure state: the awakened life of supreme consciousness. It is neither outer nor inner consciousness, neither semi-consciousness, nor sleeping-consciousness, neither consciousness nor unconsciousness. He is Atman, the Spirit himself, that cannot be seen or touched, that is above all distinction, beyond thought and ineffable. In the union with him is the supreme proof of his reality. He is the end of evolution and non-duality. He is peace and love.'

This explanation may help us understand why Eastern thought so often leads to quietism and inaction. To *be* is not to do. Meditation is the main route to being, and meditation -- whatever the style-- is a case study in quietude. The picture of the enigmatically smiling Buddha sitting under the Bo tree in rapt contemplation, unseeing, unhearing, unheeding--this now

becomes understandable. The Buddha has entered the One; he is the Enlightened One. He is at rest."

Oneness Circle

Result of the Eastern world view

*The result of death is that you become utterly impersonal

DUALISM: Physical is evil That which is physical is trying to
Spiritual is good delude you into thinking it is real

∴ Deny the physical: yoga, fasting, bed of nails,
isolation, discipline to think and deny the physical body

Christianity denies wrong motives, not the physical body.

Gnostic movement. Monk mentality: get away and pray.

Flesh = saras = old nature- this is what must die

Flesh = soma = self, physical body- it is not evil

Sex

Food vs. gluttony

Concept of Unity and Diversity- We observe this in creation

Unity- unit, one

Diversity- many, different

Example:

1. one body

1. many members

2. mankind

2. men

3. tree

3. roots, trunk, branches,
leaves

4. river

4. continuous flow of new
water

Eastern presupposition- god is infinite- impersonal

Everything is god- $\therefore$ can be no diversity; ie. no non-god

1. Problem: The unity brought forth a creation with both unity and diversity.

How do you get something for nothing?

How do you get personality from the impersonal?

This is an illogical leap of faith.

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God (Elohim) plural

2. Problem: Where did the diversity come from?

Solution: its an illusion

"I am no different than a cat!"

Christian presupposition- God (personal- infinite) who has both unity and diversity as brought forth a creation with both unity and diversity.

All paths lead to one- as long as that path creates a growing awareness that you are already god

John 10:29-33 East would welcome that, Jews reacted to that.

HOW TRUTH IS DETERMINED IN EACH WORLD VIEW:

1. Atheistic World View

A. Rationalist

The rationalist lives totally within the boundaries of the finite world. For him, the infinite does not exist, and the finite, material world is all there is. Therefore, he believes, all the truth there is to know can be discovered through his five senses and the use of logic. The rationalist's two key presuppositions are 1) Reason is the only reliable guide to truth, and 2) The supernatural does not exist.

2. Pantheistic World View

B. Mystic

For the mystic, the finite world is "maya" or illusion. Ultimate reality is found only in the infinite realm. There is no boundary between the finite and the infinite except in one's mind. So the key to finding reality is to mentally erase the boundary and become the Infinite oneself. In this way one will know absolute truth experientially.

3. Biblical World View

C. Christian

For the Christian, as for the rationalist, the finite world is real. It creates genuine boundaries around our ability to know first-hand what the Infinite is like, and what absolute truth is. But the Infinite has invaded the finite world, has taken on a finite form Himself, and has revealed to us certain truths about the Infinite, about God. While on earth, Jesus Christ validated the source of these revelations through a significant body of objective evidence.

D. Summary

World View

Truth primarily determined by

RATIONALIST

Reason and sensory observation
of material world

MYSTIC

Intuition or psychic experience

CHRISTIAN

Revelation, as evaluated by the
rational mind.

In eastern mysticism it *doesn't matter* whether a person is really "enlightened" or whether he's deluding himself in a fantasy world of his own making. All that matters is that he have some sort of satisfying mystical experience. As Andrew Weil expresses it, "It would seem obvious that the only meaningful criterion for the genuineness of any spiritual experience . . . is the effect it has on a person's life." Whether or not he's in touch with reality in apparently irrelevant.

Chart: How Truth is Determined

The Throwing out of reason:

"Do not seek after truth, merely cease to hold opinions."

-Zen saying

"Ignorance is only created by the mind, and the mind keeps the secret that you are something Divine away from you. That is why you have to tame the mind first. The mind is a snake and the treasure is behind it. The snake lives over the treasure, so if you want that treasure, you will have to kill the snake. And killing the snake is not an easy job."

-Guru Maharaj J

Why the mind is distrusted:

"The eastern mystic gives two primary reasons for his distrust of the brain when it comes to determining the truth: First, the mind's dependence on language, with its pre-conceived categories of thought, necessarily conditions its perception of reality. In other words, the mind colors everything that goes through it and thus passes on a false view of reality to its owner. As Zen master Suzuki expresses it, 'All our theorization fails to touch reality.'

Secondly, people tend to substitute words for experience, say the mystics. They become satisfied with intellectual concepts, instead of pushing on to first-hand experiences which is more valid."

∴ reason is a handicap => throw it out

Train yourself to ignore the mind

Tune into the impersonal- infinite mystical God

Danger- no absolute to judge the experience by; human deception, spiritual deception

"In the spiritual life it is not necessary to have a complete map of the Path in order to begin traveling. On the contrary, insistence upon such complete knowledge may actually hinder rather than help the onward march. . . .He who speculates from the shore about the ocean shall know only its surface, but *he who would know the depths of the ocean must be willing to plunge into it.* "

"Ex-Beatle and current Krishna follower George Harrison points to the mystical experience induced by chanting the Hare Krishna *mantra* as proof for the validity of Krishna. In an introduction to some of the Hare Krishna literature, Harrison says that it's pointless to believe in something without 'proof'. He *further* states that the proof of the pudding is in the *eating* ."

A follower of teenage Guru Maharaj Ji once led me through this line of non-reasoning. George was explaining to me that the Guru claimed to be the 'Lord of the Universe' and a divine incarnation.

'How do you know the Guru's claims are true?' I asked.

'You close your eyes,' George replied, illustrating. 'You close your ears. You look within yourself. And then you know.' He opened his eyes again.

'So you're saying that the *experience* the Guru gives you proves his claims?'

'That's right.'

'But,' I persisted, 'how do you know what you had an experience *with*?'

"

'You just know,' George shrugged."

*This is deep in our culture

Why People Are Turning To Eastern Thought

1. There is a tremendous existential influence in our culture.

Existentialism is the idea that there are no absolute and universal values, and truth becomes irrelevant and only "now" is important.

2. Many young people have received incomplete answers from the church and in frustration have turned to the East for answers.

3. Rebellion to parents or the church can drive a person to eastern religions. Find out why they are in eastern religions, some hate their parents for their selfishness.

4. Many people are looking for experiential fulfillment more than truth. (II Timothy 3:4) "If it feels good, do it". *Immorality

*Eastern thought and existentialism have the same presuppositions. A guru comes and says, "All is one" "There are no absolutes or categories."

*One who has used drugs experientially sees that all is one

*East and West shall never meet, but today they've met in thought. Our culture is being geared to Eastern thought.

The Pantheistic Monism World View- A common Eastern World View, but not all

1. What is God like and what is his nature and character?

Infinite - impersonal

God is an impersonal energy force without any moral character

"The force be with you"

Man becomes finite and personal. "God consciousness"

2. What is the nature of the material universe?

Pantheism- (all god) is the belief that God and the whole universe are one and the same thing and that God does not exist as a separate spirit,

Conclusion: matter is eternal
God is the creator

See chart: 3 major world views

Common slogans: "God exists in every person"

"We are all a part of God"

"The divine self"

"Self-realization, self-actualism"

"Development of the god-consciousness"

Gen. 3:5 Satan's original temptation

God is uncreated

Man is created

Isa. 14:13-15 Satan's fall

3. Who is man?

Man is god! and god is all that exists

*Since all is one, anything that appears to be diverse is an illusion. You can only realize this oneness by becoming it-- Thus reason is thrown out.

"Western man is not used to this kind of system. To distinguish is to think. The laws of thought demand distinction: A is A; but A is not not-A. To know reality is to distinguish one thing from another, label it, catalog it, recognize its subtle relation to other objects in the cosmos. In the East to 'know' reality is to pass beyond distinction, to 'realize' the oneness of all by being one with the all. This sort of conception--insofar as it can be understood by the mind-- is best expressed indirectly. The Upanishads abound in attempts to express the inexpressible indirectly in parables.

'Bring me a fruit from this banyan tree.'

'Here it is, father.'

'Break it.'

'It is broken, Sir.'

'What do you see in it?'

'Very small seeds, Sir.'

'Break one of them, my son.'

'It is broken, Sir.'

'What do you see in it?'

'Nothing at all, Sir.'

Then his father spoke to him: 'My son, from the very essence in the seed which you cannot see comes in truth this vast banyan tree.

Believe me, my son, an invisible and subtle essence is the Spirit of the whole universe. That is Reality. That is Atman. THOU ART THAT.'

3 MAJOR WORLD VIEWS

Naturalistic

Atheist

All there is

1. Atheistic World View

The atheist, or materialist, claims basically: "The only thing that exists is the material world-- that which I can detect with my five sen-

God:

Finite,

Impersonal

senses. There is no supernatural, no 'spiritual reality' or God existing somewhere beyond the material universe.

Pantheist

All there is

2. Pantheistic World View

The pantheistic world view is the one which prevails in the East. The pantheist would agree with the materialist that there is just one level of reality. There is indeed no 'spiritual reality' or God who is apart from the material world. "Rather", says the pantheist, "God and the material world are one and the same. God is the sum total of all there is. He is not a separate being somewhere beyond the world; Rather, all of the material world, everyone and everything in it is part of the Divine."

God:
infinite,
Impersnl.

Supernaturalistic

Theist

Two levels of
reality: Natural &
Supernatural

3. Theistic World View

Standing in sharp contrast to the materialistic and the pantheistic world views is that of the theist. The theist's reply

God:
Infinite,

to his two counterparts would go something like this: "I agree with the materialist that there is a material world that we detect with our five senses. But there is also a spiritual reality beyond the material world, and that reality is an infinite and personal God. You see, I believe that there is both a Creator and a creation: they are not one and the same. The Creator is a distinct, supernatural Being, and He has the ability to relate personally to His creation." (A relationship like that isn't possible for the pantheist, because it takes two separate identities to have a relationship.)

Salvation- purification from bad karma by deeds of righteousness, meditation, and other disciplines. (Col. 2:20-23)

*Selfish motivation- who wants to come back as a rock?

Guilt God loves us anyway. There is no need to ask forgiveness. We just need to clear our own minds of all guilt through med.

Sin is ignorance- not knowing that you are already God!
You are thinking that you are you!

"His problem is that he doesn't realize that he doesn't have any problems."

Hell is to keep coming back and not realize that you are god.

This is the ultimate of self-worship - Rom. 1:25

Practical Results:

Caste system- People are where they are because of karma => no need to love people

No welfare, no correction of social injustice

A cheap view of life- death isn't a big deal- they'll get another chance

It makes a man irresponsible- entrenched in his own self-seeking kingdom (4 basics)

Romans 10:2-3 Insufficient knowledge

God's righteousness- no understanding of His Holiness

Establish their own self-perfectionism

Did not subject to God- refusal to submit to His authority

Go through the list and show the Christian Alternatives: EXERCISE

The New Western Mystic:

1. Pantheistic world view
2. A subjective view of truth- no absolutes or universals
3. Emphasis on experience rather than truth