

Oneness

by David Hauenstein

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Once upon a time we like to think something happened that we now call The Big Bang. Not the current popular TV comedy but something our searching scientists' eternally estimate took place sometime between billions and trillions of years ago. I recently watched a "60 Minutes" article on which an astronomer predicted that using our continually improving telescopic equipment, we humans *will be able to see* the Big Bang. One reason such figures are so difficult to make sense of is that the Big Bang was set off from *outside of time*.

Put another way, Once upon *timelessness*, God thought (to its Self) I'll honor the Oneness by adding Allness. And to Oneness I will include *togetherness*. And I'll divide that togetherness into she-ness and he-ness that will come together to make One and All. Then I'll *create* more of the same, each unique. Or as I wrote in my 17-syllable Haiku:

You are unique, I am unique

Each one is unique

One and the same.

Getting back to Once Upon A Time, humans create stories to help explain life and purpose in this Universe all around and including us.

The Bible says Adam and Eve were born into the Garden of Eden which is defined in Hebrew as a delightful place. Those who wrote the Bible long after the Big Bang felt it necessary to introduce evil in the form of the serpent to explain the mistake of eating from the tree of knowledge. And bang, Adam and Eve were told to depart the Garden.

Sometime later, the idea of Evolution was discovered and interpreted by James Thurber in fable form in "The Sea and the Shore" which I shared with you earlier. However it actually happened, it was a long time ago. Recently and seriously, here's an excerpt from "Our Cosmic Moment" written by Dreama Vance, a woman who calls herself one of the light workers.

She writes, "I had an epiphany. I was sitting outside on a beautiful spring morning having my quiet time. I felt, quite surprisingly, totally and absolutely connected to the Earth and everything I could perceive in my surroundings -- the little lizards, the tropical birds, the grass, the very Earth herself. It was the realization, the feeling, of the *One* expressing as *All That Is*."

And in that moment, she goes on, Love, *such Love* poured through me, filling me and expressing itself as an amazing Love for humanity. *It is this experience of Love and the realization of Oneness that begins to seed the New Reality.*" (close quote)

Or as I put it in the following poem I titled Metaphorever.

Whether gazing at oceans, gulfs or rivers
I often see sunlit water in sparkling slivers.
I'm drawn also to how calm water behaves
Or to windblown surfaces made into waves.

Each wave peaks and falls in the weather
Like sisters and brothers coming together,
Each seeking and playing an earthly role
Until ultimately becoming parts of the Whole.

Singer/Composer Jim Scott has appeared at All Faiths a couple of times. He filled his book, "Just The Words," with the lyrics of some of his songs, including the following aptly titled "The Oneness of Everything." (Please note that he refers to *the trees and the sun as who, not that.*)

Far beyond the grasp of hands,
or light to meet the eye,
past the reaches of the mind
There, find the key to nature's harmony
in an architecture so entwined.
Like the birds, whose patterns grace the sky
and carry all who join in love expanding,
The message of peace will rise in flight
taking the weight of the world upon its wings,
With the oneness of everything.

Peace is in the dance of trees
who stir before the first breath of wind is yet perceived.
Trust in the song, becoming one with the dance,
and all mysteries can be believed.
Like the sorrow of the clouds,
whose tears fall caring on the soil, undemanding,
Lessons of love are given that we
might rejoice in the music they bring,
Of the Oneness of everything.

Thanks to singer/song writer Jim Scott.

Another word for Mother Earth is Gaia. And the Gaia Theory has become so widespread that, in 2001, a thousand scientists at the European Geophysical Union meeting signed a Declaration of Amsterdam, starting with the statement “*The Earth System behaves as a single, self-regulating system with physical, chemical, biological and human components.*”

Scientists now say that the Gaia Theory can be simplified and strengthened so as to say “*The Earth is alive* and behaves in a purposive fashion with a type of consciousness in order to pursue an environment optimal for life.”

The proposed *consciousness of the Earth* would clearly be located at a place that is different from ordinary *human consciousness* as augmented by the technologies of traditional science. Scientists also note significant evidence that people can *train their consciousness*. For example, Yogis and Taoists in the Eastern metaphysical tradition can, in some cases, touch the unique form of consciousness that is manifested by the Earth itself.

Such understanding comes in handy for human beings who are learning from The Earth and contributing to Nature's future.

As Joan Marshall said in her recent Earth Day talk here at All Faiths:
(Quote)

"What are we to do in the face of this overwhelming reality? The answer is obvious. We Change.

We learn to live in harmony with the natural world in ways that are not only sustainable but that will help to repair the damage we've already done to our planet. Surprisingly...reassuringly...the technology already exists to accomplish all of this. We have the means. What we lack is the will. Essentially, what we must do is to transform our view of humanity's role on earth from one of conqueror to one of caregiver. *It is, and always has been*, each generation's responsibility to preserve and protect this precious planet which we hold in trust for future generations." (end quote)

Albert Einstein put it this way: "A human being is part of the whole, called by us "universe," limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest – a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a prison, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons close to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from our prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all humanity and the whole of nature in its beauty." (end quote)

The need for human responsibility in this both *fightful* and *frightful* world is why I wrote the following poem titled "What are we here for?"

I grew to hate those who disagreed with me
I knew that they were wrong and I was right.
I would go to battle where it was them or me
And settle the matter to the end with a fight.

Then as we students demonstrated to the heights
I looked at a club-swinging riot cop eye to eye.
He was protecting what he saw as society's rights
And I saw my demonstrating intent just as high.

I got to thinking what are we here for on this earth?

Is it to fear, hate and fight each other to infinity
And miss the chance to love, of which there's a dearth
Or to find in our fellow beings a shared identity?

"Oneness Needs No War" is the title I have given the following essay I wrote to share the deep frustration felt in something written by Rabbi Sholom.

I must comment on the rabbi's observation that the current spate of Middle East conflicts are worse than any since the end of WWII. To leave out the bloody and hopelessly insane Viet Nam war waged by the United States is something that still clouds our perspectives.

Still I understand the perspective from which the rabbi is viewing the senseless, life-destroying mayhem of terrorists. How unfortunate that they wrap themselves falsely in the mantel of Islam and that many of us in the West accept that dishonest and deadly allegiance.

One could expand the perspective beyond Pol Pot, Stalin and Hitler back to the ego-driven madness of the Crusades for more bad examples of the fear/hate syndrome.

We can widen the perspective even beyond the thousands of years of human warring. Mystics over the ages and now a rapidly growing number of modern-day spiritual thinkers are helping us learn a major lesson of life on this planet. That lesson is to avoid creating enemies and killing their bodies but instead to try to see both the bad and the good that we all do *to and for each other*. Let us continue to embrace Love so as to become One with All That Is.

Every war is an example of how to keep humans separate from each other and from the inevitable Oneness. That's what this present time of what's being called The Shift is all about. Convincing enough people to recognize and choose *right examples* for living.

After one of my stranger dreams, I entered that *between the dream and being awake place* where what seemed to be every spiritual idea I have been exposed to in the last 10 years came flooding into my mind. The observations and ideas came rushing in, as much as I could handle and more. And as fast as they came, that's how fast I made the connections. Everything and everybody are connected. (Slowly) *The Now* and

Forgiveness aren't just intellectual ideas; they don't have to be proved; they simply are. What each of us is doing is as valuable and valid as what each other is doing. One thing leads to another. It's all there. All of it will be applied by each of us in our own time, in our own way. That's why *each of us is precious*.

Maybe it's time for a different paradigm:

Who are you going to vote for?, they are asking. Some candidates say it's time for change.

They are right about that. It's *always* time for change.

Maybe the next change could be for us to move beyond the "follow the leader and then put him or her down" scenario when he or she fails to make our lives *as better as we expected*.

Maybe it's time for the electorate and candidates to be truly *working together*.

To paraphrase Jesus, When someone strikes you, turn the other cheek.

When people hurt you, try to remember who they *are*, not who they *are not*. That at core, they are the same as you and me and that neither they nor we need be enemies or even adversaries.

Remind them—and yourself—that they and we are meant to become part of the same eternal Life which we often call God or All That Is.

That *they* have harmed others—as we all have done throughout our lifetimes—is not who they *are* but who they and we have *become* by losing contact with our True Self, that which is waiting for us to finish learning.

Why have they harmed us? Why us? How have we harmed them and others instead of helping them and ourselves as we all should be doing to each other, to us all?

Quoting one of America's founding fathers, John Adams: "Abuse of words has been the great instrument of sophistry and chicanery, of party, faction and divisions of society." (end quote). I looked up sophistry: It means false argument...wonder if that's like false news. I looked up chicanery which is trickery or deception. Would that word be useful today?

After we helped our allies through WWII, we helped them get on their economic feet again. Later, we began allowing our black citizens to begin sharing in this nation's abundance.

Then we looked on as our leaders—in a twisted sense of helping our neighbors—sent our young people to Viet Nam to save or kill our Vietnamese neighbors from *those we declared to be their enemies*.

And could we speed up the process of change by avoiding *ism* labels and by supporting whatever is going to work for *all of us* in the world?

I think *we are all evolving* through many earthly lifetimes, even terrorists who currently dump their fighting filth onto the religion of Islam and any other religious and spiritual hope of life. I look forward to the inevitable day when they will call for a war and, as the song says, no one will show up.

And that goes for terrorism right in our home towns as noted in the following CBS TV *On The Road* piece.

At the University of Montevallo in Alabama, sophomore music major Jesse Johnson was devastated. He said, "My heart sank inside of my chest."

After the attack on an Orlando, Florida gay bar, Jesse says he wanted to mourn, but could not. At least, not with the sincerity he wanted.

"In the back of my mind I kept thinking, 'You know, I can't show the sorrow that I have inside without first explaining to the world why I have that much sorrow.'"

So after hearing the news, Jesse sat down with his phone and did the most daring thing of his life. He typed out a message for his Facebook page and stared at it for the longest time, before finally mustering the courage to click "post." He said, "I just did it."

Jessie wrote a note that read in part: "I've thought about coming out for months, but was afraid of being shunned by those I care about over something that makes me who I am; I'm not going to change. I am gay *and I love you all*."

Said Jessie: "I wanted to officially be a part of that community that was hurting, and that needed people to come together and stand with them."

A lot of people came out after what happened in the attack in Orlando, but few took as big a risk as Jesse Johnson.

Jesse's mom Nikki said, "I worry for his safety because of that. I mean, this is Alabama. I personally will never understand the parents that turn their back on their kids. I love him and that will never change."

Said Jesse, "We're going to *stand together* regardless of how afraid we are."

And On The Road host Steve Hartman said, "that's how you make a terrorist die in vain."

As the oft quoted Albert Einstein said: We can't *solve* problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created the problems.

I wonder if listening will help us find some of what we need to learn? Listening to an old person? Listening to a child?

In a book on the near-death experiences of children, a child was asked what he had learned while he was ill and near death. He said, "I learned that everything is connected and when you *hurt* something, you *hurt* everything."

That sounds like an extremely important and timely lesson for humanity. Put another way, "When you *help* someone or something, you *help* everyone or everything.

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People have embraced creativity and discovery as they amassed knowledge and developed intellect and even Wisdom. May that wisdom inspire us to move beyond intellect into a heart-centered paradigm in which we will move inevitably away from *separateness* and into *a coming together* in love and gratitude...as we evolve toward Wholeness and Oneness.