



vesica piscis

" Ethical Hedonism "
" The Pleasure Path to Enlightenment "
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Recently I was asked what do I believe in as a philosophy for living life.

I started to give my standard answer then hesitated. Was I just spouting the many synthesized portions of doctrines purported through the ages by other leaders in philosophies and doctrines?

My conclusion after much thought was, indeed I was synthesizing.

Here then is my individual set of beliefs, synthesized from what I glean to be the best elements for my spiritual development.

After much study I believe the concept of God, as a personality, is one of abundant experience with a preference for the principle of pleasure rather than deprivation.

For some reason the majority of human beliefs seem to insist that one must deprive oneself of many pleasures, while being incarnate, in a struggle for achieving some kind of enlightenment or oneness with their Creator. I reject that belief system for many reasons evident all around us in the "real" or perceived reality of life.

I believe God is truly an ethical hedonist. So, to be like Him, so am I, for my spiritual development.

Pundits of so called "spiritual thought" throughout the ages and their followers may decide to condemn this thought immediately without true investigation. As one of our acknowledged great thinkers Albert Einstein once said, "*Condemnation without investigation*

is the height of ignorance." I agree.

One of the great world religions such as Christianity, founded to a great extent by the self-proclaimed Apostle Paul, was derived to a large measure by his personal belief that deprivation was a requirement in order to be focused on his ideal of righteousness. Yet his own ideal in what is perfect, demonstrated by the object of his faith, Jesus, was a stark contrast to that thought. We could debate all day on scriptural text that supposedly depicts the idea of deprivation as being suggested by Jesus. But on reflection you can easily see he never wanted deprivations. He spoke only of abundance in His Father's Universe.

The great religion of Buddhism founded by Gautama Buddah seemingly dealt with the concept that suffering is inherent in life and to achieve enlightenment one must deprive oneself from all incarnate distractions. Modern teachings also say that those not fully enlightened should follow a path of "*rightness*" which included many levels of self deprivation in working toward Oneness with God. **He actually taught abundance not deprivation.** Reformers after Gautama, just like reformers after Paul, enhanced the concept of deprivations through doctrines and dogmas and priesthoods. All present day doctrinal religions seem to follow the path of deprivation is necessary for enlightenment.

Yet, evidence does not support that thought form in the natural physical world.

The many aspects of the Universe ... all of Creation... is replete with ABUNDANCE. The universes of the CREATOR are constantly in motion and change to an infinite degree. The Creator is continuously in acts of creation not deprivation. Even in entropy or the specter of massive and seemingly destructive black holes the process is one of active creation.

In every instance of creation there is beauty. *Pleasure*. Even in terrible destruction there is a point of perception of terrible beauty. Think of an atomic blast. A force of enormous destruction. Yet, when viewed from the human perspective it has a fascinating beauty. *Pleasure*. The same kind of pleasure one feels when enjoying the beauty of an unfolding flower or birth of a child.

Human level existence is itself a creation of the same Creator God by whatever name you use to describe your perception God. Contrast of experiences is part of the aspect of any experience, from the incarnate life viewpoint.

What we in our limited vision and perception through the senses determine is "*pleasurable*" or not pleasurable, is from the viewpoint of a higher spiritual perception, always pleasurable, whether or not we perceive it as pleasurable down here on the physical plane of existence..

Experience is the pleasure principle, do to the nature of any experience. That perspective is a Deity perspective. The more experiences one has, the more pleasure derived from that higher perspective. The less experiences one has, the less pleasure that is derived for Deity. That thought is perhaps difficult for some to understand.

Let's look at it on a more familiar perspective. As adults you might observe a child trying to open a box with a latch. The child knows what it wants and tries and tries to achieve the success of opening the box. We watch in amusement as it goes through all sorts of effort to get what it thinks it wants. Even though the child might not know what is in the box. Our perspective is one of pleasure. Watching them grow through trial and error. The child's perspective is one of frustration or maybe even anger. It is not pleasant for the child. When the child is grown and achieves the same degree of perspective as ours through its own experiences, it too as an adult will one day be amused at the efforts of the children learning as it once did. Life experience is like that. An unopened box of possibility.

The great philosophers actually taught "balance" or "moderation" in experiencing. They also taught the universal law to honor the right to experience at will as long as it does NOT interfere with the experiences of other freewill beings. Thus, the development of ethical concepts of not killing, not stealing, not bearing false witness and so on.

Balance and moderation allow a maximum number of DIFFERENT experiences rather than focusing on only one or a few experiences, which is a form of deprivation in life. **Living**

your life is all about experiencing as much as possible within the framework of your life.

God could have easily created life with "rules" built into the creature, limiting the creature's ability to experience, thus limiting the Creator's involvement in experiences.

By introducing "freewill", an infinite variety of "experiences" lead to the pleasure or perceived pain of spiritual growth for the creature. It also leads to the pleasure from the deity perspective of seeing that growth and experiencing that growth from the many perspectives Deity has that we do not. Which brings me finally to my practiced belief system.

God wants His creatures to strive to be like Him... not be Him.

God wants His creatures to grow to be equal but separate, not identical to Him. He ultimately wants "friends" for His/Her own experience of Deity growth. Yes, God too is growing. **God grows through creature experiencing in unexpected ways.**

God loves all experiences, but has preference for the unique in variation, so he too is expanding in areas He had not yet experienced. Every little variation brought about through free will choice and karmic result is a pleasure for God. He LOVES all of his creatures equally for their being. While deprivation is also an experience, He prefers non deprivation as evidenced in His abundant and ever changing universes.

Therefore, I follow all the ethical teachings of right action in the honoring of others without depriving 'them' of anything. I combine that process with the process of experiencing EVERYTHING I can that does not interfere with the first rule of free will. Pleasure is shared with my Creator in every way I can without deprivation. It is my will to do His will by living life to the fullest each moment without the hindrance of perspective that other life experiencers may attempt to place into my awareness. Life is after all about choices and consequences of those choices. Life was not meant to be living the choices others make.

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