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Will Ellis

March 1 at 8:55am · 🌐

"The Catholic and other churches are actually correct when they identify relativism, the belief that there is no absolute truth to guide human behavior, as one of the evils of our times; but you won't find absolute truth if you look for it where it cannot be found: in doctrines, ideologies, sets of rules, or stories. What do all of these have in common? They are made up of thought. Thought can at best point to the truth, but it never IS the truth. That's why Buddhists say "The finger pointing to the moon is not the moon."

All religions are equally false and equally true, depending on how you use them. You can use them in the service of the ego, or you can use them in the service of the Truth. If you believe only your religion is the Truth, you are using it in the service of the ego. Used in such a way, religion becomes ideology and creates an illusory sense of superiority as well as division and conflict between people. In the service of the Truth, religious teachings represent signposts or maps left behind by awakened humans to assist you in spiritual awakening, that is to say, in becoming free of identification with form.

There is only one absolute Truth, and all other truths emanate from it. When you find that Truth, your actions will be in alignment with it. Human action can reflect the Truth, or it can reflect illusion. Can the Truth be put into words? Yes, but the words are, of course, not it. They only point to it.

The Truth is inseparable from who you are. Yes, you ARE the Truth. If you look for it elsewhere, you will be deceived every time. The very Being that you are is Truth. Jesus tried to convey that when he said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." These words uttered by Jesus are one of the most powerful and direct pointers to the Truth, if understood correctly. If misinterpreted, however, they become a great obstacle. Jesus speaks of the innermost I Am, the essence identity of every man and woman, every life-form, in fact. He speaks of the life that you are. Some Christian mystics have called it the Christ within; Buddhists call it your Buddha nature; for Hindus, it is Atman, the indwelling God. When you are in touch with that dimension within yourself—and being in touch with it is your natural state, not some miraculous achievement—all your actions and relationships will reflect the oneness with all life that you sense deep within. This is love. Laws, commandments, rules, and regulations are necessary for those who are cut off from who they are, the Truth within. They prevent the worst excesses of the ego, and often they don't even do that. "Love and do what you will," said St. Augustine. Words cannot get much closer to the Truth than that."

– Eckhart Tolle, A New Earth

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Dominic Vetuschi, Maryam Heshmati, Jeff Bohnen and 11 others like this.

1 share



Jacob Wunsch Ahh the Christians, gods chosen people... they do love that badge. Somehow we need to give compassion especially to the likes of people like this. The school of life channel on YouTube has been great in teaching that compassion.

No one writes like Eckhart! So great.

March 1 at 9:40am



James Kyle Estabrook Christians are not God's chosen people no where in the Bible does it say that! The nation of Isreal those we call Jewish people are, Christians are those who have chosen to follow Jesus, Huge difference....

March 1 at 8:24pm



Michael Steiger Hahah, I was just reading A New Earth not 10 minutes ago. I was really digging this quote: "If you think you are so enlightened, go and spend a week with your parents."

👍 1 · March 1 at 10:30am



Deva Madhava Das Its ultimately true that rules and regulations (any activities in truth) are subordinate to complete awareness of Love. That's one of the essential messages of Bhagavad-Gita, that even the act of war is

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subordinate to Love. The seminole line of the 700... [See More](#)



👍 1 · March 1 at 1:45pm

Will Ellis I definitely agree that many people use points similar to Eckart Tolle's one above to skirt responsibility. I think he's trying to point out a balanced way of looking at rules and regulations and living through values (i.e. compassion). Rules and regul... [See More](#)

👍 2 · March 1 at 3:12pm

Deva Madhava Das So its better to shirk rules and regulations as a principle out fear and lack of trust in others? Its two sides of the same coin. The deficiencies of this philosophy are a different means to the same end as the lack luster 'traditional' approaches.

O... [See More](#)

March 1 at 7:46pm

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Nate Doan [World Transformation Movement](#)

👍 1 · March 2 at 1:53pm

Deva Madhava Das I'd not heard of this yet; thanks for offering it. Does he, and if so how, maintain free will?

👍 1 · March 2 at 6:30pm

Nate Doan **Deva Madhava Das** totally free to test for yourself. **I was introduced to this thesis four years ago now and by far the most thorough synthesis of human nature I've encountered.** It recognizes free will as the ability of our fully sufficiently conscious brain, or nerve based learning system, that allows us defy our instinctual orientation in the search for knowledge. Without the explanation of which we've been left feeling guilty, and that is the human condition.

👍 2 · March 2 at 7:56pm · Edited

Deva Madhava Das Thanks for the info. A strictly biological explanation of life can't have free will because no matter how subtle (or 'intelligent') the processes are there is no scope for free will as there is no force beyond matter compelling the system. Of course a deterministic existence is not the human condition and we all intuitively feel this. What is the force which stores within it will and volition?

March 3 at 3:47am



Nate Doan The 'self' or myself would be my best shot at that Q. Being unable to avoid the subjectivity of that self though is why an explanation based in science is necessary. **Darwin made the last big leap in science and this guy is explaining what Natural selection left alone, the origin of human behavior. We do not suffer from the genetic, opportunistic animal condition, we suffer from a psychologically troubled human condition.**

March 3 at 10:26am · Edited



Deva Madhava Das What if that increasing sense of trouble was directly related to the increasing idea that we are only products of matter? As I mentioned before, there is a direct conflict between a sense of self as autonomous and capable and the description of origin as material. We're robots unless we aren't our bodies and the cognitive dissonance of the current social dialogue is beginning to take its toll on our collective psyche. If this book says something different I'm ready to hear it, though what I've heard from you and read online tells me its nothing new.

March 3 at 10:40am



Nate Doan **Most different and more insightful / honest than any text or idea I've ever taken the time to ponder. It's a 2 million year old problem so yes it's nothing new, but it's not just the human condition, this is the EXPLANATION of the human condition. So it's a very new solution, and requires a distinguishable amount of perspective to understand that the implications are as deep as you want to go. I'm still understanding the depths of my own inability so I'd recommend you take note from Griffith** but I'm glad to have had this chance to share! Take care

March 3 at 11:15am · Edited



Deva Madhava Das Hare Krishna

👍 1 · March 3 at 12:04pm

