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The Conspiracy of Identity



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It has been said that the children are the world of tomorrow, but children are also the world of today. The children of this generation have more access to knowledge more than any other generation in the history of this world. For that reason, there are more young entrepreneurs in our society, and the statistics are growing. **While we are enjoying and basking in the advancement of technology and information highway, 'awareness' has birthed a conspiracy of Identity and distinctiveness that demands how one is to be labeled and received.**

A Conspiracy is a secret union for an evil purpose, or a plot. There are those that have become so informed that they are now constituting definition change from **abnormal to normal**, leaving many to question the very fabric and validity of their identity.

One of the many tragedies of our youth in America and abroad, is that too many never acquire insight into their own existence, they just do not know who they are. This confusion about identity is at the very source and core of ignorance. The Africans have a saying, "If you don't know who you are, any history will do" (Madhubuti 2).

Far too many of our children are growing up without proper fathering, and many of our single parent mothers and fathers are not pursuing proper education in order to help facilitate the wellbeing of their children.

Furthermore, it has been statistically proven that in the last 10 years, over 20,000 of our children in the United States have been abused or killed by a family member or close acquaintance. The ones that survive these horrific circumstances end up costing tax payers billions of dollars for guardianship, mental health care and other resources. These horrific findings are due largely to a lack of education and training in many communities, which furthers the probability of identity crisis.

In order for our children to transition smoothly from childhood into adulthood, to decipher reality from falsehood, good from evil, there needs to be a plethora of resources and role models for children to glean from.

As our children and adults are being inundated with a scientific breakthrough and a new school of thought; we bring into focus what the world refers to as the “New Normal.”

The New Normal psychology brings many positive and dangerous infusions into our society.

From a positive perspective a “New Normal” can be the food channel on cable television that gives competitive and practical advice on different cooking styles. Another positive “New Normal,” can be the modern and efficient computerized automobile that is equipped with a GPS-Global Positioning System.

Yet, our “New Normal,” and access to knowledge has opened up another can of worms from cyber bullying, to how to build an atomic bomb. Our “New Normal” not only has introduced new and exciting technical breakthroughs, but it has also brought about definition changes in our society that have challenged the very core of our being.

Why is definition change a focal point in our society? It’s not as complicated as one may think.

It’s commonly referred to as “Change in Demand”, a term used in economics to describe that there has been a **change**, or shift in a market's total **demand**. This is represented graphically in a price vs. quantity plane, and is a result of more/less entrants into the market, and the **changing** of consumer preferences. In layman’s terms, it’s all about the money. Whatever the handwriting on the wall ethically or morally the **“Change in Demand”** says, keep up with the Status Quo and the money flow.

Whether you are talking about seasonal change, or physical change, these are natural occurrences and normal processes of life. However, changes outside of those things that are common, can become dangerous if not regulated. Outside of any other species on the planet, human beings have more in their arsenal than instinct, they have a 'will.' It is through 'will' that we are driven to believe, and respond to this or that. It is through the 'will' channel that many great things and evil things have happened. The 'will' sets precedence for how we are to respond to issues on a daily basis. Ultimately, the subtle and overt discussion factors on, my will vs. Gods will; that's if one believes there is a supreme being, the God of Heaven and earth. If there is no belief in God and his way of doing things, then the 'I will' factor takes precedence in decision making which brings us to another focal point called '**Secularism.**'

Because of our will, determination, and drive in recent years, **Secularism** has become an important topic in the humanities and social sciences. Although there continues to be important disagreements among scholars, many begin with the premise that secularism is not simply the absence of religion, but rather an intellectual and political category that itself needs to be understood as a historical construction.

The common viewpoint of the North Atlantic was basically Christian, until a few hundred years ago. Most people could not even consider a viewpoint without God. The culture has changed so, that multiple viewpoints are now conceivable to most people. This change is accomplished through three major facets of Deism: (1) an anthropocentric shift is now conceiving of nature as primarily for people; (2) the idea that God relates to us primarily through an impersonal order that He established, and (3) the idea that religion is to be understood from nature by reason alone. Deism is considered the major intermediate step between the previous age of belief in God and the modern secular age.

Three modes of secularity are distinguished: (1) secularized public spaces, (2) the decline of belief and practice, and (3) cultural conditions where unbelief in religion is a viable option.

The ultimate job of the **secularized society** is, to be a convergence of religion, politics and beliefs for the purpose of unity. This communistic idea may be social, but it is not theocratic.

Theocracy revolves around the premise of a God ruled nation. Democracy revolves around the ideal of a people ruled nation with its beliefs, attitudes, and philosophies. This premise bears down to another hot topic, "**Modern constitutional change and contractual revision.**" Never before in the history of America and many other countries in the world have we been inundated with alleged legal ramifications of right and wrong in many genres.

The constitution and preamble were fashioned by men for the purposes of one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all. However, when the constitution was created all were not invited to the table to discuss this plethora of ideas. All were not considered equal and therefore justice could not be for all. For this reason, this present enlightened society now questions the very moral, and intellectual fabric of those ideals. For this reason we are now faced with the concept "**Ideological reinvention or diffusion of innovations.**"

Innovation diffusion is a dynamic process; where later adopters modify innovations based on experiences of earlier adopters. Evert Rodgers, a prominent communications scholar and author of "Diffusion of Innovations," termed this learning process during diffusion reinvention.

Rather than a simple diffusion process in which subsequent adopters follow the lead for an initial innovator, **reinvention** assumes a dynamic, constantly evolving process with adopters molding and shaping the innovation as it diffuses. Reinvention challenges existing notions of the diffusion among states. Studies which have analyzed reinvention suggest that the later adopters increase the scope of a law as it diffuses.

If this is true, it raises questions about the innovativeness of the earliest adoptive states. Early adopters may be considered innovators in the sense that they set the stage for later adoptions by other states. However, these innovators may in fact be adopting weak or ineffective versions of the innovative law, which is improved upon by the later adopting, laggard states. Basically, the suggestion revolves around **progressive enlightenment**, by which the former generation wasn't privy to, for their time in history.

These ideological reinventions, has birthed a state of confusion that is unprecedented and an assault on the human mind.

Historically, there have been two approaches to the application of psychological and psychoanalytic thinking in the political processes. One approach claims that, as a science, psychology and psychoanalysis study the political process from an impartial view. The second approach states that a psychologist's values are inherently intertwined with both his clinical work and his observations of socio-political investigations. Psychologists have proven that the mind has difficulty tolerating complexity and uncertainty, especially when confronted with circumstances which conflict with emotionally held convictions.

A mature mind is better able to tolerate multiple causes, or complexity, and is prone to reason as expressed through scientific knowledge. The mind is consistent with liberal, analytic thinking, and the changes in thinking observed in clients during analytic psychotherapy. Yet, when change comes that goes against its normal programming, a psychological state of confusion can take place and from a political stance it's called, "**Gas lighting.**"

Gas lighters sow confusion to the voting public and prevent a more rational view. Gas lighting is not synonymous with the usual misrepresentation or PR of any candidate. A Gas lighter intentionally aims at causing the person to be confused and, therefore, less able to use rational means to come to a decision. Since the mind does not readily tolerate complexity and uncertainty, a person needs to form a reality.

The Gas lighter wants to impose his “reality” on the person to prevent him from being aware of his perception of reality. He aptly uses a quote of Groucho Marx that puts it simply: “Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?”

In the book, “State of Confusion: Political confusion and assault on the American mind,” Bryant Welch makes several interesting observations. He states there are three psychological states, **paranoia, sexual perplexity, and envy**; that are subject to confusion and, hence, fertile ground for Gas lighters.

Paranoia, sexuality, and envy are normal psychological states and processes, and which can be used adaptively or played upon for ulterior motives. The Gas lighter seeks to confuse a person by playing upon these states, so that the person’s rational processes do not work, that is, the confusion destroys the person’s perception of reality. In so doing, the Gas lighter manipulates the person for his own ends. The Gas lighter also appeals to emotion, in order to avoid dealing with factual issues. The “culture war” becomes the issue rather than policies, actions and most of all truth. The media, particularly television and the Internet, permit the widespread dissemination of false statements that become accepted as true as a result of their repetition. The more you hear, a word physically changes your brain through repetition, as the word becomes physically instantiated in your brain. Thus, the inaccurate statement can become accepted as true. This explains the process by which propaganda is accepted, but not the

motivation to use the initial lie. **I think the motivation to lie is power: power to control, for winning is everything.**

PARANOIA

Paranoia processes are normal in life, but can be used politically and is fertile ground for paranoia Gas lighters.

The “evil empire” and the “axis of evil” are examples of political paranoia in which bad parts of self are projected onto others and one remains “pure.” Paranoia always takes one outside the mind, crossing a boundary from inner to outer worlds. Robert Frost’s states “strong fences makes good neighbors,” a person has permeable boundaries. In other words, there is always the possibility of attack. For example, the psychological impact of 9/11 is an intrusion on a boundary, a sense that the mainland is not free from external attack. Our psyche no longer is protected from external attack. Because of its long history of protection from external attack by the seas, the U.S. was ill prepared to act rationally in response. The difference is that these violent acts were committed by domestic terrorists, leaving us still able to feel protected from external threats.

SEXUAL PERPLEXITY

Sexual identity is basic to one’s sense of self, yet it is fraught with perplexity and confusion. It is not always firm, and doubts can exist about one’s sexual orientation. The gas lighters plays upon this uncertainty in two ways. The first is the way sexual behavior is used to disparage the opposing party by making accusations concerning alleged sexual improprieties, when, in fact, the accusing party both has members guilty of the same or similar conduct and has condoned in its own members what would be considered inappropriate sexual behavior.

Perhaps because of our country's Puritan background, such behavior has not been accepted in today's political scene. The use of sexual behavior, for political aims, distracts from the issues, and redirects rage from important issues.

The claim for purity and moral superiority has been shown to be hypocritical. Politicians are always wary of their image. The image of masculinity has political overtones. A macho view of masculinity has historically been the image of the hero and the leader. Sensitivity and complexity has been viewed effeminate. Authoritarian governments of various stripes have always emphasized the "macho" image and denigrated the sensitive even when not associated with homosexuality. Homosexuality threatens the cultural stereotypes of sexuality. Differences in sexuality challenge not only the sexual identity of people who are conflicted about their sexuality, but also threatens those whose religious beliefs require its rejection. While the reality is that gay marriage does not upset the social order, as Massachusetts has discovered, the emotional threat is strongest, although not limited, to the religious right. Putting gay marriage on the ballot in order to bring out one's base may be a cynical act, but is within the bounds of politics. There is the old political saying: politics makes strange bedfellows.

ENVY

There are some that claim envy as a normal and pathological emotional state. Yet, envy is the most underreported factors in politics, socials, families, communities, businesses, and religious organization. Envy can breed division and confusion. The Bible declares, Where there is envy and strife there is confusion and every evil work (**James 3:16**).

In every genre of society, negative campaigning works because it harnesses the enormous blind energy of envy. Negative ads and slander allow for latent rage and hate associated with envy to be expressed. There is an inverse relationship of envy to self-esteem that is kept alive by

market driven forces in a forced consumer society. Yet, the destructive power of envy is often overlooked and not considered as the basis for most arguments.

As a former music student, I saw firsthand how envy was performed in a diabolical way. It was so hidden that you needed a magnifying glass to see its ills. Envy hid itself through creation vs. theory, or better yet, who could read music, vs. those that could create music. I discovered those that had mastered the art of reading music had a hidden envy of those that could create music. It's amazing that those that can see often cannot hear, and sometimes those that can hear often cannot see.

The tug-of-war between reading music and improvisation is a longstanding one. The reality of those that read music are normally theorizing from the creator's improvisation. All improvisation and invention comes from the heart. Those that operate from the heart are normally those that are on the cutting edge of new and brilliant ideas and ideals. Sometimes, those who accept creationism are envious of those who know more than they do.

Pragmatism, empiricism, and problem solving, rather than conceptualization, reflect the American mindset. American ethos honors the "common man," the self-made man, and the entrepreneur. Envy, and its correlates of resentment and hatred, has always been a subtext in political campaigns and every other slander.

The positions of a party favor one group over another, and attitudes about specific policies, cultures, and beliefs may be an opportunity for the expression of envy.

For example, welfare reform may have been an opportunity to express rage at those who were presumably gaming the system while ignoring those at the top who were arguably doing the same thing in other areas. In contrast, a soak the rich tax policy may be a way to express envy of those who are benefiting from tax policies.

The battleground states paranoia, sexual perplexity, and envy need to be fought in all critical institution that support the independent functioning of the mind. **Unfortunately, when you have freedom of the mind, envy will be the awaiting to test the validity of creativity, vision, and originality.**

In the book, "State of Confusion," Bryant Welch makes another observation. He notes that for the first time in our history, a group of voters is not ethnic or class, but is defined religiously. While he focuses on the Religious Right as the most politically active religious group, he actually opposes fundamentalism wherever it occurs. He opines that the problem is not with religion per se, but with the mind that cannot tolerate uncertainty. Religion, he writes, is based upon a leap of faith and not upon evidence, as the scientific realm is. In addition, religion is used to eliminate doubt and provide certainty. It also provides assistance to people coping with the three states that are open to confusion: paranoia, sexual perplexity, and envy.

This brings us to another undertaking called, "Value Vacillation," which is at the premise of many arguments and misunderstanding. To vacillate is to waver in mind or opinion; be indecisive or waiver.

Many people have learned how to go with the flow oppose to stand up for truth. Reason being, it takes courage to be yourself and stand up for truth, and because of the social change in the world, truth in many cases is relevant to the opinions of the time.

From a religious perspective there is a huge undercurrent taking place concerning scripture (Bible) and its relevancy to the time. Many that would have opposed any form of sexual orientation outside of what the Bible are rethinking their position, and have become opinionated in their stance for political reasons. As we previously discussed, whatever the handwriting on the wall ethically or morally the **"Change in Demand"** says keep up with the

Status Quo and the money flow. The realm of politics is always pushed by the “all mighty dollar.” How will this play out within the next decade? Based off present debate, it is going to be enormous. If completely carried out, this may take the church/religious community in a time of persecution that has never been witnessed before in modern times.

Anytime there has been abuse perpetuated towards any group of people for a long time, the result will always result in retaliation, because people fight or flight when they feel oppressed.

The abuse of authority from many religious leaders has contributed to this phenomenon.

The pulpit (sacred desk) was never meant to display phobias, nor was it created to bear opinions, nor throw fiery darts and hide behind the sacred desk. It takes a level of spiritual maturity to judge without being judgmental. In other words, communication is more than what you say, but how you say it. The tone and body language all communicate what you really mean. The media has also played a significant role concerning the church attitude about certain sins. Although media has a longstanding reputation in manipulation and word configuration, there is some relevance of their reporting, because of the churches past and present day responses.

I have personally witnessed the support of those that have struggled with drugs, alcohol, abortion, and prostitution, etc. However, I have also witnessed those wrestling with sexual orientation particularly homosexuality receive shunning or a subtle or overt warning, “Please keep this to yourself, and do not talk about this publicly.”

Regardless of race, gender, or creed, the church should be a hospital for those that are spiritually sick in search of healing. The pulpit is designed to pull people out of the pit with love and kindness. The church was never meant to be used as grounds to justify hate, racism,

phobias, or segregation. Yet, so many leaders in church and other genres have done this for generations while their own sins and faults remained covered.

The hypocrisy that has been blatant from the Catholic Church to tele-evangelists, from the judicial system to police brutality, from the fall of government officials to CEO corrupters, has contributed to the demise of integrity and trust from many in the public. This has also given a voice to those that have struggled with any kind of problem that needed ammunition to suggest authority in church, politics, and even parenting are not to be trusted. This mistrust has now resulted in a shift from abuse of authority, to abuse towards authority.

In this “enlightened society” people are fighting the old cliché, “Do what I say because I said so,” or “Do as I say, and not as I do.” Psychological and narcissistic abuse has a long run in this country and it has been carried out in the religious and political fields for generations. Power structures that has resulted in false imprisonment, religious shunning, and even death has produced a generation of youth that are no longer playing by the rules.

Abuse of authority is a fundamental truth that bears explanation. When you consider the slave trade that took place for decades in the United States, many still live under the false hypothesis that Africans were stolen from their homeland. Africans were not stolen, they were traded like animals for merchandise. In the book, “The Destruction of Black Civilization,” written by Dr. Chancellor Williams, he points out what “Black civilization” was like before the trade, and how the diabolical plot of slave trading was carried out through its on leaders (Kings/Queens) for profit. Unfortunately, this “selling out” syndrome has a long history among descendants of Africa that has been a perpetual curse, even to this present day. From a Biblical perspective Abuse of authority can be traced as far back as the Pharaoh of Moses day, King Saul and David, and the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus day.

Unfortunately, it has been so engrained in human psyche that in some cases abuse is considered normal and accepted. When abuse is fought against or questioned, there are those that side with the abuser, because abuse has become a safe place. When the human mind has been conditioned to accept abuse as normal, the abused can become a lethal weapon among the innocent, their families, or even their own liberator. This further covers up conspiracy and complicates identity crisis. It is possible to become **codependent** to the very thing that's killing you.

What are codependents? Codependent relationships are a type of dysfunctional helping relationship where one person supports or enables another person's addiction, poor mental health, immaturity, irresponsibility, or under-achievement.

Among the core characteristics of codependency, the most common theme is an excessive reliance on other people for approval and identity.

Codependency has been referred to as the disease of "loss of self." Codependent relationships are marked by intimacy problems, dependency, control (including caretaking) denial, dysfunctional communication boundaries, and high reactivity. Often, there is imbalance, so one person is abusive or in control or supports or enables another person's addiction, poor mental health, immaturity, irresponsibility, or under-achievement

Some codependents often find themselves in relationships where their primary role is that of rescuer, supporter, and confidante. These helper types are often dependent on the other person's poor functioning to satisfy their own emotional needs.

Many codependents place a lower priority on their own needs, while being excessively preoccupied with the needs of others. Codependency can occur in any type of relationship, including family, work, friendship, and also romantic, peer or community relationships.

Commonly cited symptoms of codependency are, intense and unstable interpersonal relationships, inability to tolerate being alone, accompanied by frantic efforts to avoid being alone, chronic feelings of boredom and emptiness, subordinating one's own needs to those of the person with whom one is involved, overwhelming desire for acceptance and affection, external referencing, dishonesty and denial, and low self-worth.

In a codependent relationship, the codependent's sense of purpose is based on making extreme sacrifices to satisfy their partner's needs. Codependent relationships signify a degree of unhealthy clinginess, where one person doesn't have self-sufficiency or autonomy. One or both parties depend on their loved one for fulfillment.

There is almost always an unconscious reason for continuing to put another person's life ahead of your own, and often it is because of the mistaken notion that self-worth comes from other people. Particularly problematic pairings include: **Personality disorder and codependent pairing.**

Borderline personality disorder: There is a tendency for loved ones of people with borderline personality disorder (BPD) to slip into caretaker roles, giving priority and focus to problems in the life of the person with BPD rather than to issues in their own lives. Too often in these kinds of relationships, the codependent will gain a sense of worth by being "the sane one" or "the responsible one."

Narcissistic personality disorder: Codependents of narcissists are sometimes called co-narcissists. Narcissists, with their ability to get others to buy into their vision and help them make it a reality, seek and attract partners who will put others needs before their own.

Codependents can provide the narcissist with an obedient and attentive audience — the perfect backdrop. Among the reciprocally interlocking interactions of the pair are the narcissist's overpowering need to feel important and special, and the co-dependent's strong need to help others feel that way. Considering the multifaceted dilemma of codependency, one thing is for sure you must lose yourself to become codependent to anything.

Your entire self is focused on something else, which from a biblical perspective is Idolatry. In fact, in the New Testament, 1 John 5:21 says, “Little children, guard yourselves from idols.” So apparently idolatry is still trying to work its way into our lives and distract us from worshipping and obeying God.

Idolatry is not just a pagan issue. It is not just an Old Testament or Jewish issue. It is a human issue. Is it that a 12-inch tall piece of wood or bronze can do something bad to us? Or is it that we do something awful to ourselves when we place adoration and attention that should go to God in other things?

When it comes to idolatry, the danger is not in an item...it is in us. It was John Calvin who said our heart is an idol factory. In a fallen world, people constantly seek things they can worship, even though the Creator is before us in plain view. Idols come easy, but go hard. So many people today are masked idolaters, but it would probably be offensive to them if you suggested that was the root of their problems. Humanism is at the origin of modern idolatry.

Humanism is a philosophical and ethical stance that emphasizes the value and agency of human beings, individually and collectively, and generally prefers critical thinking and evidence (rationalism, empiricism) over established doctrine or faith (fideism). The meaning of the term humanism has fluctuated, according to the successive intellectual movements which have

identified with it. Generally, however, humanism refers to a perspective that affirms some notion of a "human nature" (sometimes contrasted with anti-humanism).

In modern times, humanist movements are typically aligned with secularism, and today "Humanism" typically refers to a non-theistic life stance centered on human agency, and looking to science instead of religious dogma in order to understand the world. This looking outside of ourselves oppose to inside of ourselves marks the conspiracy of identity.

No greater expression of "Know thyself," is explained than in the critically acclaimed movie, 'The Matrix.' This blockbuster film put me on edge, as the philosophical undertones pointed towards the dichotomy of fate and reason. Thomas Anderson was a man living two lives, in search for answers that seem to rest in the abyss of the rabbit hole.

The phenomenon of this movie was definitely for those who have analytical minds.

Unfortunately, if you only watched the movie for the thrills, action, and special effects, eventually, the movie will sit on the shelf collecting dust for years to come, but for those that are theoretical, philosophical, and most of all spiritual, devoured the movie like a luscious succulent steak, simmered to perfection, anticipating each bite before it melts in your mouth.

This movie focuses on a young man named Thomas Anderson. Through a series of events, Mr. Anderson ends up meeting a young lady named Trinity, which ultimately introduces him to a man named Morpheus.

Morpheus a type of mentor and trainer, explains to Thomas Anderson that he has been born into a prison, a Matrix, a prison for his mind. The only thing worse than prison, is a prison for your mind, a prison, you would have no urge to escape. Furthermore, if you have been imprisoned for a long time, how would a person in such a prison recognize if he were set free?

Suppose a person as such were set free and forced suddenly to stand up, turn his head, and walk with his eyes lifted to the light? What do you think he would say if someone told him this was meaningless illusion? Would he not be perplexed, confused and baffled?

Such it was with the character Thomas Anderson. Most of the time when truth is revealed, it is frightening. Prisoners in a mental cave are chained by neck, hands, and legs. They have been this way since birth and have no conception of any other way of life. Yet, these prisoners do not know they are prisoners, and do not suspect there is reality outside of their experience.

What is the downside of a prisoner being liberated is when a prisoner tells others the truth of his experience, who reward him with mockery and resistance, believing he has gone insane.

If one is not strong enough, they will return to bondage out of guilt, like a dog returning to his vomit, to satisfy the unbelieving naysayers. Education is freedom of the mind. "Aristotle wrote, the roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet." And we do well, to keep in mind that "education" literally, etymologically, means "to lead out."

As Mr. Anderson was lead out of his mental prison cell, his new life had to be accompanied by a name change which is essential if one is to experience true freedom. His new name was Neo, which means a new type and a new development.

By the time the infamous Neo reached the oracle, he had been through a total transformation. Yet, he still wasn't sure where he fit in the plight of all that was happening. The oracle had the awesome responsibility of helping Neo discover some things applicable to his survival. The oracle was key in helping Neo understand the distinct difference from guessing who you are, or knowing who you are.

One of the questions the Oracle asked Neo was simplistic, yet profound. She said, "Do you think you're the one?" Neo responded, "I'm really not sure." The Oracle pointed to a Latin figurine on the wall, which stated, "Know thy self."

This wisdom is in fact the key to making sense of the oracles prophecy. Self-knowledge is the key, and without it we can unlock no other knowledge worth having. How much can you know about yourself if you have never been in a fight? We see, however, as the plot and the fight develop. This is not a moronic, testosteronic query. We gain self-knowledge through struggle. If fully digested, the wisdom of "know thyself," might allow the chosen one to tell the truth to many. As Neo began to fight the forces of darkness, he discovered what strength he had. The more he fought the more he recognized his ability that was practically death defying.

This was a crossroad and pivotal time for Neo. The Oracle had prophesied destruction, and it was going to be left up to Neo, whether or not death would be the final result. Can you imagine? Neo had to make a grueling decision, and the decision to accept himself as the chosen one would seal the fate or destiny of the entire nation. What would you do if you were faced with such a mammoth decision?

I believe when we are challenged with unprecedented circumstances, you may be forced to make decisions in spite of your fear and insecurity. Yet, once Neo accepted his predestined calling, he delivered himself and the entire nation of people. Neo was a warrior that moved with skill and grace that had not been seen before from his peers.

As Neo came into the fullness of his calling, he discovered that he could run through troops, leap over walls, and soar as high as the eagles. Most importantly, he discovered that by speaking to the attacks of his enemy he could stop there attack in mid-air. All these things were made possible because Neo knew who he was.

COMING TO AMERICA

At times, I have a tendency of looking at secular blockbuster films and receiving a spiritual revelation. Hitherto, there are a few blockbuster films that have caused my spiritual senses to go into overdrive. The first movie I would like to discuss is, 'Coming to America,' starring comedian Eddie Murphy. You may be wondering how in the world you could have possibly received a spiritual message through such an otherwise comical movie. I have discovered, when you are living/walking in the Holy Spirit, God will open your spiritual senses to things that just seem common to other people. The bible declares, **But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (I Corinthians 2:14).**

Never-the-less, in this movie, Eddie Murphy played an African Prince that was obligated by law to marry at a certain age and time period. This should have been a special time in the life of this wealthy prince, but Eddie Murphy, or Akeem in the movie, didn't feel emotionally connected or completed towards this pretentious bride. This dilemma caused great frustration for the young African prince.

After the lavish momentous presentation of his bride to be, a comical 'Queen to be Serenade,' Akeem was now faced with a challenge. He wanted to get a sense of his bride to be, so he requested to see her alone. He asked her a few questions that were pertinent to any healthy relationship. Such as: what do you like, or what kind of foods do you like? You know normal stuff. Unfortunately, this woman had no common sense or sense of self. Her temperament was that of a slave, not a companion. This was not going to work.

The wedding was put on hold and Akeem was given permission by his father the King, to see the world and fulfill every erotic desire. Akeem and his friend Simme' set out on a perceived

wild adventure to the United States of America, but Akeem had other plans; he wanted a chance to search for his true bride.

What stood out for me in this film was Akeem's character and focus on finding a bride. He displayed character and integrity throughout the entire film. Akeem knew who he was and when you know who you are, you are not easily intimidated by the ones that do not.

You are not anxious, or disenchanted, because at the end of the day, you know who you are; the son of a King.

Once Akeem arrived in the United States, he never broadcasted who he was, but because his persona was so regal and his training and temperament so polished, it drew respect out of those to whom may have assumed him to be ordinary, and jealousy from those that considered him 'different.'

If Akeem did not know who he was, he may have attracted a woman that did not meet the qualifications for a prince. That's right, the prince may have ended up with the woman that worshipped the devil, or maybe that materialistic woman, or perhaps the woman that liked the group thing, God forbid the rapping twins, and heavens no, Arsenio the female impersonator. Because Akeem knew who he was, he was able to sift through the pretentious and wanna-bees. In the end Akeem discovered his true bride, a beautiful princess with a strong sense of self that loved him for who he was and not what he represented. It all stemmed from the fact that Akeem knew who he was.

THE LION KING

By the time I saw the first Lion King sequel, the third film was in Blockbuster's Video Store. Maybe, I just wasn't interested in another Disney film. One day, a friend of mine asked had I ever viewed the Lion King. He was shocked to discover I had not. I assumed because he had a

child, was his reason for asking. Much to my surprise, that was far from the truth. After being asked or bugged about viewing the movie, I finally went to Blockbuster Video Store and rented the DVD. As I watched the movie, I became spell bound by the imaginary cartoon characters. I would not have guessed that this film would convey a revelation that would leave me in a state of awe and wonder. For it appeared as if someone had been reading my daily e-mail. Maybe I had talked out loud and someone went to the writers at Disney and shared my personal dilemma.

The Lion King centered on a young lion named Simba, destined for greatness and heir to the throne. The rites of passage for this young prince would have made him next in line to be king of the jungle. However, because of deception, manipulation, fear, and that green-eyed monster jealousy, Simba ended up living a life completely opposite of the life he was destined for. What a tragedy! During Simba's adolescence he was faced with a situation that he was neither mature enough nor responsible enough to handle. Besides, how do you handle the blame for your father's death?

Simba had been deceived, lied to, and placed in the portholes of blame. This caused guilt, shame, confusion, and condemnation for something he had no control over, nor was responsible for causing. Keep in mind, the enemy that suggested Simba's fate, was not some wild aggressive opponent, but a trusted family member.

Simba's uncle was a master mind manipulator and deceiver. He lusted for power, and would do anything to obtain it. As I pondered, over the movie, I recalled the biblical story of young Joseph, and his cruel envious brothers that sold him into slavery. Joseph lived apart from his family for many years because of jealousy, envy, and strife. I have discovered this phenomenon is not limited to blood relatives, but crosses boundaries of friendships, marriages, job, cultural and religious organizations.

Simba was living a life completely carefree of which he was destined to be, because of early childhood experiences. If not treated properly, childhood scars can have a long negative effect, and unfortunately, the result of the psychological pressures and stress of these experiences can leave a child with a broken heart and wounded spirit. The scripture says, **the Spirit of man will sustain his infirmity but a wounded spirit who can bear (Proverb 18:14).**

When hurt and rejection formulates in a child heart, the demographics can produce negative development in a variety of ways. For example: rebellion, pride, stubbornness, anger, bitterness, substance abuse, physical abuse, selfishness, depression, lying, abuse of authority, disrespect towards authority, and murder. These are only a few common results of a wounded spirit.

The Lion King was not a prodigal son story, although I can see how one could come to that conclusion. This story was about manipulation and deception. This story speaks truth for individuals that have experienced psychological abuse in whatever capacity. Abuse always produces guilt, shame, and fear in its victim.

How do you take responsibility for things you have no control over? I would become angry when I would hear people say, you have to take responsibility. What?! How can you take responsibility for another man's mistake? It was not your fault that you were raped or sexually molested.

It was not your fault the drunk driver lost control of the car. It was not your fault concerning this, that, or the other.

Yet it happened...I now interpret responsibility as, what is your response to life experiences?

For the root word for responsibility is response. How will you respond to life unfortunate circumstances? Are you going to live in the circumstance or move beyond it?

There is life after an unfortunate situation. Are you going to die or live? Easier said than done, but also consider, the perpetrator has completely gone on with their life and time is going by.

Simba's life was so opposite of who he was destined to be, that when his friends and associates found out who he was, they laughed hysterically, although who he was, was in their face all along. Always remember, if you don't know who you are, others will define you according to who they think you should be and what you should be doing. This can lead to a life of people pleasing. If you don't know who you are, you can open yourself up for mastery levels of deception and manipulation; which also may cause you to go around the mulberry bush of life and fail to recognize and pursue your divine purpose.

In the end, Simba had to confront the very one that deceived him. All of his fears, anger, bitterness, low self-esteem, and any other toxic emotion had to be brought to the forefront of his heart in order that he may experience justice and freedom. In the end Simba took his rightful position as king.

Consider the following hypothesis: Some time during the years between 1966 and 1974, the world changed. Which is to say, our world changed. In a big way. Though not uncontroversial, many historians and scholars believe just this: that during these years we entered a new era, leaving behind the modern age, we now find ourselves in very different circumstances. We are now in what is referred to as the postmodern age or the condition of postmodernity.

What happened? Many things. Deindustrialization, suburbanization, and a dramatic increase in the flexibility of capital accumulation, leading to what we now know as globalization. In the arts and in the architecture, ideals of purity and depth have given way to irony and the play of

surfaces while the distinction between high and low or popular art has come to seem quaint and indefensible.

In philosophy, many have been led to abandon their faith in an epistemological or ethical foundationalism—a rock-solid, axiomatic, basis to support our knowledge and values. And, obviously, technology is a large part of the story. The first generation of children, nurtured on a healthy diet of television came of age during this time. And after television came of age, the wide spread of cable, video, fax machines, pharmaceutical mood enhancers, computers, cell phones and the internet. Finally, all of this has had an effect on our thoughts, wishes, and feelings. How could it not?

The nature of human experience has undergone and continues to undergo transformation. The ideal that the world without a real sense of place causes spiritual nomads. In a world without seriousness, we are cynics and disbelievers. In a world with designer drugs, our personalities have plasticity, leaving authenticity behind as nothing more than a hoax.

The conspiracy of Identity revolves around someone stealing your Identity for the purpose of fraudulent activity. **Identity theft** is a form of stealing someone's identity in which someone pretends to be someone else by assuming that person's identity, usually as a method to gain access to resources or obtain credit and other benefits in that person's name.

The victim of identity theft (here meaning the person whose identity has been assumed by the identity thief) can suffer adverse consequences if they are held responsible for the perpetrator's actions. Identity theft occurs when someone uses another's personally identifying information, like their name, identifying number, or credit card number, without their permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.

Psychological identity theft is just as bad. Psychological identity theft is a person or community that wants you to change the very fabric of your Identity to fit in to the realms of their ego, or community. Also, the need to protect oneself against “emotional identity theft” is quickly coming up for everyone who is plugged in to modern technology/social media.

How do we do that? More importantly, how do we do that without wrecking the rest of our emotional lives?

This is a question 21st century psychology needs to be addressing and largely isn't. Instead, some of the most relevant work on this issue was written long before the internet – and raise questions for the present.

Abraham Maslow, a pioneer of humanistic thought, spoke of the need for safety and security. Second to physiological needs, Maslow emphasized the essentiality of feeling safe in major emotional interactions. Thus self-actualization, reaching one's potential, depends on the fulfillment of physiological, safety, love and esteem needs.

What if you are ignored through the vehicle of social media, or bullied through cyber space, conjectured through a post that's about you but your name is not mentioned. We have truly entered into virtual reality, which has had unprecedented effects on the identity, and emotional health of those that engage.

How do we tell the difference between a social network that is helping individuals reach their potential, and a social network that's keeping them from reaching that potential, but they're just too invested in to unplug?

Asian and Western psychology have continually united on the front of rediscovering “unitive experiences.” Carl Jung and William James have been at the forefront of these discoveries emphasizing the indispensable nature “numinous experiences” and “cosmic consciousness.”

Some humanistic psychologists go so far as saying that identity maturation dangles like a wind chime without the pure conscious experience of connection to people.

With fundamental and basic needs such as privacy not being met, is social media capable of providing the basis needed for untainted connection with others? Can one really disclose and experience vulnerability when the individuality of ideas and thoughts are not held in confidence?

Decade's worth of research has proven the primitive need for interaction and social connection in human beings. Relationships are the lifeblood of healthy "psyches" and self-actualized human beings. Are social media sites, like Facebook, exploiting that need without meeting it? Even utilizing the highest privacy settings on the site is a delusional fallacy and a fraud when Facebook and its allies are selling information. This is emotional identity theft. And we don't fully understand its cost. But it would make sense that the reason so many people may be treating a system we've known for years is untrustworthy as their closest confidant and that they have deep and important psychological needs that they keep thinking it can meet, even if the facts say otherwise. **This is a task we all need to do to maintain our sanity in the face of constant manipulation.**

From a spiritual perspective if you are going to have real identity you must go to the one that created you in the first place. When you surrender your life to Christ you will begin to counter the conspiracy of Identity, by knowing who you are in Christ:

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

As a believer, you are now a beloved son or daughter in the kingdom of God. Knowing who you are in Christ is essential to fulfilling the purpose and plan for your life. I believe this includes, having a firm understanding of where you have been, where you are, but most of all preparatory insight to where you are going. Once you become aware of who you are, your passage of liberation begins. This liberation includes freedom of mind, body, and spirit for the purpose of Christ and the gospel. This freedom comes through a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. **For whom the Son sets free, is free indeed (John 8:36).**

However, writing or reading about it is one thing, but having an intimate experience is another. As you develop your relationship with Christ; you begin to experience Him, which ultimately takes you into a revelation of who He is. This revelation reveals the manifold wisdoms of God, and most importantly the height, depth, and the width of his eternal love **(Ephesians 3:18).**

Without this continual experience and revelation of who Christ is, and who we are in Christ; affirmations and/or confirmations given through human intellect alone, may produce pseudo personalities and prideful dispositions.

For we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the Excellency of the power may be of God and not of us **(II Corinthians 4:7).**

Bear in mind, when you don't know who you are in Christ, you may find yourself wondering through the wilderness of life, trying to make sense out of non-sense, and at worst, being manipulated through man's devices, perceptions and deceptions. This phenomenon can leave you feeling hopeless, empty, and depleted.

Bear in mind, there may be reasons, that you are completely unaware of that may keep you locked in this vicious cycle and identity crisis. Who are you? What should you be doing? Where are you going? These are all significant questions that must be addressed. Also, be advised; no one can answer these questions for you, but you.

This must be answered through the aid of the Holy Spirit. When there is doubt, fear, and insecurity as primary issues in your mind, you may find yourself running from your God given destiny, and becoming overly committed to helping others fulfill their dreams, goals, and ambitions.

Helping others fulfill their dreams and goals is good. However, do not let your dreams and goals go unfulfilled. God has a divine plan for your life. **So we being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another; having different gifts, differing according to the grace that is given to us (Romans 12:5-6).**

We all have a job to do in the Kingdom of God. Not only do we have a divine purpose, we all have different responsibilities. Meaning, everyone cannot do the same thing, nor should they try. This should eliminate envy/jealousy on every level, because we all have something to do regardless of race, gender, or culture background.

The scripture says, **one plants, one waters, but God gives the increase (I Corinthians 3:7-8).**

Consider the one that waters or plants may have different methods towards a desired end.

Yet, they operate under the same divine head. I also believe we are given the liberty of having different methods towards a desired end.

For example, have you ever driven down a beautiful country road and noticed the acres of vegetation, be it corn or some other vegetable? Although the fields may look the same, it does not mean all the land is owned by the same person. Several hundred acres of land may belong to Mr. John; the other several hundred may belong to Mrs. Doe. Both individuals may have different methods towards farming, yet they both have the same goal in mind, sowing, and reaping a harvest.

However, if God doesn't give the increase through sunshine and rain, sowing is in vain and reaping is totally out of the question. Remember, we are not separate identities in Christ, we are one. No man is an island, no man stands alone. We are serving one Lord, having one faith, and one baptism. Semantics and methods should not keep us from the ultimate goal, the harvest.

I believe if we all strive to do our best, following God's lead in what He has given us to do all will be fine. Also remember, the more that's given, the more that will be required and to whom men have committed much of him will they ask for more.

If you are going to know yourself in God you have to experience him on a daily basis.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

What name have you assumed because of someone's limited ego perception? Is it possible that you are acting out the negative seeds planted in you from people, situations, and environments from which you were spawned?

Names that are given during our present day generation do not necessarily mean anything, but there are some other names in our society, which would describe your persona or character in a positive or negative way. It is important that you assume the name that is given to you through your spiritual rebirth.

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knows us not, because we knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is (I John 3:1-2).

Transitioning from the old to the new can be a challenge. I have discovered in my own life that separation comes during transition, not just from people, places and things that are bad or sinful, but also things that are good.

Keep in mind, spiritual transitions can affect you, emotionally, socially, and economically.

During this intense wilderness boot camp training, God prepares you to be an ambassador and a soldier in his army. Also, as you encounter God, He takes you through the valley and mountain top experiences, revealing another element of Himself for the experience you are having.

You may not realize this, but you have an appointment with destiny. God has an assignment that was predestined for you to complete. However, it is during these transitional moments, the enemy of our soul, Satan, will launch strategic attacks in order to hinder your spiritual progress.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

I remember as a little boy, listening to my mother play the piano with fervor and diligence. The melodious sounds of Beethoven's 'Für Elise' would fill the house as my mother rehearsed the renowned classical composer for hours at a time.

More importantly, as my mother rehearsed, my inner ear could perceive what was being played. I know that sounds strange, but I could hear the music in my ear, or should I say my spirit. One day I began to play the piano as I saw and heard my mother play.

This was the start of my experience with music. My mother was the first to give me piano lessons, and from that point, music slowly became second nature. As I got older, other gifts and talents began to manifest: singing, dance, writing, composing, and public speaking.

Keep in mind, my refining in the Arts did not happen by chance: it happened because of diligence, education, and much practice.

As instructor, teachers, and mentors aided in the growth of my gifts and talents, nothing watered the seeds that lay dormant in my being more than life circumstantial propaganda.

Each circumstance of sunshine and rain caused the gifts and talents to flourish and become more evident.

Consider Michael Jordan, who became one of the greatest basketball players of all times. Yet, his triumph, and six championship trophies were the result of years of practice, tenacity, and drive. His rare air resilience developed because of practice, on and off the court. His sprint through the air, which defied the Laws of Gravity, was just the icing on the cake that made him the basketball icon of this modern age.

I'm sure on this journey there were years of trial, tribulation, and utter disappointment; not to mention undeserved public embarrassment, and the tragic murder of his father. Yet, his aggressive passion for the game kept him reaching for the goal, in spite of the obstacles that circumvented in his life.

Jordan's *experience* with the game of basketball caused him to encounter unforgettable victories, collective for generations to come. To *encounter* a person, place, or thing is to experience it. To experience something is to have the knowledge, know-how, and understanding of how something works. **Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: but in all thy getting, get understanding (Proverbs 4:7).**

To have head knowledge on a particular subject is good, but it can only take you so far. For example, you can have the head knowledge for a famous cooking recipe, but if you never take out the pots and pan, and follow the procedures for the meal, it will mean nothing.

I can give you all the instructions verbally and on the blackboard for swimming, but if you never get in the water, the knowledge will not benefit. I have noticed in scripture, when an individual had an experience with God, there was a noticeable change and reverential awe for the creator.

Consider Saul, as he was on the Damascus Road; and suddenly a voice out of nowhere speaks saying, Saul, Saul, why does thou persecute me? **(Acts 9:4)** This one encounter with God changed his entire perception about God, Christians, and the Church.

HAVE YOU HAD AN EXPERIENCE WITH GOD?

There is a great deal of difference from knowing the path and walking in it. If you just have head knowledge, and it's not balanced with experience, you will be like a cloud without rain. In fact, the book of James states, **Faith without works is dead, being alone (James 2:17).**

Keep in mind, going to church, participating in the church auxiliary/ministry, going to the conference, convocation, or revival does not constitute an experience with God. These are all expressions of our commitment to a cause, and it's all good. However, you can be heavily involved in these things and never experience God.

I have strong concerns, about this generation's perceptions about God, for it is possible to create a caricature image of God through *self*-propaganda and justify sinful behavior. **In the last days men will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils (I Timothy 4:1).**

This means you can be disillusioned into believing, because you go to church, read Christian books, or have a Christian educator's degree, you are experiencing God. It is possible to know several translations of the bible, biblical history down to a science, understand Greek and Hebrew, present concepts and strategic arguments for the modern day church, and overlook the totality of the Gospel; which is the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is our freedom... It is very important that we keep the Gospel message clear all the time.

I will be the first to tell you, that I enjoy hearing principles on better living, and fulfilling my dreams. It is wonderful to experience a conference and meet believers from all over the world. It is exciting to hear wonderful singing and renowned speakers and orators. Experiencing these things is good, but if they are not on solid gospel foundation, it doesn't profit.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

Because we live in an age that is submerging in deception, it is possible to turn the Word of God into humanistic psychology, sociology, metaphysics, and philosophy; reducing truth to social propaganda, laced with lasciviousness. If not careful, you can be deceived, and this can happen to anybody!

The way to stay free in your mind, and body, and spirit, is to acknowledge, without God I can do nothing, and without Him I will fail. Christianity was intended for building ones faith in Christ; it was never intended to reflect a fraternity, sorority, or group alliance. However, if you study the Pharisees and Sadducees sect in Jesus day and time, you will discover how easy it is to repeat history. This is why the scripture says, **wherefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall (I Corinthians 10:12).**

There are many in biblical history and modern day that can testify of different experiences they have had with God. It was by the Spirit of God they overcame, conquered, and survived. For it is by the Spirit that we live, move, and have being. It is not by might, nor by power, but by my Sprit says the Lord of host. Have you had an experience with God? You can experience His presence on a daily basis, through the abundance of His love, peace, and joy. This is the epitome of freedom.

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