The Mystery of God

Dr. Awdhesh Singh
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by Dr. Awdhesh K. Singh


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Dedicated

To my revered grandfather
Sri Yadunath Singh who
sowed the first seed of
religion & spirituality
in my mind at a very
young age
Publisher’s Note

The mystery related to the concept of God, like any other mystery concerning the infinitely vast universe, has baffled as well as fascinated humankind from time immemorial. The primitive man’s wonderment at the mysterious phenomena of nature – the sunrise and sunset, stars and planets moving in the sky, cyclic weather changes, all happening, as it were, to the precision of an eternal clock – made him to discover a coherent pattern in nature, which he loved and admired, and made him to wonder again about the invisible hand behind this wondrous phenomena. This was the first concept of divinity that came to the human mind. He worked further on it and making liberal use of his imagination, created the earliest nature-gods and goddesses. Gradually over a length of time, crude thoughts gave way to refined intellectual analysis that led him to conclude that all these multifarious gods and goddesses were merely manifestations of One Supreme Being. This was the first idea of God conceptualized by the human mind.

As human civilization took small steps to maturity, consciousness about the One Supreme Being grew taking various shapes and dimensions. All sorts of people – scientists, philosophers, religious and holy men, popes and priests, naturalists as well as spiritualists, intellectuals and free thinkers styling themselves as rationalists – took up this idea and interpreted it in various ways. Even the atheists and agnostics, who had nothing but repulsion for this idea of God, seemed obsessed with it. But, despite the best of minds being engaged with it, the mystery of God still remains as ever.

This book, The Mystery of God, now in its second edition, deals with the concept of God in all its aspects – its fundamental questions being answered in the most practical and down-to-earth manner, always maintaining a close affinity with the reader as if to join him in the common search of the Divine.
Preface

We all have often wondered about the existence of God. I know not a person who might claim to have ever seen God or heard anything from Him. It is, therefore, quite mysterious as to why billions of people, who otherwise follow scientific methods to know the truth, should ever believe in God.

Yet most people do not believe in God as described in their religions. If it were so, the Christians would not have fought wars killing millions of their own brethren. Had people really followed their scriptures, which are believed to be the word of God, there would have been no violence, no adultery, no stealing, no idol worship, no divorce and no evil in this world.

It is a hard truth that in spite of God, evils have not vanished from the face of the world and, indeed, from the heart of a single human being. It is impossible to find a sinless man in the modern world as much as it was impossible to find one in the time of Jesus Christ when none could come forward to throw the first stone on the adulteress woman. It is also a fact that despite God, pains and miseries of the human race have never ceased to exist in this world. As a matter fact, we find the world full of injustice, inequality, pain and misery even though man is said to be created in the image of God and all human race is considered to be the sons and daughters of God.

Such realities of the world raise several questions in the minds of not only the atheists but also the believers. Does God really exist? Why has God created this world? Has God created man or is it man who has created God? If God is really Omnipotent, why does He not eliminate all forms of evil from this world? Why does He allow the believers to be defeated by the non-believers? Why does He not punish those who ridicule Him and deny His existence?

Answers to these questions are not easy to find. I tried to discover possible answers to these questions from the scriptures and books of every religion. I have tried to understand the explanations of mystics, poets,
philosophers, scientists and scholars. Yet I find no explanation sufficient and satisfactory enough to explain the hard realities of the world. All books explain merely a part of the truth but fail to throw light on most of the issues. Therefore, we have to take recourse to different branches of knowledge to find explanations for what is happening in the real world.

Yet, if suitable explanations are discovered merely to fit into a given reality, it would be like a postmortem. It fails to serve any purpose since, even if you have known the cause of a death, you can never undo death or make the person alive. Real knowledge is one that can really predict the future. It is only such knowledge that can be trusted and used by us, for by such knowledge alone we can achieve the desirable result, plan our future and avoid undesirable consequences in our lives.

True knowledge of God is one that can help a man know other men with the same confidence and accuracy as he knows himself, since the greatest truth of all religions is that God resides in the heart of every man. It is only by such knowledge that we can excel in our life as we would never do anything that could be harmful to us or to others in this world as we would know the consequences of all our actions.

My experiences have shown that such knowledge is possible to be realized but impossible to be written in words. Such knowledge is extremely mysterious, which can be known only by development of intuition which enables us to see the unseen, hear the unheard and know the unknown.

The book "Mystery of God" is an attempt to trigger such intuition in us. The essays of this book are not to be read like scholarly articles since the real message of these essays lies not in the words but in the feeling that these words invoke in the heart of the readers. These feelings represent the truth that must be understood by using one's own intuition. This truth, however, has to be verified by testing it in the inner world as well as the world outside.

If you have understood the truth correctly, your inner conflicts reduce gradually and you experience peace and happiness in your life. You must feel contented irrespective of your material possessions and status in the society. The true knowledge of God must also increase your performance in your organization as a professional, since a person, who knows the heart and mind of other human beings, can never fail to achieve the goals of his organization.
Still, the knowledge of God is never complete like the quest of a scientist about the knowledge of the laws of nature. The more we know, the more remains to be discovered. The scientists, too, have so far discovered only a small fraction of the laws of nature, yet they have brought tremendous benefit to mankind. In the words of Bertrand Russell, an English philosopher and mathematician, “We know very little, and yet it is astonishing that we know so much, and still more astonishing that so little knowledge can give us so much power.”

Therefore, the mystery of God shall remain forever as none of us can ever hope to know God fully. Yet, if we can know even a little of the mystery, it shall make our life happier, full of love and peace, and free us from considerable pains and misères of the world. I hope the essays of this book would help the readers in discovering God, by the discovery of the Self.

Dr. Awdhesh Singh
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The Mystery of God

“We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature — trees, flowers, grass — grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls.”

—Mother Teresa

Often we are puzzled by the curiosity of mankind to know the unknown. Why are the scientists interested to know how big is the universe? Does it really matter if it is 28 billion light years wide or may be just one light year? Why should we care if the universe is 14 billion years old or less when our own life is less than a hundred years? Why should the scientists waste their time and public money on such quest of knowledge which does not seem to have any benefit to the human race?

Similar is the quest of man to know God.

Why should a man be interested in knowing God? Often we ask ourselves: why should one bother to know God when we all can live without knowing or believing in God?

Yet God is believed in every society of the world.

There are hundreds of religions and faiths and all of them have a different description of God. Which one should one believe?

Many successful people in this world had no faith in God. Yet they
achieved success and led a happy and successful life. There are people who often do the opposite of what is written in the scriptures, yet they lead a happy life.

Why does God not punish them?

Yet our experience suggests that knowing God has been as impossible for spiritual people as knowing the universe has been impossible for scientists.

Understanding God is perhaps the most difficult task for the human imagination. If God of Judaism is a jealous God who threatens to kill His people if they worship any other God and asks them to follow the policy of “an eye for an eye”, the God of Christianity is a kind, who is willing to forgive even the greatest sins of men and asks them to offer the other cheek, if one is slapped on one cheek. If animal sacrifice is the only legitimate method to atone one’s sin in Judaism, Jainism prohibits even killing of insects. If Islam and Judaism prohibit representation of God in any form, Hindus worship God in every form including animals and stones. If Judaism and Islam believe in One God, Christianity believes in Trinity, and for Hindus there are 330 million gods.

It is, therefore, an irony that even today, when science has changed the face of the world with its wide knowledge and inventions, people still believe in God despite numerous contradictions. Even in America, the land of the most scientific inventions of the world, more than 95 percent people believe in God. It is extremely difficult to understand and explain the human psyche in respect of God as none in the world has ever seen God.

It seems that no amount of rational thinking and scientific knowledge could change the belief of man in God. Galileo Galilei, too, had some form of belief in God as he stated:

“I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason and intellect has intended us to forego their use.”

Even Albert Einstein, considered to be the greatest scientist ever, has emphatically stated:

“A legitimate conflict between science and religion cannot exist. Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.”

Yet many scientists are aghast with the stupidity of human mind to believe in God and practise the ‘mindless’ rituals of religion without any
‘scientific’ reason. Scientists are also frustrated because all their achievements and logic could not convince man to lose faith in God and start thinking rationally. Steven Weinberg, an American physicist and Noble laureate, echoed this sentiment when he said:

“Religion is an insult to human dignity. With or without it, you’d have good people doing good things and evil people doing bad things, but for good people to do bad things, it takes religion”

Is it not wiser for man to spend his time and energy in knowing people of the world, whom they deal every day? Human life could be much better, if people know human beings rather than God. Scientists and rationalists, therefore, focus all their attention in knowing people and nature rather than knowing the unknown God.

All branches of knowledge seem to revolve around knowing the secrets of man and nature. Medical sciences, history, psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, philosophy are all related to the study of people and human nature in different forms. All these branches of knowledge attempt to know man and nature so that their behaviour can be known and predicted.

However, understanding the people from books seems to be the most difficult task in this world. Even if one has mastered all the books of all branches of knowledge, he may still not be able to understand people.

Understanding the mind of man is the most difficult science but the easiest art. It is so simple that even an illiterate person can understand the thoughts of others easily. This understanding seems to come automatically to all human beings and even to many animals. The artists, painters, musicians and poets seem to have much better understanding of the mind of the people than scholars, since their creations are loved by the people. Leaders and businessmen, too, seem to know the pulse (mind) of the people much better than the scholars as they can sell their ideas or products to millions of people. Knowing the mind of the people is the key ingredient for producing advertisements, creating innovations or launching new products. It can be said that one who knows man truly rules the world. Such people make history and even change history.

Why then all knowledge of the world cannot enable man to understand the mind of the people even after learning all known knowledge of the world?
The reason seems to be simple and logical. This world is continuously evolving and changing every moment. For example, if one tries to become a great leader following the footsteps of Stalin, Hitler, Mao, Roosevelt, Gandhi or Churchill, he is bound to fail as the world has changed so much that the same methods simply can no longer solve any real life problem of the world. The leader of the twenty-first century has to be different from those of the last century or the leaders who had ever existed in the past. In truth, there is no “rational and logical” method to know what is there in the mind of the people of the modern world and how to influence the thoughts of others to achieve the desired goal.

When you want to know people logically, you are confused as you find every person different and his mind unpredictable. If you treat other people like you, you fail miserably as no person in the world could ever be like you. There has been no person like you ever in this world nor will a person like you ever take birth in the future. Every person is unique in this world.

However, deeper study reveals that such differences are only superficial. When you interact with many people, a pattern starts emerging in your mind that reveals what is common in all people. You start noticing that despite differences, there are many characteristics that are common in all men.

We notice that just like the bodies of all human beings have a similarity as they have the same body parts, so is with the thoughts of the people. People have common thoughts and beliefs. When we learn further, we notice that even the body parts of human beings are not very different from those of animals like monkeys, gorillas etc. Even the body of a rat has great similarity with that of human beings. It is for this reason that most of the medical experiments are first conducted on rats and monkeys before these are tested on human beings. If the medicine works on a rat or monkey, it usually works for man as well.

When we expand our quest still further, we find many common features that we share even with plants. Most of the food that builds our bones, cells, blood etc comes from the plant world. A petrol engine can run only with petrol and cannot function, if we fill it with diesel, water or any other fuel. Yet a man can virtually eat any plant or meat and the body converts it into flesh, blood, bones and energy. Even animal meat, which a
man consumes, comes from the plant world as those animals eat plant. Thus every part of the body of man is made from plants.

When we investigate further, we wonder how the plants must have been created. We find that earth, water, sunlight (energy) and air are as essential for plants as for human beings. It is for this reason that all creations of the world are described to be made of five basic elements i.e. earth, water, air, fire and ether. No plant life can sustain without sunlight (energy) as is the case with human beings. Thus we feel connected with the solar system too.

Then, what is left in the universe? We find ourselves connected to everything else in the universe.

Thus we can intuitively feel that there has to be something that is common in all different realities of the world, that which creates and sustains everything, that which is present in everything, and that which connects everything. We call this common force, the common Truth, the common energy in all creations as ‘God’.

Thus the quest of God starts from the quest of man. While man may not have any reason to know God, he surely has many reasons to know other human beings and everything else in the world that affects him. However, this quest of knowledge leads us to the knowledge of God. Hence, often it is said that “God is not a person but a process”. Once we understand God, we understand the world. The people who know God are the people who actually know the core (soul) of human beings. They are the people who had understood the mind of the people of all the past, present and future generations. That is why these people had millions or even billions of people following them and their thoughts live even thousands of years after their death. When you search the essence of humanity, you discover the mystery of God. Even scientists like Einstein said:

“I just want to know the thoughts of God. The rest are details.”

He surely knew some thoughts of God, which made him the most famous scientist of the modern world.
Do Not Give Any Name to God

"Those who know It speak of It not, who speak of It know It not."

—Kena Upanishad

God is known by different names in different religions. Every scripture describes God differently and gives Him a different name. God is called as Jesus, Allah, Yahweh, Krishna, Rama, Shiva, Brahma, Vishnu, or Buddha.

God is also known by many metaphorical names. Gandhi called God as Truth. He also called God as Love. God is also known as the Supreme, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient and Infinite. He is also known as the Supreme Soul (Paramatman), Holy Spirit, Father, Mother and Creator. Spiritual people often refer to God as Energy, Spirit, Love, and Compassion. He is also depicted as Judge, Warrior (like Rama and Krishna), King, and even Destroyer (like Shiva). There is hardly a reality of this world whose attributes are not found in God.

The names of God are, therefore, infinite.

Yet God is beyond every name as every single name that is associated with God can explain only a small part of Him just like our planet Earth, which is so big that it holds all of us, can’t be used to describe the Universe as it is nothing but an infinitely small part of it. This concept is beautifully illustrated with the help of the story of five blind men:

Five blind men wanted to find out what an elephant was. They had one brought to them. Surrounding the elephant, each blind man reached up to touch it.

The first blind man grabbed the elephant’s trunk. He said, “Aha! So an elephant is like a snake.”

The second blind man, holding one of the elephant’s legs said, “Oh, no, it’s like a tree trunk.”
The third grabbed the elephant’s ear and said, “How can you say that? An elephant is clearly like a fan.”

The fourth, clutching the animal’s tail, said, “No, no, no! The elephant is a like a rope.”

The fifth, climbing up the side of the elephant, said, “You’re all wrong! The elephant resembles a small hill.

All five men were telling the truth to the best of their knowledge and belief. Yet none of them could really identify the reality viz. elephant. Any person with normal vision would not take even a second to identify the elephant without any difficulty. Yet the blind men could not identify the elephant as they had no vision in their eyes and their capacity to identify the reality was limited only to the touch of the object. As the men were much smaller than the elephant in size, they could only touch a part of the elephant and know only a part of the truth. Their identification was based on the object they knew by touching, which were snake, trunk, rope etc.

Names, too, are like any other living being. They are born and they die. Every name in itself represents a form which we are unable to distinguish except by conscious effort. For example, when someone calls the word “Krishna”, he visualizes all descriptions of Lord (Krishna) as described in the Mahabharata. It is impossible for him to ascribe any other description of Krishna. For example, he just cannot call Rama or Jesus as Krishna since the word ‘Krishna’, though being synonymous with God, has a different form and meaning.

Thus all names of God necessarily represent an image and form. For a person, who has not known the name of Krishna, it would not invoke any response. For example, if you know a person called “Ramu”, the moment someone refers the name of Ramu, the entire knowledge of Ramu is flashed into your memory. Even if you have never known a person named Ramu, the word would take some form based on your experience of similar names. For example, you may visualize the character of Ramu from some movie or fiction, or from a person with similar name.

In order to visualize God in an image other than that of man, which limits the understanding of God, people started describing God in abstract terms like Infinite, Supreme, Energy or Spirit. Yet even these words have a meaning and a form. For example, the word ‘infinite’ invokes the feeling of the sky and the universe in our mind. Infinite is something that is too wide...
The Mystery of God
and too far away, which is beyond the imagination of a man. Yet the scriptures say that God is so near that He is present in every heart. 'Energy' may invoke the image of vibrating atoms and molecules in the universe and 'Spirit' may invoke the image of ghosts or the invisible. Yet God is peace and God is love.

It seems impossible to dissociate form from words since every name is born only after a form is born. When a person is born as child, he has no name and identity. Yet the world soon gives a name to the child for unique identification of the person. Subsequently, man is known not by his personality or traits but by the name which his or her parents had decided to give him/her for his unique identification. In reality, there is no correlation between the person and the name as any other name could have been given to the child without causing any change in his/her personality.

Gradually the name grows with the person and becomes synonymous with him. If the person commits crime, the name gets a bad name (Ramu is a criminal) and also a good name (Ramu is a saint). Ramu goes on to become a young man, a father and ultimately dies. When a person dies, it is not said that “the person named Ramu is dead” but that “Ramu is dead.”

In course of the journey of life, a person gets many names based on his or her relationships, profession, nature, acts and thoughts. All names are different but, at the same time, all are associated with the same person.

In order to know the real “Ramu” you need to reconstruct the person Ramu from all the names and characters using your intuition and intelligence. You have to apply the same method to know God.

Knowing God is no different from knowing a person as every single man has a spark of God in him. The true knowledge of God can be achieved only by connecting all the threads that are associated with different names of God. The more perfect is this synthesis; the better is the knowledge of God.

The knowledge of God is as difficult for a spiritual person as the knowledge of the universe is for the scientists. The more you uncover, the more remains to be uncovered. A complete knowledge of God is as impossible as a complete knowledge of the universe since God and the universe are both infinite for the capability of man. Yet the more one knows, the better it is for the humanity.
A spiritual man, therefore, knows God from his intuition just like he knows his friend. Intuition is clearly beyond logic and reason but comes from inside of the soul which is the seat of God in man.

The key to intuition is synthesis. When you use the knowledge of one field into another field, it is called intuition, as by intuition you discover the connection that exists between different people and realities of the universe. For example, if you see a solved problem of mathematics and then you are given an unsolved problem which is different, there is no way you can solve it using the same steps or algorithms used in the solved problem. Yet when you have learned the techniques of solving a problem, you also learn the essence of the problem and the method to solve it. While methods may be different for every problem, the essence of all the methods remains the same. Hence the right method to solve a problem comes to you in the form of hunch or intuition which helps you in solving all types of similar problems.

Intuition is quite important for understanding people. When we meet a person for the first time, within a fraction of a second, we seem to know a number of things about the person based on what we have learnt in the past during our interaction with other human beings.

Intuition, however, depends on the fundamental belief system of the person. For example, if Einstein could find the relationship between mass and energy, it was only because he believed that mass and energy were parts of the same reality. Hence, if one truly believes that all names of God refer to the same God, one can also find the commonality of the characteristics amongst all names of God and know Him.

A person, who refuses to acknowledge God of other scriptures, believes only in the God of his own religion and ends up fighting with others since his knowledge of God is incomplete just like the knowledge of the blind men about the elephant. He, like the five blind men, starts fighting with each other as he refuses to see the truth realized by other men.

Yet, the knowledge acquired by intuition is raw and may not be correct. Therefore, every intuition must be tested before accepting it as true.

The basic premise about God is that “God is in All and All is in God”. Hence, if you have understood God, you have understood everything in this world. Therefore, true knowledge of God brings harmony and joy, which comes from the understanding of people.
A true knower of God does not suspect or hate others as he knows them as his own self. He has confidence in others as much as he has confidence in his own self. He can understand the feelings and thoughts of others and even influence them through his understanding. Hence a knower of God has more peace and love for others than the one who has no understanding of God.

A knower of God can achieve what he wants. His desires are not self-centered or worldly; rather he accomplishes his goal through his knowledge of the humanity. His life does not cross the lives of others as he knows that every person is connected with everyone else. He is convinced that there is no way to make oneself happy unless one decides to make everyone else also happy. Only by expanding love and joy in the world, one can increase one’s own happiness.

The knower of God is also a peaceful person because he knows that everything in the world happens only by the will of God and that His will is never malicious. Due to his trust in God, he lives a life of peace and tranquility.

The key difference between “knowing” and “knowledge” is that while knowledge can be explained and expressed in words, knowing is only known to the knower. While knowledge is explicit, knowing is implicit. Yet it is through the path of knowledge that one reaches the destination of “knowing” just like the soul of a person is known only from the body of the person. Thus the seeker of God does not waste his time in the names but focuses only on the Spirit which enlightens his soul and provides him the true meaning of God.
What is God? Religions don't spring out of nothing; they are (arguably) an archetypal expression of the psychic totality of a culture, of experience and the meaning that this experience invokes in a particular communication community. The concept of God (or gods) is central to this crystallisation of meaning. How should a rational observer understand the term ‘God’ without recourse to the grounding postulates internal to any particular religious dogma? What is God synonyms, What is God pronunciation, What is God translation, English dictionary definition of What is God. n. 1. God a. A being conceived as the perfect, omnipotent, omniscient originator and ruler of the universe, the principal object of faith and worship in... 1. God. a. A being conceived as the perfect, omnipotent, omniscient originator and ruler of the universe, the principal object of faith and worship in monotheistic religions. b. The force, effect, or a manifestation or aspect of this being.