

Pandeism and Tantric Humanism

There are a number of alternatives to the Judeo-Christian conception of a divine being, one of which is Tantric Humanism as conceived by Lee Huxley.

“It is a misconception that atheism and monotheism are natural born enemies. The thing that revelatory religion fears more than atheism is pantheism which I see as a form of natural religion: the metaphysic that says that nature herself is the only genuine holy book. Religion has a love-hate relationship with atheism because the latter gives religion a stalemate escape clause that benefits religion: you can't prove God exists and you can't prove he doesn't – that makes science and religion about quits in the eyes of the naïve. This is the eternal closed circuit debate that more than anything else keeps religion going.”

“God by definition is that which created or made, or evolved the universe, and since our present knowledge appears to tell us that the universe created itself, then this is our provisional starting point: God is the universe. The Unknown God is the God of pantheistic mysticism, the God of the divine darkness; the black sun. It is the God we know very little about except that It never dictates law books full of human errors and it would never create something as evil as hell.”

“Although Tantra is well known in the West, Tantric Humanism (or Tantric Paganism) which is my own brand of Tantra, will be explained in this book. I formulated my religion because after studying alternatives and finding them wanting I had to devise my own metaphysic tailored to my needs and those of a world in mortal danger from the self-fulfilling end-time prophecies of monotheism. In my opinion, therefore, my religion, which admittedly is indebted to Tantric Hinduism, is the best religion on the planet through default and is the only religion that has any chance of providing a basis for global

spiritual unity.”

“The whole basis of spiritual experience in Transhumanism is in my view derived at the interface between rationalism and the birth of the Cosmos. **The origin of the cosmos is fundamentally supra-rational.** Even if science explains the cosmic birth accurately, the explanation itself will never make complete sense. It will be the ‘impossible eventuality’; the mother of paradoxes; the ultimate perfectly natural, square circle – something that can’t happen but does. What determines whether you are spiritual or not is your reaction to this paradox. If it sets easy on your mind then you do not have any need to use the word ‘spiritual’ but if you are astonished and disturbed by its awesome nonsensicality, then you have to use this word spiritual to explain the depth of your response.”

“I therefore feel it worthwhile defending pantheism and natural religion against the lame criticisms of Christians who have a justified fear of pantheism. It is justified because pantheism is so much more compatible with science, sex and God than their own sadomythic death cults. Pantheism, not atheism is the real nemesis of hellfire superstitions like Christianity. Christians propagate a continuous ill-informed vilification of pantheism which one day despite their efforts at sabotage, will surely replace monotheism.” (from “Sex and the Devil’s Wager: The Armageddon Sex Revolution” by Lee Huxley)

The Hindu belief in the Goddess Kali may be relevant to pandeism:

“Kali’s present complexity of character developed slowly during the course of at least two thousand years. Although she was probably originally a tribal goddess, by the epic and early Puranic periods, Kali was absorbed into the Brahmanical, Sanskrit tradition as a dangerous, blood-loving battle queen. Her first major appearance, for example, is in the “Devi

Mahatmya" (ca. sixth century c.e.), where she appears as the goddess Durga's fury incarnate. Later, in Tantric ritual and philosophy (eighth to sixteenth centuries c.e.), **she was elevated to an ontological absolute and identified with the dynamic ground of the universe.**" (*Encountering Kali In the Margins, at the Center, in the West* by Rachel Fell McDermott (Editor), Jeffrey J. Kripal (Editor))

From the Kindle edition: <http://amzn.eu/loIlveI>

Related to Tantrism is the androgyne concept in the esoteric Jewish Kabbalah:

"For Kabbalah, 'the entire cosmic order is interpreted in sexual erotic terms.' As mentioned earlier, when the sephiroth containing the divine energies shattered, the primal androgynous Man, Adam Kadmon, was split in two, fractured into separate halves, male and female, who forever seek their other self, in order to heal the rift. This is a motif widely shared; Plato used it in the Symposium. Loving eroticism between man and wife is a central theme in Kabbalah; it represents on the earthly plane the creative act of the Divine, and unites the male and female energies, polarised by the Big Spill. In Kabbalah, God is forever seeking to reunite with his Shekhinah, his female better half. The Tree of Life itself is polarised into two opposing pillars, that of Severity and Mercy, whose integration results in the balanced Middle Pillar, where the sephiroth Tiphareth (Beauty) holds a central place. Whenever a man and woman come together in loving union, this reintegration is achieved, and a part of the universe is repaired." (from "The Caretakers of the Cosmos: Living Responsibly in an Unfinished World" by Gary Lachman)

From the Kindle edition: <http://amzn.eu/8b0YCUH>