

The Temple of Understanding

The word temple derives from the Latin word – templum, meaning a sacred precinct or the dwelling place of a god or gods: the house of the deity. In ancient times, the temple was not so much one building as in a church but more of a cluster of buildings with varying degrees of access for different ranks of people or strata of society. These precincts would typically have one main building and many smaller out-buildings. The sacred ruins of Machu Picchu or the Pantheon in Greece typify such a complex temple structure over a vast geographic area.

In modern terms the word temple signifies a place of worship for all faiths as opposed to the words church, synagogue or mosque where each pertains to a specific religion. I am using the word temple in both these senses. On the one hand, it is agnostic in the true sense of the word - not that one is an atheist who does not believe in a Supreme Being or God but rather that it is impossible to know the nature of the ultimate reality from a limited, rational and totally logical viewpoint. So, one does not try to define God but accepts it as an unknowable and ultimate state of being.

In the other sense, *The Temple of Understanding* is a composite structure just as the original Roman word *templa* (the plural of *templum*) was a composite structure of buildings. Moreover, just as any building, and especially one as grand as a cathedral or temple, is a complex structure requiring much planning, design and ultimately construction, so too, *The Temple of Understanding* is not just one simple thesis but has many facets to its construction.

The central theme of this structure is that modern humanity exists historically within an all-encompassing and pervasive misunderstanding of who we are, why we exist, where we have come from and where we are going to. This misunderstanding is a virus that has invaded every aspect of our lives, culture and society creating chaos and confusion down through the ages. Like a computer virus that creates havoc with our software or a biological virus that creates ill-health within the body, this virus resides within our meta-belief system or the operating system of our mental makeup.

Like a fish being unaware of the water within which it lives or humanity being unaware of the air we breathe, this misunderstanding has become so pervasive in every area of our lives that we are not only totally unaware of its existence, but vigorously and illogically defend any attempt to shine a light upon that existence and the destructive effects it is having upon our very being and ultimate survival.

It is also my thesis that this misunderstanding is rendering humanity, as the current form of homo sapiens, extinct because the principle of evolution demands that all beings and all species adhere to the Universal Laws of Life through knowing and understanding precisely how life works. This misunderstanding separates us from the flow of life causing blockage and limitation of our energy sources. We have become weak and vulnerable as a species and are no longer plugged into and connected with the divine principles of life.

The Temple of Understanding is not a religious thesis – there are far too many religions in the world already causing enough mayhem, conflict and misery. Nearly all wars, conflict and bigotry revolve around religion which is a direct descendant of this misunderstanding. This temple is not erected to pay homage to any god or gods but to honour life. We may not be able to define or know God, but we can study, know and define life. Humanity is an integral part of life and it is the exploration of our rightful place within the Infinity of Being that this temple seeks to address.

One of the fundamental aspects of intelligence is curiosity – a desire to know how things work. Indeed, humanity has spent most of its history seeking answers to the questions, both metaphysical and physical, as to how life works. But in any epistemology, we need to ensure that our foundations are true and correct. The most important part of any large building or physical structure are the foundations. These must be capable of supporting the eventual structure or it will inevitably collapse.

So too, if our founding premises are not correct then the ensuing structure of knowledge will be erroneous opinion rather than justified belief. How do we know if our beliefs are correct?

There is only one sure way and that is the test of time. Similarly, we can only know if a building will survive the ravages of time and weather long after it is built. If our working body of knowledge is correct, we will live and prosper; if not, we will not withstand the evolutionary dictates of time. It is my contention that humanity stands at the crossroads and needs urgently to reassess its fundamental premises or assumptions of how life works because plainly our lives do no longer work.

Whether we examine our lives as an individual human being or as an entire species, something is definitely not working. We are on a collision course with the Earth – the only home we have. We are the only species that wages war on each other to the extent that we endanger not only our own survival but that of the very planet and indeed the neighbouring solar system. As I write, we have two megalomaniac leaders (if indeed that is what they truly are?) threatening us all with their egoic posturing. We are the only species that pollutes its nest to the point where our ecosystem and environment can no longer support us. Our current lifestyle is inherently unsustainable. As individuals, we have lost the meaning and purpose of life, and we seem to be at odds with the process of life itself.

We are fundamentally divorced from reality which leads to the inevitable conclusion that our basic premises are incorrect. They have not withstood the test of time. Life on planet earth is 4.6 billion years old. In that context, humanity is merely a few hundred thousand years old and our particular belief system is but the twinkling of an eye. The overriding paradigm within which western man lives is at most two thousand years old. This is nothing in the grander scheme of things. If we narrow our focus onto the current reigning meta-belief system, it is perhaps at most five hundred years old and the current economic system would be no more than three hundred, born in the Industrial Revolution of the seventeenth century.

So, we can see that our foundations have NOT withstood the test of time. In not even one hundred years, we have created a lifestyle, an economy and a society that is at odds with the basic principle of life, that is inherently destructive on all levels and that is unsustainable. This structure is based upon a set of beliefs that are faulty. And as rational, intelligent beings, we need to urgently acknowledge this fact and make an immediate about turn adapting to the reality that confronts us. This is the dictate of the evolutionary process.

Life on planet Earth has been evolving for 46 thousand million one hundred-year periods. In just one of those one hundred-year periods we have almost destroyed the lot. It is absolute arrogance, insolence and blatant stupidity to not acknowledge that something is fundamentally wrong and what is wrong is our foundation. The basic building blocks of our entire edifice of knowledge are faulty. We live within a monstrous misunderstanding that precludes us from seeing clearly and understanding the sacred processes of life.

As previously mentioned, we do not need to concern ourselves with trying to define or understand the nature of God – the Ultimate Reality. But we do urgently and desperately need to concern ourselves with the nature of life that surrounds us in our own ecosystem or very soon we will not be a part of that life much longer. In this sense life is not negotiable.

One of the intrinsic errors in this misunderstanding is the arrogance of man: that somehow, we are more intelligent than life, that we can bend and dominate life and its natural processes, that we are the crowning glory of creation at the top of the tree of life; that we are the supremely intelligent being on the planet and that life is subordinate to us to do with it what we choose. And nothing could be further from the truth. All forms of life are inherently equal, and all forms of life are beholden and subject to the Universal Laws of Life. These laws do not just pertain to life on Earth but are truly universal, regulating life throughout the omniverse; for we now know that our universe is just one of many and that life is truly infinite.

Again, it is the complete arrogance of man to believe that he is alone in the far reaches of the cosmos and the only 'intelligent' species in creation. Life is far superior to man and life will decide whether the current form of homo sapiens survives or not depending on our choices and our behaviour. Our current trajectory is certain extinction. We need to change our direction, our lifestyle, our modus operandi if we wish to survive. And to make this drastic change we need to change our meta-data fields of who we are, why we are here and where we are going.

This complete software rewrite is essential because we exist within the misunderstanding which as a virus has played havoc with all of our operating systems. We need a complete reboot! This will not be easy, and humanity will be dragged kicking and screaming because it wants to hold onto the comfort zone of the known even if that known is wrong and injurious. Humanity has never given up the *status quo* easily – witness the Inquisition, the Reformation, the Fundamentalist and Fascist mentality that always rules the world. The negative ego holds onto the power it has accumulated. We exist dictated to by our past not our future.

We have a fundamental identity belief that is outdated and outmoded and is no longer serving our evolution or the process of life on the planet. The real question is whether we can make that identity shift in time before it is too late or will the inevitable evolutionary shift to a newer and more noble species of homo take our place. Whether we like it or not the storm clouds of change are upon us now. We will need to go through the eye of the storm in the foreseeable future and we are talking years, not decades.

The real question is whether you, as an individual, will be ready: physically, emotionally and mentally, to ride that wave of change for this will be decided on an individual basis and no one can go through the storm or ride the wave for another. Neither can you do it holding hands! As in any major evolutionary adaptation, those individuals with the required superior genome that is more suited to the emerging epoch will survive and thrive and those that do not mutate will perish and die out.

Obviously, the million-dollar question is: what is the superior and appropriate genome? What are the traits or characteristics that are essential to cultivate to survive into the 21st century and beyond? Moreover, it is not just a matter of following some recipe nor having some genetic surgery to implant the missing gene. We need to redesign ourselves at the core and to do this successfully we need to move out of the darkness of the misunderstanding and into the light of true knowing. We need to establish ourselves with a new identity at our core.

This will be the New Human!

So, the real question becomes – how attached are you to Being You? Can you envisage a totally different way of Being? Are you prepared to give up, to walk away from the structure that you have built around yourself, to dismantle the edifice of you? This is the *Temple of Understanding*. In that temple the old you, the current version of you simply does not exist.

We need to accept that who we are is merely a construct; there is nothing sacrosanct about our definition of being human. It is merely one design and a faulty one at that. But we are attached to the design; we like it even though it really does not work and makes us miserable. We would rather put up with the pain than go to the dentist or doctor or do the work required to make us healthy. Moreover, there is no quick fix here. It requires years of training, discipline and work. We need to fundamentally retrain our brain and the way it works. Our operating system has a virus which makes our thinking process faulty.

Are you attached to your ego? Do you like your toys? Can you exist without your material and egoic accumulations that define who you are? You see you are **not** who or what you currently believe you are. You are a soul housed in a body. You are a multidimensional being preoccupied with a one-dimensional reality. Even your mind is not just your linear, rational thinking brain. You do have feelings; you do have an intuition; you do intuit; you do have gut knowing and so on. We all experience

déjà vu and premonitions. We all work with our sixth sense. We all know these things exist even though they are denied by mainstream media and the scientific establishment.

You are so much more than your currently limited definition. And precisely because we deny these inner riches and wealth of our real spiritual being, we cling to the outer trappings of material and egoic accoutrement: the clothes, the car, the house, the job, the image, the ambition and the social standing. These seeds have been planted for millennia and are now in full bloom. But they are weeds in the garden of our soul smothering the flowers of our real self.

Our true nature can no longer breathe freely but is trampled under the weight of our accumulation. It is so heavy being you! It is unbearable. We are all exhausted from carrying the burden of our negative ego. It will not let us go even for a moment. The eternal and exhaustive inner dialogue of nonsense and mayhem. It is on-going, and it is insane.

We do not need to understand the nature of God. We do not even need to ponder the wanton destruction of the planet. Merely be the witness to your own mind; simply observe the daily ritual of your thinking and your obsession. Witness the haste and the activity that surrounds us - for what? What are we creating as a society? Where is our legacy – what will our great grandchildren inherit? How will they judge us? It will not be pleasing. In a single generation we have squandered the blessings bestowed upon us by the bounty of nature.

The age of mass consumerism and conspicuous consumption. Our current temple has as its altar the greed of materiality and the priest is the alter-ego of our mind. We produce and consume trinkets of triviality. He with the most toys wins. But wins what? What is the purpose and meaning of a life spent pursuing an exterior image that others can be envious of? What are we creating of worth, of sacredness, of lasting value?

Where are our values and what are they? Are we a valued being? Do we value ourselves? Does this question even make sense to you? If I were to ask you: do you really value yourself and how do you do that? If you truly valued yourself would you waste your life, your time, your energy and the precious gift of life in the pursuit of the inessential?

Is your life committed to building something of consequence even if that is serene happiness and inner contentment? It need not be external, although, to accomplish for the good of the world and for others is the highest good and its own reward. More and more studies are now finding that being altruistic creates the greatest happiness. It is not the pursuit of our own pleasure that delivers lasting value but being of service to others. Other studies are also now finding that this is an essential ingredient to living a long and noble life. Those who contribute to society in some meaningful way enjoy robust health into a ripe elderly age. Giving is receiving. Taking leads to emotional bankruptcy and personal depletion.

Life is a gift and it is given freely, but it does bestow upon us the obligation and the necessity to give back. This is a part of the circle of life. All of nature understands this cycle; it is only modern man who has lost the inclination to give but is obsessed with taking. As we deny the inner depth of our true nature with all its spiritual wealth, we crave the trappings of a false idol.

But this is all just a part of the misunderstanding that we suffer under: the grand delusion! We need to redefine who we are and where we came from. If you are on a journey and come to realise you are lost, you must first reflect on when you last knew where you were and where you went wrong. Only then can you find the right path to get you back on track.

Our creation myths are wrong. Our basic cosmology is erroneous. The story of who we are and how we came to be here is a children's fairy story that is filled with improbable events at best and downright misleading lies at worst. We have been misled deliberately to keep us asleep, to keep us

afraid, to keep us compliant. A sleeping humanity choosing not to think seriously, not to wake up, not to take responsibility for its destiny and not to take its rightful place in the Infinity of Being.

Far easier to create the antagonists of God and the Devil as the perpetrators of our reality and we the hapless victim in their eternal struggle between good and evil. What a convenient cop out. No accountability; no personal responsibility; no sovereignty.

These are large topics and need detailed analysis if we are to come to a better understanding of who we truly are and why we are here on planet Earth. *The Temple of Understanding* consists of three titles: *Personal Sovereignty*, *TaoTuning* and *BeComing One*. They form the three pillars or foundation stones upon which the temple stands. Each one addresses a separate and specific condition of the misunderstanding.

Personal Sovereignty deals with the ability to be truly sovereign: to make our own decisions, to be free from external influence and thus free to be true to ourselves; to live our lives authentically. To be independent, self-reliant and autonomous; to be a sovereign being. To end the dominance of the altered negative ego and to live holistically with intuition and grace. To experience the real intimacy of sovereign love.

TaoTuning then explores the ability to flow with the cosmic currents of life. To be able to ride the wave of your own personal Tao in harmony with the universal principles of life – the great Tao. To be able to execute those decisions and choices one makes as a sovereign being. And to do this with elegance and panache. To be truly successful and enjoy the life of your choosing: to live the dream without causing injury or harm to any other living being or to life itself; the ability to turn your goals into reality and manifest your innermost desires.

Finally, *BeComing One* puts it all together in a harmonious symphony of life, light and laughter. To be one with the creative forces of life; to be one with yourself – body, mind and spirit. To be one with the Earth and all the myriad forms of life that dwell upon it. To be one with the cosmos. To be congruent and whole. To be at peace and to thoroughly enjoy the eternal journey of your being.

Ideally, the reader should proceed sequentially in the above order for the temple to make sense. After all, we cannot construct a large building or edifice by just throwing stones together: they must be placed carefully according to the architect's design and the engineer's specifications if the building is to survive the test of time and be a pleasing work of art.

We need to redefine our understanding of what it means to be human. We need to evolve into the eighth species of homo and reach beyond the limited understanding and faulty belief systems of homo sapiens. After all, the genus homo has been around for approximately 2 million years; homo sapiens a mere 200,000 and modern man a trifling 2,000!

Evolutionary shifts often come quickly – the dinosaurs supposedly disappeared in an afternoon. Life is forever moving on and survival depends upon intelligent adaptation. Are we, as a species and as individuals, ready for this next shift? How do we know when it will come? More to the point how do we know it is not immanent?

Either way, *The Temple of Understanding* will both prepare you for the coming shift and enable you to live a more fulfilling, enjoyable and healthy life. What could be more important than that?

To be who you want to be – to exercise conscious dominion of your life. To live a truly successful life expressing your inner truth. To free yourself from the dictates of mass consciousness and the conniving of the ruling elite. To be a noble soul inhabiting a healthy body. To be one of the intrepid explorers and adventurers on this grand and glorious cosmic journey. To be a spiritual warrior and way shower lighting the path for others to follow.

To be an early adopter of the evolutionary thrust and become the new human who lives peacefully on planet Earth, communing with Gaia and participating in the brotherhood of man. To be happy and free. To be noble and pure. To have the wisdom to live the life we were meant to live: consciously aware and joyous.