

PANTHEISM

GENESIS 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

GENESIS 1:27 “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.”

GENESIS 3:5 “For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be *like God* knowing good and evil.”

QUOTES

Gene Roddenberry, “creator” of *Star Trek*

It was at Denver that someone wrote a question "What is your religion?" My answer was: "I do not belong to any church but I *do* consider myself a religious man. I believe that I am a part of you and you are a part of me and we are a part of all life . . . also a part of the creative force and intelligence behind life. Therefore, if we are a part of God then our lives are not brief meaningless things, but rather have a great importance and significance. All of us and each of us. [Alexander p 423.]

My second wife Majel Lee and I were both raised Protestant but well before ever meeting both left the Protestant Church in favor of non-sectarian beliefs which included respect for all other religions, but emphasizing the concept of God as too great and too encompassing to be explained and appreciated by any single system of belief. Upon meeting we found that both believed in the brotherhood of all life forms, human and otherwise. [Alexander p 422.]

As nearly as I can concentrate on the question today, I believe I am God; certainly you are, I think we intelligent beings on this planet are all a piece of God, are becoming God. [Sweeney, God &]

In some sort of cyclical non-time thing, we have to become God, so that we can end up creating ourselves, so that we can be in the first place. [Sweeney, God &]

WHAT IS PANTHEISM?

Pantheism is a metaphysical and religious position. Broadly defined it is the view that (1) "God is everything and everything is God ... the world is either identical with God or in some way a self-expression of his nature" (Owen 1971: 74). Similarly, it is the view that (2) everything that exists constitutes a "unity" and this all-inclusive unity is in some sense divine (MacIntyre 1967: 34). A slightly more specific definition is given by Owen (1971: 65) who says (3) "Pantheism' ... signifies the belief that every existing entity is, only one Being; and that all other forms of reality are either modes (or appearances) of it or identical with it." [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy]

CAN THESE RELIGIONS BE CONSIDERED PANTHEISTIC?

Buddhism

Hinduism

Christian Science

Mormonism

New Age

Unity

Scientology

Transcendental Meditation

Sci/Fi: Star Wars, Star Trek, etc.

Others??

In general, what do pantheistic religions have to say about Jesus?

What is appealing about pantheism?

Is there a connection between pantheism and humanisms?

References

David Alexander, *Star Trek Creator Roc*, New York, 1994.

Terrance Sweeney, *God &*, Winston Press, Minneapolis, 1985.

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pantheism/>

