

Question

I had a spirituality question for you. What are your beliefs on group thought vs individual? It seems there are a lot of spiritual groups that are formed on group thought and I'm trying to understand why.

In this world almost everyone has LDS (Love Deprivation Syndrome) so we are emotionally crippled to some degree. This isn't anybody's fault. It is epigenetic (behavior patterns passed down through family lines), trained in schools and early life in general and intensely embedded in the current world culture.

Because of this our emotions are tied up in defenses and attachments to material stuff or people whom we believe will provide us with a feeling of completion. That means our emotional blocks (fears and attachments) are the loudest feelings we experience and more subtler feelings, those from the heart — aspects of Love that are manifestations of spiritual reality, the root of all existence — are drowned out. As a result, people who are inclined toward spiritual awakening tend to be illuminated first in the Mind. It is a bootstrapping process. The mind is the intermediary energy phase between material and spiritual.

Those are very real experiences (light-bulb going off - inspiration - a spiritual experience) but that means we are working in the realm of mind, in the ideas about spirit, and tend to become emotionally attached to the concepts precisely because they have been illuminating. People group together to reinforce those sets of ideas they hold in common and for comfort of the emotional security found in a group. Frankly it is the same with any religion of the mind. Look at most established religions. The catechism is incredibly important... Do you believe? You believe ideas. You experience Love.

Spiritual experience is unique and individual although among all humans as a group there are more similarities than differences. Think of computer operating systems. We really have two mainstream ones. Someone from Mars wouldn't be able to discern much difference between Windows and the Mac OS. However, every computer is modified by personal choice and usage until it is one-of-a-kind. As we grow in spiritual reality our experiences are unique and we also learn to appreciate the different perspectives that other people offer without having to defend 'our own'.

It is my belief that we all come from a single source and are individuated to provide the realization of potentials through experience. Thus, the Source (God, Infinite Love whatever) breaks the bonds of an infinite perfection and actually expands the experiential reality of the Creator beyond the previous limitations of that original state. Imagine that. Cosmic!