

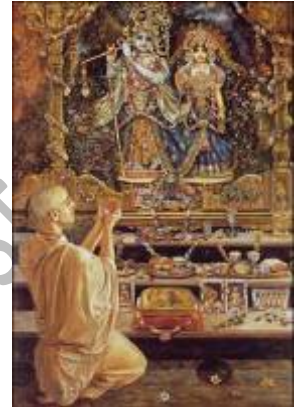
The Spiritual Scientist

An ezine for those who think!

Is God Made In The Image Of Man?

Question: In most temples, we see God depicted in a human form. Isn't this a result of anthropomorphic imagination; because we are humans, we imagine God to have a human form?

Answer: If we think deeply, this idea itself arises due to our self-centered thinking, due to our placing ourselves at the center of things. We think that because we have a humanlike form, we have conceived of God as humanlike. But could the reverse not be true? What if God originally had a form and our present human form was modeled according to that original form of God?



The scriptures of the great religions of the world repeatedly refer to God in a personal, humanlike way. For example, the Bible talks about "under His feet" (Exodus 24:10); "inscribed with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18); "the hand of the Lord" (Exodus 9:3); "the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 38:7); "the ears of the Lord" (Numbers 11:1). Ezekiel (1:26) describes God as having "the semblance of a human form." Such phrases permeate the biblical literature.

And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under **his feet** as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness

When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by **the finger of God**

Behold, **the hand of the LORD** is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain

Above the expanse over their heads was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was **a figure like that of a man**

Similarly, in the Quran, there are references to "the face of your Lord" (055:027), "under My eye" (020:039), "under our eyes" (052:048) & (054:014), "the hand of Allah" (048:010), (038:075) & (039:067)

And **the Face of your Lord** full of Majesty and Honour will abide forever.

That she should cast him in the basket, and cast the basket in the sea, so the sea will place him on the shore, where an enemy of Mine and his will take him. And I placed upon you a love from Me and that you shall be raised under **My eye**.

So wait patiently (O Muhammad SAW) for the Decision of your Lord, for verily, you are **under Our Eyes**, and glorify the Praises of your Lord when you get up from sleep.



They made not a just estimate of Allah such as is due to Him. And on the Day of Resurrection the whole of the earth will be grasped by **His Hand** and the heavens will be rolled up in **His Right Hand**. Glorified is He, and High is He above all that they associate as partners with Him!

Verily, those who give Baia (pledge) to you (O Muhammad SAW) they are giving Baia (pledge) to Allah. **The Hand of Allah** is over their hands. Then whosoever breaks his pledge, breaks only to his own harm, and whosoever fulfills what he has covenanted with Allah, He will bestow on him a great reward.

Now some people may claim that these references are metaphorical, but isn't that a human projection on the word of God? Aren't we imposing our interpretation on the self-evident statements of scriptures? Further, even if we grant that such references are metaphorical, why would the scriptures repeatedly and consistently present God as having a humanlike form if in reality He didn't have one? Wouldn't that be a dangerous and misleading metaphor? Instead of audaciously claiming that the scriptures are presenting a misleading metaphor, isn't it humbler, safer and more logical to infer that it is our preconceptions, which are misleading and which need to be corrected by the words of scripture?

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them

Further, there is the classic and clear statement in the Bible: "Man is made in the image of God." In which scripture is it said that God is made in the image of man? Nowhere. So the correct understanding is not that God's form is anthropomorphic, but that man's form is theomorphic.

The Vedic scriptures reiterate and expand this understanding by revealing God's form as a bluish-black, cowherd boy, adorned with a peacock feather, playing a flute. When our hearts are attracted to Krishna's form, then we will no longer be tormented by insatiable attractions to the temporarily-good-looking forms of this world, but will become fully satisfied by relishing Krishna's everlasting beauty.



OR

