

Mysticism and Mechanism: Mankind's Dead Ends

By Michael Mannion

“Both the mechanist and the mystic stand inside the limits and conceptual laws of a civilization which is ruled by a murderous mixture of machines and gods...They cannot grasp the basic problems of this civilization because their thinking and philosophy correspond exactly to the condition they project and continue to reproduce. In order to realize the power of mysticism, one has only to think of the murderous conflict between Hindus and Muslims at the time India was divided. To comprehend what mechanistic civilization means, think of the 'age of the atom bomb.'”

—Wilhelm Reich, *Ether, God and Devil* (1949)

From his 1923 paper entitled “On the Energy of Drives,” to *Contact with Space* (1957) his last work, the physician-scientist Wilhelm Reich followed the life energy wherever it led him. And the energy led Reich from the secrets of human character structure to the mysteries of the cosmos. Over the course of his investigations, Reich found himself, time and again, outside the limits of human thinking, that is, outside of the mechanistic and mystical ways of thinking that characterize our culture worldwide.

Reich learned through hard, practical work that both mystical and mechanistic thinking were inadequate tools for the study of the life energy, which follows its own laws. The functioning of the life energy transcends the artificial divisions of the intellectual disciplines that mankind has created out of its own rigidity of mind and body.

It is critical to understand that *the phenomena that we seek to understand are neither mechanistic nor mystical*. It is our approach to these phenomena that are either mechanistic or mystical. Many people confuse the nature of the phenomena with the nature of the way of knowing that is employed in an attempt to comprehend these realities.

For over 50 years, the UFO-ET phenomenon has manifested itself in our world. It remains as much of an enigma today as it was a half-century ago. Among those who take this phenomenon seriously, there are a wide range of opinions and views. Many assume that inscrutable extraterrestrials are deceiving human beings in one way or another. Others believe that the phenomenon is so “alien” to us that we cannot understand it. Still others assert that the ETs are communicating with us through a variety of subjective, anomalous approaches. And some think that the entities are so advanced that we can no more comprehend them than a worm can comprehend us.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, perhaps the fault lies not in our friends from the stars but in our armored, rigid character structures. The UFO-ET phenomenon may be inaccessible, not because it is so advanced, complex or purposely veiled in secrecy (of both alien and human origin), but because we are unable to see it. Our character structures and mindset prevent

us from seeing what is right before our eyes, not because it is hidden, but because we lack the capacity to perceive a reality outside of the limits of our civilization.

Our history is littered with painful examples of simple truths that were plain to see but to which countless generations were blind. The men and women who brought these truths into the clear light usually suffered and perished at the hands of their fellow human beings in one way or another. Socrates, Jesus, Bruno, millions of nature-loving wise women of many ages...choose your martyr.

Neither the mystical mind nor the mechanistic mind will unravel the enigma referred to as the UFO-ET phenomenon. Neither way of thinking can grasp the essential nature of this phenomenon. The mystical mind sees something "beyond" or in "another dimension" or from a "spiritual plane." The mystical mind posits a spiritual purpose or meaning to the phenomenon, either intuited by individuals or communicated directly by the entities. Many men and women deliver to the public a wide range of teachings, said to be from the non-human intelligences, through books, lectures and videotapes or audiotapes.

The mechanistic mind, in general, dismisses the phenomenon as hoaxes or delusions and derides those who take it seriously. However, credible people have sightings and images of UFOs are captured on radar, still and motion picture film, videotape, and digital cameras. These images are the subject of scientific study. Scientists also analyze the traces of the physical effects of UFOs at landing sites, such as alterations in soil composition, the biochemistry of vegetation and local changes in radiation levels. In addition, individuals and groups of humans on all five continents bear witness and offer testimony to sightings of craft, the validity of physical evidence, and give details of their interactions with the beings themselves.

Yet, we are no closer to understanding the mystery than we were 50, 500 or 5000 years ago. Why? Because the phenomenon itself is outside of our ways of thinking and knowing.

There is a story told about Magellan and the inhabitants of Tierra del Fuego that is relevant here, whether it is apocryphal or actually occurred. It seems that the Fuegians were unable to see Magellan's ships anchored in the bay. Despite their huge size, they were invisible to the indigenous people-at first. Their shamans, however, did see the ships and, over time, were able to help the people see them as well. They taught the people how to see a reality that was far beyond the limits of their experience and thinking. Don't we have our own "shamans" who are trying to help us see what is right before our eyes? Will we learn to see before it is too late? And it is late now.

Today, our lives are in immediate danger from the many destructive consequences of our mechanistic-mystical character structure and social structures. The most perfect illustration of the fatal combination of physics and metaphysics are the recent "spiritual atomic bombs," the so-called Islamic Bomb, Jewish Bomb, Hindu Bomb, and Muslim Bomb. These mechanistic-mystical scientific atrocities now join the "nationalistic ideological atomic bombs" possessed by the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China.

In the quote from Reich at the start of this article, he mentioned two separate examples to show the destructive power of both mechanistic science and mystical thinking. Today, these two destructive systems of thought are combined in one terrible weapon.

Few Americans are aware that the United States and Russia remain at “hair trigger” nuclear alert levels 10 years after the demise of the Soviet Union. Fewer ask why. This poses as great a threat to life on earth as that from the use of atomic weapons by India and Pakistan; Israel and one of its enemies; or the bogeyman of rogue nations that has replaced the bogeyman of Communism.

Throughout the “modern era” of the UFO-ET phenomenon (1947 to the present), nearly 50 percent of sightings are at or around civilian and military atomic installations. This is no coincidence. The non-human intelligences appear to be more concerned with the threat to life on earth from our nuclear activities than most of us are. Locked in our own mechanistic and mystical prisons—in which we are both the jailers and the jailed—we sit under myriad Swords of Damocles, fashioned by our own hands, desperately burying our heads in the sand while singing our own praises to the sky.

Mysticism and mechanism will kill us all. Is there any hope of finding a new way of knowing and being before it is too late?