

Peeking Behind the Veil

**Some Random Thoughts on How Religion Helps
Shape Our Experience of Reality**

Fred Grewe, DMin

*“We are made not merely
of flesh and blood, but
of stories ...”*

African Proverb

5 Elements of Our Life Narrative





Rabia al-Basri

"Since no one really knows anything about God, those who think they do are just troublemakers."

Religions Provide Answers to the Big Four Existential Questions

Who Am I?

Why Am I Alive?

What Does It All Mean?

How Should I Live?

Religions help shape
our shared meta-
narrative.

And those who don't
share it are exiled,
excommunicated or
exterminated.



religare "to bind fast,"
"place an obligation
on," or "bond between
humans and gods."

The big religious and political fight today is between an exclusive vs. inclusive meta-narrative.

*“How many centuries is
it, since a great
religion shook the
world?”*

André Malraux





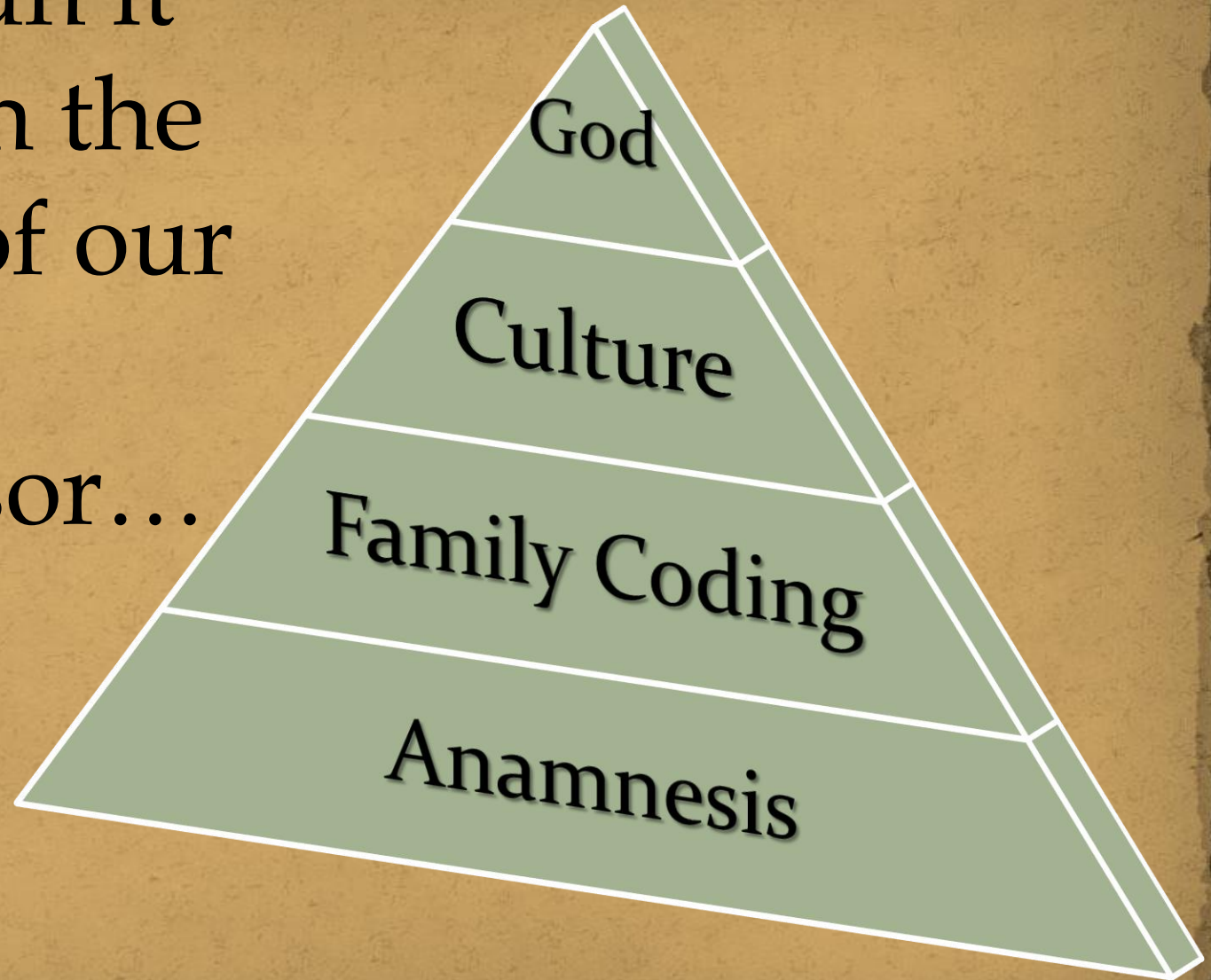
**Our Default
Operating
System**



We
experience
Something
with our
senses ...



Then run it
through the
prism of our
data
processor...



... and call
that
REALITY

Some Difficulties ...



Humans can see frequencies from **430-790 THZ** and perceive sound between **20 HZ-20 KHZ**. These ranges are just a tiny portion of the **entire spectrum** of light and sound — meaning much of what exists is entirely **invisible to us**.

Hashem Al-ghalli / Science Natu

Some Difficulties ...

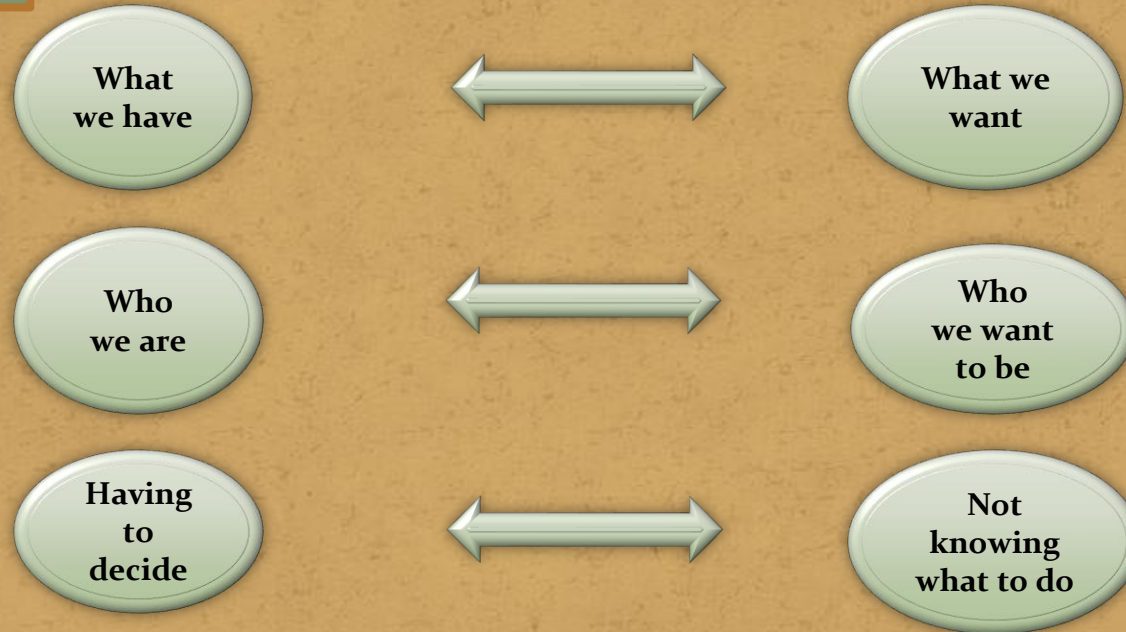
Our perception of Reality is also influenced by our *past* and our *future* ... **BUT** the past lives only in our memory, the future lives only in our imagination. Therefore, only this present moment is real.

Some Difficulties ...

THE HUMAN CONDITION

Data

God



Peter Rollins
Embracing the Absurd, 2016

Some Difficulties ...

The eternal tension between
Control and Chaos.



T.S. Eliot

At the still point of the turning world.
Neither flesh nor fleshless;
Neither from nor towards;
at the still point, there the dance is,
But neither arrest nor movement.
And do not call it fixity,
Where past and future are gathered.
Neither movement from nor towards,
Neither ascent nor decline.
Except for the point, the still point,
There would be no dance,
and there is only the dance.

Some Closing Questions

Is there more
than One Reality?

Is Reality fixed or
static, or is it in
process?

How much of
what we think is
Reality is simply
shared illusion?

Who am I?

bones, fluid, and skin
infused with energy all
else is a story



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