Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh

I believe that the single most influential idea in history is that of the individual, the concept of “I,” a part of, while also independent of and consciously separate from, the universe as an entity.

Within this idea lies all of human consciousness itself.

Developing from this idea is the aspect of consciousness we may come to understand that that our idea of our individuality is also shared by others, by all conscious entities- leading us explore the concept of consciousness itself, a topic for another time.

The concept of “I” is intentionally limiting. In that the individual is an independent entity within universal being, “I” exists within the limited understanding of space and time. As such, “I” conceives of these entities, space and time, as having meaning particularly as they relate to the individual being present within them. The before, in relation to the individual, while knowable through recorded and communicated histories, have meaning and importance in how they apply to the individual’s experience in the present. In the present, the individual may track its experiences and apply meaning to them. And the future, of course, is entirely speculative. The individual can project that it will exist in a limited future, while also applying learned understanding that there will come a time when it is no longer a part of the universe. Or, at least, a part of the universe as it is now experiencing it.

“I will be that I will be,” put into the mouth of an anthropomorphized Being representing Universal truth, implies that God itself shares this idea of individual consciousness, separate from yet existing in relationship to all of Creation. A rather emboldening idea, and one indicative of the importance of the concept as it allows for the concept of Supreme Being existing in a way that the individual might have a relationship to it, while remaining independent from it. This allows agency on both aspects, and gives meaning and even nobility to the individual.

From this, the individual finds impetus to pursue existence in a manner of individual meaning. And, in turn, this gives life itself purpose, giving rise to all other ideas.

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