

## Hollywood vs. Holy Word

Dr. Steve Kumar

Most of us are familiar with Harrison Ford, the Hollywood Academy Award winner, famous for his movie *Indian Jones and the Lost Ark*. Ford gave an interview recently that captured my attention. Like many movie stars in Hollywood Harrison Ford promotes a new ideology. The actor states “I didn’t have any religious beliefs, but I think nature and God are the same thing.” Sounds profound but if we think logically the notion has serious implications. As one thinker once said, “It’s a beautiful theory but ruined by a brutal gang of facts.” Ford is presenting a view technically called Pantheism. Although Pantheism is new in Hollywood it came to America through the efforts of Madam Blavatsky, a Russian mystic, and was popularized by D T Suzuki, Alan Watts, Joseph Campbell, Meister Eckhart, Shirley MacLaine, and others. They say in Paris, “Philosophers are celebrities but in America celebrities are philosophers.”

Pantheism comes from the Greek word *pan* meaning all. *Theo* is Greek for God. Pan • theism = All is God. Pantheism may sound fun mentally but it’s not fundamentally sound. The serious flaw with pantheism is the notion that God is all. But if God is all then I am God but I am not God. Shouldn’t God be aware of his own divinity? We have a problem. A God who is unaware of his divinity? A God who is ignorant? A God who can’t remember? A God who suffers from Cosmic Amnesia? A weak God? In reality, pantheism is semantic Atheism. Calling yourself God doesn’t make you so.

Abraham Lincoln once asked his political leaders, “If you call a cow’s tail a leg, how many legs does a cow have?” They answered, “Five.” He responded, “No! It’s 4. Calling a tail a leg doesn’t make it one.” In the same sense calling the universe God doesn’t make it so. A rose by another name is still the same.

A second problem with pantheism is the moral dilemma. Dostoyevsky argues that if there is no God all things are permitted but if all is God everything is permitted. As Charles Manson said, “If all is good what is bad?”

If God is all then all is good, there is no evil. Pantheism elevates man to the highest moral pinnacle. When man is God he can do no wrong. Imagine

standing before Hitler and proclaiming Pantheism - "You are God." Pantheism is a romantic dream grounded in a delusion. Shirley MacLean in her movie, *Out On A Limb*, stands on Malibu beach with her spiritual Guru arms stretched to heaven shouting, "I am God, I am God, I am God." Einstein was right, two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity but he was not sure about the universe.

Lastly, the Pantheistic God is helpless, impersonal, nonrational, and mechanistic. The pantheistic God has no separate existence from the world. The God of pantheism is the tree that falls, the bush that burns, and the tornado that blows away your property. He will not redeem your soul, transform your heart, and make you whole. He does not exist to hear our prayers.

The Pantheistic God is so vague that when you pray all you can say is, "To Whom it may concern." The Bible states "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but has everlasting life" (Jn 3:16).

There is a big difference between Hollywood and the Holy Word