

It's All Made Up Anyway

By Morri Namasté

Human beings are quite adept at being able to make things up to suit their own purposes. This might involve crafting a particular view of reality and selling it as truth. Religious and political/economic organizations are really good at this. But they are not alone, although they are the masters of disorientation. It is the exact opposite of critical thinking.

There are many models devoted to the dynamics of critical thinking and one might suggest that these models are open to the same scrutiny as other dogmas. But that would be inaccurate as all of these models contain a feedback loop bringing everything into question. Religious and political/economic entities do not do that.

Our society being based on such views result in mostly illusions of change. They throw us dogs a bone from time to time but nothing really changes. We repeat the same old conflicts and indictments while the power brokers sit in one of their many homes and scheme as to how to make more money. It does seem a bit odd that the more money a person makes the more money they need to make.

Critical thinking involves being aware of ones' biases and viewpoints. One must learn to observe without judgement and when presented with new information one must be prepared to revise conclusions. It's a never-ending process. It is sometimes called scientific inquiry and those who prefer dogmatic viewpoints are threatened by this so it must be defeated. Staunch believers in such things, be they religious or political/economic pundits, or some combination of the two utilize fear and loathing as their primary weapons. "You'll go to hell. The hell with tyrants. Socialism is the devil. Freedom means having a gun."

Depending on your religious views, God wants you to give your money to the poor, give it to the church, give it to yourself because God wants you to be rich, or whatever else. It's all self-serving. To be able to think through these messages from institutions held dear and to come up with some kind of personal philosophy is really quite daunting.

We do not teach critical thinking in our schools. Neither do the Taliban, by the way. We teach adherence to certain ideas of patriotism, and if you went to a religious school, you were indoctrinated to religious dogma. So how many modes of thought can a person handle at any given point in time? Well, not many. So, let's combine them. Separation of church and state...not really true so let's stop pretending. God obviously wants everyone to be a Christian American...wait, but what kind of Christian? There seem to be so many. So, let's just focus on celebrating war and guns, ...yeah, we can all get behind that. Maybe. Maybe not. What do you think?