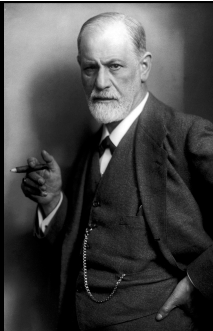


HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Sigmund Freud
Father of Psychoanalysis

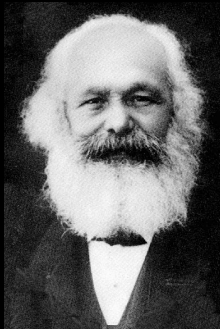
Meaning comes from within.
Objective → Subjective Truth



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Karl Marx
The Communist Manifesto

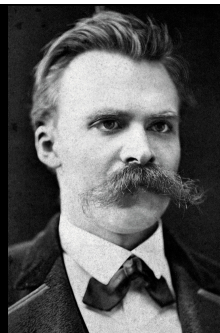
Rejected ideology and
metanarrative; laid the foundation
for a hermeneutic of suspicion.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Friedrich Nietzsche
"God is dead."


Death of God = Death of morals.
If there is no God there are no
morals.

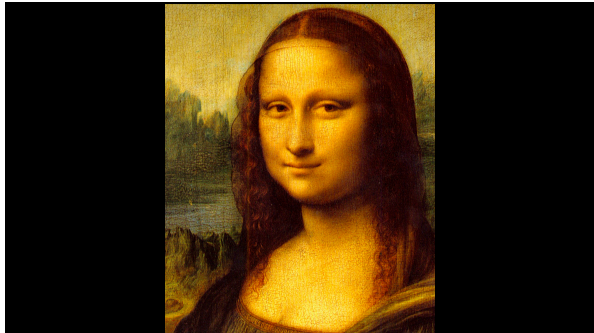


HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Roland Barthes
"Death of the author."

The reader / observer / individual
decides truth.
NO AUTHOR.

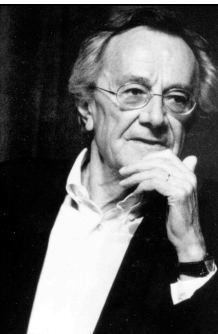




HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Jean François Lyotard
"Death of the metanarrative."

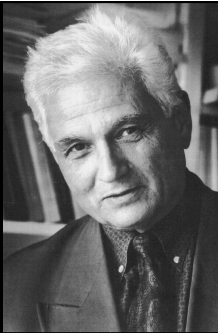
There is no story.
NO MESSAGE.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Jacques Derrida
"Death of the text."

There is no single text, but
thousands of readings of any text.
NO TEXT.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?


NO AUTHOR.
NO MESSAGE.
NO TEXT.

NO MEANING = NO TRUTH.



IS THERE TRUTH?

1. Truth cannot originate within an independent individual.
 - Nietzsche takes God out.
 - Lyotard takes the story and message away.
 - Derrida takes the text away.
 - Barthes leaves it up to each person to decide what is true.



IS THERE TRUTH?

1. Truth cannot originate within an independent individual.
2. Truth is not an independent standard. It is, by nature, tied to God.
 - "The word of the Lord is right and true. . ." (Ps 33:4; 19:7-9; 119:142, 151, 160)
 - "... in the eyes of the Lord."

IS THERE TRUTH?

1. Truth cannot originate within an independent individual.
2. Truth is not an independent standard. It is, by nature, tied to God.
3. Truth is a person, not a Platonic "ideal."
 - "I am . . . the truth." (Jn 14:6)

EPISTEMOLOGY DEFINED . . .

Epistemology is the study or a theory of the nature and grounds of knowledge.

Merriam-Webster

INFLUENCES ON KNOWLEDGE

1. Culture.
2. Spiritual powers (the Spirit vs. the world, the flesh & the Enemy (Eph 2:1-3)).
3. Physiological disposition.
4. Personal background / history.

SOURCES OF AUTHORITY

1. Scripture
2. Tradition
3. Reason
4. Experience
5. Emotion

AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

Strength: Scripture is the final authority for Christian faith and practice.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

Strength: Scripture is the final authority for Christian faith and practice.

Danger: Isolated hermeneutic. Mistaking emotion for Scripture.



AUTHORITY OF TRADITION

Strength: Provides a stream of orthodoxy and established parameters.

Danger: Placing tradition on the same authoritative level as Scripture.

"Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence . . . Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single sacred deposit of the Word of God."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 82, 97

AUTHORITY OF REASON

Strength: When ordered under God, provides the framework for piecing together reality.

Danger: Reason without God (naturalism). Regarding reason as the chief source and test of knowledge.

cogito ergo sum, "I think therefore I am."

René Descartes

AUTHORITY OF REASON

“If the solar system was brought about by an accidental collision, then the appearance of organic life on this planet was also an accident, and the whole evolution of Man was an accident too. If so, then all our present thoughts are mere accidents - the accidental by-product of the movement of atoms. And this holds for the thoughts of the materialists and astronomers as well as for anyone else’s . . .”

AUTHORITY OF REASON

“But if their thoughts - i.e. of materialism and astronomy - are merely accidental by-products, why should we believe them to be true? I see no reason for believing that one accident should be able to give me a correct account of all the other accidents. It’s like expecting that the accidental shape taken by the splash when you upset a milk jug should give you a correct account of how the jug was made and why it was upset . . .”

AUTHORITY OF REASON

“If naturalism were true then all thoughts whatever would be wholly the result of irrational causes. Therefore, all thoughts would be equally worthless. Therefore, naturalism is worthless. If it is true, then we can know no truths. It cuts its own throat.”

C. S. Lewis

AUTHORITY OF EXPERIENCE

Strength: When Scripture is integrated with the Spirit's work in real life, experience can be a vehicle to grow in the knowledge of God.

"We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God . . ."

Colossians 1:9-10

AUTHORITY OF EXPERIENCE

Strength: When Scripture is integrated with the Spirit's work in real life, experience can be a vehicle to grow in the knowledge of God.

Danger: Empiricism. Believing that all knowledge originates in experience.

AUTHORITY OF EMOTION

Strength: When ordered under God, can serve as an integral aspect of knowing God and can instigate and drive appropriate action.


Danger: Emotionalism. Believing emotion is the most reliable basis for interpreting reality and making decisions . . . i.e., "Do what feels right to you," "Be true to yourself."



WHICH IS LOUDEST?

Scripture?

Emotion?



EXPERIENCE?

Reason?

Tradition?

Double Knowledge

“Grant, Lord, that I may know myself, that I may know you.”

Augustine

Double Knowledge

“Know yourself and you will have a wholesome fear of God. Know God and you will also love God. You must avoid both types of ignorance, because without fear and love, salvation is not possible. Without knowledge of self, we have no knowledge of God.”

Bernard of Clairvaux, *Sermon 37*

Double Knowledge

“Our soul is so deeply grounded in God and so endlessly treasured that we cannot come to knowledge of it until we first have knowledge of God . . . we can never come to the full knowledge of God until we first clearly know our own soul.”

Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*

Double Knowledge

“The knowledge of God and the knowledge of ourselves are bound together by a mutual tie.”

John Calvin, *Institutes*

Double Knowledge

“To know God and yet know nothing of our own wretched state breeds pride; to realize our misery and know nothing of God is mere despair; but if we come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ we find our true equilibrium, for there we find both human misery and God.”

Blaise Pascal, *Pensees* 525-27

Double Knowledge

“One wonders whether the perceived shallowness that seems to pervade much of the church today is in part due to our knowing many of the right answers, yet failing to integrate those answers into the reality of our daily lives. Somewhere along the way many Christians have abandoned this notion of a ‘double knowledge’ dynamic in the Christian life . . .

Double Knowledge

“There are many Christians floundering in their spiritual lives today because they have, in one form or another, failed to appreciate the interrelationship between knowledge of God and knowledge of self. Either they have falsely equated Christian maturity with a self-actualizing journey that ignores the horizon of God’s character and work, or they have reduced their ‘growing up into Christ’ into a heady exercise that equates biblical IQ with genuine sanctification.”

Reese and Loane, *Deep Mentoring*

