

REINSTATING THE TRUE NATURE OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS: ALDOUS HUXLEY AND THE *UPANISHADS*

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ABSTRACT

The Whole is all that,

The Whole is born out of the Whole

When the Whole is absorbed into the Whole

The Whole alone remains. (*Brihadaranyaka Upanishad*, 5.1)

There is only one story, a singular theme that runs through the entire modern literature. Broadly speaking it deals with the issue of what it considers as the crisis of consciousness. In an attempt to reinstate and enact the true nature of human consciousness, it often seeks to reach back to some original, more completed or coherent kind of thought unlike the modern epistemology. Searching for solution it digs deep into the most primitive and forgotten and brings something back in the process. "A completed thought" writes D H Lawrence, "was the plumbing of a depth, like a whirlpool, of emotional awareness, and at the depth of the whirlpool of emotion the resolve formed (44)". The modern thinkers lamented the fact that the man's arrogant mental consciousness getting the upper hand has set in motion a long process of misdirection which has culminated in the disaster of modern life. As a corrective measure, they felt the need to go back to the earliest civilizations where consciousness was an end in itself because "the old pagan process of rotary image thought" (Lawrence, 46) had the potential to create a way of being which fulfilled the individual and allowed him to exist at one with his fellows and his surroundings. There was no split between the subjective and the objective', an absence of which plagues the modern mankind.

KEYWORDS: True Nature, Human Consciousness