



**The One Who  
is... NOT**

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## Introduction

The first “rule” any junior manipulator has to learn in order to do his/her job well is: “*Truth and knowledge are unsellable goods.*” Or, more plainly: “*No one believes those who speak the truth.*”

So, if they want to get somebody to pay attention to what they are saying, if they wish to “save the lost souls”, win elections, or simply, make some money, they have to adjust themselves to the level of consciousness of not so intelligent majority, fill the truth and knowledge with mysticism, change them beyond recognition... In a sentence: to turn wisdom, quality, or whatever into bullshit. Finally, they wrap it in a shiny paper, put it on the market, and hope that nobody realizes that bullshit in a stylish package is still bullshit.

Not so long ago, while browsing the Internet, I stumbled upon a book titled *God is Nothingness: Awakening to Absolute Non-Being*. There were many favourable reviews. Guessing that it had something to do with Siddhārtha Gautama (Buddha) and his teaching, I started reading it. However, at page 3, I pressed the X button at the top right corner of the screen.

It took me less than a minute to see that the author of the book was/is a fraud – the Preface starts with the following sentence: “This is a book about Nothingness...” and then comes more than seventy pages of “somethingness”.

It was just another disappointing example of how a wonderful and unambiguous insight of one brilliant mind was turned into nonsense.

This “incident” was a trigger, but the real inspiration for the response in the form of *The One Who is... NOT* was a number of YouTube debates on God, afterlife, the origin of life... I have seen in the last couple of years. Most of them were

interesting, some of them were funny, but all of them were basically meaningless or useless.

Now, was it a too presumptuous thing to say? ...No, not at all. I will not get into detail now. That is what the book is about. For the moment, suffice it to say that I find it interesting (and this is an understatement) that the people who are watching or listening to these discussions fail to notice one particular thing: Essentially, there is no difference between participants of the debates. Or, to be fair, yes indeed, there is one major distinction – atheists are at least honest. But, the bottom line is this: What they do not know is exactly that what religious people do not know.

Let me explain by giving a sort of a “two-fold” example.

According to the latest statistics, about 85% of the world’s population are the people who enjoy reading stuff like this:

*“To continue in atheism, I would need to believe that nothing produces everything, non-life produces life, randomness produces fine-tuning, chaos produces information, unconsciousness produces consciousness, and non-reason produces reason. I simply didn’t have that much faith.”*

And, on the other hand, there are about 15% of those who will appreciate the following “counter-proclamation”:

*“To continue in theism, I would need to believe that God produces everything, God produces life, God produces fine tuning, God produces consciousness, and God produces reason... And I would still not have the slightest idea about anything.”*

Is it clear? Two sides of the same coin. And again, the only distinction is that the author of the first statement thinks his words are enormous intellectual achievement or the proof of wisdom.

But they are not – in order to be a believer (or non-believer), person has to be neither curious nor talented, neither educated nor intelligent... He or she just has to adopt some information without questioning.

It is even worse if you are an individual with an academic title or someone who considers himself/herself a scientist and says things like:

- “For believers, God is in the beginning, and for physicists He is at the end of all considerations... (Max Planck)

- “...at the bottom of the glass of natural sciences God is waiting for you.” (Werner Heisenberg)

Namely, even though your words sound well and appealing to religious people, and, for some vague reason, you are treated as indisputable authority on the subject, these sentences mean only one thing – your entire schooling, research, and invested effort were pointless, a waste of time. It turned out that you acquired a lot of information, made some discoveries, wrote a few books..., but, nevertheless, remained ignorant.

There is no difference between ordinary, blue-collar believers and physicists who “discover” a supernatural person or being called God at the end (?) of their quest.

...Or those who do not believe.

Anyway, the real issue here is not ignorance itself – if you do not know something, you admit it and stop talking, there is no harm done, nothing bad will happen.

Trouble arises when people start discussing things they know nothing about and yet strongly believe in what they are saying – convinced that they are right.

Trouble escalates when those who listen to such manipulators like their words and accept them as “true”. At that moment

ignorance converts into “knowledge” and is rarely questioned. Eventually, hardly anyone notices anything unusual or strange when someone starts explaining nothingness; describes red colour to a blind person; writes a poem about silence; gives an account of after death experience...

In brief, that is how, perfidiously and imperceptible, without any noteworthy resistance, *false knowledge* pervaded every sphere of human life (science included).

Mankind has mutated into a dull-witted species addicted to emotions and illusions.

Consequently, describing things which cannot be described, or which do not exist has become perfectly normal, and taking meaningless things and ideas seriously has been a mandatory part of upbringing and education for some time now.

So, as it happens, this book simply states the obvious – that “the emperor has no clothes” and, what’s more, he is not the only one.

It exposes all aspects of false knowledge, its source(s), and brings the old good news back: *it can be beaten* – the truth is attainable.

Yes, it is possible to know, or, more accurately, to reach the point from which any further search is non-productive, and words stop. ...Become irrelevant.

In order to know the truth, or anything else, all one has to do is to find out *what it is not*. There is no other effective way.

And, here is how it is done.



## **BREAKING THE SHELL**

What you are about to read is a modification of the actual correspondence which took place a year ago. Namely, I read an online paper which assessed the idea of immortality from religious and philosophical points of view and then left a short comment: “A lot of information, but no real knowledge – truly philosophical.” To my surprise, the author of the paper responded: “What is real knowledge? Do you know?”

I “took up the glove” and, at the end of a polite note, wrote: “...As for real knowledge, if you really want to know, let's start from this: tell me something about you – Who are YOU?”

And, this is roughly how the dialogue went on, until it was stopped by my interlocutor. (Of course, the names and other details have been changed.)

Who are you? What is your name?

- My name is Salman Keser.

What do those two words represent?

- Me..., I am Salman Keser.

OK, what or who else are you? Tell me more about yourself.

- Well, what do you mean: physically, metaphysically, or sociologically? Sociologically, I'm an assistant professor at Istanbul University and I live in Turkey. I am a Turk, a Muslim... a Trabzonspor football team fan... Physically, I'm a man consisting of body, blood, and some feeling. I feel pain when I am hurt, joy when everything is fine... Lastly, metaphysically, I am a man who is free, responsible, created by God from the spirit of God and protected by God, endowed with mind. I think, believe...

Good. All this is you, your Self or I?

- Yes. This is what makes me “man”. This individual, personal consciousness is the most important thing in our lives. And, since I (and most other people) believe in life after death, in death as well.

So, to sum up: Your “I” or “Self” consists of personal consciousness (identity, self-awareness), body, and that which is alive or conscious in “You”? Is it the “thing” called “the soul”?

- Yes, but the soul is bodiless by nature, immaterial, without any specific location. It is our personal being, which encompasses knowledge of our personality and its unity (which does not leave us from childhood to maturity).

OK, now think about this: Would that which is alive or conscious “in you”, which listens and hears, watches and sees – the “thing” you call “I”, or the soul – alter in any way if one day you, by your own will, changed your name and stopped being Salman Keser and became Vito Pavolini?

- No, it would not.

So, it seems that your name and surname do not represent/describe/define... that which is alive or conscious in you?

- Apparently.

Would that which is alive/conscious in you change in any way if you resigned from your position at the University and started working as a carpenter?

- No.

So, that which is alive or conscious in you has nothing to do with your title of Professor?

- Apparently.

And it will remain the same if you stopped being a Turk and a Muslim and became an Italian and a catholic?

- Hm. It will never happen. I do not like where this is going.

Interesting, “You” do not like it. Would that which is alive or conscious in you change in any way if “You” liked it?

- Let’s stop this “experiment”. I have much better things to do in my life.

\*

The result of the “experiment”:

In not more than five minutes the way of thinking (or “mental world”) of an average, normal person cracked and some alarming aspects appeared. All those high-sounding, “big” words from the beginning of this conversation became just useless groups of letters which did not serve their purpose.

It is unfortunate that Salman withdrew from the dialogue before the end. If he had continued with it, he would have found out many other things. For instance, that that which is alive or conscious in him really does not change if he stops being a Turk and a Muslim and becomes an Italian and a catholic, or even an atheist.

He would have realized that “I” stays the same even if a person starts supporting Galatasaray instead of Trabzonspor...

...That you can change opinions, beliefs, moods, convictions ... and “the essence of your being” always remains the same. You cannot measure it, define, or pin it down – whatever you think you are, you are not!

Salman would also have discovered that he is not free, exactly because “he” is a Muslim who has to obey the rules, traditions ..., to defend his religion if necessary. ...Because “he” is a

Turk – probably willing to die for his country or some other “higher” cause. ...Because “he” is responsible (i.e. tied to his family, party, community...) and, therefore, a slave – it makes no difference if it is by choice, voluntarily, or by force, involuntarily.

Simply put, you do not control religion – it controls you. You do not control national interests, or “your” family, they control you...

And, these are all indisputable, unbeatable facts. And, yes I know how odd (even insane) this must sound to somebody who has never thought about these things in this way. Or, to be precise, who has never thought about these things at all.

It is all different from, if not completely opposite to what you have heard, learned... in all these years since you were born. You do not like it, and you choose not to accept the reality (as most people have done over the ages), but it does not/cannot diminish the value or importance of the discovery. It does not make it incorrect. On the contrary, this discovery makes everything we know about ourselves incorrect.

It turned out that Salman, the same as 99...% of other human beings, has a lot of information about his “Self” but no real knowledge. Therefore, *every man who is talking about himself is just a fiction storyteller*. You may try arguing, or denying this, but it will only show that you are a stubborn, insincere person. It does not matter how good you are with words and how much you “know”, because here is another fact:

WHEN THE BASIS OF YOUR “KNOWLEDGE” IS WRONG, you can add as much information on it as you like, and develop your ideas and beliefs indefinitely, thinking that you know something, but ALL YOUR SUBSEQUENT LEARNING IS WRONG AS WELL. It is the sad, but irrefutable truth.
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Can you see, or rather, imagine the implications of this sentence?

In any case, by now, you should be able to acknowledge the following:

“I” is not Salman – Salman is just a label for the body.

“I” is not a Turk – the word Turk is just another label on the package.

“I” is not a professor – it is only a title which tells you what Salman does for living.

“I” is not angry – the body *feels* anger.

...

## MASTERS OF DISTORTION

*“All things are a mirage, a cloud castle, a dream, illusion, without essence...”* (Buddha)

\*

It may sound paradoxical, but it is not at all: in time people have gathered so much information but lost real knowledge. Most intellectuals, philosophers, scientists, and theologians did not know (and do not know) what they were (are) talking about. That is the main reason why we have so many different religions, religions within religions, philosophical schools, ideas, scientific theories... If those people had not understood everything one-sidedly, superficially, and wrongly, that would not have happened, would it?

*Diversity of religious thought is the finest proof that religious thought is not based on truth and knowledge.*

Only ignorance can sustain several (hundreds of) confronted “truths” at the same time.

So, how did it happen?

The majority of people have always learned about the world indirectly. At first, they listened to the stories and experiences of elders and travellers. After that, knowledge was obtained from books; and, finally, our teachers have become radio, television, the Internet... Even our knowledge about ourselves is largely a result of the same principle: we are told what we need to know and we think that is it.

Unlike most of us, the greatest minds of the world acquired their insights on their own, through practice, employing the existing information only as a lever which introduced them to the reality they personally experienced and understood. They described their findings by using terms and names, and that is

all right, or very helpful, from the aspects of communication, learning, science..., but they forgot to notify us that *the characteristics of terms/words are stillness and invariability*. Their usage breaks and stops reality which is always whole and in motion. Therefore, it is impossible to describe reality with words. Once you say: “a tree”, you have already replaced that what you are looking at with a term, a name, and that particular, individual tree in front of your eyes is lost in everything that the term “tree” signifies, or is supposed to represent. It still exists, it is still there, but only as a general term – we do not really see it any more.

By the same token, you can write a 200-page-long book about red colour, full of explanations, quotes, information... but it will be a complete waste of time and paper. All you have to do is show a picture. And, this is exactly why *you cannot describe red colour to a blind person*.

Words are just an indication, not the representation of reality. That is the starting point of any search for knowledge. Once a seeker learns that lesson, he can go on with the best compass in his hands. It is all about being able to use the tool perfectly, not about knowing the names of tool parts.

Acquired knowledge is kept and passed on in the form of languages, but it also disappears when we tightly hold on to words and meanings. This explains why people are constantly bored, and why our childish curiosity and wonder are inevitably replaced with the state of indifference in which we often remain for the rest of our lives. We talk, explain, and generalize but actually do not see, hear, know, live... The more we describe something, the vaguer picture we get. We think or are convinced that we know something, because we repeat some(one else's) words or sentences and follow certain rituals and traditions but, in fact, do not differ much from a parrot or a trained monkey which imitates what it sees.

The truth is, most of the stuff we learn in school or at home can help us live our everyday lives as an ordinary person, and, naturally, if we want to blend in (i.e. become a “distinguished member of society”) we have to think, or behave in a certain way, but if we really want to know something about life (as a natural phenomenon), consciousness, death, “god”... all that information we have gathered from books, other people... is of no use at all.

\*

*Teachings of the wise men from the past and religions that came later are not one and the same thing. Teachings are all about work, and religions are mostly make-up and acting.*



## PERSONAL / INDIVIDUAL / SELF CONSCIOUSNESS

*Only a man who thinks he knows everything about himself  
can have identity crisis.*

*If you are searching for your true self and are constantly  
bumping into this or that – keep on searching!*

\*

From now on, the phrase “that which is alive or conscious in us” will be frequently replaced by **I** or the “essence of our being”. The words “Self”, ego, “I” and similar expressions will be used for the “personal realm”.

However, a reader has to understand that **I** is not the right word. In fact, the “right” word **does not exist**. It is just the least wrong word.

\*

Everything you (think you) know about yourself you have learned in the course of your life. All those countless pieces of information spin around your name and your body. And, they are false! They do not define, describe, represent that which is alive or conscious in you.

Try to imagine and describe the beginning of your life after emerging from your mother’s body. ...Undoable. Because the second you start talking, you have to use words, names of organs, terms designating bodily reactions; and keep on saying “I”, “my”, “me”... But, you, a new-born baby, have no idea what you (a ... year-old-man/woman) are talking about. The baby watches and sees something, listens and hears some sounds, but there is no “I” or “Self” in its mind! ...Or words.

Still, in a few hours, new consciousness will irrepressibly start to evolve. The body is constantly exposed to all kinds of

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