

Intro - Without Spiritual Revolution we are unlikely to survive.

We all look for moments of ecstasy and rapture - when we become most human. Lifted beyond

XII - original Axial vision was radical - tended to purse itself be watered down by successors

XIII - Modern world - produced exactly the kind of religiosity the axial reformers were against.

No interest in doctrine, theology, false certainty

They pushed forward the boundaries of consciousness discovered transcendent dimension at the core of being

- but ineffable - Essential to question and test.

XIV - required change - effort was to create a new human being - real religion is Respect for the sacred lives of all beings.

The Catalyst of Real Religious Change was often all the violence they witnessed - looked within to find causes and found a new unexplored realm of human experience?

All found the compassionate ethic worked (Jews) - compassion ben evulence

XV - usually had a main god, AND "experienced the sacred as an pre Axial Age

immanent presence in the world around them - Animal sacrifice - Almost universal religious practice in the ancient world.

Everything was abshadow of the divine, Sacred world was more real, & they wanted to participate - and be more real.

Perennial Philosophy - That all here is a pale shadow of a divine reality or immanence. That All is Sacred. There is another reality that is more real - > behind this one

AND NOW - we have abandoned the perennial philosophy

XVI Axial Sages - taught people to seek the divine - archetypical within

XVII India - Always in the vanguard of Axial progress

(Greeks) - went in different direction from the start

6 Aryans - made sacrifices and drank Soma - which seemed to lift them to another dimension of being.

- Benefit of Religion was purely this worldly - material

For Zoroaster - but God became NOT immanent

10 - Because of the raiding - Split Gods into good and evil - & they will fight - & Apocalypse - Dualistic Heavy/Kee
Also - Ahriman Mazda - had monotheistic tendencies

11 Zoroaster was of the old world - but he tried to introduce some morality.

2 - introduced "The Force" - the holy warrior was dedicated to peace.

45 Yaweh - was a god of WAR

48 - only a small minority of Jews of Hebrews Wanted to Worship Yaweh alone.

70 Chinese would never be interested in a god who

transcended the natural order - gotta find it

82 - In the Soma Sacrifice the patron experienced

a second birth.

84 Revolutionary Suggestion - If you knew all the rituals

than solitary meditation could do as much good.

- Aryans pioneered exploration of internal world with same effectiveness as being raiders. A Conscious Reformation

86 - Self Abandonment - part of all new Axial Reforms

87 Hebrew Prophets were NOT mystics - No Enlightenment? within. - Smacked by a power from outside.

89 - Amos - First Prophet - Told Israel Yaweh would

smash them for the way they treated the poor

Said the rituals were crap - he wanted Justice

the spirituality of self surrender - at the heart of the Axial ideals.

90 Amos & Hosea a whole new dimension - Ethical

Ritual - Encourage Abandonment of egotism.

113 No Greek god was totally good - or cared about morality.

120 - India - there came to be "renouncers" of individual pleasures - Who often returned to the nomadic lifestyle.

123 Renouncers - Achieved internalization of religion - one of the

Axial Age Hallmarks.

126 - The Upanishads - Turned within - Significance wasn't

the ritual - it was your understanding

130 India - For first time people exploring systematically the levels of

consciousness

131 - They would discover within themselves the means of

rising above the world - Not in ritual

142 Hesiod - in Greece - said social justice brought one closer to the gods. So Anti Woman - Pandora.

Pandora - First Woman - was "Beautiful Evil"

In Golden Age - No Gender Division (When Humans mixed with Gods) → With Womanhood came sickness and all Evil.

145 - Greeks - Needed (strong willed) farmers and soldiers
Fought as a Phalanx a team, Individual glory became anachronistic

159 Jews - Guy who forged "Discovers" The Book of Laws
→ Deuteronomy - Tightened up Yaweh worship

160 - 2nd - When he finds the true laws - he first goes off to consult the prophetess?
ALSO BY KAREN ARMSTRONG

162 - Deuteronomists, allowed secular meat & secular judges
took away Kings power
Through the Narrow Gate: A Memoir of Life In and Out of the Convent

Josiah was crucial to the Deuteronomists.
Went along with it.
The First Christian: St. Paul's Impact on Christianity

They wrote new books for the bible and shaped it up
according to their needs.
Tongues of Fire: An Anthology of Religious and Poetic Experience

Central Authority Only Voice secular sphere
Holy War: The Crusades and Their Impact on Today's World

163 Arthur tightened up theologically - Deuteronomists insisted
on justice, kindness, compassion.
The English Mystics of the Fourteenth Century

D. - They made Judism the religion of the Book
History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

166 AND - At the time - None of Josiah's reforms survived
his death in battle
Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths

167 - In the Jewish Noble's deportation to Babylon
That their Axial Age? began?
In the Beginning: A New Interpretation of Genesis

180 - in Exile P took over - wrote Genesis & much else
laid out rules to keep Jews together in exile
Islam: A Short History

① live apart from other peoples ② keep the natural world
at a distance. A
The Spirit of the World

Athens - Solon - was chosen as arbitrator of major dispute.
Said it was not gods retribution. Peoples selfishness had caused
the problems and only real diplomatic effort could solve it.

→ He Desacralized Politics
A Short History of Myth

186 - Talks of Etruscan Mysteries - Afterward
"They did not fear death in the same way Agamemnon"

Did not mention the Potion
expansiveness

198 - Slowing of Breathing - Also Produce Calm Harmony
Equanimity

198 Nothing Supernatural about Yoga - developed
by atheist theology - aim to perfect natural capacities

202 - Confucius - all "Axial" philosophers - profoundly
alienated from their time

205 - Like Buddha - Confucius - not interested in meta
physics and discouraged theological chatter - Brought
Rel. of China down to earth. Concern was not heaven but

THE GREAT
"Ego Principle" - was TRANSFORMATION "The WAY"
Selfishness - was source of pettiness & Cruelty.

207 - In order to enlarge oneself one should enlarge
others

Confucius - firmly established Golden Rule - Do unto
others - 50 - No Prince would attack others...

248 - Claims 3 Big Sky God sons of Abraham developed faith
based on the golden rule? Q Did They? - Islamists today?

253 - Sophists - tried to clean things up - No Supreme god or supernatural
Person had to rely on their own judgement.

265 Socrates - Chose to die as a witness to untruth
witness =

Socrates - was about goodness - and discussing goodness
In death - Chose to enjoy a serenity that transcended
his circumstances.

276 - Buddha - and me - rely on your own insights - Never take
Any doctrine on Faith or Second Hand - Follow teachings only
if they tally with your own experience.

285 Talk of God or Religion Not Useful - in quest for holiness - do
not lead to peace.

283 - got Enlightenment - 45 years before he died.

287 Luminaries of Axial age became role models / how to live

288 - Like Entheogens - Buddha revealed a new potential
within human nature - he was "awake"

300 When we try to hold on to our selves we are alienated from
The Great Transformation

298 The Great Knowledge - a mysterious, numinous unity - may
be found after we forget about doctrines and theories.

303 - A sage could not bear to see other people suffering

329 - Aristotle accepted Plato's Cosmic religion - A real set

up for Xianzi - they took from Plato
Aristotle knew that the initiates who took part in the
Mysteries - were not seeking facts - but "to experience certain
emotions and to be put in a certain disposition."

330 Aristotle had set the ~~world~~ west on its scientific
bent - cause Another Revolution 2000 yrs. later

347 - to one who honors the world as his self the world
may be entrusted.

379 "What is hateful to yourself do not do to your
fellow man" - is the Torah? - what crap - it is
rules and killing.

382 - Jews were prohibited from saying God's name.

Axial (perennial?) principle - That ultimate
reality is transcendent and ineffable.

390 None are perfect - but Axial Rel goals are
sympathy, respect, and universal concern.

391 - To methodically cultivate a Different mind set
(from the "fight or flee") we experience a different
state of consciousness.

395 When leaders confronted aggression in their own
traditions, they worked vigorously to change their
religion.

398 Displacing the "self" from the center of our
religious world view demands effort.

399 We must go in search of the "lost heart" - the
spirit of compassion that lies at the core of all
our traditions.