Q: Me (Answered, 9 Comments)

Question

Subject: **Me**
Category: Relationships and Society > Cultures
Asked by: **grey-ga**
List Price: $10.00

Posted: 18 Apr 2002 19:02 PDT
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Question ID: 1123

Who am I?

Answer

Subject: **Re: Me**
Answered By: **drdavid-ga** on 18 Apr 2002 20:57 PDT

The Comment posted by "blader" gives the easy answer: you are who you say you are. If you say you are "grey," then you are "grey." But I think you aren't looking for the easy answer, or you wouldn't be asking! Of course, I also know that you are only "grey" for the convenience of anonymity on Google Answers. Perhaps you want to know whether I can divine other name(s) you go by, whether by psychic ability, a knack at hacking into Google servers or personal connections with the software gurus who manage the Google Answers nickname system. I won't touch that one!

A Google search on:

"who am I"

turns up a lot of interesting references that may help you with your search for identity.

For example, the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi (a Hindu spiritual leader from the early 20th century who lived in a cave) are quoted at length at a website devoted to his teachings:

http://www.ramana-maharshi.org/whoamib.htm

The text is translated from the original Tamil ("Who am I" is "Nan Yar?" in Tamil). I quote the first two of 28 points in his essay:

"1 . Who am I ?
The gross body which is composed of the seven humours (dhatus), I am not; the five cognitive sense organs, viz. the senses of hearing, touch, sight, taste, and smell, which apprehend their respective objects, viz. sound, touch, colour, taste, and odour, I am not; the five cognitive sense-organs, viz. the organs of speech, locomotion, grasping, excretion, and procreation, which have as their respective functions speaking, moving, grasping, excreting, and enjoying, I am not; the five vital airs, prana, etc., which perform respectively the five functions of in-breathing, etc., I am not; even the mind which thinks, I am not; the nescience too, which is endowed only with the residual impressions of objects, and in which there are no objects and no functioning's, I am not.

2. If I am none of these, then who am I?
After negating all of the above-mentioned as 'not this', 'not this', that Awareness which alone remains - that I am."

You can follow the rest at the above website.

If you prefer a Christian perspective, you might try the Freedom in Christ website:

http://www.ficm.org/whoami.htm

The answer to the question "Who am I in Christ?" is divided into sections: "I am Accepted," "I am Secure," "I am Significant." Each section is elaborated with about 10 answers complete with biblical reference.

A Jewish view can be found at torah.org:

http://www.torah.org/learning/parsha-insights/5760/vayikra.html

For example in a discussion of Adam and Eve (Adom and Chava)in the Garden of Eden, this site says:

"Then they ate from the Tree of Knowledge. They changed. Their clarity was forever altered. Am I a soul? Am I a body? Who am I? Confusion. Blurred perception of who and what they were. It's no longer a horse that's running around naked. That just might be ME! They hid 'ki airom {because they were naked}.'

The first sin--the root of all sins that follow. Confusion. Who am I? An over-association with the body. An over-involvement with the body. How is it corrected? A korbon is brought. The animal's body is burned. It should be my body. That's not who I am. I am a soul. I have to begin to act accordingly. The closeness (korbon) to Hashem is reestablished."

Moving away from religion, you can find some teacher guidance for addressing this topic at the website of Channel 13 in New York City:

http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/lessons/whoami/

This is oriented to the high school level. To quote the introductory paragraph:

"Who am I? In this lesson, students reflect on this question through discussion, writing and art. Students first define 'identity' and consider who they are and what they value. Students then explore the work of two photographers featured on an upcoming episode of Thirteen/WNET New York's series EGG THE ARTS SHOW to see how they have dealt with the issue of identity. As a culminating activity, students respond to the question 'Who am I?' using photography, paint, clay, or collage."

Answers from 30 different perspectives (alchemy to Tarot cards) can be found in the Skeptics Dictionary:

http://skepdic.com/tiwhoami.html

Perhaps you'd like to explore "Past Life Regression," the opening paragraph of which is quoted below:

"Past life regression (PLR) is the alleged journeying into one's past lives while hypnotized. While it is true that many patients recall past lives, it is highly probable that their memories are false memories. The memories are from experiences in this life, pure products of the imagination, intentional or unintentional suggestions from the hypnotist, or confabulations."

"Who am I?" is also a game. See blogspot.com:

http://whois.blogspot.com/

And a career quiz! Check the website of Human Resources Canada:

http://worksearch.gc.ca/english/index.pl?tid=6

"Who am I?" is also a movie featuring Jackie Chan (Hong Kong, 1998). Several capsule reviews are quoted at the Hong Kong Film Critics Society website

http://filmcritics.org.hk/whoami/review.html

One sample:

"The major plot line of the continual quest for self-identity is more noteworthy than all the spectacles and daredevil stunts. Jackie Chan’s character mentions his father’s teachings, learns the way to live life on earth, and establishes a father-and-son relationship. But the character forgets his relationship with his environment and other people. Curiously enough, this situation is able to find a place in the labyrinth of post-97 political identity. So Hongkongese, in the immediate aftermath of 1997, are still troubled by "Who Am I?". Nothing is certain except Hong Kong is China’s son. For the individual, his own identity remains in a state of flux - ManAlone Ho"

Possible search terms:

"who am i"
"who am i" torah
"who am i" "Jackie Chan"
etc.

I appreciate that your search for personal identity can be a long and difficult journey. I hope that one or more of these leads will steer you in a direction which you find useful!

Comments

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Subject: **Re: Me**
From: **blader-ga** on 18 Apr 2002 19:20 PDT

You are: Grey.

Subject: **Re: Me**
From: **paulhoffman-ga** on 18 Apr 2002 20:54 PDT

It depends on your spiritual beliefs and/or religion. Many systems say that there is no identifiable "you"; others say that every person is an individual who is identifiable by a higher power (commonly called a god).

If you were me, the answer to your/my question would be "there is no me".

Subject: **Re: Me**
From: **lkbryant-ga** on 18 Apr 2002 21:30 PDT

You are a human created by God.

Subject: **Re: Me**
From: **carson-ga** on 18 Apr 2002 21:58 PDT

The real question is: who are you not? Clearly, on the internet, you can be anything or anyone. This can be interesting and beneficial, but -- more often than not -- it’s detrimental: an unfortunate fact that all too many people fall into.

Subject: **Re: Me**
From: **gank-ga** on 19 Apr 2002 01:36 PDT

I am that I am. Maybe you are that you are as well?

Subject: **Re: Me**
From: **schwachs-ga** on 19 Apr 2002 07:01 PDT

I think that you really need to look inside yourself and realize you’re not grey, but in fact, blue.

Subject: **Re: Me**
From: **wisecat-ga** on 19 Apr 2002 07:16 PDT

To quote from one of the most beautiful and inspiring poems ever written, "You are a child of the Universe"
http://www.romanticlove.net/desiderata.html

Subject: **Re: Me**
From: **davidny-ga** on 19 Apr 2002 13:51 PDT

You’re Jean Valjean?

Subject: **Re: Me**
From: **ladyofthelake-ga** on 20 Apr 2002 21:13 PDT

You are consciousness -- The I Am presence that is infinite, eternal, has no beginning and no ending, is everywhere and nowhere.