

Ultimate Reality, Logic, and the Ego

by Kelly Jones

Synopsis: For philosophical atheists, this video is a tightly-reasoned presentation of the concept of Ultimate Reality, designed to reveal why the wise don't have emotions.



This video is a philosophical one, about the nature of Ultimate Reality. The reason for this video was initially to explain why the wise, who understand the nature of Ultimate Reality, aren't emotional. So, by the end of this video, the viewer should know what is meant by emotion, and by the phrase, "Ultimate Reality", and why wisdom and emotion never go together...

I'll begin with the most difficult part. That is, explaining the concept "Ultimate Reality". Ultimate Reality can only be understood intellectually using dualistic concepts. The difficulty is to avoid a particular, very common, attitude to dualities. Most people use dualities to focus on one aspect and ignore another, and to fail to see what all dualities and divisions have in common. So, what I need the viewer to try to do, is to clear-up what happens when they think of something and perceive how a contrast is created to other things. That dualistic contrast needs to be *itself* made the focus of dualistic thinking. What happens when you think about something that is not-dualistic? Something that is not contrasted? Obviously, it can't be done. What I'm trying to get the viewer to perceive with that little experiment is to see that any dualistic, contrasted, limited, bounded, specific reality cannot be Ultimate Reality. Ultimate Reality is precisely that which is not a dualistic, contrasted, bounded "thing".

One should see that Ultimate Reality is a philosophical concept, and is understood using logical deduction. It isn't understood using a scientific induction, based on observation of sense data. If it were, one could not be sure what is ultimately real. One would always be waiting for more data and more observations. So, to understand the nature of Ultimate Reality, one must enter the logical realm. One has to be skilled in defining abstract terms, like "thing", "finite", "reality", and other terms, in a purely logical manner.

Let's look closely at the concept, "Ultimate Reality". Clearly, the qualifier "ultimate" should indicate that Ultimate Reality is not "*a* reality". It is what is ultimately real, it is not something that is *partly* real, or *perhaps* real, or *probably* an illusion, or true only for a certain percentage of consciousnesses in a specific region of the Universe. It is ultimately real, for all realities. It is absolutely the final determinant of what is real. It's not relative to something else. It's not existing by contrast to something. It's not limited and dependent on the existence of something else.

I mentioned the term "finite" a minute ago. I define finite as something that is limited by something. In other words, anything that is limited or restricted by the existence of something is finite. Now, by contrast, there is a concept called the Totality. It means, the totality of all things, everything, the sum of all things. Notice that the totality of all things, is *alone* what cannot be bounded or limited or contrasted or exclusive or relative or dualistic. Only the totality cannot be dependent on something

external to itself. Because the totality is defined as all things. Not just some.

Now, I'm going to make some big steps here, so you may want to pay very close attention. The Totality is not itself finite. The Totality, which is ever-present, is not itself finite. In other words, what is always present is non-dual. This is a definitional truth pointing to the absolute nature of Ultimate Reality. Nonduality is present for any consciousness, in any world, time, space, perspective, mood, construction of reality, or other experience.

So, wisdom is rightly attributed to one who understands the nature of Ultimate Reality. They can't go wrong, even if one's specific, individual reality is actually a Matrix. They will still be experiencing something, and therefore, be experiencing some part of Ultimate Reality.



Now, I realise that some viewers, including the overly-emotional witch-hunter-types but not only them, will be skeptical of these ideas. They may think that such a concept is literally impossible. They may find it rings of the overly-imaginative fantasies of theosophy, religious mysticism, navel-gazing academic philosophers, or plain freaky cult doctrine. But such an interpretation only looks at the words used, and is a superficial investigation.

Others may have been brainwashed to believe that the scientific method, which never asserts anything with certainty because of its requirement for sensory data which always changes in the next instant, must discredit the idea of Ultimate Reality. So they may want to throw epithets like “absolutist” “dogmatist” “fundamentalist” or the like in my direction. But, I challenge the Youtuber to think over the philosophical concept of Ultimate Reality. Feel free to raise questions or leave a comment, if you can think of anything that seems incoherent in the concept of Ultimate Reality.



Now, I mentioned earlier that those who understand Ultimate Reality, don't experience emotion. These are the wise, those who realise that everything is ultimately the non-dual nature of Ultimate Reality, wherein there are no inherent boundaries, but all is of one nature. The reason that emotions don't arise for them, is because they have allowed this information to dramatically alter their self-concept. Their self-image. They no longer hold the belief that one exists as something intrinsically discrete. They've realised that the apparent boundaries between the self, and the environment, or the self, and one's neighbours, or the self, and one's worldly possessions, are actually not intrinsically real. Note that I'm not saying that the wise stop having dualistic conceptualisations. They don't stop thinking or intellectualising. Dualities are unavoidable for consciousness.

By contrast to the wise, are those with ego. The ego does more than have dualistic conceptualisations: it deeply believes in the boundaries that dualities create. It's the false self, or the self-concept that the wise discard. It's the self that believes that boundaries are really there. And, the ego, fooled by this attitude to boundaries, wants to protect itself. It wants power over threats to itself, it wants to be preserved against a swarm of external pressures and impacts. This is the source of all emotionality: feelings of weakness, of loss, of fear, disempowerment, of lacking and of dissatisfaction. Feelings of satisfaction, fulfilment, power, completeness, happiness, joy, ecstasy, contentment. Feelings of being threatened, offended, insulted, of being angry, of feeling resentful, of being jealous, harmed, and so forth. All emotion stems from the ego's world-view.

The main objective of enlightenment is understanding the nature of Ultimate Reality, seeing the one

rather than the many, and getting control over the ego-habit. Wisdom is free of egotism. It is free of the habits that falsely interpret the mind's conceptualising and the mental boundaries projected onto the world. It is free of the assumption that such boundaries and concepts refer to things that really exist discretely.



So, to summarise very quickly, all emotion is the product of the ego's false interpretation of the world and the things that are experienced. All emotion is based on the false belief that things exist inherently, and, more fundamentally, that there is an inherently existing self, subject to gain or loss from moment-to-moment. Wisdom, by contrast, is perceiving the nature of Ultimate Reality, and how all things are ultimately the one: the non-dual.