

EUROPE TODAY: ENGAGING THE PRESENT

Back to the future? the rise of new spirituality in Europe

1. A bizarre encounter in Budapest-

Diana - pagan, Jungian, feminist, archetypal psychotherapist!!

Bosnian background, helping Bosnian women with war traumas; into pre-Christian religion and history: earth goddess/ labyrinth in Knossos/ pagan sites in Ireland, Malta...

A relic from the past? a witch? many questions????

"Visit the labyrinth of Buda-hill"!! **LABYRINTH!!!**

Museum of the Hungarian people (Magyars);

- Shaman figures; ANIMISM - physical world ruled by spiritual - like a hand 'animating' a glove, the unseen animating the seen;

Polytheism - many gods

Pantheism - everything is God: pan-everything-ism

- Baptismal font: THEISM - one God 1000 AD - transformed the way the Magyars understood reality, themselves, how they should live
- Homo consumus: ATHEISM , MATERIALISM, no god(s), only matter matters
- Lost school girls: *How de we get out of here?*

2. What made Europe 'Europe'?-

Lesslie Newbiggin: THE continent?? western peninsular of Eurasian landmass

What then made Europe so distinct? ethnic roots - from east?? Indo-European languages?? polytheistic religions/ worldviews/ eastern??

- the coming of THE BOOK!!!

So what happens when Europe rejects the Book? forgets the Story?

loses the Hope? Lesslie Newbiggin: *Europe will return to her eastern roots!!*

Europe becomes re-*Orientated*!!

Diana??! relic of the past? or a face of the future?!

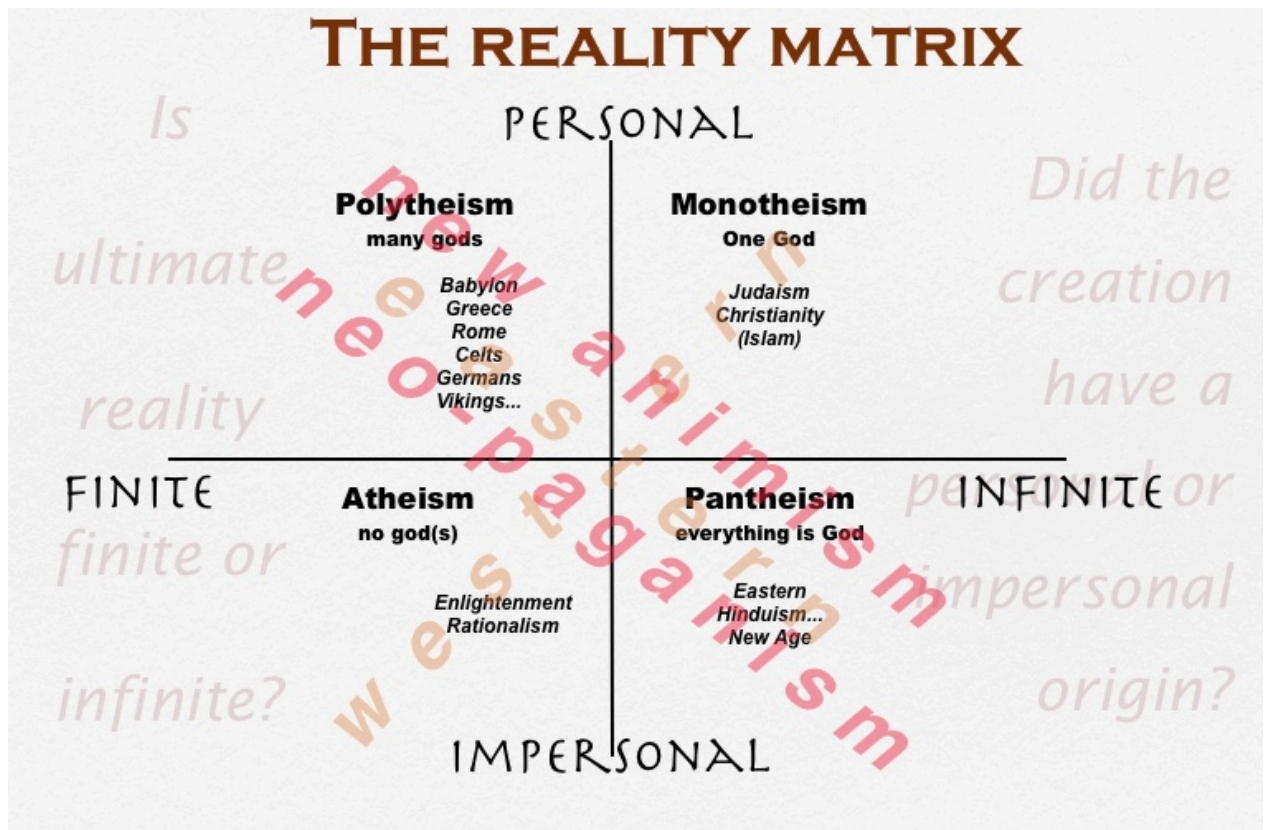
3. Post-Christian spirituality: limited options

Francis Schaeffer: (*He is there and He is not silent*)

Basic options are very few...

Two questions:

- Did the creation have a **personal** or **impersonal** origin?
- Is ultimate reality **finite** or **infinite**? **Islamism is not a new phenomenon**: radical Islam has a long pedigree, and tended to resurge when Islam was under threat



God was not surprised!

- Paganism was the background to the Bible
- The world of Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Daniel...
- The world of the Magi, Paul, Patrick and Boniface...
- "God-seekers" today e.g. Evangelism in a spiritual age;

4. **Lesslie Newbigin: 'Foolishness to the Greeks'**

W.E. Gladstone, British statesman: (1843) after describing Rome's pluralistic paganism -

"Should the Christian faith ever become but one of many... this will prove that we are once more in a transition-state -- that we are travelling back again from the region to which the gospel brought us, towards that in which it found us.

- What Gladstone foretold is essentially what has been happening during the 140 years since he wrote these words. The result is not, as we once imagined, a secular society. It is a pagan society, and its paganism, having been born out of the rejection of Christianity, is far more resistant to the gospel than the pre-Christian paganism with which cross-cultural missions have been familiar. **Here, surely, is the most challenging missionary frontier of our time."**

5. **From confrontation to incarnation:**

Lausanne Occasional Paper #45: connecting with seekers

6. **Hopetalk:** Steve Hollinghurst & Ole Skjaerbaek Madsen 28' video

7. **Jari Koivu:** 17' video