

The
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presents

Consciousness
What is Love?
Human Condition
What is Science?
How can we Save the World?
Is there a God?
Soul
Why do People Lie?
Our Ego, and Egocentric Lives
Human Nature
Conscience
Why do we Fall in Love?
Good vs Evil
What is the Meaning of Life?

**THE
BOOK
OF
REAL
ANSWERS
TO
EVERYTHING!**

by **Jeremy Griffith**

‘Such is the explosion of insight that occurs when biological understanding of the human condition is finally found—as it now is—that all the books in all the libraries in all the world couldn’t deliver the definitive explanations contained here in *The Book of Real Answers to Everything!*, and in *Freedom*, the complete presentation of Jeremy Griffith’s treatise.’

Tim Macartney-Snape, AM OAM, Patron of the World Transformation Movement

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Note to the Reader

The objective of this book is to provide a stand-alone, first-principle-based, scientific explanation of each of the following subjects that have so troubled the human mind since time immemorial. Since the explanations are designed to be self-contained, and since (as will become clear) the human condition is the underlying issue in *all* human affairs, each of the explanations does contain certain similar material, however, important subtle differences appear within those similar sections.

Contents

	PAGE
Foreword	5
The Human Condition	7
What is Science?	14
What is Love?	33
Soul	40
Conscience	54
Good vs Evil	64
What is the Meaning of Life?	70
Is there a God?	77
Ego, and Our Egocentric Lives	85
Save the World	90
Consciousness	96
Human Nature	102
Why do People Lie?	108
Why do we Fall in Love?	114



Foreword

While I am a psychiatrist, not a biologist, the subject of our human condition *is* the area of inquiry where psychiatry and biology finally converge. Evidence for this is the term ‘Evolutionary Psychology’, which is one of the theories currently used to explain human behaviour—specifically the human condition. Given the plight of the world—which we humans are responsible for—the human condition is certainly the subject upon which all areas of science *should* be focused. As the Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson has said, ‘**The human condition is the most important frontier of the natural sciences**’ (*Consilience*, 1998, p.298).

However, in terms of understanding our peculiar ‘human condition’, I don’t believe the theories that have been put forward by mainstream biologists have succeeded in presenting a satisfactory, truly accountable explanation of it. In fact, I have become aware of two statements made by the great Australian biologist Charles Birch that I think accurately capture the stalled situation that has existed in biology, which are that ‘**Biology has not made any real advance since Darwin**’ (in recorded conversation with this author, 20 Mar. 1987), and ‘**Biology right now awaits its Einstein in the realm of consciousness studies**’ (ABC Radio National, *Ockham’s Razor*, 16 Apr. 1997). I say ‘has existed’ because I believe, as I’ve said on occasions elsewhere, that Jeremy Griffith’s biological treatise on the human condition does finally provide humanity with a truly accountable explanation of this most perplexing and important of subjects. The clarity with which he explains the grand concepts featured in this book alone is testament to this.

I must say I am so thrilled with Griffith’s explanation of the human condition that I am dedicated to promoting it wherever possible. As a psychiatrist I recognise that the impasse to finding this great breakthrough understanding of the human condition has been that the subjective issue of the human condition has been all but impossible for humans to think effectively about, but now that this great psychological denial blocking access to the truth about ourselves has finally been penetrated and understanding of ourselves found, the now long overdue psychological rehabilitation of the human race *can* finally occur. Again, as I have also said on numerous occasions, this is all *so* exciting—I am quite overwhelmed to be here on Earth when these *REAL* answers are finally established!

I cannot recommend strongly enough the understandings contained in this book, or in the more complete presentation that is provided in Griffith’s book *FREEDOM*.

Harry Prosen, M.D., M.Sc.

December 2011 (revised 2015)

Harry Prosen is a professor of psychiatry who has worked in the field for over 50 years, including chairing two departments of psychiatry and serving as president of the Canadian Psychiatric Association. Professor Prosen was recently appointed one of 500 Specially Selected Fellows of the American College of Psychiatrists, and a Distinguished Life Member of the American Psychiatric Association. He is also psychiatric consultant to the Bonobo Species Preservation Society.

Human Nature

Written by Australian biologist Jeremy Griffith, 2011

The term ‘human nature’ is much more than a reference to human behaviour; it actually refers to our species’ less-than-ideally-behaved, seemingly-imperfect, even ‘good and evil’-afflicted, so-called *human condition*—as in ‘it’s only human nature for people to be competitive, selfish and aggressive’. As such, we sometimes assume human nature is unchangeable, but it isn’t—because when the underlying psychological insecurity that causes our troubled HUMAN CONDITION is resolved, the long dreamed-of TRANSFORMATION of the human race occurs!

And, MOST WONDERFULLY, this greatest of all breakthroughs in the human journey of conscious thought and enquiry *has* arrived! Yes, biology *is* finally able to provide us with the exonerating, ‘good-and-evil’-reconciling, ‘burden-of-guilt’-lifting and thus rehabilitating, HUMAN-RACE-TRANSFORMING explanation of our human condition-afflicted human nature! (And it should be mentioned that this explanation of our species’ deeply psychologically troubled condition is *not* the psychosis-avoiding, trivialising, dishonest account of it that the biologist E.O. Wilson has put forward in his theory of Eusociality, but the psychosis-addressing-and-solving, *real* explanation of it.)



Yes, the agonising, underlying, core, *real* question about human behaviour is ‘are humans good or are we possibly the terrible mistake that all the evidence seems to unequivocally indicate we might be?’ Our human nature is such that while we are capable of great love we also have an unspeakable history of brutality, rape, torture, murder and war. Despite all our marvellous accomplishments, we humans have been the most ferocious and destructive force that has ever lived on Earth—and the eternal question has been ‘why?’ Even in our everyday behaviour, why have we humans been so competitive, selfish and aggressive when clearly the ideals of life are to be the complete opposite, namely cooperative, selfless and loving? In fact, why are we *so* ruthlessly competitive, selfish and brutal that human life has become all but unbearable and we have nearly destroyed our own planet?!

Unable, until now, to truthfully answer this deepest and darkest of all questions about human nature—in fact, about our human condition—of are we humans fundamentally good or bad, we learnt to avoid the whole depressing subject, so much so, in fact, that the human condition has been described as **‘the personal unspeakable’**, and as **‘the black box inside of humans they can’t go near’**. Indeed, the famous psychoanalyst Carl Jung was referring to the terrifying subject of the human condition when he wrote that **‘When it [our shadow] appears...it is quite within the bounds of possibility for a man to recognize the relative evil of his nature, but it is a rare and shattering experience for him to gaze into the face of absolute evil’** (*Aion* in *The Collected Works of C.G. Jung*, Vol. 9/2, p.10). Yes, the **‘face of absolute evil’** in our **‘nature’** is the **‘shattering’** possibility—if we allowed our minds to think about it—that we humans might indeed be a terrible mistake!

So even though the issue of the human condition has been the *real*, underlying issue we needed to solve if we were to exonerate and thus rehabilitate human behaviour, we have been *so* fearful of the subject of the human condition that instead of confronting it and trying to solve it we have been preoccupied denying and escaping it. The truth is that while much attention has been given to the need to love each other and the environment if we are to ‘save the world’, the *real* need if we were to actually succeed in doing so was to find the means to love the dark side of ourselves—to find the reconciling understanding of our ‘good-and-evil’-afflicted human condition that was *causing* so much suffering and destruction! Carl Jung was forever saying that **‘wholeness for humans depends on the ability to own their own shadow’** because he recognised that *only* finding understanding of our dark side could end our underlying insecurity about our fundamental goodness and worth as humans and, in so doing, make us **‘whole’**. The pre-eminent philosopher Sir Laurens van der Post was making the same point when he said, **‘True love is love of the difficult and unlovable’** (*Journey Into Russia*, 1964, p.145) and **‘Only by understanding how we were all a part of the same contemporary pattern [of wars, cruelty, greed and indifference] could we defeat those dark forces with a true understanding of their nature and origin’** (*Jung and the Story of Our Time*, 1976, p.24).

True compassion was ultimately the only means by which peace and love could come to our planet and it could only be achieved through understanding. Drawing again from the writings of van der Post: **‘Compassion leaves an indelible blueprint of the recognition that life so sorely needs between one individual and another; one nation and another; one culture and another. It is also valid for the road which our spirit should be building now for crossing the historical abyss that still separates us from a truly contemporary vision of life, and the increase of life and meaning that awaits us in the future’** (*ibid.* p.29). Yes, only **‘true understanding of the nature and origin’** of our species’ ‘good-and-evil’-afflicted, even ‘fallen’ or corrupted condition could allow us to cross **‘the historical abyss’** that **‘separate[d] us’** from a **‘compassion[ate]’**, reconciled, ameliorated, **‘meaning[ful]’** view of ourselves. One day there had to be, to quote The Rolling Stones, **‘sympathy for the devil’**—one day, we *had to* find **‘true understanding’** of the **‘nature and origin’** of the **‘dark forces’** in human nature. Indeed, the great hope, faith, trust and in fact belief of the human race has been that redeeming, psychologically rehabilitating and thus transforming understanding of the human condition *would* one day be found—which, most relievingly, it now finally has been! Yes, this **‘future’** that Jung and van der Post looked forward to, of finding understanding of our human condition, is finally here! (Again, it has to be stressed that this explanation of our deeply psychologically troubled condition is not the psychosis-avoiding, trivialising, dishonest account of it that E.O. Wilson has put forward in his theory of Eusociality, but the psychosis-addressing-and-solving, truthful, *real* explanation of it.)

So, what is the wonderful, psychosis-addressing-and-solving, truthful explanation of the human condition that brings about the complete change in human nature—in fact, the long dreamed-of TRANSFORMATION of the human race?

Certainly, we have invented excuses to justify our seemingly-imperfect competitive, selfish and aggressive behaviour, the main one being that we have savage animal instincts that make us fight and compete for food, shelter, territory and a mate. Of course, this ‘explanation’, which has been put forward in the biological theories of Social Darwinism, Sociobiology, Evolutionary Psychology, Multilevel Selection and E.O. Wilson’s Eusociality and basically argues that ‘genes are competitive and selfish and that’s why we are’, can’t be the *real* explanation for our competitive, selfish and aggressive behaviour. Firstly, it overlooks the fact that our human behaviour involves our unique fully conscious thinking mind. Descriptions like egocentric, arrogant, deluded, artificial, hateful, mean, immoral, alienated, etc, all imply a consciousness-derived, *psychological* dimension to *our* behaviour. The *real* issue—the psychological problem in our thinking minds that we have suffered from—is the dilemma of our *human condition*, the issue of our species’ ‘good-and-evil’-afflicted, less-than-ideal, even ‘fallen’ or corrupted, state. We humans suffer from a consciousness-derived, *psychological* HUMAN CONDITION, *not* an instinct-controlled animal condition—our condition is unique to us fully conscious humans. (A brief description of the theories of Social Darwinism, Sociobiology, Evolutionary Psychology, Multilevel Selection and Eusociality that blame our divisive behaviour on savage instincts rather than on a consciousness-derived psychosis is presented in the [What is Science? article](#) in this, *The Book of Real Answers to Everything!*, with the complete account provided in the freely-available, online book *Freedom: Expanded Book 1* at www.humancondition.com/freedom-expanded-the-denials-in-biology.)

The second reason the savage-instincts-in-us excuse can’t possibly be the real explanation for our divisive, selfish and aggressive behaviour is that it overlooks the fact that we humans have altruistic, cooperative, loving *moral instincts*—what we recognise as our ‘*conscience*’—and these moral instincts in us are *not* derived from reciprocity, from situations where you only do something for others in return for a benefit from them, as Evolutionary Psychologists would have us believe. And nor are they derived from warring with other groups of humans as advocates of the theory of Eusociality would have us believe. No, we have an *unconditionally* selfless, *fully* altruistic, *truly* loving, *universally*-considerate-of-others-not-competitive-with-other-groups, *genuinely* moral conscience. Our original instinctive state was the *opposite* of being competitive, selfish and aggressive: it was fully cooperative, selfless and loving. (How we humans acquired *unconditionally* selfless moral instincts when it would seem that an *unconditionally* selfless, *fully* altruistic trait is going to self-eliminate and thus not ever be able to become established in a species is briefly explained in the above-mentioned [What is Science? article](#), and more fully explained in chapter 5 of *FREEDOM* at www.humancondition.com/freedom-origin-of-morality—however, the point being made here is that the savage-instincts-in-us excuse is completely inconsistent with the fact that we have genuine and entirely *moral* instincts, *NOT* *savage* instincts. Charles Darwin recognised the difference in our moral nature when he said that ‘**the moral sense affords the best and highest distinction between man and the lower animals**’ (*The Descent of Man*, 1871, p.495).)

So, what is the *truthful*, human-condition-addressing rather than human-condition-avoiding, biological explanation of our species’ present seemingly-highly-imperfect,

competitive, selfish and aggressive human nature or condition? The answer begins with an analysis of consciousness.

Very briefly, nerves were originally developed for the coordination of movement in animals, but, once developed, their ability to store impressions—which is what we refer to as ‘memory’—gave rise to the potential to develop understanding of cause and effect. If you can remember past events, you can compare them with current events and identify regularly occurring experiences. This knowledge of, or insight into, what has commonly occurred in the past enables you to predict what is likely to happen in the future and to adjust your behaviour accordingly. Once insights into the nature of change are put into effect, the self-modified behaviour starts to provide feedback, refining the insights further. Predictions are compared with outcomes and so on. Much developed, and such refinement occurred in the human brain, nerves can sufficiently *associate* information to *reason* how experiences are related, learn to *understand* and become CONSCIOUS of, or aware of, or *intelligent* about, the relationship between events that occur through time. Thus consciousness means being sufficiently aware of how experiences are related to attempt to manage change from a basis of understanding.

What is so significant about this process is that once our nerve-based learning system became sufficiently developed for us to become conscious and able to effectively manage events, our conscious intellect was then in a position to wrest control from our gene-based learning system’s instincts, which, up until then, had been controlling our lives. Basically, once our self-adjusting intellect emerged it was capable of taking over the management of our lives from the instinctive orientations we had acquired through the natural selection of genetic traits that adapted us to our environment.

HOWEVER, it was at this juncture, when our conscious intellect challenged our instincts for control, that a terrible battle broke out between our instincts and intellect, the effect of which was the extremely competitive, selfish and aggressive state that we call the human condition.

To elaborate, when our conscious intellect emerged it was neither suitable nor sustainable for it to be *orientated* by instincts—it *had to find understanding* to operate effectively and fulfil its great potential to manage life. However, when our intellect began to exert itself and experiment in the management of life from a basis of understanding, in effect challenging the role of the already established instinctual self, a battle unavoidably broke out between the instinctive self and the newer conscious self.

Our intellect began to experiment in understanding as the only means of discovering the correct and incorrect understandings for managing existence, but the instincts—being in effect ‘unaware’ or ‘ignorant’ of the intellect’s need to carry out these experiments—‘opposed’ any understanding-produced deviations from the established instinctive orientations: they ‘criticised’ and ‘tried to stop’ the conscious mind’s necessary search for knowledge. To illustrate the situation, imagine what would happen if we put a fully conscious mind on the head of a migrating bird. The bird is following an instinctive flight path acquired over thousands of generations of natural selection, but it now has a conscious mind that needs to *understand* how to behave, and the only way it can acquire that understanding is by experimenting in understanding—for example, thinking, ‘I’ll fly down to that island and have a rest.’ But such a deviation from the migratory flight path would naturally result in the instincts resisting the deviation, leaving the conscious intellect in a serious dilemma: if it obeys its instincts it will not feel ‘criticised’ by its

instincts but neither will it find knowledge. Obviously, the intellect could not afford to give in to the instincts, and unable to understand and thus explain why its experiments in self-adjustment were necessary, the conscious intellect had no way of refuting the implicit criticism from the instincts even though it knew it was unjust. Until the conscious mind found the redeeming understanding of why it had to defy the instincts (namely the scientific understanding of the difference in the way genes and nerves process information, that one is an orientating learning system while the other is an insightful learning system), the intellect was left having to endure a psychologically distressed, upset condition, with no choice but to defy that opposition from the instincts. The only forms of defiance available to the conscious intellect were to **attack** the instincts' unjust criticism, try to **deny** or block from its mind the instincts' unjust criticism, and attempt to **prove** the instincts' unjust criticism wrong. In short—and to return to our human situation because we were the species that acquired the fully conscious mind—the psychologically upset **angry, alienated and egocentric** human-condition-afflicted state appeared. Our 'conscious thinking self', which is the dictionary definition of 'ego', became 'centred' or focused on the need to justify itself. We became ego-centric, self-centred or selfish, preoccupied with aggressively competing for opportunities to prove we are good and not bad—we unavoidably became **selfish, aggressive and competitive**.

What is *so* exonerating, rehabilitating and healing about this explanation of the human condition is that we can finally appreciate that there was a *very good* reason for our angry, alienated and egocentric behaviour—in fact, we can now see why we have not just been ego-centric, but *ego-infuriated*, even *ego-gone-mad-with-murderous-anger* for having to live with so much unjust criticism. We can *now* see that the conscious thinking self or ego was *NOT* the evil villain it has so long been portrayed as—such as in the Bible where Adam and Eve are demonised and '**banished...from the Garden of Eden**' (Gen. 3:23) Of our original innocent, all-loving, moral state for taking the '**fruit...from the tree of knowledge**' (ibid. 3:3, 2:17). No, science has finally enabled us to lift the so-called 'burden of guilt' from the human race; in fact, to understand that we thinking, '**knowledge**'-finding, conscious humans are actually nothing less than the heroes of the story of life on Earth! This is because our fully conscious mind is surely nature's greatest invention and to have had to endure the torture of being unjustly condemned as evil for *so* long (the anthropological evidence indicates we humans have been fully conscious for some two million years) *must make us* the absolute heroes of the story of life on Earth.

And BEST OF ALL, because this explanation of the human condition is redeeming and thus rehabilitating, all our upset angry, egocentric and alienated behaviour now subsides, bringing about the complete TRANSFORMATION OF THE HUMAN RACE—and importantly, understanding of the human condition doesn't condone 'bad' behaviour, it *heals* and by so doing *ends* it. From being competitive, selfish and aggressive, human nature returns to being cooperative, selfless and loving. Our round of departure *has* ended. The poet T.S. Eliot wonderfully articulated our species' journey from an original innocent, yet ignorant, state, to a psychologically upset 'fallen', corrupted state, and back to an uncorrupted, but this time enlightened, state when he wrote, '**We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time**' (*Little Gidding*, 1942).

Yes, finding the exonerating, redeeming understanding of our dark, troubled, psychologically upset, human-condition-afflicted existence finally enables the human race

to be healed and thus TRANSFORMED—it makes us ‘whole’ again, as Jung said it would. To quote Professor Harry Prosen, a former president of the Canadian Psychiatric Association, on this dreamed-of, greatest of all breakthroughs in science: ‘**I have no doubt this biological explanation of the human condition is the holy grail of insight we have sought for the psychological rehabilitation of the human race**’ (*FREEDOM*, 2016, Introduction).

As just demonstrated, with understanding of the human condition found ALL the great issues finally become explainable.

**See also: Human condition—What is science?—What is love?—Soul—Conscience
—Good vs Evil—What is the meaning of life?—Is there a God?—Consciousness
—Our ego and egocentric lives—How can we save the world?
—Why do people lie?—Why do we fall in love?**

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