

EVERYTHINGISM

What is it about words that end in 'ism' that make me feel discomforted?

Catholicism, feminism, nationalism, communism, modernism, scientism, socialism, Zionism, even spiritualism, mysticism, shamanism, panpsychism, Buddhism and Taoism. 'Isms' invariably denote a fixed belief system with a boundary and when I look at someone who holds to an ism I find an 'ist'; a feminist, nationalist, modernist, communist, and this ist sometimes comes with an aggressive need to be part of a closed group that maybe, even, takes a stand against the rest of the world. Of course Taoists, if they are proper Taoists, hold to Lao Tzu and they know, or they should know, that a Taoist is not what they are as the word Tao is meaningless - therefore to label oneself a Taoist is meaningless. Lao Tzu certainly attempted to nip that one in the bud. He failed, of course, because it's so comforting to know who you are, to have a label and be a part of a group, isn't it. But this is 'fellowship with men in the clan' again, a narrow, biased, cleekish, sort of fellowship.

You can be a Dr without being a doctorist, so why can't you be a shaman without being a shamanist? Why aren't there doctorists and teacherists? What is it about needing this suffix 'ist'. It's an exclusion term that states a definitive mind set and sets up a boundary. But then some people get comfort from this feeling of being part of something.

Well I do too. I get comfort from being part of, um, everything. The material part of me is part of the matter in the universe and when I die it will still be part of it, and my consciousness is a mystery I am still in the process of understanding but it seems to have nothing individual about it at all, no identifying difference from anyone else's consciousness, and my feelings have no boundaries, they are hopelessly indiscriminate. The Chrissy part of me is a momentary pattern of the universal structure pushed and shoved and buffeted by constantly changing momentary patterns in that same universal structure and given a name by other patterns who themselves identified with names given to them and who I identified as mum and dad. How unusual is that? So I am part of everything. Perhaps I am an 'everythingist'?

There you have it 'Everythingism'. We can add that to the list. Modernists, feminists, Buddhists, nationalists, socialists, communists - as an everythingist you are all part of my group.

I look around and where are my antagonists? All I can see is friends.