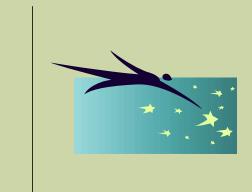
God is the Universe

God, then, is the universe. The stars, the planets, the trees, the flowers, the oceans, the mountains the clouds – these are the *body* of God. The spirit that gives them shape and color and motion and beauty is the *mind* of God's body and every human mind is part of God's mind. This philosophical doctrine is called *Pantheism*, from the Greek words *pan* (the whole, or everything) and *theos* (God).



The Ethics of Pantheism

This doctrine of Pantheism is more than a mere theory. It has tremendous practical and ethical implications. For if all humanity is one body and one soul, it follows that people cannot hurt others without hurting themselves. To do an injury to your neighbor is to cut off your own finger or to pluck out your own eye.

The happiness of each of us depends upon the well-being of the whole body of human kind and all living things. For the human race, like every human being, is a united living organism. And all living things, human and non-human alike, are united and interdependent. We are more than merely "brothers of a single human family under the fatherhood of God" as it has been expressed in the past. We are instead, members of a single human entity, and members of a global biosphere, which in turn is an integral part of the divine essence of God.

Adapted from *Living Biographies of Great Philosophers* (Spinoza) by Henry and Dana Lee Thomas. Copyright 1941 by Doubleday & company, Inc. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.

Universal Pantheist Society

P.O. Box 3499 Visalia, CA 93278

Email: pansociety@pantheist.net Web: www.pantheist.net

Universal Pantheist Society

God, Humanity, and Pantheism



We seek a renewed reverence for the Earth and a vision of Nature as the ultimate context for human existence.

www.pantheist.net

The Nature of God

constellation in the heavens and the every living creature, however of the world. God is the world. life. essence. The most magnificent of earth, every unfolding flower, Every blade of grass, every cloud spirit. God, in other words, is the the energy that moves it is God's contemplates it is God's mind, and body of God, the thought that reality. The visible world is the are but three aspects of a single within us. Body and mind and spirit important syllables in the poem of poorest beggar on earth are equally lowly, partakes alike of divine infinite substance, idea and motion God is not *above* us, but

Every human body, therefore, is part of God's mind. Let us not, however, confuse our own puny intelligence with the infinite intelligence of God. The world is governed not in accordance with our individual desires but in accordance with God's allcomprehending plan. The story that God has woven into the drama of

life is beyond our understanding.

Universal Intelligence

It is not for us to pass judgment upon the world, since it has not been made for our benefit. It is as logical to believe that the world was made for people to enjoy as it would be to believe that hands and feet were made for mosquitoes to bite or that noses were made for spectacles to rest upon. The human individual, the human race, is but a small part in the infinite plan of god. The entire earth is but a microscopic cell in God's body.

common with the mind of a Socrates or a the mind of the average human has very little in common with the mind of the average human; and who sits in heaven and who is swayed by our Shakespeare or an Einstein. But even the mind of mind of a dog; the mind of a dog has very little in different grades of intelligence. The mind of a tree, is a part of God's mind, it is only a microscopic individuals is of no concern. For though our mind to injure us. What seems good or bad to us as tree as compared to Einstein. Einstein as compared to God is like the mind of a for example, has very little in common with the intelligence of God. But in this world there are part. All things, to be sure, partake of the prayers to help us or by the prayers of our enemies human emotions. God is not a capricious overseer God, not to ascribe to the Divine a human form or But we must be careful, in speaking of

The Symphony of God

The world may be compared to a symphony, in which every one of us is a note. Taken by itself, each note is nothing, but as a contributing part of the symphony, it is everything. Even the so-called "failures" in life are important in the summary of the whole. Suppose, to return to our symphony, the composer puts in a note and then strikes it down again in order to insert something that will be more harmonious in that particular passage. The note that has been *mecessary* and *important* in the composer's thought while perfecting the symphony.

In like manner, no human life, however short or unhappy, has been in vain. Each of us is an essential thread in the infinite tapestry of life, a significant note in the symphony of God, a contributory stroke of the brush in the painting of god – in a word, an intimate *part* of God.

