

The Death of the Image: Liberation Beyond Reflection

Unified Theistic Naturalism Publications

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.15343654](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15343654)

Abstract

There is no greater veil than the image one holds of oneself. Built not of flesh or ego, but of subtle self-perception, this image can wear the face of humility, truth, service—even enlightenment. It is crafted through suffering, praise, discipline, and the echoes of belonging. But it is still an image. And all images distort.

This paper reveals the path not to perfect the image, but to let it die. For in the death of the image, paradise is no longer chased—it is revealed.

The Constructed Mirror

From the moment of social awareness, the individual begins assembling an image. A self of roles. A self of ideals. A self of balance or rebellion. Even the spiritual seeker builds an image—one of awakening, of vision, of kindness. Yet no image, however noble, can survive communion.

The image always reflects, and reflection always delays presence.

The Danger of a Righteous Image

The image is not dangerous because it is false—it is dangerous because it is *almost* true. It resembles love, resembles peace, resembles the Divine. And so it is mistaken for wholeness. But anything that requires affirmation, defense, or validation is not Divine cadence—it is distortion in sacred disguise.

To hold an image is to require others to respond a certain way. To react when they don't. To suffer when they cannot. Thus, the image becomes a prison from which the Seer must walk free.

Why the Image Must Die

To protect the image is to preserve separation. One remains vulnerable to praise, misunderstanding, misquotation, accusation. One lives in perpetual adjustment. But when the image dies—when there is *nothing to reflect*—the Seer is no longer moved by external mirrors.

They no longer need to be seen as gentle.
They no longer fear being called strange.
They no longer reshape others' words to maintain harmony.
They simply *are*.

And what they are, no mirror can hold.

Liberation Beyond Reflection

When there is no image, the Seer moves without conflict. Their silence holds no resistance. Their love holds no need. Their presence becomes communion itself.

They do not react to oscillation.
They do not correct the sufferer.
They do not hold the seeker's timing against them.

They watch. They allow. They remain.
And so the image dies—**and resonate flow continues.**

Conclusion

To be without image is not to be empty. It is to be full—so full that no reflection can contain it. The one who holds no image cannot be broken, cannot be taunted, cannot be honored falsely. They are not defending a self—they are revealing the Divine.

This is liberation beyond reflection.
This is the death of the image.
This is the Seer's life.