

Professor Elliott

Sociology 105

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The overall argument of Part III, *Despair and Hope*, of Harari's *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* is, "Though the challenges are unprecedented, and though the disagreements are intense, humankind can rise to the occasion if we keep our fears under control and be a bit more humble about our views." In Chapter 13, *God*, Harari expresses that, "we (people) invoke this angry man in the sky to justify a million regulations, decrees, and conflicts." He goes on to discuss that those who believe in God use His existence to explain away things not yet proven. This automatically reminds me of the argument of outer versus inner perspective in Fligstein and MacAdams', *Microfoundations*.

Thomas Nagel states that the outer perspective is a state of detached reflection on what would appear at times to be the pressingly obvious truths about the human condition. Since our basic existential fears threaten hope, most of us strive not to know them; thus the inner perspective. I sum up the inner perspective as a "blissful obliviousness" as to not deal with the endless black hole that is awareness. A good example of the inner perspective is when the faithful are questioned about God's existence and they come back with the argument that science can not explain the Big Bang so it must be Gods doing (Harari, 201). Harari states, "...like a magician fooling an audience by imperceptibly replacing one card with another the faithful quickly replaced the cosmic mystery with the worldly lawgiver."

Humanity has not changed. Throughout history, time and time again, we put our faith in anything that helps make what we are unaware of just a little less scary; whether it be God, the sun (Aztecs), Buddha, changelings, etc.