

## Blog #8: Livestreaming

(Blog #7 was posted here almost four years ago, so today I'm "starting over" this Blog page. Topics relating to Tef Theory and Tefistry remain plentiful, so going forward I shall not lack for material!)

Recently I have learned that many religious groups are now livestreaming their worship services. Because of Covid concerns, some groups have temporarily ceased their in-person gatherings, or have experienced reduced or restricted attendance. Livestreaming over the internet allows their group to sustain a sense of community and even to expand their reach and influence, attracting viewers located almost anywhere on the planet. Anyone with an internet connection can "attend" these events. So, now, your preacher's voice can be heard, literally, around the world! In real time!

This new capability—enabled by modern technology—is awesome. I predict livestreaming will become a common practice, possibly in some cases entirely replacing the traditional in-person worship service. Obviously, viewing a worship service on your computer is not the same as gathering with friends in a hallowed hall to sing and pray and even dance together. But for those unable to worship in person, livestreaming offers a partial, and welcome, substitute for "the real thing".

My only concern with livestreaming springs from my wariness of creeping technology. Our engagement with This World (L.1) is being eroded by it. Every time we replace actual, bodily, Herenow experience with inactual, "virtual", Therethen substitutes, we lose a little bit more of our innate, wild, sensory naturalness. We trade away a little bit more of our organic groundedness. Our ever-growing dependence on technology estranges us from our own flesh, from the fullness of ourselves as embodied Beings. We humans seem to be abandoning our Bodies, as well as our in-person communities and even our native, natural planet. We seem to be climbing inside our electronic systems—internet, TV, smart phones, video games, movies—and trying to live There, not Here.

So what? Clearly, we are no longer wild animals living in pristine habitats. Perhaps we secretly desire to become completely untethered—as solely Mental Beings—freed from our Bodies, freed even from Gaia's

materiality. I concede we are not yet completely untethered—having become only cyborgs of a sort—but the trend vexes me.

What do we humans want to become? Moreover, do we really have any control over our fate? I am not sure, on either question. But it does seem that each new technology—including livestreaming of worship services—takes us further down a path that no longer affirms the Body. We should at least acknowledge what we are doing to ourselves, for better or for worse.