

# The Modern Relevance of God

SPECIAL PODCAST SERIES

RICHARD LLOYD JONES WITH CLÁUDIA B. S. PACHECO

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*To embrace sanity is to accept truth, live love, and be good.*

Norberto Keppe



*Thinking with Somebody Else's Head presents...*  
**The Modern Relevance**  
*of God Special Podcast Series*

Science and Spirituality



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# The Fatal Flaw of Inversion

## **Richard Lloyd Jones:**

Welcome back to episode two of our audio course, the Modern Relevance of God. The modern relevance of God. You know, even as I say those words, I imagine some listener's reactions, eye rolling and that dismissive huffing of, "Modern? God? How 13th century of you."

And this points to a fundamental problem in our modern world, although it's actually an old issue: the wisdom and knowledge from 5,000 years of Judeo-Christian tradition has been simply sheared away from our scientific worldview, which has become the default knowledge base for explaining, well, everything. To the point where even suggesting the importance of a theological perspective on the situation can get you branded as a religious nutter with nothing remotely relevant to contribute.

There's an important pathological process going on underneath this scientific fanaticism, which Norberto Keppe, the brilliant Brazilian psychoanalyst has identified as psychological inversion. In this excerpt, from our Thinking with Somebody Else's Head podcast, Therapy to Heal Society, Dr. Claudia Bernhardt Pacheco explains the concept of inversion, which is so crucial to understanding our spiritual life and how we became so distant from it.

## **Claudia Bernhardt Pacheco:**

Society is at a dead end, Richard. All the fields of knowledge, humanity, society, civilization is kind of shrinking because we don't understand the inversion of humanity. What Keppe brings, which is very new is the concept that all disciplines, all endeavors, they suffer from huge restrictions of our psychopathology. So if we want to continue with civilization, if we want to stop its destruction, the suicidal attitude, we need to address the problem of inversion, which is a psychological problem, mostly, that we have and we are not aware of,

**Jones:**

Do you have a practical example of inversion? That might just help us to understand this concept a little better.

**Pacheco:**

Like in medicine. Medical doctors and psychiatrists, psychologists, they see problems coming from organic symptoms, from the body, from society, from culture. They don't see the main problem, which relies on our psychological, transcendental life, which is the inner life of people. So all illnesses, they come from our inner selves, our inner life, and they are psychological in origin. And we do not address the psychopathology properly, even Freud was a genius in methodology, but he made a big mistake in the theory because he also saw the source of neurosis, psychosis, coming from sexual problems, which are more related to our instincts to our body and not to what we might call the soul of humanity, the psychological aspect, spiritual aspects, problems related to envy, to inversion, to narcissism, to egocentrism.

**Jones:**

And this restricted, inverted view, you said a few moments ago, is causing great suffering and limitation.

**Pacheco:**

We need to see that humanity is sick. The human being is sick, but not in his body. The body suffers the consequences of his psychological sicknesses. So humanity never wanted to address its own psychopathology, and I think that this new science that Keppe developed is a psychosocial pathology and even psychosocial ecology. Why do we pollute so much? Why do we mistreat so much nature and creation, which is the biggest gift we have? The gift of life. So why do we mistreat that? Why don't we care? Why don't we treat it as the best gift as our enormous richness? We don't do that, we destroy everything.

So, this is a psychological problem. It's a psychopathology present in all humanity. So why do we destroy ourselves and the planet to have a bigger bank account? It's all psychological Richard. We need this science being brought to all schools since the children are small, up to professionals. This understanding must be brought very quickly to society as a whole. We are at a crossroads now. Either we go to annihilation, or we start the true big, big civilization, which is this civilization we should have built since the beginning, but because of the inversion we failed. We have directed civilization to its opposite direction, inverted direction. And if now we perceive, we will see a booster of all sciences, arts, education, family

life, relationships, and society, cosmic vision, all sciences will benefit: economics, social sciences, natural sciences. A more tolerant and more ecumenic kind of religion, the view of God as one God for all peoples and all nations. So, we will see an enormous cosmic even development. We will integrate. We will resonate with the universe, with other planets, other civilizations, more advanced than ourselves. We will go back and rescue everything that was beautiful, truthful, and good in humanity so far.

**Jones:**

That is such a big vision, isn't it? And really something to remember. We are, after all, something universal. We're not products of single celled organisms struggling out of the primal ooze for no reason, programmed only to survive. You know, I was rereading Darwin's ghost by Steve Jones – no relation – in preparation for this audio course and came across this telling sentence: "Nature does not favor beauty or strength or ferocity. All it can do is advance those best able to multiply themselves."

But, you know, as I contemplate the miracle of life, the subtle nuances of creativity and order to everything, I'm forced to disagree fundamentally with Dr. Jones. There is intelligence in the processes of nature, design, deep layers of meaning and significance that transcend the single instinct for survival. And this is the journey, after all, that we're embarking on in our consideration of the modern relevance of God. We'll look at how science turned its back on all that miracle and wonder and design when we come back for our next episode.

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