

Loki Listens Volume 1 : Developmental Theology

by Jack Lhasa





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Loki Listens

Volume 1:
Developmental Theology 089



by

Jack Lhasa

This book is dedicated
to all of my Twitter family,
and Brooke and Mel,
who I could not have
completed it without.

A Note from the Author

This is my first attempt at publishing a book. It is, and always will be, available as a free eBook download at <http://lokilistens.com> . It was put together entirely in OpenOffice.org Writer. All entries were originally posts at *Loki Listens*. Perhaps it will be made available at retail levels for those that really love what is here.

The ideas here are simple, and hopefully, easy to grasp. When I first started with these columns, I had no idea that they would make the impact they actually have. I had no intentions of this being my big success, or anything like that. But it *has* been a big success, and it has changed the lives of more than a few. And, honestly, I am as thankful to them, as they are to me. Because without knowing people waited for the next lesson, I would have stopped long before, and this book would not be something you are reading now.

How to read this book. I suggest that you read one lesson a week, taking the time between lessons to ponder, wonder, and meditate/contemplate. I doubt very seriously many of you will do this. So, have fun, read it as you please, and if you like it, let me know.

- Old-Man-Loki

(Jack Lhasa)

Lesson #00

There is a dreaming memory in my spine, seeping through the cracks of my consciousness.

I come down the Shaman's path, following the first, Old Odin-One-Eye.

“Developmental?” I once asked Othin.

“Yes, people have forgotten the basics.” Woden looked very sad at this thought.

“So, Theology, then?”

Lesson #1

Sometimes even God settles for less.

Lesson #2

Rain is God's way of cleansing the world. Bless the rain
that falls upon my head.

Lesson #3

Homework assignment: Answer this one question. You will not have to share with the class.

When did you stop remembering?

Lesson #4

What word can quench desire?

Lesson #5

Loss is, perhaps, the single most important element involved in the process of deifying any person, place, thing, or concept.

Lesson #6

The feelings in your gut can be more important than anything the brain thinks up.

Lesson # 7

“Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.”

- Aleister Crowley: *The Book of The Law*

Lesson #8

“All formations are “transient”; all formations are “subject to suffering”; all things are “without an Ego-entity.”

Corporeality is transient, feeling is transient, perception is transient, mental formations are transient, consciousness is transient.”

- Buddha: *The Word*

Lesson #9

“Like attracts like. As above, so below.”

- Hermes Trismegustus: *The Emerald Tablet*

The hardest part is accepting that truth is based on perspective.

We make our own truths. And then we have to live our lives with them.

Lesson #10

“Don’t walk with the Devil if you can’t run with him too.”

- Seven Mary Three : *Don't Walk With the Devil*

Lesson #11

Despite centuries of searching and learning, the human race has yet to learn and adhere to the most primitive of morals:

Don't kill people.

Lesson #12

“I am wise because I know I know nothing.”

- Socrates

Lesson #13

“The truth knocks on the door and you say, ‘Go away, I’m looking for the truth,’ and it goes away. Puzzling.”

- Robert M. Pirsig: *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*

Lesson #14

Love is the marker of all human progression.

Lesson #15

“We all bleed the same.”

- Seven Mary Three: *Headstrong*

Lesson #16

“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- Jesus Christ, *The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 5, Verses 3-10*

It should be noted that in the Gospel of Luke, they are slightly different.

Lesson # 17

“Never Knows Best”

Written on a cigarette in the anime series *FLCL* (*Fooly
Cooly, or Furi Curi*)

Lesson #18

“If you never did, you should. These things are fun, and
fun is good!”

- Dr. Seuss

Lesson #19

Take out a thesaurus and look this up. How many words are synonyms for 'love'?

Lesson #20

“That’s why it’s still a mystery to me
Why some people live like they do
So many nice things happenin’ out there
They never even seen the clues”

- Jimmy Buffett: *Migration*

Lesson #21

Good things take time.

Great things happen all at once.

Lesson #22

“A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair.”

- Abraham Joshua Heschel: *New York Journal-American*,
April 5, 1963

Lesson #23

“At least two thirds of our miseries spring from human stupidity, human malice and those great motivators and justifiers of malice and stupidity, idealism, dogmatism and proselytizing zeal on behalf of religious or political idols.”

- Aldous Huxley

Lesson #24

“There are only two ways to live your life: One is as though nothing is a miracle, the other is as though everything is.”

- Albert Einstein

Lesson #25

“Do not believe anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.”

- Buddha

Lesson #26

“It’s a poor sort of memory that only works backwards”

- The White Queen to Alice in
Lewis Carroll’s *Through the Looking-Glass*

Lesson #27

“If you couldn’t find any weirdness, maybe we’ll just have to make some!”

- Bill Watterson: Hobbes
(*Calvin and Hobbes*)

Lesson #28

There is no *Lesson #28*

Lesson #29

The best thing for soothing a troubled soul:

New Love.

Lesson #30

Die, and let die.

Lesson #31

“Won’t you help to sing
- these Songs of Freedom,
‘cause all I ever had
was Redemption Songs.”

- Bob Marley: *Redemption Song*

Lesson #32

I need to be redeemed.

When did that become our anthem?

Lesson #33

Speak what you dream.

Lesson #34

Whenever you think something is too complex, just
remember:

At some point in time
the horseshoe was considered
a very complex idea.

Lesson Asterisk (*)

How much of what I say makes you laugh?

If you didn't say, "All of it,"
you may need to rethink your sense of humor,
as well as your view of this class.

Lesson #35

“The Path of Excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom.”

- William Blake

Lesson #36

“Only thing I’ll ever ask of you: You’ve got to promise
not to stop when I say ‘when’.”

- Foo Fighters: *Everlong*

Lesson #37

You know how they say, “Hindsight is 20/20?”

Well, that’s bullshit.

Think about your past. Is it a bit murky? We lose memories every day. That’s why you have to try so hard to make new ones. Just felt like that needed to be said by someone.

That’s today’s Lesson. If you don’t like it, don’t believe it.

Lesson #38

Remember:
It is the Buddha who contemplates us.

Lesson #39

At some point in the process of your enlightenment you will be asked to give up something very dear to you.

Emotions can become murky, and this will probably be the beginning of a new life for you.

All things balance. If you wish to be 'reborn' you have to die first.

"Ask and you will receive."

Pretty common quote. Apply that to your thoughts for this class.

The first step to finding the religion that is inside you is to ask for it.

Lesson #40

Let's talk a little more about the idea of modern shamanism. You see, there's a problem with religion as it currently is. It's not personal anymore. It's social. The Shaman always views ideas of - spirituality, religion, philosophy, metaphysics, etc, from the most personal view that he can grasp.

If you become one with the question, the answer will make itself known.

Make your beliefs a personal practice, and a constant exploration. Look through the eyes of The Shaman, see the world beyond, before, and after. There is another path. This is it.

Can you really handle religion on a personal level?

Lesson #41

“Religious freedom constitutes the very heart of human rights. Its inviolability is such that individuals must be recognized as having the right even to change their religion if their conscience so demands.”

- Pope John Paul

Lesson #42

I have chosen a riddle that's chosen me.
We are constantly unraveling each other.
Developing the Developer.

Lesson #43

There was a problem with the way I saw life:
I liked it.

Lesson #44

There is only one thing that causes unhappiness in humans:

Cognitive thought.

Lesson #45

“Whoever’s calm and sensible is insane.”

- Rumi

Interlude

Odin saw that the storm was getting closer. He looked me in the eye, grabbing my chin.

“You’re our only hope, my son. Show them what you know to be true. Show them *magic*. Show them *dreams*. Show them *shamans!*” Odin was screaming at me by the end.

“Show who?” Dangling by one foot, upside down on the ancient, gnarled tree, Yggdrasil. The blood was full in my face. I was fairly certain I had an eye hanging loose (This is something that often happens around Odin-One-Eye).

“Dammit all! Show them, boy! The ones that have forgotten!” He held his arms wide and I could suddenly see the people of the world with my dangling eye. Odin was gone completely now. Disappeared as fast as he showed up. And I’m sitting in front of my computer, a little cross-eyed, but no worse for the wear. I’ve gotten kind of used to being the Hanged Man.

Lesson #46

In lesson 46, we're gonna talk about some basic stuff. Very basic. But somehow we never seem to get it right. It's time we changed that. The Chamber of Guf is almost empty. There is very little time left to make this the world we need.

1. Don't Kill People! This is the most basic law, yet we have not been able to master it.
2. Don't Kill People. See above.
3. Friends are found where we need them most. Soul Magnetism is a profound thing.
4. Don't ever give up! (The hardest one of all.)
5. Time does not exist. It is a human concept for measurement. Without humans there would be no Time at all.
6. Laugh as much as you possibly can! If you cannot laugh at a situation that situation does not exist!
7. Just be fucking nice people. Come on.
8. There is no Tragedy and there is no Joy. Only impressions of emotional highs and lows.
9. Pick up a book! Read. Knowledge = Power.
10. Listen to good advice. Listen to bad advice. Try your best not to take either.

That's all for now. I'll expound upon these ideas more in the future.

Lesson #47

We break down walls every day. Communication walls, intellectual walls, emotional walls, spiritual walls. Consider it a part of your job to destroy a wall every day. If you are to take the shaman path, this is your duty.

We cannot forgive those that have never reached for something greater. That is the basis of the shaman's power and ability, constantly striving for something more. There is something out there. Can you dare to reach for it?

Lesson #48

So, what I've always tried to do with this series is to help individuals awaken that shaman on the inside that they have forgotten culturally.

An important lesson here is about community. Many people think that the shamanic journey is an introspective, private one. And it is. To an extent.

You see, once the shaman has mastered his inner self, he can begin his truly great work, and start building bonds within a community. Now this social aspect of the shaman does not mean telling everyone you've found God and you are completely right. Just the opposite really. The shaman should never force beliefs or ideals on others. They have their own shamanic journey that may be entirely different from yours, and that's okay.

A shaman builds healthy bonds and relationships with the people he or she cares about. Shamanism is not solitary. You must go into the world and help. Make this a stronger place. Make this a better, cleaner place. Make this a spiritual place again. Our old Mother misses her children.

Use the green darts. Connect the dots.

Lesson #49

I AM : Self-Realization and You.

You are almost finished with your early path. The path of the shaman is long and hard, and stretches far beyond the confines of my little class. With this lesson you will become all that you are and all that you ever shall be: Infinite. Speak these words with me. Don't let desire overcome you. Speak with me as I drum.

- I AM.
- I am a shaman.
- I am the source of all dreams, including this one.
- I am the universe, and the universe is me.
- I am the rain, and all that it cleanses.
- I am the sin in every man.
- I am the salvation in every heart.
- I am the shaman.
- I am all that is forgotten.
- I am all that will ever be remembered.
- I am my Dreaming.
- I am Zen.
- I am the flow of synchronicity.
- I am the river and the mountain, the ocean and the beach.
- I am so much more than I could ever list.
- I am a shaman.
- I am free.
- I am.

Be the Shaman. Be free. Show your faith in your determination. This can be a better world. This already is a better world. Self-realization. What are you? I am.

Lesson #50

In today's lesson I want to talk about community, and its place in your theological development. What role should the shaman play in society? You see, shamanism is very personal, but at some point the Shaman-To-Be must begin to interact with the community.

You see, a shaman's primary role is a connector. The shaman sees relationships where there are none, and connects the dots, bringing people together who may have never met any other way. A shaman's duty is to build a family, or tribe, and to help others to do the same. Putting the right people together is the ultimate goal of spiritual connection: Human Reconnection.

We separate ourselves from others in many, many ways every day. Unity is the only answer to conflict. Sharing, cooperation, understanding; these are the things that move us forward, not conflict and battles. Today, talk to someone you've never talked to. That is your assignment.

Lesson #51

As this course comes to a close, there are many things I have left to teach, but after these 52 lessons you should have a sound and stable starting point for building your own personal theology.

Let's break away these walls and join each other. I am no more teacher than I am student. Richard Bach once wrote, "We teach best what we need to learn the most." Nothing could be more true. So, here I am, on the cusp of something extraordinary, and I want all of you to join me.

Some secrets may change hands. Life may transform as we evolve both physically and spiritually. The adoption of technology to the shaman's path is of utmost importance. The shaman can no longer be just about nature. The shaman has to grow with the culture, and the culture is growing rapidly. Never has the shaman had the chance he does now. The chance to be everywhere at once, literally.

As saplings we all start, but soon we grow into trees that devour our surroundings. Be the oak tree. Give something back for what you are taking. Do not be the weeping willow, who takes all of the water it can, but offers nothing in return.

It's time that we began to think globally. There is more out there than your own backyard. Jump for it. Strive for it. Become other worldly with me. We cannot forgive those you have never reached for something greater. The fate of mankind is in each of your hands. Can you make it better?

Lesson #52

And so it ends. 52 Lessons in this series. Once a week, makes a year's worth of reading and study. This lesson is a finisher, and also a teaser for the next series, Basic Ideology.

We are going to talk just a very little about the idea of "Gnosis." Gnosis is the state of enlightenment that some believe can be achieved through knowledge. At one time, there were many Gnostic sects for many religions, but in present day, very few still exist. We are not going to concern ourselves with where they are and what they do. Instead, we will focus on the idea alone.

The idea of Gnosis, or enlightenment through knowledge, is similar to other things we have talked about, such as Zen and Existentialism. I often find that these three philosophies are more closely tied that most would like to admit.

Gnosis encourages learning and compassion. And as such it also encompasses the "Live in the Now" ideas of Zen and Existentialism.

So, let's add this brief part of the ideas to our shamanic thoughts. Knowledge is power. That has always been true. Living in the Now gets rid of things that stop human advancement, such as anxieties. If you live in this present moment, and realize that what has past is just a story

book, and what is to come is merely science fiction, it becomes easier to make this, and every, moment count.

There are hundreds of ways to say this, and it has been said over and over for centuries, but really understanding the idea is what matters. Understand that the you that is reading this is only you for that moment. After this moment has passed, it is not you anymore. You are already on the next moment, gleaning more information further down the page.

Convert your idea of time into still frames, or seconds, or motions. You can break it down to the most basic thought, and then when you run through all of those thoughts it becomes the flip-book that we call memory. And just like a real flip-book or film reel, sometimes pages, or slides become lost or damaged.

I'm starting to ramble a bit, so let's pull this together. It's hard for me not to ramble, knowing this is the end of a class that I've taught for more than a year now.

So, if we can gain knowledge, and remain fully aware of our past and future, without letting it hinder our abilities here in the Now, we might reach that state of Gnosis or enlightenment. Sounds pretty difficult, right? Well, you're the one that wanted to be a shaman.

DT089 Supplements

- She said she just saw Jesus in the parking lot. I believed her.
- A Shaman's Prayer. "Oh, Most High, let me reach Thy light. Let me know the grace and the glory that is Thy union."
- I just need my soul to shift a little to the left. If you've been keeping up with the lessons, you should know the feeling.
- I'll never lie to you for any reason. The truth is too damned beautiful.
- Where can we go that we have not already been?
- Can you hear the whirlwind calling out your name? It does not hide its nature. Imminent destruction is its base, but it does nothing to mask this. There is the chance of the Dervish Enlightenment, but the whirlwind makes no promises. It devours. And, occasionally it spits out a divine dream.

Closing Thoughts

Is there a mighty, larger plan above all this life of toil and turn? Is there a bigger plan in your head? Do you ask the questions that never seem to get answers?

Looking for answers is often just a waste of time. Sometimes the answers just come to you. Instead of looking for answers, try living for results. If you can be here, now, it'll all work out.

But what do I know?

About the Author



New media and social web enthusiast, freelance journalist, armchair philosopher, more often well-read than well-liked. I could say I'm a bit of a Jack-of-All-Trades, but I'd hate to use a pun in such bad taste. A friend of the Devil, even if I can't always run with him too. There's dirt under my nails and shrapnel in my arm from flirting with disaster and courting melancholy.

Jack writes on his blog, <http://lokilistsens.com> and is an avid Twit. You can find him there at <http://twitter.com/jacklhasa> .

About the Cover Artist

Tracey Ledebur

A Photoshop maven who never sleeps...whose passions are fed with the joy of creating art.

As a freelance graphic artist for nearly 12 years, I have been given many opportunities to develop concepts through images. The elements of nature are heavily incorporated into my work, usually meshed together with that which is man-made. For me, it's all about finding the perfect balance between the two worlds....for when it is achieved, harmony is attained.

If you'd like to contact Tracey about her artwork, you can check out her website at <http://www.urbanpixels.com/>

