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**From:** Deepak Chopra <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 1, 2016 12:24 PM  
**To:** Michael Shermer  
**Cc:** Barnaby Marsh; Leonard Mlodinow; Jennifer Shermer  
**Subject:** Re: Lunch

Last night's conversation with Michael inspired this video this morning

<https://www.facebook.com/DeepakChopra>

See you at lunch guys

All love

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From: Deepak Chopra  
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2016 10:20:25 PM  
To: Michael Shermer  
Cc: Barnaby Marsh; Leonard Mlodinow; Jennifer Shermer  
Subject: Re: Lunch

yes--God is an unfortunate term -with many interpretations. For me God is the ground of being as pure consciousness--potential for all experience--before the conditioning.

Tagore the Indian poet/ philosopher says "God is every child that is born and proof as well that God has not ( yet ) given up on human beings "

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From: Michael Shermer <m=hermer@skeptic.com>  
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2016 10:16:27 PM  
To: Deepak Chopra  
Cc: Barnaby Marsh; Leonard Mlodinow; Jennifer Shermer  
Subject: Re: Lunch

Got it. I wonder if you then concur or find resonance with Paul Tillic=s idea of god as the "ground of being"?

On Jul 31, 2016, at 6:55 PM, Deepak Chopra <nonlocal101@chopra.com> wrote:

From the dictionary  
ontology |än'täləjē| &=bsp;noun1 </=pan>the branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of being.<=span>  
<=pan role="text" class="df">

<=pan role="text" class="df">Being is fundamental existence

<=pan role="text" class="df">Ontologically it can be assumed to be physical or pure consciousness.

<=pan role="text" class="df">We both know where we stand

<=pan role="text" class="df">The hard problem exists only if you assume a physicalist ontology

<=pan role="text" class="df">If consciousness is your ontological primitive --ie fundamental, without cause, irreducible--here is no hard problem .

<=pan role="text" class="df">Consciousness and its modifications --sensations, sensory experiences, images, feelings and thoughts are all experience we can have. These are interpreted by humans as mind and matter--the interpretations are also in consciousness.

<=pan role="text" class="df">'You can't get behind consciousness' Max Planck

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From: Michael Shermer <msherme=@skeptic.com <<mailto:mshermer@skeptic.com>> >

Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2016 9:44:38 PM  
To: Deepak Chopra  
Cc: Barabara Marsh; Leonard Mlodinow; Jennifer Shermer  
Subject: Re: Lunch

What do you mean by "being"? Here I think we encounter language problems so semantic precision is helpful

On Jul 31, 2016, at 6:11 PM, Deepak Chopra <nonlocal101@chopra.com> wrote:

Being --the ontological primitive--wants to know .

Shermer is assumed identity conditioned by religion( not anymore ), culture, mythology, ideology, science ( maybe even scientism ). Genes , neural networks etc are symbolic signatures of that conditioned identity .

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From: Michael Shermer <mshermer@skeptic.com <mailto:mshermer@skeptic.com> >  
Sent: Sunday, July 31, 2016 9:08:36 PM  
To: Deepak Chopra  
Cc: Barabara Marsh; Leonard Mlodinow; Jennifer Shermer  
Subject: Re: Lunch

The bigger question--Who or what wants to know if they have free will or not ?=

I do. Me. The self who calls itself Michael Shermer. The pattern of information in the genome and connectome stored inside the skin and skull of the entity known as Michael Shermer.

How do you answer that question?

Michael

