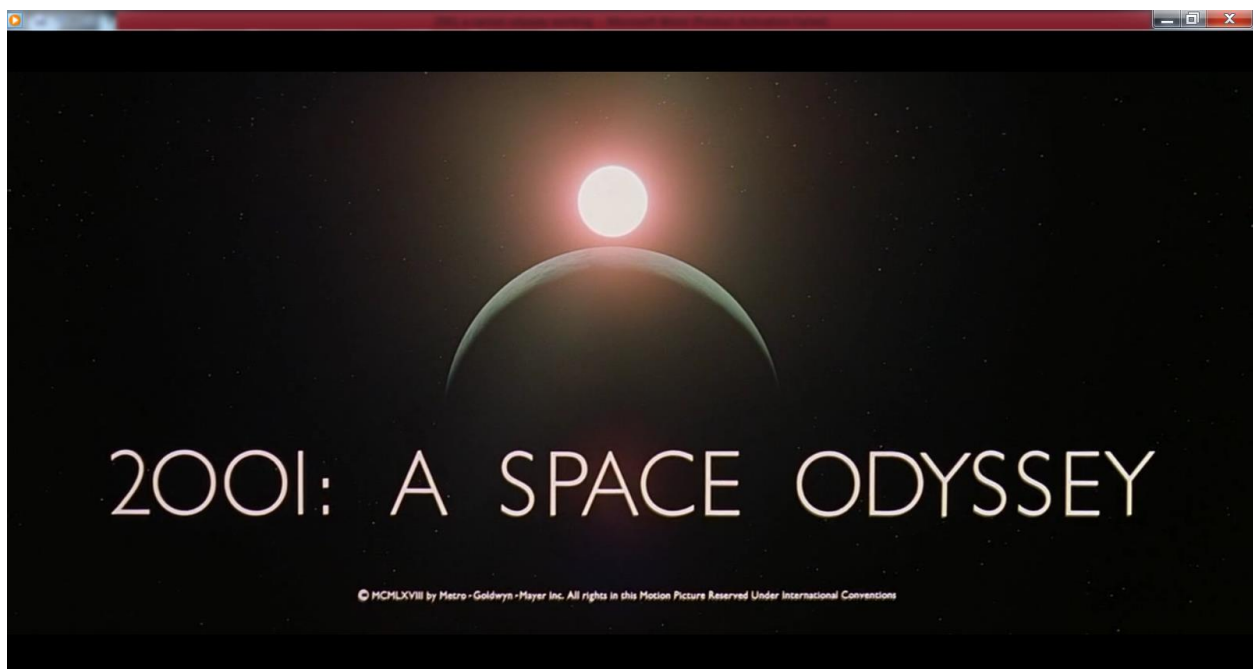


2001: a carnist odyssey,

by Sean McCann

How carnism is used by Stanley Kubrick to illustrate violence and domination as the force which leads to Mankind being cast out of the Garden of Eden.



2001 is both a celebration of Intellect combined with violence/domination, and a lament for the loss of our rightful place in the Garden of Eden.

Kubrick's film is widely misunderstood and has many esoteric narratives running through it. We all know the film depicts an alien force communicating with apes to influence their evolution as a species, creating Mankind. What I propose is that Kubrick uses Christian and Darwinist elements to depict the worldview of the Mystery Babylon. Using carnism (the killing and eating of animal flesh) to illustrate a satanic mindset of violence and domination.

The first chapter of the film opens with the title "the Dawn of Man". This invites the viewer to consciously relate the scene to 'Genesis' the first book of the Holy Bible.



Kubrick displays the landscape, the Garden of Eden. Then he shows us an ape in the garden. This is where Kubrick combines the Christian creation myth with the theory of Darwinism, the two themes running together. The ape is Adam, the first Man, the missing link of Darwinist theory. Next we are shown the other animals which share the garden with ancient Mankind. The apes are shown living peacefully in the garden with pigs. The apes are eating plants.



The apes and pigs are shown fighting over the available plants (the limited resource element of Darwinist theory). While there is conflict, no one is harmed, and they continue to coexist peacefully. Next we see two bands of apes fighting over access to a watering hole. The conflict only involves loud screeching, yells and posturing, no violence. Kubrick then introduces predators into the scene as a

cheetah leaps down from a rock and lands on an ape to eat it. We now understand why the apes are afraid as they huddle in a cave at night. They listen to the nocturnal predators hunting for them outside.

The next morning, the apes awaken to find the black Monolith in front of their cave. This represents the satanic force, the serpent in the garden.



It is a black six sided stone whose face has the same dimensions as the movie screen we are watching. Obviously not of this world, it has smooth planes and sharp angles. It is very different from the ape's immediate environment. Almost as different as this film is compared to all other films we've seen.



The apes are afraid at first, then their curiosity helps them overcome their fight or flight response. One ape touches the monolith, he tastes it. Then all the others touch it as well. This touch is the communion with the satanic force. The next shot is from the ape's perspective as he touches it, looking up at the monolith, it aligns with the Sun and Moon as it communicates with the ape's mind.

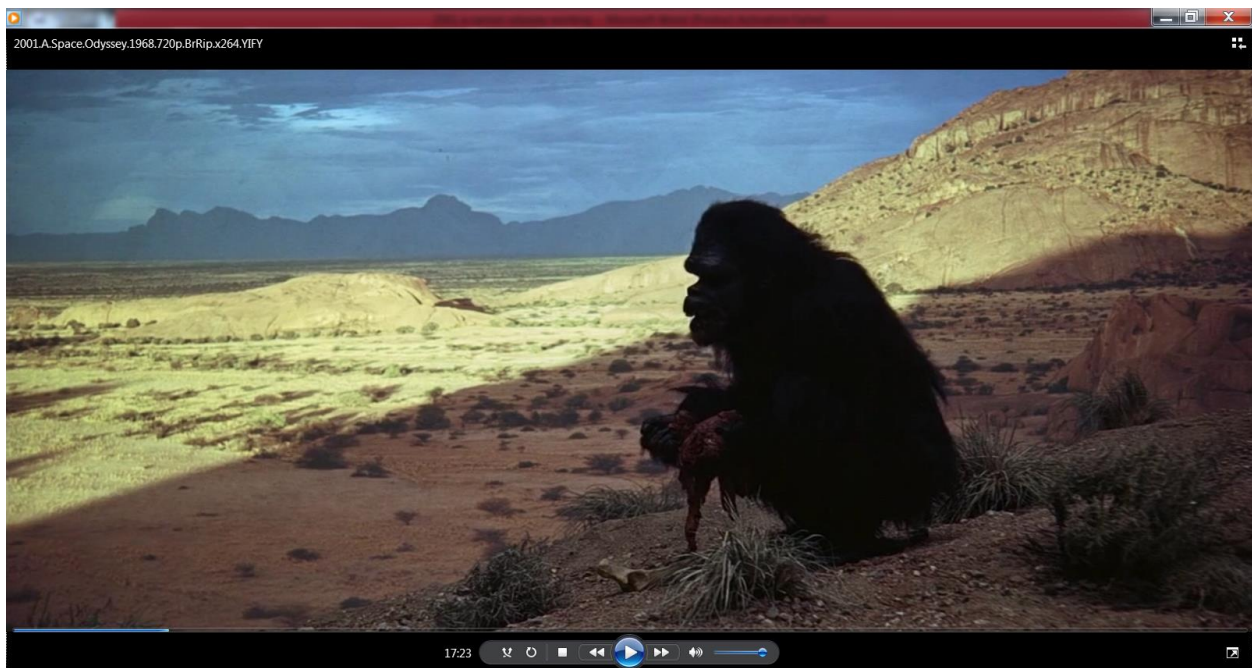


This perspective transforms the rectangular face of the monolith into a trapezoid. This trapezoid with the sun above is reminiscent of the truncated pyramid with the 'all seeing eye' of masonic iconography. The Monolith being a six sided black stone is a direct reference to Saturn. Another element to notice is the Moon creates a set of horns over the Sun, like the horns of Ba'al. This combination of visual elements gives the viewer no doubt that this is depicting a satanic force. We are to assume the information transmitted to the apes is satanic in nature. Like the words spoken to Eve by the serpent in the Garden.

Next we see an ape picking through a pig carcass. The ape is visibly shown thinking as a flash of the trapezoid shot is edited into the scene. We assume the thinking ape is realizing that this carcass is the remains of a living animal. He picks up a large bone and uses it as a club to smash the other bones. The ape is excited at the destruction of the bones in front of him as he swings his club. We see him smash the fragile skull and flashes of pigs falling dead are sewn into the epic scene.



Next we see an ape eating a freshly killed piece of animal flesh. His teeth squish into the raw meat as he bites, and we hear the sound of flies buzzing.



The film cuts to a wider view showing the entire troop of apes eating raw meat as they sit around a pig carcass. They all have clubs, including the babies, which indicates they learn from each other and pass the knowledge on to their offspring.



After the whole tribe has eaten their fill of raw flesh, they make their way to the watering hole. They confront their rivals, the other group of apes, at the hole. They make loud noises and posturing like usual, except today is different. When one rival ape charges at the armed troop he is quickly bashed in the head with a club. The charging ape is instantly killed and twitches on the ground. All the other apes take turns smashing the dead ape with their clubs, each of them committing wrathful aggressive violence against their fellow ape. The rest of the unarmed apes flee and the armed troop wins the watering hole. This all aligning with Darwin's survival of the fittest premise, now the psychopathic apes win the day and are free to enjoy the resources won by their aggression. The alpha ape throws his club in the air, literally casting it out of the garden. This shot of the bone being cast out, spliced with a spaceship hovering over earth, represents intellect combined with violence and domination to give us technology. This technology carries Mankind out of our primitive state, to where we have dominated the entire planet, effectively casting us out of the Garden of Eden and into the cold blackness of space.



What Kubrick is trying to teach us is, according to the mystery schools, meat IS the forbidden fruit. It came from “the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil”. When eating any other fruit, there is no need for knowledge of good or evil, but when you steal the life and flesh from another being you KNOW it’s wrong. You can hear it in your heart. This is the sin that destroys the Garden.

There are a few more references to carnism in the film. One is at the 47 minute mark, when Heywood Floyd and his colleagues are zooming across the lunar surface in a rocket bus on their way to view the Monolith discovered buried on the Moon. One of the men asks “is anybody hungry?” carrying a white plastic cooler. Opening it he offered the contents to Mr. Floyd. Heywood asks “what is that, chicken?” The response was “something like that. It tastes like it anyway” said with a chuckle. Everyone laughs and the third man asks “do you have any ham?” This directly relates to the opening scenes where the ape’s first flesh meal was a pig. He takes a bite and says “hey, this is pretty good.” The man with the cooler replies “they’re getting better at it all the time”. Reminding us that we have been murdering and eating pigs since the Garden of Eden. What seems to be different now though is how sanitized and removed we are from committing the murder which created the meal. Now we eat our dead pig in neat little white square sandwiches wrapped in plastic from a cooler. The days of wielding a club are long behind us, yet we are still ingesting suffering and death.



The last depiction of carnism is at the end of the film when Bowman is inside the Monolith orbiting Jupiter. He sees himself, older, eating a plate of meat and vegetables under a painting of a gentleman picking fruit for his lady from a tree. This reminds us of the Garden of Eden subplot as well as showing us Bowman's willingness to eat suffering and death. No matter how refined his tastes may seem with his smoking jacket and crystal wineglass, he's still committing violence and domination towards of his fellow beings.



This final confirmation completed, Bowman is rewarded by the satanic force and given apotheosis. He is given access to another level of existence, the ultimate goal of the alchemist. Mystery Babylon is telling us with the power of intellect combined with violence and domination, they rule this world and will be given access to the next. In this final scene, Bowman is transformed into a starchild looking at Earth from space, and the audience is left wondering if he is in a state of excited celebration or mournful regret.



All of the enlightened spiritual traditions know eating flesh is wrong. Continuing to enslave, torture, rape, and murder our fellow animals keeps us locked out of paradise. Earth cannot be returned to Eden until we all follow God's first rule of the Garden, "DO NO HARM".