

"Man always falls into exaggerated thoughts about the things he does not know."

Albert Camus, *The Stranger*



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The tendency to fall into exaggerated thoughts about unknown things is not due to a weakness of humanity; it is inherent in the realm of mystery. Unknown always gives rise to power. A person who is unaware of what they are dealing with tends to behave timidly; it is in their nature. Hence, ignorance gives birth to exaggeration, while knowledge gives rise to courage. When we think of the earliest humans based on non-scriptural evidence, they were in constant struggle with nature and other beings, and there were many things they did not know. Until they acquired knowledge about them, they always exaggerated their power in their eyes. Nothing has changed in today's world; anything unknown to humans is perceived as powerful and exaggerated. Fear is not directly responsible for this situation; it is the power of the unknown that creates fear.

Is it harder to believe in an unseen god or in a visible one? Due to the power of mystery, most people submit and exaggerate gods or deities whose essence they do not know. I don't say they exalt them because exaltation requires knowledge. Humans, unable to endure the power derived from this unknownness of gods, have made them visible through idols. Of course, this is not the sole reason; humans always want to see and know. It applies even to gods; when they cannot intellectually perceive them, they make them visible through idols. When the god becomes visible, the fear towards them diminishes. Although it is said that the idol is merely a representation and that it symbolizes submission to the divine essence, its visibility has caused a decline in the power of the unknown. To the extent that they become visible, people dare to deceive their visible gods. Seeing becomes equivalent to knowing for them. The same applies to spirits. They are referred to as three letters because people fear even mentioning their names. When they are unseen and their essence is not fully known, this mystery empowers them. However, if spirits were visible, people could easily overcome their fear, or if they had detailed knowledge about spirits, they would not fear them. The power brought by the unknown leads to exaggerated thoughts in humans, which eventually turn into exaggerated beliefs in the unknown. And generally, it culminates in superstitions.

Exaggeration doesn't only occur in the presence of fear; every emotion can be exploited. The reason for basing it on fear is that there is an underlying unease in all situations. Similar situations arise in human relationships as well. When you enter a new environment, you create an unknown effect, which makes people uneasy and leads them to exaggerated thoughts. These thoughts can also be positive, and generally, they are. They may perceive you as highly successful, extraordinary, or exceptional. However, as they begin to interact with you and get to know you, the power derived from the unknown diminishes. If the individuals you're dealing with have strong character, the relationship transitions into sincerity. Otherwise, it may devolve into casualness. That's why the thoughts of others about individuals who maintain their boundaries have always been exaggerated, and they have not relinquished the obligatory respect towards them. Because the unknown surpasses familiarity.

We also exaggerate tasks that we have not previously experienced or have no knowledge of, and when we delve into those tasks and acquire information, we realize that they are not exaggerated at all and may even belittle them. All of these experiences occur due to the power of the unknown. As the unknown increases, humans fall into exaggerated thoughts, but as knowledge accumulates, the unknown diminishes, and a transition is made to appropriate thoughts. The dominant side will always prevail depending on the balance of this situation. Although it is related to the unknown, in our current era, a false sense of mystery also creates a similar effect. I define this as the power of the majority. Just as in aesthetic values, there are

situations in exaggerated thoughts that are determined by the inclination of the majority. People also fall into exaggerated thoughts about individuals who pretend to possess qualities they do not have and have managed to convince the majority. In reality, the power here stems from the inclination of the majority, but it reflects itself as the power of an unknown. It is an illusion; it is false mystery. The same phenomenon occurs in love, developing alongside anxiety; the unease caused by anxiety leads to exaggerated thoughts about the other person.