

LIFE TOGETHER • DOUG OLENA • 5/28/2023

PSALM 115 AND
CULTURE EXERCISES

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READ THE PASSAGES IN PSALMS.

— *Doug Olena*

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**WHAT IS OUR
PERSPECTIVE?**

WHAT IS OUR PERSPECTIVE?

"WE ARE MADE OF STAR-STUFF." - CARL SAGAN

- Our culture is rich in things that our forebears of 3000 years ago could not even conceive in their wildest imaginations.
- What do you think was missing of our perspective in theirs?
- Give me a list of things both material and non-material.

**WHAT IS THE WRITER'S
PERSPECTIVE?**

WHAT WAS THEIR PERSPECTIVE?

"WE ARE MADE OF STAR-STUFF." - CARL SAGAN

- The best we might be able to do is to understand what in our culture they did not have.
- What do you think was missing of our perspective in theirs?
- What did they have that we also have?

CHARACTERISTICS OF IDOLS

ANCIENT

"WE ARE MADE OF STAR-STUFF." - CARL SAGAN

- Silver and gold, made by people that have...
- ...Mouths, Eyes, Ears, Noses, Hands, and Feet, but these are non-functional, non-sensible organs.
- "Those who make them become like them, as do all who trust in them." 8

MODERN

"WE ARE MADE OF STAR-STUFF." - CARL SAGAN

- I don't think it can be said in the West that the ancient proscriptions about idols are of any use today.
- But, our idols are of a mental and social, having to do with our loyalties.
- Francis Bacon in *Novum Organum* described aspects of idolatry in the West we can identify with.

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THE REASON FOR OUR EXERCISE IN
PERSPECTIVES IS TO DETACH OUR MODERN
CULTURAL ELEMENTS FROM THEIRS.

— *Doug Olena*

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I BELIEVE THAT THE ANCIENT ISRAELITES
HAD ONE PRIMARY TASK, TO DETACH
FROM IDOLATRY, THE MODERNS, MUST
NOW DETACH FROM GOVERNANCE.

— *Doug Olena*

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FRANCIS BACON

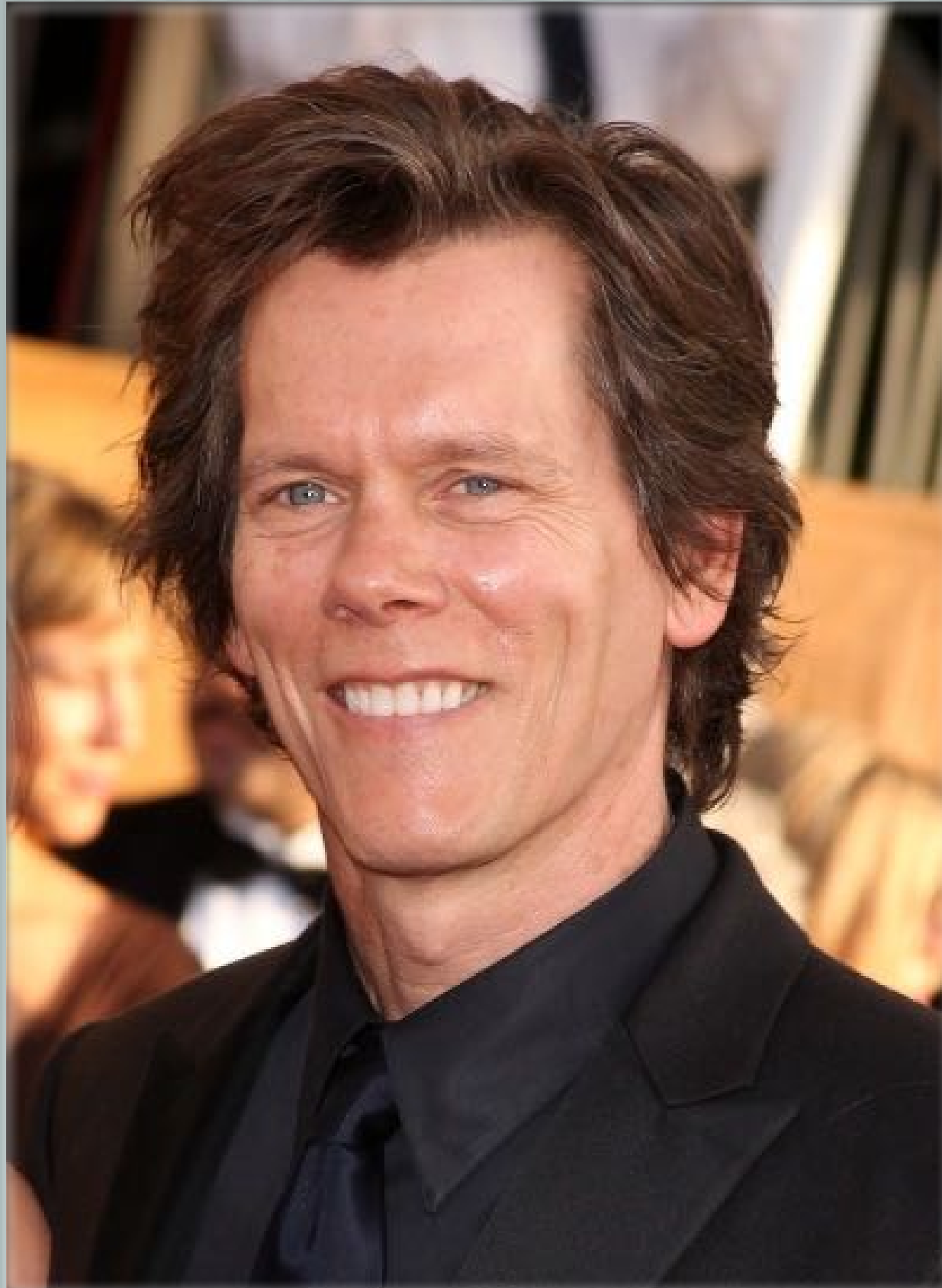
The Age of Reason 1500-1800



Francis Bacon 1561-1626

- [In The New Atlantis, Francis Bacon outlined the ideal society.
- [Science would provide the key to human happiness.
- [Bacon is a great example of the Enlightenment thinker in believing that individuals should be free to explore nature unencumbered by Church polity.

The Age of Reason ;-)



Kevin Bacon

- [Bacon discusses the pursuit of knowledge around four great themes.
- Knowledge grants power (charity).
- Theology and Science are separate fields of knowledge.
- Induction is the means of creating systems or methods of inquiry.
- The system should be dynamic, i.e., continually examined.

The Age of Reason ;-)



Randy Bacon

- [**Four idols** that obstruct knowledge:
 - 41 **Tribe**—what we assume to be true is always a perspective or what we prefer to be true
 - 42 **Den**—private fallacies from background, education
 - 43 **Market**—association and communication, use of words
 - 44 **Theatre**—dogmas of philosophies and institutions like the Church

ONE LAST THING

PSALM 115:17

"WE ARE MADE OF STAR-STUFF." - CARL SAGAN

- It is not the dead who praise the Lord, nor any who descend into silence.