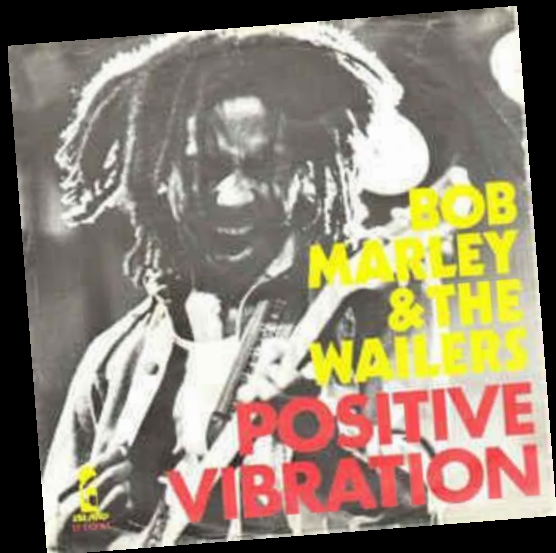


‘PULSATING WITH LOVE AND LIGHT’: A CASE STUDY ON PHISH AND THE VIBE

Jason Del Gandio, Ph.D.
Temple University
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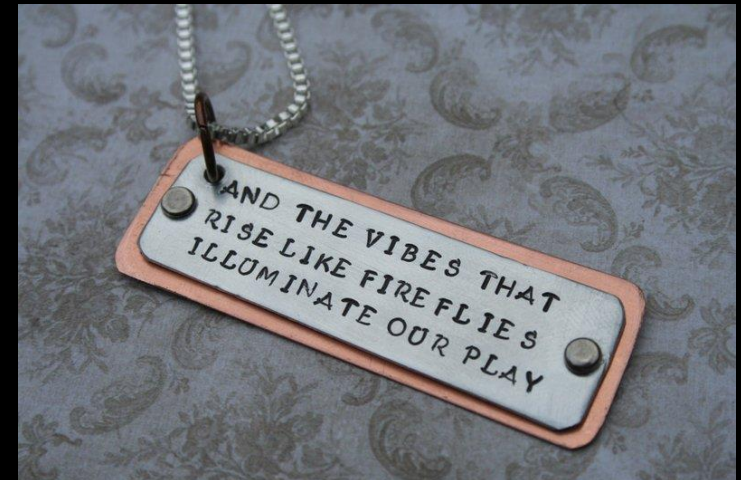
THE VIBEOLOGICAL LEXICON

Use of the word “vibe” is everywhere



PHISH CULTURE AND THE VIBE

- Google search “phish vibes”: 627,000 hits
- Google search for “forum.phish.net vibes”: 175,000 hits



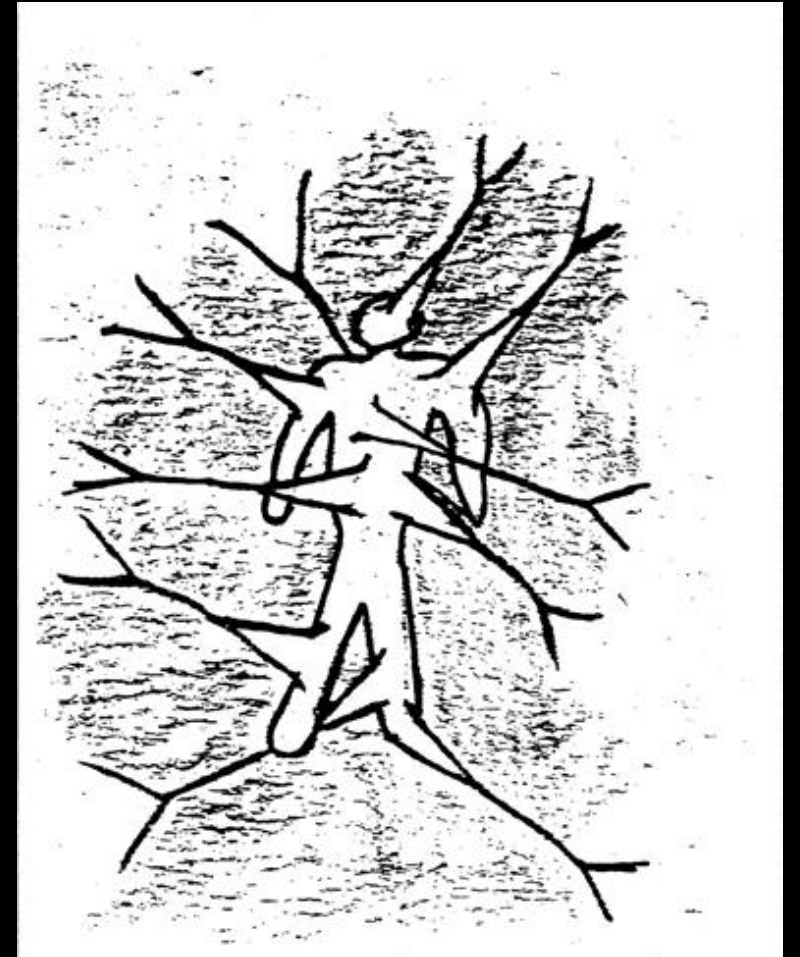
PHISH SONGS

- “Vibration of Life”
 - Healing and universal energy
- Cover of “Energy”
 - And the world is made of energy
and the world is electricity
and the world is made of energy
and there's a light inside of you
and there's a light inside of me
- “More”
 - In a world gone mad a world gone mad
There must be something more than this
We're vibrating with love and light
Pulsating with love and light

A RE-CONCEPTUALIZATION

Vibe = Bodily Emanation

- **Bodily Emanation**
 - a tangible felt-energy that perpetually radiates from our bodies



LEVELS & MODES OF THE VIBE

- Interpersonal
 - Small/Large Group
 - Local/Regional
 - Cultural
 - Global
- A form of communication
 - A way of knowing
 - An existential guide for moving through the world

A UNIVERSAL VIBE

- animals, insects, and microscopic living organisms
 - trees, plants, and blades of grass
 - Earth, moon, sun, and stars
- Moving beyond the Western paradigm
 - Decentering the human

TWO QUOTES BY TREY



QUOTES

“[W]e walk on stage without a song list because I don’t think that decision could be made without the introduction of **the audience energy**. . . It’s kind of like martial arts to me in that there’s an enormous amount of preparation into not having any thought at all. . . When I walk on stage I’ve trained myself to go completely blank until I step up, I pick up my guitar and I know what to play.” (“Trey Anastasio Discusses,” n.p.)

- “The music exists in the universe, and if you’re lucky enough, or strong enough, to get your ego out of the way, the music comes through you. The audience that we have is open to that. They understand that **conversational transfer of energy**. Their being open to it makes it easier for the energy to pass through.” (“Happy Birthday Trey Anastasio,” n.p.)

SYMBIOTIC & CO-CREATIVE

- Trey (individual vibe)
- Trey-and-Band (small group vibe)
- Band-and-Audience (large group vibe)
- Concert-and-Beyond (global and universal vibe)

GETTING "IT": THE GRAND PHISH VIBE

- Egolessness
- Ego fads to the back
- Alternative modes of knowing, communicating, and being come forward
- The vibe is always emanating
- Phish helps us tap in



EXCERPT FROM PAPER

And this is why Phish makes for a great case study: the Phish experience involves all kinds of vibes, not least of which is the grand Phish vibe. This grand vibe is commonly experienced during moments of egolessness, when the band is taking “phans” on a magic carpet ride with ups and downs, peaks and valleys, riffs, teasers, footnotes, and of course, plenty of jams. You suddenly realize that your little peephole of a mind is just a self-defense mechanism. Yes, the ego serves its function as a protective shield, and it even engenders its own set of pleasure principles (see Freud). But the intoxication of vibing 20,000-strong helps us realize that there are protective gears that precede and exceed the ego; that the vibe engenders its own laws of magnetic attraction and repulsion; that your vibrational hum-and-mesh is guiding you with or without the ego’s self-defense mechanisms. You close your eyes, flail your arms, shake your ass, and think, “This is wild!”

NOTES

Anastasio, Trey. "Happy Birthday Trey Anastasio: Fall 1994 Interview With Steve Silberman." Interviewed by Steve Silberman. Jambase.com, September 30, 2018. <https://www.jambase.com/article/phish-trey-anastasio-interview-fall-1994-steve-silberman>

Anastasio, Trey. "Trey Anastasio Discusses His Phish Show Day Rituals On SiriusXM." Posted by Scott Bernstein. Jambase.com, December 18, 2018. <https://www.jambase.com/article/trey-anastasio-phish-show-day-rituals>

*The images used herein are NOT my own; I found them online, including the concert photos.