

Liberation and Enlightenment



Overview

Liberation and enlightenment are terms often associated with Eastern teachings and experience. In the West, although “salvation” is the experiential equivalent, the meaning of salvation or “saved” has dominantly resided with the more fundamentalist viewpoint. So, this work will serve to bridge the “commonality” between the Eastern and Western teachings of non-duality (mysticism or “There is Only One!”), as well as describe more fully the state of consciousness¹ in which the opposites of creation and the Uncreated are in Unity. This is called approximately “Krishna” or “Unity” consciousness in the East and “Christ” consciousness in the West. Both point to “liberation” from separation from the Whole and “Salvation” from suffering.

¹ State of consciousness is the “experiential perspective” with which we view the totality of all that is. Please see explanation of states of consciousness in “Journey of the Soul” available through www.stillpointlibrary.com

Salvation²

“How can knowledge be acquired? How can liberation be attained? How can renunciation come about?”

- There is no such thing as ignorance, which could be removed by the acquisition of knowledge. He (the Guru) knows that every individual is the universal Consciousness, which has identified itself with the individual body-mind organism, and that such identification is itself the ignorance that the disciple talks about.
- The above is the explanatory teaching of the first and only mystical truth – “There is only One!”

Desire for Salvation

“My child, if you are seeking liberation, shun (not to seek fulfillment in these but rather enjoy or be repulsed naturally by) the objects of the senses like poison; and seek forgiveness, sincerity, kindness, contentment and truth like you would seek nectar.”

- (Overshadowing) Desire in any form is the only obstacle, even if the desire is for liberation!

² The primary text, which is in black, is quoted from the “Ashtavakra Gita” (see www.stillpointlibrary.com and go to “Reference Resources.” This Gita is the bible of non-dualistic teachings of mysticism and, although of Eastern origin, is Universal in its teaching and perspective.



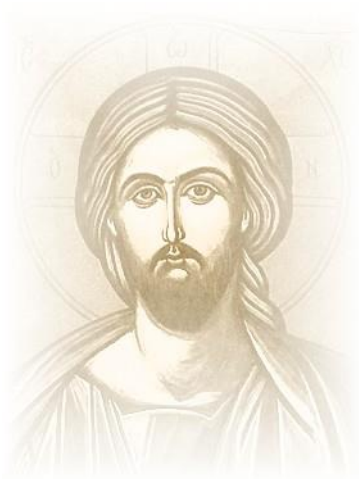
Identity

“You are neither earth, nor water, nor fire, nor air, nor space. “

“You are the witness of those five elements as Consciousness. Understanding this is liberation.”

“My Kingdom (identity – home – Self) is not of this world.”

“The Kingdom of Heaven (our true identity) is within” (or transcendent as the witness to the temporal kingdom (creation) without!



Acceptance (Love)

"If you detach yourself from the identification with the body and remain relaxed in and as Consciousness, you will, this very moment, be happy, at peace, free from bondage."

"I AM Pure Spirit, witnessing all of this as God."

- You are not the body, which is composed of the five elements.
- You are that Consciousness which has provided the inert body with the sentience that makes the senses function in regard to their objects.

- “You” are not the physical organism but Consciousness which works, not as someone in charge of the operations of the physical organism, but merely as the witness of the operations.
- You have wrongly identified yourself as the individual, as the doer of all actions that take place through the physical organism, and thereby unnecessarily assume the responsibility for the actions, which take place, and thus assume the bondage from which you are seeking liberation. (We assume responsibility for our “pre-disposition” to act and think and feel in certain ways.)

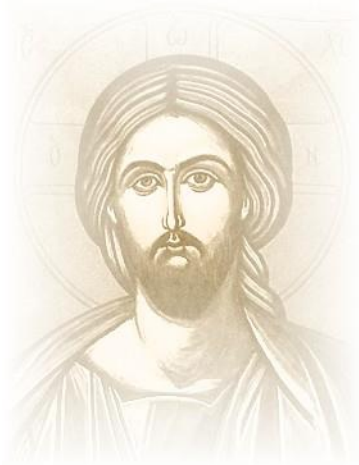
“Relaxed in Consciousness” (The Experience of Salvation)

- The witness cannot be the doer (be the owner of the predisposition to act, feel and think), and you are therefore not the doer. *With this understanding*, you can detach yourself from the wrong identification with the body. And when you do this, you will automatically assume your true position as the witness and remain relaxed (because there is not the tension of responsibility for the actions) in Consciousness, as Consciousness.
- Just as sunlight makes objects in a room perceivable but is not concerned with what happens to the objects, it is in Consciousness that all phenomenal objects appear, and such objects are perceived and cognized by Consciousness through the sentient objects, but Consciousness is not involved in what happens to the phenomenal objects, including human beings. Consciousness—the real “you”—merely witnesses all events as in a dream.



Happiness

“You do not belong to any caste like Brahmana, nor do you belong to any station in life. You are not the object of any sense. Unattached and formless, you are the witness of the entire universe. Know this, and be happy.” (We cannot identify with our “legend” or the sum total of all thoughts and activities of the body-mind unit and its “unique” drama within creation.)



Contentment

“Right and wrong, happiness and sorrow are all attributes of the mind, not of You, O all-pervading One. You are neither the doer nor the enjoyer, You who have ever and always been free of all such attachments.”

(Emotions and thoughts are not a measure of our inner state, nor are they from our inner state – they are modulations of consciousness on the sea of existence to be witnessed but NOT claimed as one’s very own!)



Why Opposites in Creation?

Because –that is the nature of things!

Opposites cannot exist without each other—they are in a polaric relationship, which the Chinese describe as “mutually arising”. Being can only come out of non-being, light from space, sound from silence, and, therefore, the opposites, although certainly different, are inseparable like the poles of a magnet.

Faith then is the acknowledgement of the truth that all things act according to their nature: God’s nature is to be both unbounded while experiencing boundaries; the nature of the Christ is to unite the two with the One; our nature is to act according to our predispositions.

Ultimately there is only innocence!

Role of the Divine Feminine

“You have been bitten by the deadly black serpent of the ego and you therefore consider yourself as the doer. Drink the nectar of the faith that you are not the doer and be happy.”



- What is it that is at the root of the concept of bondage and unhappiness? It is the sense of doership, the notion of volition.
- The entire mechanism of what is known as living one’s life is based on the notion that whenever a human being acts in any manner—whatever the act—it is because he wants to act in that manner. In other words, it is supposed that volition is behind every act of a human being and that he is therefore “responsible” for it. The fact of the matter, however, is that human beings usually do not “act” but “react” to an outside stimulus.
- If even a little thought is given to the matter, it will be obvious that very few actions are truly the result of volition or acts of will. Most of the time living, for most people, is conditioned by a series of reflexes based essentially on instinct, habit and even propaganda.
- The scope of deliberate, considered action is in actual life extremely limited. And yet almost every person firmly believes that he is the doer, and that is why Ashtavakra refers to the notion of individual volition as the bite of the deadly

serpent of the ego. The sense of doership, the notion of volition is at best only an impulse, a demonstration of the ego, of the “me”-concept. As long as this “condition” remains, so long as there is identification with a phenomenal object as a separate “me”, so long must bondage continue.

- Human beings may think that they “live” their lives, but in fact their lives are being lived as part of the total functioning of this entire phenomenal manifestation.

“Having burnt down the forest of ignorance with the fire of the conviction ‘I am the One, Pure Consciousness’, discard all grief and be happy.”

“You are that Consciousness—Supreme Bliss—upon which appears this phenomenal manifestation, like the illusion of a snake on a rope. Live happily.”

- Return the mind to the source, the Consciousness. (I AM Pure Awareness, witnessing all of this, including the mind-body unit, as a means of God expressing Itself.)
- All there is, is Consciousness on which spontaneously appears this universe.
- The conviction about one’s true identity, which comes about when the mistaken identity is clearly realized, leads to the kind of living in which personal volition is absent. The human being is “being lived” as an intrinsic part of the totality of functioning in the universe.
- Judging presupposes duality, whereas witnessing is beyond duality.

“The one who considers himself free is indeed free while the one who considers himself bound remains in bondage.”

The saying ‘As one thinks, so one becomes’ is certainly a true one.

Mystics



“Mystics (those who are in the Consciousness of unity – the Christ or Krishna) are both inhabitants of this world and citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. They commit themselves wholeheartedly to the building of the earthly society (righteous³ structures), but they remain focused on the things of eternity (relaxed in Consciousness witnessing all of this as God’s manifestation).”

³ Righteousness is a quality. It is a “structure” whether personal or impersonal in which human evolution can naturally occur. For example: communism is an “unrighteous” structure. Human evolution in terms of knowing, loving and serving God is not permitted!

Living the Dual Citizenship

“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of the Truth (there is only One acting as the many); and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know this Truth – in a word, to know Himself – so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.”

Intimacy⁴ (A Contemplation)

“Knowledge⁵ always deceives.

It always limits the Truth⁶, every concept and image does.

For cage to cage⁷ the caravan moves⁸,

But I give thanks

For at each Divine Juncture⁹

My wings¹⁰ expand

And I

Touch Him more

⁴ Meister Eckhart

⁵ Facts that pertain to the relative, changing (waves)

⁶ That which does not change (Ocean)

⁷ Mental engagement

⁸ Contents of the mind, subconscious, unconscious

⁹ The “gap” or the “space” between the notes -Silence

¹⁰ Wings – consciousness – wings denote ability to soar to heights of greater perspective

Intimately.”



Grace

In The fullness My Lord

Filled with Thy Grace,

For the purpose of union with Thee

And to satisfy and glorify Thy creation,

With thanks to Thee with all our hearts

And with all adoration for Thy blessings,

We accept Thy gifts, this life, these circumstances,

As they have come to us.

