Enlightenment — When?

What happens after death? How long does it take to get enlightened? These are the routine questions I get asked.

It is not really a question of time. It is really a question of when will you do it. How long does it take, there is no such thing. You are where you are, if you want to realise yourself, should it take time? In reality it should not take time, but it takes time because you don't give in at all once, you give in by installments. So whether you want to go by small installments and take 100 lifetimes, or you want to do it today is your choice. How long it takes simply depends on how intense is your longing to know.

Everybody would like to know what is after death if they could get it on the Internet. If you can login and just find out, everybody would like to know, but how badly do you really want to know? If you can sit here and casually ask 'What happens after death? What is the source of my creation,' that means you don't know the immensity of the question.

If you burn with this question, to such an extent that you can't utter a word but you burn, then knowing is not far away.

It's very simple. The reason why it is so far away is because the longing is still lukewarm. It is still not killing you. Still, it's on the side. You want to know the truth like some entertainment, it won't happen. Don't have such hopes. If you want it in such a way that that's all you want, then it's just a moment away, because what you want to know is within you.

What is within you cannot be denied to you by anybody except yourself, isn't it? What is within you cannot be denied to you by anybody except yourself. So you just have to get yourself out of the way, either you go in installation or you just go once.

Enlightenment need not always happen with a bang it can happen quietly, it can be like a flower blossoming. The greatest things happening on the planet do not make any noise, isn't it? Now a seed is becoming a plant—a plant is becoming a tree, not a small phenomenon—a tremendous phenomenon, does it make any noise? But the little achievements make a lot of noise. You know the cock gets up in the morning and makes a lot of noise, but the big things happening in existence don't make any noise. Quietly it is happening isn't it? So enlightenment also happens quietly without any noise, no big firecrackers happening, very quietly from one dimension to another. In the garden the flowers bloom, no noise no fireworks nothing, but once it has bloomed you can't ignore it, it's significant, the fragrance and the beauty of it is undeniably there.

So similarly enlightenment, blossoming from one dimension to another happens very quietly, but when it happens, when the moment you notice it, it is a very big thing, you cannot ignore it.

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Grace and Devotion

In the history of this humanity, many truly illuminating human beings have happened—they have shone brighter than the stars in the sky. Why, a few human beings are of this capability, and why so many other millions of people, just come and go? I'm not trying to compare their lives against somebody else's and say this is useless, that is useful—it is not those terms. But why is it that somebody seems to have come with enormous capability? Why is it that somebody else has to struggle with every little thing in their lives? People always say, he's gifted. Nobody is gifted; there is really no gift about anything—everything you have to do. Either you are Joyfully, or you earn miserably— that is all the choice.

There are different ways to earn this. There are a variety of sadhanas through which one can do so. But the simplest way, and the easiest way, and it is also the most self-destructive way, is devotion. What is Grace, first of all? If you look at yourself as a machine, you have brains, you have body, you have body, you have everything. But what you call as 'Grace' is the lubrication. Without the lubrication you have a great engine but you get stuck at every point. Any number of people like this are there on the planet—they are intelligent, they are capable, but at every corner in their life they get stuck, because there is no lubrication.

Whatever is considered as 'Grace', seems to pervade some people's lives, and for somebody else, everything is a struggle.

To become receptive to this Grace, so that the process of life becomes graceful, the easiest way would be devotion. But, this is a very cunning mind; it cannot devote itself to anybody or anything. You can sing songs of devotion, but you have your own calculation. All that is okay, but what has God done for me? Calculating minds cannot be devoted. Trying to be devoted will be just a waste of time and life. I hear any amount of so-called devotional songs and music, and everything. This is too calculated; there is no devotion in it.

A devotee is not somebody's devotee; devotion is a quality. Devotion means a certain single-pointedness—you are constantly focused towards one thing. Once a person has become like this that his thought, emotion, and everything has become in one direction; now Grace will naturally happen to that person; he becomes receptive. What you are devoted to, when you are devoted to it is not the issue. "No. I want to be a devotee, but I have a doubt whether God exists or not." These are all the predilections of a thinking mind, you know. What you need to know is God does not exist. But where there is a devotee, God exists.

So the power of devotion is such that it can create the Creator. The depth of what we refer to as devotion is such that it can—even if God is not exist—bring it into existence. Thinking minds always have an allergy to devotion, because devotees have made such fools of themselves. This is simply because, fear is passing off as devotion. Extreme devotionalness is passing off as devotion right now, with a large proportion of the society, the joy of devotion; devotion is truly for the intelligent, not for the stupid because without devotion there is no profundity to your life. Nothing is worthwhile if you analyse it with your thought. The whole existence, you yourself, nobody in the world is worth anything if you just cut it down with the knots of your intellect. Only when devotion arises, depth comes into one's life. Devotion does not mean going to the temple and doing 'Ram, Ram.' Anybody who is one-pointed, anybody who can absolutely give himself to whatever he is doing is a natural devotee. He need not have a deity to become a devotee—he is a devotee. God will happen. It is not because there is God, devotion has come. Because there is devotion, God has happened.

Just knowing devotion as an emotional experience is one thing. Knowing devotion as an overpowering dimension of life is a different thing. Knowing devotion just as an emotion, maybe makes your life a little sweet; but devotion is not intended to make your life sweet; devotion is intended to completely demolish the way you are so that you just become a little better—that is not the intention of the devotion; devotion means dissolution. The root word 'devotion' is 'dissolve'. Only one who is willing to dissolve himself can be a true devotee. In what and how is not the point.

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