

- I. The question of the source of knowledge is one on which philosophic schools have long been divided.
  - A. Point of view of John Locke that the mind was like a blank tablet on which knowledge was impressed through the senses.
  - B. Analysis of Hume which showed that from the senses no knowledge of causal connection or other law could be derived.
    1. Illustration that from repeated perception of sun rising there is no ground for saying it will rise in the future.
    2. Placing the source of all knowledge in external impressions leads thus to absolute agnosticism.
  - C. Contribution of Kant which placed the essential forms of knowledge in the perceiving subject.
    1. While all knowledge may begin with experience it by no means follows that all knowledge comes from experience.
    2. Uncritical scientists have assumed that their knowledge has come simply from the facts of nature.
      - a. This is not true as from mere facts no law is ever derived.
      - b. Uniformity of nature, fundamental to science, is not itself an object of experience.
      - c. Facts are not themselves mere colorless existences.
        - (1) The mental complex of the observer contributes to the formation of the facts.
          - (a) The highly religious Hindu and highly secular scientist do not see the same facts in the same situation.
          - (b) To the technical man and man in-the-street a given complex is not the same fact.
- II. Basis of all certainty, whether in science, philosophy or religion is something which does not come from external world but from within consciousness.
  - A. Occultism asserts that within the inmost consciousness of man lies all knowledge in the sense of principle.
    1. Illustrations of this:
      - a. Scientists whose correlating hypothesis come suddenly after working in a given field.
        - (1) In occult sense these labors purified the mind so that the already existent knowledge became manifest.
      - b. Testimony of Poincare' the mathematician.
      - c. Illustration from my own experience in mathematics and philosophical study.
        - (1) After period of effort suddenly co-ordinating light came.
    2. These processes are really a form of meditation technique even though not understood as such by the one exercising it.
- III. Contrast in religion between peripheral and inner Heart Consciousness.
  - A. "I am His" state.
    1. Ordinary formal and ritualistic religion.
    2. God stands as external to the worshiper and distant.
  - B. "I am Thine" consciousness.
    1. This is the state of the Bhakti.
    2. More intimate than the first but still external.
    3. Source of knowledge is still without though in the form of revelation.

C. "I am He" consciousness.

1. This is Jnana where unity of the individual and supreme Self is realized.
  2. In this case the individual finds himself the fountain of all knowledge.
  3. Knowledge is not revealed to him, he is knowledge.
- D. Illustration of the handkerchief used as a veil which may be made thinner and removed.

IV. Occult view is that man is in reality God and all Knowledge already.

- A. Obscurations drawn over his consciousness hide this fact from him.
- B. All that outer effort can do to bring forth real knowledge is to serve to counteract existing obscurations.
1. When this is accomplished he realizes his innate knowledge.
  2. Hypnotic and dream states destroyed by waking up.
  3. So also this state destroyed by a similar process of waking up.

V. Outer effort to acquire ~~max~~ knowledge not to be regarded as useless.

- A. In fact it is absolutely necessary to purify the mind so that real knowledge may be born into it.
- B. Only by strong action can the veiling action of existing forces be over-come.
- C. Hence the student should actively use his mind in outer study
1. But realize that the outer study is not the source of real knowledge.
  2. When sense of certainty and truth bursts in one then the Inner Wisdom has shown through.
    - a. Such a one may use the language of others but he is not merely repeating.
    - b. A vital Light comes with his words.

VI. The practice of passive meditation very unwise, especially for highly active people like Occidentals.

- A. Active obscuring forces must be met by positive and active opposite forces.
- B. Practice of passivity leads simply to a deeper state of subjective illusion.
- C. Active and conscious meditation the only safe course.

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