

PERSONAL VS. COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS

- I. Discussion of nature of personal Consciousness.
 - A. Ordinary five-sense and emotional consciousness.
 - B. All interest in personal possession and personal ambition.
 - C. It is consciousness of separateness.
 - D. It is fragmentary and inferential.
 - E. Analysis of its Relative character.
 1. Rests upon distinction between Knower, Known and Knowledge.
 2. Depends upon mediation of senses and inference.

- II. Mechanical illustration of the relationship of the One Light with personal consciousness.
 - A. Conceive first a bright synthetic Light permeating all Space on its plane.
 1. This is the Central Spiritual Sun of Consciousness, the Atman, the universal power of Awareness or Consciousness.
 - B. Collect a portion of these rays of this Light in a lens which brings them to a focus.
 2. This is Buddhi or Spiritual Soul, the first principle of form
 3. This is synthetic form since the rays are but brought to focus, but not changed in character.
 - a. Hence this is the Divine Ego.
 - C. At focus of rays place triangular prism which refracts them into prismatic colors.
 1. This is Higher ZManas which brings principle of differentiation by refraction.
 2. The rays carry original Light, but being refracted introduce principle of individualized distinction, the sense of "I am I".
 3. This is higher Ego or sense of Individuality.
 - a. Struggles with problems of individualization, but not those of lower desire and form.
 4. The Light, though refracted, is still pure.
 - D. Take another lens and collect light of one refracted beam directing it through some formal aperture upon a clay surface.
 1. The lens is the lower mind or Kama-Manas.
 2. Direction given collected ray represents Desire, Kama.
 3. The form imposed on ray the vital body.
 4. The clay surface represents the physical body.
 - a. This surface may be fine grained and glazed or rough coarse and dull or any degree between.
 - E. The final light reflected from the clay surface is personal consciousness.
 1. It is from but one ray of spectrum, is polarized in a special direction under restriction of some form and finally reflected from an earthy surface.
 2. It is not only highly particularized but more or less dulled through absorption in the process.
 3. The quality of Consciousness is of the very nature of the original source.
 - a. All else is but imposed limitation.
 4. Processes of refraction, polarization, and reflection give it its relativistic character.

- III. Cosmic Consciousness represented by the original One LIGHT,

- A. The Light of Cosmic Consciousness not polarized in Egoism.
1. Being an all permeating Light Self and Not-self become one synthetic Plenum of Consciousness.
 2. This is not simply an awareness of all things as things at once.
 - a. Perception of ~~things~~ thinghood implies personal cognitive forms.
 - b. Cosmic Consciousness is awareness of All as ONE, hence Consciousness of essence.
 - c. Unfoldment of consciousness on personal plane takes work even in the case of an Adept.
 - (1) But he who has Cosmic Consciousness is freed from the illusive nature of the forms with which he is working on the objective planes.
 3. Cosmic Consciousness transcends feeling just as much as it does intellection.
 - a. A state of Consciousness marked simply by pleasant feelings is no more than some psychic state.
 - b. Cosmic Consciousness has a quietude above all affective tone.
 - (1) To purely relative consciousness it would seem like unconsciousness.
 - (a) but this unconsciousness is like the blindness produced by a too brilliant light, it is not the negation produced by real darkness.
 - (b) As the bat is blinded by the sun, so is the personal consciousness blinded by the Spiritual Sun.

IV. Illustration of Plato's story of the cave.

- A. Freedom was attained by an act of transcendence.

V. Falsity of the idea that Realization is the fruit of expansion of personal consciousness.

- A. However large personal consciousness may grow it remains polarized, particularized and but a reflection.
- B. Increase of personal power apt to set up but a stronger barrier to Realization.
- C. Evolution leads to unfolded reflection of the Real.
 1. Transcendence only leads to Realization of the Real as Real.
- D. Illustrate with story of caterpillar and butterfly.
 1. Mere growth of caterpillar would never lead to butterfly consciousness.
 2. Butterfly-consciousness born only out of renunciation of caterpillar consciousness.

VI. Concentration of modern man's consciousness upon objectivity hides from him his own divine state.

- A. No achievement in the world of affairs or external science directly helps toward this goal. *the less real does not mean the more is better*
1. To the man on the Path to Realization this whole external world is of peripheral interest only.
 - a. Does not mean that outer capacity becomes less, but simply that central interest is polarized elsewhere.

VII. The keys as an instrument facilitating act of transcendence.