

ON POLITICS AND THE WISDOM RELIGION

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Question:

Should not students of the Wisdom Religion stay out of politics? Should they not keep to matters above the mundane plane?

Answer:

The inference here is: students of the Wisdom Religion are nicer than people. Pursuit of the spiritual life is of course vital and should have as much time and attention as one can give to it. There is danger, in directing one's attention to the mundane things, of becoming so embroiled in them as to forget the loftier side and bog down with lesser things for perhaps the rest of our lives.

But as long as we exist on the plane of duality in this earth existence, can we entirely ignore the sorry conditions which prevail when we have the wisdom and power to do something about them? Shall we sit back and let Marxism, with all it implies, enslave the world? Shall we ignore juvenile delinquency and the alarming rate of growth of crime? Shall we string along with unwise government policies that lead to economic disaster and undermine the spirit of integrity of our citizens? Can we sit and watch the gradual degeneracy of the West and do nothing about it? What of the trend of our culture? What of our standards of education? Where are the great souls of yesterday? Spengler, in his *Decline of the West* could be right.

The Yoga of Aurobindo makes a point of not merely seeking Enlightenment for one's self, but bringing down a transformation for the entire world, and were it not for the Enlightened Ones who hold the power of transformation, then there would be no hope for the world. Even so, they need our help. Students of the Wisdom Religion, assuming they are sincere seekers, should be better grounded in wisdom and truth than most people, and ought to apply these qualities in whatever capacity they can for the greatest good. We are each a part of the All, and in helping the All we better ourselves. Just as important, we are better able to help the world when we ourselves have grown in knowledge and wisdom.