

SHORT CIRCUIT TO NIRVANA?

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“Is it possible” asks a student, “That all our struggling to reach Nirvana is for nothing, and Yoga is obsolete and unnecessary? Are psychedelic drugs a true short cut?”

Wouldn't that be simple! In the first place, on the authority of Those Rare Ones who have truly attained to Nirvana, and this does not include those who have merely experienced an emotional state of exaltation or other, the psychedelic drugs cannot precipitate a true Nirvana, but only a counterfeit, at best. True Nirvana is a breaking through the ceiling of relative consciousness into REALITY, like waking from a bad dream.

That which the drug precipitates seems to have varying effects depending possibly on one's state of evolution, or mental, emotional or physical conditions, or other factors. It has been said that the drug reacts on the pineal gland, rearranging those little granules which surround it causing more or less permanent damage. The pineal gland, according to esoteric teaching, is one's link with his Divine Self—it is the Third Eye. It is the opinion of some Nirvanees that even one “trip” with the drug could destroy the user's chances for the “Real Thing” for the rest of his incarnation.

Beyond all this, is it really possible to get something for nothing? Rather, we get out of life about as much as we put into it. One might put this to a test. We may appear to be getting much for nothing. True, there are such things as government handouts to seemingly undeserving people. But we cannot know all of their karma particularly that which was made in former lives, and it is possible every penny of it was long ago earned.

Or if not, if one is making gains through evil means, for instance, then he is making future bad karma which may or may not catch up with him in a single lifetime. This is an immutable law, a law of Nature, regardless of whether the workings are visible or invisible, or whether or not we know the how of its working. But EFFORT, we will find, sooner or later pays off. How many, after one feeble try, complain that it won't work, that there is really no correlation between effort and success, that there is no justice or reason or order in the world! But by taking karma into consideration, and continuing making effort, especially superhuman effort, gradually one begins to see that his work is paying off, that there ARE reason and justice and order to the world, and the amount of success begins to be proportional to the amount of his effort, provided the effort is in the right direction.

As for those who are making undeserved gains, their own unproductivity leads gradually to a slowing down of total productivity and can pull down an entire culture in proportion to effort and non-effort.

As for Nirvana, one may argue for Divine Grace as being something for nothing, for it may appear to come to many to whom we feel did not deserve it. Here again, do we have all the facts?

How much can we know about all one's previous incarnations, for instance? Also, is Attainment merely a matter of good and evil? Could it be a matter of knowledge and ignorance, or of power and weakness, or something other? Often we find adversity to be a blessing in disguise.

For those impatient to gain Nirvana, then, what about short cuts? According to all of the Shastras, one must tread every rung of the Celestial Ladder, skipping none. This does not mean that we must learn every little thing by experience, that we cannot learn by precept too. But whatever, or however the learning, we must make it a part of ourselves rather than a great knowledge of empty statistics and factual information. We can slow down the time too, through whole wasted incarnations of non-effort, or wrong doing. Sometimes a student is accused of trying too hard, but here again he may be working in the wrong direction and putting up a block to himself. Selfishness, egoism or a thirst after power could be such blocks.

Still, there could be a speed-up even if one cannot skip any rungs of the ladder. One can ask for a crowding in of experiences, those which may be necessary, and a rapid payment of all past karma. Since most bad karma, it is said, is held back until one is strong enough to face it, such an incarnation could be most terrible, perhaps for most of us. Some have asked for it just this way, to clear it up, get it out of the way, and so bring them closer to the Great Day, but meanwhile these persons can present a most pitiful picture. It might be better for one to ask for only as much bad karma at one time as he has the strength to bear. Once the chela finds the path, it is said, it usually takes about seven incarnations before reaching Nirvana. The great Tibetan Yogin, Milarepa, attained in one lifetime, but even so, who knows how far he had really gone in previous lives?

In view of all these observations, it is highly doubtful that swallowing an easily obtained, cheaply treated cube of sugar, can catapult just anyone into true Nirvana. It is quite against the laws of Nature.