

THE GREAT AWAKENING

Lakshmi Devi (Gertrude A. Wolff)
Assembly of Man Bulletin, No. 8
August-September 1961

It may occur to some who have not been adequately informed on the subject of Realization that this is an everyday occurrence, familiar to everybody. This is not the case. As used in the metaphysical sense, and capitalized, Realization, known by various other names such as Illumination, Recognition, Moksha, Nirvana, Christ or Cosmic Consciousness, is a phenomena rarely attained, yet attainable by any who are ready to receive it, although it is not usually for the individual to say when he is ready.

Not only is it not generally understood, for most people it is something completely unheard of. Neither is it the “Salvation,” nor “Being born again” of the more literal Christian, yet their original meanings may have been just this. As those terms are used today they can mean anything from an intense emotional experience or a resolve to follow the teachings of the Christ, to the opening perhaps of some psychic center. Many falsely believe they have attained, but the authentic cases leave definite positive results. There is a transformation in consciousness which brings new knowledge and wisdom, perhaps some strange powers and new physical health and strength. There is a change in base of reference, an ability to see all in the world of relativity from a place above this relativity. Immortality becomes a fact through direct knowledge rather than a belief or faith instilled by feeling or hearsay.

Those who have tasted of this Illumination consider its attainment the most important thing in the world, and usually dedicate their lives to aiding others to attain it.

There are abundant references to the phenomenon in metaphysical literature, in Theosophy, Buddhism, Vedanta, and mysticism generally. Although this state of consciousness is hardly translatable into our relative understanding, still there is a considerable amount that can be and has been said—what It is, how It is attained, who has attained, Its consequences.

Pathways Through to Space, by Franklin Merrell-Wolff, is a personal record of this Transformation in Consciousness, together with all it implies. The book itself has been sufficiently reviewed here, though those who have read the book have been denied a very interesting portion of it—a foreword, written by Mrs. Wolff (Sherifa). This and an introduction by Franklin Wolff, appearing in the original manuscript, were omitted when the book was published, yet I feel they are most worthy of presentation here. Space in this issue of the *Bulletin* will permit only Sherifa’s “Foreword,” with Franklin’s “Introduction” to follow at an early date.

The reason for the omission of the “Foreword” may have been the feeling that the public generally may have found it difficult to believe, yet now that the book has long been established and speaks for itself, and those who know Sherifa have no doubt of her integrity and accuracy, perhaps the time is ripe for its presentation. It follows herewith.