

FORUM

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Q.: Is not Nirvana nothing more than escape from reality?

A.: It is escape TO reality. To those who have attained, this world and plane of consciousness is as a dream which is rapidly dissipated when one awakes to the higher consciousness and sees this for what it really is.

Q.: If that is so, and that state is so wonderful, what would induce any man to return to this?

A.: When one attains to what is described by Dr. Wolff as “The High Indifference,” which contains both Nirvana and our objective world, it does not make any particular difference whether He returns or goes on. For Him, there is nothing to be attained. He knows Himself to be THAT, and always has been; He is the container as well as the contained. He is ALL THINGS, knowing suffering to be but an illusion in a dream-consciousness.

But there may be a previous conditioning which will induce the Nirvanee to return to this fleeting dream, such as the vow of Kwan Yin (Avalokiteshvara) even when the Awakened One knows that all are already the Divine, that fundamentally none has any need of help of any sort. This vow says: “Never will I seek nor receive private, individual salvation; never will I enter, into final Peace alone. But forever and everywhere will I strive for the salvation of every creature throughout the world.”

Q.: What can you say of such drugs as LSD, or Mescaline? Is not this an easy way to attain Illumination?

A.: Is this Illumination? It appears to be only a counterfeit and may actually do harm to the psychic being. Experimenters may deny this, but are they in a position to know? Judging from reports on these drugs, reactions are various, ranging from sublime to horror. True Illumination would reveal the Divine world, above any unpleasantness whatsoever. It may be that the drugs bring the unconscious to the surface, manifesting according to the personality. Possibly health may be an influence on the type of thing that is precipitated, as illness tends to produce nightmarish dreams. The drugs may induce a passive, negative state, and the many dangers while under their influence are on record. Authorities say they are useless, that they do no good for the individual.

In contrast, Illumination is the true awakening from the dream state not a deeper state of dreaming. It is more than a moment of bliss. Some of the Divine energy may be captured and brought down to the Earth plane to bless all men, directly or indirectly. It is a spurt to evolution. True Illumination, or Realization, or Recognition, or Nirvana, whatever term one prefers, comes suddenly and usually unexpectedly. Seemingly it can come to anybody, but could we delve deeply enough, we will find it must be earned, ultimately. Perhaps the Jewel was earned in past

lives, and had only to await the proper time and cycle. Finally, shall we look for a moment of pleasure that only postpones our misery, or shall we seek the true light that ultimately leads us forever out of our misery?