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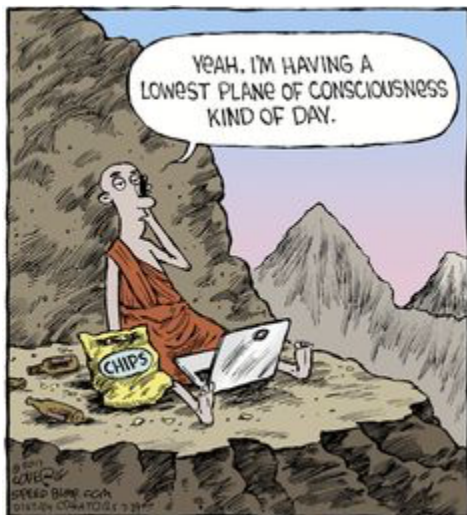
Don't be in such a rush to figure everything out. Embrace the unknown and let your life surprise you.



Each one of us got here to this “place” of our Spiritual Development in different ways, different vehicles you might say, different life experiences that call to us or drew us into this place of knowing that there is more to us and to the world than what we might have seen or experienced before. “Litteral” religion or spirituality no longer served us, it just did not feed our souls.

Of the many things that are happening here, two of them are foremost in my mind. One is that our continuing growth and the life experiences that move that along will probably also take different forms for each one of us. The second stream of energy is that we are all striving for and opening ourselves up to the same thing, also described in different ways--being in a conscious state of grace/unconditional love; being in the upper room/higher consciousness, being Free, being in the world but not of it.

**“But union itself is not the ideal. If there is an ideal, the ideal would be manifestation of the Divine in a devout way as you understand yourself as participatory to the reclamation of the Kingdom.”**



The book emphasizes that Union or Oneness is not the goal. And I believe the reason they are saying that is because when we create a goal like that for ourselves, we set up another duality and that becomes a limitation and a distraction. So, if Oneness is not the goal what is? I believe what they are getting at here as well is that there is no goal. A goal is an endpoint, a measured place where all of this stops. And see, what the smaller Consciousness cannot grasp is that this creation, this

Divine Consciousness, whatever we choose to call it is continuing to grow and evolve. *It does not stop.* As mentioned, the small consciousness cannot comprehend this. It wants to set things up in the mind so that there is a beginning and a middle and an end.

Whereas the Divine Self lives in that paradoxical place of being and becoming. Not having to decide between one or the other but recognizing we are both.

**“What is it like there?” you may ask. It is just like your life—without fear, without self-judgment, without the need to judge others, without the need to war, and without the agreements of the communal authority...the life that you will live in the Upper Room is the life you can imagine when you are no longer asleep to your true nature.”**



*You will notice that even as we are reviewing this we are in a 'place' without fear or judgment. Isn't that interesting? We didn't have to create anything, we are already there.*

You already know how to make everything in your life into an act of love.

It might be helpful to recall some of what we talked about last week and that was bringing to mind some of our Upper Room experiences and allowing the energy of those experiences to wash over us, to wash through us. Not with a sense of longing of what was, but knowing that those higher level experiences still exist within us. They might not have the emotional impact that is so essential to the small self, but the energy of their power and substance resonates with the inner truth of Who We Are.

Higher Consciousness experiences are TIMELESS! And even though these higher experiences might be accompanied by some strong human emotions, the emotions are not an essential aspect of the experience.



*"As far as I can tell, meditation is just worrying minus the content."*

**"As you accrue experience, you continue to expand, and how you perceive what you see in a higher way is integrated by you. It becomes the new normal, not an exotic experience that you would seek to recapture, but simply a way of being."**

We stop looking at those experiences as being extraordinary, instead we realize we can be there all the time. As we talked last evening, we have a choice to make. Everything we do, even writing or reading this, to make it into an act of love. Again we must emphasize the small self's attachment to the emotional kick or that rush that sometimes comes from higher experience. Be aware that that is simply another attachment of the small self (another 'fix' another high to chase). The amount or intensity of emotional energy that might be connected to a spiritual experience has nothing to do with the depth of that experience itself.



You learn your lessons and what we learn are choices that we make. The object here is to make those choices as conscious as we can rather than living in 'robot' mode just reacting to everything that happens in the outside world. (That's another way of describing 'being asleep')

**"You may learn your lessons in a low vibration. You may learn through fear. You may learn through anger. You may learn through the horrific ramifications of choice for one country to dominate another. You may learn the hard way, if you choose."**

As A Course in Miracles points out "you can begin to learn through Joy."

I find there's a bit of a catch here-- an additional

piece of learning. First of all I have to believe that I can learn through Joy and then I need to open myself to that. It is another form of surrender

As I think about this learning through Joy thing I'm reminded what Alan Watts and many other spiritual teachers will describe *life as being a game*. A game to be played and enjoyed. not sure about you but I find that tremendously challenging at the moment. (What we are experiencing is not IT--this lifetime is not IT; this known universe is not IT----IT is infinite and undefinable.

“you may also learn through the radical unfoldment of the Christ as who and what you are and what it is in all manifestation. When this happens, the trumpets sing, and what you understand of as great change is upon you, but in agreement to divine potential.”



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The great change it speaks about are not predicted by the small self:  
“Eye has not seen nor ear heard nor has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love...”

