

The Eternal Way

April – May 2005

Opening the Portal of Perception

Per·cep·tion \ noun: ability to understand :
INSIGHT, COMPREHENSION **syn** discernment

On the corner of Barton Springs and Congress in Austin, Texas, is a large sculpture on a concrete pillar. All in all it is about 12 feet high. The metal sculpture looks, at first glance, to be a large irregular “check mark” with jagged edges here and there. On the other hand it could be a slightly irregular letter “v”. A unique feature of this piece is its ability to swivel and it does so easily regardless of the direction of the wind. It therefore is constantly moving and making squeaking sounds as it does so. It is huge, kinetic, and dynamic.

When I initially saw it after it was installed a few years ago, I didn't understand what it represented. All I could see was this check mark or v-shape. Each time I drove past it, which was at least several times a week, I wondered what the artist was trying to say. Once I thought I would call someone at the city council and just ask them what “it” was. But then I said no to that and realized that innate to me is the answer. I just need to tap into the source of my perception and figure this out.

Here was the plan. I decided that every time I passed by this sculpture or got held at the traffic light of this intersection I would simply get quiet and *be* with it. Another approach was to ask the question “what is this?”, or ask “what is the artist wanting to say here?”

After a few weeks of doing this, I could feel a familiarity with this work of art that I hadn't felt before. It was as if the piece was speaking to me. Although I wasn't straining or struggling mentally each time I passed it, I “knew” inside I was getting closer to an answer.

Sure enough, one morning on my way to a speaking engagement at about 8:15 a.m. as I was sitting still at the intersection red light and just gazing at the sculpture's dark painted surface, the *meaning* of my irregular “check mark” came into full illuminated view. It was the silhouette of a little furry winged creature – a bat. Of course, I exclaimed out loud to myself, *it is a bat in*

flight. All at once it made so much sense given even the placement of this sculpture. Within walking distance of this art piece was the Congress Street bridge that spanned over the Texas Colorado River. Underneath the bridge's structure in its concrete rafters lived thousands, and I mean thousands of bats. It was one of the city's famous highlights for spring and summer travelers to visit.

At approximately dusk everyday and especially weekends, hundreds of people gather on the bridge and the river's surrounding banks to sit and watch the prolific colony of bats leave from under the bridge's protective umbrella and venture out to feed on the enormous insect and mosquito population that is fostered in and around the river ecosystem. It is magnificent to see! Only a few dozen leave at first, then hundreds, then thousands. Each day the ritual departure occurs and then they return before morning twilight to protect themselves from the scorching rays of the sun. The cycle happens over and over again. This wondrous process of the life cycle of one of God's creatures was brought into view by a piece of art and art is meant to imitate life. It amazed me how I overlooked this before. *It was now so obvious!* Isn't this how it is with the deeper issues of life?

What about God's greatest creation, the human being? You? Me? Do we know who we are? Do we know why we are here? We would easily agree that we find each other challenging at times and our times challenging. What was the Supreme Artist thinking or wanting to say through myself, my neighbor, the Buddhist, Hindu, Jew, Muslim, and Christian?

The portal of my perception was opened to understanding what the sculpture meant by a couple of simple techniques. Those techniques can help us with the deeper questions of life. They have been used by the masters of perfection throughout eons. Here they are:

1) INQUIRY

Simply asking “what is something” helps us to get to its root *cause, its source*. Who is asking the question? *Equally important, who is answering the question?* The answer

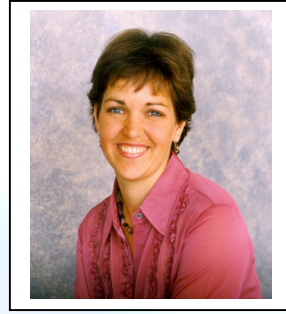
is...the Real You, the True You, that is the source and substance of everything!

Even if you do not understand that yet, still give in to the IDEA you are something bigger, grander, more cosmic than just the outer personality. Give in to the idea that you are a wave expressing from this vast inner ocean of Being. It is easy to become enamored with outer characteristics -- our bodies, mental qualities -- through our sense organs that are constantly gathering information. But we can miss the point if we don't look through it to something underneath the surface. As Christ Jesus put it, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7). There is no waffling there. Christ was explaining about how consciousness works. It works when you work it! *And we can know who we are!*

2) BE STILL

The Psalmist powerfully and peacefully wrote, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalms 46:10). We are God in expression. Our personalities are the outpouring of consciousness of the One Field of Being, God. Each of us is the image and likeness of this One Being, God. When we are still and singularly focused we experience illumination of consciousness and the portal of perception within us is open. God reveals God's Self to us, its emanation.

Incorporate the power of inquiry and being still in your life and let the innate power of God within you emanate into this world so that you can live in harmony with yourself and others.



Expecting Something Pushes It Away

by Shara Amelia

Musing in the past month about expectations we have of ourselves and of others in relationships. I came upon the following passage in *Tomorrow's God* (Neal Donald Walsh, 2004). As the author sums up the effects of expectations so well, I quote him here at length:

The moment you expect to be you are not. The very act of expecting yourself to be something precludes you from experiencing it. You cannot "expect" to experience something that you are already experiencing.... Either you are experiencing something or you or not.... You cannot do both.

Not wishing or needing to be in a place of high consciousness all of the time may be the surest sign that you are there. So be careful not to create pictures of what "high consciousness" looks like. Sometimes "high consciousness" looks like simply not having to be in a state of "high consciousness." In other words, being "okay" with whatever state of consciousness you are not in can be a very high state of consciousness.... You can always be totally happy with exactly the way things are right now. It is the master who knows this.

If that is so, why bother trying to change things?

Being happy right now and choosing to change things right now are not mutually exclusive. The decision to change things does not spring from judgment, dissatisfaction, or unhappiness. It can spring from simple preference.... You can create the best apple pie in the world, and still seek to create an even better one. You can know much about the world, and still seek to know more. This is called growth, and the urge to grow is not a negative energy, but a positive one. It is not a judgment, but a desire. It comes not from dissatisfaction, but from passion. The passion OF life for MORE life (pp. 137-138).

Shara Amelia has a B.A. in English Literature, an M.A. in Linguistics, an M.S. in Oriental Medicine, and is a staff member at the Eternal Way.

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512.445.1080

Front page article by Rocco benRoy unless otherwise noted. Rocco benRoy is the minister-director of the Eternal Way. His training and ordination are in the spiritually enlivening and holistic tradition of the ancients as taught by his Kriya Yoga mentor, Roy Eugene Davis.

The Eternal Way Center provides personal counseling and group seminars for spiritual realization, emotional and mental clarity, and physical vitality. The center is dedicated to assisting and empowering each responsive soul, a living temple of God, to cultivate their innate potential and to express their unique purpose and destiny as divinely intended.

All services and functions are funded by donation support. Come join in. We welcome you, for we serve God in you.

Website: www.eternalway.org
Email: office@eternalway.org



The Self, The Christ – Unity, and Wholeness

by Julian Enoch Bruno

Throughout years of study in the field of psychology and consciousness-related writings some of the most inspiring and influential works for me have been those of Carl G. Jung, particularly Aion: Researches into the Phenomenology of the Self. In Jungian Analytical Psychology the focus of attention is on the individual's psyche and on the person's inner experience. It also concerns itself with balance, having an integrated personality of both the inner subjective world and the outer empirical world; that is – on being whole. While the personality of the individual consists of four aspects – the ego, the shadow, the anima or animus, and the Self, I will speak here only on the Self.

The Self is the total personality; it consists of both the conscious and the unconscious. The Self represents “unity and wholeness” in all people. Jung writes that “unity and totality stand at the highest point on the scale of objective values because their symbols can no longer be distinguished from the imago Dei.” Jung develops the relation between the traditional Christ figure Jesus and the natural symbol of the Self, with symbols representing equality, therefore he adds to the “many symbolical amplifications of the Christ-figure yet another, the psychological one, or even, so it might seem, reduces the Christ symbol to a psychological image of wholeness.” Therefore Jung proclaims that “the Self proves to be the vision behind the supreme ideas of unity and totality that are inherent in all monotheistic and monistic systems.”

Using Jung's or others' writings besides the Bible as a resource for truth may not be acceptable to some people, so with the Bible as the standard bearer let's look to see if we can validate the assertions made by Jung in his writings regarding unity there as well.

In the Gospel of John (14:20) Jesus is quoted as saying that, “On that day you will know that I am in my Father and you in me, and I in you. And then again in John (17:20-23):

I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as your Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.

Finally, here is an affirmation of oneness from St. Paul, “...the mystery of Christ in you, your hope of glory” (Col 1: 27).

In consideration of these passages we should not tolerate or accept for ourselves any lesser conclusion about whom and what we are, such as being some kind of wretch. Rather, the reality is that we are at one with the One, and therefore we are whole.

Julian Enoch Bruno has a B.A. in Psychology and a M.A. in Consciousness Studies. He is the author of The Self, The Christ: Individual, Yet Collective. He is currently developing an educational program called Songs of Science...With a Heart and he works at an environmentally friendly transportation store, Alien Scooters.

Austin Access T.V. Programs

The Eternal Way has two ACTV programs this season. One is **Tuesday morning at 7:30 am**. The second is **Thursday at 12:30 pm**. **Both are on Channel 11**. For an uplifting and refreshing perspective on spiritual living, tune in and give us some feedback. Call us at 512.445.1080.

Your Partnership with the Eternal Way is Important

Would you join us? Become a *Spiritual Partner* by devoting \$25, \$75, \$150 or more to the ministry work each month. If you are donating, know you are a vital conduit of God's power manifesting in this world. **Please use the new donation envelope to send your generous support contribution.**

Good News!

Look forward to the future by living in the awareness of God's Presence now. Be healthy, clear, balanced, and awake now! We are humbly at your service and look forward to 2005. Wonderful things continue to unfold due to your loving support. Thank you and God Bless!

Mumbai (Bombay), India, Mission Work

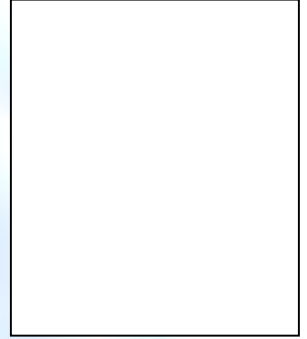
Rocco benRoy was in Mumbai, India from March 7th – 17th for work with a new clinic providing natural health and body cleansing services. **Dr. Priti Kapoor, M.D.** and a staff of 6 other individuals were trained to work with people seeking body cleansing routines.

In ancient times the practice of bowel cleansing known as basti was used regularly as part of bringing the body back into balance. Today, with the advent of contemporary and sanitary equipment, this ancient practice is made available in a dignified and professional setting. **Pankaj Mehra and his wife, Vinni**, sponsored Rocco's trip and opened the new clinic as part of their life work.

Eternal Way Music C.D.

A dream is coming true for the Eternal Way. The Eternal Way is finalizing studio work on a first C.D. of music it has been working on for the past two years. Studio time has been donated to the Eternal Way by **Larry Telford's Sound Studio**. Song lyrics have been written by **Rudy Davenport** (Music Director at the Eternal Way) and **Rocco benRoy** and all music and arrangements have been written by Mr. Davenport.

The new C.D. is entitled "Many are the Names." At the heart of Sanatana Dharma, or Eternal Way, is the concept that "truth is one, many are the names." This musical collection is to encourage realization that the One Field of Pure Being, God, has been inspiring humanity from the beginning of time. Each of the world's major faiths is an embodiment of God's ongoing revelation. During different times and places God has been called by different names, but is still the One God of us all. It is the hope of the Eternal Way to celebrate some of these unique names of God through song and unite people everywhere to work together spiritually even though we may worship differently.



E.A.T. Outreach News

The E.A.T. Outreach is an affirmation that nobody goes hungry, that there is food enough to go around, that "everybody ate today." This outreach picks up and distributes surplus whole grain breads to needy agencies. **Gratitude goes to Paul Thraikill, Jeff and Gayle Caughey, Teresa Hood and son, Ted, Morris Grieggs, Rudy Davenport, Melanie Irwin, John Stern, and Stu Goldman for ongoing volunteer help in picking up and delivering food to an average of 11 agencies per week in the last two months.**

New volunteers are always needed to help with ongoing schedule changes. Call 512.445.1080 to participate.

