

### **Consciousness and God -- From class 9/20/2023**

That which is at the heart of all existence--the world's and yours--must be real, if anything can be. The world may be an illusion, your ego a fiction, but the ultimate essence cannot be either. Reality must be here or nowhere. 28.1.15

The little center of consciousness that is myself rests in and lives by the infinite ocean of consciousness that is God. The first momentary discovery of this relationship constitutes a genuine religious experience, and its expansion into a final, full disclosure constitutes a philosophic one. 25.1.31

We can not ever know the Divine which is Transcendent but we can acknowledge that it IS. We may however know the Divine which is Immanent, recognize, perceive, and feel its presence. 25.1.120

**Consciousness**, the very nature of mind under all its aspects, the very essence of be-ing under the personal selfhood, is **where man and God finally meet**. We know that God indisputably exists, not because some religious dogma avers it but because our own experience proves it. 25.1.39

God's immanence is reflected throughout the whole universe. God's reality is indicated by the very existence of the universe. God's intelligence is revealed by the intelligence of the creatures in the universe. (26:1.208)

...Nonduality in its extreme form is not to the taste of the masses. Instinctively they shy away from it. Let the two views accommodate each other. While these levels of reference ought not to be mixed together when theory and principles are concerned, there is one way in which there is considerable profit to be gained if the timeless eternal and universal atmosphere of Vedanta is kept at the back of the mind when the worldly problems have to be met. They can be met with this remembrance that one's true being is, and will be, safe and unaffected, and that whatever decision or action we are called to make, the first thing is to keep calm... 23.5.157

One theme that has been suggested we pursue is the "Idea of Man" ... and this ties in to the "unit of life" or being-life-consciousness. Here is a quote:

The ideas in a person's mind are hidden and secret until they express them through actions, or as speech, or as the visible creations and productions of the hands, or in behaviour generally. Those ideas are neither lost nor destroyed. They are a permanent part of the person's memory and character and consciousness and subconsciousness, where they have been recorded as automatically and as durably as a master phonograph disc records music. Just as a wax copy may be burnt but the music will still live on in the master disc, so the cosmos may be annihilated or disintegrate completely but the creative idea of it will still live on in the World-Mind. More, in the same way a person's body may die and disintegrate, but the creative idea of them will still remain in the World-Mind as their Soul. It will not die. It's their real Self, their perfect Self. It is the true Idea of them which is forever calling to be realized. It is the unmanifest image of God in which man is made and which we have yet to bring into manifestation in our everyday consciousness. 26.4.63

The declaration of Jesus that whosoever will save his life shall lose it, is uncompromising. It is an eternal truth as well as a universal one. It is needed by the naïve as well as by the sophisticated. Only those who, under the strain and struggle of quotidian existence in these difficult times, ardently yearn for the peace of self-forgetting can begin to understand the first faint echo of that satisfaction which losing one's life brings. ...

Such an achievement may seem very far off from human possibility and indeed we find in history that not many have either cared, or been able, to realize it, for it is far too painful to the ego. But the metaphysical truths of successive rebirth on earth and of the unreality of time should give some comfort here. The first teaches a great patience while men labour daily at the task of remaking themselves. The second teaches that the Overself is even now ever present with all, that in the eternal Now there is no futurity and that theoretically the possibility of its realization does not necessarily belong to some distant rebirth. 8.4.230