



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025

Enact This New Knowledge and Enter Into Real Freedom

Original Talk Date: April 27, 2016

Key Lesson: The present moment is the door of perception — and if, when you look through it, you see something you recognize — or otherwise think you know — then all you're really seeing is a reflection of your self upon the mirrored surface of the door. The true door of perception opens... only into the unknown.

Talk Takeaways

- A true spiritual teacher holds two lamps in his hands: with one lamp he beckons the student to come nearer, and with the other lamp he sends the student away. The teacher says "Yes" with one lamp, and "No" with the other.
- If what you know can be challenged by what anyone says, then you do not really know. But you do know a deep identification with a part of yourself that calls itself a knower.
- The "No" from the spiritual teacher is to help the student see that he is still a caterpillar imagining that he is a butterfly. We have an insatiable desire to imagine what it means to be free.
- An imagined freedom is not real freedom at all. Imagined freedom is the captivity of a mind that is trying to escape itself.

- Awakening, dying and a new birth are not a series of separate events. They are one thing that takes place in levels and in scale.
- The idea of transformation as a linear progression in time is the illusion of a mind that is trying to escape itself through the idea of transformation that it imagines is possible for itself.
- You are already free. Your work is about discovering that. When you are already free, you don't have to dream about freedom.
- You cannot know the freedom that you already are. You are in imagination if you claim to know what freedom is. Every person has a different notion of what freedom is.
- The 'I' that seeks freedom only exists as an opposite of that which it seeks freedom from.
- What you know, and what you have been given to be, are two completely different things. There is a great divide between the "I Am" that you have been given, and what you think you know.
- There is no such thing as "what you are supposed to be." There is only "I Am" and what that "I Am" shows you about yourself.
- Your understanding is what determines your experience of life.
- When we are looking at something, we are not usually aware of both the foreground and the background at the same time. But there could be no foreground without a background, and vice versa. In much the same way, the butterfly cannot be separated from the caterpillar.
- We don't know that when we seek freedom from something, what that nature is really seeking is freedom from itself. There is great pain and torment in attempting to escape yourself.
- When there is awareness that the observer and the observed are one, there is no "knower" there.
- The only freedom that matters is the freedom to see yourself as you are. And as you see yourself as you are, you are free to suffer yourself.
- It is only useless pain until it reaches unity, but in unity it is the conscious suffering of birth.