

The Nature of Spirituality - December 8, 2020

Mysticism is the study of the spiritual mysteries of life. Life is viewed as shrouded in a great mist, and one becomes a candidate on a quest to become initiated to these mysteries and thereby be revealed to that which was hidden, an experience beyond space and time.

Whenever one studies mysticism, they are astonished by the universality of mystical experiences in various religions. They are very much identical or at least similar experiences. Although these different religions offer different ideals, nonetheless these ideals do not maintain any drastic differences once a saint enters into the love of God. No matter what the religion or path, the mountaintop is the same. The divergencies become impossible once the soul has transited through the diversity of the life of forms, and enters into the unique reality. In other words, one cannot see huge differences and between a Brahman, a Christian or a Sufi (muslim) mystic. In fact, the religion becomes quite irrelevant to the sage. Unfortunately mystics are often rejected, and even killed by their own religious leaders for professing beliefs contrary to dogma.

It goes without saying that a Christian mystic will realize the same area of deep 'union' along with the other non-Christian mystics. Ramakrishna, a 19th century Hindu mystic. was educated also in Christian and Muslim teachings, and had mystical experiences in all three religions. Those who have contemplated and been qualified with divine visions become so removed from and even contemptuous of their prior religion that they are impelled to protest against the excessive exterior formalities of those religions.

The real visionary is gifted an ability to criticize and deeply observe his or her experience leading to a universality of vigilance. They are able to detect anything which stands in the way of their pure vision. They are then convinced of the inexhaustibility of the divine nature and of the infinity of possible manifestations. The intellectual representations of the religious mystery are relative and at best symbolic. Their particular nature and flavor attracts followers based on culture, area, and intellectual orientation.

The 17th century German/Polish mystic and shoemaker, Jacob Boehme, wrote. "But if you keep quiet and desist from thinking and feeling with your own personal selfhood, then will the eternal hearing, seeing, and speaking become revealed to you, and God will hear and see and perceive through you". Thus, by surrendering to the Atman or inner self, it begins to lead your daily life with you.

The above proves that it is not required to adhere to religions or metaphysics in order to obtain a divine revelation and therefore such non-adhesion doesn't condemn one to the punishment of the inferno.